

# Time Has Tolled for Historical Tom Talbert House

PAMPHLET

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By Melinda Keller 2-4-88

When the founding fathers of Huntington Beach settled the coastal area, they envisioned a great mecca; one to rival Atlantic City, the East Coast playland of the rich.

When Pacific City was formed in 1902, only a few homes and one small road butted up against the beach. The small road, Ocean Avenue, was later expanded to make way for Pacific Coast Highway.

In two weeks, yet another part of Pacific City's history will also suffer the fate of progress.

The turn-of-the-century house built by developer C. D. Heartwell will be demolished in mid-February by the City of Huntington Beach to make way for redevelopment.

City Property Manager Dan Brennan said the building, which is located at the corner of Pacific



The Tom Talbert house, circa 1906, in downtown.

Coast Highway and Sixth Street, is designated to be demolished because it is in a redevelopment area and does not meet city code.

"The building is not up to code and is a hazard because it's vacant. With all the code violations in the downtown area, we just can't let one of ours sit around," Brennan said.

Guy Guzzardo of the Huntington Beach Historical Society said even if the house was not in a redevelopment area, restoring or moving the structure would be cost prohibitive.

"Sometime ago, the porches were enclosed and many exterior changes were made, so the original line of the home was lost. It would be too expensive to move it now, so we are documenting it and taking what we can before it goes," Guzzardo said.

Historical Society members are  
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removing wood moldings, doors, hinges, window latches, decorative cabinetry and wood paneling from the interior of the house so that part of the history can be saved, Guzzardo explained.

The structure's historical value does not stop with its interior.

Tom Talbert, a postmaster and founder of Fountain Valley,

purchased the quaint two-story beach house in 1917, 13 years after Huntington Beach was incorporated.

Talbert ran for City Council, was elected mayor, and eventually became one of Orange County's first supervisors.

The city originally purchased the land in 1970, two years after Talbert's death, from his son. At the time, the area was targeted for a parking lot that never got off the ground, Guzzardo said.

Barbara Milkovich, chairman of the Historical Resources Board, said the group is attempting to document the fixtures and the house to preserve the history for future generations.

"I'm a bit sad that we don't have much time, but we're doing the best we can," Milkovich said.

If anyone has information regarding the Talbert House, contact Barbara Milkovich at (714) 897-9766.

