

Ser. No. _____
HABS _____ HAER _____ Loc _____ SHL No. _____ NR Status 5D
UTM: A 10/626979.4097037 C _____
B _____ D _____

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Ayll House
2. Historic name: Sunshine Maternity Home
3. Street or rural address: 165 Second Street
City Gilroy Zip 95020 County Santa Clara
4. Parcel number: 79900116
5. Present Owner: R.E. Siverson Address: 165 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:

This corner parcel has a large single story bungalow with an usual facade of two low peaked roofs and an end gable with wood slat vent. Elephantine columns in stucco complete the support of this exposed structures.



8. Construction date:
Estimated 1917 Factual _____
9. Architect Unknown
10. Builder Unknown
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage 86 Depth 48
or approx. acreage _____
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
Mar. 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 ___ 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 large Craftsman Bungalow style house was built circa 1919 and was originally the home of Hazel Holmes. During the 1920's, it was operated as the Hazel Holmes Sanitarium and as the Sunshine Maternity Home. From 1925 and 1971, this was the family home of Josiah Ayer, one of Gilroy's most notable residents. Josiah, or Joe Ayer was one of the area's colorful cattle ranchers. Born in Milpitas in 1883, Ayer came to Gilroy in 1905 to begin a career in ranching that lasted nearly fifty years. As well as cattle ranching, Ayer extended his holding's into large scale vegetable farming. Joe Ayer was well known in the Santa Clara Valley for his extensive philanthropy. At the time of his death, he was chairman of the board of trustees of Wheeler Hospital. One room of the hospital is named for Ayer and his wife, Edith P. Ayer. Ayer, a captain in World War I, was an active veteran and donated the lobby furnishings of the Veterans Memorial Building. Ayer was a charter member of the Gilroy Elks and a member of the American Legions, as well as a founder of Gilroy's Annual Gymkhana. This house gains its significance from its prominent resident of nearly fifty years.

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

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

A Field Guide to American Houses, McAlister

Sanborn maps 1906, 1926
Gilroy Museum Files

22. Date form prepared April 1986
By (name) The Firm of
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surrounding streets, roads, and prominent landmarks):

