



Above: The City Plaza Below right: Lettunich Building Below left: The Mansion Hosue



3 THE CITY PLAZA

350 Main. The Plaza, bounded by Main, East Beach, Union, and Peck Streets, was deeded to the City on June 4, 1869 for the purpose of a "public town plaza." The Plaza is located in the historic downtown center of Watsonville, and has been developed and utilized as a public meeting place, including a bandstand, walkways, trees, cannons, and plaques commemorating various persons and events. The City Plaza is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

4 THE LETTUNICH BUILDING

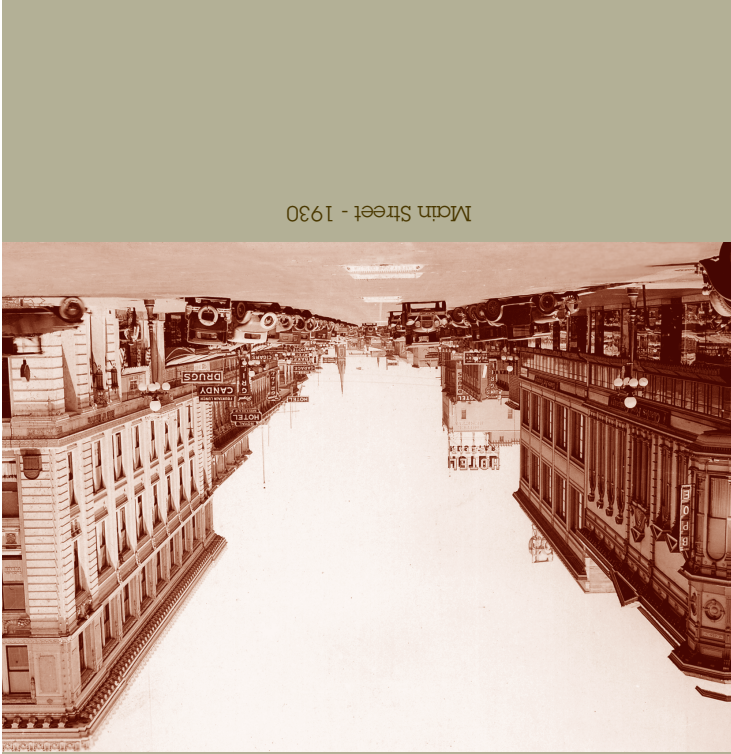
406 Main Street. Designed by William H. Weeks, in 1914. Commercial Style of architecture with a three part, four story "L" shaped building, with a base, shaft, and capital. The building has a flat roof, stucco siding, and terra cotta and sheet metal decoration on the two street facing elevations.

The original entry on Main Street is a terra cotta triumphal arch garlanded with images of local produce. A major alteration to the original building was the infilling of the first floor glass curtain walls with heavy ground floor piers during a 1928 remodel. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

5 THE MANSION HOUSE

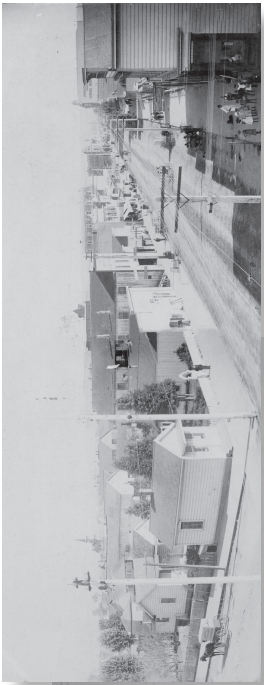
420 Main. Built in 1871 by Thomas Beck. Originally located at the corner of Main and East Beach Street, the building was moved north to accommodate the new Lettunich Building in 1913 and modernized.

The Mansion House originally contained sixty-five rooms on the second and third floor. The ground floor accommodated a wide stairway, billiard and bar room, dining room, reading room, office parlor and three stores, Wells Fargo, a barber shop, and a drug store. The building is constructed of redwood, with a wide porch at the front with a veranda above, and a beautiful mansard roof.



Main Street - 1930

Left: Main Street, 1900
Below: Main Street, 1900



Wall Street Inn, 1930



Walking and Driving Tour
of Historic Main Street

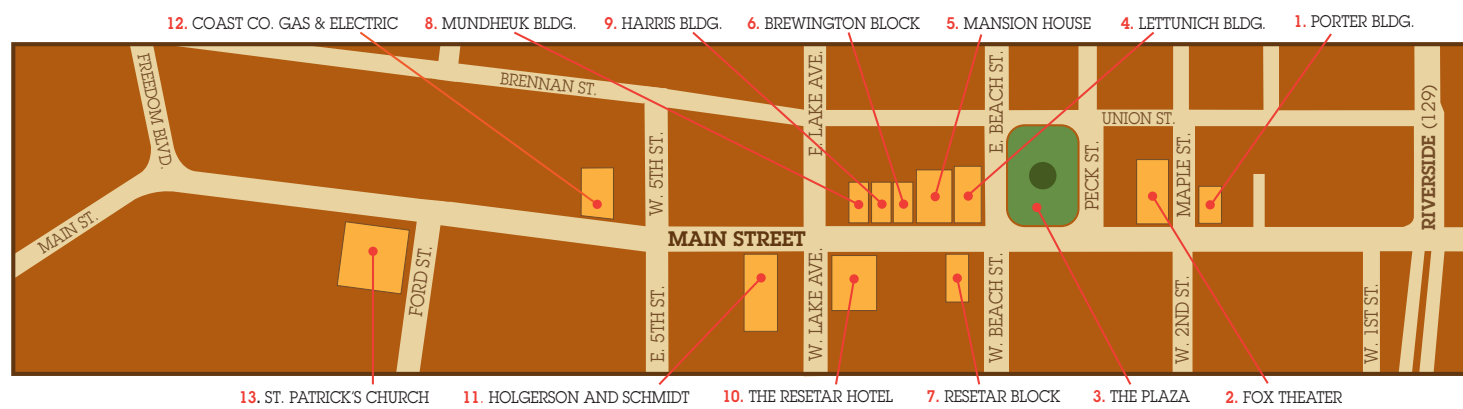
Watsonville's history is based in agriculture, growing such products as strawberries, apples, bush berries, lettuce, mushrooms, cut flowers, and much more. The City has a diverse ethnic community that has contributed heavily to the growth and well-being of Watsonville and the beautiful Pajaro Valley. The city is named after Judge John H. Watson who came to the valley in 1851 with D.S. Gregory and set up an "adverse claim" on a portion of the Bolso Del Pajaro, a land grant belonging to Don Sebastian Rodriguez. John Watson left for Nevada in 1861 and died at Elko, Nevada in 1882.

Watsonville was settled in 1852, incorporated in 1868, and came under a city charter in 1903. The first mayor was Richard Quinn.

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Watsonville City Plaza, 19th Century





208 MAIN PORTER BUILDING
The Porter building was part of the 1903 building boom in Watsonville. During this time, the Ford block, Jelsen block, the San Monte Fruit Packing House, the Simpson Hack Fruit Company Building, the Harris Building and the new high school were completed. This building was constructed for John T. Porter, one of the early pioneers of the Pajaro Valley. When the Porter Building was first completed, it housed the new post office. It was also the first building to have a central steam heating system.



15 MAPLE @ MAIN FOX THEATER
Built in 1923 and first called The Californian. It was modernized and renamed in the late 1920's, and seated 600 people in the main theater and balcony. After the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, the front facade was modified and the original main entrance was closed off and made into a separate commercial space.



426-434 MAIN BREWINGTON BLOCK
Renaissance Revival style by William Weeks, and built in 1914. The first story storefronts have been remodeled. Renamed the Kalich Building, it was originally known as the Brewington Block. It housed a first class hotel known as the Hotel Ames, with a movie theater that seated approximately 468 people, together with other stores and offices which constituted the main attraction for businesses during the 1920's and later.



435 MAIN RESETAR BLOCK (IOOF BLDG.)
Constructed between 1920 and 1940 by local builder Tom Rosewall. Art Deco Style. This one story building is faced in terracotta with a decorative parapet. The first story has been remodeled, however remnants of the original tile pillars are intact. This was constructed for the Pajaro Lodge #90 chapter of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.



440 MAIN MUNDHEUK BUILDING
Constructed in 1897, designed by William Weeks in a Classical Revival style. This building includes three Edwardian bay windows on the second story, with the parapet roof crowned by an anthemion. The first floor storefront has been remodeled.



448-450 MAIN HARRIS BUILDING
Constructed in 1910, Mission Revival style. This two-story building is faced in terra cotta and has 2 projecting bay windows. The first floor storefront has been remodeled. The building has heavy bracketing supporting a tile-roof overhang. The first and second stories are separated by a decorative band.



15 W. LAKE THE RESETAR HOTEL
Constructed in 1927, designed by William Weeks. This Spanish Colonial Revival style building replaced the Wall Street Inn (Appleton Hotel) as the premier Watsonville hotel when it was constructed. The first floor storefronts have been remodeled, however the upper stories contain the original double hung windows, with extensive parapet terra cotta relief work.



721 MAIN ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH
Designed by William Weeks and built in 1903, the Gothic Revival style church features an ornate slate roof steeple. The red brick and contrasting trim create a distinguished landmark for the intersection of Main and Freedom Boulevard. Originally built at what was the end of Main Street and the City limits. Significant damage incurred after the 1989 earthquake, but was the church was faithfully restored.



523, 529, 531 MAIN HOLGERSON & SCHMIDT BUILDING
Constructed in 1925. Designed by William Weeks in an eclectic style, with a tile base, terra cotta pilasters. The upper portion of the façade above the storefronts, features terra cotta tile "swirl" panels. Sculptured gargoyle figures with shields are located above the pilasters. The storefronts have been remodeled.



618 MAIN THE COAST COUNTY GAS & ELECTRIC BUILDING (JALISCO)
Constructed in 1932 in the Spanish Colonial architectural style. The one-story L-shaped building has a stucco exterior, gabled tile roof, and low tower with a hipped tile roof. It has recessed windows and doorways giving the impression of thick, sturdy walls. There are ornamental wrought iron lamp fixtures above the entrances.



Watsonville Architect, William H. Weeks

One of the most prolific architects of his time in Northern and Central California. Weeks' designs included school buildings, libraries, churches, office buildings, residences, and the City Plaza bandstand. Born in 1864 in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, his family moved to Colorado, Kansas, and then to Oakland, California. He opened an office in Watsonville in 1894 in the Peck block, and moved his family here soon after. Weeks called Watsonville home for seventeen years, and designed numerous commercial, residential and institutional buildings. Weeks opened a branch office in Salinas in 1897, and another established in San Francisco in 1905, which later would become his main office after



moving from Watsonville in 1911. Weeks was almost killed in San Francisco during the 1906 earthquake, and his work subsequently focused on building safety and engineering. Many of Weeks' buildings survived the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake due to additional construction measures to ensure that the buildings were structurally sound. Weeks died in Piedmont in 1936.

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