

Main Street

One of the minor failures of the Fair Oaks Historical Society is a documentation and photos of the buildings on Main Street. For those of you who haven't heard our presentations, from 1895 to 1900, prior to the general move to the current Village area, the business sector of Fair Oaks stretched along Main Street from Capitola Avenue on the south to Fair Oaks Boulevard on the north. We only have photos of the old Fair Oaks Hotel at the south end of Main Street and the Shelton General Store and Post Office at the north end.

When doing research on some of the old structures, I regularly come across a description of the area by Sim Green, an early resident. The following is a transcript of the paragraphs from the San Juan Area Memories book, page 20:

“At that time (1899) all the business houses were located along or near Main Street beginning with the old hotel which I believe was the first building in the colony. Just west of this on the south side of Capitola was the office of Stephen K. Kieffer, who made the original survey of the colony. Across Main Street and a little to the north was a two story building. I do not know what it was originally constructed for, but the first school in Fair Oaks was held in this building as well as the first church, as I remember it.



Levy had a pipe and plumbing shop on the lower floor. Levi's youngest son, Rube, was our first paper delivery boy, delivering the Sacramento Bee on horseback to a large number of subscribers, 18 I think he started with.



On what is now (1958) the Jack Dave property was a two story building, the upper part used as a residence and the lower as a general store by the Randall family. About 1902 Fred Kreiderweise (not sure about the spelling) built and operated a blacksmith shop directly across the street from this store. On top of the hill on the east side of

Main Street, about where Glenn Wright's residence now stands, was our first post office and combination general store operated by L. M. Shelton and family.

EARLY BUILDINGS

Across the street to the west was another two story building, the Ling family living on the upper floor and conducting a general store on the ground floor.

Just north of the post office C. H. Slocum had a lumber yard. The Methodist Church was at the north east corner of what is now Watkins Way and Sacramento Street, and the one room school was on the south west corner of Watkins Way and Fair Oaks Boulevard. “

