HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION
1. Common name: Porcella's
2. Historic name: 
3. Street or rural address: 7357 Monterey Street
   City: Gilroy    Zip: 95020    County: Santa Clara
4. Parcel number: 799838
5. Present Owner: Annie Porcella
   Address: 392 Old Gilroy St.
   City: Gilroy    Zip: 95020
Ownership is: Public     Private     X
6. Present Use: Clothing Store
   Original use: 

DESCRIPTION
7a. Architectural style: Commercial
7b. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:
The building is a simple single story brick structure constructed on a rectangular plan and designed in a commercial style probably dating from the 1920's. The site exhibits a minimal amount of detailing with a slight projection of brick design defining the cornice, a raised string course above the horizontal band of windows which in turn rise above the slightly recessed double door wooden entry with its transom window and the large plate glass store front windows; and the black tile which sheathes the base of the street facade. The tile elements is a feature repeated throughout the central business district. Proportionally, the site is a handsome, well-articulated design which does much to define downtown Gilroy's urban design.

8. Construction date:
   Estimated 1870s    Factual
9. Architect: Unknown
10. Builder: Unknown
11. Approx. property size (in feet):
    Frontage 21    Depth 142
    or approx. acreage
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s):
    Mar. 1985

v. 11/85)
This retail store is unusual in that it is one of the very few structures in Gilroy's business district which has retained its original design. Built in the early 1880's, it has always been used for commercial purposes. The all brick building originally abutted the Louis Hotel and may have been part of Gilroy's first stage coach station. Early businesses in this building include a saloon, grocery, and bakery.

Charles Porcella a native of Italy immigrated to the United States in 1892. He went to work as a teamster for Miller and Lux in Gilroy. In 1899 Charles purchased a half interest in the clothing store of H.L. McDuffie. In 1908 he bought McDuffie out and operated the business as a sole proprietor until his death in 1922.