

Further Progress on Modeling Petaluma's Water Street

**Ed Merrin
Enduring Rails 2018
PCR Convention
Rohnert Park, California
April 6, 2018**

What and Where is Water Street?



Water Street, Petaluma

- **Part of the Petaluma Historic Commercial District (National Register of Historic Places, 1995)**
- **A row of mostly former feed warehouses along Main St. (now Petaluma Blvd.) that backed onto Water St.**
- **Provided access to the the tracks of the Petaluma and Santa Rosa Railroad and water traffic on Petaluma Creek (now Petaluma River).**

Petaluma and the P&SR

- **Petaluma was founded during the Gold Rush and became an important center for agricultural commerce. Sailing scows and steamboats connected it to San Francisco via the dredged out Petaluma Creek.**
- **Petaluma became important for grain milling and chickens. At one time it was the “Egg Capital of the World” where Lyman Byce invented the egg incubator in 1879.**
- **The Petaluma and Santa Rosa Railroad was an electric powered line (diesel after WWII) that ran between Petaluma, Sebastopol, Forestville, and Santa Rosa. It owned and operated its own steamboats between Petaluma and San Francisco. In the earlier days it serviced the feed warehouses along Water Street.**

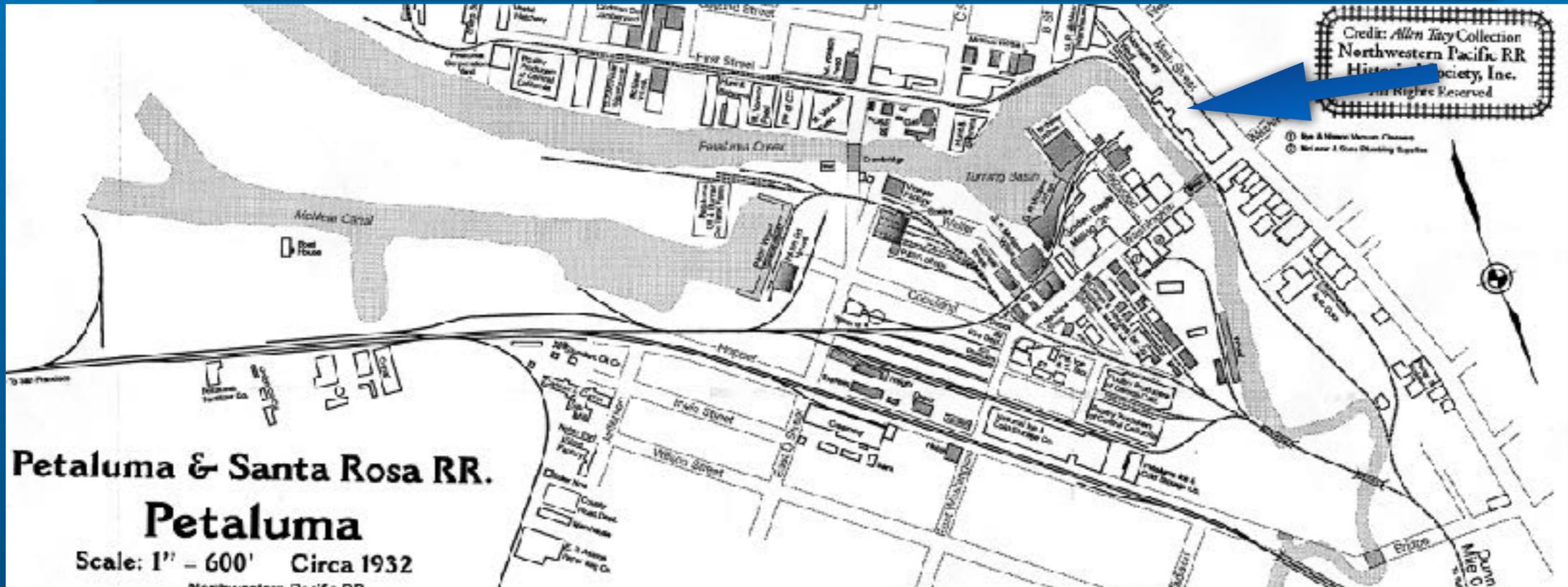
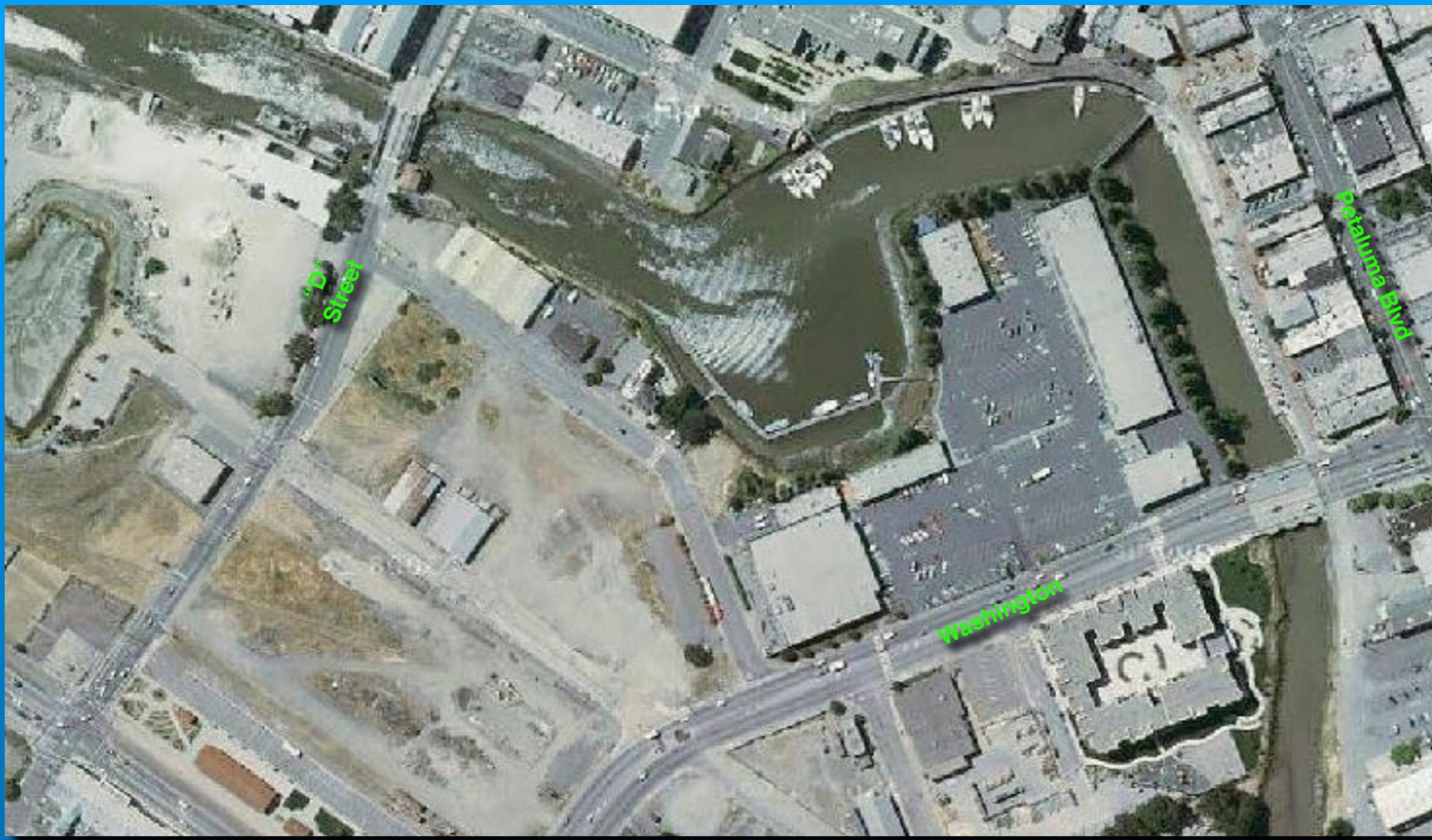
Chickens and Petaluma



Why Water St ?



Heir, A, *History of Petaluma: A California River Town*,
Scottwall Associates, Petaluma, 1982, page 124.



Motive Power on the P&SR



NWPRRHS



NWPRRHS

Late 1950's Petaluma Waterfront



Sonoma County Library



Courtesy Verne Alexander



Sonoma County Library



Courtesy Verne Alexander

"D" Street Drawbridge

1961



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1991

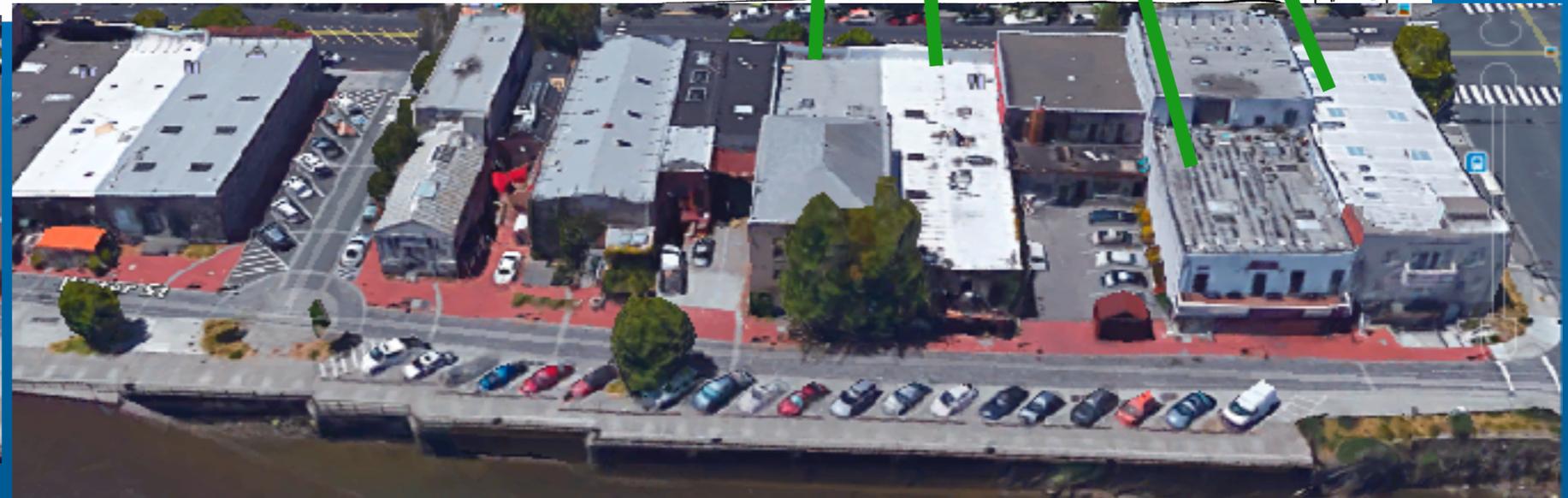
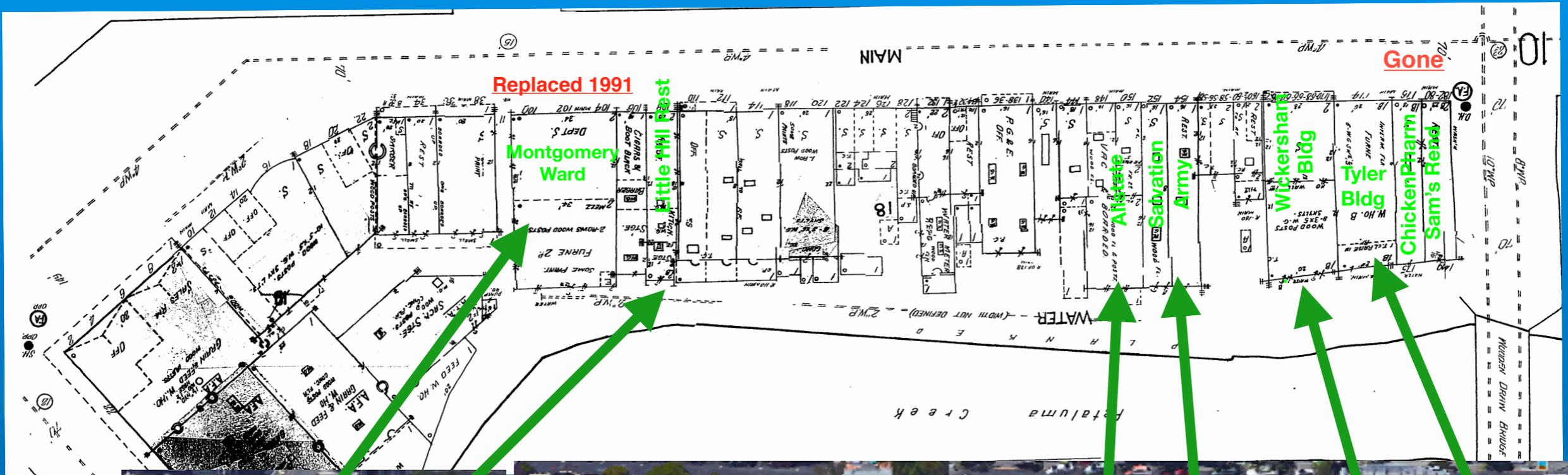


Compressed Water Street Area with “Stand-in” Flats



Selected Structures

Sanborne Map 1923



Google Earth 2015

The “Line-Up”

	<u>Built</u>	<u>Previous Uses from 1939</u>	<u>Later (to 1980s)</u>	<u>Today</u>
Montgomery Ward	1926	same	Vacant by '62 replaced 1991	dem (?date)
Little Hill Restaurant	1871	Tavern's Liquors, Cincera's	Vena's restaurant	Vicki's Secret- Designer Consignment
Allstate Insurance	1900	Fitzpatrick's Hardware	Sears catalog store	Chelsea Antiques
Salvation Army Thrift Shop	1880	Payless Drugs, Auto Parts	Mont Ward catalog (60s on)	Risibisi Restaurant
Wickensham Bldg (Beasley's Restaurant)	1910	JC Penney, Richey Jewelers, FS Rasco & Co Variety Store HH Wauer Variety Store Petaluma Beauty Academy	Vacant 1979-83	Seared Steak and Seafood
Tyler Bldg (Stone Co. Furniture)	1880	Cline Furniture (to early 40s)	Kirby Vacuum Berton Furniture Guy's Furniture	Old Shanghai
Chicken Pharmacy/ DE Davis Poultry Clinic	?	Chicken Pharmacy, DE Davis Veterinary Surgeon	Vacant in late 60s	demolished early 70s
Sam's Rendezvous Rest	?	John Croci, Al Dolan Restaurant Rendezvous Bowling Alley HW Simoni restaurant Sam's Rendezvous Liquors	Unknown after 1960	demolished early 70s

Thanks to John Benanti, Petaluma Historical Museum Library, August 2001

Wickersham Building Hx

- **Built 1910.**
 - **Feed storage, river trade.**
 - **Site of Petaluma's 1st phone exchange.**
 - **Silent movie theater.**
- **1917 - Gutted by fire, rebuilt.**
 - **Nilson's Furniture Co.**
 - **Dentist, beauty salon, Chinese restaurant, Ben Franklin 5 & 10, JC Penney's.**
 - **Speakeasy?, red light?**
- **1958-1979 - Beasley's Restaurant, apartments upstairs.**
- **1980 - Renovated, Graziana's Restaurant.**
- **2015 - Seared Steak and Seafood.**

“Fab Four”



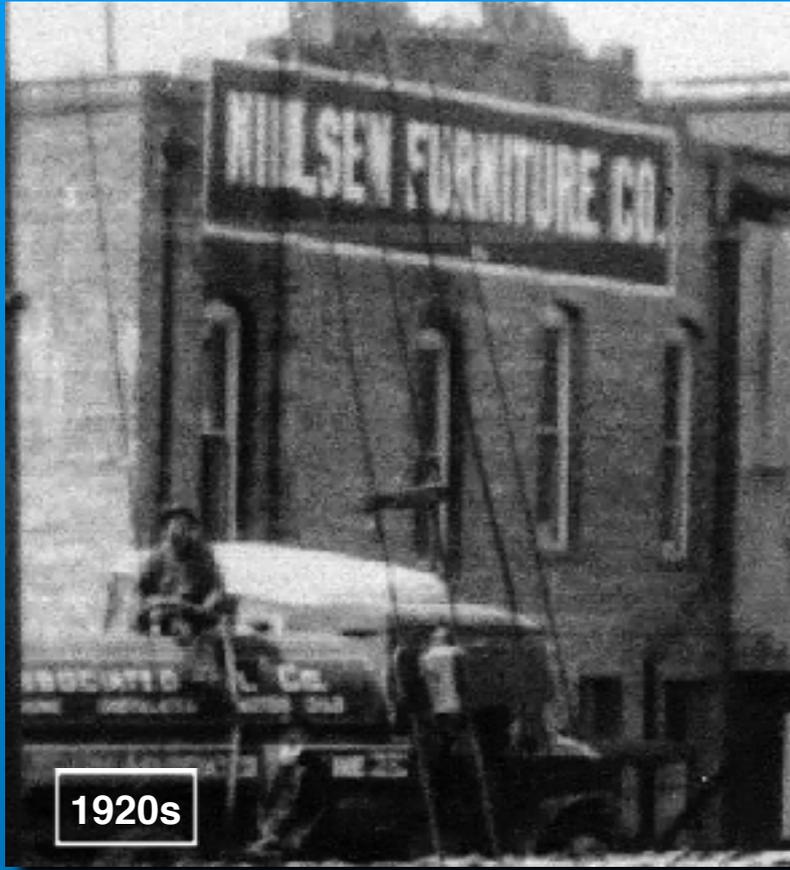
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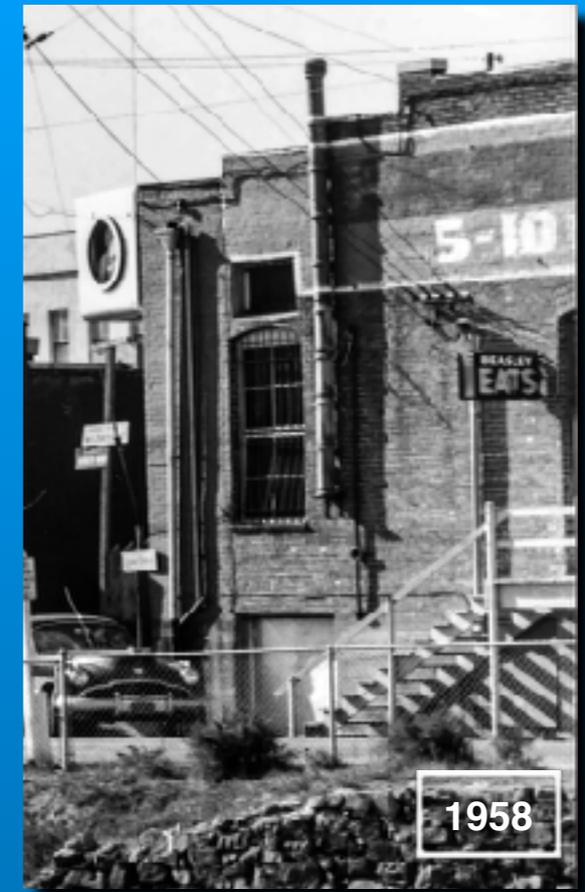
Wickersham Bldg.



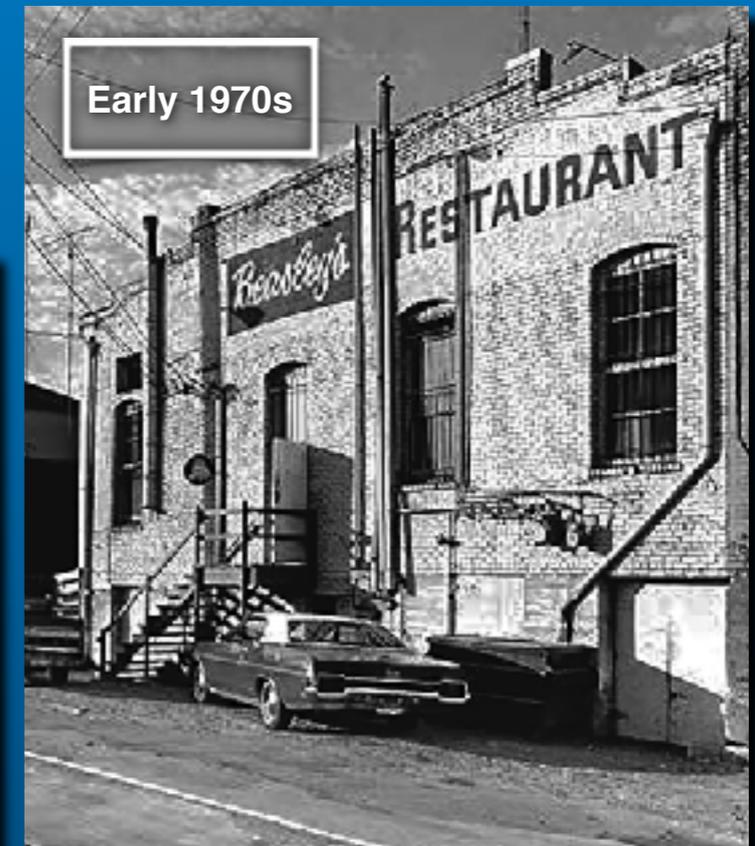
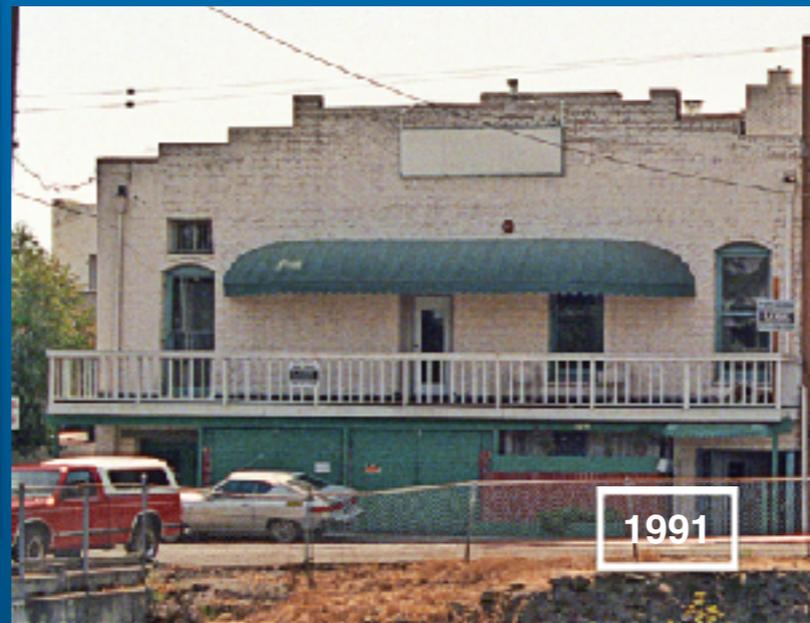
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Tyler Bldg.



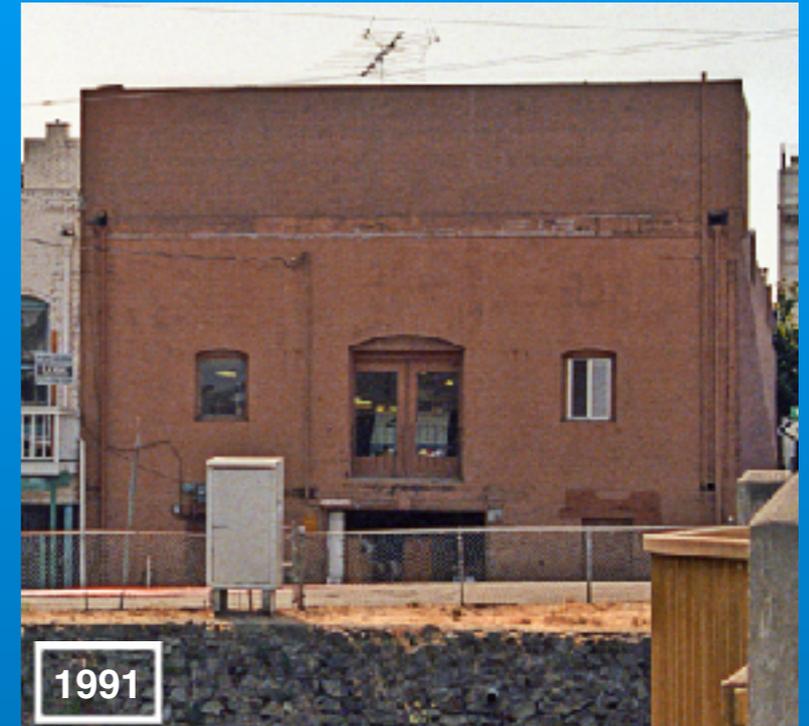
1920s

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1954

Sonoma County Library



1991



2016

Chicken Pharmacy

Founded by James Keys 1923

Dr. Davis 1933



1936

Sonoma County Library



Sonoma County Library



1949?

Sonoma County Library

Farewell Chicken Pharmacy and Sam's Rendezvous



Sonoma County Library



Sonoma County Library



1920s

Sonoma County Library



1958

Sonoma County Library



1991



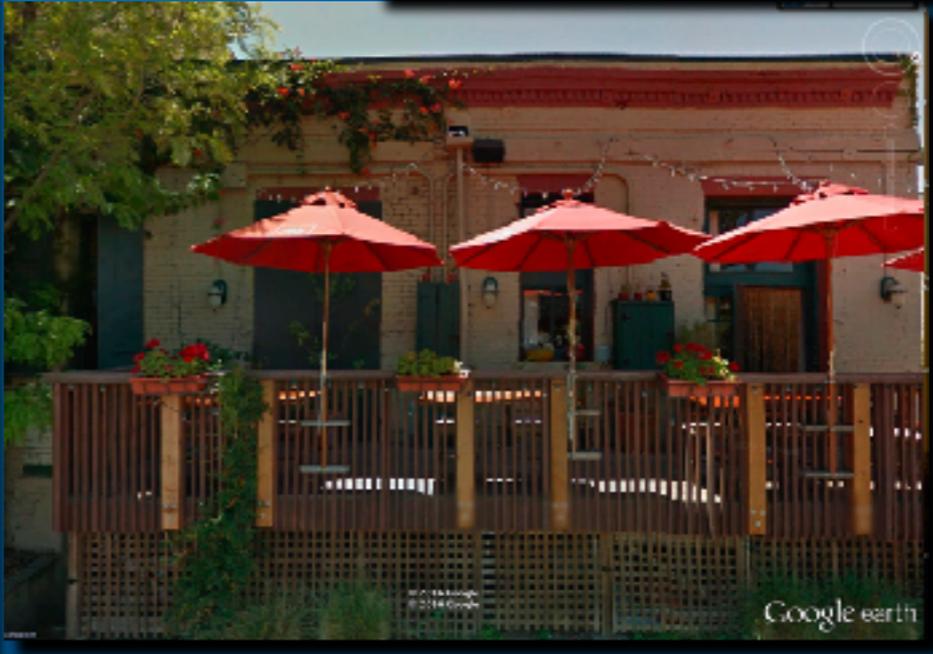
1970

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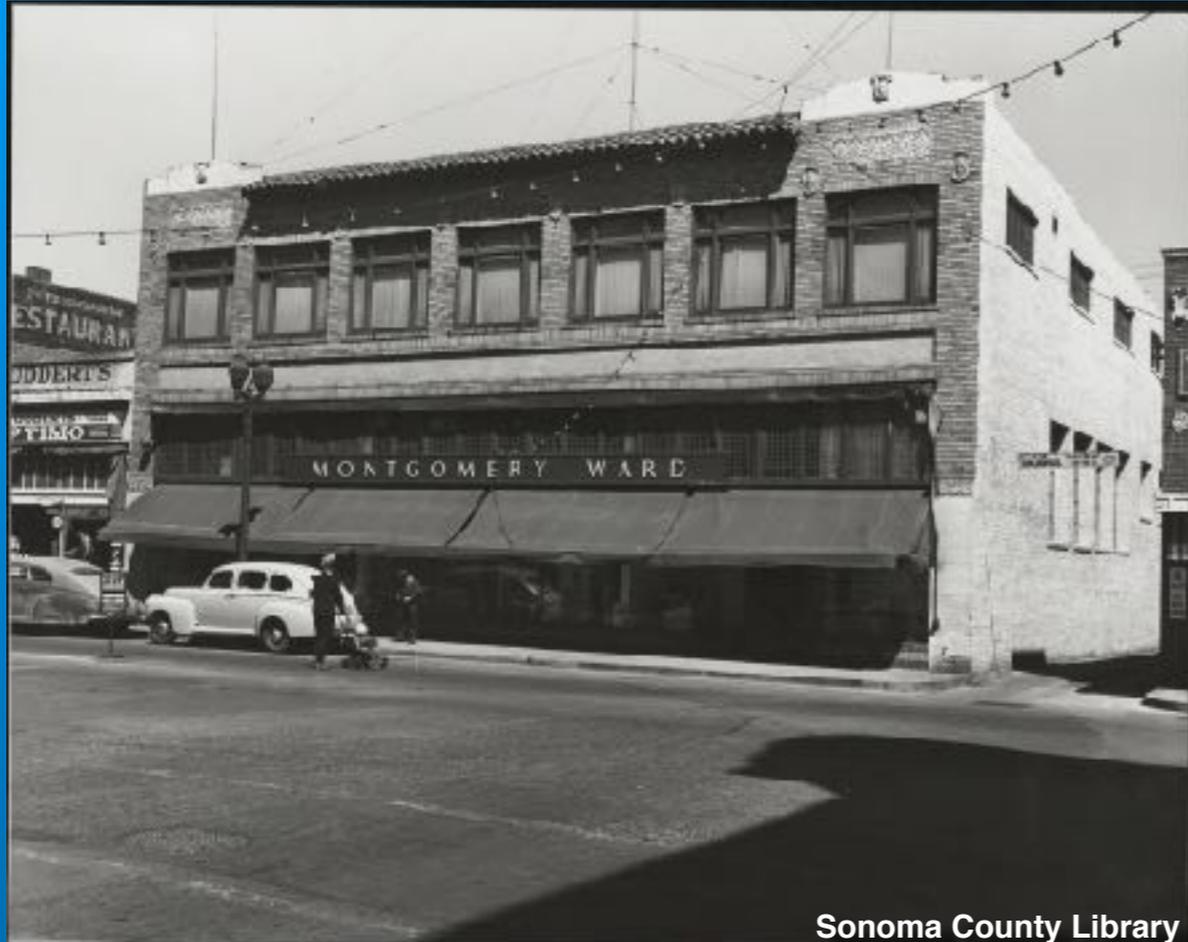
Google earth



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Montgomery Ward



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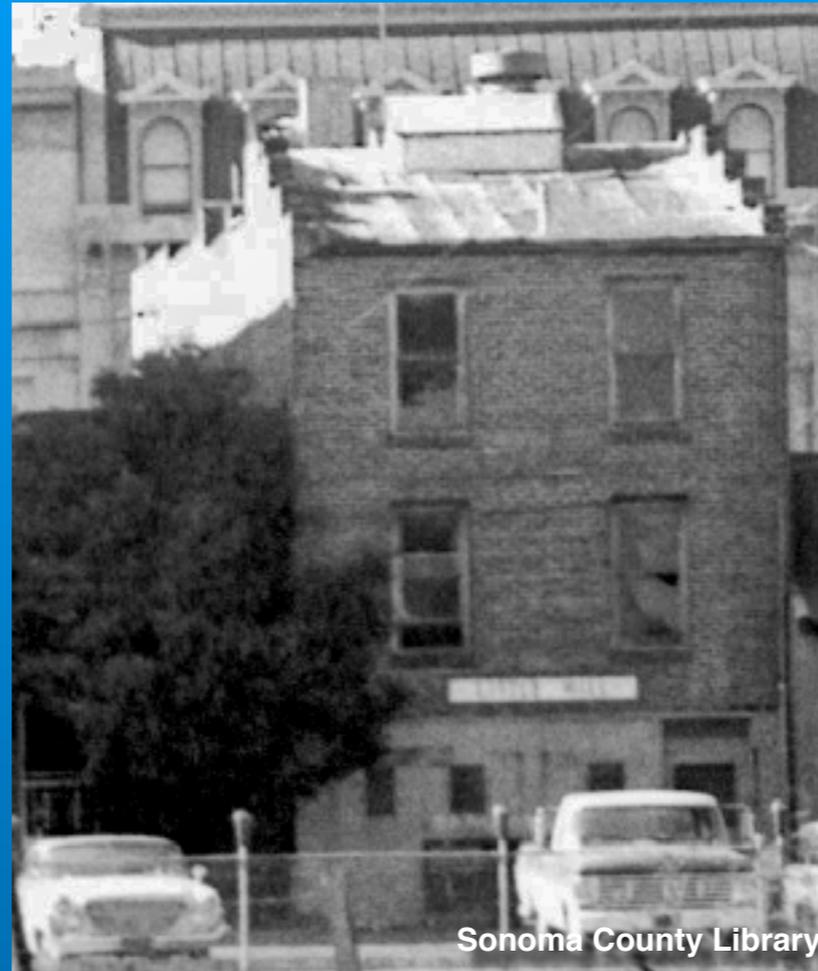


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Little Hill Restaurant



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Google Earth

Modeling Techniques

- **1. Basic Dimensions - actual, Sanborne maps, made to scale photos, etc.**
- **2. Walls cut from .04" Styrene, covered with brick sheet (Plastruct, N Scale Modeler). Monster Modelworks concrete for exposed foundation areas. Add depth for window and door openings when indicated.**
- **3. Windows and doors scratchbuilt or kit bashed from Tichy, Grandt Line, Rusty Stumps.**
- **4. Cornices, lintels, scuppers, downspouts, drain and vent pipes, tribal and gas fittings, steps and platforms scratchbuilt, kit bashed, commercial products (Scale Structures, Shapeways, MicroEngineering, Central Valley, Alexander, etc), scrap box.**
- **5. Signage with word processor (Decal paper - Microscale, Evans Designs), dry transfers.**

Examples of scaled photos



Wickersham Details

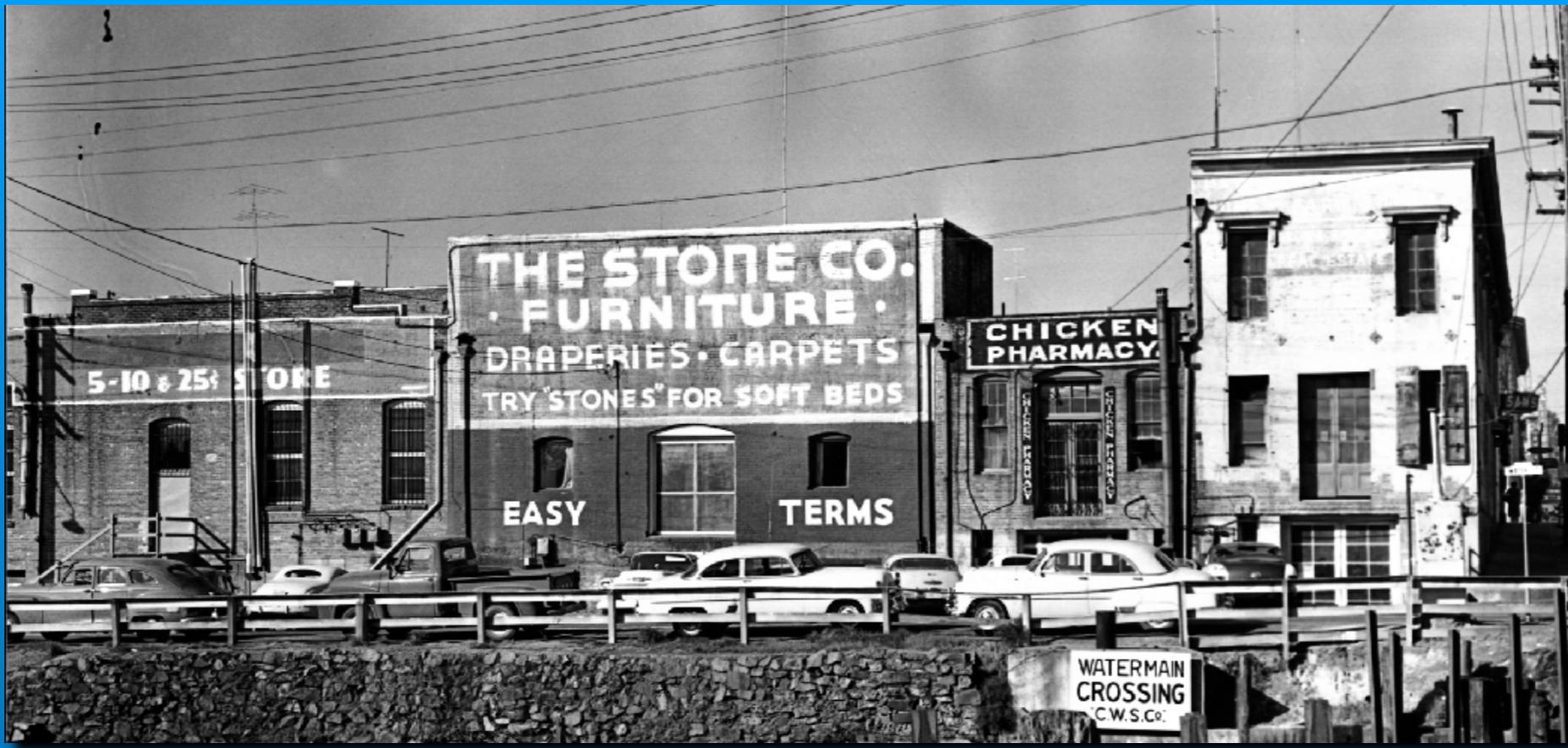


Sign Decals

**CHICKEN
PHARMACY.**

**CHICKEN
PHARMACY**

THE STONE CO.
• FURNITURE •
DRAPERIES • CARPETS
TRY "STONES" FOR SOFT BEDS



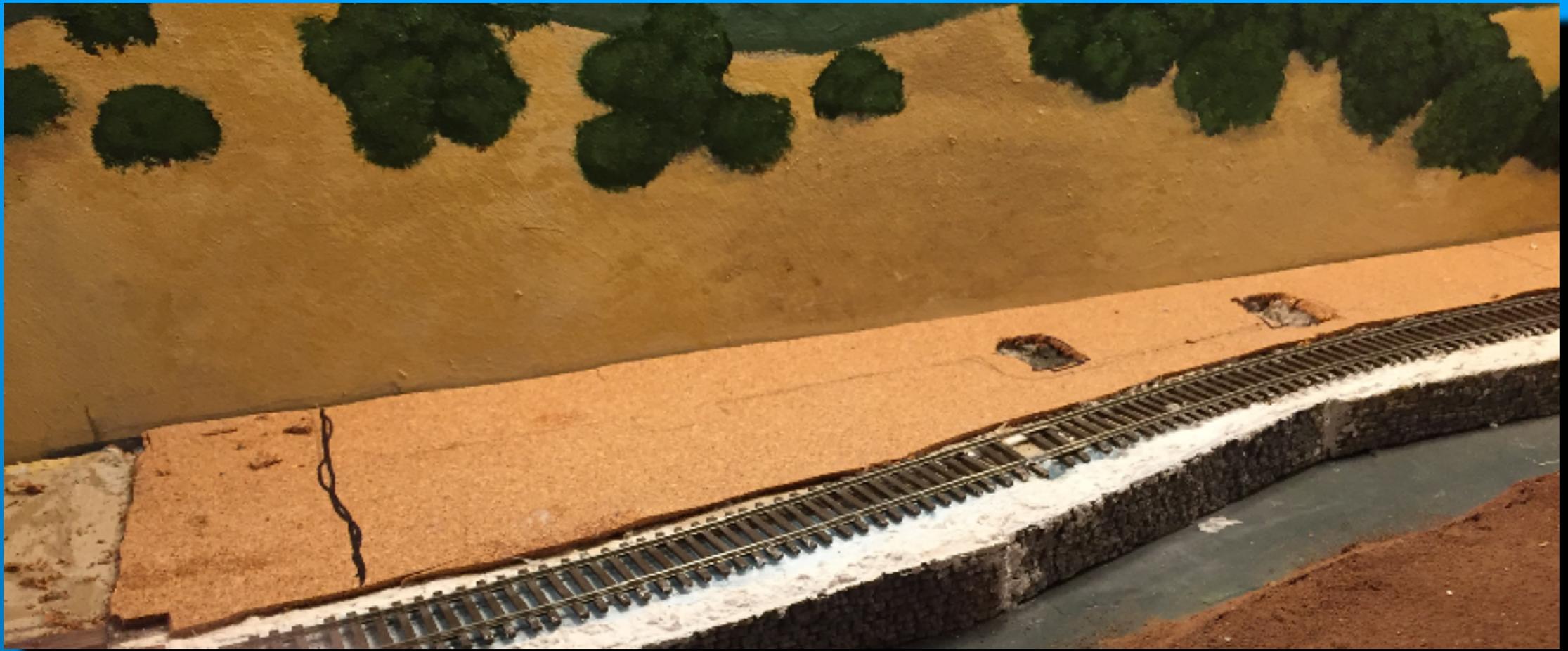
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LITTLE HILL





Utility/Light Poles







1958



Petaluma Museum



1991

SCHLUCKEBIER HARDWARE CO.

PETALUMA
ESTABLISHED 1864

DEPENDABLE HARDWARE

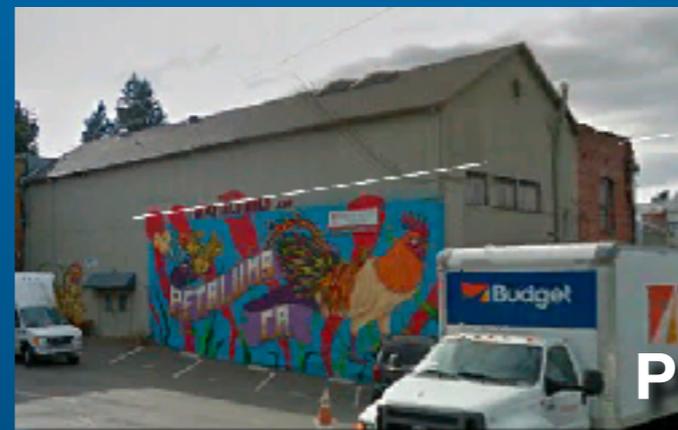
McCormick-Deering Farm
Implements and Tractors

Empire Milking Machines

International Motor Trucks

80 TELEPHONE 80
PETALUMA

226 MAIN STREET



Present

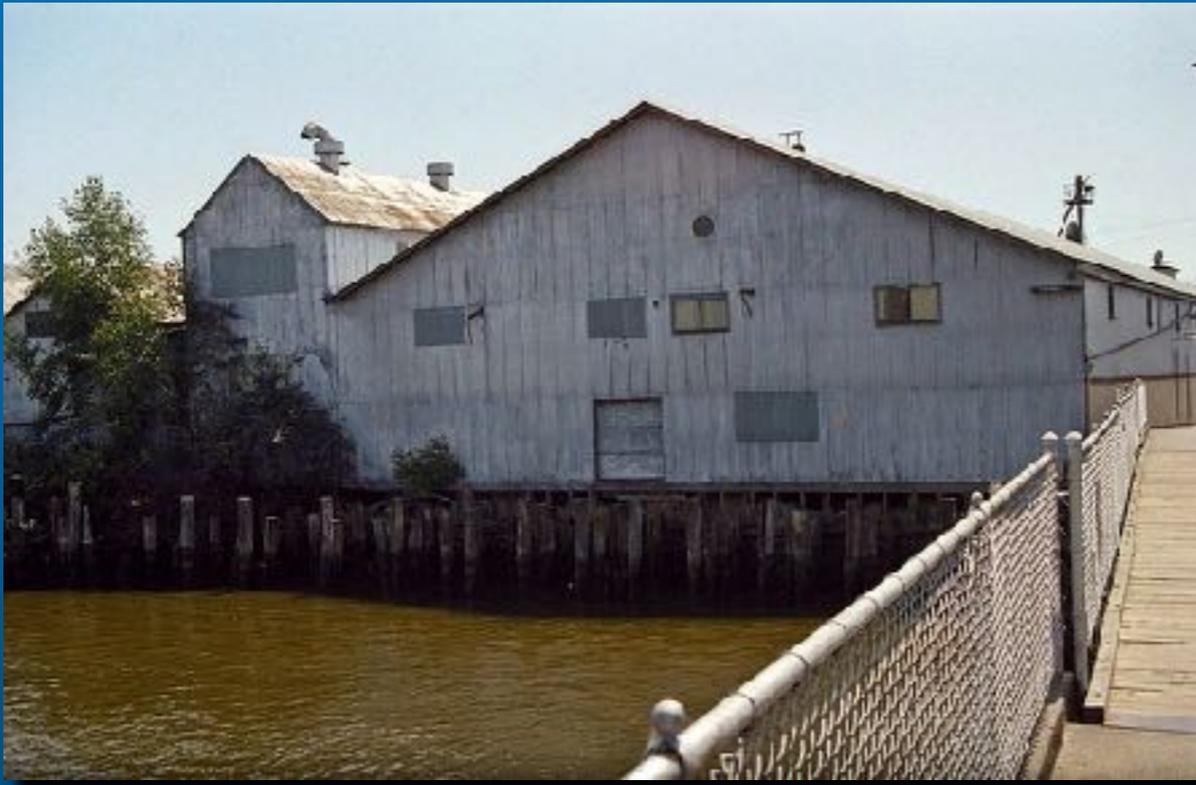




Wharf/McNear Mill/Bar Ale



Courtesy Verne Alexander





Backdrop Modification for City Environment







