

2Q 1989 Watsonville

Buildings' fate uncertain

Watsonville officials to tour today

By LANE WALLACE
STAFF WRITER RP 10-26-89

Few decisions have been made on which downtown Watsonville stores and offices will have to come down, city officials said this morning.

City Manager John Radin said he has met with owners of some of the buildings, and plans more meetings. Radin was scheduled to go on a walking tour this morning with engineers of the central business district.

Radin said he would meet this afternoon with officials of St. Patrick's Church on Main Street, where the steeple has been damaged, but didn't expect a decision on the steeple's fate today.

Decisions have been made to tear down the Canada Shoes and Bake-Rite Bakery buildings, city Building Official Neil England said this morning.

England said several owners of downtown residential buildings have already had their buildings torn down. Older homes built with single-wall construction "go down like a house of cards," England said, "but there's not a lot of them" in town.

Most of the other homes, he said "have a possibility of repair."

City inspectors are posting different-colored inspection tags on homes. They are:

- Red or white: Do not use or occupy.
- Gold: Limited use, for emergency purposes.
- Green: No restrictions on use or occupancy.
- Yellow and orange plastic ribbons posted at various locations are a warning that the immediate area may be dangerous for walking. Hazards in these areas may include cracked or shifted sidewalks, for example. There is no significance to the different colors of the ribbons.

More information on building inspection is available at 728-



City workers Dave Carranco, left, and Stan Cunha removed the clock this morning from the condemned Odd Fellows building in downtown Watsonville.

Kurt Ellison