

City Hall Site Confirmation

Today the purchase of the Hihn home as a municipal site for a city hall and fire house comes before the council for official confirmation.

In connection with this property let us say that the land was purchased by F. A. Hihn from Charles and Wm. Imus some 60 years ago. Mr. Hihn at once proceeded to the opening of Locust St. through it, Church St. having been opened three years earlier by I. C. Willson, later our county clerk, and J. H. Coult, later our district attorney. In 1873 Mr. Hihn erected the mansion that is now the property of this city at a cost of \$35,000, cutting the lumber and doing the mill work at his own mills. The stone that is in its foundation walls came from the Cowell lime kilns and the bricks were burned in this city. The ceilings of this structure are unusually high, the doors tall and massive, and the ornamentation inside and outside of the building, extensive, and we lean to the opinion that it is the most costly and enduring home ever erected in Santa Cruz, city or county.

This house seems to have been built with a view of some day converting it into a city hall and rooms for the firemen, so little money will have to be spent in its rearrangement, and to reproduce it today, from bitumen floor

to tower, would at least cost \$50,000 of any city's gatherings from the taxpayers.