

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Ser. No. _____
HABS _____ HAER _____ Loc _____ SHL No. _____ NR Status 6
UTM: A 10/627719/4096765 C _____
B _____ D _____

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: _____
2. Historic name: Mathew Lannon Rental House
3. Street or rural address: 7536 Forest Street
City Gilroy Zip 95020 County Santa Clara
4. Parcel number: 84100514
5. Present Owner: Altagracia Avina Address: 7536 Forest Street
City Gilroy Zip 95020 Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
6. Present Use: Residence Original use: Residence

DESCRIPTION

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

One of the classic forms in pioneer architecture, this structure is a contributor to the historic architecture of Gilroy.



8. Construction date: Estimated _____ Factual 1892
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. 1936

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 X
Residential X Industrial _____ Commercial _____ Other: _____
16. Threats to site: None known _____ Private development X 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.)

Matthew Lennon was born in Manchester, England on August 21, 1821. He came to the United States as a young boy. He was married to Eliza Brittingham in Maryland in 1861. They had one daughter, Lida Lennon, born in Maryland in 1862. The Lennons came to Santa Cruz in 1863 and opened a grocery store near the Mission. Their first son, Matthew Lennon Jr. was born in Santa Cruz in 1868. The family moved to Gilroy in 1869 and also conducted a grocery business here. Matthew Lennon also served as a director to the Bank of Gilroy and the Gilroy Gas Company. He was very accomplished in instrumental music, as were his wife and children, and he organized first community band in Gilroy. Matthew Jr (1868-1899), Mark (1870-1924), Lida (1862-1953), Roger (1876-?), and Roy (1878-?) all played musical instruments while another daughter, Jean Eliza (1873-?) had an excellent singing voice. Matthew Lennon was converted from the Catholic church to the Protestant Episcopal in Maryland. On January 2, 1870, he received a license from the Episcopal church to read lay services and organize a Sunday school. On October 1, 1870, work was begun on a church building which cost \$4,500. Mr. Lennon was the main builder. He remained the lay pastor of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church until his death in Gilroy on July 21, 1904.

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

21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).
 Gilroy Museum file- Lennon Family
 A FIELD GUIDE TO AMERICAN HOUSES,
 McAlister
 Sanborn Maps: 1888, 1906, 1926

22. Date form prepared April 1988
 By (name) The Firm of
 Organization BONNIE L. BAMBURG
 Address: 247 N. Third Street
 City San Jose, CA Zip 95112
 Phone: (408) 971-1421

