

CHAPTER 1

Dunedin's Early Settlers: 1880 to 1889

In the 1880s, Dunedin had only just gotten its official name, it had roads that were nothing but sandy trails, ice was a rare commodity, and hogs were running rampant through the town. There were no electricity lines, no air conditioning units, and no phone lines.

Citrus was the main industry and had recently taken over for cotton, so many people were flocking to the area to stake their claim in land for orange groves. Oranges became a major export from the area and the groves became an excellent source of work for locals.

The main modes of transportation were boat or horse and wagon, though by the end of the decade, a small and rather rough railroad had been put into service through the town. By that time, too, large buildings started popping up near the waterfront, and Dunedin had quite a few hotels, as well as general stores.



Top: Early view of Oak Street; Middle: Douglas and Somerville general store; Bottom: Early view of Victoria Drive (Source: DHM)