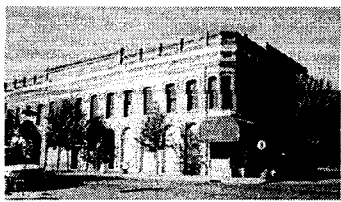


HISTORIC WINTERS MAIN STREET WALKING TOUR

Because of its historical significance, the Main Street business district was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on January 2, 1997. On the same date, the Main Street Historic District was also placed on the California Register of Historical Resources. Inclusion on the National and California Registers affords the Winters business district the honor of inclusion in the Nation's and California's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation.

(1) Southern Pacific Railroad Bridge The steel Pratt Truss Railroad Bridge was constructed by the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1906. It was preceded by three bridges in this location. The first bridge was built on the same site as the present structure, 400 yards upstream from the Old Wolfskill ford. It was the scene of the first train sent to Winters by the Vaca Valley Railroad on August 26, 1875. The arrival of rail service to Winters stimulated town growth greatly. The first rail and wagon bridge, as well as the second, was washed away by storms in 1877. The third bridge served until 1906 when the present steel structure was built. With the cessation of rail service, the tracks were removed in the 1970s and surrounding property was sold to the city of Winters for construction of the Community Center. Southern Pacific made a gift of the bridge to the town for use as a bike path, the presentation being made by former Winters resident, Allen Furth, Southern Pacific president. It serves as a reminder of the enormous impact which the bridging of this creek by the first railroad had upon the birth and development of Winters.

(2) Yolo-Solano Bridge The concrete bridge spanning Putah Creek was completed in 1908. Yolo and Solano Counties shared the \$50,000 expense of building the structure. It took six months to complete and, at the time, was described as the longest bridge of its kind west of the Mississippi, as well as one of the finest bridges in California. The bridge had been an access route from the center of Winters to Vacaville for many years, and had served as an important economic and communications link for the region. The bridge is 461 feet long and 22 feet wide. It contains two arched spans supported by piers on each side of the creek and one in the center.



(3) 2-10 Main Street — Hotel De Vilbiss (1889-90) The Hotel De Vilbiss was the finest and most prominent commercial building in Winters at the time of its construction in 1889. De Vilbiss came across the plains in the 1860's, tried mining in Nevada and finally settled on the land west of the town known as the De Vilbiss tract. He was a pioneer in fruit raising and shipping and built his hotel to meet the growing needs of travelers to the town.

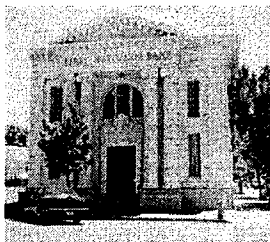
De Vilbiss chose a regionally prominent architect, A.A. Cook of Sacramento, to design the hotel. Mr. Cook had designed a number of buildings in Sacramento, including the downtown Clunie Block and the State Prison at Folsom. An unusual feature of this large, Italianate building is the combination of shallow and round arched openings. The tall, ground floor arches reflect the architect's efforts to create a "grand hotel" image. The second story had forty sleeping rooms and a parlor. The ground floor housed the lobby and several businesses. The building now houses the Buckhorn Steak and Roadhouse.

(4) 26 Main Street — Bertholet Building (1889) The two-story rectangular building is constructed of rusticated and coursed local stone. The building was restored in 1892 following the major earthquake that struck Winters. Benoit "Chip" Bertholet, a native of Pirony, France, came to California with his wife, Zeliah, in 1876. In 1882 he purchased land where the Monticello Dam now stands. Living in the Winters area for twenty-six years, he made many tombstones found in Cottonwood and the Winters Cemeteries. Before coming to Winters, he helped build Folsom Prison and the Memorial Arch of Leland Stanford University, as well as the state Capitol.

(5) 30 Main Street — Humphrey Building (1889) This building has significance due to its association with an important Winters family. It was constructed in 1889 for E.A. Humphrey by Benoit "Chip" Bertholet and built out of stone quarried near where Monticello Dam now stands. Humphrey, a native of Tennessee and one of the sixteen founders of Winters, operated the first harness shop in the new city. The Humphrey harness was well-known all over the state. It was restored and later occupied by Yolo Traders in the late 1970s. The design and scale of the structure make it a visual focal point to the downtown streetscape.

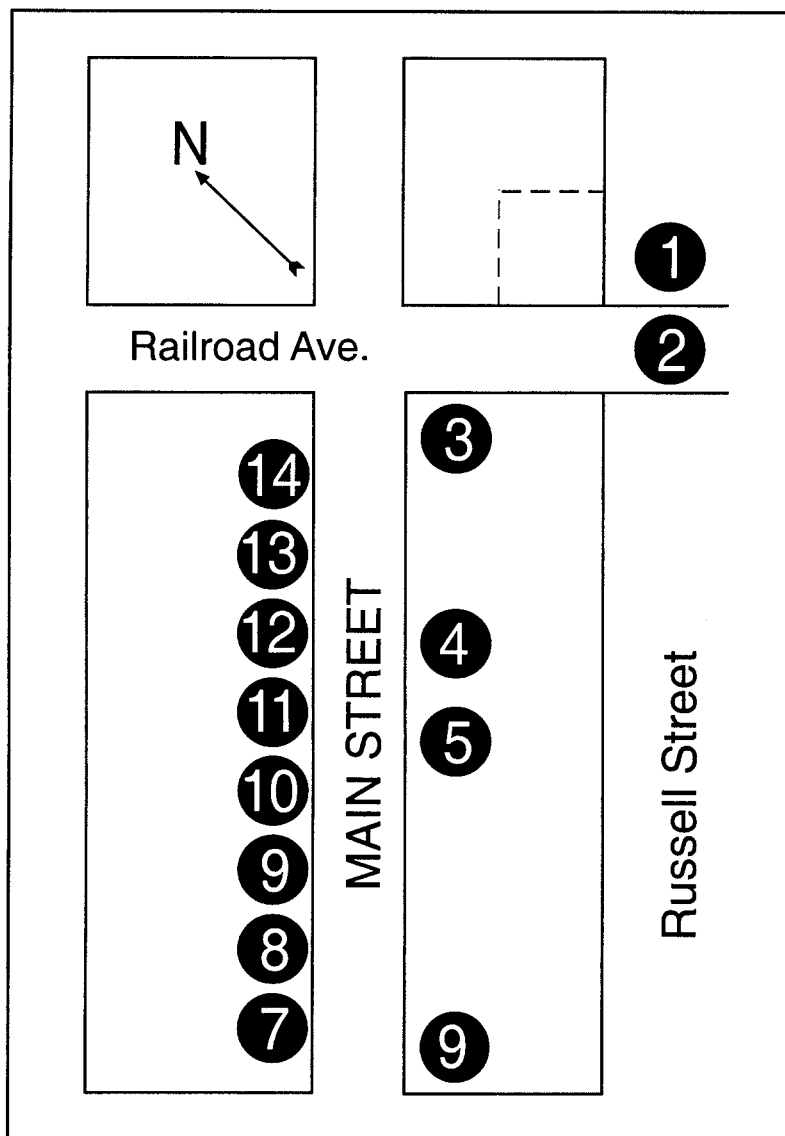
(6) 48 Main Street — First Northern Bank of Dixon (1912)

The structure was built for the Citizens Bank of Winters in 1912. In Feb. of that year, the bank opened in its new Classical Revival style building which had been erected at a cost of \$40,000. The interior was finished in mahogany woodwork with marble counters and floors. In 1914, the Citizens Bank advertised that the bank had 130 stockholders and 30 of them were women. The largest stockholders were also women. The bank has, over years, been the Bank of Italy and the Bank of America. In 1970, The First Northern Bank of Dixon purchased the building. Ionic columns support a pedimented entry and a larged arched window stands above the entrance.



(7) 47 Main Street — Masonic Building (1897) The structure was built for the Buckeye Lodge #195 F&AM. Alex Ritchie, locally prominent contractor, constructed the building in 1897. The upper story was used for lodge meetings, and the lower floor was rented to business firms.

(8) 41 Main Street — The Baker Company (1908) The dry goods firm of Anderson and Baker built the ground floor of this building in 1908. Shortly after, Anderson sold his half to Baker to go to Africa in search of gold. Baker, a descendant of the pioneer Baker family, was involved with local civic groups, serving as city mayor for a number of years. In 1923,



Baker sold the building to the Masonic Hall Association. A second floor lodge room was added in 1928 to extend the adjacent Masonic Building. The Baker Company continued as renters on the main floor until 1951. In 1982, the Greenwoods purchased both this building and the Masonic Building to the west. Designed by architects Slocome and Tuttle of Oakland, the structure is a carefully composed, almost elegant building, utilizing elements of Classical Revival design. Centered in the front facade at the second floor level is a Masonic medallion.



(9) 37 Main Street — Morrison Building (1892) The charm of this small store evokes a strong sense of nostalgia, and 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. Present owners, Mike and Janet Kimes, restored the original wooden facade and doorway in 1980. This well preserved example of late 19th architecture combines elements of Stick, Eastlake, Italianate, and classical design and is perhaps the best remaining commercial design building in the heart of the Winters business district.

(10) 35 Main Street — Winters National Bank (1906) This property was owned by Robert Morrison, a native of Scotland, who originally operated a blacksmith, carriage-making and woodworking business. In 1892, he expanded, building a hardware store. Morrison retired in 1906 and sold his business to W.I. Baker who replaced the old building with a new structure made of "Hercules", or artificial stone blocks that were produced locally. Subsequently, Morrison became the charter president of the Citizens Bank of Winters organized here

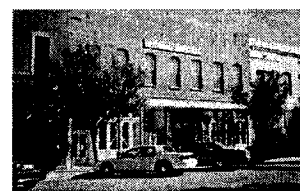
in 1907. In 1929, another locally organized bank, the Winters National Bank, operated from here. It continued to serve the community until it merged with the Bank of America in 1944. After that it was sold and has been in continuous use, primarily as a hardware store.

(11) 17-23 Main Street — Cradwick Building (1889-90) Between 1889 and 1891, John Cradwick erected this large two-story building on the three-lot site. Two of the ground-level store rooms were rented to the Winters Bakery and J.L. Harlan's Phoenix general store. A third was occupied by a saloon, with a stairway leading upstairs, where in 1893, Cradwick offered 21 sleeping rooms, a dining room and kitchen for rent. These later became known as the Acme Hotel. Cradwick, a native of England, settled in the Winters area in 1875 and established a brick-making business. He produced many of the bricks used to build buildings and houses in Winters. His two kilns were able to produce 4 - 5,000 bricks in a single firing. During the severe earthquake in 1892, the Cradwick Building sustained major damage. The city's only fatality occurred when bricks in the back of the building fell and killed Jeff Darby. Repairs were made, but there were no noticeable architectural changes. The Cradwick Building has just undergone major restoration and seismic strengthening.

(12) 15 Main Street — Chulik Market (1875) The building was erected in 1875 by A. Hockheimer and The Blum Brothers of Vacaville. Hockheimer became sole owner in 1876 and later sold it to Henry Seamans. In the late 1920s the Chulik family bought the building and operated a meat market there until 1980. At various times, the second story has been used for lodge meetings, dancing and a gymnasium. The Winters Winery now occupies the building which is important as an early element of this historic main block of Winters.



(13) 11 Main Street — Seaman's Opera House (1876) B. R. Sackett built the structure in 1876. The original tenant operated a grocery store in the location. In 1881 the building was sold to Henry Seaman. Seaman remodeled the building in 1890 and later sold it to Jonas Rummelsburg.



Rummelsburg moved his merchandise store from the Masonic Building to this location. Around 1919, Jack and Gregory Vasey acquired the business and the building; they remained in business until 1981. The second floor is the opera house and has been used for many years for civic, social and entertainment purposes. It has been restored beautifully in recent years and is now the venue for regular and diverse musical events. Of particular interest is the old curtain on display. While

some external alterations were made to accommodate businesses on the first floor, the two story red brick building of vernacular Italianate design constitutes a key visual and historic element of downtown Winters.

(14) 3 - 5 - 7 Bank Building (1904) When constructed in 1904, the Bank of Winters Building added an aura of style and substance to downtown Winters. The Queen Anne towered structure complemented the Hotel De Vilbiss on the opposite side of Main Street. In addition to the bank with its corner entrance, other businesses in the building included W. H. Gregory's real estate office, Craner's general merchandise and grocery store, and Young's shop of bicycles and cutlery. The second floor held professional offices, club rooms, and a large meeting room with connecting doors into the adjacent Opera House. The building now houses the Putah Creek cafe and an antique gallery.



*Cherishing the Past,
Looking to the Future*

WINTERS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



**HISTORIC WINTERS
MAIN STREET
WALKING TOUR**

\$.50

The Historic Winters Main Street
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SOURCES
Cultural Resources Inventory
Project Report
Prepared by
Historic Environment Consultants
June 1983

Winters Architectural Heritage
Advisory Committee
Prepared by
Winters Historical Landmark
Advisory Committee
November 1983

Winters: A Heritage of Horticulture,
A Harmony of Purpose
by Joann Leach Larkey
Yolo County Historical Society
1991

Reprinted in October 2002
The Printing Shop
Dixon, California

HISTORIC OVERVIEW OF WINTERS

Settlement of the Winters area began in 1842 when John R. Wolfskill occupied Rancho Rio de los Putos, a Mexican land grant of 17,754 acres of lands along Putah Creek, where he commenced raising live stock 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. Subdivision 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 fledgling 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, and new business and residential development. Produce of the area included apricots, peaches, almonds, plums, cherries, 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 area 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 has continued to serve the community.

In April 1892, a major earthquake heavily damaged many business buildings and residences in Winters. Some buildings were repaired and some entirely rebuilt. The building activity led to other new construction and the establishment of Winters High School in 1892. The City of Winters was incorporated in 1898.

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 ranch/production site. 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.