

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Ser. No. _____
HABS _____ HAER _____ Loc _____ SHL No. _____ NR Status 5
UTM: A 10/627939/409318 C _____
B _____ D _____

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: _____
2. Historic name: _____
3. Street or rural address: 362 Old Gilroy Street
City Gilroy Zip 95020 County Santa Clara
4. Parcel number: 84101129
5. Present Owner: Annie Porcella Address: 362 Old Gilroy St.
City Gilroy Zip 95020 Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
6. Present Use: Residence Original use: Residence

DESCRIPTION

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

This single story structure is a variation of the classic pioneer hall and parlor style. With the end gable becoming the front facade, a shed extension usually in the rear adds width to the facade. A flat roof porch supported on slender square posts with cut out braces covers the door way on two windows. A third window is on the other side of the door. Windows appear original in the six over six wood, double hung sash. The front door is a panel composition and also appears original. In a community rich with historic homes, this is one of the best maintained.



8. Construction date:
Estimated 1865 Factual _____
9. Architect _____
10. Builder _____
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage 108 Depth 140
or approx. acreage _____
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
Mar. 1986

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.)
 This Pioneer style home, built c.1870, was originally the property of the Conrad Hoover Company. It was occupied in the he early 1900's by Gilroy's town marshall, James McElray.
 The house's major significance is as the home of the prominent Porcella family. It was purchased in 1929, by Agnes Ginestra Porcella, the widow of Charles Porcella. It has remained in the family ever since. Charles Porcella came to Gilroy from Italy in 1892. Due to his experience in the Italian cavalry, Porcella became a teamster for the large Miller and Lux cattle company. Returning to Italy in 1899, Porcella came back to Gilroy with his bride. In that year, Porcella became a portuer in H.L. McDuffies men's clothing store. He became the owner in 1908 and operated the store until his death in 1922. Fluent in Spanish, Portuguese, English and Italian, Porcella was often called upon as an interpreter for the municipal court in San Jose and the state court in Sacramento. Porcella did much to promote understanding between local authorities and immigrants to the Santa Clara Valley.

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

21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).
 A Field Guide to American Houses
 MCA lister
 Gilroy Museum File - Porcella
 Sanborn Maps 1888, 1809

22. Date form prepared _____ April 1986
 By (name) _____ The Firm of
 Organization _____ BONNIE L. BAMBURG
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 City _____ San Jose, CA Zip _____ 95112
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