

It may not mean anything

# Allegrini home on city 'historic list'

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SANTA CRUZ — The city's historic preservation designation was stretched Tuesday evening to cover a house that is being remodeled out of the architectural style the city wants preserved.

The probable result will be that for a short while the city could have a protected "international style" house at 1010 Laurent Street on its Historic Building Survey when in fact there is an "English country style" at the site.

If that happens, council members say the house — built by the Allegrini family and owned for many years by the Prolo family — would be dropped from the list

of historic buildings.

New owner Albert Russo and his attorney, Kent Washburn, argued long into the night that it made no sense to put the house on the list now since remodeling permits have been issued.

Washburn says that \$10,000 has been spent on stripping the stucco for termite and dry rot inspection and beginning a second story addition.

Historic Preservation Commissioners Edna Kimbro and Mark Primack argued that to include the house on the list (it was part of an addendum list, but not an official inclusion) would give it protection if for some reason the remodeling was not carried out.

They said the Allegrini-Prolo house was

an excellent example of the international style that only had its counterpart in some buildings near Paris, France.

Primack said, "I see 1010 as the residential equivalent of the McHugh-Bianchi Building" and Kimbro reminded the council this year is the 10th anniversary of the demolition of the McHugh-Bianchi building.

In the early 1970s, the McHugh-Bianchi building became a cause celebre of the preservationists and a test case in the community-private rights struggle.

Russo said that he checked out the city's conditional designations on the house before buying it and the first time around there was no designation it had

been considered for the historical survey.

He said after he bought the house, he returned to the planning counter and the designation had been written into the file.

Others testified that the designation had been included as early as the purchase date and at the end of the meeting some councilmembers apologized to both sides of the issue for the city having confused matters.

It was pointed out that inclusion on the list now will mean that if Russo has to make substantial changes in his remodeling, it will mean that he'll have to come back and get an OK from the Historic Preservation Commission.

Kimbro said the commission's intent is to see to that any remodeling is done in a manner that is sensitive to the original design.

Russo spoke out from the audience, saying that inclusion on the list is "harassment."

Council Chairman John Laird warned him that his "rudeness" wasn't helping his case.

While the council included the house on the historic list, it unanimously rejected a recommendation that it be designated a "landmark," a category that would have bound it tighter to its original design.

The council considered six other houses and businesses and dropped only the structure at 1211 Fair Avenue after its owner, B.B. Stoller, said the building now was only "a crude carpenter's reproduction of what he saw on the post card from India."

Others included were 1012 Third Street, Fair Street, 343-345 Church Street, Place Apartments and 519