



289 Washington Street

- 1852 - Susan Smith owned the Union Restaurant on this site. She also owned the Diana Bowling Saloon that was here.**
- 1855 - The Great Fire destroyed most of Old Town.**
- 1856 - Susan Smith sold this lot to her sometimes partner, George Stevens. George quickly set in motion a plan for a fireproof brick hotel for this site. It was 112 feet by 38 feet. It was three stories high. He named it "The American Hotel." When it was finished, it was the "best house in the mountains."**
- 1861 - George expended a tremendous amount of money, sometimes borrowed money, on building the hotel. He would lose the hotel to creditors a number of times.**
- 1882 - George Stevens, down on his luck again, returned as a guest in the hotel and overdosed on morphine. The coroner could not determine whether it was suicide or not, George's friends believed it was.**
- 1905 - A fire destroyed most of the hotel leaving only parts of the old brick walls. The original brick was said to have come from Rich Flat, a lucrative mining area in Auburn.**
- 1905 - Michael David Lininger, a local contractor, converted the building into the Placer Hardware building for owners Chamberlain and Roumage.**
- 1919 - The Yue brothers, Charlie and Joe, moved their Shanghai Restaurant from the small building next door into one half of the building, the other half was a billiard hall. Charlie ran the restaurant and Joe ran the billiard hall.**
- 1939 - The Yues owned the whole building and ran the restaurant and bar. The Shanghai was a beloved Auburn institution for many years. Tourists, locals and bikers all loved the eccentric Shanghai. It was here until 2005.**