

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Ser. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
HABS \_\_\_\_\_ HAER \_\_\_\_\_ Loc \_\_\_\_\_ SHL No. \_\_\_\_\_ NR Status \_\_\_\_\_  
UTM: A 10/ 627593.4096750 C \_\_\_\_\_  
B \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: John Porcella Home
2. Historic name: Allemand House
3. Street or rural address: 7554 Alexander Street  
City Gilroy Zip 95020 County Santa Clara
4. Parcel number: 84100529
5. Present Owner: Richard Porcella Address: 7554 Alexander Str  
City Gilroy Zip 95020 Ownership is: Public \_\_\_\_\_ Private X
6. Present Use: Residence Original use: Residence

DESCRIPTION

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

Originally an end facing gable pioneer of rectangular form the modifications have added a projecting gabled wing to the front and incorporated a sloping roof that carries a full width porch. The porch is supported on stocky-turned columns. Original framing surrounds the windows of the older section, while 1919 double hung narrow frames are in the addition.



8. Construction date:  
Estimated \_\_\_\_\_ Factual 1899
9. Architect Unknown
10. Builder Unknown
11. Approx. property size (in feet)  
Frontage 55 Depth 142  
or approx. acreage \_\_\_\_\_
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)  
Mar. 1986

13. Condition: Excellent \_\_\_ Good \_\_\_ Fair X Deteriorated \_\_\_ No longer in existence \_\_\_
14. Alterations: \_\_\_\_\_
15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land \_\_\_ Scattered buildings \_\_\_ Densely built-up \_\_\_  
Residential X Industrial \_\_\_ Commercial X Other: \_\_\_\_\_
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.)

This modified Pioneer style house was built in 1890 for the August Allemand family, early Gilroy residents who lived there for twenty two years. It was owned from 1912 to 1914 by Dr. James W. Thayer, an early Gilroy physician. In 1918, while owned by Pasquale Filice, it was enlarged to its present size. The home is currently owned by Richard Porcella, a Gilroy businessman and owner of Porcella's dry goods and music store. The Porcella family has had a long and active residence in Gilroy. Charles Porcella came to Gilroy in the early 1900's and began a cigar factory. The cigar company was converted to a clothing store and was operated after 1948 by his son, George P. Porcella. George Porcella was best known for his musical endeavors. He formed and led "George Porcella and the Music Makers" in 1930's. His later combo played for many years at parties and weddings in Gilroy. George Porcella was an active member of the Gilroy Historical Society and led the efforts to preserve the old Gilroy City Hall. Porcella's Department Store is still a popular Gilroy landmark. It is operated today by Richard Porcella, George's son and owner of the Alexander Street house.

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):  
Tax Rolls  
Gilroy Advocate  
Gilroy Museum File - Porcella

22. Date form prepared April 1986  
By (name) The Firm of  
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