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Hall Of Records Restoration Urged

The old county Hall of Records, built in 1882, and which goes out of use today, should be restored thoroughly to its former glory, the County Parks and Recreation Commission recommended last night.

Movers will take the key records out of the unique octagonal structure, starting tomorrow. The move ends 86 years of use.

It will later be used as the county's historical museum.

Private contributions would be sought to help pay part of the expected \$50,000 cost of a full restoration. The parks commission asked county supervisors to apply for federal aid funds to offset half the cost.

The Hall of Records, according to the county Society for Historical Preservation, is unique as an eight-sided structure for the era in which it was built. It survived such catastrophes as an 1894 fire which burned down the courthouse next door; the 1906 earthquake, and the 1955 flood.

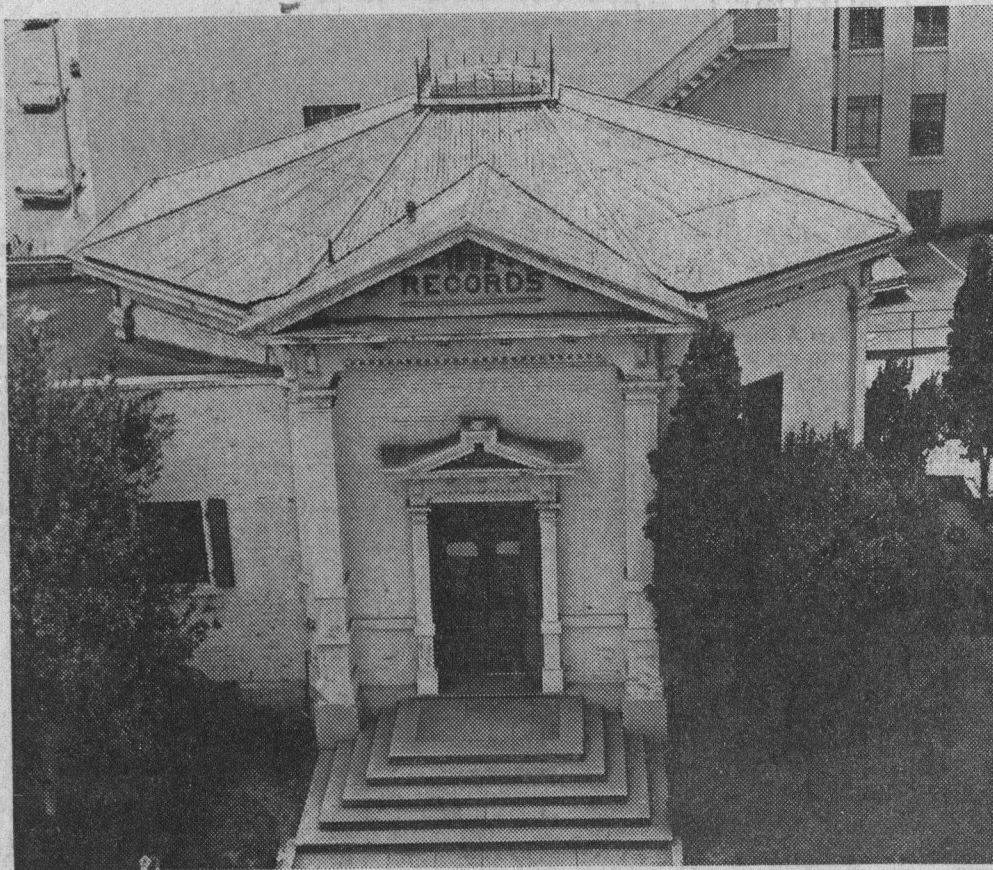
It is an historical monument "in its own right" the parks commission declared in its recommendation letter to supervisors, and should play an important part in the county's bicentennial celebration of its 200-year history in 1969.

Brickmasons, engineers, architects, and public works officials were consulted on the restoration program, Parks and Re-

creation Director, Jerry Hughes told the commission. They agreed on restoration costs, he indicated.

Hughes said the estimates for a cheaper "renovation" would be \$20,000 to \$25,000, but would not include restoring the brick ornamentation and design, and would not involve the "great care" of a restoration.

The east wing of the building, which spoils the octagonal design, would be removed to bring the structure back to its original shape. The cracked brickwork and roof would be repaired and the area landscaped to fit in with the future Cooper Plaza park, if the commission's recommendation is followed.



The Hall of Records