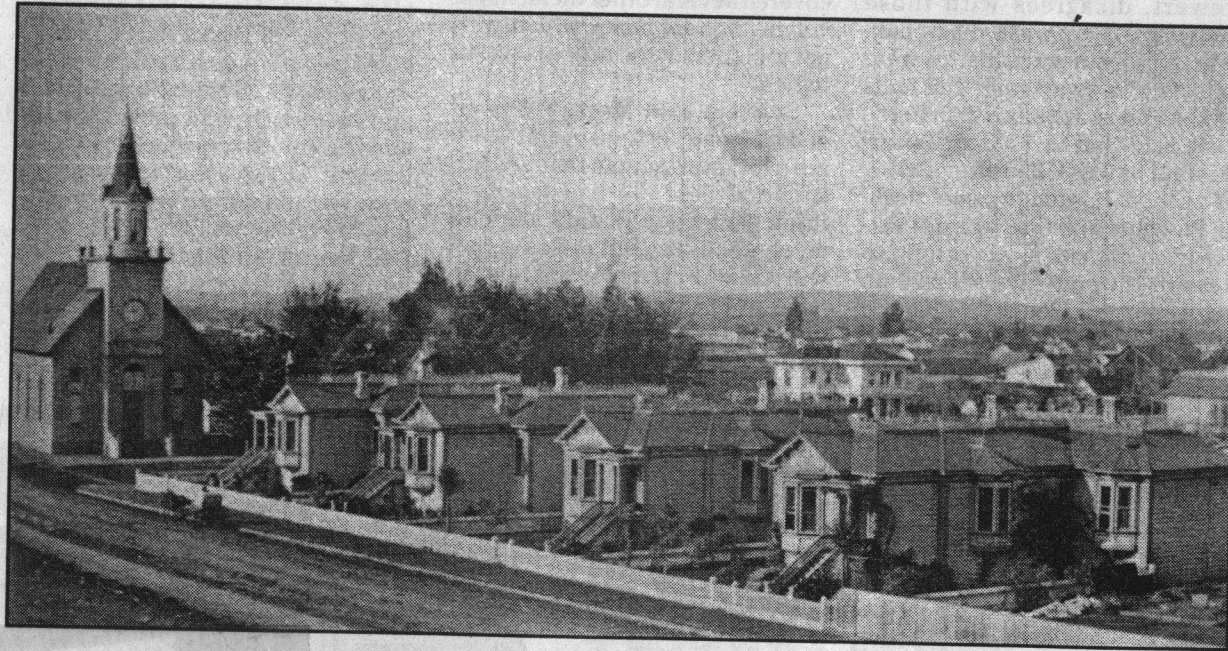


House moving has a long history in the Pajaro Valley

House moving in Watsonville has been prevalent for some time. The most recent has been the Thurwachter house built in 1871 and now, after being completely restored, is called the Inn at Manresa Beach. Their brochure says it was built in 1867 (wrong) and that it was the first house built in the Pajaro Valley (wrong) — still standing are the Carr/Silliman house built in the 1850s; the Waters/Gilman house built in 1861 and the Bockius/Orr house built in 1870, just to name a few.

One of the more controversial moves was the William Grul two-story house at 37 Brennan Street which was purchased by John Scurich. He wanted to move it to 108 High Street but some of the neighbors, in 1956, objected — one saying “the slope of the hill will make the house cast a four-story shadow on his home.” Nevertheless, the house was moved and still stands there today.

In 1957, eight houses were sold and moved on Maple Avenue and Marchant to make room for the new high school buildings — a 12-classroom academic building and a home-making and science building. The 1910 DuCommon house at 243 Maple, designed by William Weeks, was moved to Riverside Road. The James Ingham home, built in 1896 at 517 Main Street, also designed by Weeks, was moved to 22 High Street in 1925 and is now owned by Marvin Byers.



The four Charles Ford cottages built on W. Beach Street.

Following is a partial list of houses that have been moved over the years: Otto Stoesser at 27 W. Beach, built in 1890, moved to 19 Ford Street in 1930s; H.P. Brassel built in 1880 at 21 W. Lake moved to 200 Marchant; Nick Burten at 327 E. Lake, designed by Weeks, moved to 129 Madison; James Cottrell at 568 Main moved to 63 Dolores; George Martin built in 1899, designed by Weeks, moved to Airport Road; James Menasco built in 1884 at 605 Main moved around the corner to 14 W. 5th; Anna & Ella Murphy built in 1910, Weeks architect,

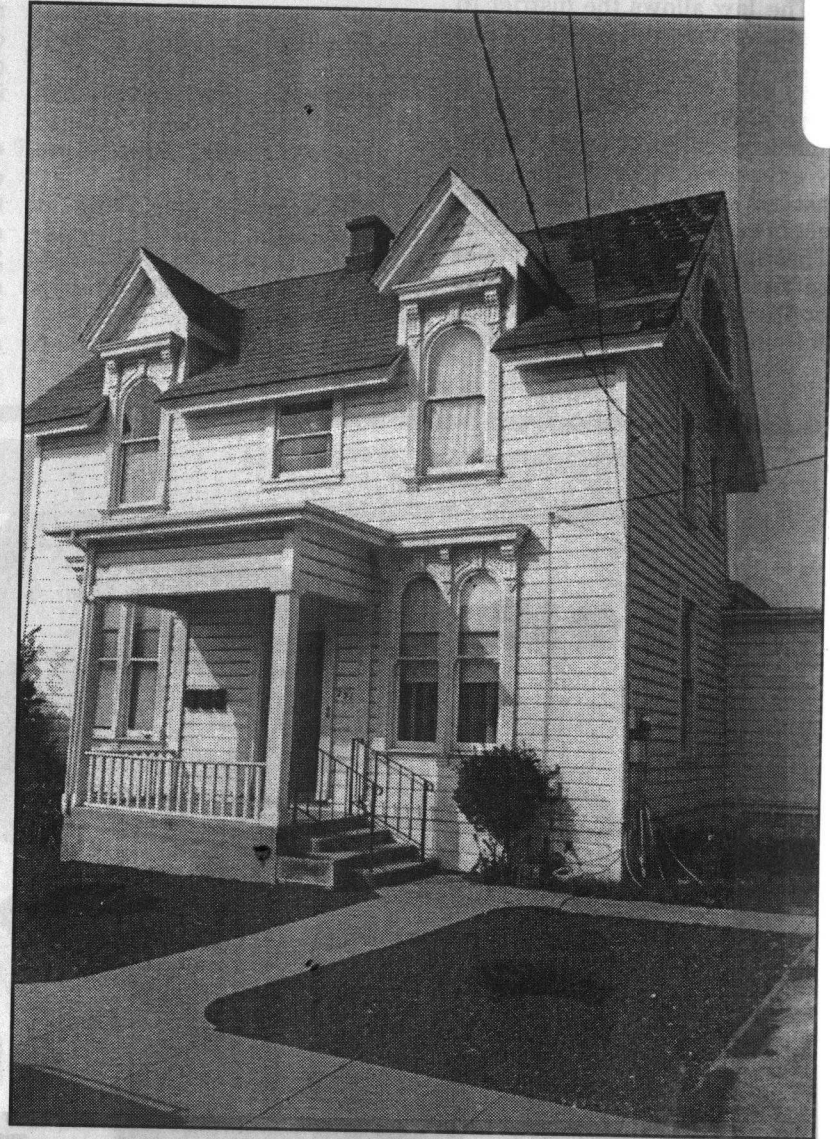
That was Watsonville

moved to 640 E. Fifth; H.F. Blohm at 204 E. Beach in 1901, also designed by Weeks, moved to Marchant; the four Chas. Ford cottages built in 1884 on W. Beach were moved to various locations in town; Martinelli house at 229 E. Beach and built in 1901 was moved to Beck; Annie Nugent built in 1898 at 1211 E. Lake, Weeks architect, was moved in 1993 to Rancho Brazil Lane and the Charles Palmtag house built in 1897 at 22 Front, Weeks architect, was moved in 1913 to 316 E. Beach.

The latest house to be moved is the Palmtag/Muzzio house on Front

Street built in 1872 and designed by Thomas Beck, former State Senator and designer of the Mansion House, in 1871, on Main Street — which was also moved from the corner in 1914.

Watsonville has indeed been fortunate to save many of its historical structures, big and small, by moving them to make way for progress as the town reached out its limits and more commercial buildings were needed for the growing population. If you see an older home in a newer neighborhood, such as the one on Lincoln Street near Palm moved from behind Bank of America, you can almost be certain it was moved from another location.



The home of Judge Holbrook, on the corner of Union and E. Beach Streets, was moved to Center Street.

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