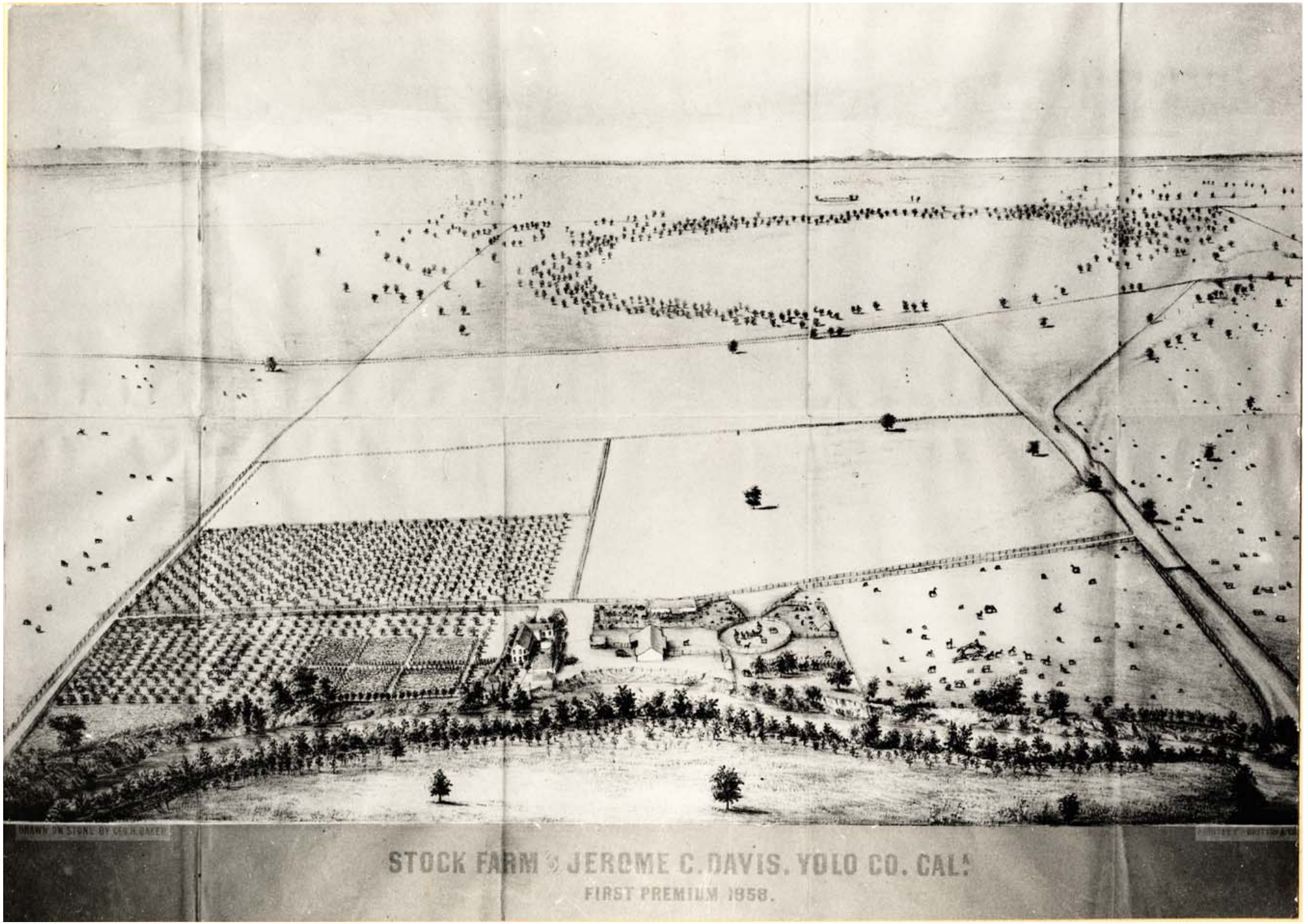
1858 drawing of the Jerome Davis farm on which a grid for a "Davisville" was laid out (in the far-right of the drawing).

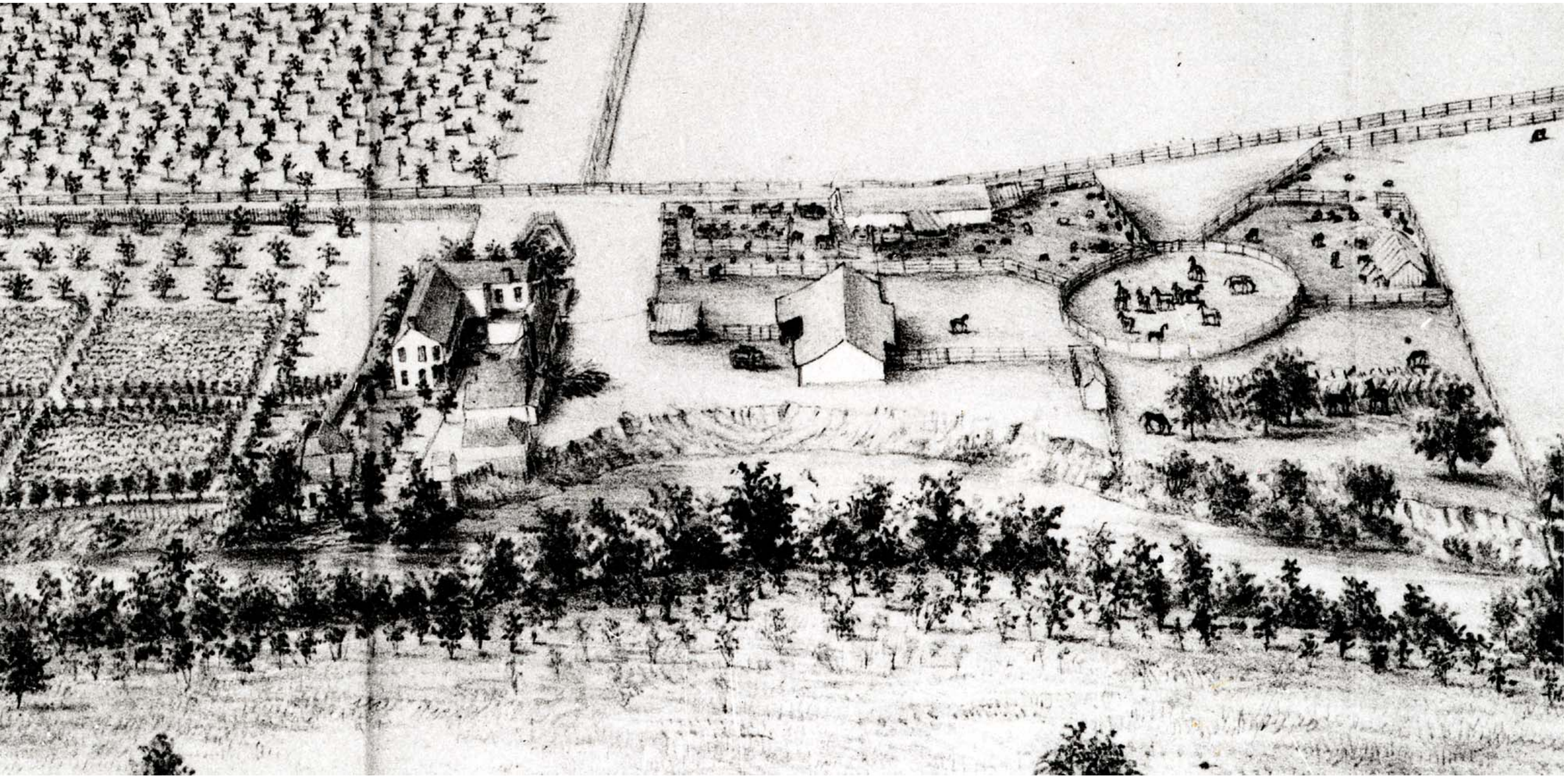
Because of bad weather and other factors Davis' farm was mortgaged, failed, and the foreclosed mortgage bought by the California Pacific Railroad (the "Cal-P").

Planning to create a town in which grain could be purchased and the shipped on the new train, in late 1867 the Cal-P owners hired the local postmaster, William Dresbach, as its agent to carry out this plan.

Dresbach moved from the south bank of Putah Creek and took over the then-vacant buildings of the Davis farm.

Before the new Davisville grid become operational the almost-ten buildings of that farm housed various expectant enterprises and became a lively scene. In this sense, Davisville gestated in farm sheds before it was born on a new town grid.


DRAWN ON STONE BY GEO. H. BAKER
STOCK FARM OF JEROME C. DAVIS. YOLO CO. CAL.
FIRST PREMIUM 1858.

The very first Davisville?

Detail from the 1858 Davis farm drawing (above) showing nine buildings that are reported to have been occupied in the expectation that a town grid named "Davisville" would soon be laid out just a few hundred yards northeast of this farm site.