

Ser. No. _____
HABS _____ HAER _____ Loc _____ SHL No. _____ NR Status 1/SD
UTM: A 10/627686.4096387 C _____
B _____ D _____

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Willson House
2. Historic name: Willson 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 Str
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
9. Architect William H. Weeks
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

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

SIGNIFICANCE

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

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 brick-maker 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 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 Museum Files - Wilson
Gilroy Advocate
Assesment Rolls
Field Guide to American Architecture
McAlister

22. Date form prepared April 1986
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