

Road Houses

A roadhouse (Australia and the United States) or stopping house (Canada) is a small mixed-use premises typically built on or near a major road in a sparsely populated area that services the passing travelers, providing food, drinks, accommodation, fuel and parking spaces to the guests and their vehicles. In Australia, a roadhouse is often considered to be the smallest type of human settlement.

The word's meaning varies slightly by country. The historical equivalent was often known as a 'coaching inn', providing food, drinks, and rest to people and horses.

The "roadhouse" or "road house" acts as a restaurant, serving meals, especially in the evenings. It has a bar serving beer or hard liquor and features music, dancing, and sometimes gambling. Most roadhouses are located along highways or roads in rural areas or on the outskirts of towns. Early roadhouses provided lodging for travelers, but with the advent of faster means of transport than walking, horseback riding, or horse-drawn carriages, few now offer rooms to let. Roadhouses have a slightly disreputable image, similar to honky tonks. This type of roadhouse has been portrayed in movies such as *Road House* (1948), *The Wild One*, *Easy Rider*, and *Road House* (1989).

Historically, roadhouses sprang up when significant numbers of people began to move to the frontier. From the 1890s in Alaska and the Yukon, beginning with the gold rush, roadhouses were checkpoints where dog sledders, horse-driven sleighs, and people on snowshoes, skis, or walking would stop overnight for shelter and a hot meal. Remains of a Klondike Gold Rush roadhouse can be seen today south of Carmacks, Yukon along the Klondike Highway. One built in 1902 is the Black Rapids Roadhouse; another still operating is Rika's Landing Roadhouse. *[wikipedia]*

