

# HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

UTM: A 10/627645/4096096 C \_\_\_\_\_  
 B \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_

## IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Wheeler Hospital
2. Historic name: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Street or rural address: 651 West Sixth Street  
 City Gilroy Zip 95020 County Santa Clara
4. Parcel number: 79901801
5. Present Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City Gilroy Zip 95020 Ownership is: Public \_\_\_\_\_ Private X
6. Present Use: Hospital Original use: Hospital

## 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:

Designed in the Mediterranean Villa Style, the center section is two story while the wings are single story. The central entrance is two segmental arches framed in tile. Above a three part window composition is separated by a relief band. Tall narrow windows are at each end on both stories. Balconies are attached to the second level windows. The low hipped roof is covered in Spanish tile. The low wings extend on either side and are roofed in Spanish tile.



8. Construction date: Estimated \_\_\_\_\_ Factual 1929
9. Architect William Weeks
10. Builder William Radtke
11. Approx. property size (in feet)  
 Frontage \_\_\_\_\_ Depth \_\_\_\_\_  
 or approx. acreage 6
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)  
Mar. 1986

8678-32 8678-34  
 8678-33 8678-35

14. Alterations: \_\_\_\_\_
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? X Moved? \_\_\_\_\_ Unknown? \_\_\_\_\_
18. Related features: \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNIFICANCE**

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

The Wheeler Hospital in Gilroy was built through the effort of three highly successful and prominent men. The hospital was financed by the fund raising efforts and matching gifts of L.W. Wheeler, President of the Pieters-Wheeler Seed Company in Gilroy. It was designed by William H. Weeks, one of California's most prolific and influential architects. It was built by William Radtke, whose company built many of the most important structures in the area from the early 1900's to the 1960's. Work on the hospital began in January of 1928. The architect announced that the hospital would contain all of the latest medical innovations and would have 22 rooms with 29 beds. Completed in 1929, the Wheeler Hospital served the residents of Gilroy until 1962 when a modern hospital of the same name was built on the same property, the original building is still used for administration purposes. Besides the hospital which bears his name, Wheeler made gifts to Gilroy of the Wheeler Auditorium, Wheeler Field, and the Elks Building.

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

21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).

American Architecture Since 1780  
Whiffen

Pieces of the Past, A Story of Gilroy  
Salewcke

22. Date form prepared April 1986  
 By (name) The Firm of  
 Organization BONNIE L. BAMBURG  
 Address: 247 N. Third Street  
 City San Jose, CA Zip 95112  
 Phone: (408) 971-1421

