

U.S. HISTORY

The Evolution of the Pajaro Valley and Watsonville

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THE EVOLUTION OF THE PAJARO VALLEY AND WATSONVILLE

Summary:

Stretching from Monterey to Santa Cruz, California, the Monterey Bay has been both physically and culturally impacted by succeeding waves of inhabitants. While the native Ohlone inhabited the area for about 10,000 years without making any significant environmental impact, the Spaniards, Mexicans, and most recently, Californians have radically altered the landscape and destroyed the Ohlone's culture existence within a span of only 250 years. Compared to the highly organized social and political infrastructure of the Europeans and their descendents, the Pajaro Valley natives lived in closely-knit communities and were led by a hereditary chief whose only power was limited because it did not extend beyond community consensus. The Spanish, and later the Mexicans, were rigidly structured in their social, political and religious hierarchy, which devastated the local native population culturally and physically. The Americans were settlers pushing westward. Their adherence to a loose frontier democracy was varied, and in some cases involved less than ethical practices, as exemplified by an attitude of "Grab what you can." (see Timeline, 1844-1852): Watsonville, Pajaro Valley and Monterey Bay Area, by Jim Evans) This lesson serves to introduce students to the evolution of cultures in the Pajaro Valley, and it allows students to analyze how different cultures have impacted each other and their environment.

Subject Area(s): U.S. History

Grade level(s): 11th grade

CA Content Standard:

11.4 Students analyze the relationship among the rise of industrialization, large-scale rural-to-urban migration, and massive immigration from Southern and Eastern Europe.

Learning Objectives:

1. Examine the evolution of cultures in the Pajaro Valley
2. Analyze how different cultures in the area have impacted each other and the environment.

Assessment:

Teacher assessment of student work to include:

- Students' drawings of their own faces as they might appear if they were the native Calendarucs of the Pajaro Valley region.
- Graphic organizer for human expansion theory and related vocabulary;
- Student perception (written or illustration/cartoon) about human impact on Pajaro Valley.

Equipment, Materials, and Resources:

- PowerPoint presentation or overhead projection of scenes illustrating the depiction of physical evolution of the area and the lifestyle of the natures prior to European arrival, as well as the Mission Period. The PowerPoint entitled "Geology and Cultural History" is useful.
- [A Natural History of the Monterey Bay](#), pages 28 and 40;

- Monterey Bay Area: Natural History and Cultural Imprints, pages 10-12;
- The Ohlone Way: Indian Life in the San Francisco-Monterey Bay Area, pages: 2, 17, 82, 92, 119, 129, 146, 165.
- These illustrations depict the area's physical evolution and natives' lifestyle prior to European arrival, except for the last image, which suggests life in the missions.
- Blank, white 8½" x 11" copy paper, colored pencils, pens and/or crayons, and white butcher paper (optional).
- The Flood of 1995 (video of new footage following the breach of a Pajaro River levee)
- Timeline: Watsonville, Pajaro Valley and Monterey Bay Area, by Jim Evans

Lesson Narrative/ Procedure:

Background Information

Humans first appeared in the Pajaro Valley about 10,000 years ago, developing and nurturing a native society free of outside influence until Spanish arrival in 1769. The Spaniards brought to the region a rigid, class-oriented social and political structure, aggressive Catholic religion, and pastoral economic system which were imposed upon the natives, primarily through the Jesuit, Franciscan, and Dominican's mission system. The principle missions in the Monterey Bay are located in Carmel (1770), Santa Cruz (1791), and San Juan Bautista (1797). These missions remained largely unchanged even after the Spanish granted Mexico its independence in 1821. However, power was diffused and the missions eventually lost regulatory control, eventually culminating in their secularization in 1833. The natives lost whatever small sense of protection they once felt as a result. When California was ceded to the United States in 1848 following the defeat of Mexico in 1848, a brash new social and political structure characterized by nearly unrestrained exploitation of resident people and native habitats. The landscape was dramatically altered to accommodate intensive agriculture, ranching and business development. Indigenous animal species such as the Southern sea otter, snowy egret, and blue whale, which possessed a significant economic value, were hunted nearly to the point of extinction. The natives also lost all claims to property rights—whether they were, in fact, actual or imagined—when the mission authorities departed. The struggle still continues, as those wishing to conserve the fragile native habitat resist urban development.

Lesson Sequence and Procedure:

Day 1: (90 minutes)

1. Teacher or Instructor should provide students with the contextual historical information as described in Lesson Outline steps 1–2 (above)* (Use as many different multimedia sources as available and allow 20 -30 minutes for completion of this activity.)
 - Distribute paper and coloring tools to students.
 - Instruct students to draw their own faces as they might appear if they were the native Calendarucs of the Pajaro Valley region.
 - Emphasize that the tattoos and body piercing which were common to the Calendarucs people. (Optional: display drawings in the classroom.)
2. Direct Instruction: (45 min.) Allow ten minutes for each of the following discussions (30 min.), and five minutes following each discussion (15 min) for a question and answer

session. (This time may be used for an informal “check for understanding” or individual student assessment.)

- Discuss as a class the Spanish's arrival following the Portola Expedition in 1769, as described in Lesson Outline (refer to Lesson Outline step 3).
 - Discuss the changes following Mexico’s independence from Spain in 1821, including the secularization of the missions in 1833. (Lesson Outline #4)
 - Discuss the social and political organization of the Americans, their economic activity and their attitude toward the natives and the land after Mexico ceded California to the US in 1848. (Lesson Outline #5)
3. Allow students to write on the other side of their native Calendaruc self-portrait. This writing should be directed by a prompt, such as “Describe how your faces might have changed under the influence of Spanish, European, and American settlement in the Valley.” (Allow 10 min. for this self-reflection)

Day 2: (70 minutes)

(Option #1)

1. Identify four distinct groups of people that have influenced the Pajaro Valley. These groups are Calendarucs (native indigenous people or Ohlone tribelet), early Europeans (Spanish and European explorers), European settlers (early Americans), or Californians after statehood. (Allow 10 min. for identification and explanation of activity).
 - Ask students to decide which group they prefer and separate students into teams representing “chosen groups of people”. (5 min.)
 - Allow each team to discuss “shared values” within their chosen “groups of people”. “Shared values” should be described to students as something that may be important to these people such as cultural beliefs or religion, material wealth or possessions, political power or social position, or others. (10 min.)
 - Each team selects the three most important attributes that attracts them to that group. (10 min.)
 - Each team shares with the class those selected values and their reason for selecting each value. (30 min.)

(Option #2 for a 90 minute class period)

1. Ask students to think about and briefly construct a timeline for a history of Pajaro Valley including formation and development of the Watsonville.
 - This timeline may be divided up into four (4) group segments, for example 500 years ago to 300 years ago, 300 years ago to 150 years ago, 150 years ago to 50 years ago, 50 years ago to present.
 - Each group contains two (2) teams of four (4) students each. Each group is assigned a task to identify significant events and people that may have been present in the Pajaro Valley during that time period.

- On the same piece of paper each team attempts to explain (in writing) an importance of the people or event to the Valley. (Use two foot portions of butcher paper for each team. Allow students 20 minutes to construct their timeline. Post timelines on wall.)
2. Distribute a *Timeline: Watsonville, Pajaro Valley and Monterey Bay Area*, by Jim Evans to students and direct them to identify other events or people that could be included on their “butcher paper timelines (allow ten minutes for this activity). “Meaningful Experience”: Assess students’ knowledge and attitudes about a field site or event prior to the field visit to determine misconceptions and misgivings or fears, from NOAA California Bay Watershed Education and Training Program.
 3. Direct Instruction: As an overview of the “Evans Timeline”, present “Geology and Cultural History of the Pajaro Valley Watershed” power point, or project a transparency of scenes from The Ohlone Way: Indian Life in the San Francisco-Monterey Bay Area by Malcolm Margolin. (Allow 20 minutes for this presentation).
 - Discuss theories of human expansion into the Americas by using main points from Day 1 “discussions”.
 - Talk about the Pajaro Valley as Europeans arrived, statehood was formed, and the City of Watsonville was developed. Use words and images from The Ohlone Way and The Flood of 1995 (video).
 4. As a homework assignment, students are to read their assigned portion of the “Evans Timeline” and be prepared to read it aloud during the next class period (day 2)
 - Students may use their “Evans Timeline” to note additional information during this presentation. (Students may complete their written description and vocabulary list as a homework assignment.)

Day 3: (Field Trip/ Field Learning Activity)

Select an appropriate speaker of field visit that is achievable based on resource availability.

- Visit Santa Cruz or Carmel mission.
- Visit the Pajaro Valley Historical Society or receive a Society guest speaker.
- Invite a community college instructor for a cultural history presentation.
- Listen to a guest speaker at Cabrillo College campus, Watsonville, CA.

Lesson Outline:

4. Describe the Pajaro Valley region, from the first appearance of humans approximately 10,000 years ago until European arrival in 1769, providing illustrations and graphics from *The Ohlone Way* and video *The Flood of 1995* (if available).
5. Describe the physical appearance, social organization, and spiritual beliefs of the native population prior to European contact.
6. Discuss Spanish arrival following the Portola Expedition in 1769, focusing on their social organization, economic activities, religious beliefs and attitude concerning the indigenous native population, and the cultural impact of the Catholic mission system.
7. Discuss the region's changes following Mexico's independence from Spain in 1821, including the secularization of the missions.

8. Discuss the social and political organization of the Americans, their economic activity and their attitude toward the natives and the land after Mexico ceded California to the U.S. in 1848.

A sensitive topic: The Americans were settlers pushing westward. Their adherence to a loose frontier democracy was varied, and in some cases involved less than ethical practices, as exemplified by an attitude of “Grab what you can.” (see Timeline, 1844-1852): Watsonville, Pajaro Valley and Monterey Bay Area, by Jim Evans or Tales of Old California, ed. By Frank Oppel,) Evidence for this “Grab what you can” practice may be questioned by other individuals. A student research project may be appropriate to either defend or reject this philosophical belief of “Grab what you can.”

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TIMELINE: WATSONVILLE, PAJARO VALLEY AND MONTEREY BAY AREA

By James Evans

4.5 billion years BP (Before Present) - The Earth coalesces into a planet as it orbits the relatively-newly ignited Sun.

200 million years BP - The granite core of the Sierra Nevada mountain range forms from magma generated by the subduction of the Oceanic Plate under the Continental Plate off the coast of what is now California, although it was beneath the Pacific Ocean at the time.

100 million years BP (more or less) - The Sierra Nevada range is uplifted, forming the coastline with the Pacific Ocean.

65 million years BP - Erosion is exposing the granite core of the Sierra Nevada mountains. The resulting sediment has deposited onto the continental shelf, forming a shallow sea in what is now California's Central Valley. The massive Pacific Plate is inching northeast toward a collision with the also massive North American Plate, on which the Sierra Nevada sits.

30 million years BP - The Pacific Plate crashes into the North American Plate, knocking loose small chunks (called blocks) off both plates that mostly accompany the Pacific Plate north at varying speeds. The Santa Lucia, Gabilan and other coast mountain ranges form the new boundary between land and the Pacific Ocean.

25 million years BP - The Sierra Nevada is uplifted and tilted, causing water to flow faster off its slopes into the inundated Central Valley.

25-15 million years BP (more or less) - Monterey Bay is part of the Salinian Block, slowly sliding north with the Pacific Plate. It intersects with a portion of the San Andreas fault complex that runs east-west. The dissection forms an outlet that drains, in a raging torrent, the Central Valley's shallow sea and carves the Monterey Canyon. Turbidity currents, a combination of ocean currents and underwater landslides and avalanches that push sand, mud, rocks and boulders at high velocities, help carve the canyon. (Shallow sea drainage combined with turbidity currents is the prevailing theory, yet it's clear from reading the literature that a great deal of uncertainty remains regarding both the time means for the canyon's formation). The Monterey Bay region is located about 60 miles north of the current city of Los Angeles at the start of this geologic period. It spends parts of the journey to its current location submerged under both deep and shallow seas, and today continues its northerly trek at an average of about three inches a year.

1 million years BP - A massive river flows into Monterey Bay and carves the valley where Elkhorn Slough is located.

18-15 thousand years BP - Melt water from the thaw of the last ice age raises the water level in Monterey Bay by hundreds of feet and both inundates the lower reaches of the Elkhorn Slough valley and fills it in with sediment, forming the present slough system.

10,000 to 7,500 years BP - Humans, probably descendants of people who crossed a land bridge exposed in the Bering Strait during the last ice age, arrive and settle the land around Monterey Bay, which continues to rise as glaciers retreat. These settlers leave no written history, but evidence from their trash heaps, known to archeologists as midden mounds, reveal that they enjoyed a generally peaceful existence as hunters and gatherers in small communities, in a bountiful and predominately water-based world. Although they aren't agriculturists who plow fields and plant seeds, they do impact the landscape by regularly burning meadows and oak forests to reduce brush and encourage growth of native grasses. Their reality changed dramatically when the Spanish military and missionaries arrived in 1769.

1542 (Nov. 17) - Spanish explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo rounds Monterey Peninsula and sails into the bay, naming it La Bahia de los Pinos.

1602 (December) - Spanish explorer Sebastian Viscaino officially names the port Monterey in honor of Count de Monte Rey, the Viceroy of New Spain who had ordered Viscaino's expedition.

1713 (November 24) - Junipero Serra is born in Mallorca, an island off the coast of Spain. In 1730, at the age of 17, he becomes a Franciscan priest. In 1749 he leaves Spain for New Spain (now called Mexico), and in 1767 he is appointed president of all of Spain's California missions.

1767 - Spanish King Carlos III, distrustful of Jesuit political ambitions, expels them from New Spain. The Jesuits have founded and controlled the Spanish mission system since it began, so their expulsion leaves the missions under the control of the Franciscan order.

1769 (Oct. 8) - Gaspar de Portola arrives in the Pajaro Valley and names the river in honor of a large, straw-stuffed seabird the natives had hung from a pole in their burned and abandoned village, even though Catholic priests with the expedition officially called the river the Santa Ana. Portola's exploring expedition into Alta California results from Spanish authorities being alarmed at the incursions being made into Spanish-claimed territory by English and Russian explorers and traders.

1769 (Oct. 10) - Juan Crespi, a priest with the Portola expedition, gives a name to the spectacular coniferous trees they see in the area, calling them palo colorado, or redwood.

1770 (June 3) - Mission San Carlos Borromeo de Carmelo, the Spanish mission located in Carmel, is founded by Junipero Serra, who makes the mission his headquarters for northern California missions. The mission first is established in Monterey, but poor soil for crops and Serra's desire to distance himself from the military and civil authorities, provokes him to move the mission to Carmel.

1776 - Spain designates Monterey as the capital of Baja and Alta California.

1782 (Jan. 1) - Juan Crespi, fellow priest, friend and confidante of Junipero Serra, dies.

1784 (Aug. 28) - Junipero Serra, who had bitter conflicts with the military and civil authorities in Monterey over both his brutal treatment of the natives and his policies as president of the Spanish missions in California, dies at age 70 and is buried beside Juan Crespi beneath the main altar at the Mission San Carlos de Borromeo in Carmel.

1791 (Aug. 28) - Mission Santa Cruz is founded by Franciscan priest Fermiin Francisco de Lasuen, who succeeded Junipero Serra as president of the missions.

1796 - Villa de Branciforte, a civilian settlement named after the Viceroy of New Spain, the Marquis of Branciforte, by the governor of California Diego de Borica, is founded across from the Mission Santa Cruz on the east or south side of the San Lorenzo River. Creation of the town is opposed by the Franciscan priests in the mission. The settlement, populated largely by convicted petty criminals sent from New Spain to complete their sentences, quickly gains a reputation for gambling, drunkenness, prostitution and violence and is deplored by the mission priests. Although the town never amounts to much, its residents plunder the mission after secularization is imposed in 1834.

1797 (June 24) - Mission San Juan Bautista is founded on top of the San Andreas fault by Franciscan priest Fermiin Francisco de Lasuen.

1808 (July 7) - Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo is born in Monterey. He will become a Mexican army general, a prominent leader in California and one of the richest men in the west. The city of Vallejo is named in his honor.

1817 - Rancho Salsipuedes is provisionally ceded to Mission Santa Cruz by the authorities in Villa de Branciforte.

1818 (Nov. 22) - Hipolito Bouchard, a French privateer in the service of Argentina, newly independent from Spain, attacks and burns the Monterey Presidio but leaves the mission in Carmel untouched.

1820 - Vega del Pajaro is granted to Antonio Maria Castro, one of the original members of the Castro family and a soldier before retiring in 1809.

1824 - Bolsa de San Cayetano is granted to Ignacio Vincente Ferrer Vallejo.

1833 (Aug. 17) - The Mexican Congress passes *An Act for the Secularization of the Missions of California*, stripping the priests of their authority. The act is enforced in the three Monterey Bay missions a year later, forcing the Franciscan priests to abandon the missions. They take almost everything of value and leave the rest to be plundered by the local population, including for construction materials. Secularization caused the native population harm because they lost their property, and then lost legal title to their land when the United States seized control in 1846.

1833 (November 22) - Martina Castro, daughter of Joaquin Castro, receives a grant from

Governor Jose Figueroa for 1900 acres along Soquel Creek, reduced to 1668 acres after a survey.

1833 (November 26) - Rancho San Andreas is granted to Joaquin Castro, one of the original members of the Castro family and a judge at Villa de Branciforte who had lived on the ranch since 1823. In 1851 the 8,911 acres were valued at \$15,000. In 1876 the US confirmed that the heirs of Castro were the owners of the land.

1833 - Felipe Henandez is granted the 2,304-acre Calabasas Rancho. The US confirms him as owner in 1868.

1835 - Juan Maria Anzar is granted the 8,659-acre Las Aromitas y Agua Caliente Rancho. His wife, Maria Antonia Castro, daughter of California power broker General Jose Castro, marries Dr. F.A. McDougall after her husband is killed in Mexico in 1860.

In 1862 the US confirms McDougall as owner of the Aromitas Rancho.

1837 - The Bolsa del Pajaro, with the Pajaro River as its southern boundary and stretching to Monterey Bay, is granted to Sebastian Rodriguez by Governor Juan B. Alvarado. Rodriguez first claimed the land in 1823 and had lived on it since 1831. In 1851 the US put a value on the 5,496-acre property of \$34,430.

1840(Feb.1) - Rancho Salsipuedes, more than 31,000 acres of Pajaro Valley land, is granted in Monterey by Governor Juan B. Alvarado to Manuel Jimeno, a secretary of state under several governors, acting governor of Alta California more than once, and a former alcalde of Monterey.

1842 - The US appoints Thomas Larkin as consul in Monterey, establishing its first consulate in Mexican California.

1843 (April 1) - Governor Manuel Micheltorena confirms the land grant of Rancho Salsipuedes to Manuel Jimeno.

1844 - Martina Castro receives a grant for 32,702 additional acres to Soquel ranch, known as the Soquel Augmentation. The larger ranch was valued in 1851 at \$28,000. She was confirmed as owner of both properties by US authorities in 1860.

1844 - The first of steady stream of Irish immigrants arrives in the Pajaro Valley, congregating around the property of attorney Eugene Casserly, who was born in Ireland. The Irish are the largest foreign-born group in the region into the 1880s, just ahead of the Chinese.

1846 (May 23) - Mexico declares war against the United States.

1846 (June 14) - Non-Mexican settlers, calling themselves Californios, proclaim independence from Mexico as the Republic of California. They raise their own flag with

a grizzly bear as an emblem and elect William B. Ide as president of the new nation. On July 9, 26 days later, the Bear Flag is replaced by the flag of the United States.

1846 (July 7) - US Commodore John Drake Sloat's flagship arrives in Monterey Bay and, after a short conflict with Mexican forces called the Battle of Monterey, raises the American flag over the Customs House to proclaim Alta California for the United States.

1848 (Jan. 24) - Gold is discovered at Sutter's Mill at Coloma in the Sierra Nevada foothills, sparking an avalanche of people to flow into California, many of whom eventually landed in the Pajaro Valley, dramatically affecting the area's population, attitude and landscape.

1848 (Feb. 2) - The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo is signed, ending the US-Mexico War and ceding all of Alta California, Utah, Nevada, and parts of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming to the United States.

1849 (Oct. 13) - During a convention held in Monterey, the California Constitution is signed and becomes the law of the territory.

1850 (Sept. 9) - The US Congress votes to accept California as the 31st state of the union

1850 - The first of a steady stream of Portuguese immigrants from the Azore Islands arrive in Pajaro Valley, first working in the whaling industry and then turning to farming, specifically cereal grains. They eventually dominate the dairy industry in Santa Cruz County.

1850 - The population of Santa Cruz County is 643.

1851 - Rancho Salsipuedes, still owned by Manuel Jimeno, is valued for tax purposes at \$81,142. Within two years Jimeno would own no part of his former holdings.

1852 - The City of Watsonville is created by John D. Watson and D.S. Gregory from one square mile of land from the Bolsa del Pajaro Spanish land grant owned by Sebastian Rodriguez.

1852 - Charles Ford establishes Ford's Department Store, Watsonville's first store.

1852 - The demand and subsequent high price of potatoes, destined for the miners fueling the California gold rush, spurs a rush of people into the Pajaro Valley, mostly from the gold mines, to grow potatoes.

1853 - The first school in Pajaro Valley is established.

1858 - The first commercial apple orchard, consisting of 13 acres, is planted by Issac Williams and Dr. R.F. Peckham

1859 - Judge *John* Watson is elected to the California Senate and never returns to Watsonville.

1860 - Although Sebastian Rodriguez dies in 1855, he somehow gives to the residents of Watsonville land from his ranch to be used as a plaza, which remains as the center of the city. The history is vague, but the plaza is real enough.

1860 - The Pajaro Turnpike, a toll road from Watsonville to Gilroy, is completed over Mt. Madonna Pass.

1860 - Hudson Landing, a pier and warehouse in upper Elkhorn Slough, is constructed to allow steamships to dock so grain, primarily wheat, may be loaded and transported to markets.

1860 - Immigrants from Denmark arrive in the Pajaro Valley and begin cultivating wheat, as they had done in their homeland. By 1880 there were enough Danes to build their own church in Watsonville on Ford Street. Struve Slough is named for one of the Danish families.

1860 The population of Santa Cruz County is 4,944.

1861 (February 28) - Prudencia Vallejo de Amesti is confirmed by the US as owner of the 15,440-acre Corralitos Rancho, valued in 1851 at \$58,227.

1862 - Flood water from the Pajaro River inundates Watsonville.

1863 - Castroville is founded by Juan Bautista Castro, using a small portion of his father's 30,000 acre Spanish land called Bolsas Nueva y Morro Cojo.

1863 (May 2) - Watsonville's first newspaper, The Pajaro Times debuts, published every Saturday until it is absorbed by the Santa Cruz Sentinel in 1867.

1863 - The first school built in Watsonville, called Pajaro School and later the Primary School, is completed on East Fourth Street.

1864 - The first public library in Pajaro Valley is formed by Judge A.W. Blair.

1865 (October) - An earthquake rattles the nerves of Watsonville residents and causes widespread commercial damage.

1865 - Strawberries are planted in the Pajaro Valley. Eventually giving rise to the area's strawberry industry.

1866 (Sept. 3) - Former Monterey County sheriff William Roach is found dead in a well just north of Watsonville. While sheriff, Roach had hid \$85,000 in gold for the widow of wealthy rancher Don Sanchez. The gold disappeared, leading to strenuous efforts over the years to find the treasure. Roach left Watsonville after voting in an election, riding to his

home in Whiskey Hill (Freedom), but he never arrived. His death was ruled an accident, but suspicion was rampant that he had been murdered in an effort to locate the fortune. The destiny of the gold remains unrevealed.

1866- The first crews of Chinese laborers destined specifically for the agricultural fields arrive in Pajaro Valley. The Chinese remain the primary farm workers in the area until the 1890s.

1867 (March) - A ferry service is opened across the Pajaro River, operated by John Hemander, generally known as Dutch John. Criticism is nearly immediate because of the irregular and sometimes irresponsible service.

1867 (November) - The first bridge, 610 feet long and 16 feet wide, is constructed across the Pajaro River by Dutch John, who operates it as toll bridge. The structure is demolished in a flood three weeks later.

1867 - A separate school for African-Americans is constructed, called the Negro School.

1868 (March 5) - Watsonville's second newspaper, the Pajaronian, debuts.

1868 (June 18) - Dutch John opens his rebuilt toll bridge across the Pajaro River. The Santa Cruz County half of the bridge is covered, while the Monterey County half is open. A pedestrian walkway exists on one side of the entire length of the structure.

1868 - Martinelli's Soda & Cider Works is established.

1868 - Watsonville is incorporated.

1868- A small pox epidemic sweeps through Watsonville, causing fearful residents in Santa Cruz to destroy a bridge in Aptos to prevent people from bringing the disease north. The effort failed, as smallpox leaped into Santa Cruz too.

1871 - Southern Pacific Railroad is extended from Gilroy to Watsonville through Chittendon Pass, using Chinese laborers.

1871 - The Mansion House is built on Main and East Beach Streets.

1873 (March 17) - Mat Tarpy is lynched for shooting Sarah Nickolson to death following a property dispute near Watsonville. Tarpy claimed he accidentally shot her **11** times, including once through the heart. He was tried and convicted and sent to a jail in Salinas, then to Monterey. A rumor spread in Watsonville that Tarpy would be taken outside the area, provoking a group of men to break into the Monterey jail and hang him from a tree.

1874 (June) - The Bank of Watsonville, the first bank in the city, opens for business on Main Street with \$200,000 in capital. Charles Ford, owner of Ford's Department Store, is the leader of the bank's local investors.

1874 - Coatian immigrants begin their move toward dominating the apple industry in Pajaro Valley when Marco Rabasa becomes a wholesale apple broker. The Coatians are generally from the Konavle Valley, inland from the Dalmatian coast on the Adriatic Sea.

1874 - With the arrival of the railroad in Monterey, Italian fishermen arrive and dominate the fresh fish market. The fishing industry has been the exclusive domain of the Chinese since the 1850s, but they have focused on the abalone, sea urchin and dried fish markets.

1874 - Sugar beets are grown in Soquel. Within 14 years sugar beets will become a major agricultural product in Pajaro Valley.

1876 (July 4) - The Watsonville cannon arrives in town, borrowed from San Francisco, but never returned. It originally had been on the deck of the mail ship Oregon.

1877 (June 2) - Residents of Whiskey Hill vote to rename their village Freedom, edging out Smithville and Juliet.

1877 - The first telephone is installed in Watsonville, a year after Alexander Graham Bell receives a patent for a telephone.

1878 - The Negro School is closed.

1878 - The first water pipes are installed by the Watsonville Water Company and the Corralitos Water Company to provide potable water (spring water from Corralitos) directly to homes and businesses in Watsonville.

1879 - A violent earthquake strikes Watsonville, reminding residents that they live on the southern end of the San Andreas fault.

1879 - The Watsonville Water Company begins installing flumes to provide irrigation water to strawberry growers.

1879- A statewide referendum bans continued Chinese immigration. Of 5,828 votes in the Monterey Bay region, only seven are in favor of the Chinese, who are not allowed to vote because they aren't citizens.

1880 - Chinese immigrants in the Monterey Bay region (Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Benito counties), who work primarily as laborers, exceed 1,000 for the first time, or 4 percent of the 29,688 population. They work primarily as farm and railroad laborers, fishermen, and domestic or hotel servants.

1880 - The first commercial shipment of strawberries leaves Watsonville.

1880 - The US confirms Rafael Castro as the owner of the 6,685-acre Aptos ranch, valued in 1851 at \$23,000.

1882 (Aug. 9) - Judge John Watson dies a pauper in Elko, Nevada.

1882 - The US Congress passes the Chinese Exclusion Act, placing a 10-year ban on immigration by Chinese laborers. The prohibition is extended twice before it is made permanent in 1904. In 1943 the exclusion is rescinded.

1888 (April 18) - The Spreckels sugar beet processing mill is completed on a 25-acre site in Watsonville. The first year 1,000 tons of beet sugar were produced. By 1892 an average of 350 tons of beets are processed daily, generating 45 tons of sugar. By 1895 Watsonville farmers devote 11,000 acres to beets, producing 19,945 tons of sugar. The planting and harvesting of the beet fields are dependent upon Chinese and Japanese laborers.

1888 (May) - Pajaro Valley Bank opens, followed by Pajaro Savings and Loan in August, owned by the same investors. The two institutions have combined capital of \$35,000.

1888 - The US Congress passes the Scott Act, which prohibits Chinese who have lived in the US from returning if they leave.

1888 - Residents of Watsonville decide to move the Chinese population across the river to Pajaro, where the Chinese community is known as Brooklyn. Most of Brooklyn is destroyed by a fire in 1924, and by 1940 the Chinese community abandons Pajaro, although Brooklyn Street remains.

1889 (January) - The first of 40 ex-slaves from Arkansas arrive to work on Daniel Gilmore's farm in the hills above Hollister. A fire eventually forces Gilmore to sell his land, but the African-Americans remain, forming a large community in the area.

1890 (January) - Electric wiring is installed along Main Street to provide street lighting. By April the Post Office and telegraph office also enjoy electric lighting.

1890 (Dec. 9) - Watsonville Savings Bank opens, owned by the same men who own the Bank of Watsonville. Both banks exist under one roof.

1890 - Chinese immigrants reach their highest percentage of the Monterey Bay region population, 5.7 percent, or 2,537 out of 44,319 people.

1890 - Most of the Mission Santa Cruz is demolished, leaving a small portion of the former complex.

1892 - Watsonville's first telephone is installed, in the lobby of the hotel The Lewis House.

1893 (January) - The Pajaro Valley Wheelmans Club is organized as a bicycling craze sweeps the nation following the development of pneumatic tire.

1895 (Aug. 2) - Watsonville High School, consisting of eight classrooms and a library and designed by architect William H. Weeks, is dedicated.

1895 - The Strawberry Growers Association is founded.

1897 (November) - Watsonville's first hospital is completed on East Third Street, owned by Dr. Peter Kemp Watters.

1897 - The Monterey Canyon is identified and described.

1897 - The Watsonville Light and Power Company receives a contract from the City Council to provide electricity and light to the city.

1899 - The Spreckels sugar beet mill ceases operations when its new facility opens in Spreckels, just south of Salinas, signaling the end of the sugar boom in Pajaro Valley.

1899 - Dr. Peter Kemp Watters' new house, designed by William H. Weeks, is the first house in Watsonville to be connected to the city's sewer system.

1901 (Nov. 8) - A fire destroys Watsonville High School and all school records, leaving only two brick chimneys.

1902 - Dr. Watters hospital is expanded, incorporated and named the Watsonville Hospital and Training School for Nurses.

1902 - The first automobile arrives in Watsonville.

1903 (January 9) - The Pajaro Valley Sanitarium, Watsonville's largest hospital, opens.

1903 (May 11) - Richard Quinn is elected the first mayor of Watsonville, beating Will Trafton in a close 411-407 vote. Trafton challenges the vote, but Quinn's victory is approved by the Superior Court. Trafton appeals the court decision to California Supreme Court. The following year the Supreme Court disqualified 13 of the votes for Quinn, giving Trafton the victory.

1903 (July) - The Pajaro Valley Sanitarium is destroyed by fire.

1903 - A rebuilt Watsonville High School, consisting of five classrooms, a small gym, a library, a chemistry laboratory and a playroom, also designed by W.H. Weeks, is completed.

1904 (July 8) - Will Trafton is sworn in as Watsonville's second mayor, and eventually serves 10 years as mayor.

1904 (November) - A huge storm rips away 200 feet of the 600-foot Port Rogers pier just north of the mouth of the Pajaro River. The pier, built by the Watsonville Transportation

Company to compete for San Francisco-bound passengers and freight with the Southern Pacific Railroad, is too weakened by Tereido worms to survive the wind and waves. The pier quickly was rebuilt, only to have another 500 feet fall into the bay. The following year Port Rogers, named for one of the owners of the company, was renamed Port Watsonville and the company was declared bankrupt.

1904 - Joseph Reiter and Richard Driscoll revolutionize the strawberry industry in Pajaro Valley by cultivating the Sweet Briar berry and selling it under the name of Banner.

1904 - Fourth Street is renamed Lake Avenue to acknowledge the stylish homes that line the main route to the lakes.

1905 (February) - The Spreckels sugar beet mill in Watsonville is dismantled.

1905 (October) - The Carnegie Library, designed by William H. Weeks and constructed by the Granite Rock Company with a \$12,000 grant from industrialist Andrew Carnegie, opens for lending. In 1934 the library was expanded, and in 1975 it was demolished and replaced by a new library costing \$860,000.

1906 (April 18) - The massive earthquake that reduces San Francisco to charred rubble, severely shakes Watsonville, causing fires and structural damage to numerous buildings.

1907 (June) - The Pajaro River is dammed at the Pajaro Bridge to create Pajaro Lake, later renamed Lake Watsonville, to offer water activities during July 4th celebrations. The popular lake is drained during the winter and refilled each summer until 1910. It is refilled once more in 1914, and then never again.

1907 (Oct. 5) - La Petite Theatre, the first motion picture theater in Watsonville, opens.

1907 - Watsonville Japanese Association is founded and meets until 1942 when Japanese residents are interned in Salinas and then in Arizona until the end of World War II in 1945.

1907 - The California Spray Chemical Company is founded in Watsonville by apple grower Charles Silliman and three partners in an effort to prevent the coddling moth from destroying the local apple industry. The company develops the Ortho pesticide line. Debt and the depression forces Silliman and his partners to sell the company to the Standard Oil Company in 1931. Standard Oil later becomes the chevron Corp., which sell the Ortho Division to chemical producer Monsanto Corp. in 1993.

1908 - The US government restricts immigration by Japanese laborers.

1909 (Nov. 10) - Musical march master John Philip Sousa conducts his band for a packed audience in the Watsonville Opera House, formerly a roller rink.

1910 (Oct. 10-15) - Watsonville hosts its first of four annual apple festivals, called the

Apple Annual, to celebrate Pajaro Valley's largest and most valuable agricultural crop. Farmers produced about 25 million boxes of apples yearly on 12,000 acres of orchards, making the valley the most productive apple growing region in the world.

1910 - Japanese immigrants, 2,096, outnumber Chinese residents, 835, by more than double. Together they account for 5 percent of 58,327 population.

1910 - Mexican immigrants begin pouring into the area to escape the turmoil and violence of the revolution. While they begin working in San Benito County, by the 1920s they are a prominent part, along with Filipinos, of the agricultural fields in Pajaro Valley. By the 1940s Mexicans dominate as farm workers.

1911 - The Mansion House is moved north on Main Street to make room for the Lettunich Building.

1911 - Flood water from the Pajaro River inundates Watsonville.

1912 (Oct. 11) - One of two submarines visiting Monterey Bay breaks from its mooring at Port Watsonville by high surf and is swept ashore, drowning two sailors. The submarine is towed back into deep water eight days later by the battleship Maryland and two tugs, and taken to the Mare Island Navy Yard in San Francisco Bay for repair.

1912 (December) - A huge storm pulverizes 160 feet of California Pacific Company's 1700-foot pier at Port Watsonville, forcing it closure and dismantling, along with buildings and rail line. By 1917 there was scant evidence of Watsonville's former ambition to become a regional seaport.

1914 - The four-story Lettunich Building, designed by William H. Weeks, is completed.

1915 - Lettuce is planted commercially for the first time in Pajaro Valley by Mose Hutchings despite the cynicism of fellow farmers. Success sparks a rush to grow lettuce, resulting in lettuce being a major crop within a decade.

1918 (November) - The flu pandemic, which kills millions of people worldwide, arrives in Watsonville and forces the city's civic auditorium to serve as an emergency hospital. Within a few months the flu threat passes after killing about 450,000 people in the U.S.

1919 - The Fruit Growers National Bank opens. It is purchased by Liberty Bank in 1927 and later merges with the Bank of Italy.

1923 (July 4) - The Grove of Remembrance, a memorial to the 14 Watsonville men who sacrificed their lives during World War I, is dedicated on Freedom Boulevard.

1923 - The Bank of Watsonville and Watsonville Savings Bank affiliate with the Bank of Italy, which later becomes Bank of America.

1924(March 1) ~ A fire destroys Booklyn,the Chinese community in Pajaro, killing four Chinese men and burning nearly every building to the ground.

1924 - Japanese are prohibited from immigrating to the US, opening the door for Filipinos to replace them as farm workers in the Pajaro Valley. The Philippines are a US territory, which allows Filipinos to travel freely to the US.

1929 (December) - The Western Hotel, the first hotel built in Pajaro Valley, is destroyed by fire.

1930 (January) - A four-day race riot rages in Watsonville, aimed at the Filipino community. Fermin Tobera, a Filipino farm worker is murdered while other Filipinos are dragged from their homes and beatern, becoming symbols of the racism directed at the Chinese, Japanese and other non-white minority groups.

1934 - Mexican and Filipino farm workers, who had organized themselves into labor unions, stage strikes in the Salinas lettuce fields. Each group strikes again in 1936.

1934 - Despite Filipinos having the same rights as US citizens, immigration from the Philippines is restricted and they are banned from becoming US citizens.

1936 - Farmers, mostly from Arkansas, forced off their land during the depression of the 1930s begin arriving in Pajaro Valley, forming communities in Corralitos, Aromas, Pajaro and the southern part of Watsonville.

1938 (February) - Flood water from the Pajaro River inundates Watsonville.

1938 - Watsonville High School gymnasium is built.

1938 - A modern Watsonville Hospital is completed on Prospect Street for \$10,000.

1942 - Japanese residents in Pajaro Valley are sent to internment camps for the duration of World War II, leaving farms nearly empty of workers.

1942 - The Bracero Program is started to encourage Mexican farm workers to replace Japanese and Filipino workers who have been either arrested or deported because of the war.

1944 - Watsonville is known as "Sin City" to soldiers in surrounding military camps because of the easy access to alcohol, gambling and prostitution.

1946 - The first parking meters are installed in Watsonville.

1948 - The first traffic lights begin operating in Watsonville.

1949 (September 9) - Thomas Mac Quiddy, superintendent of Watsonville schools for 41

years, dies.

1950 - The strawberry harvest surpasses \$1 million in value.

1954(April)- An earthquake registering 5.0 on the Richter scale breaks windows and dishes, cracks walls, causes slides and rips a three-inch gash across the highway at Chittenden Pass.

1959 (September) - Cabrillo College opens, using vacant room at Watsonville High School until the 6.6 million dollar campus in Aptos is completed in 1962. Santa Cruz County voters had approved the school in 1958, paving the way for Santa Cruz to be selected as a site for a University of California campus.

1964 - The original Watsonville High School building is demolished, replaced by the school's current library two years later.

1964 - Dr. Peter Watters dies of a heart attack.

1964- The Bracero Program ends, but instead of returning to Mexico, migrant workers move their families into Pajaro Valley to live. They mostly are from the Mexican states of Michioacan and Jalisco.

1965 - Jetties are constructed at the mouth of Santa Cruz Harbor, preventing sand from moving south and causing beach erosion and threatening property along the Monterey Bay coast.

1965 - The University of California at Santa Cruz opens.

1969 - Aptos High School is completed.

1969 - The current Watsonville Hospital at Green Valley Road and Holohan is completed.

1970 - The United Farm Workers calls for a strike in the Pajaro Valley and Salinas lettuce fields, resulting in a series of bloody conflicts with the police and sheriff's departments. UFW, led by Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta, had staged successful grape boycotts in the late 1960s and early 1970s in a fight for higher wages and improved working conditions.

1985 - Cannery workers associated with the Teamsters Union walk out on strike from the nation's two largest frozen food suppliers, Watsonville Canning and Richard A. Shaw Frozen Foods. The strike last for 19 months against Watsonville Canning. Although the Teamsters claim victory, Watsonville, which had dominated the frozen food market since the end of World War II, loses its industry dominance. Many of the companies move their operations to Mexico to exploit lower wages and less restrictive environmental controls, putting thousands of Watsonville residents out of work.

1987 (May) - Tony Campos is elected to the Watsonville City Council, the first Latino to

be seated.

1988(January)- Watsonville is ordered by the US District Court of Appeal to develop a plan for district city council elections, overturning a lower court ruling in favor of the city. The switch to district elections resulted from a suit by Latinos who argued that their inability to win a council seat was racially motivated and prevented Latinos from being represented. The US Supreme Court rejected Watsonville's appeal a year later.

1989 (November) - Oscar Rios, an immigrant from El Salvador, wins a city council seat in Watsonville's first district election.

1991 - Oscar Rios becomes the first Latino mayor in Watsonville's history.

1992 - The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the nation's largest marine preserve at 5,322 square miles, is created by President George Bush after a 15-year effort by environmentalists and other activists.

1995 - Heavy rain causes a breach in the levee on the south side of the Pajaro River, inundating Pajaro and Watsonville.

1997 - The UFW organizes a march through Watsonville to launch its national strawberry campaign.

1999 - Cabrillo College begins an \$8 million expansion into Watsonville.

2004 (August) - Pajaro Valley High School opens with 9th graders only in a temporary site, which is under construction and destined to become Cesar Chavez Middle School.

2005 (August) - Pajaro Valley High School inaugurates its new campus, hosting only 9th and 10th graders. Junior and senior classes are added over the next two years. The school is designed to accommodate 2,200 students.