

# News Release



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Major Renovation Project Underway For Sutter's Fort Historic Central Building** *First Phase of Project Includes New Roof & Wall Stabilization for Historic Structure Originally Built in 1840*

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** – Recognized on the National Register of Historic Places and once the largest building in California when it was built in 1840, the 6,500-square foot historic Central Building at Sutter's Fort State Historic Park is currently undergoing important renovations. The first phase of the California State Parks' "Sutter's Fort Roof Rehabilitation and Seismic Stabilization" project includes a new roof and wall reinforcements for stabilization to make the roof less susceptible to damage caused by high winds or earthquakes. This initial phase is expected to be completed by mid-September.

Originally known as "Casa Grande," the prized historic structure was the first permanent structure built in the Central Valley. The multi-use building was a central focal point of western migration before the Gold Rush, was a key military position in the Mexican-American War and was also the first commercial building near the gold fields after gold was discovered. Early on, the historic building operated as the general store and also housed the offices of John Sutter, the clerk and the doctor. It also operated as an entertainment hub with a parlor and dining hall. Then, in August of 1846 through the winter of 1847, it was the headquarters of the U.S. Army during the Mexican-American War. In 1848, the historic structure became a miner's dormitory on the third floor, a boarding house on the second, and a bar, bowling alley and card room in the basement.

The cost for the first phase of renovations is \$295,000 and is made possible by Proposition 84 that was passed in 2006. Proposition 84 set aside resources for the Department of Parks and Recreation to develop, acquire, interpret, restore and rehabilitate the state park system and its natural, historical, and visitor serving resources. The top priority for this portion of the bond measure was for the restoration, rehabilitation and improvement of the existing state park system lands and facilities. The cost and timing of the second phase have not yet been determined but will include the stabilization of the lower portion of the walls, the restoration of the damaged walls and a new coat of whitewash.

While Sutter's Fort State Historic Park remains open seven-days-a-week for visitors, only the Central Building will not be available for self-guided tours during active construction periods. Once re-opened, Fort visitors will be able to go back in time and tour inside that historic building to see how the offices of John Sutter, the doctor and the clerk would have looked in 1846.

**About Sutter's Fort State Historic Park**

*Sutter's Fort State Historic Park is operated by California State Parks with financial assistance from the nonprofit Friends of Sutter's Fort. Sutter's Fort State Historic Park is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Located in midtown Sacramento on L Street between 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Streets, the Fort offers monthly "Hands on History" activities and special events throughout the year. Established in 1839 by Swiss immigrant John Augustus Sutter, Sutter's Fort was at the center of a flourishing agricultural empire named New Helvetia (New Switzerland.) This empire established Sacramento's earliest settlement and the first European settlement in California's Central Valley. For more information, call (916) 445-4422 or visit [www.suttersfort.org](http://www.suttersfort.org)*

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