

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Ser. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
HABS \_\_\_\_\_ HAER \_\_\_\_\_ Loc X SHL No. \_\_\_\_\_ NR Status 5D  
UTM: A 10/627022/4095480 C \_\_\_\_\_  
B \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Historic name: Baxter House
3. Street or rural address: 323 Fifth Street  
City Gilroy Zip 95020 County Santa Clara
4. Parcel number: 79901962
5. Present Owner: Jesus Garcia Address: 323 Fifth Street  
City Gilroy Zip 95020 Ownership is: Public \_\_\_\_\_ Private Y
6. Present Use: Residence Original use: Residence

DESCRIPTION

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

A two story house with an offset gable roofline, this pioneer style structure has enclosed eaves and wide clapboard siding. The long veranda porch extends around the house and is supported by beveled columns. Finishing touches include two bay windows which face 5th Street, wood slat railing in the porch and sidelights at the front entrance. The size, style and massing of this residence set amid a very luxurious mature landscape on a large corner lot help make this one of the most architecturally impressive 19th Century houses in Gilroy. It adds immeasurable to the architectural variety which surrounds it. The simple elegance of design, devoid of late Victorian ornament, illustrates the Pioneer style (in a notably larger than usual form) at its finest. The exterior is in need of some paint to bring this residence up to the standards of this most beautiful of city streets. The steeply pitched roofline and front cross gable hints ever so slightly of Gothic Revival.



8. Construction date:  
Estimated 1875 Factual \_\_\_\_\_
9. Architect Unknown
10. Builder Unknown
11. Approx. property size (in feet)  
Frontage 140 Depth 120  
or approx. acreage \_\_\_\_\_
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)  
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: \_\_\_\_\_
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.)

After coming to California to seek gold in 1849, John A. Baxter found that hardware was an important factor in small towns and was more profitable than mining. He opened two hardware stores, one in Sacramento and Crescent City. He and his wife then moved to Gilroy and built their residence at 323 5th Street. In 1884, they moved to Watsonville, where they began another successful hardware business, and the house was sold to the family of Millie Lewis Sargent. Her family had come to California by wagon train in 1843 and she was the third generation of this family to live in California.

The significance of the structure is first its architectural presentation in the diversity of styles on Fifth Street and secondly the association with one of the early merchant families that migrated to California as 49ers.

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 \_\_\_\_\_ Social/Education \_\_\_\_\_

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

Gilroy Museum Files  
A FIELD GUIDE TO AMERICAN HOUSES,  
McAlister  
Assesment Rolls

22. Date form prepared April 1983  
By (name) The Firm of  
Organization BONNIE L. BAMBURG  
Address: 247 N. Third Street  
City San Jose, CA Zip 95112  
Phone: (408) 971-1421

Locational sketch map (draw and label site and surrounding streets, roads, and prominent landmarks):

