

# Brewington building a fine example of William Weeks' work

"A one-story brick building is in course of construction on the ground formerly occupied by the G.H. Brewington building which was burned while occupied by a cyclery. The foundation of the new building has been laid under direction of contractor Hy Wood, and the work will be finished in about two months." — Evening Pajaronian, September 13, 1906.

This building was to house the A.P. Beck plumbing shop and Andrew Schopp's saloon until 1914 when Brewington and his associates decided to build a new two-story building to be designed by William Weeks. In March of 1914, carpenters began tearing down the old building and the lumber was purchased by Ira Bardness who used it in building another structure on lower Main Street.

"Hotel Main will be modern place — New rooming house in the Brewington building has been finely fitted up. One of the most modern and up-to-date rooming houses in this part of the State is the new Hotel Main in the second story of the new Brewington Block which will be



**Betty Lewis**  
That was Watsonville

opened next week. Everything about the house is first class, comfortable, and pleasant, and it is a credit to the city in every way." — Evening Pajaronian, December 16, 1914. This was later to become the Ames Hotel.

A short-lived movie theater was opened in the Brewington Block in December of 1914. Cork linoleum was laid in the aisles and the main floor could seat 426 while the gallery could hold 42 patrons. Named the New Lyric Theater (the New was later dropped) by operators Rappe & Englehart, the scene of silent movies and vaudeville closed down in January of 1916. The furnishings were sold to the T&D (Appleton, State) Theater.

The building was to become the property of the Kalich family for many years until purchased in 1981 by Robert Jackson, who told of how he planned to renovate the building. In 1984, the following businesses were on the ground floor: Mike's Cyclery, Lazy Day Clothes for men, a chiropractor's office and John's Shoe Store (they moved in 1985).

In 1997, the building was sold to Randy Repass and Sally-Christine Rodgers who are busy restoring it to its former glory. If you drive down Union Street you can see the gutted-out structure being remodeled to house businesses on the ground floor and apartments on the second floor.

Restoration of this 84-year-old building is certainly to be commended and it will be a valuable addition to downtown Watsonville. It is also an example of the prolific architectural work of William Weeks (1864-1936) whose other structures on Main Street include the Resetar Hotel, the plaza bandstand, Porter Building, Mundhenk Building (Taylor's Office Supply), the Holgerson/Schmidt building (La Manzana), Jef-



Courtesy Pajaro Valley Historical Association

The Brewington building is on the left, and the Mansion House with the Lettunich building on the corner.

sen Building, Lettunich Building, the Weeks Block (Goodwill) and the

Harris Building.  
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