

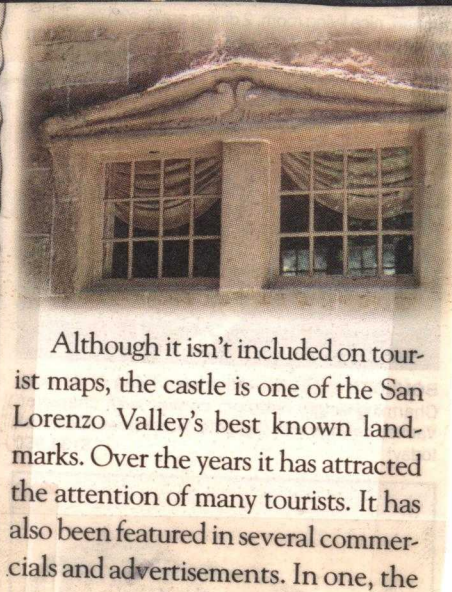
# BEN LOMOND'S HOWDEN CASTLE

Presented By  
**Network**  
**Alliance Realty**  
See page 10

## Wee Bit of Scotland Now For Sale!

**B**en Lomond is nearly as Scottish as any place in the United States. The name itself was supplied by John Burns, a Scot who arrived in California in the 1860's and named the community after a mountain near his native home.

Nowhere is that Scottish heritage more evident than in the famous Howden Castle located at the end of Ben Lomond on the west side of Highway 9.

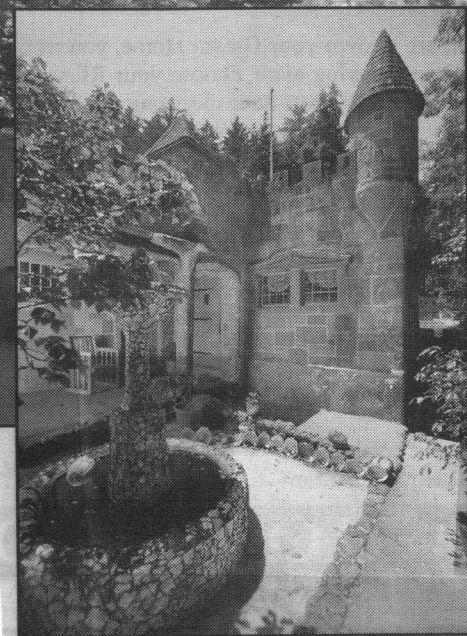


Although it isn't included on tourist maps, the castle is one of the San Lorenzo Valley's best known landmarks. Over the years it has attracted the attention of many tourists. It has also been featured in several commercials and advertisements. In one, the

## REFERENCE

APTOS BRANCH LIBRARY  
7695 Soquel Drive  
Aptos, CA 95003





*Continued from page 1*

castle walls were scaled by Robin Hood.

The intriguing original castle was built in the late 1920's by Robert Howden, a Scot whose one desire was to live in a castle. He chose the site on a bend in the San Lorenzo River where he had spent treasured vacations camping in a tent. He patterned the castle after those remembered from his boyhood in his native Scotland.

Although the outside of the castle looks like stone, it is actually a thick stucco. On this unusual exterior one can see perhaps the most interesting aspect of this unique structure, its varied decorations.

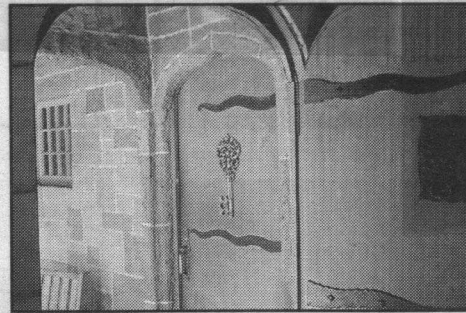
There are mosaics of fourteen Scottish highland dogs at the entrance and a mosaic of a guard at the door. Abraham Lincoln and Thomas Paine are depicted

above the door. The turrets have coats of arms, and a front courtyard is made of abalone shells.

Howden used his extensive skills as a stone carver to etch panes of glass windows with depictions of Scottish scenes and the poems of Sir Walter Scott and Robert Burns. There are even poems identified as being by "Howden."

Howden kept the castle, which even has its own graveyard, until 1937 when it changed hands. Several owners had brief stays there before it was bought by Howard Sullivan and his wife, a Santa Cruz couple who owned the castle from 1929 to 1946.

The Sullivans extensively remodeled both the living room and the kitchen. In keeping with the authenticity of a European castle, they wanted to use Keanstone on the walls. Unable to find anyone locally to work with Keanstone, they contacted Randolph Hearst at the Hearst Castle in San Simeon and were able to arrange



to employ the man who had done his installation to work for them in Ben Lomond.

In 1946 the castle, still unfinished, was bought by George and Ivy Weatherly and became known as the Weatherly Castle.

Before a trip through the Big Basin area, the Weatherlys had supposedly each had a dream about a castle surrounded with wa-

ter. After driving through Ben Lomond and seeing a "For Sale" sign on the castle, they followed the omen of their dreams and bought the castle within 10 minutes for \$25,000.

It was to be the Weatherlys who finally finished the castle by adding the towers, turrets, a disappearing stairway, and balconies. They also added a dining room, party room, and food storage cellar.

Several partitions were torn out to make small rooms larger, and there were retaining walls added in the garden.

During the Weatherly's tenure the castle was filled with Scottish antiques and paintings. After George Weatherly died, Ivy continued to live on in the house with more than a dozen cats. She gave regular tours of the house for almost twenty years.

The current owner John Lewis has toned down the once brightly colored pink exterior and opted for a more rustic look. In addition, he has remodeled the kitchen and added

some decidedly modern amenities such as a microwave oven and a satellite dish on the tower.

This building was deemed eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places on October 31, 1979. Although the unique landmark is ready to change hands again, it's a certainty that the romantic appeal of the picturesque structure will remain.

