

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Ser. No. _____
HABS _____ HAER _____ Loc _____ SHL No. _____ NR Status 5D _____
UTM: A 10/627094/4096507 C _____
B _____ D _____

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Whitney House
2. Historic name: Whitney House
3. Street or rural address: 263 Fifth Street
City Gilroy Zip 95020 County Santa Clara
4. Parcel number: 79900612
5. Present Owner: Thomas Car Address: 263 Fifth Street
City Gilroy Zip 95020 Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
6. Present Use: Residence Original use: Residence

DESCRIPTION

- 7a. Architectural style: Gothic Revival - 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 Pioneer style house with shiplap siding, it has an offset gable roofline with enclosed eaves. The shuttered windows along the sides of the house are decorated with criss-cross designed sidelights. The veranda porch on the east side of the house is supported by square posts and there is a large trellis on the front of the house facing 5th Street. The trellis, although of later vintage, repeats a design element. That occurs on a number of sites along W. 5th Street. The residence appears to have newer additions added to the rear including enclosed porch area. The structure is currently undergoing some restoration of a front porch under the trellis. The structure's distinction is primarily in the interesting eclectic mix of design which so often characterizes mid-19th Century residential design in California. The cross gable hints of Gothic Revival, the spare fenestration and coloration suggest Greek Revival, the shutters and diamond muntins derive from Colonial Revival, and the front trellis is characteristic of Craftsman Design - the amalgam is best described as "Pioneer", a hybrid typical of much of the oldest residential structures from the American period remainings in the State.



8. Construction date:
Estimated 1860 Factual _____
9. Architect Unknown
10. Builder Unknown
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage 70 Depth 135
or approx. acreage _____
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
1986

13. Condition: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated No longer in existence
14. Alterations: 1986 Undergoing rehabilitation
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: Apartment structure in rear

SIGNIFICANCE

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

Like many cities which had their roots in small towns, Gilroy's central business district was once a residential area. As businesses expanded and multiplied, the residences had either to be torn down or moved. The house which stands today at 263 Fifth Street, was one such building. Built around 1854, the house originally was located on the corner of Fifth and Monterey, which subsequently became the Bank of Gilroy, and is now the parking lot of the J.C. Penney Store. When the house was moved to its current location in 1869, it was mounted on rolling logs and pulled there by a team of horses.

The home, which was built initially for the Dwight Whitney family, changed ownership several times over the years. It is now owned by Mrs. Graydon Carr and her son, Thomas Carr, who are renovating it.

The moving of this structure has not affected it's importance as an important piece in the streetscape of Fifth Street.

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).

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

22. Date form prepared April 1988
By (name) The Firm of
Organization BONNIE L. BAMBURG
Address: 247 N. Third Street
City San Jose, CA Zip 95112
Phone: (408) 971-1421

