

Davis Historical Society



Davis, California

davisvilletoday.

The B (and 3rd) Street Visioning Process

by Jim Becket

Special points of interest:

- Public comment is due March 30, 2005
- View the full Planning Options Summary on the City Web Site
- Option A follows traditional patterns and could be implemented with minor modifications to existing regulations
- Option B invokes new patterns and would require a "master plan" approach

Considerable space is devoted in this issue to the B/3rd Street Visioning Process. The City is requesting that public comment be received by March 30, 2005, and we hope that members of the Davis Historical Society will comment and make sure that the historical perspective is heard. It is our intent here to supplement the excellent material provided by the City on its web site in order to assist members in making informed responses. Also, an editorial on the subject is on page 4.

The full *Planning Options Summary* is available for viewing on the City Web Site (www.city.davis.ca.us) in pdf format. Diagrams and other excerpts from it are provided here. Questions are to be directed to Sarah Worley, Community Development Department, 530-757-5610 and comments to her at sworley@cityofdavis.org.

The diagram above right shows the area under consideration, outlined in red. The horizontal red dotted line arrow depicts 3rd St and the vertical arrow is B Street. Detailed diagrams of the two options which are up for discussion are on Page 5.

The two options are distillations from the public workshops and the plan-



ning which has followed. In **Option A, Traditional Patterns** (shown top right, page 5), B Street is predominantly residential in use and character; the emphasis is on intensifying residential uses within existing lot patterns; existing houses are demolished, except Historic Resources and other corner contributing structures; alley residences are created; and 3rd St. is enhanced as mixed use. In **Option B, New Patterns** (shown bottom left, Page 5), B and 3rd become urban in character and extensions of downtown; the emphasis is on increasing the development potential of B and 3rd and alleys with a mix of housing types; retains the Historic Resource house at 4th and B, and the structures behind it along 4th, but relocates the Historic Resource house on 3rd to University Ave. and demolishes the historically significant (but not a designated Historic Resource) house at 3rd and B.

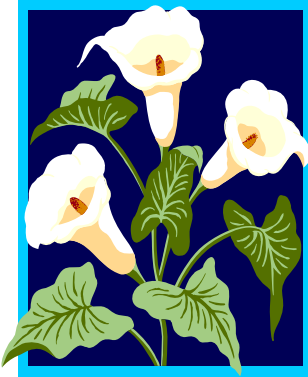
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The Davis Enterprise Celebrates Easter and Spring, 1899

Edited by Lyn H. Lofland



A poem about Easter
flowers . . .
engenders thoughtful
associations to the
beautiful springtime
we enjoy this
season . . .

Between December 4 of 1969 and May 10, 1973, Joann Leach Larkey (author of *Davisville '68: The History and Heritage of the City of Davis, Yolo County, Davis, CA*: The Davis Historical and Landmarks Commission, 1969) published 164 columns in a *Davis Enterprise* series titled "Portraits of the Past." In her column of March 26, 1970, Larkey described various pages of the 1899 Good Friday issue of *The Davis Enterprise* which were devoted to the theme of Easter. The excerpts from that column below give us an interesting glimpse of community sentiment at the end of the 19th Century.

[On the front page, a], spray of Easter lillies and a reproduction of Caracceis famous painting of the Head of Christ appeared directly below the masthead. . . .A

poem, "On Easter Morning," by Arthur J. Stringer and "The Professor's Present," a copyrighted story of an Easter hat and an Easter martyr, by Peter McArthur, filled the balance of page one. On the back page appeared a vivid description of Easter in New York City where 12,000 persons march along the streets to attend the 11 o'clock Mass at the Cathedral.

A poem about Easter flowers, also printed on page eight. . . engenders thoughtful associations to the beautiful springtime we enjoy this season. . . .

EASTER EVERYWHERE

'Tis Easter in the garden beds,
Beneath the fertile mold
The daffodil and butter-

cup
Are bidding heads of gold.
'Tis Easter, where, on slender spires
Of hincinthine bells,
Their pink and purple censers swing
On tiny pedicels.
'Tis easter, where, the pansy blooms
Rise, smiling, from the dead;
Where lilies of the valley droop
Each chaste and chalice head;
Where violets blink,
where tulips glow
And golden cinquefoil creeps.
'Tis Easter in the flower world—
Wake, everything that sleeps!
For Easter music's on the breeze,
A gloria in the air,
A symphony of soft south winds -
Te Deums everywhere!



YCHS Visits the Steinbeck Museum

The Yolo County Historical Society recently took an overnight trip to Salinas to visit the Steinbeck Museum. In addition to the Museum, the group had an excellent lunch in the Historic Steinbeck House-turned-restraunt and enjoyed a talk at dinner by the CEO of the Monterey

County Historical Society. On the way home, a stop for sight seeing and lunch was enjoyed in San Juan Bautista.

Part of the group, including DHS member Virginia Isaacs (center), is shown entering the museum. YCHS President BJ Ford is on the right helping check us in.

Hidden History, by Wendy J. Nelson

Do you ever look at the façade of a building and wonder what might be hidden behind? One in particular that deserves a closer look sits just to the north of the Bank of Yolo building (now Noodle Express) at the northwest corner of Third and G Streets. Hidden behind the modern T-111 siding is a brick structure that once housed the Davis Enterprise printing facilities. Historic in its own right, this building has been ignored or overlooked by historical consultants in part because of its presumed deteriorated condition (note the large crack in the bricks on the south-facing wall, pictured lower right). Although some may argue that it lacks integrity in materials (I would argue that the damage is repairable), it does however retain integrity of location, setting, and association.

No one can doubt the importance of the Davis Enterprise in the context of Davis history or the person who owned and

built the building, Judge William Henry Scott. I think it is about time to uncover the history hidden behind this old building.

A circa 1910 photograph (page 23, *Davis, California 1910s – 1940s*), provides a view of G Street, looking south, with the Bank of Yolo and “the building from which Judge William Scott operated many businesses for several decades, including The Davis Enterprise.” A 1928 photograph, (*ibid*, page 62) shows Judge Scott in front of the Davis Enterprise Publishing office on G Street, the Bank of Yolo is slightly visible to the south. As observed in the 1910 photograph, the bank, the Enterprise building, and a wood clapboard building (to the north), are visible, while a photograph showing construction of the bank (*ibid*, page 37), also circa 1910, shows the clapboard building, but no brick building between it and the bank. The photo on the next page (*ibid*, page 38),



The “Old Enterprise Building,” which is now the Enterprise Circulation Department, 303 G Street. (Photo by Wendy Nelson)

again dated circa 1910, shows the bank with trees flanking its northern boundary. It appears then, that the Enterprise building was built some time after construction of the Bank of Yolo in the latter part of 1910.

The brick Enterprise building was representative of early 1900s commercial architectural design. It featured a recessed shop entry door placed between two large display windows. A decorative glazed tile frieze stretched across the top

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Judge and Enterprise Editor William H. Scott with Davis' first Chief of Police, Floyd Gattrell in front of the Enterprise Building (Photo from Larkey Collection, reproduced in all three history books.)



Visible old age (Photo by Wendy Nelson)



Rich Rifkin, Lexicon Artist (Long time Davis resident and *Davis Enterprise* columnist), speaks with John Lofland following John's presentation on his book, *Davis: Radical Changes, Deep Constants* before the recent YCHS meeting at the Hattie Weber.

"... when read together with the 1968 Davisville book, authored by Joann Leach Larkey, you get a rich understanding of how our town was shaped and who played big roles in that."

Davis: Radical Changes, Deep Constants Notes on John Lofland's book by Jim Becket

Recently when *Enterprise* Columnist Rich Rifkin wrote a historical piece about G.W. Pierce Jr. (*The Davis Enterprise*, March 9, 2005), he utilized Lofland's book as a major source. There is no doubt that this is destined to become frequent for those who write about Davis history. The book is an excellent reference, as it sets down — in a highly readable manner — Davis history from *Expectant Davisville, 1868-1871* through *Contested Davis, 1900—*.

The labels Lofland uses to

describe time periods are unique, but descriptive, and add to one's understanding of the periods. In addition to *Expectant* and *Contested*, there are *Farming Davisville, 1872-1890*; *Cultivating Davisville, 1891-1904*; *Restarting Davis, 1905-1916*; *Urbanizing Davis, 1917-1929*; *Depression Davis, 1930-1945*; *Exploding Davis, 1946-1971* and *Progressive Davis, 1972-1989*.

These time periods are depicted on the yellow "chart" seen behind Rifkin and Lofland in the picture on the left, that

"follows" Lofland around to his presentations. When asked about the book, Rifkin said,

"I learned a lot about Davis history that I didn't know. I think, when read together with the 1968 Davisville book, authored by Joann Leach Larkey, you get a rich understanding of how our town was shaped and who played big roles in that." Rifkin added Lofland and Haig's *Davis, California 1910's — 1940s* to the list of sources to "be read together" for the rich understanding he mentions.

I can only agree.

B/3rd Street Visioning — an Editorial by Jim Becket

Decisions will be made in the next few months that will impact historic preservation in the 1917 Davis footprint forever. That may sound a little drastic, but it is true. Once a historic resource is physically destroyed, it is just that, destroyed.

If one accepts the concept that development must occur along the B Street/3rd Street corridors, then it follows that the City has done an effective job in framing two options for guiding policy direction and then development, the objective of

the Visioning Process. There is enough difference between the two to point development in two quite different directions, even if eventual implementation blurs the lines.

Option A, labeled "Traditional Patterns" should be, almost by definition, the most acceptable to those interested in historic preservation. Many aspects of traditional patterns of the streetscape are retained, as well as preserving Historic Resources.

Option B, on the other hand,

preserves nothing historic, other than the Historic Resource on the corner of B and 4th. Even in this case, it would be so visually estranged from its surroundings as to render it virtually meaningless.

If the decidedly unfortunate circumstance should occur and Option B is selected as the dominant policy direction, I suggest that a substantial financial mitigation be instituted to aid the work of restoration in Davis.

As development destroys, should it not also restore?

(Continued from page 1)

The numbers of the two options are summarized on the web, but a comparison between Option A and B on some critical numbers follow. **Net Additional units: A, 57; B, 149. Net Add. Bedrooms: A, 53; B, 119. Net Add. Commercial: A, 12,330 SF; B, 20,430 SF. Net Add. Parking: A, 21; B,98.** So while B provides significantly more living and commercial units, Option A also shows increases in all categories.

Option A is designed to be compatible with existing historic and cultural resources while providing ownership housing and enough density to make new investment feasible. It **"can be implemented through current regulatory systems and funding with minor adjustments."**

Option B, on the other hand, **"describes a new pattern"** and **"would require a master planned**

Option A: Traditional Patterns

Exhibit 1



approach to be effectively implemented."

In short, Option B is a whole new, urbanized ball game. There is no retention of traditional Davis for this area. Historical Resources are retained, but would be so "out of context" they would be rendered meaningless.

So what happens next?

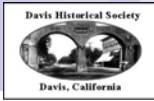
After public input, including review by the Historical Resource Management Commission and the Planning Commission, the options will be presented to the City Council for "Policy Direction." At this point, Phase 1 will be completed. According to the City, necessary amendments to the City's specific plan, design guidelines and zoning ordinance will then be prepared by staff for formal review and public hearings before the City's Historical Resources Management Commission, Planning Commission, and City Council. Implementation will follow.

Option B: New Patterns

Exhibit 3



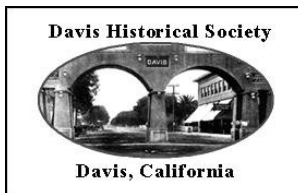
Timelines for this next step, Phase 2, will be developed accordingly.



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of the windows and entry, and wood panels were inset below the windows. A striped canvas awning extended across the length of the building, providing shade and shelter from the rain. Signs on the building included one on the façade, above the awning, which read "W.H. Scott Printing Office," another on the south window for the "Davis Enterprise and Job Printing," and one on the north window advertising "W.H. Scott Real Estate and Insurance" (ibid, page 62). An interior shot of the building (ibid, page 38) featured Judge Scott, his wife, Kathryn King Scott, a printing press, and other publishing paraphernalia.

According to Joann Larkey (Davisville 68), William Henry Scott

was a Yolo County native, born in 1861. He served as Justice of the Peace, first for Putah Township and later Davisville, for a total of 43 years.

He was also editor and publisher of the Davisville Enterprise for 35 years, from 1900 to 1935. As publisher, Judge Scott was quick to drop the "ville" from the Enterprise masthead after the town officially became the site of the University Farm in 1906, thus leading the way to a new more sophisticated image. Judge Scott and his wife Kathryn lived for many years in the Craftsman bungalow located at 301 B Street, where Ciocolat is today.

The Enterprise building is one of a few remnants of early 1900s Davis, marking a time when the City ex-

The Purposes of the Davis Historical Society*

The purposes of the DHS are to carry on programs of public education on the history of Davis, to encourage historical preservation in the Davis area, and to promote research and publication on Davis history, including the archiving of historical documents and artifacts.

The first letters of the five words summarizing these purposes spell the word "paper." These words are: Publication, Archives, Preservation, Education, Research.

* As listed on the Web

perienced much growth and left behind its small town image. The building is still part of the Enterprise's complex of buildings, retaining its historic location, setting, and association. Although the brick façade is masked by modern materials, if you walk through the alley behind G Street you can see that the brick building is not really hidden at all, but exposed for all to see and ponder about life in Davis, circa 1910.

(Note: Wendy J. Nelson, PhD, is an Archaeologist and Project Manager with Tremaine & Associates, Dixon. She is a Davis resident who served on the Davis Historical Resources Commission from February 1995 until June 2004, serving as chair for the last 4 years of her tenure.