



Kalich building to get the treatment

By KEN McLAUGHLIN

The 67-year-old Kalich Building, which sits next to the Mansion House on Main Street, has been sold to a Salinas accountant who plans on rehabilitating the structure.

The accountant, Robert Jackson, bought the building for \$320,000 from descendants of the Kalich family. Escrow on the property closed this week.

Designed by noted architect William Weeks, the building was constructed in 1914 by George Brewington and once housed the

first-class Hotel Ames. (It also housed a theater on the first floor from 1914 to 1916.)

Jackson plans to convert the hotel — which has been vacant for about 20 years — to offices. Businesses now on the first floor will remain, but the facade will be restored as much as possible to its original appearance. The rear of the building, he said, will be restored to complement the newly renovated Mansion House.

Jackson expects the renovation to cost over \$500,000. Richard Huyck and Associates, an Aptos architectural and engineering

firm, has been hired to evaluate the structural integrity of the building.

Jackson, who has renovated a couple of buildings in Salinas, said that he would like to follow the example of redevelopers in that city. Several years ago, he said, downtown Salinas was dying. But with the spurt of renovation during the past few years, he said, "Now they're packing them in."

Jackson is looking for help finding the original plans for the 32-room Hotel Ames. (He can be reached in Salinas at 1-649-8680.)

The building was purchased by Mitchell Kalich in the early '20s and, according to Jeanne Clark of Basil Clark Realtors, has been in the family ever since. Mrs. Clark, a granddaughter of Mitchell Kalich, was the listing agent for the seller. Her brother-in-law, Ken Clark, was the agent for Jackson.

"I'm excited about seeing the building re-done," said Mrs. Clark, adding that the recent meeting at E.A. Hall School indicated that downtown property owners as a whole were excited about the prospects for revitalization.