

Ser. No. _____	
HABS _____ HAER _____	Loc. _____ SHL No. _____ NR Status <u>5</u>
UTM: A <u>10/627470/4096329</u>	C _____
B _____	D _____

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION

- Common name: Samuel Cole House
- Historic name: St. Stephens School
- Street or rural address: 7370 Railroad Street
City Gilroy Zip 95020 County Santa Clara
- Parcel number: 84100822
- Present Owner: Asperio Benassi Address: 1410 First Street
City Gilroy Zip 95020 Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
- Present Use: Apartments Original use: Residence

DESCRIPTION

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

This site contains one two story modified pioneer structure and eight smaller bungalows. The two story structure has an irregular shape and form. With additions attached to the original two story pioneer style residence. Sheathed in horizontal board, there is little regular pattern to the fenestration. The most interesting architectural detail is a colonade supporting a porch roof that extends the length of the projecting wing. While there is very little formal style to this structure, it has a vernacular charm. Constructed in 1930, these identical structures are a simple box plan sheathed in stucco. Bungalow details include roof brackets and vents. The composition of structures exhibit a sense of change and development within a vernacular folk idiom.



- Construction date: 1870
Estimated _____ Factual _____
- Architect _____
John Browne
- Builder Samuel & C.C. Newton
(1930 Bungalows)
- Approx. property size (in feet) 137
Frontage _____ Depth _____
or approx. acreage _____
- 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 ___
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.)
 The significance of this structure is the prime association with people and events that were of great importance in the development of Gilroy. Constructed in 1862 for John M. Browne, his wife and 5 children, the house was the center of his many business dealings. A wealthy entrepreneur from England, Browne operated a dry good store, built several brick warehouses and store buildings, operated a saw mill, lumber yard and planing mill in Gilroy. He also built and operated the Santa Clara Flouring Mill. In 1870, John M. Browne was elected Gilroy's first Mayor after which he moved to Hollister as a city founder. St. Stephens Episcopal Church was the sponsor for a school operating in the structure in 1872. Rev. E.C. Cowan managed the Gilroy School for Girls until 1875, when the school relocated to San Mateo. In 1875, the structure was remodeled by Samuel Cole, a rancher, who cultivated the adjoining 3-4 acres after retiring. The Joseph Rice family moved into the house in 1893 from farming in San Ysidro. Marshall Rice (son) purchased and operated a series of stables in the area. He served on the city council during the important years 1902-06. It was during this time the City Hall was built and many long range civic decisions were made. Samuel Newton, native of Nova Scotia constructed the bungalows to increase his holdings of rental property in 1930. The property has been rental housing ever since.

20. (Check all that apply, number in order of importance.)
- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Architecture | 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
Gilroy Museum Files
Sanborn Map 1888, 1908
Gilroy Advocate

22. Date form prepared April 1986
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