

## CHAPTER SIX

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# CULTURAL RESOURCES

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## 6. Cultural Resources

Placer County has inherited a rich legacy of cultural heritage resources. Cultural resources are defined as buildings, structures, sites, features, or other artifacts that may have archaeological, historical, architectural, and/or scientific importance. A number of laws, regulations, and statutes have been instituted at the federal and state levels to provide for the protection and management of cultural resources. The Placer County General Plan has a number of policies protecting cultural resources.

Much of the county's heritage is linked to its historical railroad and mining roots. The preservation of Placer's heritage is important for many reasons. Heritage resources are non-renewable and once lost, can never be regained. A well preserved heritage contributes to a sense of permanence and continuity. The preservation of heritage resources provides a vital link with the past and a foundation for planning the future, enabling these important assets to continue to contribute to the identity, character, vitality, economic prosperity and quality of life of the community as a whole.

Heritage is more than just old buildings and monuments. It also includes heritage trees, natural features, and traditions that define the culture of a place. The definition of heritage has indeed been broadened in recent years to include a diversity of resources, including tangible and intangible.

Cultural resources are not necessarily restricted to, structures such as buildings, groups of buildings, monuments, bridges, fences and gates; sites associated with an historic event; natural heritage features such as landscapes, woodlands, and riparian areas, streetscapes, flora and fauna within a defined area, parks, scenic roadways and historic corridors; artifacts and assemblages from an archaeological site or a museum; and traditions reflecting the social, cultural, or ethnic heritage of the community. The adoption of the term "cultural resources" reflects this evolution and promotes the need for a more holistic approach to heritage planning.

An important part of what makes Sheridan a special place is its unique built heritage. Built heritage is the most common and most recognizable type of heritage resources and includes one or more significant buildings, structures, monuments, installations, or remains associated with architectural, cultural, social, political, economic, or military history, and identified as being important to a community. The preservation of the historical resources that represent this history can help foster civic and neighborhood pride and lends to Sheridan's character.

## 6.1 GOAL AND POLICIES

The goal and policies which follow are intended to assure that future generations will have the opportunity to form a sense of community pride and identify from the achievements of the people that lived before them.

### GOAL

1. Preserve all significant cultural resource sites to the maximum extent possible.

### POLICIES

1. Emphasize protection and stabilization of existing cultural resource sites and features over removal or replacement.
2. Encourage retention, integration, and adaptive reuse of significant historical resources.
3. Encourage the listing of historical sites or structures on the Placer County, State Register of Historic Landmarks, and/or National Register of Historic Landmarks.

## 6.2 HISTORY OF SHERIDAN

The economic development of western Placer County has been greatly influenced by its resources: minerals, water, trees, soils, climate, and topography. Up until recent years, its three major industries have always been mining, lumber, and agriculture. The Sheridan area has a rich history.<sup>3</sup> It began with the initial inhabitation by the Maidu Indians and continued through the Gold Rush era when miners, farmers, and business moved into the area to seek their fortune.

### Native Americans

Indigenous people occupied the Sacramento Valley region and foothills of the Sierra Nevada for thousands of years prior to the arrival of Euro-American settlers in the mid-1800s. The earliest evidence of prehistoric human occupation of the area comes from a single, deeply buried site in the bank of Arcade Creek, north of Sacramento, containing grinding tools and large, stemmed projectile points. The points and grinding implements suggest an occupation date of sometime between 6000 and 3000 B.C.

Sheridan is within the ethnographic territory of the Penutian-speaking Nisenan, one of three Maidu-speaking tribelets inhabiting the northeastern half of the Sacramento Valley and the adjoining western slopes of the Sierra Nevada. The Nisenan, also known as the Southern Maidu, lived along the main stems and tributaries of the American, Yuba, and Bear Rivers, as well as the lower reaches of the Feather River. Their territory extended from above the junction of the Feather and Sacramento rivers on the north to a few miles south of the American River in the

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<sup>3</sup> Much of the information in this section was compiled by Jerry Logan's report, *A History of Sheridan, Indian Era to 1980*.

south. The Sacramento River bounded the territory on the west and extended close to Lake Tahoe in the east. The Nisenan Indians usually built their villages on low rises along streams. The Valley Nisenan lived mainly along the Sacramento River in large villages with populations of several hundred each. There have been at least nine distinct settlements identified along the Bear River. Between there and the foothills, the grassy plains were largely unsettled, used mainly as a foraging ground by both valley and hill groups.

The Spanish came to the Central Valley around 1769, and by 1776 the Miwok territory bordering the Nisenan on the south had been explored by Jose Canizares. In 1808 Gabriel Moraga crossed Nisenan territory, and in 1813 a major battle was fought between the Miwok and Spaniards near the mouth of the Cosumnes River. Though the Nisenan appear to have escaped the removal of tribes into the Spanish missions, they were not spared the ravages of diseases introduced by the Europeans. In 1833 an epidemic, probably malaria or smallpox, raged through the Sacramento Valley, killing an estimated 75 percent of the native population.

When John Sutter erected his fort at the present site of Sacramento, he had no problem getting the few Nisenan survivors to settle nearby. The discovery of gold in 1848 near the Nisenan village of Colluma (and present town of Coloma) drew thousands of miners into the area and led to the widespread killing and virtual destruction of traditional Nisenan culture.

In the 1850s there were still accounts of Indian camps in the Sheridan area. But as groups they were slowly breaking up and being absorbed into the white man's economy, or retreating into the remoter hills where they could try to hang onto their old customs. Reservations soon became available, including in Auburn.

By the time of the Great Depression, no Nisenan remained who could remember the days before the arrival of the whites.

### **Gold Rush History**

The earliest routes (trails) in western Placer County were formed by miners trying to get to the gold fields on the American River and immigrants moving down from the Sierras along the Bear River to reach the Sacramento Valley. Mining trails later became wagon roads.

High quality granite was quarried in and around Penryn, Rocklin, and Lincoln. A low grade of coal was mined in Lincoln and was reportedly responsible for the discovery of clay in that area. Copper was mined north of Lincoln in the Mt. Pleasant, Thermalands, and Camp Far West areas. Each of these minerals in turn became the mainstay of a local economy and contributed to the growth of Sheridan, Lincoln, Rocklin, Penryn, and other communities.

Agriculture in western Placer County began about 1845 when Theodore Sigard planted wheat on the south side of the Bear River. Claude Chana, who discovered gold on Auburn Ravine in 1848, is

credited with planting Placer County's first fruit trees in 1846 along the Bear River flood plain. By the 1850's, a few enterprising men had realized it might be more profitable supplying fruits, vegetables, and flour to the mining camps than actually working a claim.

Sheridan was first settled in 1855 by E.C. (Eugene) Rogers and was originally called "Union Shed" or simply "Shed." The name was derived from the ranch house and its attached shed which provided shelter to the freight teams and travelers following the Sacramento and Nevada Road. At "Union Shed," the road split to four directions. One road ran westerly toward

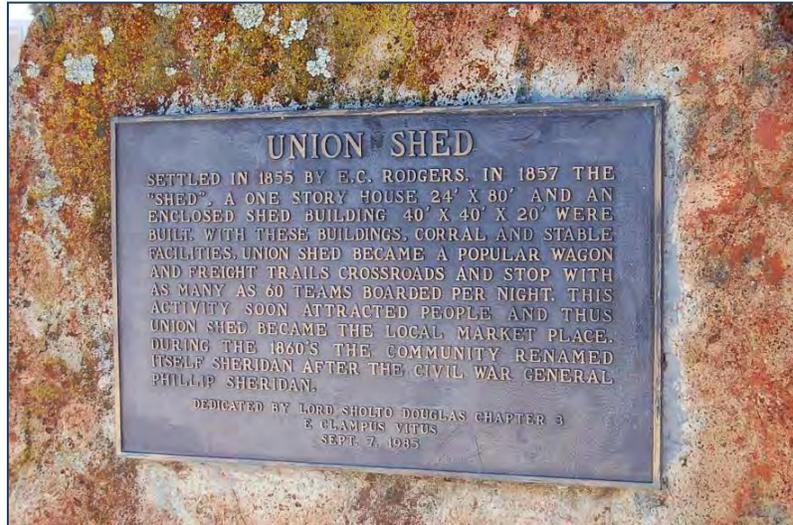


Figure 6.2.1: Historical Marker, 13<sup>th</sup> Street, February 2012.

Nicholaus; another northwesterly to Marysville via Kompton's Crossing of the Bear River; one northeasterly towards Grass Valley via McCourtney's Crossing of the Bear River; and the fourth running easterly to Auburn via Danetown (also known as Daneville, a few miles east of Sheridan at the present McCourtney and Fleming roads). The "Shed" was approximately 1,000 feet to the south of the current Sheridan townsite.

Four or five years after its settlement, two stages passed the "Shed" daily and the number of big freight teams during that period ranged from forty to sixty per day. Freight wagons and stagecoaches could stop here and be sheltered from the rain or hot sun. Horses or oxen could rest, drink water, and eat while the driver or passengers went inside to eat and drink. It was at the "Shed" that these teams laid in supplies to last during their journeys, this settlement became a market place at which the farmers of the area congregated for the purpose selling their wheat, oats and barley.

When Lincoln was founded and began to thrive in 1861, Rogers' Shed lost some of its purpose. The new railroad ended at Lincoln however, and any freight or passengers heading north of Lincoln had to continue past the Shed by wagon or stagecoach, keeping Rogers in business.

By 1865, the thriving little town surrounding the Shed boasted a public school, several trading establishments, a post office, an express office, and one hotel. In 1868, the Shed and adjacent buildings were burned.

The "Yuba Railroad" from Lincoln to Wheatland was completed in 1866. The first depot building constructed at Sheridan was near the Shed. After the 1868 fire, the depot was moved some sixty

roads to the village where a small cluster of homes was developing. This site, across 13<sup>th</sup> Street between G and H streets, where a main road and the new rail line converged, was a prime location for a town or village. Mark Hopkins and his brother Mose owned over 1,000 acres in the vicinity. Surveyors laid out a town plan and nine blocks had been staked out by 1871.

A post office was established on July 10, 1868. The post office and town needed a name. "Sheridan" was chosen in honor of Union General Phillip Sheridan of Civil War fame. Sheridan was a trading point for a considerable population of farmers and ranchers. A flouring mill was built in 1870 for Daniel Click near what would be the corner of 'E' Street and 13<sup>th</sup> Street. The mill was steam-powered using wood from the foothills and well water. The capacity of the mill was approximately 175 barrels of flour per day and utilized nearly all of the grain raised within a radius of ten miles.

The old depot that was moved into town from the site of Roger's Shed was replaced in 1874 with a new depot provided by the railroad. In August of 1875 the old freight depot and woodshed were destroyed by fire. A bridge across the Bear River to Wheatland was completed in December 1877.

By 1881, Sheridan boasted a population of 125 and counted among its commercial establishments three stores, one drug store, two blacksmith shops, Click's flour mill, one shoe shop, two hotels and three saloons. The community was also home to two clergymen, one doctor, one teacher and two temperance organizations.

On August 25, 1891, nearly Sheridan's entire business district burned down. The fire started in the Parrott Hotel (previously named the Sheridan Hotel) that was located at the southeast corner of Riosa and 13<sup>th</sup> Street. There was no fire department in a small unincorporated town like Sheridan in the 1890s. Just one commercial building survived, the Sheridan Cash Store, which still stands today.

Many merchants could not afford to rebuild and many of them left Sheridan for Lincoln or other towns. Sheridan was never to be the social and commercial gathering spot it had been before the railroad was built. Total collapse of the town was avoided by the survival of the flour mill complex, the main warehouse, the general store, and a few small businesses outside the town center. It continued to survive as an agricultural community providing homes and services to the ranchers from surrounding areas.

In contrast to Sheridan, Lincoln was growing steadily and attracting Sheridan residents and businesses. The Gladding, McBean & Co. clay pottery was expanding rapidly. Sheridan's population decline through the 1890s was reflected in the number of school graduates in 1900: one.

The 1920s brought a wave of Russian immigrants to the Sheridan area. They had left Russia after the political upheaval and religious persecution before and after the revolution there (1917-18). Many settled in the San Francisco Bay area, saved money and then moved to the Central Valley. The patriarch of this group was reported to be Max Popoff, whose son James was already living in the Sheridan area. Most of these colonists were related to Popoff and belonged to the Sheridan Molokan Church.

In the late 1950's a disease called 'pear decline' virtually brought the industry to a halt. Pear decline and the ability of the large Central Valley farms to produce higher yields than the small ranches in Placer County also contributed to the demise of Placer's once thriving fruit industry.

During the years following the decline of the fruit industry, the county supported an important dairy industry with many of the county's fruit ranches being converted to dairies. By 1961, population in Sheridan was approximately 250. According to published accounts, Sheridan at the time had one general store, the post office, a hardware store, two gas stations with garages, one second-hand store, one tavern, an old vacant warehouse, a modern school, three churches (one Russian), one turkey ranch, a roadside seasonal market, many old houses, cabins, and several new homes.

Today, rather than orchards and farms, the Sheridan area has become a haven for people seeking a "place in the country." Homes and ranchettes are being built amongst old orchards, farms, and ranches. Farmers are typically now growing rice or walnuts instead of wheat.

### Railroad History

In the 1860s, the railroad came to Placer County. The Central Pacific Railroad completed track to Roseville in 1864 and to Auburn in 1865. Sheridan greeted its first train from Sacramento to Wheatland, via Junction (now Roseville) and Lincoln in 1866. This was the first segment of Southern Pacific's Shasta Route through northern California to Portland. It left the main line at Roseville and passed northward through Lincoln and Sheridan serving the farming and clay



Figure 6.2.2: Sheridan Station and freight warehouse. Oddellows Hall, right. Circa-1900. Image Courtesy of Placer County Museums

industries. The railway extension from Lincoln north was first called the Yuba Railroad. In 1868 the Central Pacific Railroad rescued the financially strapped Southern Pacific and completed the line to Marysville in 1869. By the late 1870s the line extended into Oregon.

By the early 1900s copper mining had entered the county. The 1910 State Mineralogist Report defined the mining districts associated with western portion of Placer County at the time. The Dairy Farm (Van Trent) district included the copper and gold mines in the region about eight miles northeast of the Sheridan townsite. Amphibolite and diabase are the prevailing formations in this area. Active mines included Dairy Farm (copper), Valley View (copper), and Bobtail (gold and copper).

In 1913, interests representing the American Smelting and Refining Company (ASARCO) purchased the Dairy Farm mine along the Bear River northeast of Sheridan. Ore from the copper, gold and silver mine was hand sorted then brought to a stockpile near Sheridan for transfer to the Southern Pacific Railroad.

As mining activity increased, it became necessary to improve shipping facilities at the mine. Previously, wagon trains hauled the copper ore to Sheridan for shipment by rail to Bay Area smelters. In 1914, the Alta Construction Company began construction on a three-foot gauge railroad from the mine to just north of Sheridan.

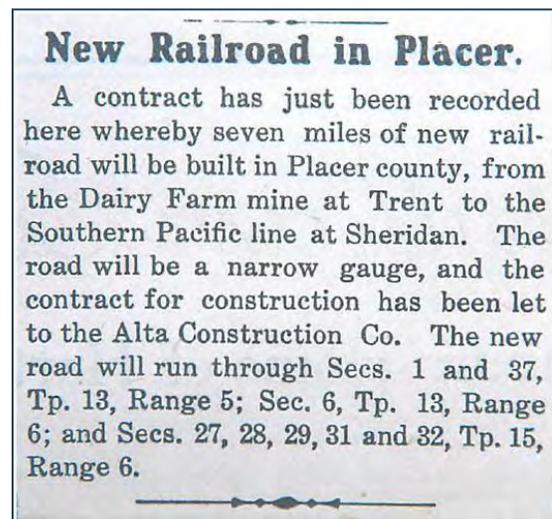


Figure 6.2.3: Placer Herald, July 25, 1914. Image Courtesy of Placer County Museums

The sidings and spurs off the Southern Pacific were located just west of Lichty Road. It was named Jester after the owner of the land there. The unloading site featured an inclined narrow-gauge spur in the center with standard-gauge tracks on each side below the loading chutes. The ore cars could release their loads down chutes to the waiting Southern

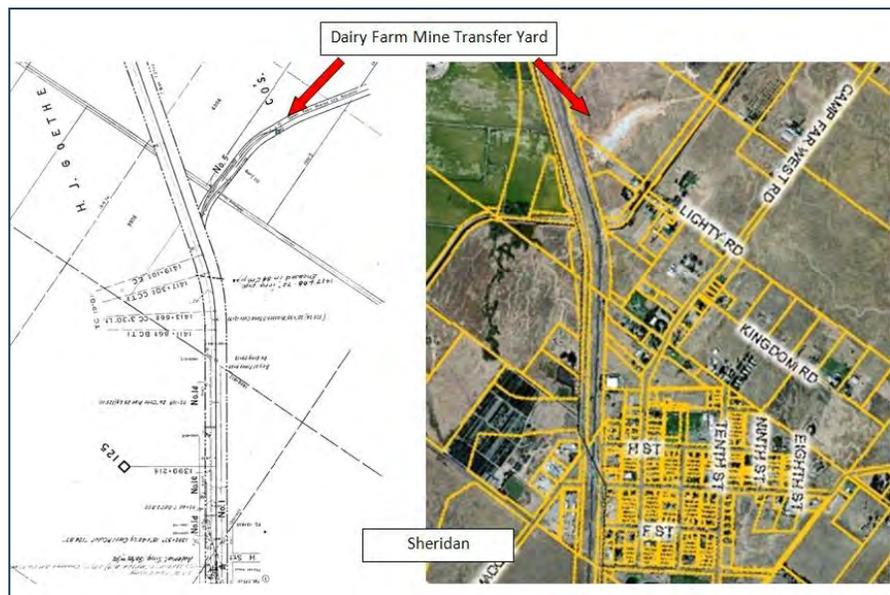


Figure 6.2.4: Dairy Farm Mine Transfer Yard. Southern Pacific Railway Right-of-Way map left. 2010 aerial with parcel map, right.

Pacific cars. The route from the mine to Sheridan covered approximately 8.5 miles and ran roughly parallel to Camp Far West Road. Then it turned easterly up a gentle grade and curved in a loop towards Van Trent along what is now McCourtney Road.

Dairy Farm Mine was the only producing copper mine in Placer County in 1915 and continued until September 1917 when the entire plant shut down. In January 1918 the mining and railroad equipment consisting of two locomotives and ten cars was sold and the right-of-way reverted to the original owners. Little remains to mark its passing but the scarring from the transfer location along the Southern Pacific rail line can be seen from aerials (see Figure 6.2.4).

### 6.3 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

A variety of California laws and local ordinances have been passed in the last few decades that are designed to protect cultural resources. Key legislation is summarized below. Several California public resource codes make it illegal to damage objects of historical or archaeological interest on public or private lands or to disturb human remains.

#### Summary of California Laws Protecting Cultural Resources

##### **California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA")**

CEQA requires that all private and public activities not specifically exempted be evaluated against the potential for environmental damage, including effects on historical resources.

##### **Health and Safety Code, Section 7052 (Stats. 1939, C.60:672)**

This code section establishes a felony penalty for mutilating, disinterring, or otherwise disturbing human remains, except by relatives.

##### **Penal Code, Section 622.5 (Stats. 1939, D.90:1605, 5.1)**

This code provides misdemeanor penalties for injuring or destroying objects of historical or archaeological interest located on public or private lands. It specifically excludes the landowner.

##### **Public Resources Code, Section 5097.5 (Stats. 1965, C.11362792)**

An additional code defines as a misdemeanor the unauthorized disturbance or removal of archaeological, historical, or paleontological resources located on public lands.

##### **Public Resources Code, Section 5097.9**

It is contrary to the free expression and exercise of Native American religion to interfere with or cause severe or irreparable damage to any Native American cemetery, place of worship, religious or ceremonial site or sacred shrine.

##### **Health and Safety Code, Ch. 1492 (SB 297)**

The Health and Safety Code requires that the Governor's Native American Heritage Commission be consulted whenever Native American graves are found. It makes it illegal to possess remains or artifacts taken from Native American graves. If human remains are discovered, all work should stop in the immediate vicinity of the find and the county coroner must be notified, according to Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code.

##### **Public Resources Code, Sections 5024 and 5024.5**

These code sections require State agencies to inventory and protect historical structures and objects under their jurisdiction. The State Historic Preservation Officer must be consulted before any such structure or object is altered or sold.

### 6.4 CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

There are no local, state or federally-listed Landmarks in the Community Plan area. A Historical, Architectural, and Archaeological survey of unincorporated Placer County was completed in 1992. The purpose of the survey was to identify properties that are important to the history of Placer County, including Sheridan. The information obtained by such a survey provides unique insights into a community's past, and can form the basis for making sound judgments in community planning. Survey data can be used to create a preservation plan in which significant historic resources are recommended for preservation. It can lead to an increased understanding and public awareness of a community's historic landmarks and a greater commitment to preserving them.

The survey undertaken by the professional consulting firms Ogden Environmental and Energy Services, Archeological Services, Foothill Resources, and Steward/Gerike Consultants was prepared for the Placer County Department of Museums. It identified one historical resource in Sheridan, the Sheridan Cash Store, and five potential historical resources.

**Table 6.4.1**  
**Identified Historical Resources in Sheridan**

5740 13 <sup>th</sup> Street	Sheridan Cash Store
<b>Description-</b> One-story, false-front building with formal pediment, entablature, corbelling, with vaulted arches in an Italianate Classic revival style.	
<b>Construction Date-</b> 1879	
<b>Significance-</b> The only identified commercial brick building remaining in Sheridan. The structure was built by Oliver Perry Richardson and a partner named Sparks in 1879.	

*Source: Historical, Architectural, and Archaeological Resources of Placer County, 1992*

#### Sheridan Cash Store

Oliver Perry Richardson, a wealthy landowner with many properties, and a partner named Sparks, built the brick store at its present site at 5740 13<sup>th</sup> Street in 1879. The Placer Herald newspaper reported in 1880 that the store was named the “Sheridan Cash Store.” On August 24, 1891, Sheridan’s entire business district burned down. Oral history accounts state that the general store was the only building to survive the



Figure 6.4.1: 5740 13<sup>th</sup> Street, February 2012.

disastrous fire. The store was the center of community life as it housed a Wells Fargo office and Post Office.

This six-course American Bond Brick structure has an Italianate commercial false front consisting of a stepped parapet with a denticular cornice, which hides a corrugated metal gable roof.

In April 1989, then owner of the property Donald Rankin applied to demolish the structure to construct a retail plaza on the site. The County’s Design/Site Review Committee denied the application and the applicant appealed that decision to the Board of Supervisors.



Figure 6.4.2: 5740 13<sup>th</sup> Street, February 2012.

On August 14, 1989, the Board of Supervisors voted to uphold the decision to deny the demolition of the 1879 structure. The date “1879” appears on the building to this day. The building is currently vacant (Figures 6.4.1 and 6.4.2).

Development has caused historical properties to be lost over time. According to the 1992 survey, the following have physical integrity, and may have historical importance. Research is recommended to determine complete historical context.

**Table 6.4.1**  
**Historical Resources in Sheridan**

<b>4871-81 'H' Street</b>	<b>private residence</b>
<b>Description-</b> The 1-½ story house is composed as a side-gabled units with a central, front-facing roof dormer and a full-width, dropped, hip-roofed front porch. Detailing includes eave and gable fascia and friezeboards, cornice returns and gable ornament.	
<b>Construction Date:</b> circa-1875	
<b>5415 Ranch House Road</b>	<b>private residence</b>
<b>Description-</b> This property consists of a main dwelling, five sheds, a shop and garage. Detailing includes boxed eaves and gables with friezeboards and molded gable fascia. Porch detailing includes lathe-turned posts and alternating spindlework and stick railing.	
<b>Construction Date:</b> circa-1875	
<b>Ranch House Road</b>	<b>Sheridan Cemetery</b>
<b>Description-</b> The Odd Fellows Sheridan Cemetery is located at the southern terminus of Ranch House Road. Zinc, marble and granite grave markers are primarily divided into family named lots and date to as early as 1896. Potentially landmark trees on the site include Italian cypress and cedar.	

**Ranch House Road**

**concrete culvert**

**Description-** This reinforced concrete culvert carries Ranch House Road over an unnamed seasonal stream. The deck of the culvert measures approximately 20 feet long by approximately 20 feet wide. Only one of the two concrete railings remains, the other has been replaced with a wooden-post and galvanized steel guard rail.

**Construction Date:** circa-1915

**"Sheridan Jail"**

**concrete bunker**

**Description-** This reinforced structure is located near the corner of E. Riosa Road and Highway 65. The building was a holding cell, one of several jails constructed in outlying towns in the county. It was said to have a "dial, same as a on a safe, to open it." The structure was relocated to its present location from the east side of Highway 65 some time ago. The building is intact with two small grated windows and a door opening.

**Construction Date:** circa-1910

*Source: Historical, Architectural, and Archaeological Resources of Placer County, 1992*

**Historical Resources in Sheridan**



*Sheridan Jail, Wildflower Place*



*5415 Ranch House Road*



*Ranch House Road Culvert*



*4871-81 'H' Street*

*Figures 6.4.3 – 6.4.6.*

### Sheridan Cemetery

Quincy Stanclift, a settler from Missouri working in Sheridan, died after a short illness and was buried on E.C. Rogers property, located on a hill on the eastern outskirts of Sheridan in 1857. Family members of the Stanclift family later moved to Sheridan and also were buried on the plot. It was the beginning of the Sheridan Cemetery.



Most of the earliest residents of the Sheridan area were buried at Manzanita, Western Placer's first cemetery begun in the early 1850s. In 1888, the International Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) bought two acres from Rogers, adjacent to and east of the Stanclift plot for a cemetery. This opened the site to more of Sheridan's residents. The acre holding the Stanclift plot was deeded to the IOOF cemetery in 1906. The Stanclift-Rogers gravestones are at the top of the hill.



*Figures 6.4.7 and 6.4.8: Sheridan Cemetery.*

In 1921, the Russian Colony in Sheridan (estimated at 17 families) was refused permission to bury one of its members in the IOOF cemetery. They formed their own cemetery on a one-acre site north of the IOOF site.

In 1928, the three-acre IOOF cemetery was deeded to Public Cemetery District #1, later named Placer County Cemetery District #1. The Russian cemetery, known as both the Russian Colony Cemetery and the Sheridan Molokan Church Cemetery, was deeded to the Placer County Cemetery District #1. Burials continue in the cemetery.

## 6.5 PRESERVATION INCENTIVES

A number of State and Federal financial and technical tools are available to help give new life to historic properties. Programs assist in the restoration, maintenance, rehabilitation, and adaptive reuse of historic resources. The Federal government offers rehabilitation tax credits to qualified projects and properties.

**California State Register** – Besides the recognition of owning an historically significant property, listing on the California Register may qualify the owner to benefit from historic preservation grants and other preservation programs such as the Mills Act (see below). The rights and responsibilities of owners of historic properties are the same as those of owners of non-historic properties. There are no restrictions on the use, treatment, or transfer of private property.

If a resource meets the criteria for registration, it may be nominated by any individual, group, or local government to any program at any time. Registered landmarks are eligible for directional markers on State highways.

**National Register** – The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources.

Listing in the National Register of Historic Places provides formal recognition of a property's historical, architectural, or archeological significance based on national standards used by every state. National Register listing places no obligations on private property owners. There are no restrictions on the use, treatment, or transfer of private property. Residential homeowners do find that property values increase when historic preservation standards are used in rehabilitating their homes.

**Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit** – A 20 percent income tax credit is available for the rehabilitation of historic, income-producing buildings that are determined by the Secretary of the Interior, through the National Park Service, to be "certified historic structures." The California Office of Historic Preservation and the National Park Service reviews the rehabilitation work to ensure that it complies with the Secretary's Standards for Rehabilitation.

Owner-occupied residential properties do not qualify for the federal rehabilitation tax credit. The credit is only available to income-producing properties (commercial, industrial, agricultural, and residential rentals), not for owner-occupied housing.

**State Historical Building Code** – The California Historical Building Code is a performance-based code that recognizes older buildings often have additional needs in meeting fire and life safety

requirements. Owners of qualified historic properties are entitled to use the State Historical Building Code (SHBC) for rehabilitation of structures. The SHBC, found in the California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 8, supplants the Uniform Building Code (UBC) and is particularly useful in code issues related to requirements for plumbing, electrical, structural, seismic, fire safety, energy requirements, and disabled access. The SHBC in most cases does not allow code standards to be waived. Instead, the SHBC provides for alternative methods to achieve reasonable levels of safety.

**Mills Act** – The Historical Property Contract (Mills Act) Program provides property tax abatement to qualified properties. The Mills Act Program is administered and implemented by local governments (cities and counties) that establish their own criteria and determines how contracts will be implemented in their jurisdiction. Local governments enter into contracts with owners of qualified historic properties who actively participate in the restoration and maintenance of their historic properties while receiving property tax relief. Owner-occupied family residences and income-producing commercial properties may qualify for the Mills Act program. Placer County has not adopted a Mills Act program.

**California Heritage Fund Program** - The California Heritage Fund grant program is funded under the State Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000. Grants may be used for acquisition, rehabilitation, restoration, or interpretation projects and are available for any product, facility or project designed to preserve a historic resource that is listed in or determined eligible for listing in the National or state registers. This program requires a 50 percent match from the grantee. The program is administered by the State Office of Historic Preservation, and there are two grant funding cycles per year.

**Placer County Register of Cultural and Historic Resources** – Private property owners may seek placement of their property on the Placer County Register. Section 15.60.010 of the Placer County code provides for the protection, enhancement, perpetuation, and use of historic structures and/or other cultural resources officially designated by the Board of Supervisors. The alteration, reconstruction, demolition, or destruction in whole or part, of a designated cultural/historic resource or a site in a designated cultural/historic district is prohibited unless permission is granted by the planning director or their designee.

Ordinary maintenance and repair of any exterior feature of any structure on property listed in the official register is permitted; however, such maintenance or repair may not involve a change in the design or result in the modification, demolition, or removal of any architectural feature of the property.

**Preservation Easements/Acquisition of Property** – Preservation easements on the facades of buildings, or elsewhere on any site, or acquisition of property deemed valuable as a cultural/historic resource, may be acquired by the County or an appropriate nonprofit group through purchase, donation, or condemnation pursuant to California Civil Code § 815.

Adopted in June 2000, the **Placer Legacy Open Space and Agricultural Conservation** program seeks to protect and conserve open space, agricultural lands, and other resources. The program has been developed to implement the goals and policies of the 1994 Placer County General Plan. One of the key objectives of the program is to “retain important scenic and historic areas.”

Placer Legacy calls for an evaluation of historical resources and development of incentive-based programs to protect these resources. Historical locations and structures that warrant protection are to be identified and the County will seek to work with property owners and where appropriate, willing sellers to protect these resources. Due to the rich cultural heritage present in the County, there may be circumstances in which an acquisition solely for the purpose of protecting a unique cultural/historical resource may be appropriate, particularly when that resource is immediately threatened. To date, one historical property has been acquired, the Gould Park site in Cisco Grove, which contains an historic stand of trees and two historic stone structures located on Hampshire Rocks Road.

## 6.6 ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

In order to prevent vandalism and unauthorized artifact collecting and to protect landowners from trespass, the locations of cultural resources are kept confidential. California Government Code Section 6254.10 exempts archaeological site information from the California Public Records Act, which requires that public records be open to public inspection. Location information is restricted and is not circulated as part of public documents, but is used for planning purposes only. The North Central Information Center (NCIC), California State University at Sacramento maintains a record of archaeological sites in Placer County including Sheridan. Records are available to qualified researchers for use during the land development process. An on-the-ground archaeological field survey was not performed as part of the Community Plan update.



Figure 6.6.1: 4871-81 'H' Street