

Ser. No. _____
HABS _____ HAER _____ Loc _____ SHL No. _____ NR Status 5
UTM: A 10/627464/4096577 C _____
B _____ D _____

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: _____
2. Historic name: Radtke Construction
3. Street or rural address: 46, 44, 42, Martin Street
City Gilroy Zip 95020 County Santa Clara
4. Parcel number: 84100616
5. Present Owner: Tom Radtke Address: 7610 Princevalle
City Gilroy Zip 95020 Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
6. Present Use: Office and Stores Original use: Office and Stores

DESCRIPTION

- 7a. Architectural style: Commercial - Spanish Revival
- 7b. Briefly describe the present *physical appearance* of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

This one and a half story commercial structure is rectangular in form. The store fronts are large display windows with glazed tile below. Decorative tile frames the front across the top and down each end. A band of smaller windows is above the first floor level. The three doors are wood frame flush to the front and with glass transomes. A roof of Spanish tile fronts the structure although the roof is actually flat.



8. Construction date 1929
Estimated _____ Factual _____
9. Architect Unknown
10. Builder William Radtke
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage 68 Depth 60
or approx. acreage _____
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
Mar. 1986

13. Condition: Excellent Good _____ Fair _____ Deteriorated _____ No longer in existence _____
14. Alterations: _____
15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land _____ Scattered buildings _____ Densely built-up
 Residential _____ Industrial _____ Commercial _____ Other: mixed use
16. Threats to site: None known Private development _____ Zoning _____ Vandalism _____
 Public Works project _____ Other: _____
17. Is the structure: On its original site? Moved? _____ Unknown? _____
18. Related features: _____

SIGNIFICANCE

19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site.)

The building at 34 to 46 Martin Street in Gilroy houses retail businesses and the offices of William Radtke, one of the most prominent of local builders. With a career spanning the years 1906 to 1969, Radtke greatly influenced the entire area of Central California with his buildings. Radtke began his contracting business in San Jose in 1906, at the age of 18. Among his first efforts were the construction of the Los Altos Grammar School and the Guadalupe Creek Bridge. Radtke's first project in Gilroy was the building of two concrete silos on the 13,000 acre Bloomfield Ranch of pioneer, Henry Miller. Understanding the potential of the Gilroy area, Radtke and his wife, Clara, moved to the town in 1912. His first contracts in Gilroy were the building of the Llagas Creek Bridge and First National Bank Building. In 1913, his company handled the completion of the eight and a half million gallon reservoir for the Gilroy Water Department. Other major projects by Radtke Construction Company were the Masonic Building in 1921, the Strand Theater, in 1921, the Woolworth Building in 1928, Wheeler Hospital in 1929, and the Elks Building in 1930. Buildings built by Radtke in later years included the Post Office in 1951, the Veterans Building in 1951 and the Salinas Valley Savings and Loan in 1960. In addition to the larger projects, Radtke's company constructed the houses of many area residents. In these, he was often associated with the prominent architect, William Weeks. Along with his business concerns, William Radtke was concerned with civic affairs. He served two terms on the City Council from 1927 to 1931. The building on Martin Street which houses the office of his company, serves as an important reminder of his prolific and influential builder.

20. Main theme of the historic resource. (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)
- Architecture 2 Arts & Leisure _____
 Economic/Industrial 1 Exploration/Settlement _____
 Government _____ Military _____
 Religion _____ Social/Education _____

21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).

A Field Guide to American Houses
 McAlister

Sanborn Map 1888,1908

Gilroy Museum File- Radke

22. Date form prepared April 1986
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