

From: [Kevin R. Eberle](#)
To: [Emmons, Karen](#)
Subject: Beaufain Street
Date: Tuesday, September 22, 2015 12:02:57 PM
Attachments: [Postcard 2.PNG](#)
[Postcard 1.PNG](#)
[1888 Sanborn.PNG](#)
[1902 Sanborn.PNG](#)

These are not high res scans, but I don't have access to the originals. They are two postcards showing almost exactly the same view a few years apart. The first one was taken right around 1902, and the second one was take a few years later.

The reason I'm passing these on is just because the views are not actually identified on the postcards other than with a vulgar reference to their having been taken in a black section of town.

I've been debating the location of the view with some other history buffs, and I finally was able to pin the view down.

These two images show the block of Beaufain St. east of Coming Street. In each one, the photographer was standing at about the corner of Archdale and Beaufain looking west toward Coming Street.

If you look at view 1, you'll see a notable masonry single house with wooden houses immediately next to it on the right and an opening on the left before getting to a small masonry, one-story building. Across the street are a tight row of wooden buildings.

If you look at view 2 (taken before 1907 according to the postmark on the postcard), you can get a tiny bit more information and see that had the original photo been taken a little further back on Beaufain, there are more wooden houses on the right (north) side of the street and a building with a piazza on which a woman is standing. Across the street are more tightly packed in wood buildings.

Not a lot to work with, but if you consult the 1888 Sanborn maps (which thankfully are reproduced in color through the USC library), you can find the same block. On the 1888 map, that mysterious one-story masonry building down the street about half way seems a bit too small and was wood, not brick. And there were FOUR, not three, wooden houses between 36 and 46 Beaufain (that is, the main stuccoed house shown and the building with the piazza with the woman standing on it).

But, when you compare the 1902 Sanborn map, you can see that one of those four wooden houses was later demolished, leaving a gap exactly where it is seen in the postcards. And, more importantly, check out what has happened down the street where that one-story wooden building was seen in the 1888 map. It has been replaced with a commercial building that corresponds exactly in width, height, and materials with what is seen in the postcard images.

And, the real confirmation is that little fire plug on the left side of the street. The Sanborn maps were especially good about marking those because they played a big part in setting fire insurance rates. Notice the blue dot on the 1888 map across the street and a bit east of the two-story stucco house?

That represented a fire plug. Which is exactly what you see in the earlier postcard and in exactly the right place!

That's a long explanation, but I'm positive that these postcards show that block of Beaufain.

Kevin

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