

~~History - Santa Cruz~~  
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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

ABOUT THE OCTAGON BUILDING

THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BEGAN ADVERTISING FOR PLANS FOR A "HALL OF RECORDS" BUILDING ON MARCH 11, 1882. ON APRIL 8, 1882, DRAWINGS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR AN OCTAGONAL BRICK BUILDING WERE PRESENTED TO THE BOARD. THE OCTAGON SHAPE WAS SAID TO BE MODELED AFTER A \$50 OCTAGONALLY-SHAPED GOLD PEICE MINTED IN SAN FRANCISCO IN 1851-52.

THE PLANS WERE ADOPTED BY THE SUPERVISORS AND THE CALIFORNIA BRIDGE COMPANY WAS AWARDED THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT. THE CORNERSTONE-LAYING TOOK PLACE JUNE 5, 1882, WITH THE SANTA CRUZ MOSANIC LODGE OFFICIATING AND THE GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA, GEORGE C. PERKINS, AS GUEST OF HONOR. THE BUILDING WAS COMPLETED ON OCTOBER 7, 1882, AT A TOTAL COST OF \$10,000. IN THE EARLY 1900'S AN APPENDAGE WAS ADDED TO THE BUILDING ON THE FRONT STREET SIDE. IT WAS REMOVED DURING THE RESTORATION.

THE OCTAGON BUILDING SERVED AS THE COUNTY HALL OF RECORDS FOR 86 YEARS, UNTIL THE COMPLETION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT BUILDING IN 1968. IN FEBRUARY OF 1968, THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PASSED A RESOLUTION PRESERVING THE "HALL OF RECORDS" BUILDING AS A COUNTY MUSEUM. WITH THE AID OF A HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE PROCESS OF RESTORATION BEGAN AND WAS COMPLETED IN TIME FOR THE RE-DEDICATION OF THE BUILDING AS THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM ON JUNE 17, 1972.

AUG 30 '72