

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Ser. No. _____
HABS _____ HAER _____ Loc _____ SHL No. _____ NR Status 5D
UTM: A 10/627624.4096560 C _____
B _____ D _____

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: _____
2. Historic name: Benevolent Society House
3. Street or rural address: 7439 Alexander Street
City Gilroy Zip 95020 County Santa Clara
4. Parcel number: 841-6-21
5. Present Owner: Elizabeth Steidley Address: 7439 Alexander Street
City Gilroy Zip 95020 Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
6. Present Use: Residence Original use: Residential

DESCRIPTION

- 7a. Architectural style: Neoclassic Cottage
- 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 rectangular in shape with a half width porch recessed under a gable. The main roof is hipped in form. Possessing neoclassical space definitions the structure has a bungalow feeling created by the wide eave overhang and combination of projecting square bay and paneled windows. Sheathed in narrow clapboard the structure appears original except for the concrete steps and shake roof.



8. Construction date:
Estimated _____ Factual 1909
9. Architect Unknown
10. Builder Unknown
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage 50' Depth 137'
or approx. acreage _____
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
April 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: Carport on south side of the house

SIGNIFICANCE

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

This Neoclassical Rowhouse was built in 1909 by the Gilroy Benevolent Society. The Society was an organization of prominent women who purchased property and built homes to be rented at low rates to poor and needy families. This house is a significant reminder of the concern that early Gilroy citizens showed for those less fortunate.

20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)
 Architecture 2 Arts & Leisure _____
 Economic/Industrial _____ Exploration/Settlement _____
 Government _____ Military _____
 Religion _____ Social/Education 1
21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).

A Field Guide to American Houses
McAlister

22. Date form prepared April 1986
 By (name) The Firm of
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