

# Commission will begin culling homes from historic survey

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SANTA CRUZ — The Historic Preservation Commission will hold a special meeting Tuesday night to start combing a list of properties whose owners have requested be deleted from a proposed amendment to the city's Historic Building Survey.

Commissioners Wednesday night finished the second, and final, round of public hearings on a proposal to more than double the number of buildings on the existing survey, adopted in 1976.

Commissioners and a consultant have proposed approximately 430 buildings be added to the survey. The consultant is John Chase, author of "The Sidewalk Companion to Santa Cruz Architecture."

So far, about one-fourth of affected property owners have requested their properties be dropped from the list. The Planning Department and commission have received 93 requests for deletions from the list, said Planning Department staff members today.

Of those properties, 43 are on the east side of the San Lorenzo River and 50 on the west.

Wednesday's hearing addressed properties on the east side of town.

"People's comments were pretty much the same (as the first hearing), but it was a much kinder crowd," said Commission Chairwoman Doni Tunheim.

At the first hearing, about 25 property owners testified that they did not want to be on the list. Their

testimony was cheered on by a crowd of approximately 80 people.

Commissioners changed the format for the second meeting in an attempt to explain to the public the significance of the proposal before testimony was taken.

"We did a lot more explaining at the beginning of the meeting so people would have a clear picture of what the commission is doing," said Tunheim.

Owners of structures listed on the survey must obtain an historic-alteration permit before exterior ad-

ditions or changes can be made. Demolition permits may be denied for structures considered worthy of "landmark" status. The City Council has final authority over the permits.

Commission action on the east-side structures echoed its previous decision on west-side buildings.

It voted to consider deleting from the list those properties whose owners object to being included. It also agreed to delete two properties whose owners have already applied for permits to make changes to the buildings, said Tunheim.

Properties whose owners have not objected — either verbally or in writing — will be included on the proposed list, commissioners decided.

Commissioners have agreed to make a final recommendation on the completed list at the June 4 commission meeting. The recommended list will then be forwarded to the council for a final decision.

Tunheim commented that property owners who have asked to be included are mostly those who understand what the commission is

trying to do.

The intent of the survey is to save historically important homes and businesses from the bulldozer's blade and to keep additions from maligning the original architectural style.

Critics of the proposal say the list is too large and includes deteriorated buildings and those that have been remodeled to the point the original architecture has already been bastardized.

The location of Tuesday night's meeting is to be announced later.