



First Street

Farm Buildings

PUTAH CREEK

FRONT

FROM VALLEJO

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Image © 2008 City of Davis

Where Was the Jerome Davis Farmhouse?

Aficionados of Davis history speculate on exactly where the Jerome Davis family farmhouse stood. One leading theory places it near Olson Hall on the UCD campus, but the evidence is uncertain.

Recent digital technology allows us to take a fresh look at this question. A credible map showing the Davis farmstead in relation to the original Davisville street grid appears on page 242 of Yolo County's 1868 Deedbook H. I laid relevant portions of a digital photo of that map over a 2008 Goggle Earth photo-map of the same original grid area.

The result is seen on this page. The black lines with white edges are the 1868 map. That map and the 2008 Goggle photo-map under it fit together

remarkably well. (There are small and unimportant distortions arising from the photo not being exactly "straight-on" and a slight curve in the book pages.)

The extraordinary fit of the two maps encourages me to conclude that the "Farm Buildings" labeled on the 1868 map (which we know from other sources to have been the Davis farmstead) are shown in the correct vicinity.

That vicinity is the eastern half of the UCD parking lot at the southeastern corner of First and A streets. Above, the Davis farmhouse is shown in red and other buildings in white.

— John Lofland

(Many thanks to the Yolo County Archives for a digital photo of the Deedbook H map.)