

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Firestone Tires
2. Historic name: Ellis Garage Building
3. Street or rural address: 7390 Monterey Street
City Gilroy Zip 95020 County Santa Clara
4. Parcel number: 84100807
5. Present Owner: George Kishimura Address: 8910 Murray Avenue
City Gilroy Zip 95020 Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
6. Present Use: Tire Shop Original use: Auto Dealership

DESCRIPTION

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

The site consists of a long, single story Spanish colonial revival style commercial building which is constructed on a rectangular plan, and built of reinforced concrete. The building was designed as an early automobile showroom, and as such is dominated by large plate glass windows on the street facade. The building is sheathed in plaster which exhibits decorative plaster floral ornament in the frieze under the shields and ornamented half pillasters add further distinction. The plate glass windows and centered double glass door entrance are aluminum framed, later additions to the structure.



8. Construction date: 1922-
Estimated _____ Factual 1923
9. Architect William Weeks
10. Builder William Radtke
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage 85 Depth 193
or approx. acreage _____
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
Mar. 1986

13. Condition: Excellent ___ Good ___ Fair ___ Deteriorated ___ No longer in existence ___

14. Alterations: Minor storefront changes

15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land ___ Scattered buildings ___ Densely built-up X
Residential ___ 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: _____

SIGNIFICANCE

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

Built for Miss Marion Ellis, decendant of the pioneer J.H. Ellis family. The building was designed by William Weeks whose firm was involved in many of the most important buildings in Gilroy. The structure is an extremely handsome example of how easily the Spanish colonial design of the 1920s could be fashioned into the commercial requirements of Main Street America. The proportions, minimal yet effective ornament, and false front tile roof provide an excellent example of historical elements which post modern architecture of the 1980s would be hard pressed to surpass.

On the site of the Farmers' Cooperative Union, this architecturally important structure was the Central Auto & Lacque Motors, and later Maycock Garage and Gilroy Auto Electric Shop.

Although historically known as the Ellis Garage Building, it was designed primarily for automobile dealerships. The first occupants of the new building when it completed in April of 1923 was the Tucker Brothers Studebaker Company.

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 - W. Weeks
Sanborn Map 1888, 1908

22. Date form prepared April 1986
By (name) The Firm of
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