

GARDEN MALL

DOWNTOWN SANTA CRUZ TO WEAR A NEW FACE

The renaissance of our downtown area will take another giant step forward under the direction of Max Walden, who is undertaking the restoration of the old courthouse at the corner of Cooper and Pacific and the old Wells Fargo Bank across the street.

Mr. Walden was attracted to Santa Cruz by our guardian angel, Chuck Abbott. With the Community Associates, Mr. Abbott is perpetually active in renovating and refurbishing the face of our city in cooperation with UCSC and local businessmen. Says Chuck, a near-octogenarian who with his wife was instrumental in the inception and development of the Mall, "Max is the best thing that ever happened to Santa Cruz."

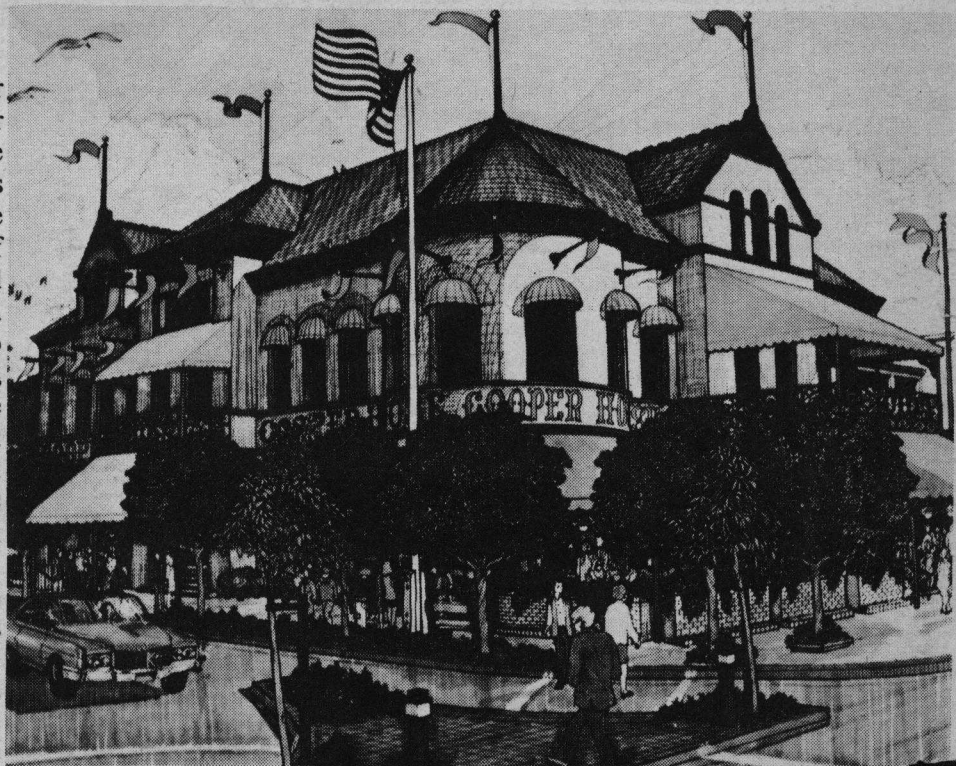
Plans for Cooper House and the Wells Fargo building are exciting: the octagonal records building is to be converted into a pavilion-type theater. In the basement of Cooper House itself will be El Gordo Mexican Restaurant offering cocktails and south-of-the-border food, with a good possibility of an adjoining sidewalk cafe.

The ground floor will be leased to various craft shops and small stores. The southwest corner room is to be a bar; the adjacent alley is to feature a Hero's Wall of stained glass. "Which heroes?" I asked Dorene Pate, Max's right-hand lady. "Oh, they'll be Max's heroes," she laughed.

Marble inlaid stairs with carved oaken handrails lead to the second floor, which will feature an art gallery, ceramic gallery, leather goods shop and a hand-made childrens clothing store.

The talents of many people are concentrated on the remodeling of Cooper House. Joel Jensen is sculptor-in-residence, Walter Mole is decorating and supervising construction in both buildings, assisted in graphics by Chris Popovich. Barbara Hancock is Cooper House secretary.

Latest plans for the Wells Fargo building, which now houses the Walden office, center on a large produce market in the European tradition featuring wines, cheeses,



*Cooper House, 1971, as Max Walden and the artist conceive it
"transport the visitor away from the everyday."*