HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION
1. Common name: Wilson House
2. Historic name: Wilson House
3. Street or rural address: 7341 Alexander Street
   City: Gilroy, Zip: 95020, County: Santa Clara
4. Parcel number: 84100813
5. Present Owner: Charles Roper
   Address: 7341 Alexander Street
   City: Gilroy, Zip: 95020
   Ownership is: Public, Private, X
6. Present Use: Residence
   Original use: Residence

DESCRIPTION
7a. Architectural style: Queen Anne
7b. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

This two-story, cross gable structure is richly detailed on all sides. The facade is divided between the sub-level, first floor and end gable roof. The first floor consists of a porch extending across half of the face and a three sided projecting slanted bay. The porch is supported by paired Greek columns. The freeze band separating the first floor and gable end is covered with small shingles, an Italianate, bracketed cornice. In the gable, a paladian window is crowned with a detail of wave and scale shingles. Slanted bays occur under the gable ends on the remaining sides topped with small balconettes. The structure is sheathed in narrow horizontal clapboard mixed with shingles and wide board siding at the sub-level.

8. Construction date: Estimated, Factual 1900
10. Builder: H. D. Koch
11. Approx. property size (in feet):
    Frontage 50, Depth 137
    or approx. acreage
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s):
    Mar. 1986

DPR 523 (Rev. 11/85)
13. Condition: Excellent Good Fair X Deteriorated No longer in existence

14. Alterations: ____________________________

15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land Scattered buildings Densely built-up X Residential X Industrial Commercial X 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? Unknown?

18. Related features: A box apartment structure to the north detracts from the structure's street presence.

SIGNIFICANCE

This Queen Anne style house was built in 1900 for Mrs. Eunice Chickering Willson. It was designed by the prominent architect, William H. Weeks, and constructed by local contractor H. D. Koch. Mrs. Willson, the widow of Horace Willson, came with her husband to Gilroy in 1853 and he, as a brickmaker and mason, built the first brick houses in the Santa Clara Valley. Following the death of her husband in 1896, Mrs. Willson began planning the Alexander Street house, where she lived until her death in 1910. In 1915 the Willson family sold the property to the Joel G. Ross family of Gilroy. Ross, a successful rancher, purchased the Alexander Street house as a retirement residence. The house is now owned by and the residence of Charles Roper. In a community that contains a very large number of historic homes, this example of W. Weeks' work stands out for its superior detail and design.

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

21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates)
   Gilroy Museum Files - Wilson
   Gilroy Advocate
   Assessment Rolls
   Field Guide to American Architecture
   McAlister

22. Date form prepared April 1986
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