

Ser. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
HABS \_\_\_\_\_ HAER \_\_\_\_\_ Loc \_\_\_\_\_ SHL No. \_\_\_\_\_ NR Status E/50  
UTM: A 101627297.4096591 C \_\_\_\_\_  
B \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Old Gilroy Fire Station
2. Historic name: Gilroy Fire Station
3. Street or rural address: 55 Fifth Street  
City Gilroy Zip 95020 County Santa Clara
4. Parcel number: 79900657
5. Present Owner: Unknown Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Gilroy Zip 95020 Ownership is: Public \_\_\_\_\_ Private Y
6. Present Use: Restaurant Original use: City fire station

DESCRIPTION

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

This traditionally solid-looking station building, built just before the end of World War I, is a two story structure with a flat roof. The decorative bands near the roofline are some of the breaks in the bright brick wall that faces 5th Street. Just below the bands is a row of windows, each one shaped slightly different to form a semicircular arch across the entire front. The large doorways have been filled with windows. A ramp and entry porch are across the front. The structure is a very handsome straightforward design built on a rectangular plan and in good condition. The red brick buttresses on each side of the facade, the distinctive window band; and the very simple fenestration distinguish the architecturally designed building. The simple narrow entry door is centered on the street facing facade and is surrounded by twin square garage openings which have been altered by being filled in with slightly bowed bay windows. A wooden front deck is the second major exterior alteration to the structure in its change from firehouse to restaurant. The building is in good condition and definitely represents a fine addition to the City's urban design.



8. Construction date:  
Estimated \_\_\_\_\_ Factual 1916
9. Architect William Binder
10. Builder William Radtke
11. Approx. property size (in feet):  
Frontage 48 Depth 67  
or approx. acreage \_\_\_\_\_
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)  
1986

13. Condition: Excellent \_\_\_ Good X 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 X Industrial \_\_\_ Commercial X 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNIFICANCE**

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

This brick firehouse served the residents of Gilroy for over 60 years. Designed by architect, William Binder, and constructed in 1916 by a prominent local contractor, William Radtke. This was one of Radtke's earliest of many contracts from the City of Gilroy. His work, which stretched from the early 1900's to the 1960's, contained some of the largest and most important buildings in the San Jose, Salinas, and Gilroy area. In 1978, the City of Gilroy built a new, modern fire station, and the old brick building was converted into a restaurant.

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

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

Original blueprints located at  
 Gilroy Historical Museum.  
 Gilroy Museum Files

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

