State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION
1. Common name: ________________________

2. Historic name: Mathew Lennon Rental House

3. Street or rural address: 7536 Forest Street
   City: Gilroy Zip: 95020 County: Santa Clara

4. Parcel number: 041000514

5. Present Owner: Altogracia Ayina 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. 1986
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 Lenmons 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.