

THIS OLD HOUSE



Abandoned landmark may become bed and breakfast

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It's been a summer home, a hospital and a motel office. Now owner Corbett Wright is hoping to resurrect the Lynch house on West Cliff Drive as a bed and breakfast.

The City Council will consider that proposal Tuesday, along with Wright's proposal to build nine two-story townhouses behind it and allow the residents of the nearby Clear View Court mobile-home park to buy the park.

The house, a stately Victorian on West Cliff Drive across the street from the West-Coast Santa Cruz Hotel, was the home of Sedgwick J. Lynch, a builder who designed it as his retirement house in 1876. In the 1920s it served as the Hanly Hospital and in the 1960s and 1970s it was used as the office for Clear View Court. At the time, Clear View Court was an RV park for summer visitors. It's part of the city's historic registry, but it's been vacant for several years.

Now Wright, who was unavailable for comment, wants to turn it into a seven-room bed and breakfast with a detached manager's unit, as well as build nine townhouses over a basement garage next door.

Deborah Turner, who lives at Clear View Court, called Wright's proposal a "breath of fresh air."

"Wright is showing his strong support of low-income housing with his intentions to

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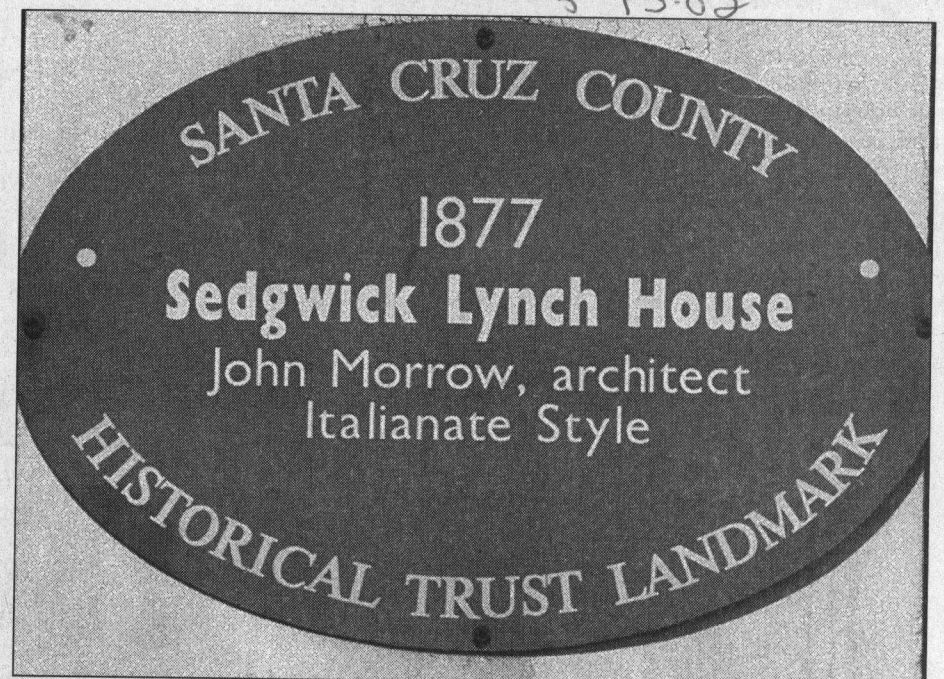
sell (Clear View Court) to park residents," she said.

But other residents worry that they won't be able to raise the \$4 million they say Wright is asking for the park. Jeanne Belknap, who has lived in the park for several years, said residents considered allowing a nonprofit housing developer to buy the park and then sell it to them after three years. But she said residents first would have to opt out of the city's mobile-home rent-control ordinance. They are afraid if they couldn't raise the money to buy the park, it will be sold and the new owner will increase their rents.

In other business, the council will consider:

■ Adding \$16,934 to the amount it's set aside for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, run through the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County.

■ Adding \$45,000 to the money set aside to relocate the residents of the Lee and Dolphin



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel photos

TOP: The grounds of the Lynch house on West Cliff Drive are in good repair, but the house will need some work before the proposed bed and breakfast can open its doors for business.

ABOVE: The Lynch house is recognized by the Santa Cruz Historical Trust.

apartments in Beach Flats. The city's Redevelopment Agency is tearing down the buildings to construct an apartment building and community center.

■ Extending an agreement with five apartment building owners, allowing the buildings to remain rentals instead of becoming condominiums. This is an extension of the council's discussion of its "investominium"

ordinance.

The council will consider the Lynch house proposal at its 7 p.m. session Tuesday. Meetings are held at the council chamber, 809 Center St.

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