

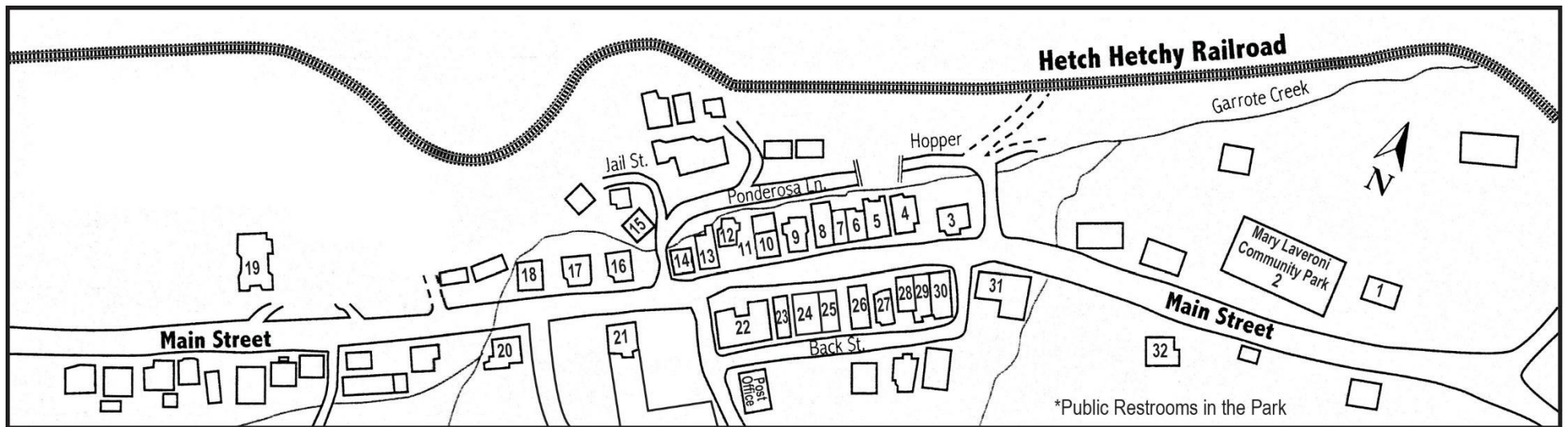
Historic Groveland Walking Tour

Both Groveland and its sister community of Big Oak Flat (2 miles west) were founded in 1849 shortly after the first discovery of gold in California in 1848. Groveland grew more slowly but became the larger town “on the hill” after a devastating fire destroyed Big Oak Flat in 1863. It became a town for mining, then ranching, and finally tourism. As with many Gold Rush towns built primarily of wood, it too experienced ruinous fires, among them the fires of 1920 and 1933 which destroyed large sections of the town.

However, a number of old structures remain throughout Groveland, including four adobe buildings from the earliest years. In addition, still standing are several turn-of-the-century frame homes, some converted into shops or B&Bs.

In the early 1900s Groveland was the construction headquarters for the Hetch Hetchy Dam project to bring Sierra water to the Bay Area. The project led to new building in the town, now 100 years old.

Visitors can still see many of these structures along the main road, Highway 120, that passes through **these** towns. The tour guide provided offers a numbered map and concise information about certain of these historic buildings. A hard copy brochure is also available free of charge at the Museum.



- (1) **MUSEUM & GIFT SHOP/LIBRARY** Twelve years of planning, fund-raising projects, and donations of all kinds from local citizens and outside supporters, coupled with an aluminum can drive spearheaded by Charlie Heath, raised enough to construct the building without any government money. The library (a branch of the County Library) opened in December 2000 with the museum following a few months later in 2001. The museum operates with a staff of community volunteers.
- (2) **MARY LAVERONI PARK** This was the site of the Hetch Hetchy O'Shaughnessy Dam construction headquarters. Today, among other things, it has a skateboard park, basketball courts and a youth center. From 1913 to 1924 the railyard and round house were located on the lower section. Across Garrote Creek, on the hillside, the Hetch Hetchy main line and train station were located. Today's parking lot and firehouse were the location of the office building, storage barn, and a number of cottages. In the 1950s Mary Laveroni was instrumental in acquiring the property from SanFrancisco for a community park.
- (3) **CAPLINGER'S** Now Iron Door Store, the building was built as Caplinger's Texaco Service Station circa 1935. This frame building with stucco walls has had only minor alterations. At one time a parapet-like awning went from the building front over gas pumps on the edge of Highway 120.
- (4) **GROVELAND POST OFFICE** This structure was built in a Spanish Revival style around 1935, with a residence in the back for the postmaster. Over the years it has served as a store and a restaurant.
- (5) **HOTEL CHARLOTTE** The hotel, built in 1921 by Charlotte DeFerrari to serve the workers on the Hetch Hetchy project, has served as a hotel continuously since that time and has changed very little. Charlotte and her brother ran the hotel into the 1940s. It is on the site of Groveland's first hotel, the Washington.
- (6) **GEM SALOON** Charlotte DeFerrari acquired the lot in 1921. The previous year, a major fire destroyed several buildings on the east end of town including the Europa Hotel, Opera Hall, and other buildings on the north side of the highway. The current building was constructed in 1921 as the Gem Saloon. Charlotte converted it into a restaurant for her hotel in 1928.
- (7) **ANNEX TO CASSARETTO STORE** Built in approximately 1921 after the 1920 fire burned the first Court, this building was the Justice Court Building into the 1960s. It has served as such things as a bakery, cafe and now a Mexican restaurant.
- (8) **THE EARLIEST TRADING POST / CASSARETTO STORE** There is evidence this building was built as a trading post in 1849 by Casimir Raboul. He sold the store to Michael Noziglia in 1873 and Noziglia's wife transferred it to her brother Luigi Cassaretto in 1879. It has remained in the Cassaretto family ever since. The family with nine children originally lived in the peaked roof second story until the house next door was built.

This is one of four remaining adobe buildings in Groveland. Notice the wall thickness at the doorway. It has remained a store until this day, now a thrift store.
- (9) **CASSARETTO HOME** was built circa 1900. The Cassaretto family is the oldest continuous property owner in Groveland. Family members still own this home which was built by Edward Cobden, who is credited with the construction of several of Groveland's Victorians.
- (10) **GROVELAND COMMUNITY HALL** Built of concrete block in 1918, this building served as Cassaretto's then Clyde Smith's grocery store until the late 1950s. Tuolumne County then bought the property and in 1959 converted it into a courthouse, post office and library. Today it serves as the cornerstone of many of Groveland's community events.

- (11) **BAIRD'S** The Baird's Hotel and pool hall were located on this lot. The hotel succumbed to the depression in 1933 and was torn down. Note the hotel name remains in the concrete sidewalk in front of where the hotel stood.
- (12) **THE LUMSDEN HOUSE** was reportedly built in 1920 to serve as the restaurant for the Baird's Hotel which stood on the vacant lot next door. It became Selina Lumsden's home.
- (13) **WATSON'S GARAGE** was built about 1920. Warren Watson was one of the first auto mechanics in Groveland. Today it works in conjunction with the thrift store.
- (14) **TWO STORY BUILDING** This building was built around 1988 to blend in with the city architecture and houses shop and office space. Behind the present structure was the location of the George Hamilton Livery service (and later the Baird Livery).
- (15) **GROVELAND JAIL** was built *circa* 1895, during the hard rock mining era, as a holding cell for the unruly. There is evidence in the cell, on the left, that a breakout was attempted by setting fire to the cell. The local garden club maintains the landscaping. In earlier times, the old town fire station was located behind the jail.
- (16) **REID HOME** Thomas Reid, a successful miner and businessman, had this house built in 1903. Thomas Reid and his wife Anna were the last owners of the Washington Hotel, the first in Groveland (where the Hotel Charlotte [#5] is now located). Having the same builder as house (#9) and (#18), it looks very similar with the exception of the tower, which was added after the original construction.
- (17) **THE SUTTON HOUSE** Built in 1881, and remodeled in 1898 this house was owned by Edward Cobden from 1909-34. During this time it also served as the local post office. Cobden was the builder of many homes in Groveland (#9), (#16), and (#18) and Big Oak Flat.
- (18) **MARGARET SIMMONS HOUSE** One of the three homes built by Edward Cobden. Margaret's sons had this house built for their widowed mother in 1900. A later owner made it into a B&B.
- (19) **GROVELAND SCHOOL** This Spanish Revival frame building was built as a school in 1916. This location was the site of the first school in the 1800s. With the influx of Hetch Hetchy projects and O'Shaughnessy Dam construction families, a school was built with voter approved bonds. In the late 1960s a new school replaced this one. This building was used for offices in the early 1970s before it became a bank.
- (20) **LAVERONI HOUSE** This house was originally constructed in 1877 and remodeled in the early 1920s. The house has been in the Laveroni family since 1894 and the business is owned and operated by family members as a nursery, gallery and coffee shop.
- (21) **HENRY DE FERRARI HOUSE** This was the only Groveland home to have paired front facing gables. Constructed in 1899 for his bride Rose Cassaretto, it has been moved 30 feet west to be incorporated into the commercial center.
- (22) **YOSEMITE GARAGE** Closed early 2010, it started in 1921 as Louis Ferretti's Yosemite Garage. Being repurposed today.
- (23) This building was rebuilt after the 1933 fire and, surviving the 1989 fire, has served among other things as a saloon, cafe and church.
- (24) The fire of 1933 burned the building at this location and it was rebuilt and burned again in the 1989 fire. The present building retains the Groveland city décor and has contained multiple business/store suites.

- (25) **LAVERONI ICE CREAM PARLOR** The ice cream parlor was here from 1920 - 1930. The original 1921 building survived the 1933 fire but not the 1989 fire. It was rebuilt after the 1989 fire to resemble the earlier building, but with a second floor.
- (26) **SAL FERRETTI 2ND MEAT MARKET** Built in 1920 as a meat market, the original building had the doors in front where the center windows are located. In the 1940s the northwest corner had been cut off and the doors relocated. In the 1970s and 80s it housed a pharmacy, then a stationery store. It is still possible to see the old meat locker inside the store.
- (27) **SAL FERRETTI HOME** The Sal Ferretti in-town home was built in 1921 after the 1920 fire. He owned a meat market next door. It has served a number of commercial enterprises.
- (28) **SAL FERRETTI'S 1st MEAT MARKET** This is one of four remaining adobe buildings in Groveland. The others are structure (#8), (#31), and a private residence. Notice the wall thickness at the door and windows. It was built in 1851 and first housed the Tannahill & Watts store with a Masonic Hall upstairs. The walls survived the fire in 1920 but the interior of Sal Ferretti's meat market was destroyed. It was rebuilt as a shoe store in 1921 and today a coffee shop.
- (29) **HETCH HETCHY RESTAURANT** This building is sandwiched between the Iron Door Saloon and the adobe Coffee Shop. Originally a wood frame structure, it burned in the 1920 fire. It was rebuilt in 1921 with concrete blocks and shares a roof with the saloon as the Iron Door Grill. The mural across the front and the shared roof make it look as if this and the Iron Door Saloon are one building.
- (30) **IRON DOOR SALOON** Built of granite blocks c. 1850 – 1852 as the Granite Store, later became Jake's Place saloon in the 1890's. Owner George Laveroni bought the property in 1938 and renamed it the Iron Door Saloon. The building history is posted on the front of the saloon.
- (31) **GROVELAND HOTEL** Originally named Garrote Hotel, these are two distinct buildings connected by a second floor walkway. The adobe section is Groveland's largest adobe building built circa 1849-1852. The wood frame building was constructed for the influx of Hetch Hetchy employees in 1915-1916. A detailed history is posted on the front of the building.
- (32) **TANNAHILL HOUSE** Groveland's oldest wood frame structure was built *circa* 1857-1858. James Tannahill, owner of Granite Store, was one of the earliest merchants at the time of the Gold Rush.

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