HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION
1. Common name: J.N. Rodriguez House
2. Historic name: J.N. Rodriguez House
3. Street or rural address: 7461 Chestnut Street
   City: Gilroy Zip 95020 County: Santa Clara
4. Parcel number: 84100643
5. Present Owner: Joseph Serrano Address: 7461 Chestnut Street
   City: Gilroy Zip 95020 Ownership is: Public Private X
6. Present Use: Residence Original use: Residence

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

Now a cross front gable structure, it appears that the original form many have been altered from a rectangular sloped roof style. The structure has a high front gable filled with a mixture of shingle cuts. Windows have been replaced with aluminum frames and the porch is supported by metal posts. Siding materials of applied brick and metal cover various parts of the structure.

8. Construction date: Estimated Factual 1902
9. Architect: Unknown
10. Builder: Unknown
11. Approx. property size (in feet) Frontage 50 Depth 142
    or approx. acreage
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s) Mar. 1986

DPR 523 (Rev. 11 '85)

8671-26
13. Condition: Excellent ___ Good ___ Fair ___ X Deteriorated ___ No longer in existence ___

14. Alterations: ____________________________

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

16. Threats to site: None known ___ Private development ___ Zoning ___ Vandalism ___ Public Works project ___ Other: _______________

17. Is the structure: On its original site? ___ Moved? ___ Unknown? __________

18. Related features: __________________________

SIGNIFICANCE

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

In the latter years of the nineteenth century, the Santa Clara Valley was cattle country. Cattle baron, Henry Miller, established his 13,000 acre Bloomfield Ranch to the south of Gilroy, and eventually the Miller and Lux Company owned over a million acres in California, Nevada and Oregon. Joseph Rodriguez was foreman or "Boss Vaquero" for Henry Miller when the cattle herds were driven to South San Francisco's meat packing plants. Rodriguez, a member of one of the oldest California Spanish families, was well known to the caballeros and cowboys of the central coast. With the coming of the railroad and the end of the cattle drives, Rodriguez became a cattle buyer and traveled to Mexico and other countries, shipping cattle for Miller and Lux. Joseph Rodriguez married Juana Vasquez of Monterey, a member of another early California family. They built their home in Gilroy in 1902. From 1915 to 1927, the home was owned and occupied by the family of Alfred Louis Gilroy. He was the grandson of John Cameron Gilroy, the colorful Scotsman for whom the City of Gilroy was named. The property is now the residence of Joseph Serrano.

20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)

Architecture ___ 3 Arts & Leisure ___
Economic/Industrial ___ Exploration/Settlement ___ 2
Government ___ Military ___
Religion ___ Social/Education ___

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

A Field Guide to American Houses
McAlister
Gilroy Museum Files
Sanborn Map 1888, 1908
Assessment Rolls

22. Date form prepared _______ April 1986

By (name) ___ BONNIE L. BAMBURG ___ The Firm of ___

Organization ___ BONNIE L. BAMBURG ___ Address: ___ 247 N. Third Street ___

City ___ San Jose, CA ___ Zip ___ 95112 ___ Phone: ___ (408) 971-1421 ___

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