Historic Lakeport
downtown
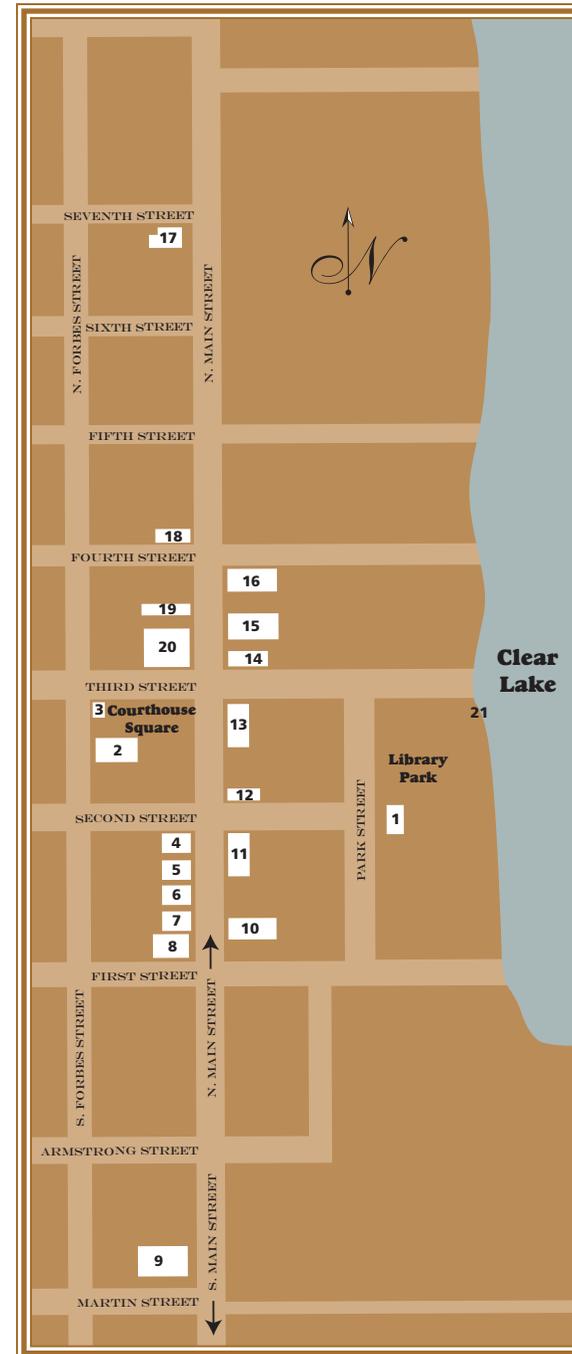### *walking guide and map*

Courthouse Square

Presented by the
Lakeport Main Street Association
(707) 263-8843 | www.lakeportmainstreet.com
225 Park Street | P.O. Box 1032
Lakeport, California 95453

A view of Carnegie Library, Clear Lake, and Mount Konocti from a rooftop in town

The Rumsey Gauge: In 1872, a pioneer named Captain Rumsey established the low point of the Grigsby Riffle sill—a rock ledge located at the confluence of Cache and Siegler Creeks in Lower Lake—as "zero Rumsey." All subsequent lake measurements are based on this elevation. Zero Rumsey is equivalent to 1,318.256 feet elevation above sea level. The highest recorded lake level was 13.66 Rumsey in 1890, while the lowest was -3.5 Rumsey in 1920. Typically the lake varies from an average 1.6 to 6.75 Rumsey each year. The lake is considered full at 7.56 Rumsey; when Clear Lake is full it has a surface area of 43,790 acres and contains 1,155,000 acre-feet of water. At Zero Rumsey the surface area is 39,170 acres with a capacity of 842,000 acre-feet. Flood levels vary, but warnings are issued at 9 Rumsey.

Downtown Lakeport Map

SEVENTH STREET — 17
SIXTH STREET
FIFTH STREET
18
FOURTH STREET
16
19   15
20   14
THIRD STREET
3 Courthouse Square   13   21
2
Clear Lake
12
Library Park
SECOND STREET
4   11   1
5
6
7   10
8
FIRST STREET
N. FORBES STREET
N. MAIN STREET
S. FORBES STREET
PARK STREET
ARMSTRONG STREET
9
MARTIN STREET
S. MAIN STREET

MAP BY MAX SEABAUGH

History of the Locations

1 Carnegie Library, c. 1918
255 Park Street

Land for the library was donated by multiple property owners, including Aaron Levy, and in 1918, $6,000 was donated by the Carnegie Foundation for the building. Mrs. Kate White was the first librarian of the Carnegie Library. This building served as the Lakeport branch of the Lake County Library until 1985.

2 Historic Courthouse, 1871
255 N. Main Street

Constructed in 1871, the Courthouse (photo on back panel) replaced the original wooden structure after it burned suspiciously during a dispute over which town should hold the county seat. Lakeport claimed the right because they already had a courthouse, but Lower Lake and Kelseyville also wanted the honor. After four heated elections Lakeport was chosen and construction was immediately started on the new courthouse, this time out of brick with a tin roof. The site was part of 40 acres donated by William Forbes. The drinking fountain near the courthouse was donated by the Women's Temperance Union in 1913 to celebrate their victory banning the sale or production of alcohol in Lake County. All Lakeport saloons were closed the next day. This was seven years before the 18th amendment established Prohibition.

3 Law Library, 1936
Corner of Forbes Street and Third Street

This building was constructed in 1936 as the Lake County Museum. The building was financed by Work Projects Administration (WPA) funds and County funds. This is the former location of the "Hooligan Bell," Lakeport's early emergency warning system.

4 Landco Building, 1928
199 N. Main Street

This was the location of the Bank of Italy, which became the more well-known Bank of America in 1930 (look carefully above the front door to see the faint lettering). Prior to the construction of the bank, this was the location of Steven's Saloon, and the site of one of Lakeport's earliest murders.

5 Site of Slotterbek's Gun Shop
185 N. Main Street

Slotterbek Gun Shop was established here in 1872 by Charles Slotterbek. Well known throughout the West for the exceptional quality of his workmanship, he was a former gunsmith for Derringer in Philadelphia, where he learned all phases of pistol making. An inventor in his own right, Slotterbek was granted patents for an offset scope mount, a three-barrel gun and a breech loading rifle. For a sign, Slotterbek had a 20-foot wooden replica of a gun attached to the building that stood out over Main Street. The original wooden building was destroyed by fire.

6 Farmer's Savings Bank, 1876
165 N. Main Street

This was the location of Farmer's Savings Bank, the second of the two earliest banks in Lakeport. Look up to the top of the building to see the original inscription. Lakeport Hardware also occupied this location for many years.

7 The Monroe Building, 1888
145 & 149 N. Main Street

The Monroe Building has housed a jewelry store, a meat market, and a general store. The upper floors were attached to the Farmer's Savings Bank and at some point were renovated for use as a hotel or apartments.

8 Chamblin Building
101 N. Main Street

The Chamblin Building was named for Dr. Chamblin, Lakeport's first mayor as well as a physician. The "new brick building" was built after a fire in 1883 destroyed the original wooden structure. Some of the bricks were made in Upper Lake by brick-maker Otto Weidmenn. This is also the former location of Jones Mortuary.

9 Soper Reese Community Theatre, c. 1947
275 S. Main Street

This Art Deco-style building was the Lakeport Theater, built and operated by the Reese family. James and Florence Soper donated $300,000 to the Lake County Arts Council to purchase the building in 1997. After renovations, the theater was reopened in 2007.

10 Mantz Hotel site, c. 1887
120 N. Main Street

This is the original site of the Mantz House, a hotel constructed in 1887. That same year, a Mr. Collier left his lamp burning when he left to take the stage to Cloverdale. It exploded and burned a large portion of the block. Ironically, the hotel was built as a result of the original building, located across the street, burning down in the fire of 1883.

11 Bank of Lake site, c. 1875
170, 180, 198 N. Main Street

The original site of Bank of Lake. The iron slab at the entrance to 198 N. Main is said to have been a point of reference for the Rumsey Gauge (see definition on back panel).

12 Sam Allen's Saloon site
210 N. Main Street

This is the original site of Sam Allen's Saloon, one of many saloons on Main Street. The building was destroyed by the fire of 1890.

13 A. Levy Building, c. 1895
240, 260, 270 & 290 N. Main Street

A. Levy constructed this building which originally had two-stories. The second story was removed after the 1906 earthquake. Over the years this building has been home to a grocery store, a dentist, clothing stores, a bakery and Meddaugh's drug store.

Looking down Main Street from McClouds Hotel with old cars

14 A. Levy Building, c. 1875
302 N. Main Street

Because it was made of brick, this building saved the businesses to the south during early fires that destroyed the wooden structures between Thirrd and Fourth Streets. This is believed to be the oldest commercial building in Lakeport.

15 Odd Fellows Hall
310 N. Main Street

The Lakeport Independent Order of Odd Fellows held their first meeting in this building in 1889, having rented the space from A. Levy. They subsequently rented space in another building, but eventually purchased the current building in 1920. The club has continued to hold meetings here ever since.

16 Anton and Green
370–390 N. Main Street

Constructed by J. Anton and W. Green to enlarge their grocery store, which had been located across the street in what is now the Buckhorn Club. The building was originally made of wood and burned down. The current building was completed and used as a grocery store, post office and a bakery.

17 Bynum House, 1875
675 N. Main Street

This Victorian home was built in 1875 by Sarshel Bynum, the County Recorder and first president of the Bank of Lake. The home was used as a hospital between 1926 and 1940, and became the Lakeport English Inn in 2003.

18 Anton Building, c. 1908
401 N. Main Street

J. Anton built the building for use as a grocery store, having moved his business from its former location at 370 North Main Street. The building later housed a hardware store.

19 Curry's Furniture, c. 1912
355 N. Main Street (Mo's Alley)

The original building that occupied this site was completed in 1912, then destroyed by fire in 1926. Once rebuilt, it became home to one of Lake County's oldest, continuously run family businesses, Curry's Furniture. Mo Curry was the owner and Curry's was considered the "Senate" of Lakeport. A great deal of City business took place in this building prior to today's requirements for open meetings of public officials. The alley behind the building is known as "Mo's Alley."

20 Lakeview Hotel site, 1862
301, 305, 307 and 325 N. Main Street

These businesses make up what was formerly the Lakeview Hotel, Lakeport's first hotel. It was one of the finest and largest buildings in the early days of Lakeport. The original two story wooden structure was built in 1862 and later rebuilt as a three story brick hotel. The third floor was removed as a result of the 1906 earthquake.

21 The Waterfront

In 1875, Captain Richard Floyd launched the wood-burning steamer "City of Lakeport" to transport goods and people between Lakeport and Lower Lake. In the 1930s, Pan American Clipper seaplanes used Clear Lake as a temporary landing spot when San Francisco Bay was too foggy. Since the early 1890s, Lakeport has hosted the annual seaplane "Splash-In" in September.