

E. MIDTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD

The Midtown area was part of the residential development which expanded northward from the Central Business District and was developed in a time frame and under circumstances similar to the Magnolia Historic District neighborhood. Some of the earliest examples of residential development began to be constructed in the 1870s. The area developed north of the Central Business District extending to the City Limits at North Street (now Harding Way). Families were interested in moving into town from their rural farming operations to avail themselves of the urban life that their financial success made possible. One such amenity is the red brick Weber Primary School (Charles Beasley, 1873) at 55 Flora Street opened to serve this neighborhood. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Other institutional construction represented in this neighborhood include the Grecian-Ionic style First Church of Christ, Scientist (Glenn Allen, 1928), the Byzantine Jewish Community Center (Glenn Allen, 1928), both local landmarks by a prominent local architect. In the Home [Mayfair] Apartments, (Glenn Allen, 1912) and the Eden Square Apartments (Joseph Losekann, 1928) on El Dorado & Acacia Streets we see examples of work from some of Stockton's most notable design professionals from the first quarter of the 20th century. The brick Gothic Revival First Presbyterian Church on El Dorado and Vine (Bertram G. Goodhue, 1923) and the Colonial style Congregational Church at Madison & Willow Streets (W. W. Wurster, 1929) are also excellent examples of impactful custom-design which enhances this part of Stockton.

El Dorado and Center streets were once lined with elaborate homes owned by prominent citizens, nearly all of which have been demolished to make way for what is now a couplet of busy one-way thoroughfares lined with commercial properties from the 1960s-1980s and little remains of the residential grandeur that once graced these streets.

The Swett-Moreing residence at 143 W. Acacia (Samuel & Joseph C. Newsom, 1883), the Henry Aaron residence at 839 N. Commerce Street (1879), and Joseph Swain residence 1045 N. Commerce Street (1892) are but a few of the early examples of residential construction in the Midtown neighborhood.

Many dwellings in this area reflect the California Bungalow, Queen Anne Cottage, Italianate and Greek Revival architectural styles dating from the 1870s through the 1940s. This neighborhood has few garages facing the street, mature trees and an urban assortment of residential, commercial enclaves and institutional sites which have served the community for generations.

This neighborhood is quite diverse in character, with elaborate wood-frame, two-story structures interspersed with smaller structures added as in-fill beginning in the 1920s. The character of this sprawling neighborhood seems to change to the East of California Street and West of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks; north of Fremont Street to Park Street which was once a fairly commercial and industrial section of town