

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

HABS _____ HAER _____ Loc X SHL No. _____ NR Status 30
 UTM: A 10/627468/4096331 C _____
 B _____ D _____

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Porcella's
2. Historic name: _____
3. Street or rural address: 7357 Monterey Street
 City Gilroy Zip 95020 County Santa Clara
4. Parcel number: 799838
5. Present Owner: Annie Porcella Address: 392 Old Gilroy St.
 City Gilroy Zip 95020 Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
6. Present Use: Clothing Store Original use: _____

DESCRIPTION

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

The building is a simple single story brick structure constructed on a rectangular plan and designed in a commercial style probably dating from the 1920's. The site exhibits a minimal amount of detailing with a slight projection of brick design defining the cornice, a raised string course above the horizontal band of windows which in turn rise above the slightly recessed double door wooden entry with its transom window and the large plate glass store front windows; and the black tile which sheathes the base of the street facade. The tile elements is a feature repeated throughout the central business district. Proportionally, the site is a handsome, well-articulated design which does much to define downtown Gilroy's urban design.



8. Construction date: Estimated 1870s Factual _____
 Unknown
9. Architect _____
10. Builder Unknown
11. Approx. property size (in feet) 142
 Frontage 21 Depth _____
 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 ___ Industrial ___ Commercial X 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 retail store is unusual in that it is one of the very few structures in Gilroy's business district which has retained its original design. Built in the early 1880's, it has always been used for commercial purposes. The all brick building originally abutted the Louis Hotel and may have been part of Gilroy's first stage coach station. Early businesses in this building include a saloon, grocery, and bakery.

Charles Porcella a native of Italy immigrated to the United States in 1892. He went to work as a teamster for Miller and Lux in Gilroy. In 1899 Charles purchased a half interest in the clothing store of H.L. McDuffie. In 1908 he bought McDuffie out and operated the business as a sole proprietor until his death in 1922.

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

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

American Architecture Since 1780
Whiffen
Sanborn Map 1888, 1908

22. Date form prepared April 1986
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Locational sketch map (draw and label site and surrounding streets, roads, and prominent landmarks):

