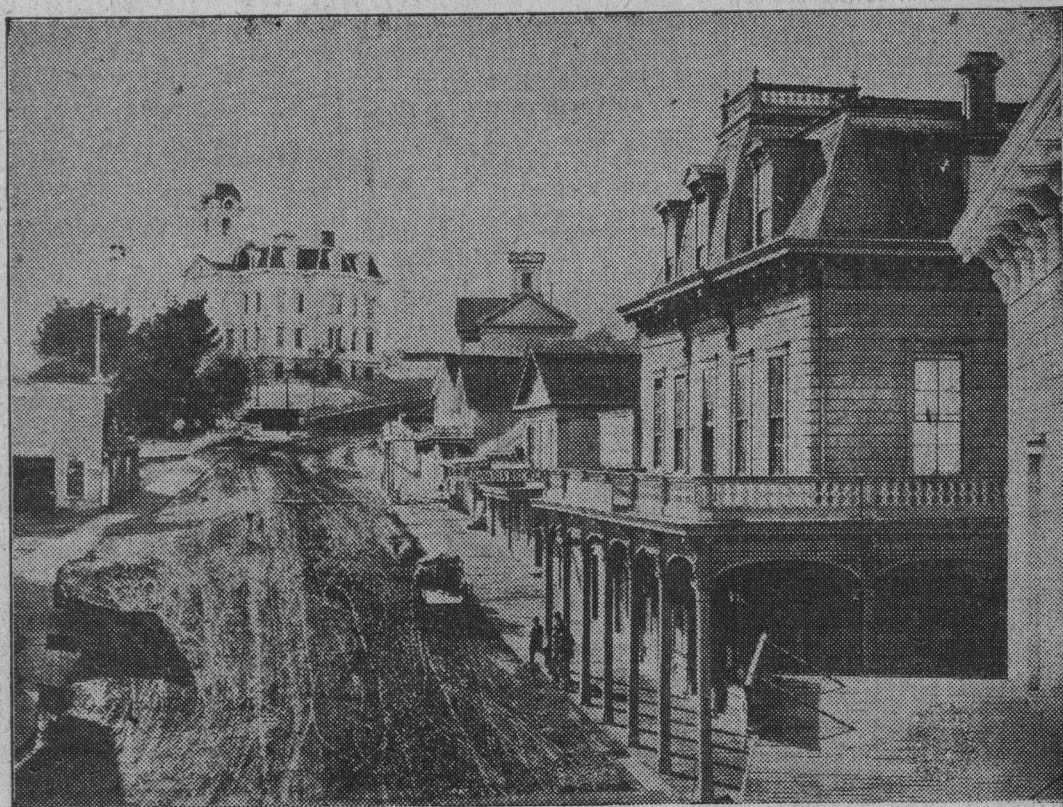


Sawyer, Preston

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# Santa Cruz Yesterdays



LOWER MISSION STREET IN 1892

(From the Preston Sawyer Collection)

A busy and important thoroughfare in 1892 was lower Mission street, with the four story school house, then 16 years old, looming at the top, and the 32 year old Temperance hall almost across the street from it.

In the immediate foreground is the St. Charles hotel. Here had been erected in 1867 by William Anthony a two-story building for a hardware store and tinsmith shop. Its site was one of the first used for a business house in Santa Cruz, having had an earlier building on it which was moved down Pacific avenue.

## St. Charles Hotel

It was turned into a hotel in the 70's by Charles Brown, a Forty-Niner who came from San Francisco in 1862 after selling a lot on Market street for \$60,000. He was then 45 years old and went into the lumber business with Anthony. Brown, who also engaged in the tannery business with R. C. Kirby, added the mansard roof to make the hotel three stories high.

Brown's fortune vanished. He finally died in the county hospital in 1887. His final occupation had been swamper in saloons.

In 1892 the hotel was being operated by Mrs. Ellen Nolan, sister of the several Neary brothers. It burned in 1919.

## Former Diesing Brewery

Back of the St. Charles, up Mission street, is the Bavarian Brewery, erected originally by Otto Diesing in 1866. It had a 1886 building.

purchased by Joe Pepin, who quit as foreman of the copper shops at the powder works to go into business for himself. The building was razed in 1892, which fixes the date of the picture, as Pat Neary's brick building, farther up the street, was erected the same year. The brick building is today occupied by Phil Sousa's Mission laundry. Beyond it is a wooden building which then was Neary's residence.

Across the street, on the corner of Vine, is the blacksmith shop, erected originally by William T. Hunter and in 1892 occupied by John Severio. Hunter's construction of a shop probably had been in 1858, as on that date he ended a year's partnership with Bart Stevens on Front street. Hunter's wife was Kate Imus, one of 13 children who crossed the plains with Hiram Imus in 1850. The Hunters went south in the migration of a dozen Santa Cruz families in the seventies to the Cholame valley in northern San Luis Obispo county. A later building on the site was a saloon constructed by C. Christofanini, which was razed half a dozen years ago to make way for a gas and service station.