

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Ser. No. _____
HABS _____ HAER _____ Loc _____ SHL No. _____ NR Status 575 D
UTM: A 10/627040.4097067 C _____
B _____ D _____

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: _____
2. Historic name: Mayor Fitzgerald House
3. Street or rural address: 111 Second Street
City Gilroy Zip 95020 County Santa Clara
4. Parcel number: 79900132
5. Present Owner: Daniel Palmerlee Address: 111 Second Street
City Gilroy Zip 95020 Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
6. Present Use: Residence Original use: Residence

DESCRIPTION

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

The site is a very ornate example of a craftsman bungalow design. It exhibits an irregular plan and a multi-planer gabled roof. The roofline is essentially cross-gabled with gabled dormers projecting. Composition shingles cover the roof which has very large eaves and carved brackets. The exterior walls are sheathed in narrow clapboard. Board and batten construction sheathes the lesser gable faces. A large, partially enclosed veranda defines the front entry. Porch supports are in the form of squared posts that are formed together to make large square columns. Fenestration is varied with various vertical and horizontal forms; large singled paned and small multi-paned windows. The residence is in excellent condition, set amid a mature, lush landscape.



8. Construction date: Estimated _____ Factual 1913
9. Architect Unknown
10. Builder Unknown
11. Approx. property size (in feet) 145
Frontage _____ Depth _____
or approx. acreage _____
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s) May 1980

13. Condition: Excellent Good _____ Fair _____ 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 _____ 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.)

Walter Fitzgerald was born August 30, 1873 in New Almaden, the oldest child of Thomas and Mary Ann Cullen Fitzgerald. The following year his family moved to 200 acres near Gilroy where they engaged in dairying and stock raising. Walter graduated from Gilroy High School and tried farming for a few years. However, in 1893, he went to San Jose to study law in the office of W.A. Johnson. Walter Fitzgerald was admitted to the bar in 1897 and practiced law there for several years before returning to Gilroy in 1903. Besides his law practice in Gilroy, Walter C. Fitzgerald also served as the City Attorney and a Councilman for Gilroy and was elected to two terms as Mayor from 1908 to 1910. He died in Gilroy on June 8, 1933 at the age of 69.

The site's significance is, without question, due to the architecture and the fact that the condition of the residence is so excellent that the building ranks with the best historical designs in the City of Gilroy. Built for Walter Fitzgerald in 1913. Mr. Fitzgerald was a prominent citizen of Gilroy, having served as Mayor from 1908-1910.

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

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

Walking Tour Booklet (Taal)
 A Field Guide to American Houses
 McAlister

Sanborn Map 1888, 1908

Gilroy Museum Files - Fitzgerald
 April 1986

22. Date form prepared _____
 By (name) The Firm of
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