

## WATSONVILLE LANDMARK



DAN COYRO/SENTINEL

Wells Fargo Bank building next to Watsonville Plaza is getting a historic plaque.

# Downtown bank named landmark

*Historic Building - South County*  
*Sentinel staff report*

5-28-12

WATSONVILLE — For more than 100 years, Pajaro Valley's people have been banking at the corner of Main and Peck streets.

That history will be celebrated Thursday with the unveiling of a Blue Plaque from the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History Historical Landmark Committee at the Wells Fargo Bank.

"This award recognizes not only the distinctive architecture of this building, but honors also the long tradition of a banking presence in the Watsonville community," said bank manager Ventura Leon.

Wells Fargo wasn't the first to the corner. Originally, the site was home to Pajaro Valley National Bank, founded by J.T. Porter and others in 1888. In 1939, the bank directors decided a larger bank was needed, and the existing building, designed by architect H.H. Winner in the Streamline Moderne style, opened in March 1940,

Wells Fargo, which traces its own California lineage back to the 1800s, has operated from the site since 1961.

The landmark group awards the blue plaques to historically significant buildings in the county annually. The Wall Street Inn, E.A. Hall Middle School and Fire Station 1 are among the past honorees in Watsonville.

## IF YOU GO

### BLUE PLAQUE CEREMONY

**WHAT:** Building recognized for its historical significance

**WHEN:** 4:30 p.m. Thursday

**WHERE:** 326 Main St., Watsonville