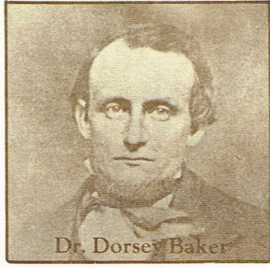


Standing on Locust Street, Oakland, Oregon; one can feel the hustle and bustle of days gone by... farmers driving their flatbed wagons loaded with wheat for the grist mill... laborers building bridges, kids playing in the school yard... mothers sweeping off their verandas and Nettie Young and George Stearns sipping a soda together at the soda fountain...

In 1846 wagon trains led by the Scott Applegate party headed West. It was an incredible journey—filled with Indians battling for the settlers' horses, severe weather, disease, thirst, and starvation. Many families like the Donner party simply didn't survive.

Umpqua Valley's first settlers, the Josephus A. Cornwell family and the Campbell family were greeted by winter and a tribe of friendly Umpqua Indians. Exhaustion and violent winter storms prevented the two families from reaching their original destination, the Willamette Valley. Instead they selected a site about one mile north of Old Town's Main Street, Oakland; built a cabin complete with a cedar roof and a "comfortable chimney." This was Douglas County's first cabin outside of the Hudson's Bay Company's Fort Umpqua.

Other settlers, including Dr. Dorsey S. Baker and E. G. Young, followed. In 1851 Dr. Baker built the first grist mill; its original water wheel is now located in Oakland's city park. The following year E. G. Young joined Dr. Baker's operation to establish a store in conjunction with the grist mill. Business prospered; the town grew rapidly. In connection with its growth, the town was beginning to feel the need for a bank. There were private lenders willing to make loans, but those who had money had no safe place to keep it. So the people turned to the vault in the E. G. Young and Company store, and for a small fee would reserve places to keep their cash. As Oakland and E. G. Young continued to prosper, Young acquired enough money to make loans. At the same time, those who had been using his vault as a safe deposit box became Young's savings account customers. During this era Oakland became the principal trading center for the surrounding area and the terminus for the main stage line south of Portland. Oakland was the area's central distribution point for mail. In fact the town received its name from the beautiful oak grove in which the first post office was located. The mail arrived once a week, was picked up by riders and delivered to coastal towns, to the north, east, and the south.



Dr. Dorsey Baker

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- 1 Thomas Hotel, 1889.
- 2 James H. Mahoney Building, 1889.
- 3 Beckley Brothers General Mercantile Store, operated by Charles and Pitser Beckley, 1903.
- 4 Phil Beckley Drug Store, 1903.
- 5 E. G. Young and Company Building, 1892.
- 6 Turkey Hall, 1932.
- 7 Odd Fellows Temple and Opera House, 1909.
- 8 Douglas Hotel, 1898.
- 9 Page and Dimmick Building, 1890.
- 10 Smith Livery Stable, 1884. Now the Oakland Trader.
- 11 Grandma Crouch House, 1875.
- 12 Heath House, 1910.
- 13 Oakland Public School, 1910. Later known as Washington School.
- 14 Z. L. Dimmick House, 1880. Queen Ann Style.
- 15 Phil Huntington House, 1920. Bungalow Style.
- 16 Walter Dunham House, 1875-1880. Rural Gothic.
- 17 Will Deardorff House, 1906.
- 18 Will Deardorff Turn-of-the-Century Barn, 1906.
- 19 Fred Powell House, 1908. Bungalow Style.
- 20 The Jones Sisters House, 1898.
- 21 Harry Pinkston House, 1903.
- 22 Dr. Henry Little House, 1905. Home and office of early Oakland dentist.
- 23 James Dearing Cobbler Shop, Built prior to 1871 ☆.
- 24 Dr. Fred Hunt Building, 1906. Dentist office was located upstairs and confectionary store downstairs.
- 25 R. E. Dimmick Building, 1905. Built as an ice house, butcher shop and sausage factory.
- 26 Stearns and Chenoweth Hardware, 1891. Stearns and Chenoweth began business in Oakland in 1887 at the present location. It is now owned and operated by Stearns' grandsons.
- 27 Medley Building, 1894. First Limelight Projector Movie House in Oakland.
- 28 Alonzo F. Brown Building, Pioneer Grocery Store and Post Office, 1893. Now the Oakland Museum.

By 1865 railroad construction nationally was booming. Alonzo F. Brown donated the right of way for Oakland's railroad system, the first train arrived in 1872. Brown was appointed station agent for the new railroad. With Oakland's abundance of resources including agriculture, minerals and timber, the town became known as the largest shipping center between Portland and San Francisco.

Warehouses were filled with wool, grain, hops, prunes and turkeys. The Oakland stockyards shipped hogs, sheep, and cattle.

Residents moved many of the wooden buildings to the new town site, approximately one mile southwest of Old Town, to be next to the railroad. Downtown Oakland became a hub of activity. It housed the Page and Dimmick Drug Store, Beckley Bros. General Mercantile Store, many livery stables, a dentist office, a confectionary store, a restaurant, and several hotels including the Thomas Hotel, downtown Oakland's first hotel.

Many of the old houses remain including the James Dearing house... originally the saloon in "Old Town."

Fires in 1892 and 1899 destroyed much of downtown Oakland. The 1892 fire struck downtown's wooden structures, nearly demolishing the south side of Locust Street. Later the fire of 1899 destroyed buildings on Locust's Street north side. Most of these were immediately rebuilt with brick and stone made in a local plant located at Whitmore Gap (now called Union Gap).

Two structures not destroyed in the fires are worth noting. They are the hardware store and Page & Dimmick building, both at 2nd and Locust streets in downtown Oakland. The ornate cast iron front was a popular exterior decoration during the 1890's. The cast faces were made in Eugene in 1890 and 1891. There are other buildings with cast iron entrance steps dated 1892 and 1899 made by Albany Iron Works in Albany, Oregon.

Education was a top priority in Oakland and its school system dates back to the early 1850's. The early schools of the area were log cabins or small country schools erected by a group of settlers as a cooperative venture. These schools served the needs of the community until School District No. 1 was formed in 1862. In the mid 1860's the first school building was constructed in "Old Town." The school was presided over by Professor J. L. Gilbert. George Russell built the first private school in 1880. He named it the Russell Academy. In 1886 the Academy was sold to the Oakland School District and combined with the "Old Town" school. Today Washington School occupies the site.

Cemeteries were located on some of the town's most picturesque sites. Old Town Cemetery, situated on a knoll overlooking the valley and Calapooya Creek, is located about one mile east of Cabin Creek. This is the oldest cemetery in the Oakland area and marks the final resting place of many of the early pioneers. Burials in the cemetery date from the 1860's.

The Cedar Hill Cemetery (formerly I.O.O.F.), located about one mile west of town on a tree covered hill, overlooks Oakland. Burials date from 1890. Burials before the time of designated cemeteries very often took place on the property of the deceased as transportation by horse and wagon, especially in winter, was very difficult. Some of these graves are known today, but more often the locations are long forgotten.

Oakland greeted the turn of the century. The town was being rebuilt, the economy was thriving and turkey ranching was the prominent industry with Oakland considered to be the leading turkey shipping center in the western United States. In 1929 Oakland sponsored the first Northwestern Turkey Show for turkey ranchers who were anxious to improve the quality of their stock. The annual Turkey Show was considered to be the largest in the world. It was here that the turkey was developed into the broad breasted turkey that we know today.

Through World War II the economy evolved into logging and lumbering. The present day economy is based on farming, cattle, and sheep ranching. □



Old Town

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- 29 Alonzo F. Brown Building, Shoe and Jewelry Store, 1893.
- 30 Alonzo F. Brown Building, Commercial Bank, 1893.
- 31 Jephtha Grubbe Building, 1900 Addition.
- 32 Jephtha Grubbe Building, 1899 Addition. Housed the Bovington Furniture Store.
- 33 Jephtha Grubbe Building, 1898. Built for a saloon and barber shop.
- 34 Oregon and California Warehouse, c. 1870.
- 35 Crouch Brothers Saloon, 1891.
- 36 E. E. Leas & Sons, 1918. First Garage - Service Station in Oakland.
- 37 D. V. Smith House, 1893.
- 38 Dr. E. J. Page Barn, 1898.
- 39 Roy Stearns House, 1910 Semi-Queen Anne.
- 40 Telephone Building and Roy Truitt House, 1927.
- 41 James Dearing House, 1855 ☆. Originally a saloon in Old Town.
- 42 Patras House, Late 1860's ☆.
- 43 Dr. Edward J. Page House, 1892. Italianate Style.
- 44 Adolphus Smith House, 1895. Queen Anne Style.
- 45 Alonzo F. Brown House, 1888. Italianate Style.
- 46 Binger Herman House, Prior to 1872. Moved from Old Town.
- 47 Charles Beckley House, 1900. Classical Revival.
- 48 R. D. Bridges House, 1915. Bungalow.
- 49 J.E. Stearns House, 1915. Bungalow.
- 50 Manning House, Prior to 1871 ☆.
- 51 Jesse Morris House, 1880.
- 52 Jelinski House, Prior to 1871 ☆. Later was known as the James Mahoney House.
- 53 Wid Crouch House, Built by Metz about 1865 ☆.
- 54 City Park. The property was the site of a home owned by pioneer merchant and banker, E. G. Young.
- 55 Charles Medley House, 1903.
- 56 William Underwood House, 1903.
- 57 Creed Chenoweth House, 1902.
- 58 Mary Hall Smith House, Prior to 1880.
- 59 Drake House, 1900. Classic Box Style.
- 60 Lloyd Pinkston House.

- 61 Episcopal Church Manse, 1908. Dutch Colonial.
- 62 A. Geary Young House, 1895. Queen Anne Style.
- 63 McKinley House, 1871. Built for railroad construction superintendent.
- 64 George Hall House, 1909. Classical Revival Style.
- 65 Joe Quant House, 1883.
- 66 Baptist Church Parsonage, 1905.
- 67 Colby Adams House, 1919. Bungalow Style.
- 68 James Young Barn, 1900.
- 69 James Young House, 1900.
- 70 Dr. Fred Hunt House, 1886.
- 71 Jephtha Grubbe House, 1880. Italianate Style.
- 72 Ben Bovington House, 1884.
- 73 J. T. Bridges, 1898. Bungalow Style.
- 74 Stearns Mortuary, 1900.
- 75 Rod Easley House, 1878.
- 76 Machine Shop, 1910.
- 77 Villepique Building, Prior to 1884. Corner building was a wagon shop and later print shop and newspaper office. Other building originally served as offices.
- 78 R. Max - Cleaning, Pressing & Tailor Shop, 1900.
- 79 James Mullins House, 1868 ☆.
- 80 Jack Saucer House, 1868 ☆.
- 81 Church of Christ, 1889.
- 82 Dr. E. G. Wainscott House, 1908. Bungalow Style.
- 83 Wainscott House, 1880.
- 84 Eubanks House, 1892.
- 85 Lonnie Crawford House, 1930.
- 86 Pichette House, 1860 ☆.
- 88 Rosie James House, Prior to 1871 ☆.
- 89 Deardorff Hotel, 1860 ☆.
- 90 Deardorff House, Late 1850's ☆.
- 91 Grandma Adams House, 1880.
- 92 Waterworks, 1897.
- 93 Stearns and Chenoweth warehouse, c. 1870.
- 94 Douglas County Flour Mill, 1936.

☆ Moved from Old Town 1871-72

Most of the buildings listed on this brochure are within the Oakland Historic District which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.