Anthony House Stage Stop

Although not on state park property, nearby Anthony House is important to Park history and played an important role in the region’s history. Built in 1849 on the north side of Deer Creek, Anthony House was the stage stop between Bridgeport and Spenceville to the west. The original owner (a Mr. Anthony?) advertised Anthony House for sale May 15, 1852 along with 160 acres, four yoke of oxen, wagon, timber, carriage, poultry and hogs, a spring house and water.

In November 1853, Simon Pancake French and John A. Smith reported that “Our house, known as Anthony House, was robbed of $2,200.” The deed of sale to French and Smith likely was destroyed in the 1856 fire that consumed the Nevada County Courthouse. A post office was established June 18, 1862 with Elam Cook the first postmaster. The post office was discontinued March 22, 1866, reactivated February 22, 1867, discontinued January 30, 1877, reactivated March 19, 1877 and finally moved to Smartsville November 30, 1906. By 1870, owner French was living in Colusa. William Westerfield was manager of the House when it was destroyed by fire August 4, 1876. The House was rebuilt and continued as a stage stop, hotel, and post office. Simon French died in Sutter County December 27, 1889. Following the mining boom, succeeding owners built barns and used the Anthony House property for ranching and farming.