

A Best Guess Timeline of Ownership

Symonds Family: ? - 189?

First known area land owners after California statehood. They owned a much larger area than the current 2 Liberty Street plot.

Gossage Family: 189? - May 10, 1902

A prominent original Petaluma family that owned much of the block. They built the home currently located at 8 Liberty Street on the current site of 2 Liberty Street.

Drees Family:

May 10, 1902 - 1931

Another prominent Petaluma family, Emma Gossage married Emil Drees, and had the home of Emma's family to the current 8 Liberty plot to make room for the newlywed's home, now the current 2 Liberty St structure. In the late 1890s Emil had been the youngest mayor of Petaluma, then in his late 20s. The home was sold upon Emil's death, which came a few years after Emma's passing.

Vogensen Family: 1931 - 1948

Not much is known about Vogensen himself, but it's believed he is responsible for making the eastern addition to the house, subdividing it into apartments. This marked the beginning of the home becoming The Palms, a boarding house run by a Danish woman named Hedevig Madsen. She had run the business for a few years prior at its

original location in a house torn down to make room for the new post office a few blocks away. This was a golden era for the house as a social setting with coverage existing around the cultural events, speaker series, wedding celebrations, and society events hosted at the house. The sisters reportedly always had a hot pot of coffee available for guests, and throughout the WWII era, they made a point of baking a cake on the birthday of each of the home's residents.

The Palms

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Rose Ledwell: 1948 - 195?

The house was operated as the Liberty Rose, a “dinner house”, trying to carry on the legacy of the house during the Vogensen Palms era, however she soon sold the house.

Therp Family: 195? - 197?

Little known about the Therp family. It was likely just new landlords for the apartment building.

Kavanaugh Family: 197? - 1992

The Kavannahs returned the house to its single family status and raised a family here. The father was the principal of St. Vincent's High School and the Kavanaugh kids have fond memories of growing up here.

Tarabbia Family: 1992 - 2000

Mrs. Tarabbia, an Englishwoman, operated a tea room here that enjoyed some success.

Smida Family: 2000 - 20??

Jurina Smida converted the house to a bed and breakfast, upgrading the house to have fire sprinklers and adding clawfoot tubs throughout the house. Views of what the house looked like during this era are available from the Archive.org copy of her website, <http://www.oldpalms.com/>



Erickson Family: 20?? - 2016

Jim Erickson used the house as offices for his photography studio. He added server equipment and ground-isolated electrical lines to support video editing equipment.

Thompson Family: 2016 - Present

The Thompsons bought the house and reverted it, with a whole house remodel conducted by Leff Construction, to a single-family home once again.