

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Ser. No. _____
HABS _____ HAER _____ Loc _____ SHL No. _____ NR Status 5D
UTM: A 10/626823/4096402 C _____
B _____ D _____

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Prien House
2. Historic name: Radtke House
3. Street or rural address: 515 Fifth Street
City Gilroy Zip 95020 County Santa Clara
4. Parcel number: 79901924
5. Present Owner: Mary Prien Address: 515 Fifth Street
City Gilroy Zip 95020 Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
6. Present Use: Residence Original use: Residence

DESCRIPTION

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

Structure consists of a one story stucco building. Built in a rectangular building plan, and is designed in a manner influenced by California architectural traditions. The house features a tar and gravel hip roof, double hung windows and a wide covered veranda type porch with columns. Built in 1922 by William Radtke, Sr., the structure is a slight variation of the stucco craftsman bungalow that is very characteristic of the speculative residential construction of William Radke throughout Gilroy. The residence exhibits all of the major characteristics of a late craftsman bungalow including the horizontal massing, the simple and rectangular shaped fenestration, and the tri-partite front window (2 double hung windows surrounding a single large pane). The entry door is off centered with a multi-light wooden door. The entry to the front porch is centered with wide low rising steps. Distinctive features include the centered metal vent, which is rounded, that punctuates the street facing roofline; the tall rectangular chimney with it rounded chimney hood; and the 2 attached wooden structures which surround the porch entry and function is an arbor. Mature well-tended landscape keeps in character with the other residence on the block. In fact, the architectural significance of the site is primarily in its being a superior example of the design and scale of the immediate neighborhood. Handsome, large trees distinguish and help the neighborhood together reflecting as they do one of the dominant significant urban design elements of the city.



8. Construction date:
Estimated _____ Factual 1922
9. Architect _____
Unknown
10. Builder _____
William Radtke, Sr.
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage 70 Depth 125
or approx. acreage _____
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
Mar. 1986

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

This home was built by William Radtke, Sr. for the Radtke Family in 1922. Mr. Radtke was a noted building contractor in Gilroy from 1911 to 1965. He was inducted into Gilroy's Hall of Fame in 1985. In 1932, the house was sold to Lee Brown, manager of the Bank of America in Gilroy from 1925 to 1935. It was then purchased by Roland H. Prien, M.D. in 1935. Roland Prien practiced medicine in Gilroy from 1920 to 1942. The house's present owner is Mary Prien who was an Registered Nurse at Wheeler Hospital from 1933 to 1935. She is currently Director of the Gilroy Historical Museum and was recently appointed City Historian of Gilroy. The residence is located at 515 Fifth Street and is part of the Henry Miller and Lux subdivision.

Architecturally important in the design fabric of Gilroy, this residence is also important for the association with people who have made a valuable contribution to the areas of economic growth, medical care and cultural enhancement in Gilroy.

20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)
 Architecture 1 Arts & Leisure _____
 Economic/Industrial 2 Exploration/Settlement _____
 Government _____ Military _____
 Religion _____ Social/Education _____

21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).
 Gilroy Advocate 1922 to 1935
 Assessment Roll books 1922 to 1946
 Book - History of Santa Clara Co., 1922
 Telephone Directory 1920's to 1930's
 Interview with Renz Family, 1985
 April 1980

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