

Take a Walk in the Old Downtown

Windsor Historical Society, P.O. Box 1544 Windsor, CA 95492



Begin your walk at the corner of Bell Road and Windsor River Road. To the west, at 251 Windsor River Road is the **Old Windsor Community Methodist Church** and Parsonage. In 1898 the Methodist Board of Ministers gave \$500. to help finance construction of this, the second Methodist Church in Windsor. A long list of names pledging various amounts of money indicated the interest of the community. The church was in constant use from 1898 to 1959 when a new building was constructed. The church was originally constructed as a wood adaptation of Richardsonian Romanesque architectural style

Methodist Episcopal Church with Parsonage.

The **parsonage** at 239 Windsor River Road is said to have been moved from the east side of Windsor when the First Methodist Church burned down and the new one was built. There was quite a split in the community over the church moving to the upstart "New Windsor" or "Windsor Station" as it was called.



The DuVander Home

A couple of buildings east, at 295 Windsor River Road is the "**David H. DuVander Home**" This house was built in the late 1800s and was the residence of Mr. DuVander, a merchant in Windsor. He was responsible for bringing the first branch of the Exchange Bank to Windsor. He also operated a market and Case tractor dealership in town. The DuVander families were early settlers on Pleasant Avenue and many descendants still live in Windsor. DuVander Lane, on the Town Green is named for this family. The current owners of the home indicate that it was once the Undertakers business and residence.



Bell House

Across the street from the "DuVander Home" is the "**Bell Ranch House**" at 294 Windsor River Road. This structure is currently designated a city historical landmark. A large two story residence designed with the influence of Greek revival architecture., it was constructed in 1860 by Mr. Bell who was one of the first settlers in Windsor and owned considerable property in the area. Most of the south side of Windsor River Road was part of the Bell Ranch.

Gutchell Home" at 321 Windsor River Road. This house was constructed in approximately 1890 and was occupied by the Gutchell family until Mrs. Gutchell passed away in 1968. A very influential Windsor resident, Mrs. Gutchell had the first telephone in the Windsor area and was the operator for the Windsor District switchboard as far back as 1918. The switchboard was located in the front parlor of the house, and this is where Windsor residents came to pay their phone bills. There was probably a pay phone in the front of the house, as a small concrete pad existed there until recently. Mrs. Gutchell also ran the town water system.

On the other side of the parking lot is "Robert's Relics" located in what once was the **Exchange Bank** in Windsor. The first **Exchange Bank** was located in the Odd Fellows building but as the bank and Windsor grew a new building was needed. The

Exchange Bank was at this location until it moved to its current location in the 1980's.



Across the alley from "Robert' Relics is the" **Odd Fellow Hall**" at 215 Windsor River Road. Built in 1933 this building was the most substantial building in Windsor for many years. The lodge is upstairs and a grocery store is located downstairs. This seems to be the tradition as all accounts of the previous Odd Fellows halls in Windsor indicate an identical arrangement.

The Odd Fellows Hall with the Exchange Bank located on the ground floor



West across “Bill Beedie Way” is the **Masonic Temple** at 371 Windsor River Road. First constructed on this site in 1898 on land owned by Robert Cunningham, one of the areas earliest settlers, the original lodge has seen many reconstructions. It was destroyed by fire in 1905 and rebuilt only to be severely damaged by the earthquake of 1906. Early photos show that the building was rebuilt with the same original design. This building along with the Odd Fellows Building is all that remain of the original commercial section of “New Windsor”.

The Masonic Temple between Morton’s Ice Cream Parlor and the first Odd Fellows Hall



The new building on the corner of Windsor Road and Windsor River Road is a reconstruction of the “**Reiman Hotel**” also known as the “**Western Hotel**” (currently vacant). This was the destination of many travelers that came to Windsor by train. This photo shows Arthur Brooks, a member of the pioneer Brooks family, on his bicycle, in front of the hotel in the early part of 20th Century.

Across the street, to the south of the “**Reiman Hotel**” are three new building that reflect three original buildings from Windsor.

The Reiman Hotel

On the left is the **Bell Store** also known as **McCracken’s Market** (almost in its original location, the middle building is a replica of “**F.J. Pool’s** general store. Above the store, originally located on the east side of Windsor in “Old Town”, was the **I.O.O.F** meeting hall a configuration that exists today with the current **I.O.O.F** meeting hall and the grocery store on the ground floor. The building on the right is a rendition of the **Emery Brothers Meat Market** that stood where **the Odd Fellows** building stands today. These two buildings today are occupied by the *Alles Day Spa*.



Bells Store aka McCracken’s Store



F. J. Pool Store with I.O.O.F. upstairs



Emery Bros. Meat Market