

1969

Guaranteed Paid Circulation

of The Sentinel yesterday was

18,061



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TWENTY-TWO PAGES

Capitola Church In Escrow

By Alan Pugh
Sentinel Staff Writer

Tentative sale of the St. Joseph's Catholic church property and buildings at Bay and Capitola avenues in Capitola was affirmed today by Chuck Sullivan of the Byron Cunningham real estate firm.

Purchasers at the reported price of \$105,000 were Desmond, McTavish and Associates of San Francisco. The agreement was reached July 30 and the property was put in escrow at that time.

In a telephone interview with The Sentinel this morning, Leonard Garrison of the San Francisco firm confirmed that his company had taken action to purchase the property. He declined to say what plans his firm had for the church building or site.

"We certainly do not want to raze the old building," he said, "and will try not to do so."

Garrison said his company had "general development ideas," and said an announcement may come in three weeks or a month.

Anthony J. Laus, spokesman for the Committee for Restoration and Preservation of St. Joseph's Catholic church, said his group would seek to retain the structure itself.

He said they would ask Father Francis Markey, the pastor, "that with the bishop's permission, may we have permission to purchase or obtain the structure intact to be moved to another site as a shrine."

Laus said his group would seek to have all art treasures and the famed stained glass windows retained in the building.

Some time ago, his group raised \$2000 to be used for refurbishing the building. The proposal was rejected by church officials. "We could use that \$2000 to move the structure to a new location," Laus said today, "provided the building could be moved and provided we could find a location for our proposed shrine."

St. Joseph's former pastor, Father Joseph Phelan, now a monsignor in the Catholic hierarchy, was instrumental in bringing world-wide recognition to the little church in Capitola when he started a campaign to have his patron Saint Joseph included in the canon mass. He was successful after a 34-year-long campaign.

Inside Today