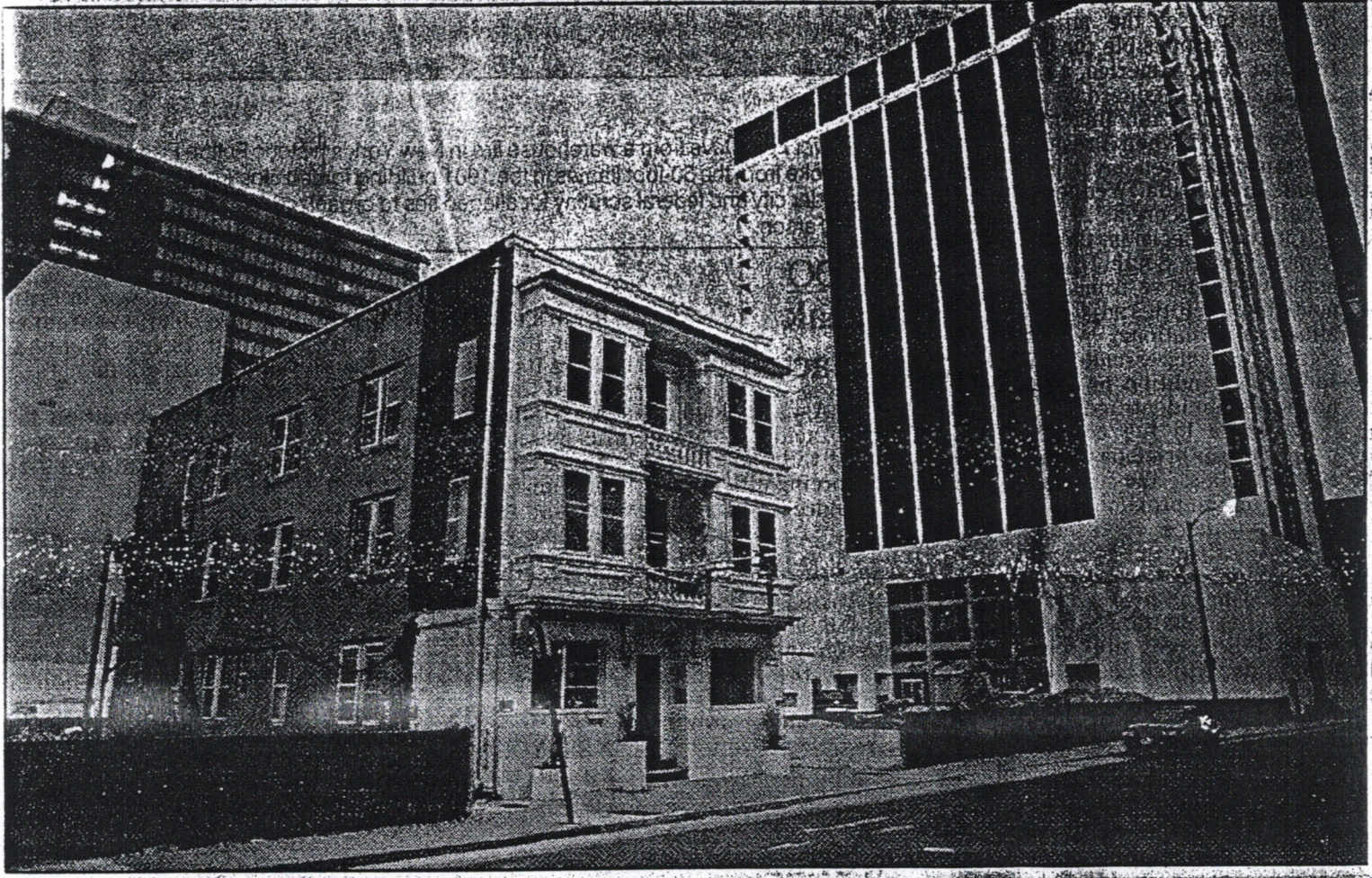


'It looks like David nailed Goliath'

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Verdict thwarts Trump expansion



Staff photo by Vernon Ogrodnick

Vera Coking's home on Columbia Place in Atlantic City stands in the way of the expansion of the Trump property at right. Caesars Atlantic City Hotel and Casino appears at left.

Judge throws out CRDA funding for project

from staff and wire reports

ATLANTIC CITY — A judge Wednesday dealt a huge blow to Donald J. Trump's plan to build a \$55 million expansion of Trump Plaza Hotel and Casino.

Atlantic County Superior Court Judge Richard Williams overturned the state Casino Reinvestment Development Authority's approval of \$19.5 million in credits for the project and threw out condemnation proceedings aimed at giving Trump control of three neighboring properties.

Among them are a mom-and-pop restaurant that's been a fixture on the Pacific Avenue block for almost 30 years and an elderly widow's crumbling three-story former boarding house. Acquiring the properties is considered necessary to the project.

"It looks like David nailed Goliath," said lawyer Glenn Zeitz, who represents property owner Vera Coking. "It's a triumph of the rule of law over the rule of Trump."

Trump couldn't be reached for

comment late Wednesday. He didn't return telephone calls to his New York office.

Lawyer Joseph Fusco, who represents Trump Plaza, said construction on the expansion would continue despite Williams' decision.

"The court has misread the statute. It has misread the legislative intent, which was to stimulate exactly this kind of project," said Fusco.

"At this point, I haven't seen the



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