



Dan Coyro/Sentinel

The old Hotel McCray is being transformed into a 111-room elderly-care home.

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HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Hotel becoming nursing home

SANTA CRUZ — Work has begun on a new 111-room elderly-care facility, which will be built around the historic old Hotel McCray on Beach Hill.

Parts of the condemned hotel will be demolished to make way for the 163-bed "Sunshine Villa." The hotel was built in either the

1860s or 1870s — the historical record is a bit hazy — by Dr. Francis Kittredge as a home for his wife. Its unique facade and location established it as a Santa Cruz landmark.

In recent years, the old hotel has fallen on tough times, first

condemned by the city and then becoming a resting place for transients and small-time drug dealers. It was finally sold to the development group that is putting up the elderly-care facility, which will provide round-the-clock care for clients with an average age of 85 or so.