



Ken Steinhardt/The Register

Three generations of Susan Worthy's family have lived in her house at Sixth Street and Walnut Avenue.

## National historic registry selects Huntington home

By Ann Pepper *The Register*

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HUNTINGTON BEACH — Three downtown, turn-of-the-century wooden buildings have been named to the National Register of Historic Places.

After two years of effort, the Worthy family succeeded in obtaining recognition for its nearly 100-year-old house, commercial building and the small tool shop between them.

"It's unlikely the house alone would have made it," Guy Guzzardo, a member of the city's Historic Resources Board, said this week. "But because the three buildings are together, they were considered significant."

The federal-registry panel voted unanimously to list the three buildings, which stand on Sixth Street from Walnut Avenue to the alley, as a picture of the Western false-front architecture of the period.

"It's the commercial building that is especially important," Guzzardo said. "Probably there are not two others like it in the entire county."

Mayor Jack Kelly congratu-

lated the Worthy family on the success of its long effort to have the buildings listed on the registry. The buildings were moved to the site from Santa Ana in 1903 by Huntington Beach pioneer Matthew Helme. The Worthy family is made up of Helme's descendants.

The structures, in the city's downtown-redevelopment area, have been considered for relocation. But as registered historic buildings, specific rules must be followed for relocation, which probably will make the cost of moving them prohibitive, Guzzardo said.

And there is some question about whether the store, which would have to be cut into sections, would survive the move, he said.

"We've won a lot of battles to get the buildings on the registry," Guzzardo said. "Our biggest worry now is fire and vandalism. The downtown has gotten pretty run down."

All three buildings are occupied. The family is hoping they will remain a part of Huntington Beach's downtown heritage, Guzzardo said.