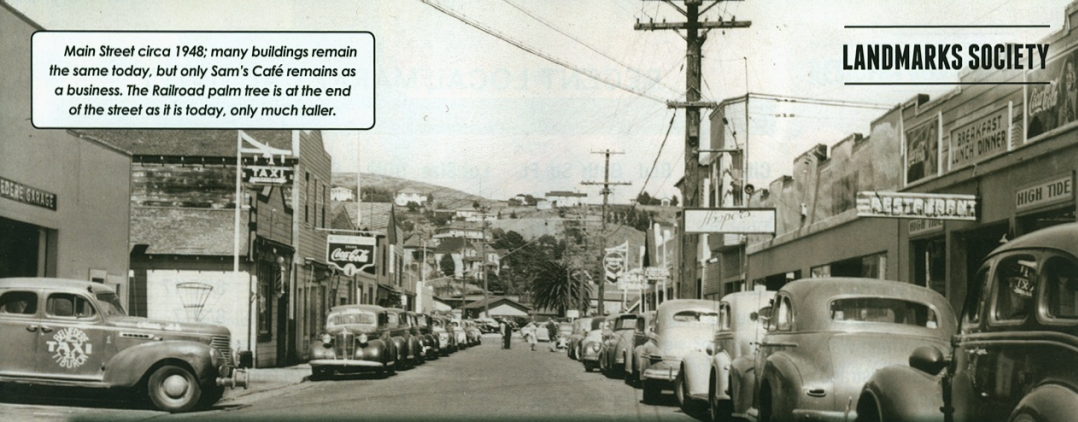


Main Street circa 1948; many buildings remain the same today, but only Sam's Café remains as a business. The Railroad palm tree is at the end of the street as it is today, only much taller.



## THEN AND NOW

### BELVEDERE'S BEACH ROAD & TIBURON'S MAIN STREET

By Dave Gotz

Historically Belvedere's Beach Road and Tiburon's Main Street were the primary thoroughfares in each community. But each evolved quite differently into what we know today.

Beach Road always had numerous residences, both elegant (the Farr Cottages) and ramshackle (arks and shacks, including the China Cabin). However there were several shops, the Post Office and offices in the Belvedere Land Company building on the west end and a thriving commercial district toward the Tiburon end, including two laundries, lumber and other supply stores as well as a boat builder. In the center was a large barn built by the Land Company to house horses and carriages, and after World War I it became a Shell gas station and car repair shop until the 1950s. Barn Road was created after this building was torn down in 1966. As the Land Company developed the Lagoon they also added residential buildings where the

commercial buildings were; today only a few businesses remain in the Land Company Building.

As it was in the early 1880s when the railroad came to Tiburon, Main Street has always been a hub of business and community activity. In the early days there were two hotels, rooming houses, several saloons, pool halls and restaurants, grocery stores, a butcher shop, and more. This mix of businesses continued through three major fires, with the buildings being reconstructed within a few months. The last fire in April 1921, wiped out all of the northwest side; many of the today's shops on that side are housed the reconstructed buildings from that year. After World War II, as the railroad wound down its operations and Tiburon became a residential suburb, the mix of businesses changed. From the late 1950s on the street has been populated mostly with small shops and restaurants.

"Then" photos from the Landmarks Archives, "Now" photos by Dave Gotz.