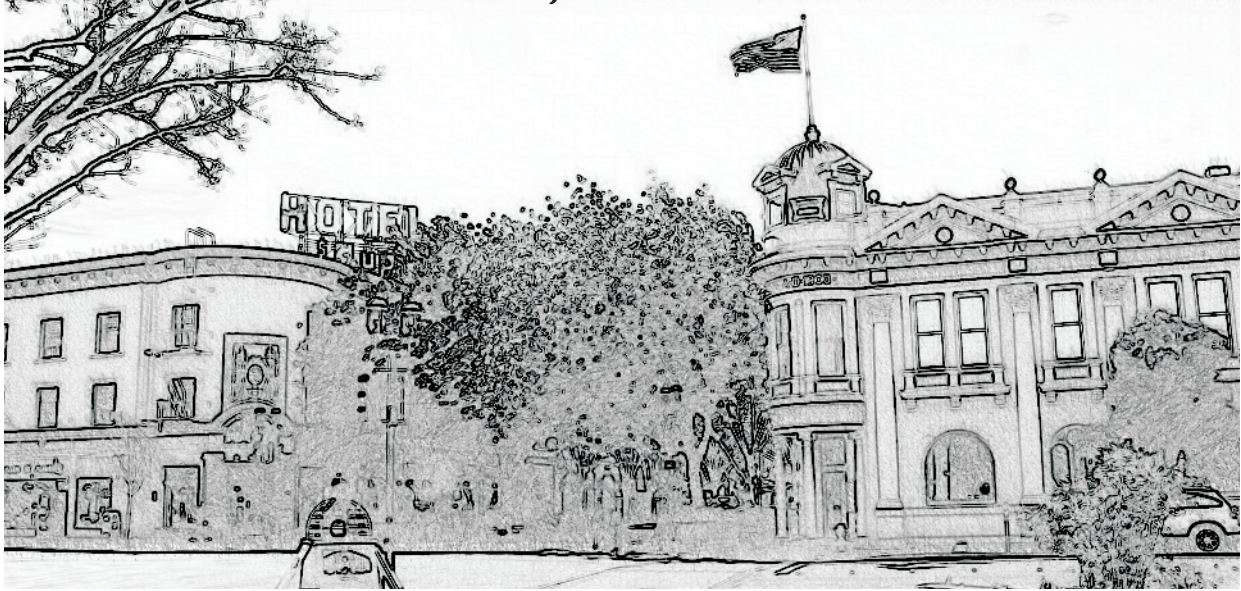


Main Street Historic District

Expansion



Historic Resources Advisory Committee
City of Redwood City
FINAL - April, 2014

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Physical and Historical Qualities of The District

The proposed expanded historic district is an assemblage of some of Redwood City's most prominent and significant commercial historic structures. Fifteen structures contribute. There are fourteen commercial properties and one meeting hall. The district includes portions of seven blocks, the 700, 800, 900 and 1100 blocks of Main Street, the 2000 block of Broadway, the 1200 block of Middlefield Road and the 100 block of Stambaugh Street. Four of the structures presently comprise a National Register Historic District. All four have been designated as individual local historic landmarks. The National Register Historic District and four additional structures have been certified as a National Register-eligible District.

The expansion includes the portions of the 900 and 1100 blocks of Main Street, the 1200 block of Middlefield Road and the 100 block of Stambaugh Street. The expansion includes one property that has been previously designated as an individual historic landmark, known historically as the Foresters Hall at 1204 Middlefield Road. Two additional properties are nominated for individual landmark designation as part of this expansion proposal; they are known historically as Flynn's Ford Agency & Garage at 935 Main Street and Dessin Bros. – Barnbauer Motors at 1101 Main Street.

Dates of construction range from 1859 to 1931, with three of the fifteen structures built before the turn of the 19th century. Based on original primary usage, the proposed expanded district contains a pioneer general store (1859), a bank (1900), a drug store (1905), a building and loan association (1928), a hotel (1912), a theater (1895), two fraternal halls (1895 and 1913), two grocery stores (1910 and 1922), and three automobile dealerships (1920, 1922 and 1931). The district is representative of a typical "Main Street USA" 1920's setting. It is comprised of one and two-part commercial block buildings with architectural styles such as Renaissance, Neo-classical, influences of Richardsonian Romanesque and Chicago School, Italianate and Gothic.

Many prominent pioneer and early-day residents and organizations are associated with the buildings in the proposed expanded district such as merchants J. V. Diller and P. P. Chamberlain, attorney Edward F. Fitzpatrick, druggist Andrew Walsh, real estate man William Dusel, Judge George Buck, the Redwood Masonic Lodge, the International Order of Odd Fellows, Foresters of America, banker and auto dealer Frank K. Towne and auto dealer Ferris Miles.

The boundaries of the proposed expanded district were chosen because this is a pioneer commercial area of contiguous, historically contributing commercial structures. There are eight non-contributing structures interspersed within its boundaries. The non-contributing structures do not significantly detract from the historical sense of time and place one feels while in the area.



A, B, and C
View down Broadway
from Main Street



A and E
View toward corner of
Broadway and Main St.



E, A, and D
View southward
down Main Street



E, F, G, and H
View northward down
Main Street



F, G, H, I, and J
View northward down
Main Street



U and M
View eastward down
Stambaugh Street



M, N, O, P, and Q
View southward down
Main Street



L, M, N, and O
View northward down
Main Street



**F, G, H, I, J, K, L,
M, N, O, P, and Q**
View northward down
Main Street



A and D - 1906



A, B, and E - 1915



**E, G, H, and I -
Circa 1925**



**A, B, C and E -
Circa 1928**



G and H - Circa 1945



G, H, I, and M - 1951

Why The Historic Commercial District Has Significance

This area is the historic core of Redwood City. In his plan for the original town drawn up in 1854, Simon Mezes planned for Main Street to parallel the Redwood Creek, and Broadway (originally called "A" Street) as a convenient access between businesses and homes. Main Street parallels on the east bank, the tidal slough (now culverted) that was the initial impetus to settlement in Redwood City. The history of Redwood City is directly connected to this area, in the collective biographies of the people, businesses, activities that were, and are now, located here.

From the mid-1850's until the late 1920's, Redwood Creek, a deep-water channel off the San Francisco Bay, dominated this section of town. A wharf system was built which extended for more than a mile along each side of the creek. Lumber, shingles, grain, and many other local products were shipped from here to San Francisco and eventually throughout the world. A turning basin for ships was located to the northwest of the intersection of Main Street and Broadway.

Shipbuilding and shipping originally dominated the area, as did support businesses for lumberman and longshoreman. Other support businesses followed. Several Redwood City "firsts" occurred here, including the location of the first firehouse built in Redwood City and the first general store. The first firehouse used by the volunteer fire department was located on the west side of Main Street to the north of the Broadway and Main Street intersection. The Broadway and Main intersection was the first area of town to undergo street and sidewalk improvements after Redwood City incorporated in 1868.

When Redwood City became the county seat in 1856, the need for services like meeting halls, hotels, and general stores increased, and the area soon became the town's social and business center. Activities in this area had significance for the growth and activity of the rest of the county. Main Street was a direct route to Woodside Road for lumber wagons and passenger stages traveling to Skyline and the Coast side. Broadway, renamed from "A" Street in 1908, housed the County courthouse and the Redwood City railroad depot. It continues to be a direct link to busy El Camino Real, which runs the length of San Mateo County.

Main Street remained the commercial core well into the twentieth century. By 1940, Broadway assumed dominance as the main commercial street. Main Street at its intersection near Maple Street remained an important automotive sales and service center into the 1980's. From the intersection of Maple Street to Woodside Road, Main Street was once called Mound Street because it traversed the top of an old Indian mound.

List of Contributing Structures

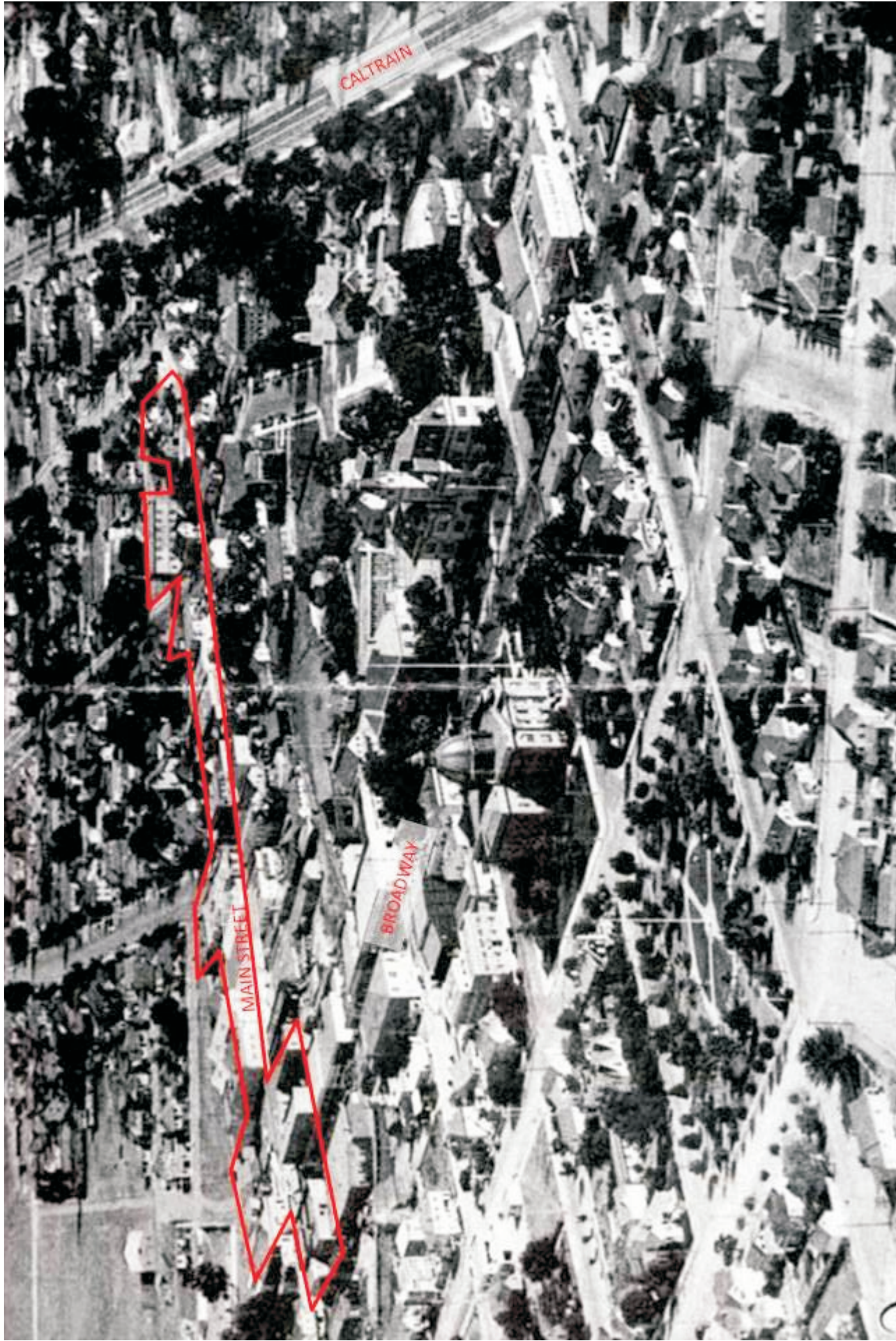
Alpha Reference	Address	Page #
A	2000 Broadway	x
B	2020 Broadway	x
C	2022-2024 Broadway	x
D	726 Main Street	x
E	800 Main Street	x
G	831-835 Main Street	x
H	839 Main Street	x
I	847-849 Main Street	x
M	901 Main Street	x
O	917-921 Main Street	x
P	929 Main Street	x
Q	935 Main Street	x
U	114 Stambaugh Street	x
V	1204 Middlefield Road	x
W	1101 Main Street	x

List of Non-Contributing Structures

Alpha Ref.	Address	Page #
F	1991 Broadway	x
J	855-857 Main Street	x
K	863 Main Street	x
L	875 Main Street	x
N	909-911 Main Street	x
R	999 Main Street	x
S	1001 Main Street	x
T	1001 Main Street	x

Aerial Photos of the District

The following pages feature aerial photos of the District from 1925 and 2012.




Main Street District, 1925



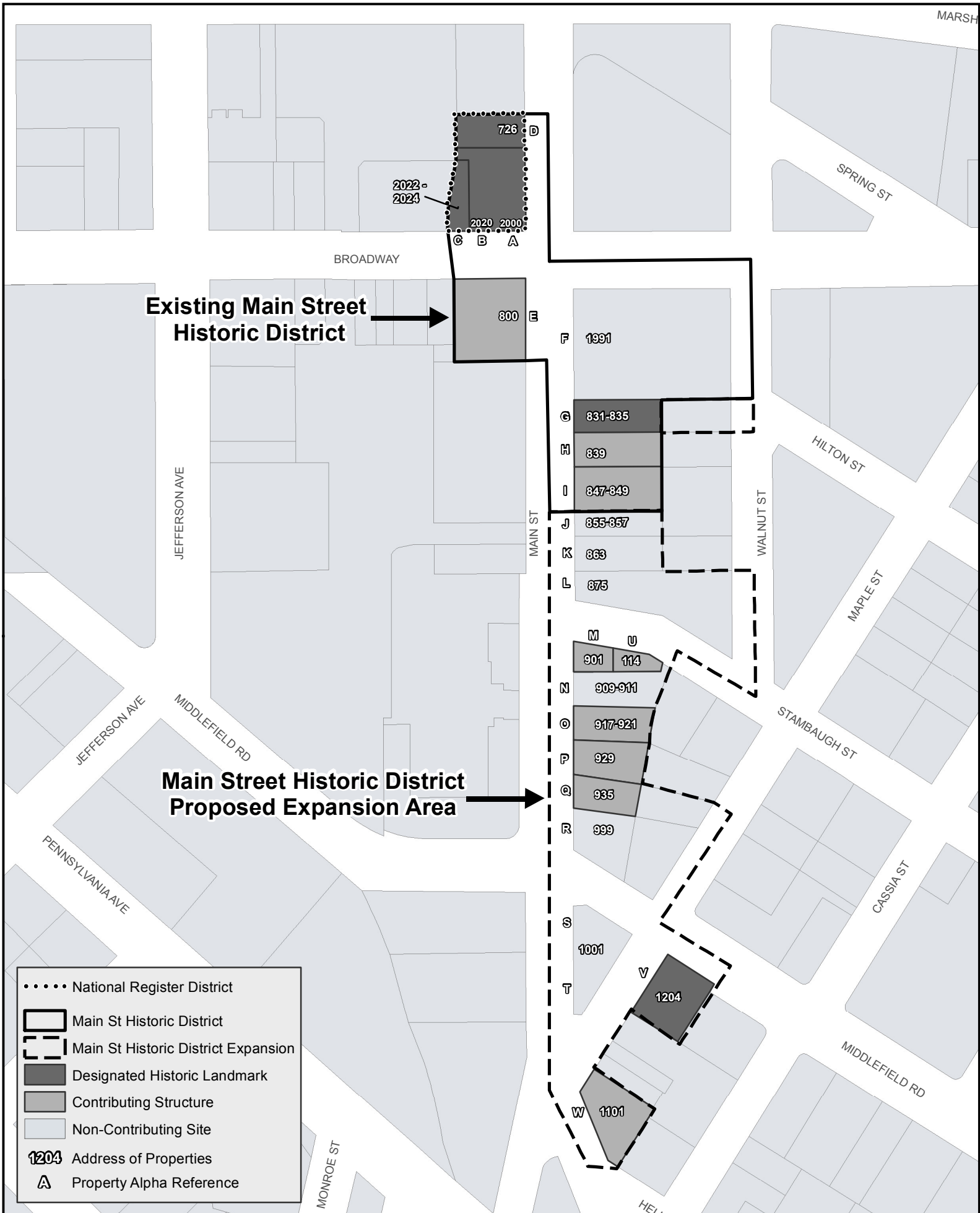
**Existing Main Street
Historic District**

**Main Street Historic District
Proposed Expansion Area**

-  Main St Historic District
-  Main St Historic District Expansion
- 1204** Address of Properties
- A** Property Alpha Reference

Redwood City Main Street Historic District Expansion

Map of the District



Redwood City Main Street Historic District Expansion

Area Table

Category	Area	Acres	Square Feet	%
Designated Historic Landmarks	Existing District	0.57	24,625	17.9%
	Proposed Expansion	0.21	9,315	4.9%
	Total	0.78	33,940	10.4%
Contributing Structures	Existing District	0.57	24,984	18.2%
	Proposed Expansion	0.66	28,605	15.1%
	Total	1.23	53,589	16.4%
Non- Contributing Structures	Existing District	0.87	38,045	27.7%
	Proposed Expansion	1.26	54,678	28.9%
	Total	2.13	92,723	28.4%
Streets	Existing District	1.14	49,800	36.2%
	Proposed Expansion	2.22	96,493	51.0%
	Total	3.36	146,293	44.8%
Total	Existing District	3.16	137,454	100.0%
	Proposed Expansion	4.34	189,091	100.0%
	Total	7.50	326,545	100.0%

Descriptions of Structures Contributing to the Historical Significance of the District

The following pages feature detailed architectural and historical descriptions of each contributing structure, as well as photographs which were taken in the fall of 2013.

Alpha Reference: A

Historic Name: Bank of San Mateo County

Address: 2000 Broadway

Construction Date: 1900

Parcel#: 052-374-180

Aside from the San Mateo County Courthouse, the Bank of San Mateo County Building is probably Redwood City's most notable commercial or institutional structure. Its styling, as the architectural historian Richard Longstreth has pointed out in his book, *The Buildings of Main Street* (Washington, D.C.: 1987, p.39) represented a transition from the Queen Anne style of the 1880s and 1890s to the Neo-Classical mode popular at the beginning of the twentieth-century. A feature retained from the Queen Anne is the corner turret with its dome and profusion of dormers and ornamental details. The turret serves as an eye-catching visual pivot, turning a main corner of the central-business district. Neo-Classical elements include the building's pediments, pilasters, capitals, and ornamental details of the cornice. The elaborateness of this time-honored classical detailing was meant to suggest to early-century observers the wealth and stability of the bank (classical temple fronts were often built by banks to instill confidence in customers). Longstreth also called this building a good example of a two-story commercial block; this type consists of a building with a horizontal division separating the public retail spaces on the first floor from the private office or residential areas on the upper floors.

Incorporated in 1891, the Bank of San Mateo County was the first commercial bank on the San Francisco Peninsula. For its first ten years it operated from the Capitol Hotel in the middle of the block. In 1899 the bank purchased the vacant northwest corner lot at Broadway and Main and announced that they would construct the first stone building in the county. Actually, it was a stone veneer and in truth it was the first of its kind in the county. Alfred I. Coffey of Martens & Coffey of San Francisco was commissioned to design a Renaissance style building.

Stone shipped from Utah was worked into proper sizes and was surfaced in San Francisco. OE Brady & Son of San Francisco did the masonry work. Bank officials favored Robert Brown, a local contractor and a stockholder in the bank, even though his bid was not the lowest. The building was completed in 1900 and under the ribbed dome above the bay window the inscription reads: ERECTED A.D. 1900. Over the semi-circular colonnade portico another inscription was BANK OF SAN MATEO CO. The latter was chiseled off in 1963, but vague shadows of it are visible. On the scheduled opening day much of the furnishings and the vault had not been delivered, but business was transacted over an improvised counter of a plank stretched between two barrel heads, reportedly beer barrels. Until the vault was completed, the bank's daily receipts were deposited in the county's safe at the Pioneer Store immediately behind the bank

(P. P. Chamberlain, the proprietor, was the bank's vice-president). Throughout the next forty years, George Ross and his sons maintained law offices on the second floor of the bank building. George's brother, Dr. Joseph L. Ross, M. D., was the bank's first president.

After the Rosses' retirement, the offices were occupied by Reg McGovern and Paul McCloskey, Sr. In 1899 Dr. Ross also purchased the adjoining lot on Broadway and constructed a two-story brick building with a cast iron front. Ross used the second floor for his medical offices. During the 1906 earthquake the front of the Ross building suffered minor damage, but the front of the bank building and some of the side stone peeled off, and the dome with its flagpole lay damaged in the middle of the intersection. Nevertheless the basic structure stood strong. Immediately, both buildings were restored. The bank was doing business at the site by June 1906.

In 1904 the San Mateo County Savings Bank was organized under the same bank management and functioned in conjunction with the commercial bank. The banks purchased the adjoining Ross building and re-hired Coffey to design an overall 55 foot facade on Broadway. Brown was also rehired as contractor. To commemorate the renovation a carved stone eagle standing over a shield dated 1910 A.D. was recessed in the upstairs-office entry closed by the remodeling. In a similar manner to the corner entry the words SAN MATEO COUNTY SAVINGS BANK were inscribed above the colonnade which replaced the lower Ross frontage. When completed, the two buildings appeared as though they had been built simultaneously. In the fall of 1941 the bank (by then called the First National Bank) moved across the street into a nondescript Moderne building (razed in 1974). Louis A. Behrens, the son of the bank's first Cashier and Manager, purchased the old bank for sentimental reasons.

This landmark commercial building at 2000 Broadway occupies a strategic position at the intersection of Broadway and Main Street in the heart of Redwood City's downtown business district. It consists of two buildings, both of which have been altered extensively. The building had two stories and a flat roof with a parapet. The parapet is punctuated with a series of balusters. Stucco scored to suggest masonry blocks covers the exterior. Classical details and window trim are picked out in white. The window sash is blue. The building's dominant feature is its corner turret, designed to be visible from either Main Street or Broadway. Ionic columns on bases support the turret's second-story. Behind these columns, the main first floor entry is recessed within the body of the turret. Three double-hung windows line the second floor, and in the frieze of the turret reads the legend, "Erected A. D. 1900." A small round dome with three dormers protruding and classical ornamentation crowns the turret. Seen from Main Street, the east facade has two triangular pediments located at the parapet line, each supported by thick brackets. These brackets and a prominent dentil band line both pediments and the building's entire cornice.

Colossal Corinthian pilasters visually support each pediment. Four triglyphs are set above each pilaster. Between the pilasters on the first floor, arched windows stripped of their muntins illuminate the interior (these arched windows may have originally resembled the Italianate tripartite window set between the pedimented sections of the first floor). The second floor fenestration has paired double-hung windows, each supported visually (but not structurally) by modillions, an entablature, and bases. Elaborate classical surrounds trim these second story windows. Further north on Main Street is a newer, less ornamented addition to the original bank building. It lacks much of the earlier structure's classical features, such as the triangular pediments at the parapet and the elaborate detailing around the windows. Proportions and fenestration are otherwise consistent with the original wing.

Seen from the south (on Broadway), the facade also features two triangular pediments resting at the parapet line. Two story Corinthian pilasters also punctuate this facade, dividing it into three parts. The fenestration resembles the Main Street elevation, with large, fixed, round, arched windows on the first floor; to the left of the arched windows is a recessed side entrance, framed by Ionic columns and pilasters. The shafts of the pilasters are ornamented with stucco work. Inset between the arched windows of the first floor in a niche, is a decorative eagle of cast stone.

Sources:

- Natl. Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination form prepared by Dorothy F. Regnery, Junior League of Palo Alto Inc., March 9, 1977.



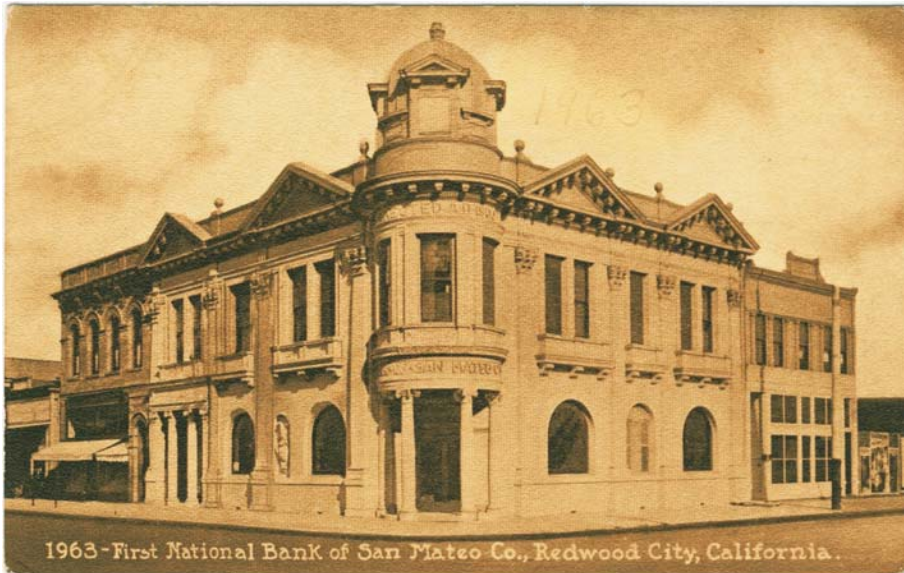
**A - 2000 Broadway
Main Street Elevation**



**A - 2000 Broadway
Broadway Elevation**



**A - 2000 Broadway
Corner View**



A - Circa 1925



A - Circa 1945



Bank of San Mateo
County Note, 1929

Alpha Reference: B**Historic Name:** Fitzpatrick Building**Address:** 2020 Broadway**Construction Date:** 1905**Parcel#:** 052-374-100

The building at 2020 Broadway exemplifies no clear architectural style. Its band of arched windows reflects some influences of the Richardsonian Romanesque and Chicago School. It lacks, however, other decorative features representative of either style. From its spatial organization, this drug store building can be classified as what architectural historian Richard Longstreth has called a two-story commercial block, with a glazed storefront at pedestrian level and private office space on the second floor. This store has been sensitively restored, and its arches, clerestory, and cornice give the facade great visual appeal. A simple composition, it complements other, more flamboyant historic buildings nearby. 2020 Broadway occupies an important location, at the core of the downtown business district. The two drug stores (Pioneer and Young's) that occupied this space had social importance for early Redwood City. Druggists were indispensable local professionals, who hand mixed medicines before the days of prepackaged drugs.

A lawyer, Edward F. Fitzpatrick, acquired the title to approximately a half a block on Broadway west from the intersection with Main Street. The adjoining lot he reserved for himself. Fitzpatrick's Irish immigrant father was one of Redwood City's early saloon keepers. Having been raised in Redwood City and being Irish-Catholic assured the young attorney a clientele when he began practice in 1880. In addition to a lucrative practice, he was a powerful local politician; he was an astute financier, and he acquired extensive real estate. In March 1905 Fitzpatrick commissioned Alfred I. Coffey to design a building for his lot and contracted with Robert Brown to build it. On the second floor there were offices: the front ones were for Fitzpatrick's offices. Andrew D. Walsh, owner of the historic Pioneer Drug Store, was convinced to move from across the street. As the new tenants were comfortably settled in their new quarters, the 1906 earthquake shook the brick front off of the building. In 1915 the Young's Drug Store was established in the downstairs. After Fitzpatrick's death in 1926 his son occupied the offices for his law practice.

Two stories high, the commercial building at 2020 Broadway is flat-roofed with a parapet, and is clad in yellow-tan brick. The two plate glass windows of the first floor appear to have been replaced, and new brick veneer has been added underneath the windows. The doorway led to the Pioneer Drug Store, which occupied the building originally. Above the plate glass, colored glass fills a clerestory, spelling out the words, "Drugs Young's Stationary", for the store which followed the Pioneer Drug Store. Next to the shop windows on the east, is a

single doorway leading to stairs for the second floor offices. An arched transom lights the entry vestibule.

A brick arch carried on brick capitals accents the entry. Above the arches is a brick label mold, which adds further emphasis of the door. A brick string separates the first and second floor fenestrations. Four double hung windows, each with a fanlight, line the upper floor. Each window is outlined by a brick arch which together, create a steady rhythm for the facade. Above these windows, is a metal cornice, supported by scrolled brackets. What appear to be classical mutules hang between the brackets. A brick parapet with four squat pilasters stands above the metal cornice.

Sources:

- National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form prepared by Dorothy Regnery, Junior League of Palo Alto Inc., March 9, 1977.



**B - 2020 Broadway
Front Elevation**



**B - 2020 Broadway
Window and cornice
details**

Alpha Reference: C**Historic Name:** San Mateo County Building & Loan Association**Address:** 2022-2024 Broadway**Construction Date:** 1928**Parcel#:** 052-374-100

The well-kept San Mateo County Savings and Loan Building is of a type called a two-part commercial block by architectural historian Richard Longstreth. Here, first floor retail space is clearly defined from the more private offices on the second floor. The building has a tidy appearance with classical features, such as its symmetrical elevation, pilasters, capitals, and ornamental bands, that suggested stability and establishment to turn-of-the-century audiences. The building is not a spectacular specimen of early 1900s Neo-Classicism in itself; its facade, however, echoes the rhythms and details of its neighbors. This is seen well at the cornice line, which reflects that of Young's Drug Store next door. The building functions well as a part of a larger ensemble of historic buildings comprising the heart of old Redwood City. This historic core should attract further renovation efforts, and catalyze increased vitality for the central business district.

The building at 2022-2024 Broadway is a two story Neo-Classical commercial block set in the heart of Redwood City's central business district. Central doors and new tinted windows have been added. Four colossal pilasters rising on molded bases demarcate the facade into thirds. These pilasters have simplified Corinthian capitals. The center section possesses two pairs of glazed wood doors and a transom composed of two awning windows. Above the transom a decorative frieze separates the first and second floors. An inscription on the frieze reads, "San Mateo Co. Loan Assoc. Building." Above the frieze are a pair of new awning windows with transoms.

On either side of the central section are pairs of glazed wood doors with awning clerestory windows. Friezes above the transoms are decorated with terra cotta griffins. Single awning windows with transoms illuminate the second floors of both side sections. An elaborate multicolor cornice with circular ornaments, a classical dentil band, molded bases, and many molded layers decorates the parapet of the building.

This was originally the home of the San Mateo County Building and Loan Association, which remained there until the 1960's. The Building and Loan Association was organized in 1890 and one of the safe's they used in the early 1900's is still located in the building.

Sources:

- Historic Landmarks Element of the Redwood City General Plan, City of Redwood City, June 1976.



C - 2022-2024
Broadway
Front Elevation



C - Circa 1948

Alpha Reference: D

Historic Name: Diller-Chamberlain Store

Address: 726 Main Street

Construction Date: 1859

Parcel#: 057-374-140

The Diller Store is a highly significant little structure, the sole remnant of Redwood City's earliest days as a lumber town. Its location suggests the importance Main Street had as Redwood City's main commercial thoroughfare, and its west side faced Redwood Creek, which was a waterway important for floating redwood logs to the San Francisco Bay. The building's scale and straightforward composition of classical forms offer great visual interest. So, too, do such details as the cast iron shutters of the rear facade. The Diller Store resembles simple, classical, false-fronted commercial buildings in the Mother Lode Country.

From 1875 to 1911 the store served as the Wells Fargo Express Agency. The actual business was owned and operated by a series of individuals and companies. Not until November 1887 did P.P. Chamberlain purchase the building from the Diller estate. After 1882, Chamberlain as County Treasurer kept the County's funds in a 6,500 pound iron safe owned by the County in the rear of the store. Chamberlain added a sidewalk veranda to the store in June 1887.

The store was little damaged by the 1906 earthquake. A portion of the south parapet snapped off, leaving the flat roof exposed. When the bricks were replaced the exterior was cleaned, and the trim was repainted. The store closed its mercantile business in 1916. During World War I the building served as a classroom for an aviation school. During the 1920's it was a garage. In the 1930's James and Gertrude Quong Lee converted the building into a laundry. The front facade was "modernized" with regular store windows in the front, and the entry was moved to the left. Only the arch and fanlight of the center front remained. The back facade has been less disturbed. In 1950 Gong Yuey purchased the property.

In 1982 the property was purchased by Ken and Get Hom. The building suffered damage in the 1989 earthquake and was subsequently seismically retrofitted. The facade was restored to its original 1859 appearance.

In 1859, J. V. Diller built this flat-roofed one-story building to house his general store. Its walls are of load-bearing brick, designed before modern, seismic, reinforcement methods. The brick walls were painted during the 20th Century, but have since been cleaned. Seismic activity has opened cracks between the bricks, some of which have been epoxied shut. The building has undergone numerous minor alterations to its doors and windows, making it difficult to determine what features are original. The front (east) facade is separated into

thirds by four simple pilasters, and has a symmetrical fenestration. Paired casement windows with round arched upper lights occupy both end sections. In the center, paired doors lead into the building. A fanlight stands above the main entry. A cornice with paired brick dentils exists near the parapet. The center of the parapet rises above the sides, creating a flattened, slightly projecting pediment.

The side (north) facade, facing a vacant lot, features four arched casement windows covered by metal grates. The rear (west) facade is similar to the front. It has a tri-partite division, with round arched casement windows on both ends. Original cast iron shutters cover both of these openings. In the center, is a large entryway edged by thick wood beams. A fanlight stands above the center of this wide doorway. Above this fanlight, is a thick beam with protruding, wrought iron, tie rods.

Sources:

- Natl. Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form prepared by Dorothy Regnery, Junior League of Palo Alto Inc., March 9, 1977



**D - 726 Main Street
Front Elevation**



**D - 726 Main Street
Ghost Sign**



**D - 726 Main Street
Rear View**



D - 1908

Alpha Reference: E

Historic Name: Sequoia Hotel

Address: 800 Main Street

Date Constructed: 1912

Parcel#: 053-233-160

This long, two-part commercial block has a number of classical features, typical of its date of construction, 1912. The openness of the storefronts and the closed nature of the upper apartment floors communicates the functions of each floor. The large number of rooms lining the second and third stories suggests that this was probably Redwood City's largest and most important hotel in the 1910s and 1920s.

The curve of its main corner and the elaborate decoration around the front door give the hotel visual appeal. The architect concentrated most of his attention here in order to provide a good first impression; the upper floors bear little decorative embellishment, except for the cornice at the roofline. The old signage still present adds to the historic character. The Sequoia Hotel, while not architecturally outstanding in itself, combines with its neighbors at 2000 Broadway, 2020 Broadway, 2022-2024 Broadway, and 726 Main Street to create a pleasing, diverse ensemble of historic buildings. This group of historic commercial structures distinguishes Redwood City's downtown from those of most neighboring cities on the San Francisco Peninsula.

The southwest corner of the Broadway and Main Intersection has been known since early 1854 as the Eureka Corner, so named for Redwood City's first hotel-the Eureka House- which was built there in 1854 to accommodate the teamsters who came down from the hills with their lumber.

In 1854, townsmen met in the dining room of the Eureka House to form a town government. During the Civil War, the Eureka House served as headquarters for the Jefferson Calvary, Redwood City's unit. A livery stable next door served as the armory for the cavalry unit until 1866. The old hotel building was purchased in 1870 by Govert Plump who established the Eureka Brewery, which operated there as a brewery and as a store until 1889. The old building was not torn down until June 1912, so construction could begin on the Sequoia Hotel.

This prime corner property, located in the heart of the financial and commercial district of the town, was purchased in 1912 by a corporation made up of local investors. A real estate company manager, two bankers, several lawyers, two judges, a doctor, a lumber magnate and multi-millionaire, a title company owner, and other prominent townsmen were major stockholders.

In 1912, Redwood City needed a first-class hotel as part of a massive hotel-retail complex. The 1906 earthquake had demolished what had been the best hotel in town. The architectural design of Mitchell and Hodges was selected by the corporation in April, 1912. Hodges had designed many buildings at nearby Stanford University. Local contractor John McBain was selected to build it. He started construction in September, 1912 and completed it on March 15, 1913. The cost exceeded \$100,000- quite an expenditure in those times. A gala opening celebration was held on April 17, 1913.

The three-story brick hotel was a massive 100 feet by 100 feet, elegantly and expensively furnished to accommodate those men and their families who came to the county seat to conduct business. It also offered suites of rooms as apartments for permanent residences. Every two rooms had a bath with hot and cold running water. Public restrooms were on every floor.

The ground floor lobby led to a dining room and restaurant which served residents, their guests and the public. At least three comfortable parlors where business meetings and social events could be held were on the second and third floors along with the hotel's 60 rooms. In addition to the lobby entrance and the dining room, the bottom floor was cut-up into retail store spaces with frontage on Main Street and on Broadway. The hotel's lobby entrance was at the very corner, facing the bank entrance on the opposite corner.

These two building complexes dominated the heart of the downtown business district for many years. Much of the business of the city and the county was conducted at the bank and at the hotel by the men who were either officers or stockholders of both enterprises, as well as being city and county officers.

P.P. Chamberlain, San Mateo County Treasurer for over 40 years, an officer of the bank, the owner-proprietor of the Diller-Chamberlain Store, and who held many positions in different civic and private enterprises, lived in rooms at the Sequoia Hotel. He died there in 1925.

800 Main Street is a flat-roofed, three story building located at a busy corner in downtown Redwood City. Two long facades front Main Street and Broadway. The corner is rounded like that of the Bank of San Mateo County across the street, but lacks its domed turret. The walls are composed of white painted bricks. Around the main entry in the rounded corner section there are a number of classical details; two Ionic pilasters flank two wooden front doors, a transom is above the paired doors.

Complex moldings line the entryway and a row of rosettes lie just above the transom. Above the doors is a cartouche enframed by a rounded arch. Above this is decorative plasterwork bearing the hotel's date of construction, 1912. To the left is a fire escape leading from two upper windows. On either side of the pilasters are two fixed windows with glass bowed to follow the building's rounded profile. These windows have a single main pane and twelve lights set above.

Along the Main Street and Broadway facades, the first floor street fronts are divided into several spaces for shops. These storefronts generally have large plate glass display windows, with transoms above (some of the transoms have been covered over). A thick cornice molding painted brown separates the first floor from the second and third. The fenestration of these two upper floors consists of a series of identical double-hung wood sash windows. The upper portions of these windows have eight lights. These windows on the higher two floors illuminate guest rooms. Above the third floor series of windows is a large cornice, supported by thick brackets, and ornamented with a large egg and dart band. The upper part of the cornice possesses a curved cove molding. Early signs for the Hotel Sequoia above the main entry and on the roof are still in place.

Sources:

- Richard Schellens Local History Collection. (Family names: Fromm, Businesses, Hotels) Redwood City Democrat, April 10, 1913
- Redwood City Tribune, May 22, 1923
- Redwood City Tribune, Nov. 3, 1964
- Obituary of Mae Fromm (Mrs. A.J. Fromm)



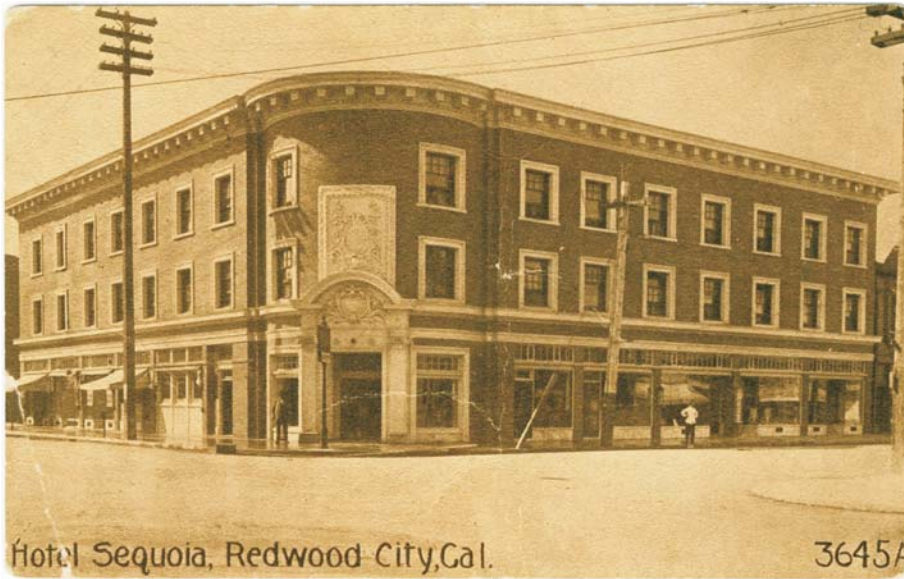
**E - 800 Main Street
Main Street Elevation**



**E - 800 Main Street
Corner View**



**E - 800 Main Street
Broadway Storefronts**



Hotel Sequoia, Redwood City, Cal.

3645A

E - Date Uncertain



Broadway looking west
from Main Street

E - Circa 1965

Alpha Reference: G

Historic Name: Alhambra Theater

Address: 831-835 Main Street

Construction Date: 1895

Parcel#: 053-233-230

This is the third facade for this building, built originally as the Alhambra Theatre in 1895. This first design, an early essay in the California Mission Revival, was by the San Francisco architect A. Page Brown, an important experimenter with the style who was also the architect for the San Francisco Ferry Building. A second, less interesting facade, a stripped classical composition with brick or metal-stamped brick siding replaced the Mission Style front around 1910. Soon after the building was bought by Redwood City's Masonic Lodge No. 168 in the '20s, a third remodeling took place.

This last remodeling unified the Masonic Temple with the I.O.O.F. headquarters next door. It is not as architecturally distinguished as the first, but its Italianate window detailing is pleasing, and is in good repair.

On January 20, 1896, the finest theater building between San Francisco and San Jose was opened here by Charles Josselyn of Woodside. The modern theater, with a seating capacity of 1500 persons, was acclaimed for its "spacious stage and fine dressing rooms for actors and singers." This was the center of social and cultural events in Redwood City until the advent of motion pictures. The opening performance of "Men and Women" was hailed by the San Francisco newspapers. High school and grammar school plays were also presented here.

The theater was dark in 1921 when Redwood City Lodge No. 168 F. & A. M. bought the property for a meeting hall. The Masonic Lodge was instituted as San Mateo Lodge in Redwood City on August 23, 1863, and is the oldest Masonic Lodge on the Peninsula.

The International Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) Building (1895) adjoins the Alhambra Theater to the south. When the Masonic Lodge took over the theater building, the two structures were unified with a common facade. The work of preparing the plans for remodeling the building and converting it into a modern temple was entrusted to J. R. Miller a well-known San Francisco architect. The contractor was Ben Zimmerman.

The commercial building at 831-835 Main Street, now the former home of Redwood City's Masonic Temple, stands three stories tall, and forms half of a symmetrical unified facade with the I.O.O.F. Building next door. A layer of stucco covers the walls and the trim around windows and doors. The roof is flat, with a pent roof added at the top. The pent roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles.

Four pilasters divide up the first floor into three unequal sections. The two pilasters on the outside are wider than the two on the interior. To the left (north), broad plate glass windows flank the recessed entrance. A long clerestory window allows added light to illuminate the interior.

The second section, next door to the right, has a shorter street frontage and a smaller display window. To the far right (south), are paired doors for entry to the upstairs, which formally housed the Masonic Temple. Above these doors is a transom window with the Masonic symbol set in the pattern of leaded mullions.

The fenestrations of the second and third floors are compositionally unified, forming large Italianate windows. Typical of Italianate styling is the pairing of arched windows and the placement of a circular ornament atop the adjoining arches. Each single arched window is outlined with surrounds, and each pair of double-hung windows is also outlined by a larger arched surround. All spandrel details are picked out in contrasting paint. Three pairs of double-hung windows, each with six over six lights, stretch across the second level. Two small double-hung windows, with one over one lights, flank the outer window pairs of the second floor. Beyond these small windows, quoins trim the edges of the facade. On the third level, three pairs of double-hung windows resemble those below, except that they are arched. Below the pent roof is a line of swags. Dentils and modillions can be seen beneath the pent roof.

Sources:

- RWC Democrat 8/29/1895; Century 67,
- RWC Historic Trails, RWC Centennial Comm. 1967; Historic Landmark Element of the General Plan.



**G - 831-835 Main Street
Front Elevation**

Alpha Reference: H

Historic Name: IOOF Hall

Address: 839 Main Street

Construction Date: 1895

Parcel #: 053-233-130

To the right of 831-835 Main Street is the 1895 I.O.O.F building. The I.O.O.F used the upstairs as their lodge hall and leased out the bottom retail store area. Between 1906 and 1910 while the County courthouse was being reconstructed following the earthquake, the IOOF hall was used during the day as San Mateo County's courtroom with Judge George Buck presiding. In 1921, after the Masons purchased the building next door, a common facade of Italianate style was designed by architect J. R. Miller to unify the two old historic buildings. As 839 Main Street shares a common facade with 831 -835 Main Street, see 831-835 Main Street for a detailed architectural description, the most notable exception being the raised lettering which spells out "IOOF Building" in the center of upper frieze.

Sources:

- The Early Courts of San Mateo County, published in 1986, authored John G. Edmunds. Historic Landmark Element of the General Plan
- Century 67, RWC Historic Trails, RWC Centennial Comm. 1967



H - 839 Main Street
Front Elevation

Alpha Reference: I

Historic Name: Clifton Motor Co., The Chevrolet Agency

Address: 847-849 Main Street

Date Constructed: 1922

Parcel #: 053-233-120

This is a single story one part commercial block as defined by Richard Longstreth in his book, *The Buildings of Main Street*, (1987), pp. 54-67. It is one of the most elemental commercial building types distinctive of "Main Street," with origins that can be traced back to the 18th century. This is an excellent example of the style which developed in the nineteen- teens or twenties, with its original shop fronts preserved. This in itself is significant since storefronts were so often altered with changing tastes. The block also lent an economic continuity and beauty to the rapidly expanding downtown streetscape.

Originally the site of the old Pioneer Stables, Redwood's oldest operating stable, William J. Dusel bought the property in 1922. Dusel, a real-estate man from New Jersey, had been in Redwood City less than a year, but he jumped right into politics and community affairs. He received appointment as Redwood City Postmaster; was president of the Redwood City District Real Estate Board, VP of the Redwood City Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Kiwanis and other business and fraternal organizations. He became a City Councilman in 1929 and was Mayor for a time.

The Pioneer Stable lot on Main St. had been unoccupied since the stable closed in 1910 and was empty until William Dusel came to Redwood City looking for real estate development opportunities. The Stafford family had owned the property for many years and, when the widow Emeline Stafford died in 1914, the bank bought the property for the balance owed on the mortgage (\$5,980).

No doubt Dusel watched Gus Waller build the new brick building on the old Seal's Livery Stable site on lower Main, about a block away. It was designed to be the new home for Dave Flynn's Ford automobile sale salon and automotive repair shop. New Ford sales were in the front on Main; the repair shop was in the rear, off Maple. Seizing an opportunity, in April 1922 Dusel bought the Pioneer Stable lot and arranged a lease with Guy Clifton, the Chevrolet agent.

The Pioneer Stable property was similar to the Seal's Stable property. Both had frontage on Main Street for pedestrian foot traffic; this was ideal to show off new automobiles inside spacious showrooms. And both properties had deep lots which extended to side streets for rear entrances. The Seal's lot extended to Maple Street where Dave Flynn had his repair shop with a Maple Street entrance. Pioneer Livery's lot extended to Walnut Street, which allowed for an auto repair shop to be built behind the new Chevrolet showroom.

Dusel began building his Dusel Building for Guy Clifton in 1922. It was finished by November, and Clifton moved his new Chevrolets inside. The following year, 1923, Dusel Built a 75x100 galvanized iron building to the rear of the sales room building, specifically to be the auto repair shop and tire sales store. It had its entrance on Walnut Street where autos waiting to be repaired could be parked. In March, 1924 the new car sales room was remodeled. The walls were hand painted with scenes from Yosemite, to be used as a backdrop to show off the new Chevrolet touring car. Mr. Doxsee, a local painter who had his business nearby, did the murals. The show rooms were remodeled to accommodate another automobile; the first Rickenbacker automobile which went on display in Redwood City in May 1924. Eddie Rickenbacker had landed at the RC Airport in May 1921, and had toured Redwood City. In 1925 Clifton sold out, but the business continued to operate as an auto sales and service business. From 1929 to 1930 it was the Fowler-Nash Motor Co., but they leased only 1/3 of the building. One third sat vacant and the other 1/3 was occupied by Leach Furniture Co. Thus, in about 1929 the building became a typical three-business building using three separate entrances, which is how it remains today.

Many different tenants have occupied this building. Most memorable to RC residents is probably Redwood Auto Supply. This firm occupied the center store (849 Main) for over 40 years (1939-early 1980s). For about 13 years, from 1953 to about 1966, the store on the left (847 Main) was the carpet outlet for Union Furniture Company, which operated next door in the bottom floor of the I.O.O.F. Building. The galvanized building behind these stores was used as a carpet warehouse for Union during these years. In 1976 Sequoia Auto Parts occupied this section of the building as an "annex" to their store on lower Main Street. The third store area in this building (851 Main) was a liquor store from approximately 1946 to 1963.

This single story commercial block is divided into three identical shop fronts, each having large display windows set above a wood base with panels, a continuous overhead transom and canted inset entries leading to double glass and panel doors with transoms. There is a fanciful play of historical references in the decorative details; a classical cornice, with alternating heraldic shields and shell motifs and a bed molding of egg-and-dart, is crowned by a plain parapet, which unites the block. Roll moldings, some with rosettes, appear along the wall and window edges, embellishing and articulating the block's distinct parts.

Sources:

- Richard Schellens Collection (Bus., families, real estate) Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps 1907, 1919
- RC City Directories
- Main Street to Miracle Mile, by Chester H. Liebs



I - 847-849 Main Street
Front Elevation

Alpha Reference: M

Historic Name: William P. Jamieson Building

Address: 901 Main Street

Construction Date: 1910

Parcel #: 053-135-010

901 Main Street is a two-floor building, which fronts on both Main and Stambaugh Streets. It has a flat roof with a pent roof below its parapet. Grey clay tiles cover this pent roof. Walls of much of the building are clad in plum-colored stucco. Trim is cream-colored, green and gold. The building has been remodeled recently and features new window sash, paint, roof tiles, and awnings. Cream-colored pilaster strips (some of which are paired) divide the Main Street facade into two storefronts. The storefront to the left (north) is larger. Large plate glass windows flank paired glass doors, which are recessed. (These doors have a transom.) Below the plate glass shop windows is a black ceramic scuff plate in good condition. A leaded glass clerestory stands above the plate glass windows. Some of the clerestory lights have turned purple due to exposure to sunlight. To the right (south) the other storefront has a single plate glass window and a smaller clerestory. Its entry door is also glass with an awning-covered transom. A cornice, featuring a large dentil band and small egg-and-dart strip, separates the first from the second floor. An odd projection from this cornice, perhaps once accommodating a balcony or bay window, juts out from the middle of the facade.

Two large bay windows dominate the second floor of the Main Street facade. One to the north on the corner is square and possesses paired double-hung windows with smaller double-hung models on its lateral sides. Three more double-hung windows separate this square bay from a canted bay to the south. This canted projection has three double-hung openings. An elaborate series of egg-and-dart and other ornamental bands decorate the uppermost cornice, just below the pent roof. The square coffers of the pent roof's soffit have been painted in multiple colors. The Stambaugh Street facade displays a series of mostly paired pilasters, which divide up the first floor. A plate glass window wraps around from Main Street on the west. Two pairs of doors stand in the center of the first floor; two single doors stand to the east. Farthest east is a door with a transom and segmental arch. This door occupies part of a small brick and wood extension of the building, which protrudes at the rear. Above these first floor doors, is a band of clerestory windows, with some lights more purple than others. Again, a dentilated cornice separates first and second floors. Three bay windows distinguish the upper floor of this facade. Two bays are canted with three large double-hung windows; these canted bay windows are separated by smaller double-hung openings. The square bay wraps around the corner and is visible from Main and Stambaugh Streets.

William P. Jamieson, a plumber and a sheet metal man, hired local architect Le Baron Olive to design a two-story commercial building which would have two

stories on the lower floor and living quarters and offices above. The corner store occupied about 2/3 of the lower floor space. Elmore Hinman operated Redwood Groceteria here between 1920-1932, which was the town's first self-service market. Redwood Pharmacy was here from 1939-1962. Holmquist Hardware moved here in 1963 after their store burned down across the street. From 1910-1919 Jamieson had his plumbing store in the smaller shop, then he moved into the small brick building behind this one. The first tenant in the upper floor corner office space was Robert Brown a local carpenter-contractor.

Like many stores of the time, 901 Main Street, mixes simplified classical features (pilasters and cornices, for example) with a standard, two-floor, commercial layout, dating back to the nineteenth-century. Many commercial buildings along the main streets of small towns featured first floor shop fronts with broad expanses of plate glass and clerestories to allow more sunlight into rooms. Second floors often had bay windows to add space and light to upstairs offices or apartments. The use of clerestories and bay windows was especially important before the advent of electric lighting. The building has an irregular, additive sort of composition, that suggests the architect may have recombined decorative and plan details drawn from architectural pattern books. 901 Main Street is one of the few commercial buildings along Main Street to retain its bays, and stands as a nice remnant from the pre-World War I phase of Redwood City's history. It offers richness to a chronologically diverse downtown streetscape.

Sources:

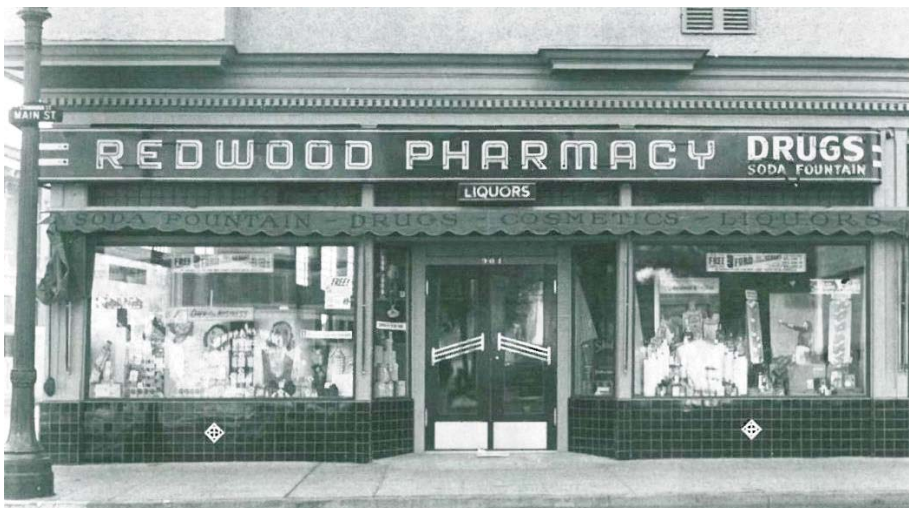
- City Directories of Redwood City, 1907-1976
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps 1897, 1907, 1919
- Richard Schellens Collection, Redwood City Library Local History Room
- San Mateo County Deeds, Vol. 131, pp. 305-306; Vol. 137 p. 216
- Photographs of Main Street, Redwood City, Archives Collection, Redwood City Library Local History Room
- Manuscript: "The Hinman Family" by Barry Hinman
- 1985 Oral History Interview with Loren Holmquist Crockett and Emma Dupont Holmquist
- Photographs of Main Street, Redwood City Library Local History Room



**M - 901 Main Street
Corner View**



M - 1915



M - Circa 1940s

Alpha Reference: O

Historic Name: None

Address: 917-921 Main Street

Construction Date: circa 1925

Parcel #: 053-135-120

This is a variation of the 847-849 Main one part commercial block, albeit in a pseudo-Gothic mode. The building is symmetrically divided into two identical shops whose fronts consist of large display windows with canted inset entries and expansive overhead transoms. The crowning parapet is broken into panels, the center ones having a quatrefoil plaque, articulated by moulded string courses. These are set between three buttress-like wall piers, which rhythmically order and unite the block with torches or finials of acanthus leaves punctuating the divisions of the bays.

This one part commercial block, a type defined by Richard Longstreth in *The Buildings of Main Street*, (1987), shows the distillation of the 'full-blown' Gothic mode from its more familiar presence on skyscrapers and larger commercial structures in major urban centers to a more elemental adaptation in the growing suburban downtown areas of the 1920s. Unlike its neighbor at 847-849 Main, its entries have been altered. Throughout the years, since it was constructed, there have been many different tenants in this building.

Sources:

- City Directories of Redwood City 1909-1950
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Redwood City 1900-1950



O - 917-921 Main Street
Front Elevation

Alpha Reference: P

Historic Name: Young's Auto Parts

Address: 929 Main Street

Construction Date: 1922

Parcel #: 053-135-260

929 Main Street is a one-story brick building with large plate glass windows, which houses a large auto parts store. The building has a flat roof with parapet. The parapet has a thin concrete coping at its top. Above the main display windows the bricks are laid vertically. 929 Main St. was originally divided into two equally sized stores, although the two storefronts always formed a continuous facade with unbroken brickwork and concrete foundations. Just below the parapet is a sign stretching the facade's width. Below the sign is an egg-and-dart band in concrete. On either end below this egg-and dart band, are two concrete squares within which are molded rosettes.

The store is divided into two parts, each with symmetrical fenestration. The store on the left has paired entry doors with large single lights. A transom window is now covered by a plywood sign hanging above both doors. On either side of the doors, large plate glass windows are located. Above these door and window openings a long transom is covered up by a plywood sign. The original store on the right has a fenestration identical to the left except that the paired doors have metal sash rather than wood. Also, a louver window acts as a transom above the paired doors. As on the left above these entry doors and display windows, a long transom has been covered over by a plywood sign.

This single story commercial block is one of many that lines Redwood City's Main St. The store continues to serve the auto trade; this portion of Main St. near Middlefield Rd. had many auto related businesses at one time. The structure is a good example of a One Story Commercial Block. This term was developed by the architectural historian, Richard Longstreth, in his book, *The Buildings of Main Street*, (Washington, D.C.: 1987). It describes the varied, one-story, glass-fronted buildings built along the linear main streets of many small and medium-sized American cities. These buildings were inexpensive to construct, and as the city grew these one-story structures were replaced by more profitable multi-story stores and offices. Redwood City's downtown did not burgeon in size (on the scale of San Jose, for example), and, therefore, is still fortunate to have a number of these humanely scaled one-story storefronts.

Originally the site of Beal's Livery Stable, which dated back to the 1870s, these two lots on Main Street were purchased by Ross & Ross Attorneys (George C. Ross and his sons Hall C. and Lee T. Ross). Together the lots had 97' of frontage on Main.

In 1921 Ross & Ross had local builder Gus Waller construct an automobile garage on one of the lots (D.M. Flynn's Ford Agency), and on the other lot, they had Gus Waller build a retail store with two entrances for their tenant the Sunshine Grocery Store Chain. Waller began construction in February 1922 and the store opened in June 1922.

Known as "The Better Chain Store" Sunshine Grocery Co. had six stores from San Mateo to Mountain View. The chain store concept was a pretty new one. This building was to be their 'showplace'. It would have the most modern equipment and was very unique in that it was 'department-ized'... it had a meat market and delicatessen (you entered a separate door), plus canned goods and dry goods, a bakery, and a fruit and vegetable stand. All this was in one store, with two entrances. Their main warehouse was at the end of Main Street, next to the creek. Another unique feature, which the store advertised, was a ladies restroom (an almost unheard of feature downtown).

In 1927 Sunshine Grocery sold out its entire chain of groceries, including the Redwood City store, to Purity Stores, Inc. According to the newspapers, it was strictly a cash sale, the largest business transaction to date (1927) in the history of the Peninsula.

The store then became a Purity Market, the first location in Redwood City. Purity ran this store from 1927-1946, when the new building they were constructing across the street, since demolished, was ready to open. After Purity moved out, a new tenant was obtained.

In 1946-47, E.W. Young opened up his auto parts store in the left side of the building and shared the other half with an automotive machine shop. For all these years since, Young Auto Parts and a machine shop have operated in the old grocery store built by Gus Waller in 1922.

Worth noting: The 'chain store' concept of having meat, produce, dry goods, and canned goods all in one store revolutionized the grocery business. Previously, the shopper went to different store locations: to the butcher, to the produce stand, etc.

Sources:

- Richard Schellens Collection, Redwood City Library Local History Room
- Redwood City Directories, 1920-1973
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: 1891, 1919, 1945
- *Main Street to Miracle Mile*, by Chester H. Liebs.
- Redwood City Tribune, May 2, 1923
- Redwood City Standard, various issues in 1922



P - 929 Main Street
Front Elevation

Alpha Reference: Q

Historic Name: Flynn's Ford Agency

Address: 935 Main Street

Construction Date: 1920

Parcel #: 053-135-270

935 Main Street is a one-story building with a flat roof and shaped parapet. Just below the parapet is a concrete course, and just under this course are the remnants of a metal egg-and-dart band, which once stretched the length of the facade. Red brick walls laid in Flemish bond supports the building.

The designer of 935 Main St. divided the facade into three large openings. The center was originally occupied by a garage door, and is now the main doorway. On either side of this central opening are two equally sized windows with a fixed wooden sash. These windows are divided into a large central light flanked by two sidelights. Transoms composed of two, five, and two lights lie above these tripartite windows. Above the three main openings of the facade are concrete lintels; these lintels have another smaller rectangle incised within them. Just above the lintels on either end are small concrete squares into which a diamond pattern of tiles is inset.

These two lots on Main Street were originally the site of Beal's Livery Stable. The right hand lot was deep, with room for corrals and a rear entrance on Maple Street. Together the two lots had 97' frontage on Main.

After the stable, the lots were purchased by Ross & Ross Attorneys at Law, Redwood City (George C. Ross and his sons Hall C. and Lee T. Ross). The first lot to be developed was the right-hand lot, which ran into Maple Street. They had Gus Waller construct a combination new automobile showroom salon and auto repair garage for their tenant, David M. Flynn.

This building, until recently Popik's Furniture Company's showroom, began service as a Ford dealership and an automotive garage. The interior possesses large wooden trusses, exposed brick walls, and skylights, which suggest the building's past as a utilitarian workspace. The structure was located strategically near the intersection of Main St. and Middlefield Rd., which during the 1920s-50s experienced a high volume of auto traffic. Numerous garages and gas stations served these passing motorists, and a number can still be observed in the vicinity. Take, for example, 1101 Main St., a former auto showroom done in the Gothic style. 935 Main St. conforms neatly to what architectural historian Richard Longstreth has termed the "One-Story Commercial Block" in his book, *The Buildings of Main Street*, (Washington D.C.: 1987 pages 54-67). A key feature of the One-Story Commercial Block were its large plate glass windows, which invited passers-by on Main Streets to stop, browse, and enter.

The building was designed in the front on Main Street to have three bays. In the center bay was a double door entrance to allow for new automobiles to be brought into the front room display area. On either side of the entry doors were large glass display windows, so passersby could see and admire new automobiles.

In the rear were double door garage doors, too, designed to allow rear access from Maple Street for customers needing repairs. Just as the rear was used for the horse corral, the autos awaiting repairs could be "corralled" out back, since there was little parking on Main Street. (In 1920, Redwood City was still pretty much a horse-and-wagon town, but they were fast disappearing.) The front entrance doors were also tall and wide enough for tractors, since Dave Flynn also sold Ford tractors.

Dave Flynn was not the first agent for Ford Motor Co.; he was the third. Between 1913 and August 1916, two men operated as Ford agents. Dave Flynn apparently had a better idea. Ford selected him as their South San Mateo County agent in August 1916. His territory covered Belmont, San Carlos, Redwood City, Woodside, Portola, and Atherton. For awhile he operated out of a leased store on the corner of Broadway and Washington, but maps show that there was not much room to park cars, or display or work on them inside. By 1920 he was also the local representative for Good Year tires. Certainly as his business increased, he needed larger and more suitable space. The site of Beal's long, empty lot on Main Street probably answered every need.

Dave's brothers Dan and Thomas had operated various stables in Redwood City and one in Palo Alto. All of those stables faced on a Main Street with rear access from another street. No doubt this family knowledge was used to design this building, which is the first building in Redwood City designed specifically to be an automobile showroom, with repairs and service in the rear.

In January 1926 Dave Flynn sold his Ford agency dealership, the garage and repair shop, and the parts-accessory business to Frank K. Towne, a local banker. Towne Ford Motor Company began its operation in this building. In January 1992 they will celebrate 66 years as being the only local Ford dealership.

In 1930 Towne Motor Company moved to a different location. In 1931-32 B.P. Arata opened a feed and fuel business, selling coal, chicken feed, and other feed and fuel items. In 1934 the Garden City Products Co. took over Arata and continued operating through World War II. They also sold bedding plants, garden supplies, and nursery stock. In 1950 they closed up and the store was vacant until 1955-56 when the Peninsula Trading Post (a second-hand store) moved in. Uke Popik and his family had operated a second-hand furniture store at a different location on Main Street. Their move to Flynn's old automobile showroom and garage offered easier rear access from Maple Street for their large furniture.

Sources:

- Richard Schellens Collection (Businesses, families, real estate), Redwood City
- Library Local History Room
- Sanborn fire insurance maps, 1894, 1987, 1919
- Redwood City Directories
- "From Main Street to Miracle Mile" by Chester H. Liebs



**Q - 935 Main Street
Corner View**

Alpha Reference: U

Historic Name: None

Address: 114 Stambaugh Street

Construction Date: Circa 1919

Parcel #: 053-135-020

114 Stambaugh is a one-story commercial structure, located just off the Main Street business district. The building is flat-roofed and has a shaped parapet, which rises gently in the center. It is constructed of brick, which on the Stambaugh Street facade has been painted red. The builder arranged an asymmetrical fenestration. A pair of garage doors each with six-light windows occupies the center. To the left are two six-light windows with fixed sash. A door stands to the left of this pair of windows. To the right of the central garage doors is a large fixed sash window. Segmental brick arches top all of these doors and windows; the windows also have brick sills. On the building's southeast facade a door and six-light window with fixed-sash exist. Segmental arches cover both of these openings.

114 Stambaugh Street has seen previous uses as both a grocery store and pharmacy. The Holmquist Hardware Company occupied the structure from the early '60s to 1976. Currently, the structure appears to be used as storage facility. It is an unpretentious example of what the architectural historian Richard Longstreth has termed a "One-Park Commercial Block" in his book, *The Buildings of Main Street*, (Washington, D.C.: 1987). (See pages 54-67.) The One-Part Commercial Block is an inexpensive one-story high building often with a flat roof and a facade of large plate glass windows. This one-story commercial type lined the bustling main streets of small towns and suburbs across the United States from the mid-nineteenth century until the present day. 114 Stambaugh Street appears to be in its original condition and in a reasonably good state of repair. William P. Jamieson, a plumber and sheet metal man, used this building starting in 1919. Doxsee, the painter, then used it. The sign referring to 1895 is misleading; Holmquist Hardware started in 1895, but it was across the street until 1963.

Sources:

- City Directories of Redwood City, 1907-1976
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Map 1919
- Richard Schellens Collection, Redwood City Library Local History Room



**U - 114 Stambaugh St.
Front Elevation**

Alpha Reference: V

Historic Name: Foresters of America Lodge Hall

Address: 1204 Middlefield Road

Construction Date: 1913

Parcel #: 053-142-080

This two-story Neo-classical block houses a fraternal organization and is located in an area of low-rise commercial structures. The building composes a unified rectangular mass, and its fenestration is even and symmetrical. It looks to have a fireproof steel or reinforced concrete frame, which has been expressed in the projecting piers and crossbeams outlining the facade. The exterior has a rough uneven texture suggesting that the builder might have sprayed on its concrete finish. The roof is flat and is lined with a parapet. Seen from Middlefield Road, the front facade is divided into three portions. Most prominent is a slightly projecting central bay. On the first floor, flanking the paired doors of the main entrance, are two Tuscan columns raised on plinths. The columns support an entablature decorated with triglyphs and mutules. The entablature also has a projecting cornice. On the second floor are two pairs of florid Ionic columns on plinths, which flank a pair of doors. Above the doors are a transom window and a fanlight.

Tuscan pilasters trim this arched opening. As on the first floor, the ionic columns support an elaborate entablature with its triglyphs and pronounced cornice. A dentil band runs the length of the entablature. Above the second story in the center along the parapet, is a symmetrical collection of forms crowned by a triangular pediment. On either side of this central bay is a symmetrical array of double-hung windows. Each of these windows has a hood held in place by carved brackets. One window on the first floor to the right has double-hung sash with twelve-lights. The corresponding window on the left is blind. On the second, are larger twenty light windows also with double-hung sash. These windows also display five-light transoms. Seen from Maple Street, the northwest facade is articulated by its structural framing elements into three parts. A triangular pediment crowns the central part. Six, metal, fixed-sash windows of identical size line both floors. These windows appear to have replaced earlier wood-sash models. An additional three-light window to the left breaks the symmetry of the first floor's fenestration.

The Foresters of America built their lodge at 1204 Middlefield Road in the new, fashionable, Neo-classical style used for important public and commercial buildings across the United States. Its dignified styling lent stature to the proceedings of this fraternal organization. The lodge has a number of correct classical details and is a nice example of the style for a building of its size and context. (Few other Neo-classical commercial or institutional buildings survive in the neighborhood.) Its condition appears sound and original. This may be an early example of steel frame or reinforced concrete construction in Redwood

City. The San Mateo County Courthouse's dome, built in 1904, is of steel frame construction, and the Forester's Lodge may have been erected shortly thereafter in 1913. The building's frank expression of its internal structure on the exterior was progressive for the period.

The Redwood City chapter of the Foresters of America was founded in September 1897; it was called Court Madrone No. 158. They didn't have a permanent home until they built the "American Foresters Hall" in 1913. In May 1909 they approved the building plans presented by local Redwood City architect LeBaron Olive. Local builders Donnelly and Waller submitted the winning bid of \$12,564. Initial construction began June 12, 1913. Not only did the new two-story building accommodate the Foresters growing membership, it was designed to serve the entire town as a social, fraternal, and civic center for many groups. The second floor was specifically designed as a meeting place for fraternal lodges and "secret" societies. The large entry doors had their "peep" holes for monitoring those who sought admittance into the main meeting chamber.

With the successes of the dances, dinners, card parties, and other events, the Hall became the social and civic center of the County seat. Schools also used the hall for their events. Sequoia High School held proms here during the teens and 20s.

During World War I, the Foresters opened up the hall to the soldiers from Camp Fremont, which was located in Menlo Park. Home-style dinners, dances, and other social activities were held for the boys who were bussed in from Menlo Park. Not only did this help the soldiers' morale, it helped the communities as it provided a "USO" type environment. Many community traditions began at Foresters Hall, such as the Annual Thanksgiving Masquerade Ball.

During the Depression years of the 1930s many benefits were needed and the hall's kitchens were always busy.

During the Big Band Years of the late 1930s and 40s, traveling bands played in the hall and the dance floor jumped. It was the most popular place in town for the young and for teenagers, as well as for their parents. Starting in the late 1950s and continuing on into the 1960s, the community use of the Foresters Hall began to decline.

Sources:

- Interview John Clarkin, Secretary of Foresters
- Minutes of Foresters of America Lodge Meetings
- Richard Schellens Local History Collection at the Redwood City Public Library



V - 1204 Middlefield Rd.
Corner View



V -1913

Alpha Reference: W

Historic Name: Dessin Bros. – Barnbauer Motors

Address: 1101 Main Street

Construction Date: 1931

Parcel #: 053-142-040

This is a further variation of the single-story one part commercial block, albeit set on a corner and originally intended as a car showroom. The building angles along a full block fronting three intersecting streets. Its main entry is canted to confront the juncture of the three streets at the top of the block (which it divides into a short and long arm). The building is further divided into a series of large bays with expansive display windows and transoms set within polygonal arches (disguising the industrial mushroom columns and steel beams) with a trefoil motif in the spandrels. Above, a decorative brick parapet with moulded cap is subdivided into unequal tripartite panels, each circumscribed by a roll moulding. The panels carry devices, shields in the smaller ones flanking a large circular cusped ornament in the center. The pattern is repeated for each bay, save that a quatrefoil motif appears in the central panel of every other bay. The Gothic intimations are fully evident in the entrance portal: here, the bay is disguised as a polished stone veneer with columns reminiscent of compound piers, a vine and grape motif fills the spandrels of the polygonal arch and decorative blind cusped arches flank the empty center panel of the parapet above. An alternating pattern of rosettes and blind cusped arches line the intrados of the arch and doorjamb. The interior is still fairly well preserved with a glazed office enclosure with Gothic detailing. The garage bays towards the rear of the block show skylights and reveal more of the internal steel reinforced concrete construction.

The irregular plan of the building and its elaborate Gothic detailing serves deliberately both to take advantage of its site fronting three major downtown streets and to impart an associative richness, luxuriance and artistic quality to the motorcar particularly indicative of car showrooms of the 1920s. In 1924, Main Street was Redwood City's Auto Row. The Dessin Bros. (H.W. and W.J. Dessin) were Burlingame auto dealers. In May 1924 they opened up a Dodge dealership in the Old Bell Theater on Main Street near Stambaugh. That building was too small, so they bought a large lot with 110 ft. frontage on Main, 26 ft. on Heller and 36 ft. on Maple. In 1931 they had a large angular building designed to contain a new Dodge sales salon with display windows, rooms for sales offices, a machine shop, and an auto parts store. The Dessin Bros. operated here through 1935. Later on, this became the Dodge dealership headquarters for Ferris Miles.

Sources:

- City Directories of RC, 1929-1930, 1933, 1935
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Book, 1919-1945
- Richard Schellens Collection, RC Library Local History Room

- Redwood City Tribune, July 17, 1924 Edition
- Redwood City Tribune, various newspaper advertisements 1933-1940
- 1976 oral history interview of Ferris Miles, local long-time Dodge dealer, RC Library
- Local History Room



W - 1101 Main Street
Corner View



W - Circa 1940s

Types of Non-Contributing Structures

Pursuant to the United States Department of the Interior Standards regarding the formation of a Historic District, the following statement describes the type and character of the non-contributing structures within the proposed district boundaries.

There are seven non-contributing properties in the expanded district, which represents 2.13 acres, or 28.4%, of the total area. The eight non-contributing structures in expanded district can be characterized primarily as one- and two-story masonry urban commercial buildings from the mid to late twentieth century. A notable exception to this general characterization would be 1991 Broadway, which is large-footprint 3 story office building. The non-contributing structures have little or no front and side setbacks. Lot coverage is high, in some cases up to 100%. Lots are small; the average lot size is 12,303 square feet and the median is 7,063 square feet.

Photographs of Non-Contributing Structures



F - 1991 Broadway



*J - 855-857 Main Street
K - 863 Main Street*



L - 875 Main Street



N - 909-911 Main Street



R - 999 Main Street



S and T - 1001 Main Street

Historic Landmark Recommendations for Structures Located Within Boundaries of Historic District

The Historic Resources Advisory Committee recommends that three structures located within the proposed expanded historic district be designated as individual historic landmarks as well as being part of the historic district.

The structures are known historically as Clifton Motor Co. located at 847 – 849 Main Street, Flynn's Ford Agency and Garage located at 935 Main Street and Dessin Bros. – Barnbauer Motors located at 1101 Main Street. 847 – 849 Main Street was designed for a Chevrolet dealership. 935 Main Street is the first structure in Redwood City to be designed as a new car showroom salon and auto repair garage. 1101 Main Street was designed to contain a new Dodge sales salon. These three structures exemplify the early-day auto industry in Redwood City having been built in 1922, 1920 and 1931 respectively.

These structures possess special qualities, which qualify them as Redwood City historic landmarks. Detailed historic and architectural descriptions of the three structures are included in this packet.

It is noteworthy that representatives of the State Office of Historic Preservation did a field review of the area and have indicated that 847 – 849 Main Street, 935 Main Street and 1101 Main Street could qualify for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Acknowledgements

The Historic Resources Advisory Committee wishes to thank all who have contributed beyond our current committee for their valuable time and efforts toward the completion of this document.

The designation of a Historic District is one of the most significant actions that a city can take to recognize and protect the irreplaceable resources that have survived the test of time. The visual qualities of the Main Street Historic Commercial District will provide testimony of the rich heritage of this community for future generations.

Ken Rolandelli
Chairman

Jim Gernand
Vice Chairman

Kaia Eakin

Anne Hagan

Jeffery Rhoads

Dan Zack
Staff Liaison

Thursday, April 10, 2014