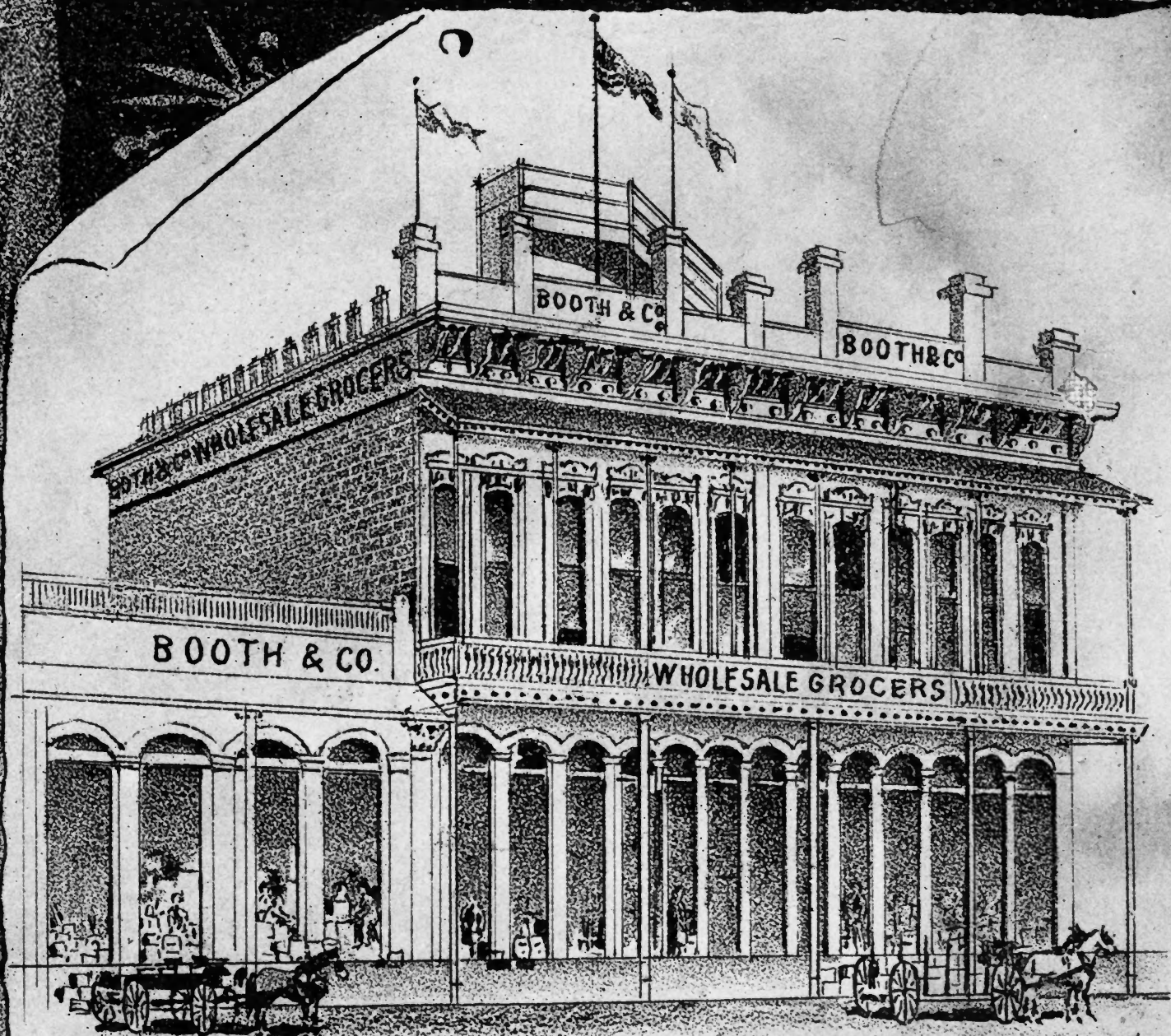




OLD SACRAMENTO



BOOTH & CO. WHOLESALE GROCERS.

Newton Booth was one of Sacramento's most famous pioneers. He owned a prominent wholesale grocery firm, established in 1850, which in 1852 moved to a one-story structure at 1009-1013 Front Street, depicted to the left in this photograph. In the mid-1860's the firm enlarged its quarters by moving into an adjacent two-story structure at 1015-1021 Front Street, shown at the right in this photograph.

With his grocery business flourishing, Newton Booth embarked on a career of public service. In 1862 he was elected to the California State Senate. In 1871, Booth was elected Governor of California. During his term of office, he became one of the few Californians to oppose discrimination against the Chinese, an act of considerable political courage at that time. In 1875 Booth was elected United States Senator, serving until 1881. During his term of office, he was active in the passage of a bill for the settlement of land titles in California, a problem which had plagued the State since the end of the Mexican War in 1848. Booth was chairman of the committees on manufactures and appropriations, and also served on the committees on patents and public lands. After retiring from the Senate, Booth returned to Sacramento and again became active in his grocery business until his death in 1892.

During his years in Sacramento, Booth had his residence in the north portion of the two-story structure, in the center of this photograph. This portion, along with the one-story structure at the left, are no longer standing. At his residence, Booth entertained many of California's most prominent citizens.

The Booth Building has been marked as a State Historical Landmark. The photograph shows the structure as it appeared in the late 1870's.



By the mid-1890's, the first story of the Union Hotel facade had undergone some alterations, but the upper stories remained essentially the same. The hotel was still a well-respected hostelry.



In the mid-1890's, Ebner's Hotel still retained its architectural ornamentation and was still in use as a hotel.



Today little remains of the buildings once occupied by the Booth and Company wholesale grocery firm. The one-story structure to the north at 1009-1013 Front Street and the adjacent north half of the two-story structure at 1015-1017 Front Street, where Newton Booth had his residence, have been demolished. Only the south half of the two-story structure at 1019-1021 Front Street is still standing, and it is greatly altered. A rickety canopy over the lower story has replaced the wood balcony. The second-story canopy and ornate cornice have been removed, as has the platform on the roof where employees of the grocery firm once watched for ships bringing goods up the Sacramento River from San Francisco. The delicate window moldings are gone, and the fenestration of the first story has been greatly altered.



This photograph shows the Union Hotel as it appears today. All architectural ornamentation has been removed from the facade, and the once-famous hotel is now used as a flop-house for transients and "winos" who inhabit the Old Sacramento area.

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