

# Threat to Santa Cruz Gingerbread

By Millie Robbins  
EVER ON the alert, representatives of the Herit-

age Council have planned a field trip to Santa Cruz later this month in order to

case a neighborhood there threatened with obliteration by a new swath of freeway.

The state-proposed thoroughfare conceivably could spell the doom of a number of old but carefully preserved residences—several, moreover, of some historical significance.

The Alzina House on Slyvar street across from Upper Plaza Park, for instance, is believed to be the first wood frame dwelling in the community.

A three-story Victorian "belle" set behind an iron fence in a lovely garden at the corner of Slyvar and Mission streets is on the site of the first hotel and tavern.

Part of the residence at No. 123 Green was the first Protestant church in Santa Cruz, dating to 1850. (Additions were made when it was moved from its original locale to the present spot.) The old-time carriage block and hitching post are still in place.

Another home nearby

was erected in the same year.

An impressive corner abode on Crystal terrace was once the home of the first mayor. Behind it are well-kept gardens and the original barn, also in excellent condition.

In the same section is the 98-year-old Baldwin house currently occupied by members of that pioneer family.

Other interesting relics, all in pristine condition and boasting intricate mill work, gingerbread, cupolas, handsome double front doors and other ornate touches pertinent to their periods, are situated in the Union and Francisco street areas.

More are in the projected path of progress, but these make our point.

There's a heap of history in this town on the northern rim of Monterey Bay.

It was in September, 1791, that Father Fermin Francisco de Lasuen raised a cross to conse-

crate the site of the Mission la Exaltacion de la Santa Cruz (Elevation of the Holy Cross) from which the town got its name. Within three years the church was completed.

(Actually 22 years earlier the Portola party had stopped there and planted a cross on the banks of a river they christened San Lorenzo.)

This mission, the 12th in the chain, was ill-fated—harassed by storms, floods, drought and even a murder. After it was secularized in 1834 it started to fall into decay.

Six years later when 20 ranchos were granted in the vicinity, a town began to grow up around the mission plaza. Trade developed, as well as shipping—principally of lumber from the redwood forests that flourished in the hinterlands.

One of the first industrial plants there was Elihu Anthony's foundry established in 1848, which turned out iron picks for miners and cast iron plows said to have been the first manufactured in California.

The State granted Santa Cruz its city charter in 1866.

The mission church received a blow in January, 1857 from which it never recovered. A severe earthquake weakened the walls that soon came tumbling down with a terrific crash.

A replica was built in 1931, a few yards from the site of the original, by the late Gladys Sullivan Doyle.

Mrs. Doyle, the daughter of the Francis J. Sullivans and a niece of Senator James D. Phelan, is the only woman ever to undertake such a project single-handedly.



A VICTORIAN "belle," at Slyvar and Mission in Santa Clara



THE FIRST MAYOR of Santa Cruz lived in this Crystal terrace beauty