

HISTORIC PRESERVATION RP 2/8/92 p. 6

# Santa Cruz may lose historic designation

SACRAMENTO (AP) — More than two years after an earthquake devastated downtown Santa Cruz, a state commission dealt an aftershock to the district's historic status.

The State Historical Resources Commission on Friday recommended that Santa Cruz's landmark Pacific Garden Mall lose its place on the prestigious National Registry of Historic Places.

Commission members said they had little choice because the district was too decimated to qualify for the list.

"It's inevitable what our job has to be," said panel member Patricia Cologne. "I move that the Pacific Avenue Historic District be removed from the national registry, with a parenthesis, sob, parenthesis."

Nineteen of 36 buildings that qualified a six-block area of the downtown for the register in 1987 either collapsed or were demolished after the October 1989 quake.

The buildings had been cited as excellent examples of 1890-1929 architecture.

A final decision will be made by the National Parks Service. But the service, which administers the register, usually approves recommendations from state governments.

Santa Cruz would be the first historic district in California to be removed from the register since it



Associated Press

**In Santa Cruz yesterday, a workman closes the gate to a section of the Pacific Garden Mall destroyed in the 1989 earthquake.**

was created in 1966.

The city can still apply for landmark status for individual buildings. Commission staff said two buildings already are listed on the national register and another nine appear to be eligible.

The state commission wanted to remove the district last year, but granted a one-year reprieve at the request of the Santa Cruz Historic Preservation Commission.

Sara Boutelle of the local group said the city has adopted a down-

town recovery plan, but that can't bring back the historic buildings from the rubble.

"We still care about preservation but we can't fight the odds against us right now," Boutelle said.