

Capitola building approved as historical interest point

The State Historical Landmarks Advisory Commission Friday approved the old Hihn Building at Capitola Ave. and Monterey Drive as a point of historical interest.

The building, former headquarters of Camp Capitola, was also recommended for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Final approval must come from Washington, but is expected to be automatic.

Jim and Barbara Reding, who recently remodeled the two-story frame building last year, went to Sacramento Friday for the landmarks commission meeting.

Reding reported that the Hihn building is also under consideration for designation as a California Historical Landmark.

"All of the applications for historical landmark status were turned down at that meeting, including ours," Reding said. "But we were advised to reapply at the next meeting. We were the only ones who were told to reapply."

The landmarks body told the Redings to bring in further documentation to prove that the building is of statewide interest.

Reding explained that before 1962, bronze historical landmark plaques were issued rather

Income tax course offered

Live Oak Community School will sponsor a two session course in simple income tax preparation beginning at 7 p.m. tonight at Del Mar School.

Included will be the basic form 1040, exemptions, what is income and itemized deduction. Fee will be \$1, and registration may be made during the first class.

freely in California with few requirements.

"But in 1962, very strict requirements were drawn up," he said. "To become a landmark, a building or site must have interest for the entire state. A point of historical interest can be of local interest only."

The commission asked the Redings to submit further information to substantiate the two claims being made for the building to qualify it as a state historical landmark.

First, they were asked to demonstrate that the former Camp Capitola headquarters building is the best example of the Portuguese fishing village architecture in the Monterey Bay area.

Second, they were asked to further substantiate the claim that Capitola was the first seaside resort town in California to be established as a seaside resort.

If this can be proved, the entire original 15 acres in Capitola can be designated a historical landmark, Reding said. He said the original Camp Capitola site includes almost all of the "flats" or Village area and Depot Hill.

Reding appealed for interested Capitola residents to cooperate in the effort to document the claims of the old Hihn building and the Capitola Village to historical landmark status.

"We have the burden of proof," he said. "But it shouldn't be too hard to establish our claim. We can eliminate most of the California coastal communities by historical knowledge. For example, Santa Cruz, Monterey, Santa Barbara and Ventura were established as mission towns."

He pointed out that the San Francisco Bay Area was the

center of population for the state for a long time, and Capitola was an early watering place for San Francisco.

A map of Camp Capitola was filed in 1884 at the Santa Cruz County Courthouse by F. A. Hihn, founder of Capitola. An earlier map, including only part of the resort area, was filed on July 13, 1882.

"Councilman Philip Walker has pictures that go clear back to the 1870s, showing Capitola was used as a resort area then," Reding said.

Information substantiating the claims of the Hihn Building and the Capitola Village to historical landmark status is supposed to be before the landmarks commission by March 1.

"I don't have time to prepare it," said Reding, a teacher and part-time real estate man. "It will take a lot of corresponding to a lot of communities."

"If we could get just four or five people willing to check out every community on the coast to find out when and why they were established, we could do it."

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