

History Of The Octagon

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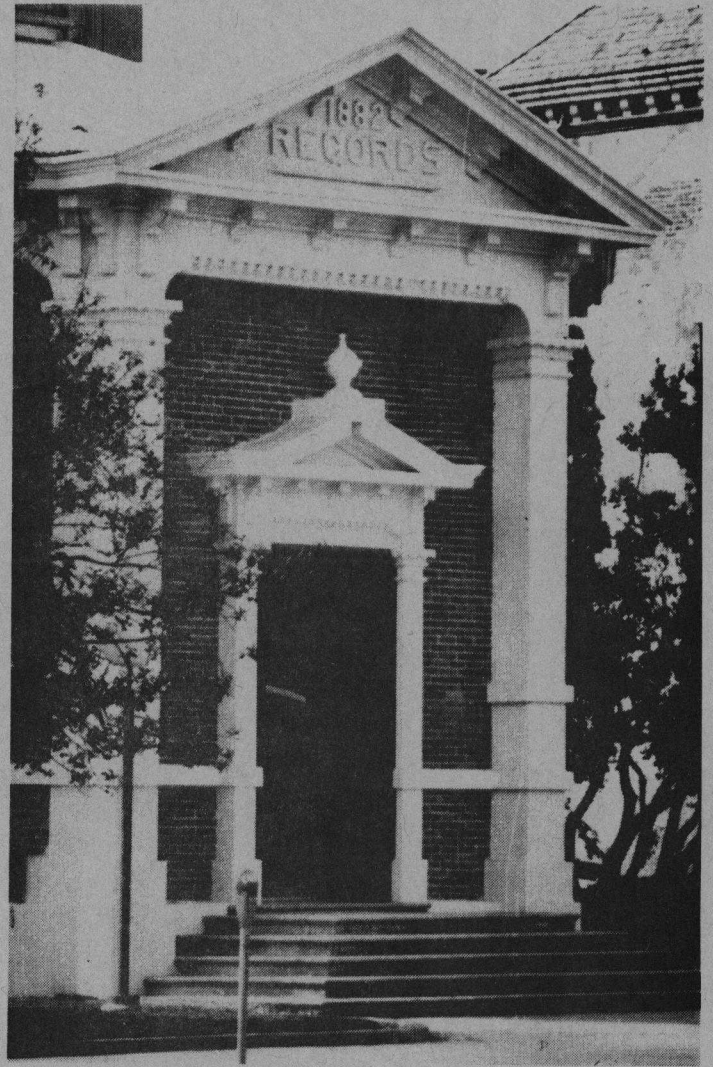
Designed by architect J. W. Newcum as the County's Hall of Records, The Octagon was completed October 7, 1882, at a cost of \$10,000.

Octagon-shaped buildings were fashionable in the San Francisco area in the 1860's, supposedly deriving their shape from the octagonal gold coins minted in San Francisco in 1856. Few of these architectural gems remain standing today.

The Octagon served as the Hall of Records for eighty-six years, acquiring during that time many coats of paint and a wing on the Front Street side.

In the early 1960's, concerned citizens began pressing for preservation and restoration of the building. Their efforts resulted in a resolution being passed by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors to preserve the building and make it available to the people of Santa Cruz County as a museum.

Restoration, with the help of an Historic Preservation Grant from the United States



*Santa Cruz County Historical Museum
On the Corners of Front and Cooper Streets
Santa Cruz, California*

Department of Housing and Urban Development, was begun in 1970. The wing, that had been added in the early 1900's, was removed along with the accumulated layers of paint to reveal again the soft, locally manufactured red bricks.

Upon completion of the restoration project, The Octagon was re-dedicated on June 17, 1972, as the Santa Cruz County Historical Museum.

Recognized as one of California's architectural treasures, The Octagon has been included in the National Register of Historic Places, and is also a State Point of Historical Interest.