

THE RESTORATION OF CHINESE STRUCTURES PROJECT FIDDLETOWN ROCS

The Fiddletown Preservation Society (FPS), in conjunction with Amador County, has been working since 2001 to preserve two endangered historic buildings built and/or used by Chinese immigrants who came to California in the 1850s. The early Chinatowns in the Sierra Nevada foothills where the Gold Rush began have mostly disappeared, leaving little trace of the people who contributed so much to California's cultural and historic development.

The array of Chinese related buildings in Fiddletown is significant, because along with the Chew Kee Museum (an 1855 Chinese herb store), they represent the largest grouping of early Chinese buildings (1855-1865) remaining from a Gold Rush mining town.

The Chinese Gambling Hall and Chinese General Store are two rare and unique buildings associated with Fiddletown's Chinese community. The precarious condition of both of these buildings impelled the FPS to embark on a campaign to raise funds to save them from collapsing.

Over \$50,000 was garnered from private donations and small grants, augmenting two large grants: \$203,200 received from the California Heritage Fund (Proposition 12) and \$207,964 received from the California Cultural and Historical Endowment (Proposition 40).

FPS is pleased to announce that the ROCS Project (Phase 1) is complete! Construction was completed on schedule in December of 2008, and all the paperwork, bill payment and final reports have been completed by our State mandated date of June 30, 2009. Many thanks are due to our Amador County Supervisors who approved a last minute bridge loan of \$100,000 to help us deal with the State freeze on payments.

If you haven't been by to view the completed buildings, please join us at Living History Day (next one in May 2013—date to be determined) and the Fiddlers Jam on September 15, 2012, when the Chinese buildings will be open to the public. Thanks to all whose contributions of time, money and encouragement helped us make this project a FINISHED success!

[To view pre and post construction pictures of the ROCS project click here](#)