

# A Sad Reminder



129 Rutledge Ave

The efforts under way to relocate St. Francis Xavier Hospital out of the peninsula recall another loss at the site — that of a handsome post-Revolutionary War building.

Back during the early 1970s, when an expanding St. Francis saw the peninsula as its permanent location, the hospital purchased and subsequently demolished the building at 129 Rutledge Ave., last used as Creticos Fruit Store. The demolition was fought by local preservationists, to no avail. The hospital replaced the 153-year old building with a landscaped lawn.

The point in reviewing this unpleasantry is to remind that the destruction of the city's architectural heritage is irrevocable. There are hardly ever any good reasons for the demolition of those structures that comprise the fabric of this historic city. There are only meager rationales, submitted for the sake of expediency.

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