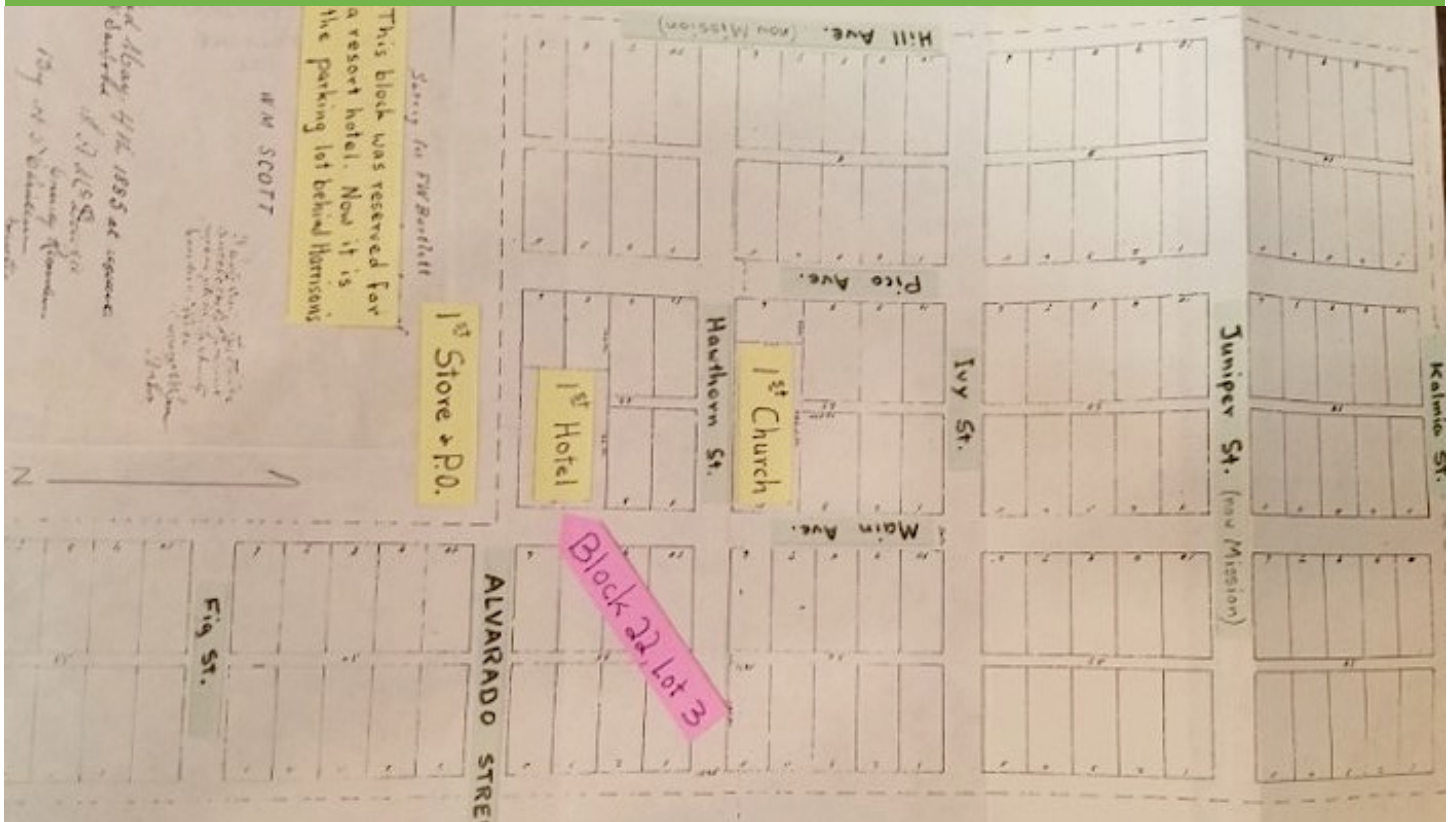


The Historian

A Quarterly Publication of the Fallbrook Historical Society

Fall 2019



West Fallbrook Streets & Lots: 1885 survey map showing streets & lots.
Notes were added by the Historical Society Committee for the 1985 Centennial celebration.

The Founding of Fallbrook

The founding of the town of Fallbrook can be directly traced back to May 1885 when West Fallbrook was laid out close to its present form, officially surveyed with streets given their names, and recorded in a document filed with the County of San Diego County. This picture shows a copy of the 134 yr. old map that is still familiar to us today, showing Main, Pico, and Vine avenues plus Elder, Alvarado, and Kalmia streets. The small writing at the bottom are the official San Diego County signatures and stamps. The notes were added for Fallbrook's year long Centennial celebration in 1985.

The town's name came from Vital Reche, a Canadian immigrant who in 1869 had settled in Live Oak Valley near Rancho Monserrate, a year before a homestead claim could be legally filed. Nevertheless, Reche cleared land for a farm, built a home, and named his ranch Fall Brook. A school and a post office would be established on Reche's property, but events and the coming of the railroad would cause the town to develop several miles west of Reche's ranch.

Henry Magee, James Bush, and Millard Neff were already homesteading to the west of Reche's Fall Brook Ranch on the dry uplands in the early 1870s immediately after the U.S. Land Commission survey moved the Rancho Santa Margarita boundary several thousand feet west, opening up a mesa of good farm and grazing land.

Continued on Page 2

Founding of Fallbrook, continued

When the California Southern Railroad was constructed through Santa Margarita Canyon in 1882, Fallbrook Depot was established on a wide level place (at the intersection of today's Sandia Creek and De Luz roads). A small community sprang up around the station, including the Howe post office, a Wells Fargo Express office, and E.G. Tracy's general store. Rail access provided homesteaders a means by which to get their goods to market, encouraging land speculation and a real estate boom up on the nearby mesa.

Disaster struck in the canyon during the winter of 1883/84 when heavy rains washed out 8 miles of train track along the Santa Margarita River. Flooded out, and with the trains temporarily not running, merchants and homesteaders, including C.P. Ely, moved from the canyon to the hill above.

Albert J. Hayward's homestead sat at the top of the Agua Bonita grade above the Santa Margarita River. His land stretching between today's Dougherty and Elder Streets, was destined to become the future community of Fallbrook.

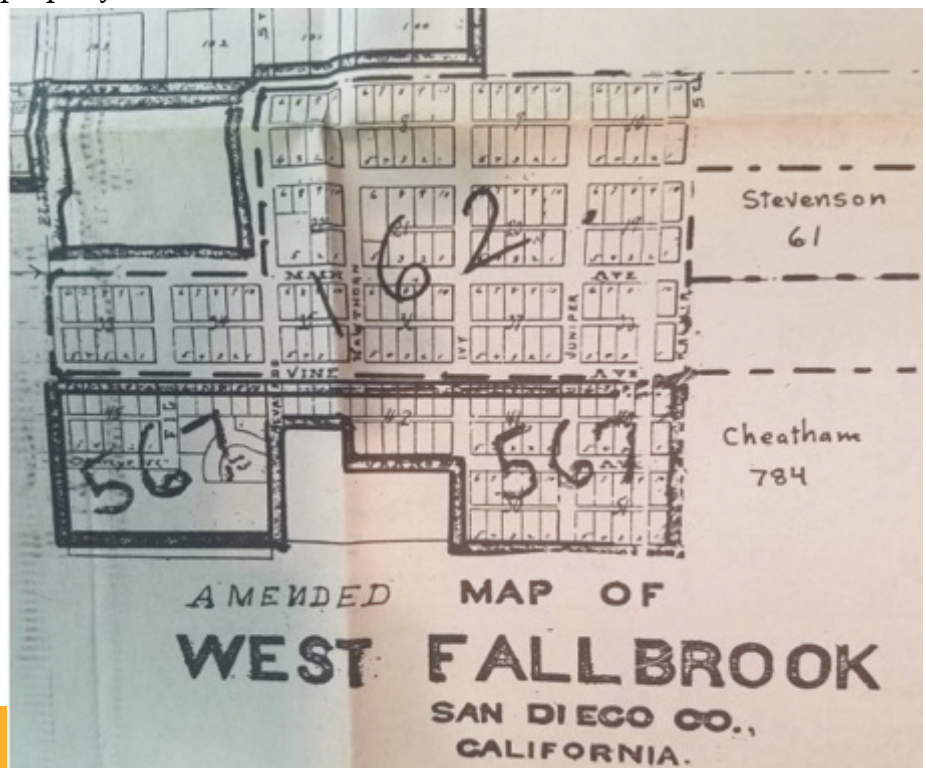
Directly south of Hayward's ranch, and straddling the old North/South road, today's Pico Ave., prospering farmers John North, George Abbott, and Sam Matthews who were actively competing with one another to form a new town close to the railroad and to have the important north/south road from Fallbrook Depot touch their properties. Into this situation came two land speculators: William M. Scott and his son in law Francis W. Bartlett, to form the Land and Town Company, purchasing Hayward's ranch for \$5,500 in 1884.

John North tried to form the town of "Northville" with his land and surrounding properties, but the deal fell through. Discouraged, North sold his property to Bartlett.

In 1885, with the railroad running again, F.W. Bartlett applied to the County of San Diego to create "West Fallbrook" under the State Townsite law. The County surveyor, C.N. Sanford, arrived to officially lay off 75 acres of Bartlett's property.

See the attached Amended map of West Fallbrook. The lots are 56' by 132' and were to be sold at \$25 to \$60 according to location. Lots began selling rapidly.

Original maps are available for viewing in the Fallbrook Historical Society Museum.



Continued on Page 5

Founding of Fallbrook, continued

Construction supplies were again arriving by train to sustain the building boom. Scott & Bartlett's big store on the corner of Alvarado and Main, was one of the first new businesses to appear. The West Fallbrook post office would begin in their store. Charles P. Ely also purchased a prime lot on the corner of Main and Alvarado, across from Bartlett's store, and built Fallbrook Hotel, the 1st hotel, in early 1885.

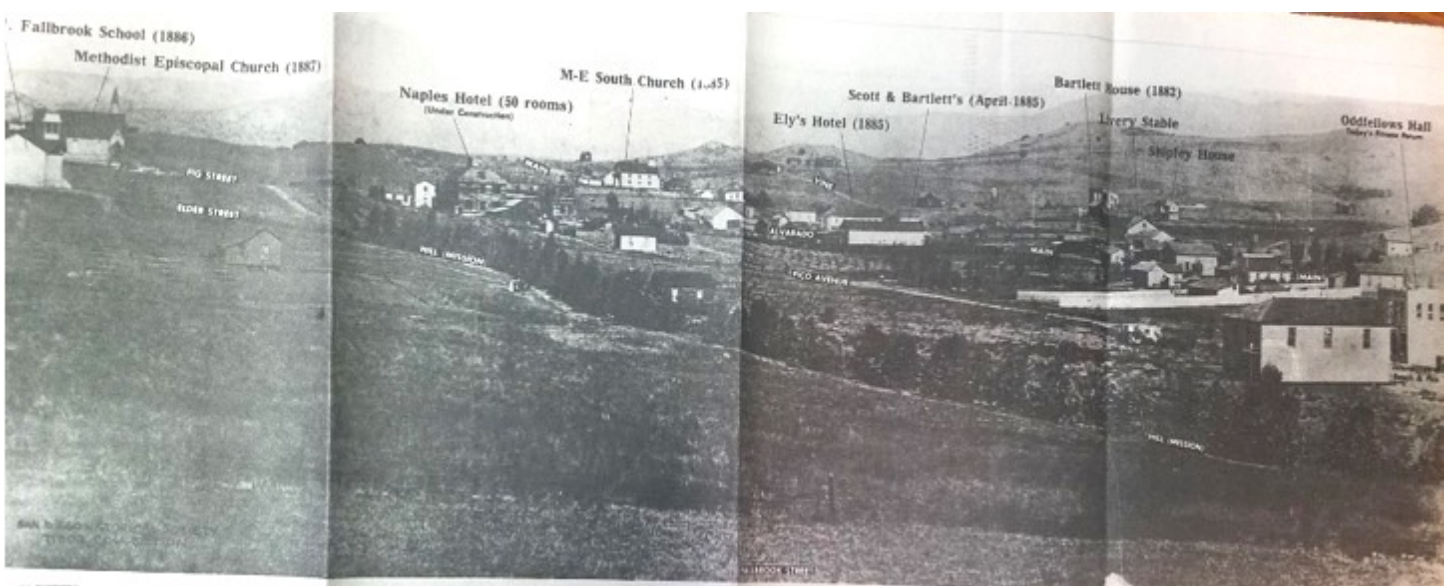
Fallbrook's 1st Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South went up quickly in 1885 on the NE corner of Hawthorne and Pico, on a prominence overlooking the town. The Baptist church which had been meeting in Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett's home also began meeting in the M-E Church South until they could build their own place.

By the summer of 1885, the school district boundaries were laid out for the new community and the County Board of Supervisors named it the West Fallbrook School District. The first West Fallbrook school would be completed the following year on land set aside by Bartlett at Elder & Hill St. (Now Mission Rd.). Classes were already being held in Victoria Magee's adobe home near today's Fallbrook St. and Golden Rd. since 1879.

The town fathers wanted a newspaper to advertise the new town. In 1885 they persuaded Millard Neff's older brother Benjamin to return from Sacramento to start the Fallbrook Review. For the first time, legal notices could be published in a local newspaper. Previously, notices had to be published in the San Luis Rey Star.

In 1885, in less than a year, West Fallbrook had a newspaper, 2 churches, a hotel, a school district, a post office, and a Temperance Union.

--Tom Frew
Fallbrook Historical Society Historian



Fallbrook in 1887

***YOU'RE INVITED TO:
THE HISTORIC RECHE SCHOOL
OPEN HOUSE***

SEPTEMBER 21, 2019

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

1319 SOUTH LIVE OAK PARK ROAD

FALLBROOK, CA 92028

FREE REFRESHMENTS AND LIVE MUSIC!

Tour Fallbrook's first school house and the restored Hindorff adobe.

Come join us to re-live a part of Fallbrook's History!



Entertainment by the Slacker Hill Band

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Fallbrook Historical Society *Old Fashioned Community* **Barn Sale!**



Saturday October 19: 9am to 4 pm

**1730 South Hill Steet, Fallbrook
(corner of Rockycrest)**

*Antiques
Collectibles
Tools Books
Garden Supplies
Toys
Decorations
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All proceeds go to the Fallbrook Historical Society

Items can be donated to the Historical Society for the sale from Oct.1 to Oct.15

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An Important Part of Communities

In our fast changing world, a sense of identity and continuity for future generations begins with solidifying a community's past.

Preservation helps strengthen our future. Our historic buildings and artifacts contribute to a vibrant, cultural village that draws tourism, art, festivals, and other activities, which in turn draw investment, revenue, and economic growth.

Conservation of heritage buildings is an important tool in community development which needs a continuing source of funds.

AS A MEMBER OF THE FALLBROOK HISTORICAL SOCIETY, YOU PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE AND WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT! THANK YOU!

Please consider actively participating as a docent (we train!), curator, helping with events, or even serving on our Board of Directors.

Call 760-723-4125 for more information.

Visit our webpage

at

www.fallbrookhistoricalsociety.org

Historical Information

Facilities Tours

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Astonishing Visits!

During the Summer Nights events in July and August 2019, over **1,260** people including the Queen & her Court boarded the caboose and visited the historical displays inside!

Thank you, Fallbrook!

Plan a Visit

Need a place to hold meetings, host a wedding, have a reunion or a party?

The Reche Schoolhouse
The Ford Room
The Barn
Are Available for Rental
Call 760-723-4125

Your Ad Here

Ad pricing choices:

- 1) \$100 per year for an ad in each of The Historian newsletters (4 per year).
- 2) \$250 per year for an ad in both The Historian and Time Again newsletters (16 per year).
- 3) \$1,000 per year as a Business/Corp. Sponsor level Membership which includes ads in all newsletters plus signage and appreciation plaques at the museum .

Reche Schoolhouse Open:

Includes the Schoolhouse, the Hindorff Adobe, the Indian Rocks

1319 S. Live Oak Park Rd.

Open the second Saturday of each month

1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

or by appointment

The Heritage Center Open:

Includes the Main Museum, the Pittenger House, the Gem & Mineral Room, the Ford Room, the Don J. Rivers Interpretive Center (the Barn), the outside displays

1730 S. Hill (at Rocky Crest Dr.)

Open Thursdays and Sundays

1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

or by appointment

The Caboose at The Railroad Heritage Park

Main Ave. at Elder St.

Sunday, Oct. 20 – Harvest Fair

Saturday, Nov. 23 – Artisan Fair

Saturday, Dec. 7 – Before Parade

Fallbrook Historical Society facilities are available for private tours by appointment.
Call 760-723-4125.

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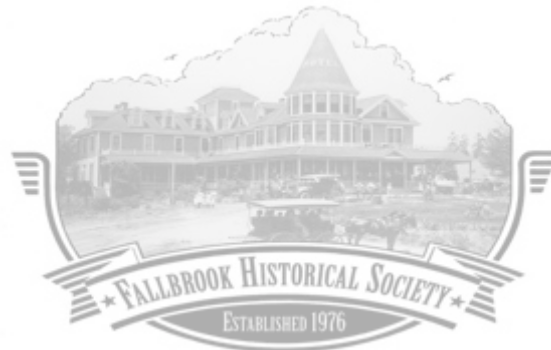
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The Fallbrook Historical Society's mission is to bring history to life by educating the community and others about Fallbrook's rich heritage



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Fallbrook Historical Society

P.O. Box 1375
Fallbrook, CA 92088-1375
www.fallbrookhistoricalsociety.org

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