

Slocum House, 7992 California Avenue, Fair Oaks By Jim Pearce

Our Old Homes Editor, Sally Dunbar, agreed to take a well deserved rest so we could add the Slocum House to our documented old homes articles.

For those of you who didn't make the April General Meeting, VP Ron Lingren assembled three speakers to talk about "The Slocum House, Past, Present and Future." I took the early history, restaurateur Craig LeMar spoke on the restaurant days, and Peter Parker talked about plans for conversion of the house to a church facility. After that meeting, the plans for conversion fell through, but we assembled a lot of history on the house.

Charles Slocum brought his family to Fair Oaks in 1897 with the plan of opening a lumber yard to provide for all the incoming settlers new homes. He built his first home in 1897 at the corner of Sacramento St. and Watkins Drive. Several years later he built his second home, with nine rooms, an attic and basement, next to his lumber yard at the northeast corner of California Ave. and Main Street. He raised his children in the home and after they were grown he decided to build a smaller home on California Ave. The house, known by many as the Slocum House Restaurant, was completed in 1924, just a year before he died. His large second home, which the family rented out, burned down in 1930.



Ruth Slocum Gilmore and her husband Ralph lived in the Slocum House until Ralph died in 1954. Ruth stayed on until 1957 when she sold the house to Pete and Frank Campoy who turned it into a boarding house. In 1972 the Campoys sold the home to Wada King who operated an Interior decorating studio in the house. In 1976 Ken Bansemer and other investors bought the house, added two wings for the bar and kitchen, and turned it into a restaurant. Craig LaMar and Jay Nelson were the managers of the Slocum House Restaurant.



Many Sacramento residents were very disappointed when the restaurant closed in 2011 when the economy tanked and high end traditional restaurants fell out of favor with younger generations. Five years later the property is still for sale at about one million dollars.

If you're interested in all the details, the Slocum House has been listed in the National Registry of Historic Places and the application is on our website.