

The building known as the Dinkenspiel Store in Vallecito has a long history. It was built in 1854 by Morris Cohen and his partner L. Dinkenspiel. By July 14, 1856 at third partner was named in a deed when L. Dinkenspiel sold his one third interest in the stone store in Vallecito to his partners, Morris Cohen and Isaac Levy.[1] In the deed his name was spelled Dinkelsfield not Dinkenspiel.

The deed described the stone store as built in 1854 and that it was on the west side of the principal street in Vallecito. The Atlas Coffee House was on the north west of it and a saloon was on the other side. The price paid for the share was $1,500, which would have included the cost of a 1/3 of the merchandise in the store. At the time of this transfer, Lazarus Dinkenspiel was living in San Francisco and in 1866 he was registered to vote there, a merchant located at 713 Post Street. By 1869, the SF City Directory listed L. Dinkenspiel and Co. as a fancy goods merchant at the SW corner of Battery and California Streets.

A fire started in Vallecito on Friday, August 12, 1859 at about 6 PM in the store of Madam Belzance, where one of her employees had been drawing some alcohol and a candle caught the fumes on fire which then caused a can of camphene to explode. The employee died from his injuries and several others were seriously burned. The explosion sent the fire into surrounding buildings and soon the Masonic Hall and other buildings on Main Street were in flames and only the fire proof buildings were able to be saved. William Krause, the owner of a fire proof building, had a large pump in his well and with the help of the men of the town they kept a constant stream of water on other buildings and managed to save the lower end of town. Cohen and Levy had fifty men pumping and carrying water into their store which kept the iron doors from springing open and so the merchandise was saved. The loss for Cohen and Levy was estimated at $3,000. They had been taxed that year for a stone store and a frame building adjoining it, with merchandise valued at $10,000 as well as a wagon, a Spanish horse and 3 mules.

> Messrs. Cohn & Levy had fifty men pumping and carrying water into the back door of their store, and by this means kept the front door from springing, which saved the store-house and an immense stock of goods from destruction. As it is, their goods is somewhat damaged.

On Monday October 15, 1861 the store owned by Cohen and Levy caught fire in the early hours of the morning. This fire destroyed all the dry goods in the building but the grocery section was not damaged. The loss was estimated at $10,000, all of it covered by insurance. Morris Cohen and Isaac Levy kept the store until October 24, 1872, when they sold to Jacob Haas and Bros. of San Francisco.[2] This deed described the property as having a stone store and a stone cellar used for storage in the

rear of the store and a stone building adjoining the store known as the "*water office*" and also a frame building about 150 yards north of the store used as a stable.

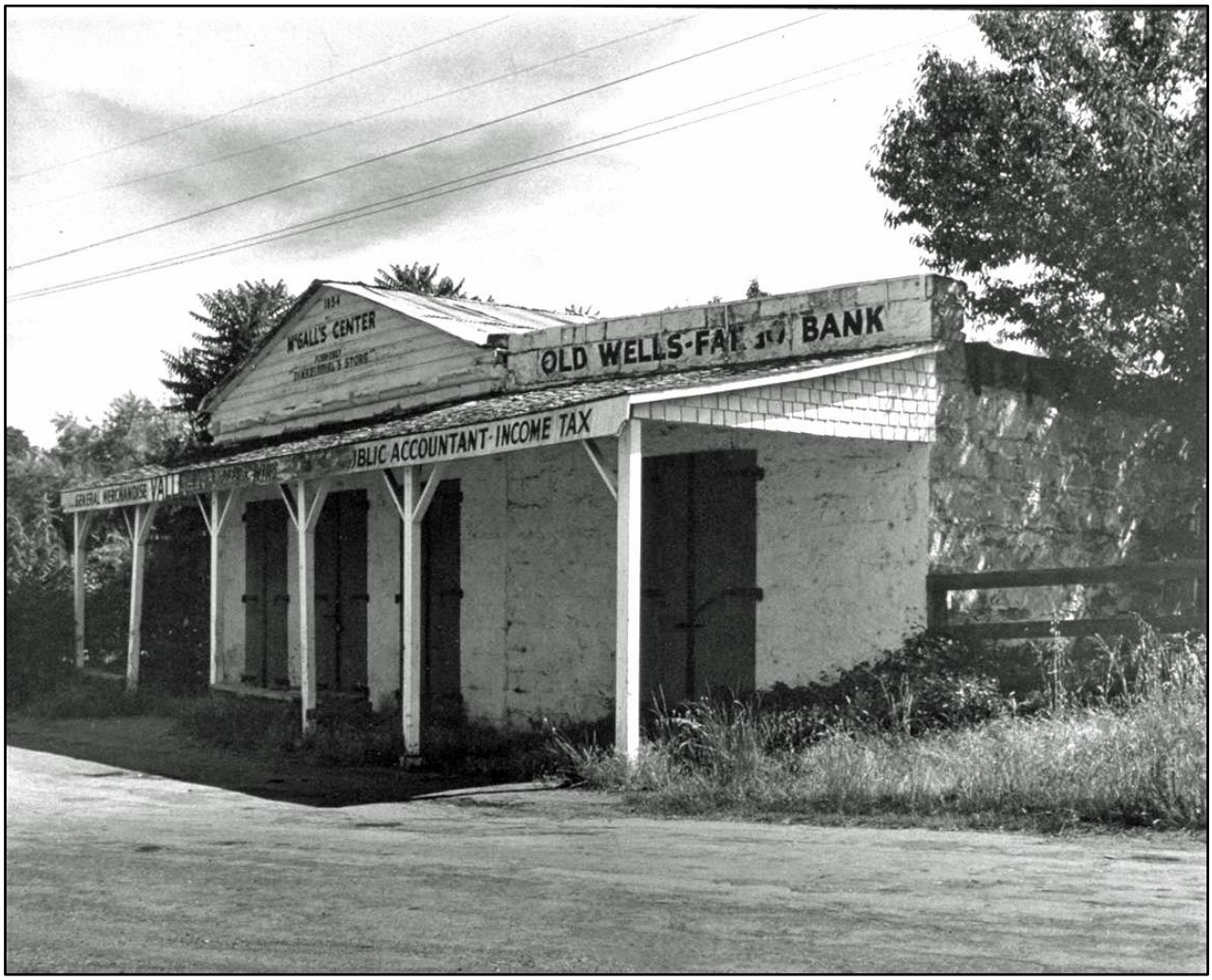
Jacob Haas registered to vote in Vallecito on August 12, 1871 and Abraham Haas was living in Vallecito when the 1870 census was taken, living in the boarding house of Charles Kohler where Isaac Levy also lived. The Haas Brothers kept the store for only a few years, selling it after the property tax year of 1872-73. By the next year, the property tax rolls showed Francisco Bacigalupi as the owner. In 1876 the townsite map of Vallecito was finished and each property owner had to file for title to the land, which had earlier belonged to the government with everyone only owning a "*right of possession*". After the map was finalized, all property had a lot number in a town block.

CALAVERAS CHRONICLE.

SATURDAY, OCT, 19th, 1861.

FIRE IN VALLECITO.–On Monday morning, says the Independent, about half-past one o'clock a fire was observed in the large store of Cohn & Levy at Vallecito. The doors were thrown open and as soon as possible the flames were extinguished; but not until all the dry goods in the store had been consumed. How it canght is all conjecture.—The grocery department escaped uninjured. No one slept in the establishment, but a light was used at 12 o'clock by the Express agent, from which it is thought the fire may have originated. The total loss is said to be about $10,000—all insured.

Francisco Bacigalupi and his wife Guadalupe did not sell the store until July 15, 1895, when they





were living in San Francisco and by then they owned not only the original Lot 8 in Block 5 that the store was on when the 1876 map was finished, but also Lots 7 and 9. The buyer was Luke Sanguinetti and Luke still owned it when he died in 1923 with the addition of a few other lots next to the store land, leaving it to his brother Charles Sanguinetti. Charles did not keep the business, selling it to Elmer Saunders.[3] The next owner was Jean Fuzere. Since then there have been many owners and the old stone store building is now redesigned as a home.



1. 7/14/1856 Deed Book B, page 473: Dinkensfield to Cohen and Levy.
2. 10/24/1872 Deed Book S, Page 336: Morris Cohen and Isaac Levy to Jacob Haas and Bros.
3. 4/18/1925 Deed Book 76, page 187 Charles Sanguinetti to Elmer H Saunders