

... Aptos home has historic origins ...

(Editor's Note: The News is pleased to bring its readers another glance back into the colorful history of Santa Cruz county, with particular emphasis upon the mid-county. For those wishing to know more about the history of the area we suggest you visit the area's two museums -- at Capitola (across from the city's fire department) and Santa Cruz (near the Santa Cruz small craft harbor), or if you would like to join others in working towards the preservation of this history, contact the Santa Cruz Mid-County Historical Society, P.O. Box 192, Capitola.)

Below, nestled in a quiet dell on Soquel Drive in Aptos, across from the Rancho del Mar shopping center, is a finely cared for bit of early Santa Cruz county history -- part of its oldest, actually. It could very well be one of the oldest original standing structures of county history around today.

It is now owned by Dr. J.P. Miller, a dentist, who along with his wife, have done much during the 15 years they have lived in it to preserve what was once the home of Vincenete Castro, descendant of General Rafael Castro (who was given a 6,680 acre land grant in this area by the Mexican government in 1833). It is over 100 years old and was once before restored by Fred A. Tillman, grandson of Claus Mangels, in the early 1920's. Claus Mangels was brother-in-law of Claus Spreckles, the sugar millionaire. -- News Photo.

