

Ser. No. _____
HABS _____ HAER _____ Loc X SHL No. _____ NR Status 5
UTM: A 10/627166/4096746 C _____
B _____ D _____

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Habing Funeral Home
2. Historic name: Barshinger & Son Funeral Home
3. Street or rural address: 129 Fourth Street
City Gilroy Zip 95020 County Santa Clara
4. Parcel number: 79900431
5. Present Owner: _____ Address: _____
City _____ Zip _____ Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
6. Present Use: Funeral Home Original use: Funeral Home

DESCRIPTION

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

The site consists of a large stucco and tile building which is constructed on an irregular plan and designed in a Spanish Colonial revival architectural style. The structure exhibits a central low gabled roof which is sheathed in red Spanish tiles. Projecting from this central mass are smaller gabled wings and a large, round arched arcade. In characteristic Spanish Colonial revival style, the exterior walls are simple flat spaces which are accented with some incised forms - round arches over the main windows and panels above the slightly recessed entry. The most distinctive ornament is exhibited by the window shapes. Fenestration includes vertically-oriented narrow multi-light windows, round windows, paired round-arched windows; very narrow vertically-oriented windows. The arches of the arcade are paired and divided by curved patterned columns.



8. Construction date:
Estimated _____ Factual 1928
9. Architect William Weeks
10. Builder William Radtke
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage 150 Depth 150
or approx. acreage _____
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
Mar. 1986

8670-17
8677-2
27

13. Condition: Excellent Good _____ Fair _____ Deteriorated _____ No longer in existence _____
14. Alterations: Additions connecting structures
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.)

The significance of this site is totally due to the architecture of William Weeks, one of the most notable architects in Gilroy. It represents the ability of earlier 20th Century architects to handle historic detail - a lesson post-modern designers would do well to emulate.

Barshingers and Sons moved to this new funeral home from the first floor of Masonic Building on Monterey Street, where they conducted a furniture store in front and a mortuary in back.

The first addition to the building incorporates a four-side-roofed pioneer; the second addition is new (1984), but mirrors the shape of the first.

20. Main theme or 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 Advocate
American Architecture Since 1780
Whiffen
Gilroy Musuem Files - Wm. Weeks

22. Date form prepared April 1986
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