HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

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

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 sparse 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

9. Architect: Unknown

10. Builder: Unknown

11. Approx. property size (in feet):
    Frontage 70
    Depth 135

12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
    1986
13. Condition: Excellent X Good ____ Fair ____ Deteriorated ____ No longer in existence ____


15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land ____ Scattered buildings ____ Densely built-up X Residential X 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: 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 ____ 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
   Assessment Rolls
   Gilroy Museum Files, Whitney Family April 1988

22. Date form prepared __________ 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):