

Hist. Houses

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CITY OF SANTA CRUZ

For the Council Meeting
Date of May 25, 1976

TO : CITY COUNCIL
FROM : HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
SUBJECT : GRANT FOR NEARY-RODRIGUEZ ADOBE

Recommended Action

It is the recommendation of the Historic Preservation Commission that the City Council designate the Neary-Rodriguez Adobe Committee as a subcommittee of the Historic Preservation Commission and again authorize \$1,100 to assist the subcommittee in its work.

Background

The Neary-Rodriguez Adobe is the oldest building in Santa Cruz County built in 1791, and has the distinction of being the oldest Spanish Military Structure in the State, having housed the guard for the Santa Cruz Mission. Over the years, it has had many owners, the most recent being the Department of Parks and Recreation of the State of California. During the years the State has owned the Adobe, only minimal repairs, including a new roof, have been made, which led to concern in the community that the structure would be allowed to slowly deteriorate if no action was taken.

In response to this concern, the City Council, over two years ago, formed a committee consisting of Jim Hammond, Skip Morris, Al Schadle, Charles Prentiss, and Pete Steen, Chairman, to explore methods to restore the Adobe. During this period, the Committee explored two alternative means to restore the Adobe: First, a grant under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966; and, second, State legislation to provide the funds for the restoration. After the Committee's initial work, the Council authorized \$1,100 to assist in the technical studies to prepare a grant application under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. This application was ultimately approved by the City Council on December 3, 1974. Following this action, the Committee contacted Assemblyman Frank Murphy and explained its hopes of finding some way to restore the Neary-Rodriguez Adobe. As a result of this discussion, Assemblyman Murphy introduced legislation (AB224) to seek State funds for the restoration.

For the next year, (1975), the exact status of the grant application and State bill changed on a monthly basis. Congress was unusually slow in appropriating funds for the National Historic Preservation Fund, thereby delaying action on the Neary-Rodriguez Adobe application. After the appropriation was made, it was learned that the rating of the Adobe (assigned