

Chronological List of Santa Cruz County Public Schools

By Margaret Koch

[The following article is Appendix B, pp. 171-188, from *Going to School in Santa Cruz County: A History of the County's Public School System* by Margaret Koch. ©1978 Margaret Koch. Used with permission.]

The following list is an attempt to give the reader an idea of the chronology of public schools that have existed within the county's school system since its inception in the 1850s to the present (1978).

The main reference sources used were the school personnel directories published by the County Office of Education every year since 1888. For the years prior to 1888 we had to rely on secondary sources, of which there are very few, and which sometimes did not agree with each other. The problem is compounded by the fact that many of the records prior to the turn of the century have been lost or burned. Many were destroyed when Watsonville High School burned down in 1901.

The personnel directories had some shortcomings as reference materials: the early ones fail to give the names of **individual** schools that existed within the Santa Cruz and Watsonville Districts--the two districts that had more than one school within their boundaries; the early directories also do not give the locations of the schools, and fail to note when a school was moved or rebuilt.

Another problem arises in establishing the exact date that a particular school began. Sometimes many months, or even years, might pass between the establishment of a school district or the passage of a school bond and the actual opening of the school. Sometimes classes were held in homes or churches before the schoolhouse was built. In general, the dates listed here represent the year in which the school opened its doors--the year in which its name first appeared in the directory.

The reader should keep all the foregoing in mind when reading this list, realizing that, although much effort went into insuring its accuracy and completeness, there are bound to be a few errors in it.

DATE	SCHOOL	COMMENT
1857	Mission Hill	First public school house in county. Preceded by classes held in homes and churches. Santa Cruz City School District offices now stand on original site. Moved to King Street in 1931. Now a junior high school.
1859 but see comment	Watsonville Primary	Started in 1853 in Methodist Church South. Then, in 1859-60, located on second floor of home of teacher L. D. Holbrook on E. Lake Ave. Schoolhouse built 1864 on E. Lake Ave. (then Fourth St.). Expanded 1866. In 1909 the building was moved 60 ft. and a new Primary School built on old site. Lasted till 1924.
ca. 1859 1871 became (1965)	Oak Grove Corralitos Bradley)	Name change to Corralitos in 1871. In 1946 Corralitos absorbed Eureka, Hazel Dell, Las Manzanitas, Brown's Valley, Redwood, and Green Valley. In 1965 Corralitos became part of the Pajaro Valley Unified School District, and Bradley School on Corralitos Rd. in Watsonville took the place of the old school.
1860	Branciforte	Part of Santa Cruz City School District. First located on Soquel Ave. present building, on Branciforte, built 1915. (Branciforte Junior High on Poplar built in 1931.)
1859-60 (?)	Pescadero	This was outside the county, on the coast north of Davenport, but at the time was administered by Santa Cruz County.
1861	San Andreas	Corner of Buena Vista and San Andreas. Annexed to Freedom in 1946.
1860 (?)	Soquel	First on west side of N. Porter Dr.; then south of Soquel Dr. near bottom of west hill. On present site since 1865 (?). Present building built 1922, with later additions.
1863	Carlton	Rebuilt 1899. Annexed to Salsipuedes in 1946.
1863 1875 became	San Lorenzo Felton	Rebuilt 1894. In 1946 joined with Ben Lomond and Zayante to become San Lorenzo Union Elementary.
1863 1910-11 became	Union Pleasant Valley	Rebuilt 1910, when name became Pleasant Valley. At Hames Rd. and Pleasant Valley. <i>Closed in 1915 [sic]*</i> , and its students went to Corralitos.
between 1863 and 1865	Grant (or North Santa Cruz)	Part of Santa Cruz City District. Rebuilt 1881, 1914. Closed June, 1966.
1864	Happy Valley	Still in existence as one-school district though building has been rebuilt several times. 3125 Branciforte Dr.
1864	Powder Works	Located where Paradise Park is today. Closed in 1899-1900. Students went to Grant and Mission Hill.
1865 1875 became	El Jaro Seaside	First school on coast near Waddell Creek; second school on Gianone Hill; third school built 1907. (Does not appear in directories between 1900 and 1907.) Suspended July 1962. Students went to Pacific.
1865	Bay View	At Mission and Bay. Three-story building built 1876. Fought battle to avoid incorporation with Santa Cruz City District, but finally lost in 1892. Still in existence.
1865 1875 became	Petroleum Laguna	Annexed to Santa Cruz City District in 1935.
1866	Roache	Various reconstructions--1903, 1929, 1936. Annexed to Freedom 1946. (Named after Mrs. William Roache who taught school in her parlor in Pajaro Valley in early 1860s.)

1867	Aptos	Various reconstructions. Third building became Aptos Hall. Fourth building erected in 1929. The old Valencia School was absorbed into it in 1930, and La Selva in 1941-41. Now Aptos Junior High. Became part of newly formed Pajaro Valley Unified School District in 1965.
1867	Mountain	Reconstruction in 1932. Still going strong as one-school district. On Old San Jose Rd. in Soquel.
1868	Summit	Joint district of Santa Cruz and Santa Clara Counties. Apparently not in session in 1931. Absorbed into Loma Prieta Joint Union District in 1950.
1868	Boulder Creek	Various reconstructions. High school built in 1905 for \$8,245. Bear Creek joined it around 1921, and Sequoia in 1924. Elementary school still exists. Became part of San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District in 1950.
1868	Green Valley	Split off of original Oak Grove District. Second school built 1898-99. Continued until 1946 when it was annexed to Corralitos. Located at 1080 Green Valley Rd., Watsonville.
1868	Railroad	Reconstructed building of 1900 now quarters for field laborers on Silliman Ranch. Annexed to Salsipuedes in 1946.
1868-69	Beach	Ca. 1895 old Watsonville District took it in. Closed in 1903, by order of the District, then re-opened. Ceased operation in 1913 or 1918--record unclear.
1870	Agua Puerca	At Scott Creek in 1870. Then moved to Davenport. Suspended 1941.
1870	Vine Hill (name resurrected 1963)	On Glenwood Rd. Building rebuilt in 1883. Suspended 1937. (New Vine Hill School build in 1963, part of Scotts Valley Union School District, on Tabor Dr.)
1871	Casseryly	On Casseryly Rd. in Watsonville. Rebuilt 1822. Annexed to Salsipuedes 1946.
1871 1932 became 1936 became	Hill School Rob Roy La Selva Beach	School had three names during its history. Went out of existence in 1941-42, when it merged with Aptos.
1872	Live Oak	Various reconstructions and additions: 1914, 1922, 1926, 1935, 1941, 1949, 1951, 1956 (old building demolished). Still going strong. On Capitola Rd.
1872	San Vicente	Absorbed, along with Ocean View, into newly formed Bonny Doon Union, 1947.
1875	Jefferson	Closed, absorbed into Santa Cruz City District, in 1946.
1875	Larkin Valley	A bit of a mystery. Apparently established in 1875, but does not appear in first directory of 1888. Appears in directory of 1901 (the year the second building was erected)--but for one year only, disappearing in 1902. Then appears again in 1916 directory, and continues until 1946, when it was annexed by Freedom. Did it have another name in earlier days?
1875 (possibly 1879?)	Brown	Suspended 1950. On Bear Creek Rd. (Not the same as Brown's Valley.)
1876 1894 became	Newell Creek Ben Lomond	Another building constructed 1933. Ben Lomond absorbed into San Lorenzo Union in 1946.

1877	Watsonville Grammar	E. Lake and Sudden. Modernized in 1909, enlarged after 1916. Some high school courses offered there in 1890s before Watsonville High was built.
1879	Amesti	Rebuilt 1912 on Green Valley Rd., and again in 1946 on Amesti Rd. in Watsonville, when it was annexed to Freedom. Became part of Pajaro Unified District in 1965. Still going strong.
1879	Bald Mountain	Third school built 1924. Absorbed Cave Gulch in 1927-28. Closed in 1962.
1879	Rocky Ridge	Apparently established around 1879, but probably lapsed before 1888, because doesn't appear in any directory.
1881	Highland	Second school built 1915. In Skyland area. Unionized with Loma Prieta Joint Union District (Santa Clara) in 1950.
1881	Burrell	Joint district of Santa Cruz and Santa Clara Counties. Absorbed into Loma Prieta Joint Union District in 1950.
1882	Laurel	Note: this is not the Laurel School that belonged to Santa Cruz City District. This one, a country school, closed in 1948 and students went to Scotts Valley.
1882	Zayante	Second (?) building erected 1921. Closed in 1946, annexed to San Lorenzo Union.
1884	Hazel Dell	Suspended in 1944. Area annexed to Corralitos in 1946.
1884	Calabasas	Various reconstructions. Became part of Freedom District in 1946, which then became part of Pajaro Valley District in 1965. Now on Calabasas Rd. in Watsonville.
1884	Eureka	Closed in 1946 when annexed to Corralitos.
1884	Ocean View	Closed in 1947, absorbed into new Bonny Doon District.
1884 (possibly 1896)	Oakdale	First? second? Building built in 1896. Unionized with Aptos in 1947.
1885	Glenwood	Burned down 1905; students attended class temporarily in butcher shop and private home. New school built in 1920. (Martin District carved out of Glenwood in 1905.) Glenwood closed in 1951. Students went to Scotts Valley.
1886	Loma Prieta	(Note: this is not the present Loma Prieta Continuation High School in Santa Cruz.) Disappears from directories in 1901. Reappears in 1950 (same school?) as joint district of Santa Cruz and Santa Clara Counties, at which time it absorbed Summit, Highland, Burrell, and Hester Creek.
(Note: the next eight schools are listed in the county school directory for 1888--the first directory published--but their date of establishment is unclear.)		
before 1888	Valencia ("resurrected" 1968)	Disappears from directory in 1931. New Valencia School, part of Pajaro Valley Unified District, built in 1968.
before 1888	Sequoia	Closed 1924. Later dismantled and material used to build addition to Alba School.
before 1888	Bear Creek	Closed 1921. Absorbed by Boulder Creek in 1924.

before 1888	Scotts Valley	Second building 1923, third 1940. Absorbed Valley View in 1938, Laurel in 1948, and Glenwood in 1951. Now a junior high school at 8 Bean Creek Rd. in Scotts Valley.
before 1888	Brown's Valley	(Not the same as Brown.) Closed 1919.
before 1888	Castle Rock	Closed 1899.
before 1888	Glen Haven	Closed 1914.
before 1888	Hazel Brook	Closed 1914.
1888	Fruitvale	Annexed to Freedom 1946, apparently closed at that time.
1889	Central	Small school in mountains, toward Los Gatos. Second (?) building 1911. Suspended temporarily 1914-15, and again in 1942-43. Closed for good in 1965.
1889	Dougherty	Closed 1919.
1889 1917 became	Vega Aromas	Joint district of Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey Counties. Name change in 1917. In 1965 became part of Pajaro Valley Unified District.
1890 (?)	Sunnyside	Closed 1900.
1891	Las Manzanitas	Joint district of Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey Counties. Suspended 1943.
1893	Redwood	Closed 1919.
1894	Watsonville High	Built at Third and Marchant. Previous to this, high school classes were being held in grammar school. Burned to ground Nov. 8, 1901. In 1902 second building (called "West Building") built on same site. In 1916 "East Building" built. Used as site of Cabrillo College when it was getting started, 1959-61. Since condemned. New building, 250 E. Beach.
1895	Fairview	In mountains toward Saratoga (?). suspended 1914-16, then finally closed for good in 1919.
1895	Santa Cruz High	Built on Walnut Ave. Previous to this, high school classes were held for about 20 years on fourth floor of Mission Hill Grammar School. High school burned to ground Oct. 1, 1913. Second (present) building, 1915, erected on same site.
1895	Alba	Suspended 1941.
before 1895	Gault	Date of establishment unclear--first appears as separate listing under Santa Cruz City District in 1895 directory, but may have been in existence before that. Second (?) building 1931. Still going strong, on Seabright.
before 1895	Laurel	Date of establishment unclear--first appears as separate listing under Santa Cruz City District in 1895 directory, but may have been in existence before that. Second (?) building in 1930. Closed in 1974-75 because of Field Act. Now community center. Note: this is different from the other Laurel School that existed in the Scotts Valley area.
1896	Cave Gulch	Closed in 1927-28 and merged with Bald Mountain.
1903	Olive Springs	Closed 1911.
1905 1920 became	Martin Valley View	Carved from Glenwood in 1905. Name change 1920. Unionized with Scotts Valley 1938.
1906-07	Hester Creek	Suspended temporarily 1943-45, re-opened in 1946. Absorbed into Loma Prieta Joint Union District in 1950.
1906-07	Pacific	In Davenport, still existing as a one-school district. In 1962 took in students of suspended Seaside School. At present

		(1978) new building is under construction to replace old one, condemned by Field Act.
1906 to 1909	Gas House	Not really a schoolhouse; a building rented temporarily from the Watsonville Power & Light Co. to relieve overcrowding in Watsonville schools.
1907	Ferndale	Unionized with Salsipuedes 1946.
ca. 1915	Garfield Park	Part of Santa Cruz City School District. Closed 1965.
1916 (?)	W. R. Radcliff	Appears to have been called "Watsonville Elementary" or "Rodriguez Elementary" in earlier days (it stands on Rodriguez St.). Addition, 1928. Became part of Pajaro Valley Unified District in 1965. Now a bi-lingual school. Still going strong.
1928-29	J. W. Linscott	On Elm St. Part of old Watsonville District. Pajaro Unified District, 1965.
1928-29	Mintie White	On Palm St. Part of old Watsonville District. Pajaro Unified District, 1965.
1931	Branciforte Junior High	On Poplar St. in Santa Cruz. Part of Santa Cruz City District.
1938	E. A. Hall	On Brewington Ave. Part of old Watsonville District, 1965.
1946	Freedom	On Holly Dr. in Watsonville. Absorbed Fruitvale, Roache, San Andreas--schools that closed--in 1946. Freedom District, formed in 1946, included Freedom, Amesti, and Calabasas Schools. All these taken into Pajaro Valley Unified School District, formed in 1965.
1946	Salsipuedes	On Casserly Rd. in Watsonville. Absorbed Carlton, Casserly, Ferndale, Green Valley, Railroad. Salsipuedes taken into Pajaro Unified District in 1965.
1947	Bonny Doon	On Pine Flat Rd. in Bonny Doon. Absorbed Ocean View and San Vicente Schools.
1946-47	San Lorenzo Union	On Highway 9 between Felton and Ben Lomond. Absorbed Ben Lomond, Felton, and Zayante Schools. Became part of San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District, 1950.
1950	T. S. MacQuiddy Elem	On Martinelli St. Part of old Watsonville District. Pajaro Unified District, 1965.
1952	Capitola Elementary	Monterey Ave., Capitola. Part of Soquel Union District.
1954	H. A. Hyde Elementary	Alta Vista St. Part of old Watsonville District. Pajaro Unified District, 1965.
1954 (?)	Thornely	School for the deaf. On campus of MacQuiddy Elementary.
1959	Del Mar Middle	Merrill Dr., Santa Cruz. Part of Live Oak District.
1960	Rio Del Mar Elem	Pinehurst Dr., Aptos. Part of old Aptos District. Pajaro Unified District, 1965.
1960	Westlake Elementary	High St., Santa Cruz. Part of Santa Cruz City District.
1961-62	Soquel High	Old San Jose Rd., Soquel. Part of Santa Cruz City District.
1962	Cabrillo College	1962 is date when present campus opened, but the college began in 1959, using building of old Watsonville High School.
1963	Vine Hill Elem. (new)	Tabor Dr., Scotts Valley. Part of Scotts Valley District. Bears name of old Vine Hill School of 1870.
1964	Brook Knoll Elementary	Tree Top Dr., Scotts Valley. Part of Scotts Valley District.

1965	Santa Cruz Gardens Elementary	Winkle Ave., Santa Cruz. Part of Soquel District.
1965	Bradley Elementary	Corralitos Rd. in Watsonville. Part of Pajaro Valley Unified District. Built on site of old Corralitos School. (See Oak Grove, 1859.)
1965	Hall Elementary	Sill Rd., Watsonville. Part of Pajaro Valley Unified District.
1965	Mar Vista Elementary	Soquel Dr., Aptos. Part of Pajaro Valley Unified District.
1965	Rolling Hills Junior High	Herman Ave., Watsonville. Part of Pajaro Valley Unified District.
1965 (?)	Pajaro Elementary	Salinas Rd. in Watsonville. Became part of Pajaro Valley Unified District in 1965, but date of construction unclear.
1965	Natural Bridges Elem	Swift St., Santa Cruz. Part of Santa Cruz City District.
1965	Farm School	School for mentally retarded students of high school age. Operated by the County Office of Education. Near La Selva Beach.
1966	Quail Hollow Elem	Marion Ave., Ben Lomond. Part of San Lorenzo Valley Unified District.
1966	Duncan Holbert	School for orthopedically handicapped. Operated by the County Office of Education. Actually was started in 1956; school held in temporary quarters until 1966 school was built, on campus of Rolling Hills Junior High in Watsonville.
1966	De Laveaga Elem	Morrisey Blvd., Santa Cruz. Part of Santa Cruz City District.
1966	Green Acres Elem	Bostwick Lane, Santa Cruz. Part of Live Oak District.
1967	Capitola Intermediate	Monterey Ave., Capitola, on campus of elementary school. Part of Soquel Union District.
1968	Harbor High	La Fonda St., Santa Cruz. Part of Santa Cruz City District.
1968	Valencia (new)	Aptos School Rd., Aptos. Part of Pajaro Valley Unified District. Bears name of old Valencia School that existed in 1880s, and that apparently lapsed in 1931.
1970	Loma Prieta High	A continuation high school, located on La Fonda St., adjacent to Harbor High. Part of Santa Cruz City District. The continuation program itself, however, began about 1967 in another location.
1970	Aptos High	Freedom Blvd., Aptos. Part of Pajaro Valley Unified District.
1972	Renaissance High	A continuation high school. Arthur Rd. in Watsonville. Part of Pajaro Valley Unified District. The continuation program itself, however, began about 1966 in another location.
1976	Struck Communication Center	School for handicapped students. On campus of Green Acres Elementary School. Operated by the County Office of Education.

*Numerous sources (including the *Santa Cruz County Public School Directory* [1917-1951 and 1951-52], the *Santa Cruz Sentinel* [August 15, 1991], and *Corralitos* by Judy Malmin) indicate that Pleasant Valley School actually closed in 1951--not 1915 as indicated in the original text of this article.

Source

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