HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION
1. Common name: John Porcella Home
2. Historic name: Allemand House
3. Street or rural address: 7554 Alexander Street
   City: Gilroy Zip: 95020 County: Santa Clara
4. Parcel number: 84100529
5. Present Owner: Richard Porcella
   Address: 7554 Alexander Street
   City: Gilroy Zip: 95020 Ownership is: Public Private X
6. Present Use: Residence Original use: Residence

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

Originally an end facing gable pioneer of rectangular form the modifications have added a projecting gabled wing to the front and incorporated a sloping roof that carries a full width porch. The porch is supported on stocky turned columns. Original framing surrounds the windows of the older section, while 1919 double hung narrow frames are in the addition.

8. Construction date:
   Estimated Factual 1849
9. Architect: Unknown
10. Builder: Unknown
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
    Frontage: 55 Depth: 142
7
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
    Mar. 1986
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 ___ Industrial ___ Commercial ___ X 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.)

This modified Pioneer style house was built in 1890 for the August Allemand family, early Gilroy residents who lived there for twenty two years. It was owned from 1912 to 1914 by Dr. James W. Thayer, an early Gilroy physician. In 1918, while owned by Pasquale Filice, it was enlarged to its present size. The home is currently owned by Richard Porcella, a Gilroy businessman and owner of Porcella's dry goods and music store. The Porcella family has had a long and active residence in Gilroy. Charles Porcella came to Gilroy in the early 1900's and began a cigar factory. The cigar company was converted to a clothing store and was operated after 1948 by his son, George P. Porcella. George Porcella was best known for his musical endeavors. He formed and led "George Porcella and the Music Makers" in 1930's. His later combo played for many years at parties and weddings in Gilroy. George Porcella was an active member of the Gilroy Historical Society and led the efforts to preserve the old Gilroy City Hall. Porcella's Department Store is still a popular Gilroy landmark. It is operated today by Richard Porcella, George's son and owner of the Alexander Street house.

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

Architecture ___ Economic/Industrial ___ Exploration/Settlement ___ Government ___ Military ___ Religious ___ Social/Education ___

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

Tax Rolls
Gilroy Advocate
Gilroy Museum File - Porcella

22. Date form prepared _______ April 1986

By (name) The Firm of
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