

# Quake monument serves as reminder

Earthquake

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A monument to the victims of the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake went up Thursday in front of the old Cooper House.

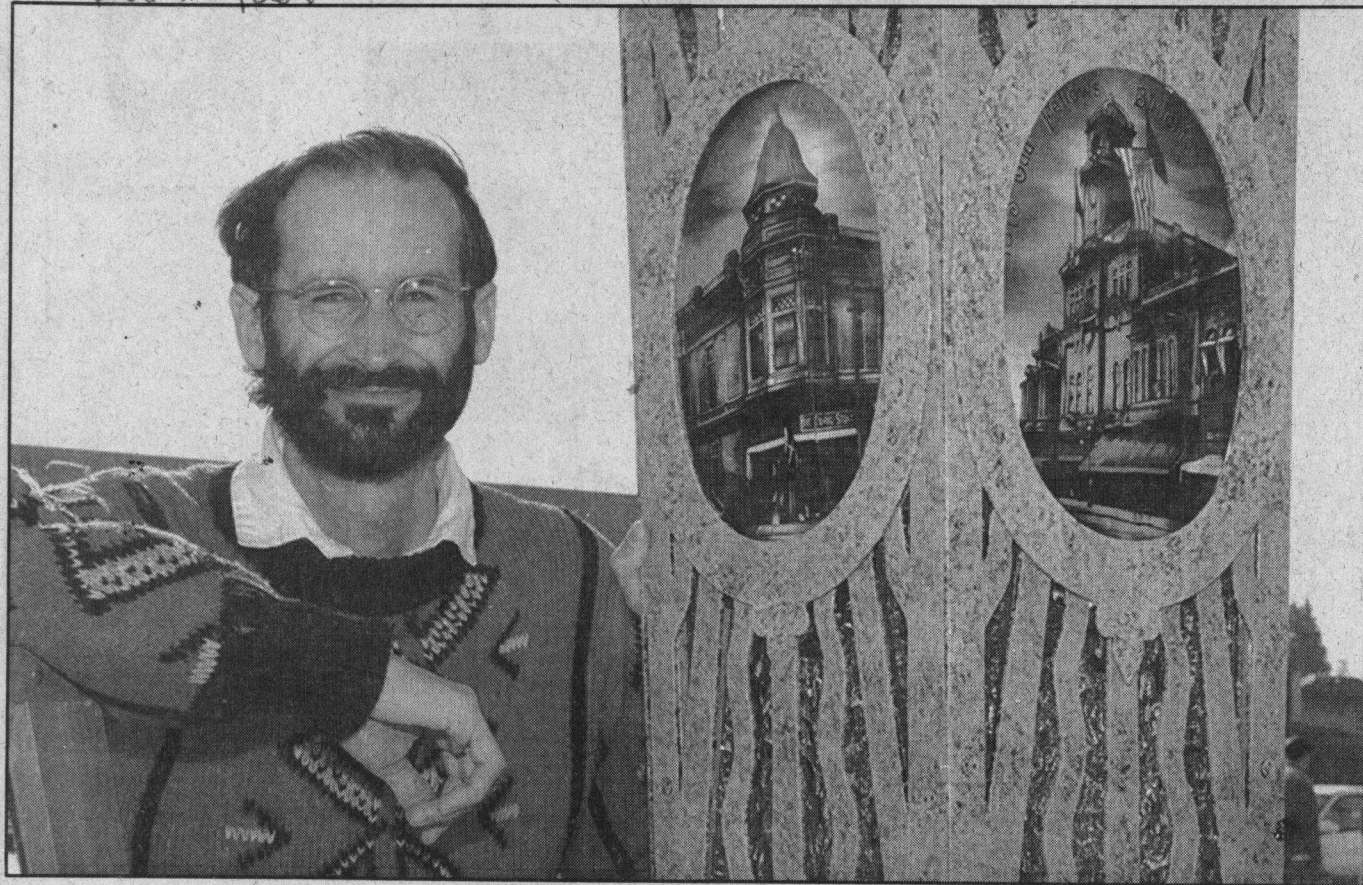
The location is the corner of Cooper Street and Pacific Avenue, for those who can't recall where the Cooper House stood. That, according to the designer, Ross Eric Gibson, is exactly the reason for the monument.

"Many people get disoriented and can't remember what buildings were where," Gibson said.

The monument is called the Eternal Flame Beacon and will house pictures of the original Cooper House in its heyday, the original Coffee Roasting Company and others. It will also hold pictures of a few of the six people who died in the quake and a plaque with all their names on it.

Gibson said the \$15,000 project is a long time coming and hopes that someday three such monuments will dot Pacific Avenue. He said they will remind people just what Santa Cruz looked like before the quake destroyed 41 downtown landmarks.

Gibson's design was chosen by the public as the most appropriate monument and was paid for by the county Arts Commission and community fundraising.



Dan Coyro/Sentinel

Local historian Ross Gibson designed the new earthquake memorial downtown