

# Preview of Historic Building Survey Monday

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Historic and unusual buildings in the City of Santa Cruz are finally coming of age...

Their official debut will take place Monday evening at 7:30 at the Octagon Museum, corner of Front and Cooper Streets.

The occasion marks the first public presentation of the city's Historic Building Survey, a 199-page report that incorporates small photographs of approximately 400 Santa Cruz houses and structures.

The survey was sponsored by Santa Cruz Historical Society and the Santa Cruz County Society for Historical Preservation, and was prepared by Charles Hall Page and Associates, Inc., of San Francisco.

At the public presentation Monday, Charles Hall Page will discuss his findings in the survey. Interested persons may purchase copies of the report at \$2.50 each and proceeds from their sale will go toward restoration of the School Street Adobe (also called the Neary-Hopcroft and sometimes the Neary-Rodriguez adobe.)

The adobe, which is the only remaining structure of Mission Santa Cruz (1794), is presently owned by the State of California. It is located on School Street near the replica Mission Santa Cruz.

The first 13 pages of the report give highlights of the development of the Mission, its evolution into the town and city of Santa Cruz, and the adjoining settlement of Villa de Branciforte. Population changes and commercial and resort developments are outlined.

The last paragraph notes: "Santa Cruz today is in a transitional period. As in other cities, much of the development here since the War has been disruptive to the long time character of the City without offering a satisfactory replacement. The historic fabric of the City is still remarkably intact, however, and with some care, it will continue to influence the character of the City in the future."

The actual survey is a complete survey of all structures within the city limits of Santa Cruz and was undertaken by a three-member team composed of an architect, urban and architectural historians and a planner doubling in the roles of recorder and photographer.

Structures were selected for inclusion in the survey on the basis of historical

and cultural, environmental and architectural significance. Criteria followed that set forth by the Santa Cruz Department of City Planning's "Historic Preservation Plan," adopted by the city council as an amendment to the General Plan in September, 1974.

The criteria are drawn from similar studies made all over the United States and include consideration of the building's neighborhood, its possible connection with a well-known or famous person and its rarity, as well as its architectural value.

The survey is divided into 11 parts that include: beach, lighthouse, westside, central, downtown, Mission, river, Branciforte, eastside, Seabright and UCSC.

A map of the entire city delineates each section, and individual section maps also are included. The report contains a section describing the types of architecture, a glossary of architectural terms, a bibliography and an index.

My only criticism of it is that there are several houses I feel should be in it that aren't.

One very fine example of Mission Revival off Hugus Court overlooks the city and may be seen from Water Street and the distance below, better than close up. It was built for Mr. and Mrs. George

Chittenden in the early 1900s. Its arches are hard to miss when one looks up at it from the area near Adolph's.

Another house that should be included is the Colonial Revival at High Street, which was built for Chittenden's sister and brother-in-law, Lawrence Dake.

But criticisms similar to this one will be made often by those who leaf through the survey, who have for years been intrigued and fascinated and puzzled by Santa Cruz's many, varied types of homes and buildings. I can hear them now — "Such and such should be in it" and "They have left out such and such" and "Why didn't they include —". But this is to be expected.

With such a wealth of structures, there just have to be some that are worthy of inclusion but didn't get in.

Someone else is bound to say that there isn't enough emphasis on the historical significance of the buildings. But here again, consider: the first pre-fab gas station is worthy of historical notice even if most of us feel it is an architectural monstrosity.

A survey and report such as this one is not going to please everyone, ever. But then, it isn't expected to.

It IS expected to furnish a base for future planning. And that I believe it will do.