

## HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMISSION OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

governments and organizations are active in preservation. The Historic Resources Commission of the Santa Cruz County Commission serves as a key link in the national historic preservation partnership. The HRC carries out its mission under the local preservation ordinance that, among other activities, authorizes review of changes to building exteriors and delays or possibly prohibits demolition of designated historic properties. Preservation fosters economic revitalization of old downtown areas. Hundreds of historic Main Streets have been saved and rehabilitated under national, state and local Main Street programs. Locally, the City of Watsonville benefited from a Main Street program, helping to restore the historic downtown area. Regional and local historic societies and preservation organizations raise public awareness about the history of their communities and sponsor active preservation programs.

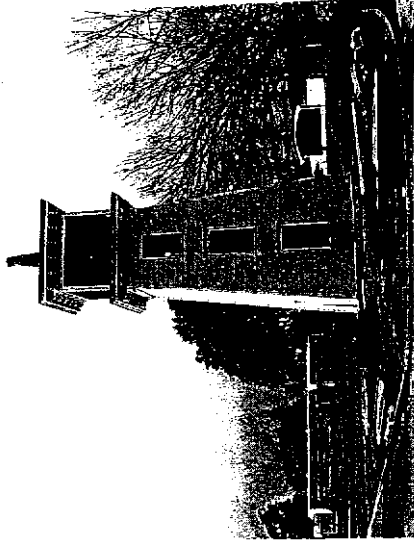
### THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Most historic preservation occurs in the private sector. Seventy-seven percent (77%) of historic properties and sites belong to private owners who care for the nation's collective heritage. Most of them are homeowners, but private owners also include colleges and universities, churches and businesses. Private sector preservation is guided by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, a non-profit membership organization with regional offices throughout the country.

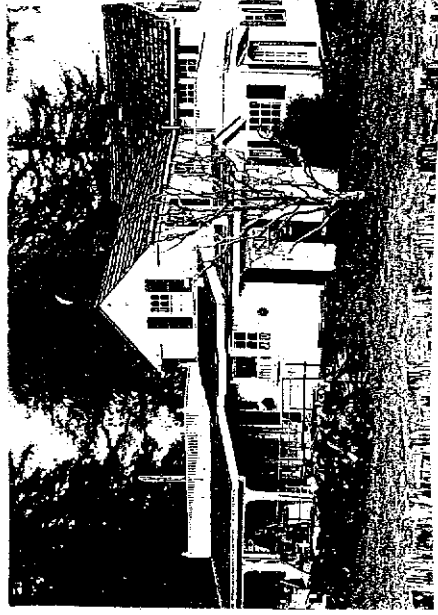
Historic Resources Commission  
under a  
Certified Local Government Grant  
by the  
State Historic Resources Commission

Santa Cruz County

# OUR RICH HISTORIC HERITAGE

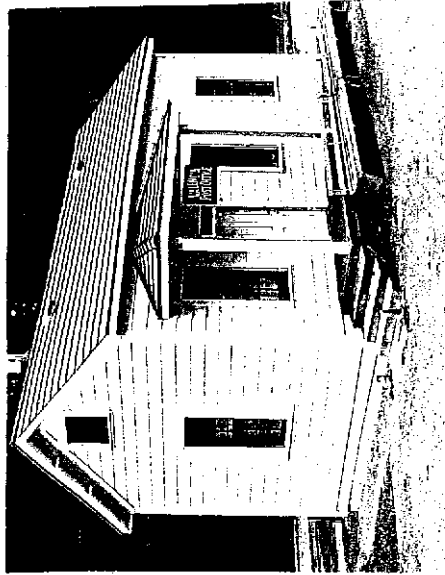


*Rodgers House Watertower*



*Vicente Castro House*

Answers to Questions for  
Owners of Historic Properties



*Valencia General Store and Post Office*

### WHY PRESERVE OUR PAST?

Historic preservation involves recognizing places from our past that are important to the American people, caring for them, and then using them in ways that enrich all our lives. These special places reveal every aspect of our country's origins and development – our land, houses, workplaces, parks, roadways, waterways, places of worship and objects of art. Historic places help us understand who we are, as well as the meaning of our accomplishments and shortcomings. Preservation, above all, protects and maintains our past for future generations – the stewardship of our nation's legacy.

### WHY ELSE IS PRESERVATION IMPORTANT?

- First, it encourages a balance between cultural stability and appropriate growth, to improve the quality of life for everyone. America's richness is its diversity of people and cultures. Historic places play a critical role in defining and reinforcing this unique American identity. These places from the past also root us into our neighborhoods and towns as we enter the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Second, preservation makes economic sense. Compared to new construction, rehabilitating existing structures often costs less, conserves scarce materials, and provides more jobs. Preservation is one solution to many problems facing the country, from energy conservation to affordable housing.
- Third, preservation of public buildings provides opportunities to visit historical sites for both educational and recreational purposes. Such popular activities contribute significant tourist income to many local and state governments.
- The wide range of preservation activities is carried out by a partnership among Federal, Tribal, State and local governments, and the private sector.

### WHAT IS THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY?

Originally adopted in 1980, the Santa Cruz County Historic Resources Inventory includes any structure or collection of structures (along with associated sites) which has been judged to be of importance to the history of the County.

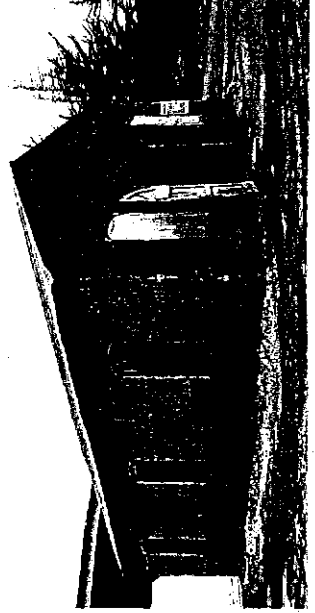
### HOW DOES A PROPERTY QUALIFY FOR THE INVENTORY?

Anyone can nominate a property for inclusion in the Santa Cruz County Historic Resources Inventory. The nomination is reviewed by the County's Historic Resources Commission (HRC). The HRC judges the nomination by the following criteria, among other factors:

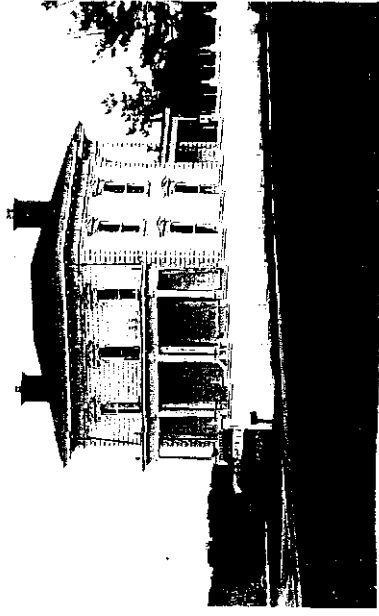
- Age of the structure (must be over 50 years)
- Historic architecture
- Cultural or social historic significance

### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF INCLUSION ON THE INVENTORY?

- The property becomes eligible to use the State Historic Building Code, an alternative to the standard building codes. The Historic Building Code recognizes the unique construction problems inherent in historic buildings.
- The property becomes eligible for potential inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.
- The historic value of the property is protected from the vagaries of changes in ownership or local development policies.
- Listed properties typically experience an increase in resale value.



*Davenport Cement Plant Locomotive House*



*Palmatig Silliman House*

### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The following offices can answer questions you may have about national, state, and local preservation activities:

### HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMISSION OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

701 Ocean Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Santa Cruz CA 95060  
(831) 454-2580

### STATE HISTORICAL BUILDING SAFETY BOARD

400 P Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento CA 95814  
(916) 445-7627

### CALIFORNIA PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

1615 Broadway, Suite 705  
Oakland CA 94612  
(510) 763-0972

### STATE OF CALIFORNIA HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMISSION

1416 Ninth Street  
Sacramento CA 95818  
(916) 653-6624

## HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMISSION OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

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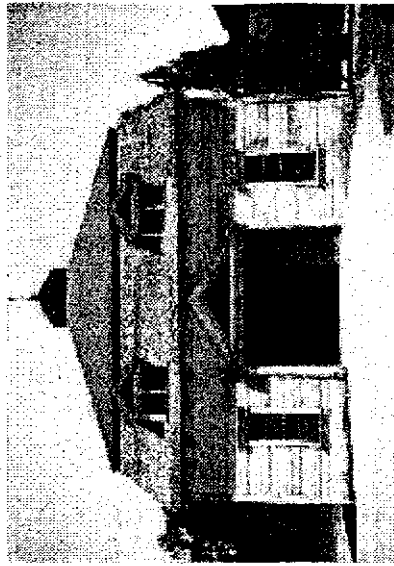
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Prepared by the  
Santa Cruz County Historic Resources Commission  
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Certified Local Government Grant  
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Santa Cruz County

## Our Rich Historic Heritage



Santa Cruz County Historic Resources Commission  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA. 95060

Answers to Questions for  
Owners of Historic  
Properties



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### WHAT IS THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PLACES?

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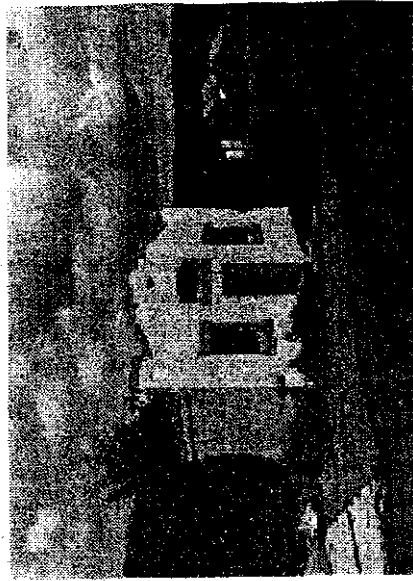
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