

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Ser. No. _____
HABS _____ HAER _____ Loc _____ SHL No. _____ NR Status 5D
UTM: A 10/627327/4096561 C _____
B _____ D _____

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Drake Apartments
2. Historic name: Radtke Apartments
3. Street or rural address: 85 Fifth Street
City Gilroy Zip 95020 County Santa Clara
4. Parcel number: 79900658
5. Present Owner: Wayne Leslie Address: 3031 Tisch Way #115
City San Jose Zip 95128 Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
6. Present Use: Apartments Original use: Apartments

DESCRIPTION

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

85 Fifth street is a two story frame and stucco apartment building with a flat roof and enclosed eaves located about two feet below the roofline. There are two wings which surround a recessed entrance area highlighted by a series of arches and round columns with metal grillwork for decoration. The entryway offsets somewhat the general appearance of the structure which is plain and straight forward, offering the viewer a series of evenly spaced windows set in even, square walls. The structure has been stripped of any significant ornament. Major alterations include wrought iron columns of the front recessed entry and a wooden slat covering placed around the roofline in a band typical of 60's and 70's "upgradings" of older buildings. Neither alteration adds to the rather spare original design of the building. The most distinguishing feature is the arcaded, recessed front entry with its round arch doors, windows and fanlights. The site is in fair condition with minimal landscaping. Its size provides its major design distinction.

8. Construction date: Estimated _____ Factual 1919
9. Architect Unknown
10. Builder William Radtke
11. Approx. property size (in feet):
Frontage 96 Depth 100
or approx. acreage _____
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
Mar. 1936



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

SIGNIFICANCE

19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site.)
 These apartments were originally named the "Honeymoon Apartments". Many newly married couples were coming to settle in the Gilroy area when William Radtke constructed the building in 1919. So many began their married life in these apartments that it gained its happy nickname. William Radtke was an important contractor and builder in the San Jose - Gilroy area from the early 1900's through the 1960's. At age 18, Radtke formed his first contracting firm in San Jose in 1906. There he built the Los Altos Grammar School and the Guadalupe Creek Bridge. Radtke first came to Gilroy in 1911 with a contract to build silos on the Bloomfield Ranch. Radtke quickly perceived the possibilities in Gilroy and settled there permanently. In 1912, he built the Llagas Creek Bridge and the First National Bank building. He handled many commissions for the City of Gilroy, including the 8 1/2 million gallon reservoir for the water department and the brick firehouse on Fifth Street. All though the 1920's, 30's, 40's and 50's Radtke's firm constructed both large and important buildings, such as the Lonis Hotel, the Masonic Building, Wheeler Hospital, and the Woolworth Building. Many families in Gilroy live in houses built by Radtke over the decades. Radtke served two terms on the Gilroy City Council from 1927 to 1931. In 1912, he married Clara Loewen and they had three children who grew up in Gilroy. Radtke became a very prolific contractor in Gilroy.

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,
Gilroy Museum File- Radtke

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