

Hock Farm Doors

John Sutter established his farm on the Feather River in 1841. John Bidwell supervised construction of permanent buildings. In 1842 an adobe structure was built – the first structure in California north of Sutter’s Fort. Sutter planted fruit trees and ornamental shrubs and lay out an extensive garden and vineyard. He added more structures to the farm, including a fine mansion.

Sutter moved to the farm in 1849. He hosted many large picnics. Riverboats from Sacramento brought guests and their friends to his lavish gatherings.

Sutter was beset with financial catastrophes and sold much of his land. In 1865 his residence was destroyed by fire. A few months later he moved to Washington, D.C. He died in 1880.

All that remains of anything tangible on the Hock Farm is a wall of a building, known as the “Hock Farm Doors.” The iron building, shipped around Cape Horn, was likely used for storage. The building was demolished in a flood in 1907, but enough iron plates were found to reconstruct one wall. The Bi-County Federation of Women’s Clubs of Sutter and Yuba Counties undertook the restoration and dedicated the structure as an historic monument in 1927. The Hock Farm was also designated as California Historical Landmark No. 346.

Over time the Hock Farm Doors fell into disrepair. The wall became a target for taggers and those with extra ammunition. The structure supporting the wall became rickety and there was danger of the wall collapsing.

The Sutter County Historical Society decided the wall was worth saving and mounted a monumental effort to refurbish the doors. Board Member Steve Perry headed up the effort, which took many years to accomplish. Steve worked with county staff, Sierra Gold Nurseries (where the doors are located) and local contractors to construct a building to support the doors. The “new” doors were rededicated on January 15, 2011.



1927



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