

# HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

UTM: A 10/627474/4096450 C \_\_\_\_\_  
 B \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_

## IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Old City Hall
2. Historic name: Gilroy City Hall
3. Street or rural address: 7400 Monterey Street  
 City Gilroy Zip 95020 County Santa Clara
4. Parcel number: 84100661
5. Present Owner: City of Gilroy Address: 7390 Rosanna Street  
 City Gilroy Zip 95020 Ownership is: Public \_\_\_\_\_ Private X
6. Present Use: vacant Original use: City Hall

## DESCRIPTION

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

Gilroy's most famous landmark is a very ornate and complex building best described as Baroque due to the use of whimsically curved lines and the multiplicity of functionless decoration. The sandstone block first story gives the building its basic solidness and surrounds the various arched doors and windows, often hooded with fancy curved gables, including the large curved platform front stairway which leads to the big double door front entrance. The second story, brick and stucco over wood framing, consists of a series of round and arched windows outlined in sandstone blocks and often hooded with oversized bracketed gables. The inscription "1905" appears in raised letters on the south and west faces of the building but the most spectacular and imposing item is the bell tower and clock which rises from the top of the second floor, covered with tile (as is most of the roof) and a lofty finial.



8. Construction date:  
 Estimated \_\_\_\_\_ Factual 1905
9. Architect Samuel Newsom with Wolfe & McKenzie
10. Builder Granite Rock Co.
11. Approx. property size (in feet)  
 Frontage 42 Depth 93  
 or approx. acreage \_\_\_\_\_
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)  
Mar. 1986

Condition: Excellent \_\_\_ Good \_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_ Deteriorated \_\_\_ No longer in existence \_\_\_

14. Alterations: The interior has been remodeled for restaurant use. Minor changes to the exte
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.)

The corner stone for this prominent structure was laid in 1905 and it served as Gilroy's City Hall for over half a century. The Flemish style building with its bell and clock tower, its tile roof and heavy stone work, was designed by the firm of Wolfe and McKenzie, San Jose architects. Samuel Newsom was the designer. The structure has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Although the city used this building until the mid-1960s, the building went through many changes during its first half-century. The Fire Department grew too large for the building and had to move to larger quarters. This space was taken over by the Police Department, but that department, too, grew to large for the building to handle.

20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)  
Architecture 1 Arts & Leisure \_\_\_\_\_  
Economic/Industrial \_\_\_ Exploration/Settlement \_\_\_\_\_  
Government 2 Military \_\_\_\_\_  
Religion \_\_\_ Social/Education \_\_\_\_\_

21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).

National Register Nomination- Gilroy City Hall

Sanborn Map 1888, 1908

22. Date form prepared April 1986  
By (name) The Firm of  
Organization BONNIE L. BAMBURG  
Address: 247 N. Third Street  
City San Jose, CA Zip 95112  
Phone: (408) 971-1421

Locational sketch map (draw and label site and surrounding streets, roads, and prominent landmarks):

