

SYLVAN SCHOOL/COMMUNITY CLUBHOUSE

Sylvan School, built in 1862, was one of the first rural schools in Sacramento County. Built by John Cross, a local farmer, assisted by John Aiston and Peter Van Maren, the school was located on land donated by W.A. Thomas on the northwest corner of Auburn Boulevard and Sylvan Road. The Sylvan Middle School is now located on this parcel. It is one of the oldest surviving grammar school buildings in the county. Alfred Spooner was the first teacher and had forty students. The school property was divided by an imaginary line from north to south. The girls stayed on one side of the line and the boys on the other.



In 1923, the Citrus Heights Community Club was formed when the community fathers decided that an organization made up of local residents must be organized to deal with schools and other community services. The club met for the first time on April 24, 1924, and remained active until the late 1980s. When the community finally deemed the building too small to continue functioning as a grammar school in 1927, the building was taken over by the Citrus Heights Community Club which moved it to its current location on land donated by Adolf Van Maren.

The school then took a second life as the headquarters for the Community Club. Until World War II the Club was a major vehicle for community improvement and interaction with the larger county and regional government. The use of the building as a civic club facility was in some ways a continuation of the large community functions the building had served in the 19th century when, in addition to functioning as a school, it was the location of meetings, dances and other civic activities. The Community Clubhouse is still used today for community meetings and social events such as weddings and birthday parties.