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
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 pilasters 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 1922
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

R 523 (Rev. 11/85)
SIGNIFICANCE

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

Built for Miss Marion Ellis, descendant 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.