

HABS	HAER	Loc	SHL No.	NR Status
UTM: A	10/627166	.4096558	C	3/5D
B			D	

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Gilroy Historical Museum
2. Historic name: Gilroy Free Library - Carnigie
3. Street or rural address: 195 Fifth Street
City Gilroy Zip 95020 County Santa Clara
4. Parcel number: _____
5. Present Owner: City of Gilroy Address: City Hall - Rosanna
City Gilroy Zip 95020 Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
6. Present Use: Historical Museum Original use: Library

DESCRIPTION

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

The structure is a turn of the century neoclassical design that was very popularly used in Carnegie donated libraries in the west. The buff brick walls, distinctive quoins and full entablature added to the impressive, roman-styled round arches recessed entry with its paired, fluted doric columns and columnetts add the neoclassic design. Fenestration is simple and restrained, composed primarily of composite windows. Black window sills distinguish the west facing windows. The structure plan is a slightly modified rectangle with protrusions at the entry and in the rear. A rear segmental arched door defines the back entrance. Landscaping is simple but well maintained. Except for the unfinished addition to the church is architecturally the finest in the city. The sensitive massing and scale of this structure provides a perfect transition from the commercial blocks to the east to the residential blocks to the west along Fifth Street.



8. Construction date: Estimated _____ Factual 1910
9. Architect William Weeks
10. Builder Unknown
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage 100 Depth 142
or approx. acreage _____
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
Apr. 1986

5052-14

13. Condition: Excellent Good _____ Fair _____ Deteriorated _____ No longer in existence _____
14. Alterations: Interior - minor
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: Mature landscaping

SIGNIFICANCE

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

The Gilroy Museum at 195 Fifth Street is significant due to the formal presentation of Beaux-Arts architecture. This is one of two monumental classic revival structures in Gilroy and is the better architectural presentation. Designed by the prominent architect William Weeks, the design was so well respected that the plans were duplicated for other libraries. The Carnegie Foundation provided funds for developing the library which is the only library owned by the city and which functioned in this capacity from 1910 to 1975 when the city disbanded its library and joined the Santa Clara County Library System. Since 1975, the Gilroy Historical Museum has occupied the structure. The museum, one of the finest such museums in any small city, enhances the significance by maintaining a compatible use that is of historic value to the community. As the repository for Gilroy's historic artifacts and written history, the significance of this structure is magnified with this use.

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 3 Military _____
 Religion _____ Social/Education 2

21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).
 HABS No. CA2093 Data Page
 American Architecture Since 1780, Whiffen
 Gilroy Museum Files - Weeks, Carnegie

22. Date form prepared April 1986
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