

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Ser. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
HABS \_\_\_\_\_ HAER \_\_\_\_\_ Loc \_\_\_\_\_ SHL No. \_\_\_\_\_ NR Status 5D  
UTM: A 10/262804/4096392 C \_\_\_\_\_  
B \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Voorhies House
2. Historic name: Wentz House
3. Street or rural address: 545 Fifth Street  
City Gilroy Zip 95020 County Santa Clara
4. Parcel number: 79901925
5. Present Owner: Daniel Millo Address: 8195 Parish Way #2  
City Gilroy Zip 95080 Ownership is: Public \_\_\_\_\_ Private X
6. Present Use: Residence Original use: Residence

DESCRIPTION

7a. Architectural style: Mission Revival

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

The structure consists of a single-story residence designed on a "U" shaped plan and constructed in a Spanish Colonial Revival style. The residence is another speculative house from the early 1920's by contractor William Radtke, whose designs in Craftsman and Spanish Colonial Revival on the cottage/bungalow scale define this neighborhood of Gilroy. The roofline is multi-planar and sheathed in red Spanish tiles. Fenestration is simple, primarily rectangular in shape and distinguished primarily by its multi-lights in tri-partite configuration. Distinctive features of the residence include the enclosed parapet. A large, horizontal arched window further distinguishes the street facade. A simple plain frieze defines the minimal eave line. The entry door is wooden with glass panels. The structure, which has been little modified, stands alone amid beautifully manicured mature landscaping. The structure rests on a slightly raised basement.



8. Construction date:  
Estimated \_\_\_\_\_ Factual 1923
9. Architect Unknown
10. Builder William Radtke, Sr.
11. Approx. property size (in feet)  
Frontage 70 Depth 125  
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 house was built by William Rattke, Sr. for Mr. and Mrs Carroll Wentz. Carroll Wentz was the grandson of Christian Wentz, a German immigrant who settled in the Valley in 1855. Carroll's father was George Wentz, a former Gilroy Mayor and a Gilroy pharmacist. Carroll Wentz graduated from the University of California College of Pharmacy and practiced his profession for 47 years in Gilroy. He also served two terms with the Santa Clara County Planning Commission, and was a charter member of the Gilroy Rotary Club. Gladys Wentz was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Tremaine. Mrs Wentz sold the home to Mr. and Mrs. Jon Voorhis in 1977. The alterations in the kitchen area were made about that time. The house as sold to new owners in December 1985. The residence is part of the Henry Miller & Lux subdivision.

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

21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).  
Assessment roll books 1920-40  
Newspapers - Gilroy Advocate and Gilroy Dispatch 1971  
Conversations with Wentz and Voorhis Families.

22. Date form prepared April 1986  
By (name) The Firm of  
Organization BONNIE L. BAMBURG  
Address: 247 N. Third Street  
City San Jose, CA Zip 95112  
Phone: (408) 971-1421

