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: 7991962 

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) 1980
13. Condition: Excellent X Good ___ Fair ___ Deteriorated ___ No longer in existence ___

14. Alterations: ________________________________________________________________

15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land ___ Scattered buildings ___ Densely built-up X Residential ___ 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? X 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, he moved to Watsonville, where they began another successful hardware business, and their 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 it's 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 X 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
   Assessment Rolls

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

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

North