Historic Houses

44-Santa Cruz Sentinel - Sunday, November 27, 1977



Artist's rendition of the refurbished Porter-Sesnon home.



The Porter-Sesnon home as it appeared during the 1910s and 1920s.

Medicinal Plant

Porter-Sesnon Restoration Is In The Offing

Cabrillo College is on its way to restoring the old Porter-Sesnon home on the lower campus with two \$5,000 gifts toward restoration from Porter Sesnon Sr. and Barbara Sesnon Cartan.

The announcement of the \$10,000 gift was made at the quarterly meeting of the college foundation board last week.

This money, along with an anonymous \$2,000 donation made some months ago, will be used for fixtures and furnishings for the home which eventually will house Cabrillo's Community Services opeations and which will provide community meeting space.

Cabrillo plans to restore the mansion to its original condition and configuration. The home was built by William T. Sesnon and his wife, Mary Porter Sesnon, in honor of Mrs. Sesnon's father, Benjamin F. Porter, who died in 1905.

Work started on the home in 1909 and was completed in 1911. Choice woods were used throughout the home, from the polished oak floors to a massive oak bannister leading to the second floor.

The roof was tile and the rain gutters and downspouts were made of copper. The house, according to an editor of a local newspaper at the time, "would endure forever, as far as living men may know."

The house was a site for many gala affairs during the two decades after it was built. It was used less after the deaths of the Sesnon couple. The family sold the estate in the 1940s to the Salesian Society of Watsonville.

Cabrillo bought the home and the surrounding 20 acres from the Salesian Society in 1973 for college expansion.

SLV Water District's Directors Meet Tuesday

San Lorenzo Valley County Water District's directors will meet Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the

Sex Education Lectures Set

"Don't Be Caught Too Uncomfortable" is the title of a series of lectures aimed at helping parents answer questions from children about sex. The discussions will be Thursday and Dec. 8 and 15 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Pediatric Treatment Center, 290 Pioneer

district office in Boulder Creek to discuss such items as board policy on releasing district information and its priorities on district projects.

New member John Gee and reelected directors R.W. Johnson and Pat Meleski will begin their new terms of office Tuesday. New member Jay Baker will not join the board until January since he is currently on a lengthy vacation.

Other items on Tuesday's agenda include reports from Manager Hank Cardona on the engineering contract for the valleywide sanitation study and