IDENTIFICATION
1. Common name: Benevolent Society House
2. Historic name: Benevolent Society House
3. Street or rural address: 7439 Alexander Street
   City: Gilroy Zip: 95020 County: Santa Clara
4. Parcel number: 841-6-21
5. Present Owner: Elizabeth Steidley Address: 7439 Alexander Street
   City: Gilroy Zip: 95020 Ownership is: Public Private X
6. Present Use: Residency: Residential Original use: Residential

DESCRIPTION
7a. Architectural style: Neoclassic Cottage
7b. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition.

This single story structure is rectangular in shape with a half width porch recessed under a gable. The main roof is hipped in form. Possessing neoclassical space definitions the structure has a bungalow feeling created by the wide eave overhang and combination of projecting square bay and paneled windows. Sheathed in narrow clapboard the structure appears original except for the concrete steps and shake roof.

8. Construction date:
   Estimated Factual 1909
9. Architect Unknown
10. Builder Unknown
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
    Frontage 50' Depth 137'
    or approx. acreage
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
    April 1986
13. Condition: Excellent X Good _____ Fair _____ Deteriorated _____ No longer in existence _____

14. Alterations: ________________________________

15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land _____ Scattered buildings _____ Densely built-up X Residential ______ Industrial _____ Commercial _____ 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: Carport on south side of the house

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

This Neoclassical Rowhouse was built in 1909 by the Gilroy Benevolent Society. The Society was an organization of prominent women who purchased property and built homes to be rented at low rates to poor and needy families. This house is a significant reminder of the concern that early Gilroy citizens showed for those less fortunate.

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

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

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Gilroy Museum Files

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

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