

WINTERS' ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

A GUIDE TO THE HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE
OF
WINTERS, CALIFORNIA

Prepared by

Historic Environment Consultants

1983

This publication was partially funded under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 through the California Office of Historic Preservation.

The Winters Historical Landmark Advisory Committee hopes to continue documenting the history of the greater Winters area. Members of the committee are anxious to correct errors that may appear in this booklet and would welcome further donations to the City's growing historical collection. The Advisory Committee's long range goal is to encourage the preservation of records, photographs, structures and other objects that reflect the community's cultural and architectural heritage.

This publication includes only a representative sampling of the architectural resources of Winters. Material for the publication is derived from a comprehensive Historical and Architectural Inventory of city resources completed in June 1983, on file with the City of Winters.

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City of Winters
318 First Street
Winters, California 95694

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Winters Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee:

Yolo Briggs
J.R. Chapman
Betty Coman
Harriett Geiser
Marilyn Joens
Joann Larkey
Gregory Vasey
Lavinia Young

City of Winters: Gail Wingard, City Manager and staff
Michael Jones
City Planning Commission

County of Yolo: County Library, Winters Branch; Margaret Wilson
County Archives
County Recorder's Office

Inventory, Report and Publication prepared by Historic Environment Consultants:

Paula Boghosian
Ethan Browning, Jr.
Katherine Knight
Clara Pettitt
Roger Scharmer
Eleanor Young

Text: Paula Boghosian
Katherine Knight

Photography: Paula Boghosian

(cont'd)

Publication Project Chairman and Volunteer Project Coordinator:
Betty Coman

Special Research Assistant:
Joann Larkey

Special Assistance, Inventory Research:

Mildred Barker

Bert Coman

Robert Coman

Evadne Engstrom

Amy Feagans

Steve Golson

Jacqueline Hale

Margaret Wilson Ireland

Betty Lindeman

Evelyn Roseberry

Clara Sager

Peggy Sanders

Mary Walters

The Winters Express; Newton, Charles and Ida Wallace

The Winters Tree Committee

FOREWORD

In 1975, at the request of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors, the Winters City Council appointed an ad hoc Winters Historical Landmark Advisory Committee. This committee, chaired by Katherine Alexander, aroused local interest in historic Winters during a citywide centennial celebration in the spring of 1975. Featured were photographic displays, a brochure of historic homes, and the publication of a special centennial edition of the Winters Express.

Renewed interest in preserving the historical and architectural resources of the City of Winters occurred in February 1979 when a group of citizens asked the City Council to reactivate the Historical Landmark Advisory Committee. A public meeting was held, with the endorsement of the Council, and the advisory committee was reactivated. Monthly meetings were held, the recollections of longtime residents were tape-recorded and a review of photographic and historical collections was undertaken.

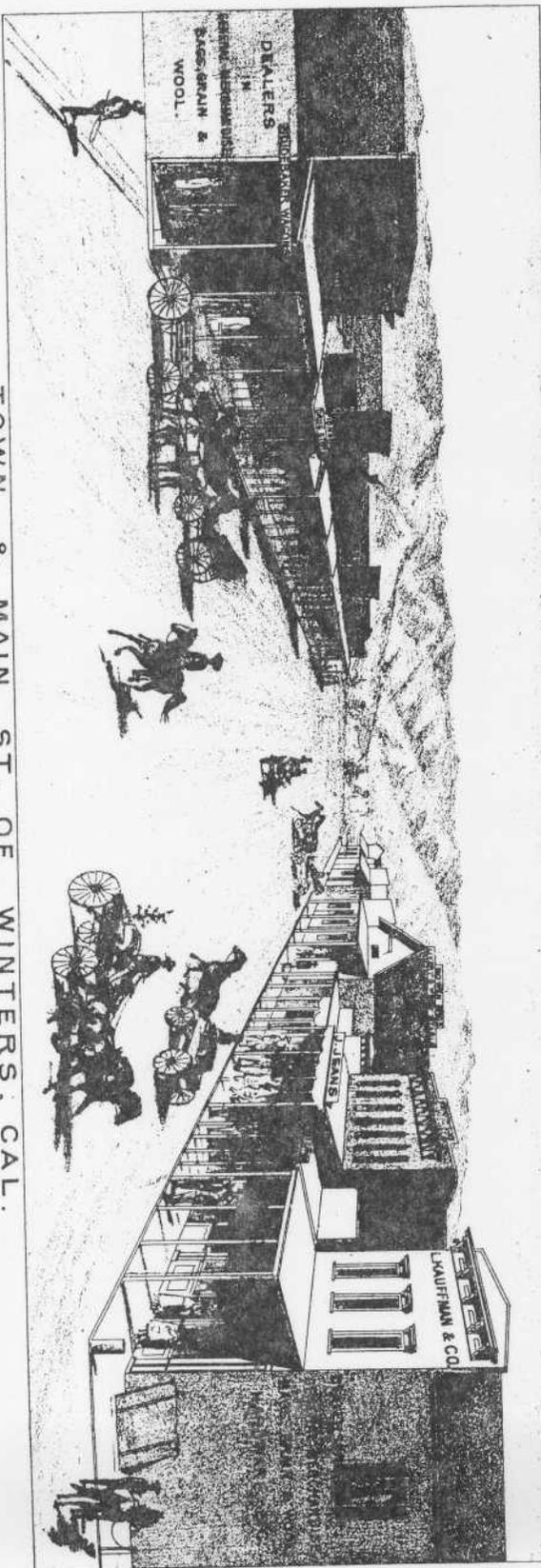
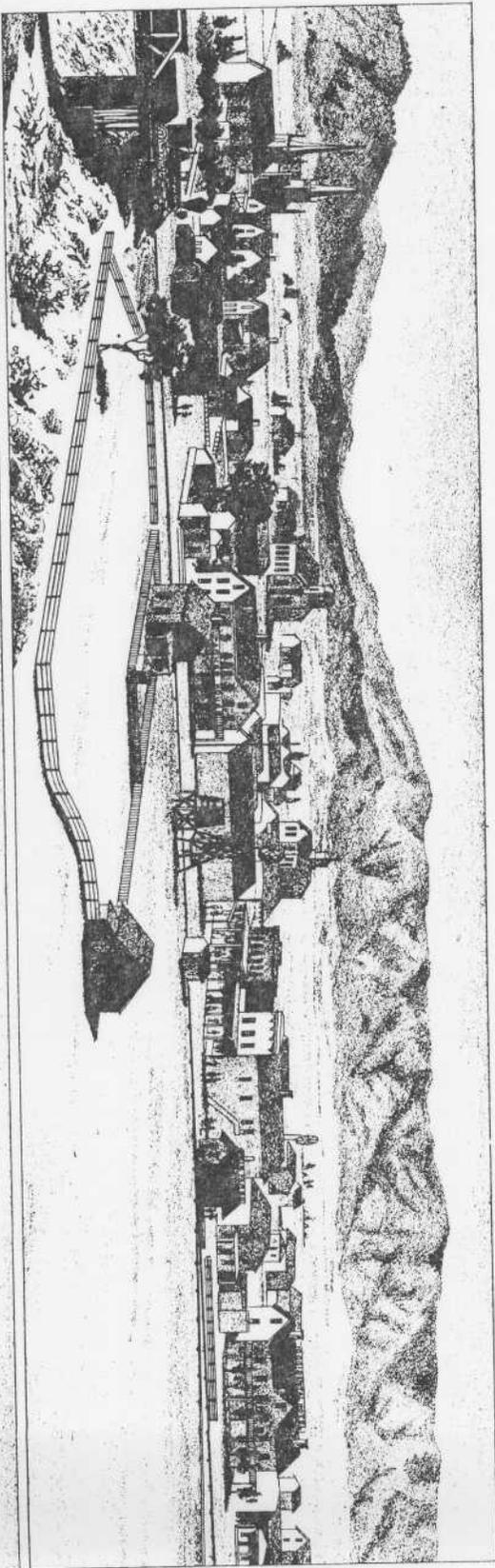
An annual report was made to the City Council on July 15, 1980. Receiving further encouragement from the Council at that time, the historical advisory committee prepared a preliminary list of historical resources in the City of Winters. Public meetings were held and donations were made to a historical fund. Local interest in insuring the preservation of "identified cultural and architectural resources that are unique and irreplaceable assets to the city and its neighborhoods" demonstrated the need for a comprehensive survey of these resources.

Consequently, in October 1981, acting with the support of the Winters City Council and the Winters Planning Commission, the Historical Landmark Advisory Committee prepared a grant application for funding from the State Office of Historic Preservation. A grant of \$9,000 was approved in April 1982, on the condition that the City of Winters would match that amount in in-kind contributions of volunteer services. Historic Environment Consultants of Sacramento were hired to conduct the survey of historic resources, assisted by community volunteers who contributed over 1,200 hours of research to the project. The illustrated report, completed in June of 1983, is intended to be used as a planning guide by the City of Winters.

Conclusions and recommendations made in the survey report are currently being considered by the General Plan Review Committee.

November 1983

Winters Historical Landmark Advisory Committee



TOWN & MAIN ST. OF WINTERS: CAL.

DE PUE & COMPANY.
1879

HISTORIC OVERVIEW

Settlement of the Winters area began in 1842 when John R. Wolfskill occupied Rancho Rio de los Potos, a Mexican land grant of 17,754 acres of lands along Putah Creek, where he commenced stock-raising and planted vegetables, fruit trees and grape vines.

In the 1850s John Wolfskill was joined by three brothers, Milton, Mathus and Sarchel, and others who settled on lands beyond the rancho's boundaries. Sub-division and sale of tracts within the rancho after 1858 brought in additional settlers, among whom were D.P.Edwards and Theodore Winters, a noted race horse breeder and entrepreneur who purchased the Mathus Wolfskill holdings in 1865 and established a racetrack southeast of the Winters bridge over Putah Creek.

The area's first town was developed at Buckeye, formerly located northeast of Winters, where a post office was established in 1855. The growth of this fledgeling rural settlement was brought to an end, however, in 1875, when the Vaca Valley Railroad extended its line into Yolo County. Having received financial assistance from area landowners and prospective businessmen for construction of a bridge over Putah Creek and the commitment of land from Theodore Winters and D.P.Edwards, the railroad made plans for a new depot and townsite. Thus, Buckeye was bypassed by two miles and a new town, named Winters after one of its founders, was established, inhabited partly by relocated Buckeye residents and their buildings.

As the northern terminus of the Vaca Valley Railroad, this new settlement grew quickly. By 1876 Winters had become a busy agricultural and commercial center, with three trains daily, new business and residential development and an assessed valuation of \$160,000. Produce of the area included apricots, peaches, almonds, plums, pears, cherries, figs, oranges, olives, barley, wheat and vegetables. Although some commercial activity, particularly in the tonnage of grains shipped by rail, shifted to the new town of Madison when the line was extended to that point in 1877, this era was one of growth, activity and promise for Winters.

Agriculture was then and remains today the primary source of commercial activity, while auxiliary activities helped the town grow slowly. There were banks, hotels, traveling businessmen and visitors, as well as the merchants and ranchers that provided the town's base. The Winters Advocate served as the

town's first newspaper from 1875 to 1879. It was succeeded by the Winters Express, a weekly publication founded in 1884 that continues to serve the best interests of the community.

In April 1892, a major earthquake heavily damaged many business buildings and residences in Winters. Some buildings were repaired and some rebuilt anew. The building activity led to other new construction and the establishment of Winters High School in 1892. Other growth activities of the 1890s included the organization of the Winters Dried Fruit Company in 1897 and the incorporation of the City of Winters in 1898.

Between 1900 and 1920, a new era of civic pride and self-awareness exhibited itself in a number of civic improvements: the installation of new water, sewer and lighting systems, street amenities such as concrete sidewalks, a horse watering trough, a public drinking fountain and the construction of two new bridges for rail and highway traffic. Service organizations concerned with the quality of citizen life were formed. The area's thriving agricultural industry prompted construction of new fruit sheds, warehouses and a cannery, and both the present city hall and a new high school were built.

Although the growth of Winters slowed during the years from 1920 to 1940, the strong agricultural base of the region sustained the town, its banks and its industry through the lean depression years. Rather than building new houses in ever more outlying areas, town residents enlarged and remodeled their existing family homes, predating the current trend for recycling by many years.

More recent years have seen some gradual changes in the composition and character of the population and in the cultivation of different crops. The predominant production of fresh fruits has gradually been replaced by the nut industry, coupled with a revival of the 1920s practice of selling fruit directly to the public at the production/ranch site. A recent report notes that "Winters is home to a growing number of people who commute to jobs in nearby cities while enjoying the friendly atmosphere of living in a small city." The town's predominant social character is one of considerable continuity as reflected by the presence of many descendants of early Winters families.

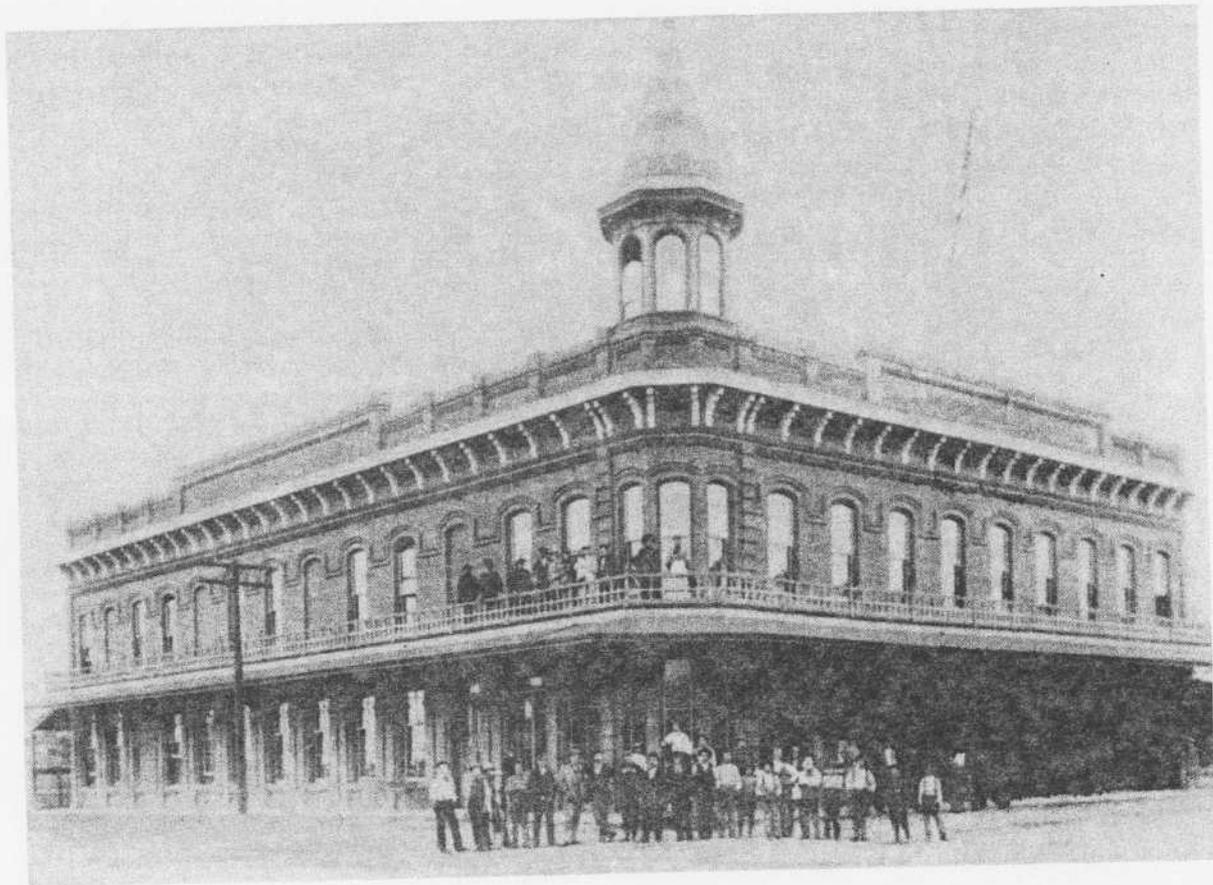
Today, Winters remains a stable, rather small city, located in the heart of a rich agricultural area and possessing a strong sense of community. Projected growth is slow and even, unless affected by major agri-business industry changes or development of a new planned community in adjacent Solano County.

Current planning for the future includes a revision of the Winters General Plan. The inclusion of a Historic Preservation Element in this revision, as recommended in a recent survey report, will recognize the importance of historic and architectural resources of the City and assist the master planning process. Plans for further development of Winters may then include a coordinated approach to growth that addresses both past and future concerns.

REGIONAL HISTORIC RESOURCES

Located outside the Winters city limits and within the confines of boundaries outlined by Rancho Rio de Los Potos, local school districts and postal routes are a number of sites and structures that have significant historical relationships to the Winters community. A partial listing of these cultural resources includes:

Wolfskill Homesite; U.C. Experiment Station. Putah Creek Road
Ansel Pleasants Ranch and Home; Putah Creek Road
Tucker's Crossing; Putah Creek Bridge, Pleasants Valley Road
Seaman-Sackett Ranch; Putah Canyon, west of Pleasants Valley Road
Monticello Dam; SH 128 at Devil's Gate
Hyatt-North Cemetery; west of SH 128 near North's Corner
Carpenter Cottage; R.A.Hunter Ranch
William Brink Residence; CR 87
Milton and Emer Dexter Residences; CR 90A, Moody Slough
Chapman-Briggs Residence; CR 29
Union School; CR 29
Joseph Griffin Residence; CR 30 and 90A
Frank Robinson Residence; northeast of North East St., Winters
Stevenson Bridge; 4 miles east of Winters
H.R. Bowman Residence; Bowman Road, Solano County

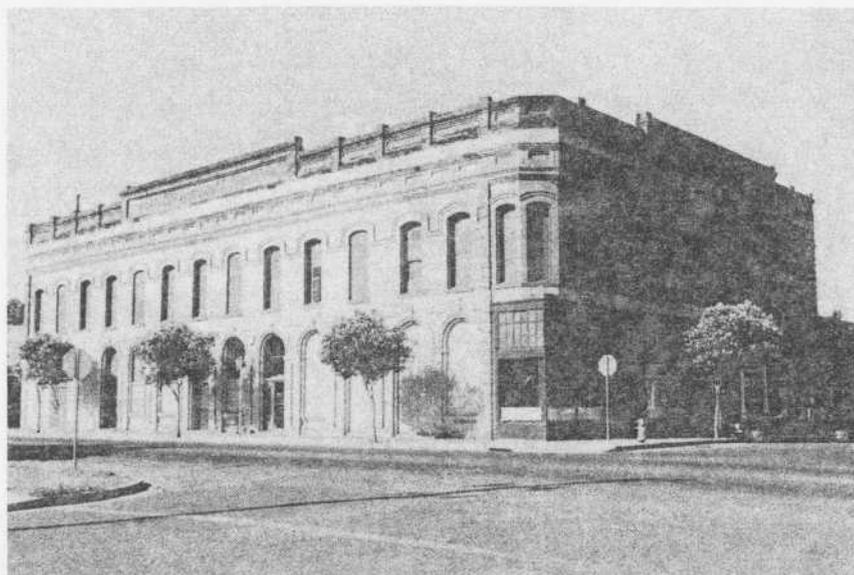


2-10 MAIN STREET

DE VILBISS HOTEL c. 1890

2-10 MAIN STREET

DE VILBISS HOTEL/
BUCKHORN BAR AND CAFE



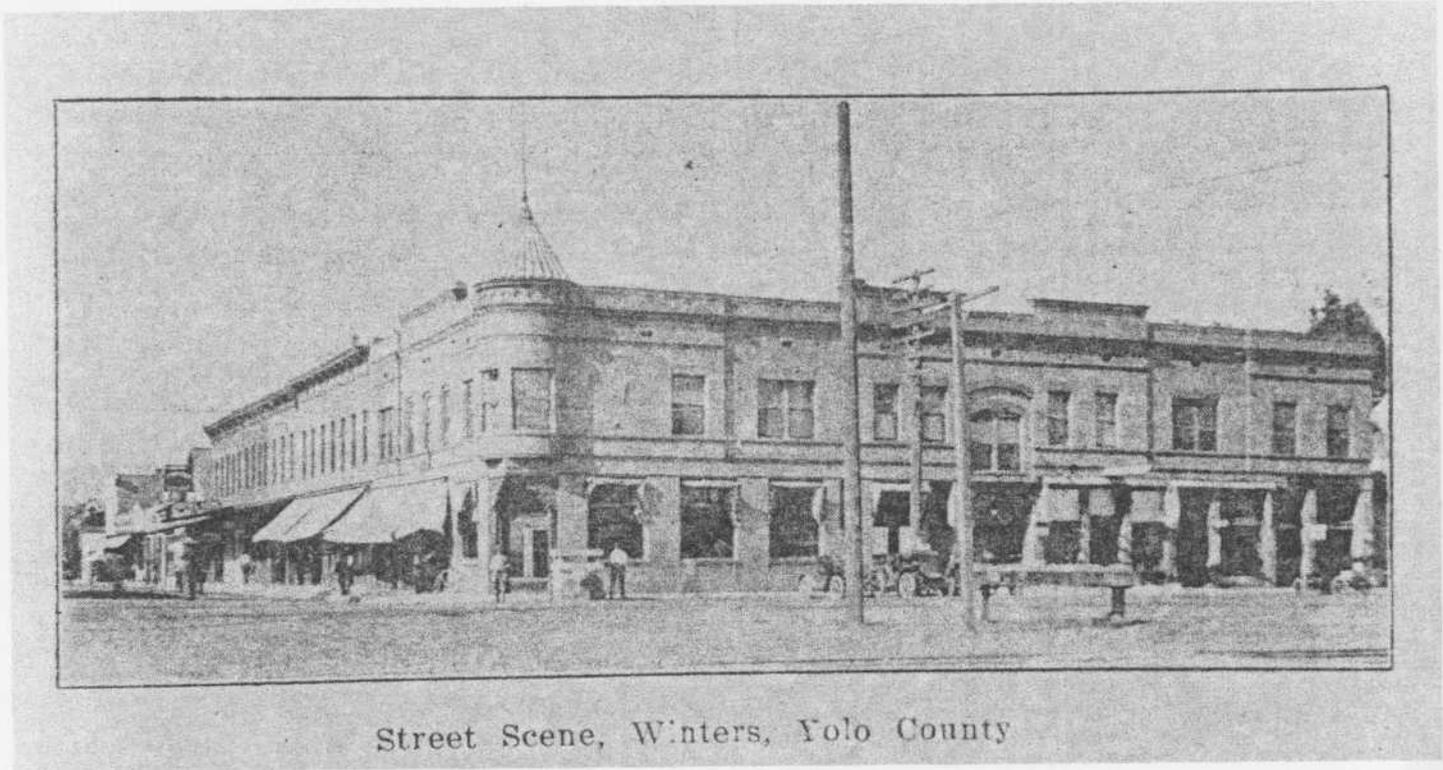
The DeVilbiss Hotel was the finest and most prominent commercial building in Winters at the time of its construction in 1889. Its elegance, size, and distinction testify to the prosperity of the Valley's agricultural community and the concomitant growth of ancillary businesses.

Its builder, John DeVilbiss, was a pioneer in fruit raising and shipping and built his hotel as a commitment to the continued expansion of the region.

DeVilbiss chose a regionally prominent architect, Allen Aaron Cook, importing him from Sacramento to design this major addition to Winters. A. A. Cook designed a number of important commercial buildings in Sacramento, including the downtown Clunie Block and many residences, and also the imposing State Prison at Folsom. He also designed 318 1st Street and the Ranch House for the pioneer Pleasants family in nearby Pleasant Valley.

An unusual feature of this large, Italianate building is the combination of shallow and round arched openings, the former emphasized by a projecting brick molding. The tall, ground floor arches reflect the architect's efforts to create a "grand hotel"--an image it held for years.

The building, which retains its 19th century flavor both inside and out, currently houses the renowned Buckhorn Bar and Cafe.



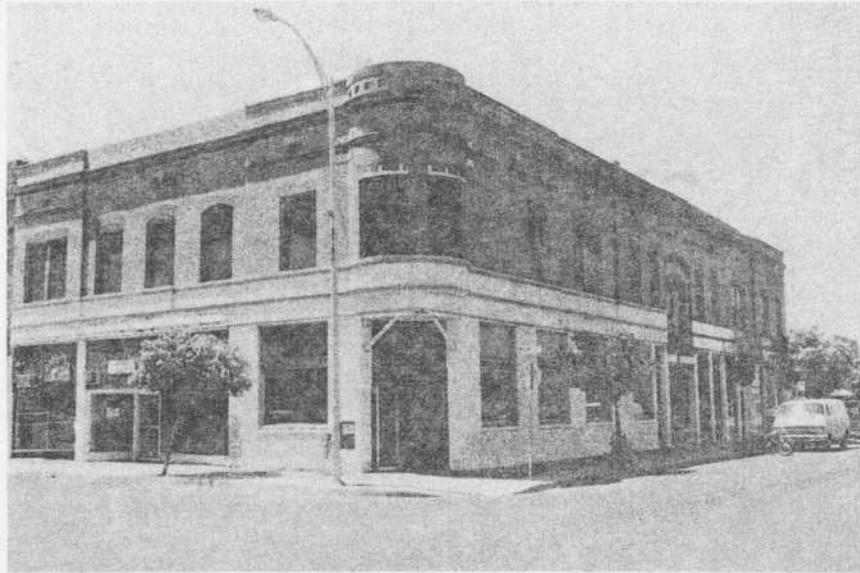
Street Scene, Winters, Yolo County

3-5-7 MAIN STREET

BANK OF WINTERS BUILDING c. 1914

3-5-7 MAIN STREET

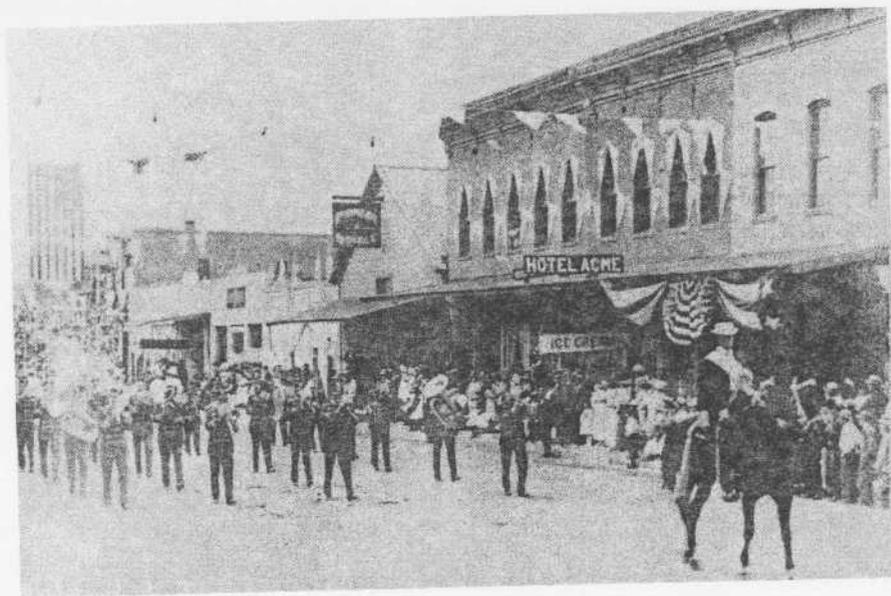
BANK BUILDING



Hailed as a "commodious and modern structure, the pride of Winters," when constructed in 1904, the Bank of Winters Business Block added a conspicuous aura of style and substance to downtown Winters. The Queen Anne towered structure complemented the Hotel DeVilbiss on the opposite side of Main Street, anchoring the Winters business district to the west and the important fruit shipping and processing facilities east of the railroad tracks. In addition to the bank with its corner entrance, other businesses in the building included W.H. Gregory's real estate office, Henry Craner's general merchandise and grocery store, and W.A. Young's shop of bicycles, cutlery, and general furnishings. The second floor held professional offices, club rooms, and a large meeting hall with connecting doors into the adjacent Opera House for large entertainments. The Women's Improvement Club rented five rooms in the new building, using two for a community library, one for the convenience of women visitors and travelers, and two for a custodian's apartment. Both the City Board of Trustees and the Winters Band were subsequent tenants. Architecturally the building combines Queen Anne styling with classical details. Its corner tower with the original conical roof in place lent a special flair to the prominent building.



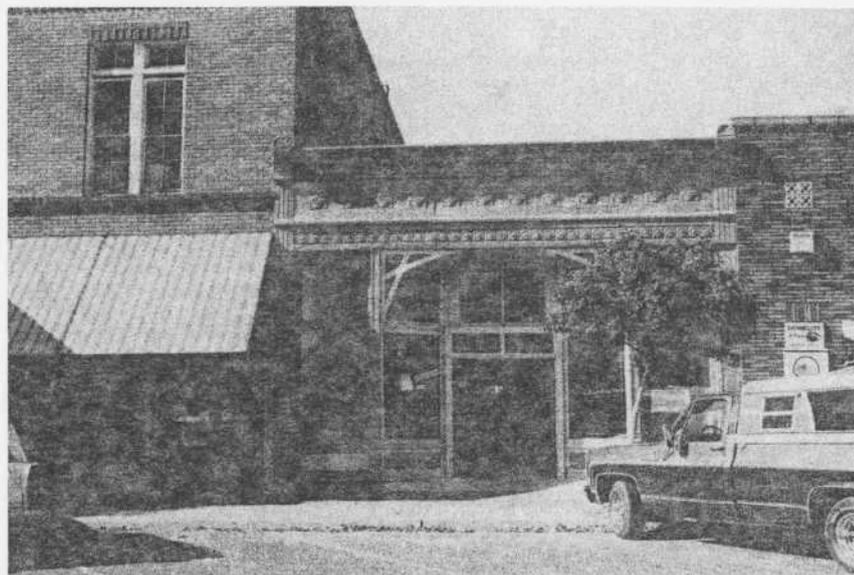
Main Street, Winters, looking west
from Railroad Avenue, c.1910



North side of Main Street, between
Railroad Avenue and First Street,
May 23, 1912

37 MAIN STREET

MORRISON/KIMES BUILDING

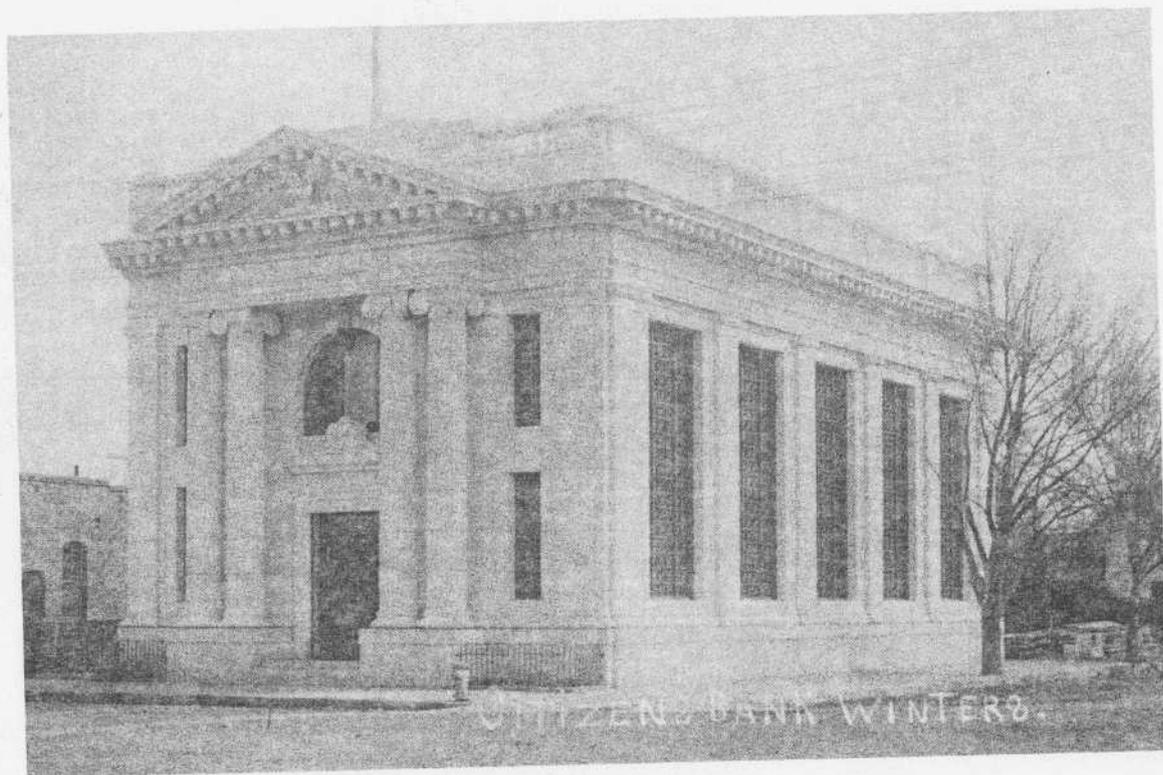


The charm of this small, 19th century store evokes a strong sense of nostalgia, and, upon entering, you almost expect to be greeted from behind the wood and glass counter by a store clerk suited in 100-year-old garb. The store appears today much as it did when it was built for Robert Morrison in 1892, as an expansion for his thriving hardware business next door.

Early-day Winters merchants wasted nothing, including buildings, and Morrison's Main Street business operation included a structure moved in 1876 from the bypassed town of Buckeye.

The hardware business was sold in 1906, and the Morrison property was then occupied by a succession of hardware, general merchandise, and other concerns. The property is currently leased to another business that bears the name of yet another Winters pioneer--Griffin.

Present owners Mike and Janet Kimes restored the original wooden facade and doorway in 1980. This well-preserved example of late 19th century commercial architecture eclectically combines elements of Stick, Eastlake, Italianate, and classical design, serving as a key visual element of downtown Winters.

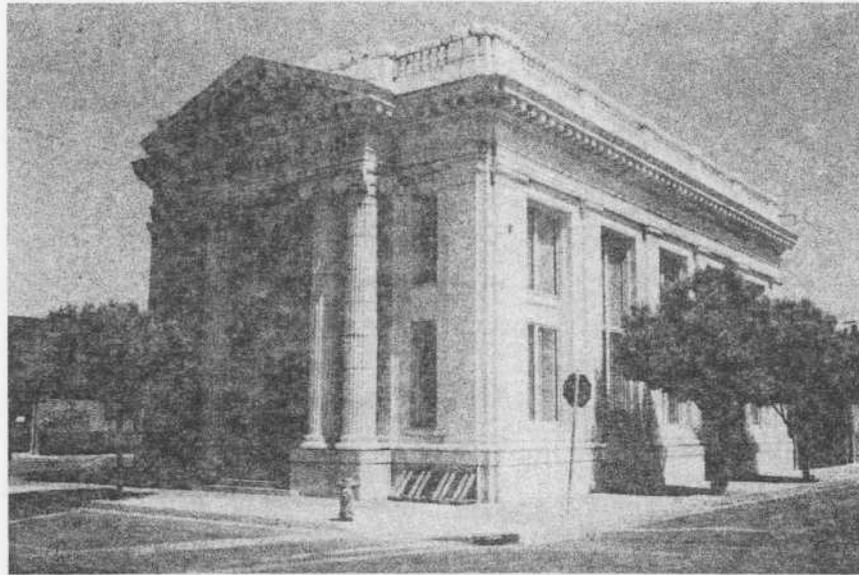


48 MAIN

CITIZENS BANK c. 1912

48 MAIN STREET

CITIZENS BANK/
FIRST NORTHERN BANK
OF DIXON

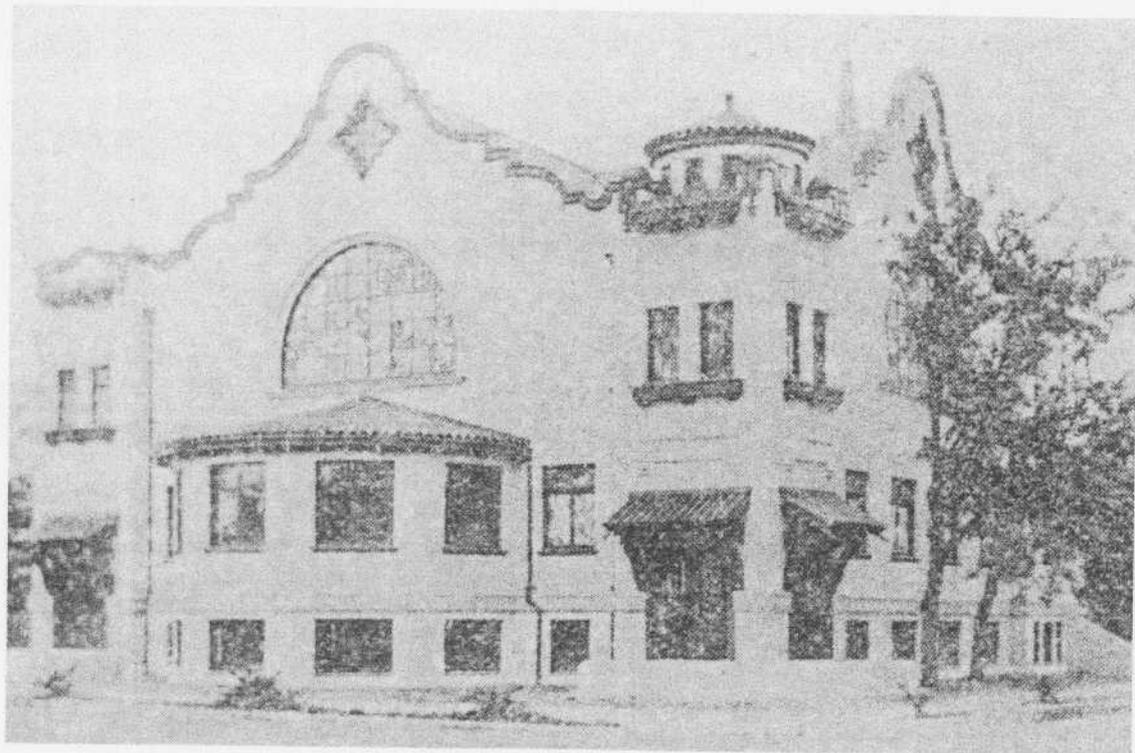


The formal dignity of this striking Classical Revival structure reflects the stability and sobriety of its institutional function. Huge fluted, Ionic columns support the pedimented entry of this massive structure, designed in 1912 by Kenyon and constructed by contractors Brady and Fisher for the Citizens Bank of Winters.

The Citizens Bank was unusual for its time, advertising in 1914 that 30 of its 130 stockholders--including its largest principals--were women.

The bank underwent a series of ownership changes starting in 1928 and was owned by the Bank of Italy, the Bank of America, and its current occupant, the First Northern Bank of Dixon.

Except for iron grillwork removed from the windows, the structure remains unchanged from its original days, including the impressive mahogany woodwork and marble counters and floors on the interior. Interesting exterior details include the balustraded parapet on the perimeter of the building, overscaled dentils bracketing the eaves, cornucopias with fruit and a cartouche above the entranceway, and a large, arched window with keystone above the entrance.



201 MAIN

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH c. 1913

201 MAIN STREET

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH/
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF
LATTER DAY SAINTS

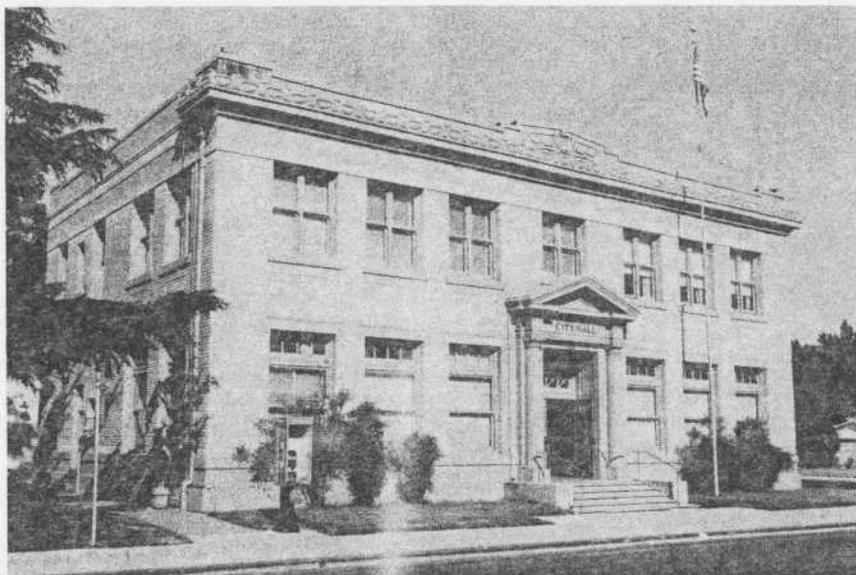


This fine, all but flamboyant, example of the Mission Revival style popular in California during the early 20th century was built in 1913 for the First Christian Church, then an important hub of Winters' religious and social life.

It was designed by prominent architect William H. Weeks (designer of the Winters City Hall), who favored the Mission Revival style and utilized the style in a number of his works. The structure contains a large central area with galleries above on three sides. Beneath these balcony/galleries are meeting rooms, separated by sliding doors from the main room. This configuration is a variation of the Akron Plan, an interior church arrangement, developed in America during the 19th century, that reflects this country's democratic attitudes towards religions.

The building is almost square in form. The scrolled parapets, punctuated with modified quatrefoil designs, project above the roof on all sides and are separated by circular corner towers above short bracketed and tiled roof sections. Other features include: large arched windows with stained glass, stucco and wood construction, and tiled roofs, as well as the imposing palm trees lining the sidewalk in front of the building.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints has recently purchased the property and plans to rehabilitate and use the building.



318 FIRST STREET
WINTERS CITY HALL

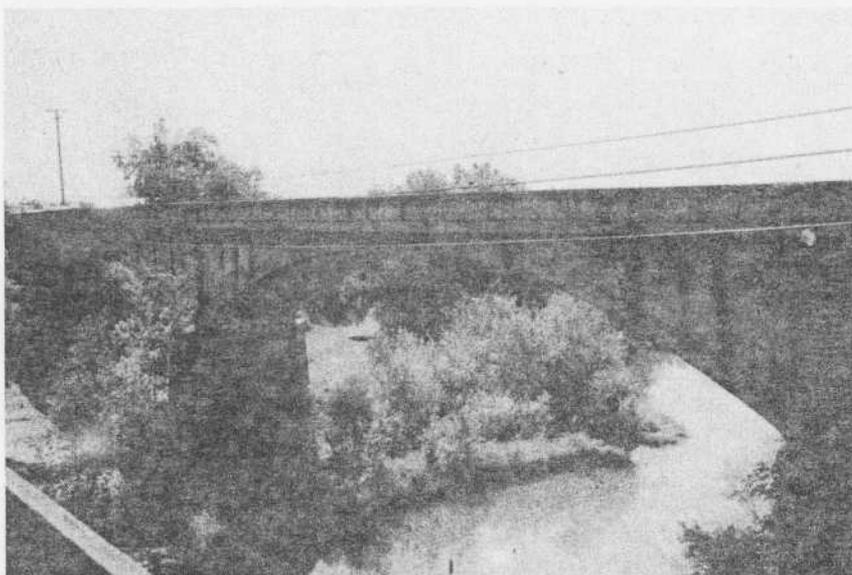
In 1903, conditions at the county jail at Winters were so deplorable that a decision was made to build a new structure, and a plot of land was purchased to house both jail and public offices. Due to fund shortages, however, building efforts languished, and it was not until 1916 that the City Hall was constructed. One of the most versatile and prolific California architects of the early 20th century, William H. Weeks, known for his public buildings, was commissioned to draw the plans. (He also designed the First Christian Church.)

Weeks designed the building, which included a jail, the fire department, city hall, court rooms, city attorney's office, jury room, the library, and the town clerk's office. The structure, as visualized, was so large that the city decided to purchase two adjoining lots from wealthy townsman Alex Ritchie.

The court room has been used as a community space by the Winters Band, American Legion, and the Fortnightly Club, which still meets there and has refurbished the kitchen.

The Winters City Hall is an imposing but functional example of Classical Revival architecture, characterized by its symmetry, decorative detailing, pilasters, and pedimented entry.

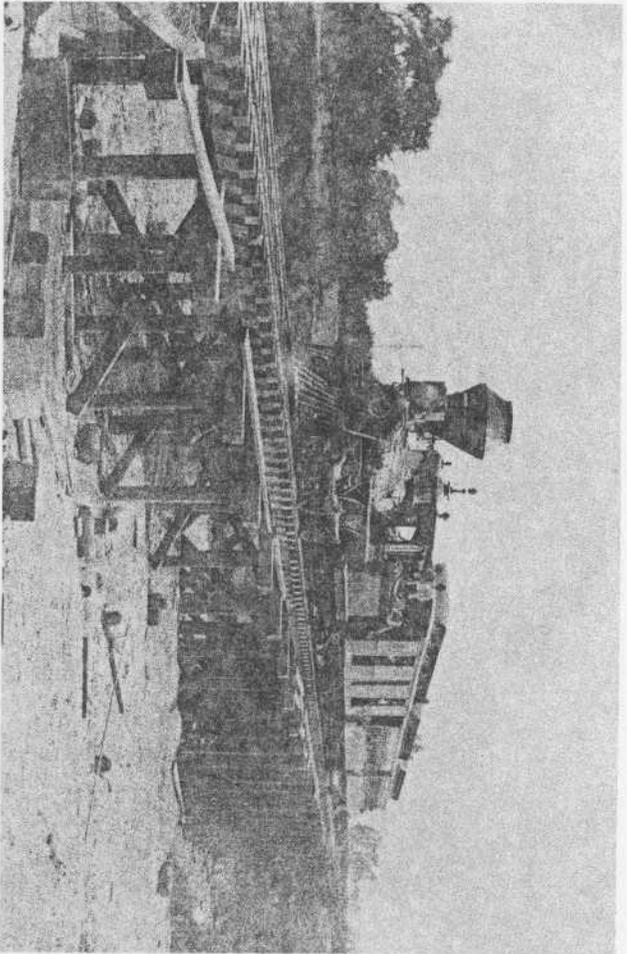
YOLO-SOLANO BRIDGE



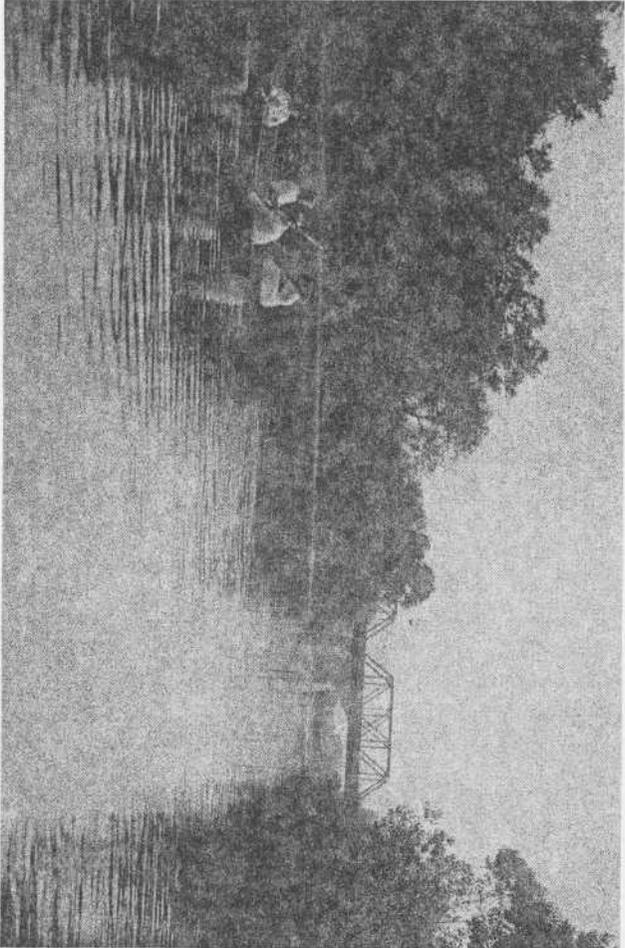
At the time of its construction in 1908, this bridge was hailed as the longest bridge of its kind west of the Mississippi, as well as one of the finest bridges in California. Built by W.N. Concannon of 4,500 yards of concrete and reinforced by 70 tons of iron, the bridge is 461 feet long and 22 feet wide.

Yolo and Solano Counties shared the \$50,000 expense of building the bridge, which spans Putah Creek and still serves as a principal travel and communications access route from the center of Winters to Vacaville.

On April 1, 1908, a shared dedication for this and the railroad bridge was held at the baseball field at East Main and Elliott Streets. Over 3,000 people attended the fete, which featured musical programs, numerous speeches, two baseball games, a barbeque, and a gala dance at the Opera House.



Vaca Valley Railroad Bridge, 1875



Winters Lake below the
Southern Pacific Railroad Bridge,
looking west
c. 1911

SOUTHERN PACIFIC
RAILROAD BRIDGE



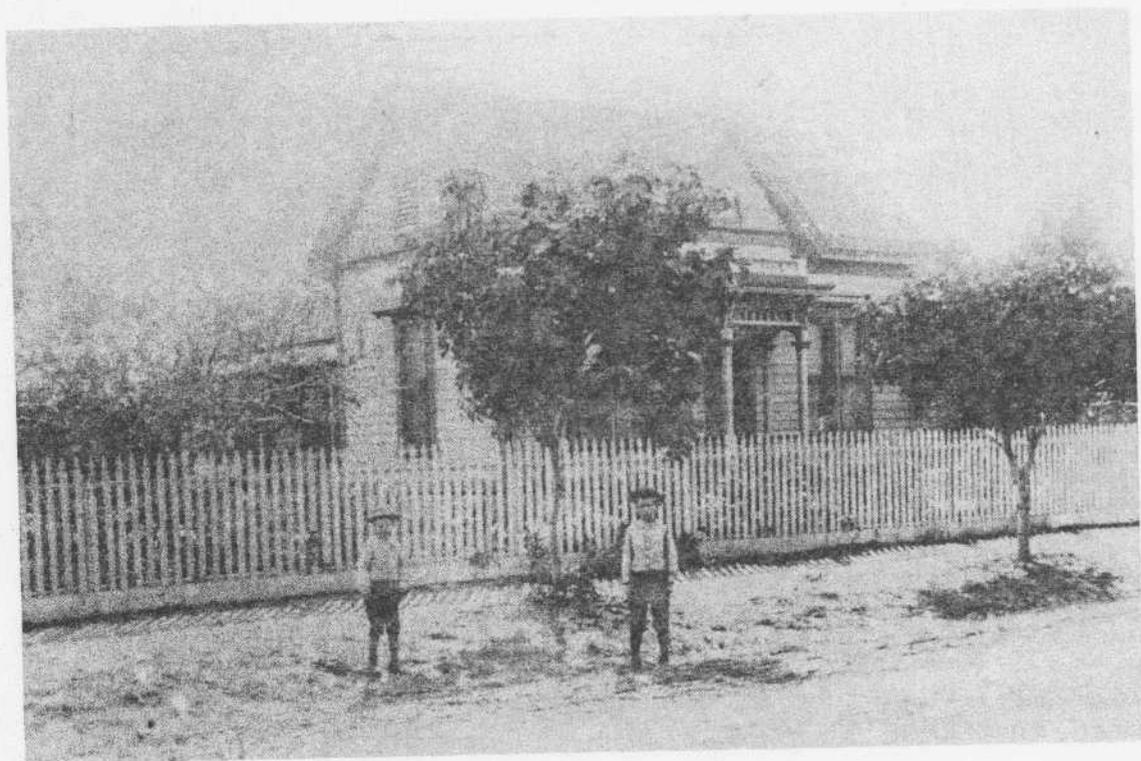
Although not an uncommon type, this steel Pratt Truss Railroad bridge serves as a reminder of the enormous impact that bridging Putah Creek had upon the birth and development of Winters. Built in 1906 by the Southern Pacific Railroad Company, it was the fourth attempt at bridging this unwieldy, uncooperative creek.

The first railroad bridge, built on the site of the Old Wolfskill Ford, was engineered by Joseph G. Young, and the first train, sent by the Vaca Valley Railroad, crossed the creek into Winters on August 26, 1875. The arrival of rail service stimulated town growth from \$1,000 of assessed valuation to \$160,000--in just one year.

This bridge, as well as the second, was washed out by storms in 1877. The third, a combination wagon and rail bridge, served until 1906, when the present steel truss bridge was constructed.

With the decline and eventual cessation of rail service, the tracks were removed in the 1970s, and the Southern Pacific property was sold to the City of Winters for a community center. Subsequently, former Winters resident and Southern Pacific president Alan Furth presented the bridge to the town for use as a bike path.

The bridge is currently closed to traffic.



202 RUSSELL STREET
BELL/YOUNG HOUSE

202 RUSSELL STREET
BELL/YOUNG HOUSE

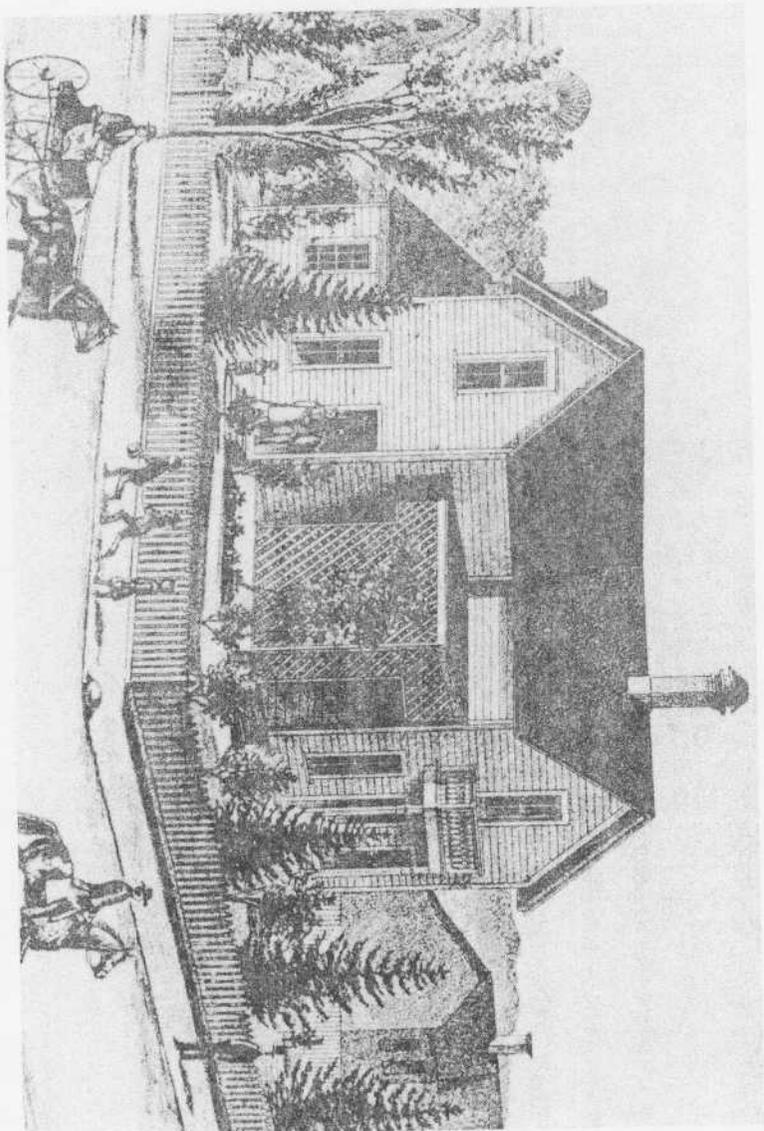


This delightful home is the most authentic example of Gothic Revival styling in Winters, with its intersecting gabled roofs, brackets, patterned banding, pendants under the window casings, and overall proportions.

The front porch, however, suggests Italianate styling: flat-roofed, bracketed, with columns and an ornamental balustrade. And indeed, its first owner, Dr. W.T. Bell added the front portion of the house in order to receive his patients.

Bell, a native of Virginia and one of the sixteen founders of Winters, built the house in 1878 for his wife and two children, who were among the first to traverse the continent via the transcontinental railway in 1869. A third son was born in the house the year it was built.

The Bells moved to Oakland in 1884, selling the house to Joseph C. Young, builder of the first railroad bridge over Putah Creek. Young and his wife Nellie raised two sons in the home. Since 1937, the home has been owned by a grandson, Robert, and his wife Lavinia Young, who raised a family of four children in this unique structure.



101 RUSSELL STREET
BROCK HOUSE C. 1879

1

101 RUSSELL STREET
BROCK/SULLIVAN HOUSE



This historic house has experienced a variety of owners--and their "refinements" to its original design.

Originally part of the Wolfskill Mexican land grant, this property was sold to J.M. Pritchett and T.H. Brock in 1876. Brock acquired sole ownership of the land in 1877, along with the house, which was apparently built that year.

Brock was a resident of Winters before the town was even built. He was the area's pioneer blacksmith and a pillar of the Methodist Church.

By 1892, the Magill family owned the house, and they made many improvements and additions to the structure. The house was also occupied by such notable Winters families as the Cadwalladers, Claytons, Edwards, and Cultons. Oscar Holmes, City Engineer for nearly ten years, lived in the house from 1934 to 1970. The current owners, William and Barbara Sullivan, are restoring the home.

The existing house reflects its early construction date in form and character, despite some additions to the facades. It is an important historic and architectural remnant of Winters' earliest days.



120 RUSSELL STREET

CRANER/CARRICK HOUSE

This simple house, Greek revival in design, was constructed between 1875 and 1877 by T.J. Mize, a town attorney. Mize sold it to J. B. McArthur in 1877. McArthur kept the property for just one year, selling it to T.H. Hyatt in 1879.

Two more owners, Wurth and DeVilbiss (the town's hotel magnate), held title to the property before it was sold in 1890 to Henry Craner, who operated a general merchandise store on Main Street and made the house his home. Over the years, others owned it, including Leon and Helen Mermod (early 1920s until 1945), William and Dorothy Pugh (both school teachers and active in community affairs), Adoracion Munoz, and the present owner, Doris Carrick who purchased the property in 1970.

One time resident Clara Sager wrote: "An early very distinguished feature was the installation of a marble wash-bowl and running water in the south pantry, said to be the first inside bowl in the early town of Winters."

Despite modifications, the house retains much of its original styling, most notably the hipped porch roof supported by chamfered columns and the characteristic Stick Style balustrade, a rare detail in Winters.

This modest, vernacular home was lived in and loved by many of the Winters' earliest citizens, and its very simplicity suggests a certain elegance, reflective of the commonfolk who formed the backbone of this pioneer community. As such, it is a key component of the city's architectural heritage.

411 ABBEY STREET

PRESCOTT-WAGGONER/GODDEN HOUSE



This eclectic building stands as a remnant of an early Winters ranch complex that once marked the edge of town. Stylistically representative of both its initial construction date and later period alterations, it contrasts visually with the newer buildings that now surround it.

Although John Ormsby owned the property when the home was built in 1883, it was probably occupied by his daughter Mary Jane and her husband, A.A. Prescott. The Prescotts gained title of the house in 1884 and operated a fruit ranch to the north and west of this block.

E. F. Haven acquired the house and ranch around 1912 and sold a portion of the farming property to the Mt. Diablo Development Company, creating the Haven Addition. Haven was prominent locally as a member of the Christian Church Board and as chair of its building committee.

The next owner was Mamie L. Waggoner who, with her husband, W.J., operated the fruit farm. Waggoner School, which now stands on what was the farming property, bears their name.

The house was later sold to Silas and Marguerite Godden, who came to Winters to open a jewelry store. Mrs. Godden remained in the house after her husband's death and lives there today.



451 MAIN STREET

WILSON/BARB HOUSE

Now distinctive in the "new" neighborhood grown up around it, the Wilson house is the sole remnant of an early Winters ranch. The present structure, probably replacing an earlier residence, was built in 1883. During its construction by contractor Thomas D. Ball, it was described as "a fine residence in the suburbs of town...". The structure was a typical design for its era, with its Stick-Eastlake style trim and form.

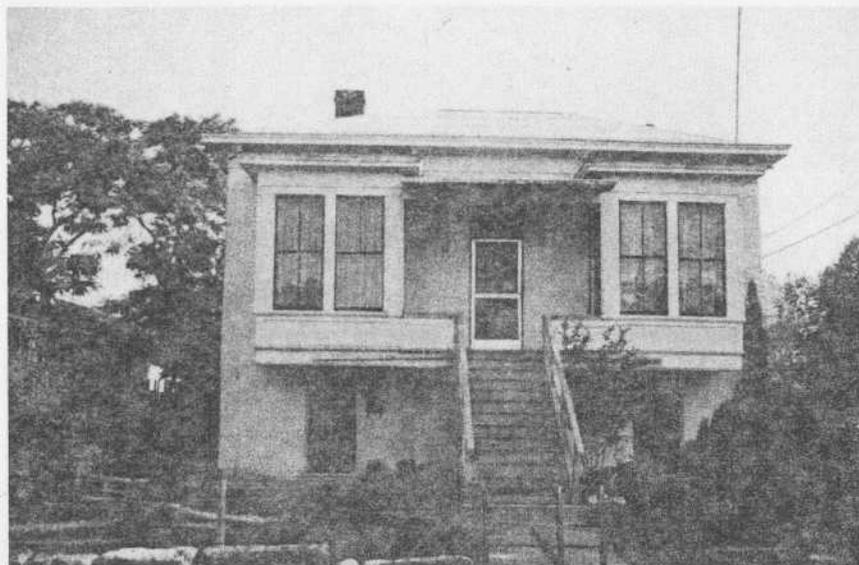
The owner was settler James Wilson of Ohio, who traveled three times across the plains to California before establishing this homesite for his wife and five children. Mrs. Wilson, a well-educated woman of great intellect, always took a lively interest in the affairs of the home, school, church, and community.

After Mr. Wilson's death, son Fred and his family returned to Winters and renovated and lived in this family home.

Though somewhat modernized, the house gains importance as a reminder of the ranching and agricultural activity so important to Winters' founding and development.

116 MAIN STREET

R.E. BAKER/THE STONE HOUSE



Built in 1884, this unusual building, Winters' only stone residence, was built on a prominent corner site on Main Street by Bernoit Bertholet, local master stone mason. Its design is unique and combines Italianate themes with vernacular stone construction techniques.

The house is symmetrical, with a shallow, hip roof, twin square wooden bays, and a bracketed roof--all characteristic of the Italianate style. Alterations to the house have added a canopy over the entrance, a front stairway, and an addition in back.

Little is known about D.K. Roberts, the house's original owner. For a time it was a boarding house operated by Mrs. E.J.Clark. In 1902, the house was purchased by R.E. Baker, who owned half interest in a grocery store on Main Street. Baker lived in the house until his death in 1943. The current owner is Mrs. Minnie Lopez.



25 E. BAKER STREET
MORRIS HOUSE c. 1916

25 E. BAKER STREET
MORRIS/KIDDER HOUSE



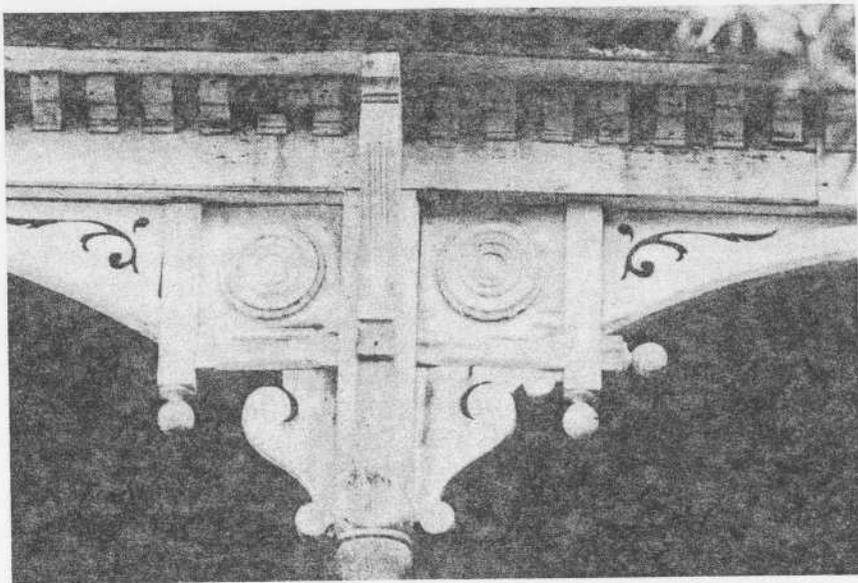
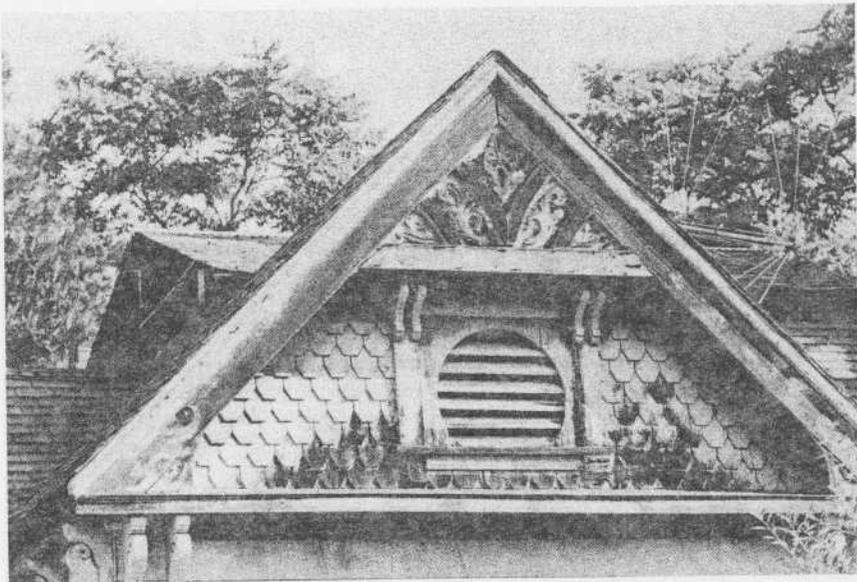
This house has both architectural and historical prominence, being the grandest Italianate residence in Winters and also the dwelling of Venable Morris, one of the sixteen founders of Winters, who made great impact upon the town's economy and religion.

Morris came to the area in 1869 from West Virginia, returning there in 1871 to bring his wife, Nannie, and his son and daughter to Winters. In 1888, he commissioned Charles Hall to build this fine house.

Morris served as a lay minister, a notary public, and long-time manager of the Buckeye Grangers. After his death in 1893, his widow took in roomers, including such prominent citizens as Bertha Young and Mr. McQuiddy, both teachers, and a dentist, Dr. Anderson.

This imposing two-story house is rectangular in form. Perhaps its most interesting feature is the twin slanted bays that project from the front of the house and flank the decorative columned porch. Other characteristic Italianate details include bracketing under the eaves, a central columned portico, and a shallow, hip roof topped with decorative iron cresting.

The original cresting of the bays and porch were particularly fine, and unique to Winters. Over the years, some changes occurred, perhaps the most marked being the joining of the bays and the removal of the cresting.



129 RUSSELL STREET
FASSETT/SNODGRASS HOUSE

129 RUSSELL STREET
FASSETT/SNODGRASS HOUSE



This small house is a fine example of Queen Anne design and a tribute to the prolific and gifted talents of Alex Ritchie, who built the structure in 1890 for James S. and William P. Fassett, sons of one of Winters' founding fathers, O.P. Fassett. The Fassett brothers operated a local hardware store, and William was the Winters city clerk in 1898.

Ritchie not only constructed the asymmetrical house, with its slanted bay window and intersecting roof gables, but crafted much of the ornamental woodwork as well. This includes brackets and corner pendants above the bay, richly decorated columns and ornamental arches, and patterned shingles. Old outbuildings, including garages, pens, and an outhouse remain, although they, as well as the main structure, are seriously deteriorated.

The house has been owned by the Walter Snodgrass family since 1917. Prior to that, it was the home of Gertrude Smith, who purchased it in 1907 from the Fassetts and lived there with her mother and father, a retired Danish sea captain. Gertrude Smith Brinck was active in the formation of the Winters Cemetery District and various local clubs.



127 WESTWOOD COURT
EDWARDS/HENDERSON
HOUSE

The Henderson home, built nearly a century ago, is shown above in its original location in the Overhouse orchard, prior to being

moved to a new location in the Creekside Subdivision. The house is being restored and has been put up for sale. (1975)

127 WESTWOOD COURT

EDWARDS-HENDERSON/COOK HOUSE



Well-preserved and recently renovated, this vernacular Eastlake-style home was constructed in 1888 by local builder Alexander Craig. The one and one-half story house features a gabled roof and an imposing front porch with decorative balustrade, characteristic of Eastlake-inspired details. The sawn wood ornamentation and bracketed arch over the porch lend the house a chalet-like appearance.

The original owner of the house, D.P. Edwards, was a large landholder who provided the land for westward expansion of the Winters townsite. Edwards subsequently moved to Colusa, leaving the house in the hands of his two sisters, Louisa Edwards and Lydia Henderson, and Lydia's husband, J.A. Henderson, a haberdasher.

Located south of the city limits until recent years, this house was a well known place where people gathered and children came to play. In 1896, the nucleus of the town's library was located in this house, and for many years, ladies of the Presbyterian Church met at the house to make candy and cookies for the Sunday school Christmas party.

Mrs. Henderson lived in the house until 1940, when it and the surrounding orchard property were sold to W.D. Overhouse. In 1974, the deteriorated house and orchard were sold to subdivision developers. Desiring to save the home from demolition, John Brinley had the structure relocated on the property and renovated it for resale. A fireplace has been added on the south side, and a two-car garage and breezeway addition adorn the rear.



11 E. MAIN STREET

D.O. JUDY HOUSE c. 1910

11 E. MAIN STREET
D.O. JUDY/YUNKER HOUSE

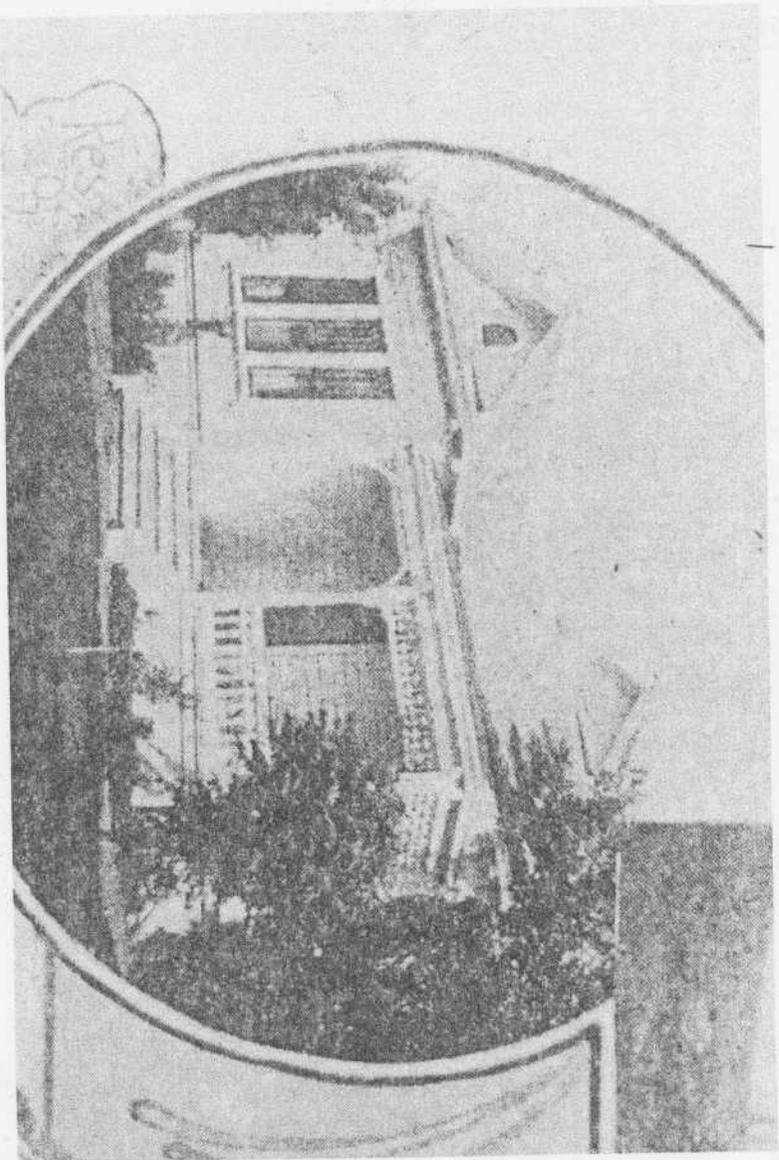


This attractive picture book house has the gabled roof, fish-scale shingles, angled bay, and decorative woodwork--"gingerbread"--that typifies it as a Queen Anne cottage.

The house was built in 1895 by D.O. Judy, a prominent early Winters businessman and community figure. Judy was proprietor of the Pioneer Livery stables. Using timely business sense, he converted the livery into a taxi service when the automobile came into use. He was also interested in local politics and civic affairs, serving 18 years on the town board.

A subsequent owner of the house was Ben Stephens, another Yolo County pioneer family descendant and a retired farmer.

Current owner, C.W. Yunker, has faithfully restored the residence to its original state.



210 RUSSELL STREET
WILSON HOUSE C. 1890

210 RUSSELL STREET

WILSON HOUSE/SYLVESTRI APARTMENTS



A garden setting enhances the attractive, graceful house. Different historic and architectural eras have each added their trademark to the building's physical evolution.

The original vernacular structure was first given a Queen Anne facelift with fishscale shingles and projecting angled bay. In 1899, Colonial Revival alterations contributed another addition that included a porch with paired columns.

The house was constructed for J.W. Wilgus in 1882, with major remodeling by the F.W. Wilson family in 1899. Wilson was a fruit grower and a recognized area horticultural expert. He was instrumental in organizing the Winters Dried Fruit Company and was manager for 18 years. He also served as organizer and director of the Winters Canning Company. Active in local civics, he directed the Winters Chamber of Commerce and served as high school trustee for 15 years.

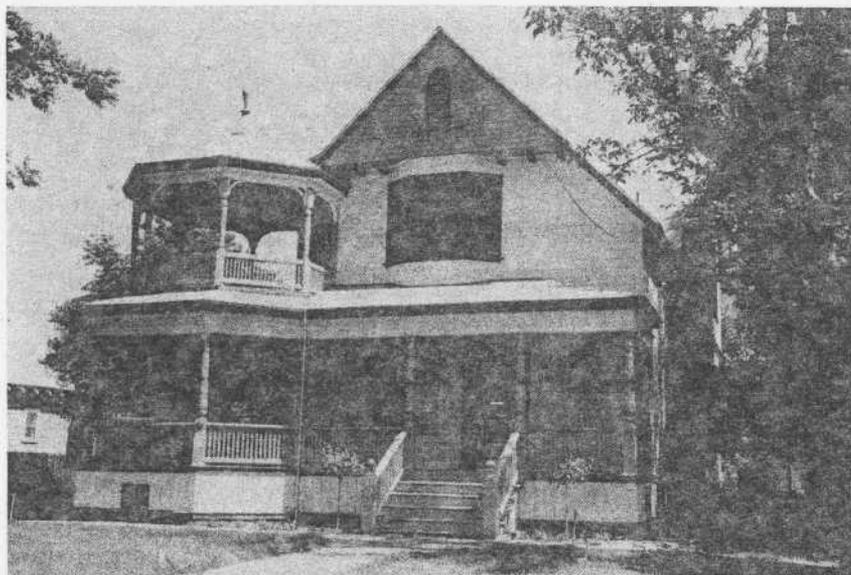
The cumulative nature of the attractive house reflects its long time use and adaptation to family needs and life styles through the years.



20 E. MAIN STREET

M.O. WYATT HOUSE c. 1913

20 E. MAIN STREET
WYATT/COLSON HOUSE



The unique Colonial Revival house, festooned with an elaborate Queen Anne two-story porch illustrates the transition between the two styles that occurred at the turn of the century when this house was built. The house was designed by Sacramento architect Frank Schardin, who was once a partner with Nathaniel Goodell (designer of the Governor's mansion in Sacramento). Local contractor Alex Ritchie built the house for Dr.M.O. Wyatt in 1901.

Wyatt, eldest of eight children of J.N.B. and Sarah Wyatt, had lived in the Winters area since 1890 and was the town's dentist. He served as treasurer of Winters in 1898 and, along with brothers Frank and Clarence, was a prominent businessman and landholder. He was president of the Bank of Winters and Western Yolo Creamery and Ice Company, treasurer of the Winters Canning Association, and membr of the Masons, W.O.W. Club, Unity and Buckeye Lodge. He is listed in Who's Who on the Pacific Coast (1913) and the D.A.R. Pioneer Records of 1950.

This well-maintained house, currently owned by Kim and Steve Colson, is perhaps the finest example of country residential architecture in Winters. The building is formed by intersecting gabled rectangles, and it features a slanted bay window in front, decorative bracketing, and turned posts and balustrades. The fanciful porch is six-sided, with a peaked roof topped by a finial. A curved window is mounted in the porch on the first floor.



13 E. MAIN STREET

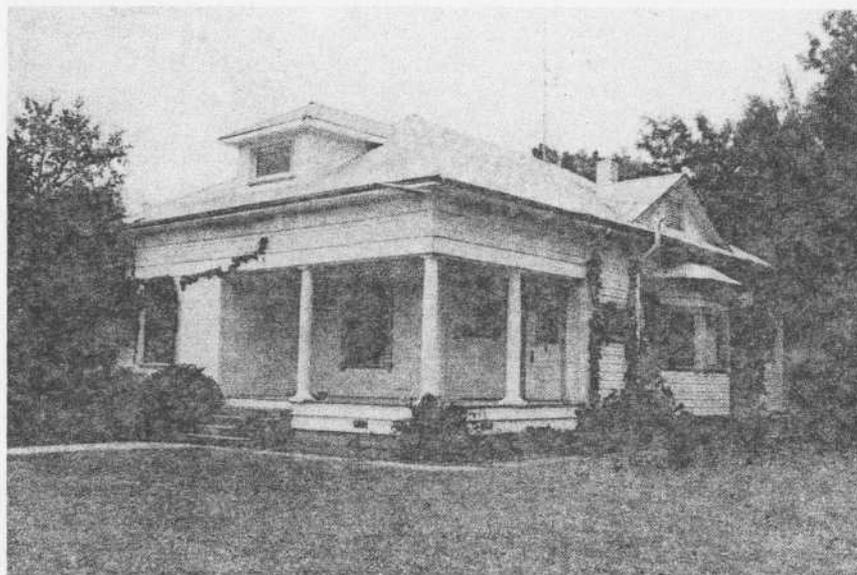
C.E. WYATT/RAMOS HOUSE

This house, constructed for \$3,000 in 1906 by H.C. Settle and C.M. Hall, was the domain of Clarence Wyatt, prominent in Winters civic, social, fraternal, and business circles. In 1893, he opened a jewelry store; subsequently he served as manager of the Winters area Pacific Gas and Electric Company. He was a founder of the Winters Service Club, predecessor of the Winters Chamber of Commerce. Wyatt frequently prepared dinners for the club and became renowned as a chef. He was also interested in real estate and banking, and he reputedly brought the first load of automobiles to Winters.

Wyatt and his wife, Priscilla, lived in the home until their deaths, when it was sold to Richard Ramos.

The house is one of the best examples of Colonial Revival architecture in Winters, with its formal, proportioned facade, gabled peak, and projecting pedimented porch gable. Other features include a semicircular vent in the pediment, decorative shingles, and turned porch columns.

101 E. GRANT AVENUE
COLE/GRIFFIN HOUSE

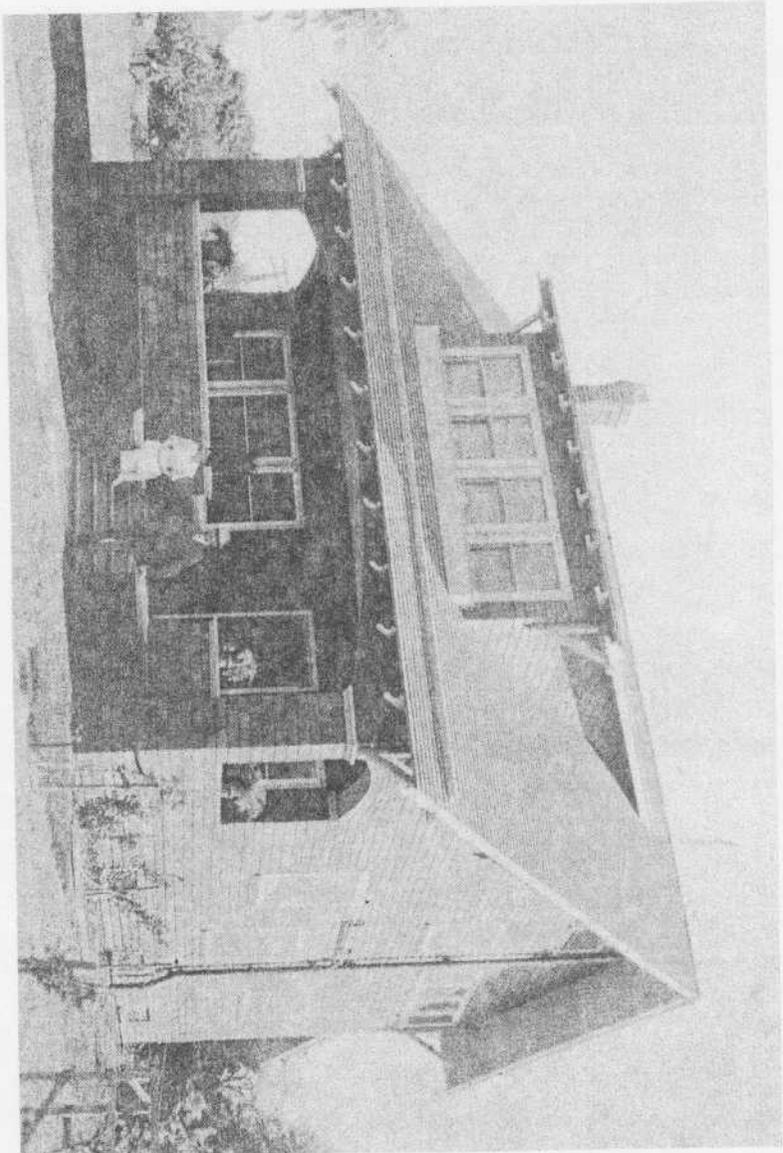


Dignified and rather formal, this house, set amidst lush trees and lawn, is reminiscent of its colonial ancestors, with its East Coast Colonial Revival architectural themes. A formal aspect and details, such as turned columns and pediments grace this early twentieth century residence.

The house was constructed in 1907 during a prosperous period in Winters' history. Its builder, Charles Cole, worked his way up from farm hand and teamster to owner of the Winters' Dray Line. His wife, Bertha was a daughter of the pioneer Humphrey family.

When the Coles left Winters, they sold the house to G.W. Griffin, also a member of a longtime Winters area family, who had served as Yolo County Sheriff in the early 1900s. His father, Joseph Griffin, was an early resident of Buckeye, the nearby town that predated Winters and disappeared with the establishment of this city.

The house is still occupied by descendants of Joseph Griffin.



300 MAIN STREET
BAKER HOUSE c. 1915

300 MAIN STREET
BAKER/QUINTANA HOUSE



This one and one-half story brown shingled house is typical of the Craftsman shingle style, with its large, gabled roof, projecting shed-roofed dormer, and use of rustic natural materials. Other characteristic Craftsman features include the arched openings in the porch supported by shingled posts, the small panes on the upper portions of the double hung windows, and the projecting cut beam ends. The house has a beautiful camellia garden on the east side and a profusion of flowers in the back.

The house was constructed in 1914 for W.I. "Pete" Baker, a native of Winters and son of Dr. and Mrs. S.K. Baker, who purchased the Solano County portion of the Theodore Winters ranch in 1876. Baker was involved in the hardware and insurance businesses, raised sheep, and was a partner in the Baker Company. He served as president of the Board of Trustees for Winters High School and secretary of the Buckeye Masonic Lodge for twenty-four years. His first wife, Mary, served for twenty years as the first president of the Winters Red Cross.

After Baker's death, his son Shirley sold the house to Victor and Millie Quintana, who live there with their three children.



112 MAIN STREET
MORRISON/NEIL HOUSE

This small, single story frame house, unusually rustic for the town of Winters, is designed in the Bay Area Craftsman style, with its characteristic gabled roof, board and batten siding, and exposed rafter ends. A recessed front porch, formed by the eave overhang and supported by square posts, shelters the entry. Other features include a projecting square bay and a vented dormer in the attic. The house is almost obscured by rampant foliage, a typical Bay Area landscape treatment.

The house is particularly reminiscent of the early works of Bernard Maybeck and Julia Morgan, and its surface treatment is unique to this era of Winters history.

This house is one of several Winters rentals owned by Robert Morrison, who had it constructed in 1909 by Alex Ritchie. One of the early renters was Dr. Frances Joyce, who maintained both office and residence.

Current owners are Louis and Anita Neil, who also maintain it as a rental unit.

305 MAIN STREET

E.H. EDWARDS/MEYER HOUSE

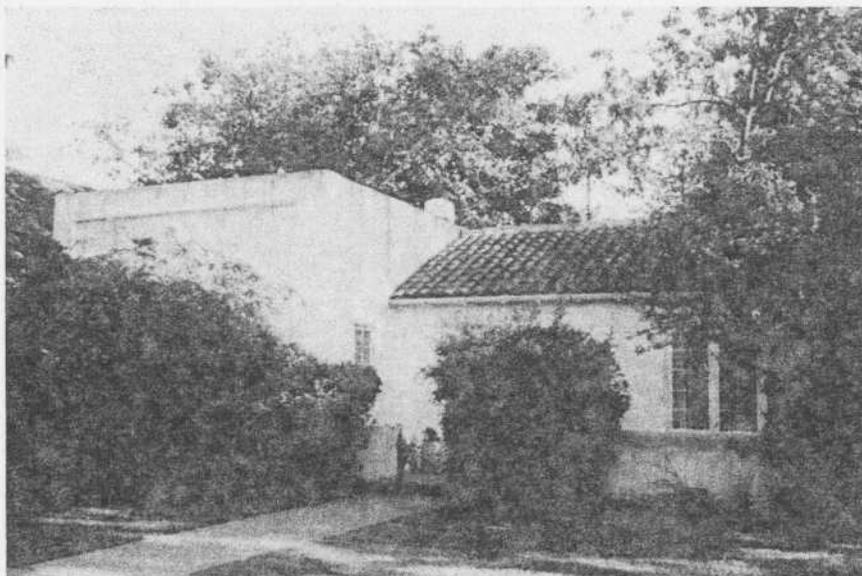


This one-story home is a fine example of the Craftsman bungalow style of architecture. Broad, shallow gables intersect to form the horizontal roof that, along with the Chicago style facade windows, reflect some Prairie school architectural influence. Other typical Craftsman characteristics include a clinker brick chimney, wide overhanging eaves, a side porch (screened in during 1949) with French doors, and square porch posts sitting on battered brick bases.

The house was built in 1913 by Alex Ritchie for E.H. Edwards. Edwards, who married Evadna Fenley (daughter of early Winters pioneer T.H. Fenley), was associated with the Winters Cannery and served as grain broker for the Fenley Mercantile Company before he started the E.H. Edwards grocery store, located in the present Buckhorn Building. His son, Martin, ran the Red and White Store, successor to the E.H. Edwards store, until World War II.

After Edwards died, Mrs. Edwards and Martin Edwards moved to Oakland, renting the house until 1944, when it was sold to Mrs. R.L. Niemann for \$6,000. Mrs. Niemann lived there with her daughter and son-in-law, Evelyn and Claude Meyer, who are the present owners.

The house sits on the route of the annual Winters Youth Day Parade, and the Meyers have a tradition of serving coffee to viewers on their front porch.



206 MAIN STREET
BALL HOUSE

This modest house is representative of the Period Revival styles of the 1920s and 30s that borrowed from a broad range of former architectural eras to produce "fantasy" images of the past. This example, one of the few in Winters, is reminiscent of Spanish Colonial styling, with its red tiled roof, small entry garden, and decorative ironwork.

Harold M. "Judge" Ball had this house built by Ray Murray and Harold Ritchie in 1928, just prior to his marriage to Johanna Graf, whose family had large ranch holdings north of Winters. Ball, Justice of the Peace in Woodland prior to moving to Winters, established a law practice here, then became City Attorney. He was a candidate for Yolo County District Attorney at the time of his death in an auto accident in 1934.

After her husband's death, Johanna Ball resumed her teaching career. She still owns the house, which she maintains as a rental.