

Historic Bayview Hotel gets new recognition

The 116-year-old Bayview Hotel in Aptos will be honored at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday with a 1994 Landmark Award by the Historical Museum of Santa Cruz County during ceremonies at the McPherson Center in Santa Cruz.

The Bayview Hotel, originally called the Anchor House, was built by Jose Arano. The hotel is considered to be the oldest operating hotel in Santa Cruz County. Arano arrived in Aptos around 1850 while the lumber industry was booming in the Aptos hills, purchased land from Aptos Rancho owner Raphael Castro and built a general

store that still stands at Soquel Drive and Wharf Road.

Arano eventually married Castro's daughter, Augustia, and in 1878, decided to build a grand hotel in the center of Aptos Village. In constructing the hotel, Arano hand-selected every piece of lumber and imported fine marble fireplaces from France and hand-crafted furniture from Spain.

The fireplace and some of the furnishings remain in the hotel today, along with a large collection of photographs, showing the early years of the Bayview and the surrounding areas.

In the mid-1890s, Arano disappeared from Aptos for several years, returning after his wife had died. He died in 1928 and his daughter, Amelia, turned the Bayview into a boarding house.

Some believe that the ghosts of Jose and Augusta Arano live on in the hotel, welcoming each new generation of guests.

In 1942, the Bayview was purchased by Fred and "Babe" Toney, who wanted to tear down the hotel and build a hardware store on the site next to Trout Gulch Road. Instead, they decided to pick up the entire building and move it 118 feet west into the adjacent formal garden, with an old magnolia tree in front of the main entrance.