

# Museum recognizes historic buildings

Historic Buildings  
SENTINEL STAFF REPORT

The Veterans Memorial Building on Watsonville's East Beach Street has hosted graduation ceremonies, dances, community celebrations, not to mention veterans events, for decades.

On a darker side, the Mission Revival building, designed by local architect A.W. Storey and built in 1934, also was the place where, in 1942, Japanese-Americans were gathered prior to their World War II internment.

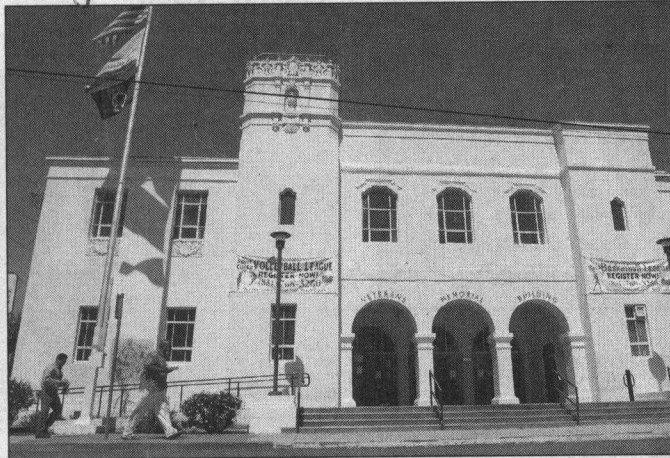
Its history and architecture has earned the Vets Hall landmark status, according to officials with the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History at the McPherson Center.

Museum officials will present the Vets Hall and eight other historically or architecturally significant buildings, including Santa Cruz City Hall, with Historic Blue Plaque Awards at a ceremony 1 p.m. May 3.

Santa Cruz mayors from as early as the 1950s have been invited to the ceremony in honor of the City Hall award. The Monterey Colonial Revival building at 809 Center St. was designed by architect C.J. Ryland. It was built in 1937-38, and has played a vital role in city affairs since that time.

Also being recognized are:

■ Watsonville High School gymnasium, a Spanish Colo-



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel photos



The Veterans Memorial Building in Watsonville, above, and Santa Cruz City Hall are two of the landmarks being recognized.

onial Revival building designed by Harold Weeks, the son of well-known architect William Weeks. A new gym recently opened on the campus at 250 E. Beach St., but the old gym, which hosted its first basketball game in 1939, was preserved.

■ The two-story Kalich Building, 426-434 Main St., Watsonville, was designed by William

Weeks and built in 1914. Originally, it housed a theater on the first floor and the Hotel Ames upstairs, and it continues to be used for residential and commercial purposes.

■ The Capitola Museum Tourist Cottage, 410 Capitola Ave., was built 100 years ago as part of Cottage City at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. It was moved

## If You Go

**WHAT:** Historic Landmark Blue Plaque Award Ceremony.

**WHEN:** 1 p.m. May 3; 2 p.m. architectural walking tour of downtown Santa Cruz.

**WHERE:** The Museum of Art and History at the McPherson Center, 705 Front St., Santa Cruz.

**COST:** Free.

**INFORMATION:** 429-1964 or [www.santacruzmah.org](http://www.santacruzmah.org)

to the back of a Capitola lot in 1941, and to its present location in 2005. It has been restored and furnished as it might have been for a vacationer in the early years of the last century.

Four private residences in Santa Cruz also will receive plaques:

■ 208 Escalona Drive, a Colonial Revival home built by local architect Edward L. Van Cleeck in 1905.

■ 510 King St., a California bungalow built in 1922 and home to a number of prominent Santa Cruzans over the years.

■ 745 Pine St., a Craftsman-style home designed and built in 1921 by William Henry Wessell, who also built several other houses and a commercial building in Santa Cruz.

■ 115 Mountain View Ave., a Prairie-style bungalow built in 1912 as a Seabright summer home.