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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

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DIRECTOR

May 19, 1987

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DIVISIONS:

Transportation and Community Development Committee
Sacramento, California

CROCKER ART MUSEUM
GOLF
METROPOLITAN ARTS
MUSEUM & HISTORY
PARKS
RECREATION
ZOO

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: Library Master Plan - Sacramento Museum and History Commission's
Recommendations

SUMMARY

This report transmits the recommendations of the Sacramento Museum and History Commission regarding the Library Master Plan.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Over recent months, the Sacramento Museum and History Commission members have been exploring the impact of the Library Master Plan project with staff of the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency, Library, and Planning Departments. The Commission has studied and was briefed on the merits and current status of the structures identified as having historical or architectural significance. Those structures are:

1. The Main Library.
2. The previously identified St. Louis Saloon. (Current research suggests the name is incorrect.)
3. 805 J Street.
4. The California Hotel.

The Sacramento Museum and History Commission, on April 27, 1987, addressed the attached letter to the City Council on the Library Master Plan (Exhibit A). The Commission expresses concern for historic and architectural resources and preservation of those resources associated with the library project. The Commission also questions the adequacy of historic and/or architectural research.

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The Commission is very supportive of the library project, but under City Ordinance No. 3232 would not be fulfilling its responsibility if it did not investigate the library project's impact on historic resources and advise the City Council of those impacts.

Based upon available research, the Commission recognizes that of four structures on the block that are acknowledged as having historic and architectural merit, one of those four, the California Hotel, is not of such significant historic architectural merit as to limit development on the proposed block. The Commission suggests that the highest level of sensitivity be accorded the library. The California Hotel building, although it represents a locally unique hotel style and is included in the City's Historically Significant Structures list, is not found by the Commission to be of sufficient architectural or historical merit to warrant its preservation at the cost of developing the library complex. Should the structure's site be included in the library project, The Commission recommends consideration be made to salvage any significant details that might be re-utilized, such as arched windows, hand-painted tile risers in interior stairways, and so forth.

The Commission also recommends the following:

1. Relocate the facade of the St. Louis Saloon to a suitable public place location, displayed as a piece of art.
2. Preserve the facade at the address of 805 J Street in place and have project architects incorporate it into their proposed colonnade.
3. Preserve equally the interior as well as the exterior of the Central Library.

The City Planning Department's Preservation Director has addressed the Commission and was supportive of the Commission's concerns for three of the four structures. Short of concurring with the Commission's sentiment toward the California Hotel, he acknowledged the Commission's feelings about that building.

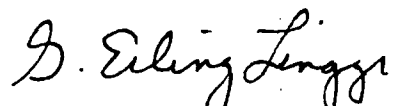
The acting Library Director and Deputy Director of the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency have both reviewed the Commission's proposals but have not issued any formal responses.

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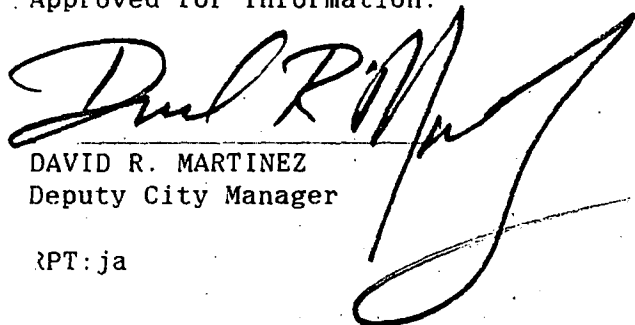
RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Transportation and Community Development Committee review the Commission's report and refer it to the full City Council for information.

Respectfully submitted,

for 
ROBERT P. THOMAS, Director
Parks and Community Services

Approved for Information:


DAVID R. MARTINEZ
Deputy City Manager

RPT:ja

June 16, 1987
District No. 1



CITY OF SACRAMENTO

EXHIBIT

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

SACRAMENTO MUSEUM AND HISTORY COMMISSION

1930 J STREET SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TELEPHONE (916) 447-2958

JAMES E. HENLEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 27, 1987

City Council
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: Library Master Plan (Block Study 8,9,I,J)

SUMMARY

The Commission recognizes the following historical factors and public policy issues associated with the library expansion. They are as follows:

1. Unlike most other downtown city blocks affected by the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency projects or the County's jail project, no basic block history has been developed to evaluate historical or archaeological resources.
2. Four structures are recognized as having architectural/historical value. They are the California Hotel, St. Louis Saloon (as identified on the Preservation Board list), 805 "J" Street, and the existing Central Library.

Based upon available information, the Commission urges that the parties directly involved with this project consider the following recommendations relative to the four structures.

These recommendations are being sent to the City Preservation Director, Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency, and Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Commission.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Sacramento Museum and History Commission has had the opportunity to review the status of the library project to be developed on the city block bound by 8,9,I,J streets.

The Commission is very supportive of the library expansion project. The Commission would like to make known its position relative to potential historical resources which may be impacted by the project. It feels its position should be understood by all the significant parties shaping that effort.

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The California Hotel although it represents a locally unique hotel style and is included in the City's Historically Significant Structures list, the Commission finds the building not to be of sufficient architectural or historical merit to warrant its preservation at the cost of developing the library complex. Should the structure's site be included in the library project, consideration should be made to salvage any significant details that might be reutilized. Examples: arched windows, hand-painted tile risers in interior stairway, etc.

The St. Louis Saloon is an early structure which shows considerable evolution of use and architectural style. The Commission recognizes the front facade as a text of downtown history and endorses the idea of treating this facade like a piece of public art. It should be relocated to a suitable public location within the library project.

The address of 805 "J" Street is a unique two story brick structure dominated by a large central arch. The Commission urges that the facade be preserved in place and the project architects be advised to incorporate the facade into their proposed colonnade around the project area.

The Central Library is the most architecturally and historically significant structure within the project area. The Commission urges all parties to acknowledge the value and need to preserve this structure with that concern extending equally to the major interior architectural elements as well as the exterior of the structure.

VOTE OF COMMISSION

The Commission unanimously adopted the following recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

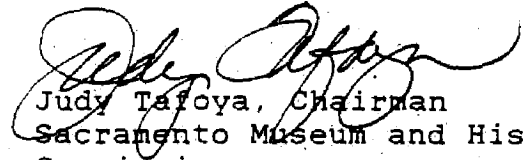
- .1 The California Hotel may be removed if an enlarged library project is desirable.
2. Relocate the facade of the St. Louis Saloon to a suitable public place location, displayed as a piece of art.
3. Preserve the facade at the address of 805 "J" Street in

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place and have project architects incorporate it into
their proposed colonnade.

4. Preserve equally the interior as well as the exterior
of the Central Library.

Respectfully submitted,



Judy Tafuya, Chairman
Sacramento Museum and History
Commission

May 19, 1987

JT/dew