

Cooper House replacement groundbreaking set today

Sentinel staff report

SANTA CRUZ — A groundbreaking ceremony will be held today to celebrate a cherished downtown property.

The ceremony is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. at Cooper Street and Pacific Avenue, former site of the Cooper House, which was torn down after the 1989 quake. Scheduled speakers include Mayor Celia Scott, Redevelopment Director Ceil Cirillo and Jay Paul, developer of the property.

The new office building planned for the site will be five-stories tall, feature Mediterranean architecture, and include 75,000-square-feet of office space. The offices will have

panoramic views of Santa Cruz and floor designs that will accommodate single-floor tenants of up to 20,000-square-feet. Ground-floor retail space will offer the businesses some of the highest foot traffic in the city.

The \$15 million project was designed by DES architectural firm and will be constructed by Rudolf and Sletten. It should be completed by August 1999.

"More than any other, this site represents the long-awaited closure to the earthquake's destruction," Paul said. "Once it's completed, the new Cooper House will be a significant milestone in the redevelopment of downtown Santa Cruz."