

# County Bank Plans To Extend Facade On Building On Mall

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A "space" mural on the Pacific Garden Mall is coming down in a renovation project by the County Bank of Santa Cruz, it was revealed Wednesday to the city Historic Preservation Commission.

The mural adorns Odyssey Records. But a recent second floor renovation of this building owned by County Bank revealed the front wall could collapse at any minute, and building renovation was ordered by Bill Nunes, Santa Cruz building official, for public health, welfare and safety.

Joe Hall, a city senior planner, told the commission that County Bank is planning a renovation that will replace the current wall with a facade matching the old County Bank building adjoining it.

"The mural will come down," Hall said. "A new one would require a new permit."

Hall told the commission that County Bank wants the renovation to keep the character of its headquarters building and the mall. There will be arched windows, brick and marble, he said.

Commission Chairman Doni Tunheim gave enthusiastic support to the concept and said: "We will write a letter commending them." Commissioners Nancy McNeal, Jesus Tellez, Edna Kimbro and Jean Doerr concurred.

The "space" mural has not been popular with some members of the Santa Cruz

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City Council. Before a new one could go up it would be subject to criteria now being considered in a Pacific Garden Mall design plan.

In other business the commissioners gave unanimous support to City Clerk Norma Hislop's efforts to get a grant from the National Historic Publications and Records Commission to enable the city to identify, process and preserve its records of historic value.

Hislop got some gasps from some commissioners when she exhibited copies of the city's first incorporation papers and its first charter. "These have been in our vault, along with many other valuable documents," Hislop said. "I think they should be kept in a better place, under better conditions, where school children and others can look at them."

Hislop said the city has about 140 cubic feet of records stored which have been determined to have historic value.

Hislop is seeking a grant for a fulltime, trained archivist for a year. Duties will be to appraise for historical value some 700

cubic feet of records, process and preserve those deemed to be historic, and develop a system for access to and display of the historic records.

The grant application has been developed by Michele Kibrick, City Council administrative aide.

One treasure exhibited to the commission was the original document that made the Santa Cruz area a town just after the Civil War. It is called: "An Act to Incorporate the Town of Santa Cruz." It is dated March 31, 1866, and is signed by B. B. Redding, then-California secretary of state.

Ten years later there came "An Act to Incorporate the City of Santa Cruz." This set an election for 1876 through which the city acquired its first mayor, William F. Cooper, and its first Common Council: C. C. Martin, D. Tuthill, H. Skimmer, J. Skirm.

These documents are written in a form of Spencerian script, as are the original books of ordinances first passed. The records show you could hire a man and his team to work on the city streets for under \$4 per day, and you could hire a worker for \$1 per day.

Things have improved for the mayor and council, however.

In 1876 Cooper and the Common Council were paid zero dollars per year. Today, Mayor John Mahaney gets \$100 per month, while Councilmen Bert Muhly, Joe Ghio, Larry Edler, Spiro Mellis, Michael Rotkin and Bruce Van Allen get \$50 per month.