

HABS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HAER	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ser. No.	_____	NR Status	<u>5/SD</u>
UTM:	A	10/267235/4096508				C	_____		
	B	_____				D	_____		

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION

- Common name: Lirio Del Valle De Asemblas de Dios Church
- Historic name: Christian Church
- Street or rural address: 160 Fifth Street
City Gilroy Zip 95020 County Santa Clara
- Parcel number: 79900722
- Present Owner: Latin Am Assem. of God Address: 160 Fifth Street
City Gilroy Zip 95020 Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
- Present Use: Church Original use: Church

DESCRIPTION

- Architectural style: Greek Revival
- Briefly describe the present *physical appearance* of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

This one story medium gabled church features enclosed eaves and a plain frieze with corners that turn in on the gable giving it a Greek or pedimented look. Attached in front of the simple, rectangular building of clapboard siding is a tall, square tower which contains the front entrance (two tall, plain doors), a circular wood projection with the date "1855" inscribed upon it, a window and, near the top, a wood slat vent opening. The corners of the main building of the tower have cut-out boards which give the appearance of a Greek pillar, complete with enlarged tops. The simple fenestration, vertical double-hung windows and vertical shuttered vents on the tower handsomely reflect Greek revival design. Five concrete stairs with metal pole railings lead to the front entrance; while an east facing side porch is a later addition. The new church addition to the west is still under construction. If painted white, it may not compromise the distinctiveness of the original building and may repeat the success of the Presbyterian church additions across the street. Large trees, especially a mature palm, enhance the site.



- Construction date:
Estimated _____ Factual 1857
- Architect unknown
- Builder unknown
- Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage 60 Depth 120
or approx. acreage _____
- Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
Mar. 1986

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

SIGNIFICANCE

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

The first centers of religious worship in California were, of course, the Spanish missions and other Roman Catholic churches. But with the gold rush and American statehood, a great influx of Protestants from the east and mid-west began in the Santa Clara Valley. One of the strongest groups was the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). It was established in Gilroy in 1855 with 13 members. The Christian Church was the oldest completely American formed church to be founded in Gilroy. The new congregation built the church in 1857 and in compliance with the tenets of the sect, it had separate entrances for men and women. The building has become the oldest frame church in continuous use in Santa Clara County. In 1879, the congregation was caught up in a legal dispute over title to the property, due to conflicts over the original Spanish land grants. The city decided to extend Third Street, the result was the moving of the building from its original location on Church Street, to its present location on Fifth Street. The Christian Church continued actively into the mid-20th century. However, by the 1960's, the congregation had declined in Gilroy and in 1963, the local church deeded its property to its statewide organization, the Christian Church of Northern California-Nevada. In September of 1967, the Latin American Assemblies of God in California purchased the building and lot.

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

21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).
 Christian Church Report: Jim Williams
 Gilroy Museum Files

22. Date form prepared April 1988
 By (name) The Firm of BONNIE L. BAMBURG
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