

Barudoni Building in 1908

Gary Day



The granite Barudoni Building in 1908

Stanley Prosser Neeley donated this 1908 post card picture of Rocklin's granite Barudoni Building to the Rocklin History Museum. The building is at 5250 Front Street across the street from the newly restored Old Saint Mary's Chapel. Stanley's father George Neeley is on the buckboard to the right. Swiss immigrant meat dealer, Joe Barudoni, constructed the building in 1905 and leased out the first floor to a meat

merchant. Notice the steer's head in the left window and the butcher's apron-clad gentleman in the doorway.

Originally a shingle on the right (north) side of the building marked exterior stairs that led to the second floor medical offices of Dr. Bradford Woodbridge. However, Dr. Woodbridge died in 1905 and the shingle does not show.

Post-Barudoni owners operated a variety of businesses in this building and Rocklin old timers remember that it was once a feed store and later an antique shop.

According to Rocklin Historian Ruben Ruhkala, the owner in 1954 started to dismantle the building, moving granite blocks to Ophir for construction of a gas station and leaving gaps in the walls. Recent owners covered the gaps with wooden framing creating residential apartments upstairs and commercial space on the first floor.

The site of the gas station is now vacant but the granite blocks are nearby, strewn about the Ophir landscape.

The building gapped to the right of the Barudoni Building by Dr. Woodbridge's staircase is the Placer County Market. Farther to the right is a taller building which might be Porter's Hall, a famous turn of the century dance house and watering hole. A 1914 fire destroyed the market, Porter's Hall and other buildings north on Front Street, including the five saloons that operated in the 100 yards between the Barudoni Building and today's Cross Roads Church.