

# Historic Adobe in Escrow; Will Become State Monument

Santa Cruz' oldest existing building, the Neary-Hopcroft Adobe on School street, near the Catholic church, has been placed in escrow for purchase by the state division of beaches and parks.

It will be ultimately proclaimed a historical monument.

For some 148 years this long, white building has withstood the destructive forces of progress on its mid-level knoll which once had a clear sweeping view down to the sea.

Herbert C. Ryan, state park land officer, said yesterday afternoon the building and grounds, which include a little more than one acre, is being purchased from Mrs. Cornelia Lunes Hopcroft and Alice M. Neary.

The state is paying \$24,640 to Miss Neary and \$13,650 to Mrs. Hopcroft.

These women represent two of the more historical families in the area. Mrs. Hopcroft makes her home in one part of the structure.

Ryan said dedication ceremonies will be held at the Adobe sometime next spring.

One of the stipulations in the deal is that Mrs. Hopcroft is to be given a "life estate," allowing her to reside in her home tax and rent free the remainder of her life.

Miss Neary's section of the adobe is occupied by an antique store.

Placing the property in escrow ends a series of negotiations which have been under way since December, 1956.

It has long been a project of the Santa Cruz Historical society. Moreland Johnson, escrow officer of the Santa Cruz Land Title company, headed the "Adobe" committee for the society. Don Younger was negotiating attorney for both parties. The title company donated its services.

Last summer State Assemblyman Glenn Coolidge of Felton introduced a bill asking that the division of state parks and beaches be authorized to buy the Adobe. In April, \$45,000 was approved for the purchase. The governor signed the bill in July.

Ryan said that when the Adobe officially becomes a historical monument, one portion may be converted into a museum.

Fred McPherson Jr., publisher of The Sentinel, and former president of the Historical society, said there were plenty of relics of historical Santa Cruz and the society hopes the Adobe will be used as a museum.

Ryan said that there are still some trees and plants remaining from the original garden surrounding the building. He said the garden would be brought back to its original appearance, and State Historian Dr. Aubrey Neasham would study the background in an attempt to establish when it was built and some of the historical facts surrounding the building.

As far as is known, it was built about 1810 and is the sole remaining structure of the Franciscan establishment. It was built as a sort of a military barracks.

This building is really two—two adobes side by side.

Johnson said that Mrs. Hopcroft received ownership by "gift deed" from a relative in 1926. Miss Neary received her ownership also by "gift deed" from a relative in 1911. He said the titles of both family ownerships go back to 1867 in English, and then revert into Spanish.

Both sides of the adobe have been residences and the scene of many gay parties in the 19th century.

# Russia Accuses West Of Avoiding Berlin Crisis

London (P). — Russia tonight accused the Western Powers of avoiding a business-like settlement of the Berlin crisis and threatened to end its partial occupation of the divided city unilaterally.

"If the governments of the United States, Britain and France do not wish to cooperate with the Soviet Union in solving this problem, nothing remains for the Soviet government but to relieve itself of the functions connected with maintaining the occupation regime in Berlin," Moscow Radio said.

The radio, broadcasting a summary of Tass statement on the former German capital added "a corresponding agreement" would be concluded with the East German government.

Two weeks ago, Soviet Premier Khrushchev proposed a demilitarized free city of Berlin.

Tass, official Soviet news agency, said continued occupation of West Berlin by western troops was poisoning the atmosphere in Europe and keeping the German people in a condition of "constant

tension and alarm."

Tass warned the "dangerous cancer" of an occupied West Berlin was threatening peace—"and not only in Europe."

Tass said statements by U. S. and British leaders indicated the West had no intention of making a sober appraisal of the implications of continued occupation.

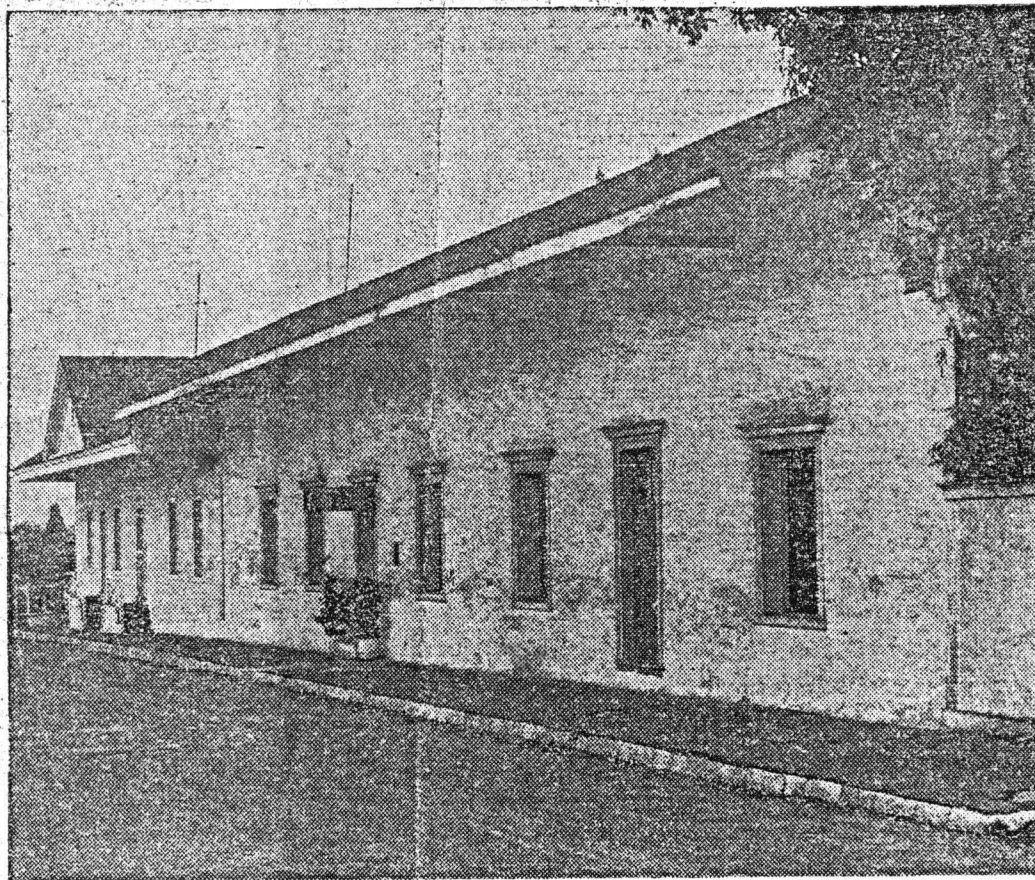
Faced with the necessity of reacting to the initiative of the Soviet government, they are still attempting to come out in defense of the rights of the western powers to the occupation of West Berlin," it said. "These rights long ago ceased to exist."

## Khrushchev Again Warns Of War

Munich, Germany (P). — Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev declared tonight that any Western attempt to force a way to isolated West Berlin "means war."

Khrushchev added, however, he did not believe that the West would "pick a war" over Berlin.

## New State Historical Monument



This is reported to be the oldest existing building in Santa Cruz. It is the old Spanish military quarters on School street near the Catholic church. It was part of the original mis-

sion. Part of the building, in the background is the residence of Mrs. Cornelia Lunes Hopcroft. In the foreground is an

been handed down within the family since the days of Spanish domination. The state division of beaches and parks

## SHIP RAMS ISLAND

El Ferrol Del Caudillo, Spain  
310-ton Spanish coastal  
angel San Rafael  
beiras island, off  
port, in stormy  
day and sank in two