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

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 Bolsa Del Pajaro, a land grant belonging to Don Sebastian Rodriguez. John Watson left for Nevada in 1861 and died at Elko, Nevada in 1882.
208 MAIN
PORTER BUILDING
The Porter building was part of the 1903 building boom in Watsonville. Dating this 1903, the First Block, Jefferson Block, the San Martin Fruit Packing House, the Sampson & Frick Company Building, the Home Building, and the new high school were completed. The building was constructed for John T. Porter, one of the early pioneers of the Salinas Valley. When the Porter Building was first constructed, it housed the new post office. It was also the first building to have a central steam heating system.

15 MAPLE MAIN
FOXY THEATER
Built in 1923 and first called the Capitol, it was modernized and renamed in the late 1920s and seating 600 people in the main theater and balcony. After the 1980 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
BREWINTON BLOCK
Renovated in Revival style by William Weeks, and in 1934. The first story storefronts have been removed. Remodled the Kales Building. It was in the name of the Brewington Block. It housed a first class hotel known as the Hotel Annex, with area theater that seated approximately 660 people, together with other stores and offices which contributed to the main attraction for businesses during the 1920s and early.

435 MAIN
RESETAR BLOCK [ROOF BLOCK]
Constructed between 1930 and 1940 by local builder Sam Rosenbaum, Art Deco Style. This one story building is faced in terracotta with a decorative parapet. The first story has been remodelled, however remnants of the original tile pillars are intact. It was constructed for the Riggs Estate with Chapter of the Imperial Order of Odd Fellows.

440 MAIN
MUNDEHOF BUILDING
Constructed in 1897, designed by William Weeks in a Classical Revival style. This building includes three windows by window on the second story, with the parapet roof crowned by an arched niche. The first floor storefront has been remodelled.

440-410 MAIN
HARRIS BUILDING
Constructed in 1910, Mission Revival style. This two-story building is faced in terracotta with 2 projectzig bay windows. The first floor storefront has been remodelled. The building has heavy brickwork supporting a tile roof overhang. The first and second stories are separated by a decorative band.

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

523, 529, 531 MAIN
HOLDERSON & SCHMIDT BUILDING
Constructed in 1935. Designed by William Weeks in an Art Deco style, with tile base, terra cotta pillars. The upper portion of the foyer above the storefronts feature terra cotta tile ‘wall’ panels. Sculptured glass and figures with obelisks are located above the pillars. The storefronts have been remodelled.

10

11

619 MAIN
THE COAST COUNTY GAS 
& ELECTRIC BUILDING [ALISCO] constructed in 1902 in the Spanish Colonial Revival style. The one-story,flush building has a stucco exterior, gabled roof, and low curb with a hipped tile roof, its recessed windows and ornate pilasters give 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 Charlotte, Prince Edward Island, his family moved to Colorado, Kansas, and then to Oakland, California. He opened an office in Watsonville in 1894 in the Pech 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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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 trumpet arch garnished 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.