

Rispin Mansion study funded

By **DONNA KIMURA**

Sentinel staff writer

CAPITOLA — The move to restore the Rispin Mansion received a major boost from the Capitola City Council.

Officials agreed to hire the Architectural Resources Group of San Francisco to study possible uses for the historic building purchased by the city in 1986.

The \$10,000 study is aimed at determining the best uses for the vacant building, rehabilitation costs and funding sources.

Located at 2000 Wharf Road, the mansion was built in the 1920s by Henry Allen Rispin, a San Francisco oil baron responsible for the development of much of Capitola.

After several other owners, the home was purchased around 1946 by the St. James Monastery of Poor Clares as a retreat. Since 1960, the building has been vacant.

In recent months, a group of community members have spearheaded a campaign to restore the property.

The City Council, which has budgeted \$45,000 for the project this year, approved the group's garden restoration plan Thursday.

"We want to recreate what was there in the '20s," said Gayle Ortiz, co-chairwoman of the volunteer effort. More volunteers are needed, she added.

The group has been using historic photographs to see how a rose arbor, fountain and the balustrades appeared when the mansion was built, said Barbara Bernie, landscape specialist.

The goal is to open the garden in the fall of 1995.

In a final move, the City Council created a Rispin Steering Committee, formalizing the effort.

The committee, which will include council members, residents and business representatives, will make recommendations to the council and Planning Director Kathy Barbaro.