

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Ser. No. _____
HABS _____ HAER _____ Loc _____ SHL No. _____ NR Status 5
UTM: A 10/627830, 4096663 C _____
B _____ D _____

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: _____
2. Historic name: J.N. Rodriquez House
3. Street or rural address: 7461 Chestnut Street
City Gilroy Zip 95020 County Santa Clara
4. Parcel number: 84100643
5. Present Owner: Joseph Serrano Address: 7461 Chestnut Street
City Gilroy Zip 95020 Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
6. Present Use: Residence Original use: Residence

DESCRIPTION

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

Now a cross front gable structure, it appears that the original form may have been altered from a rectangular sloped roof style. The structure has a high front gable filled with a mixture of shingle cuts. Windows have been replaced with aluminum frames and the porch is supported by metal posts. Siding materials of applied brick and metal cover various parts of the structure.



8. Construction date:
Estimated _____ Factual 1902
9. Architect Unknown
10. Builder Unknown
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage 50 Depth 142
or approx. acreage _____
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
Mar. 1986

13. Condition: Excellent ___ Good ___ Fair X Deteriorated ___ No longer in existence ___
14. Alterations: _____
15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land ___ Scattered buildings ___ Densely built-up X
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.)

In the latter years of the nineteenth century, the Santa Clara Valley was cattle country. Cattle baron, Henry Miller, established his 13,000 acre Bloomfield Ranch to the south of Gilroy, and eventually the Miller and Lux Company owned over a million acres in California, Nevada and Oregon. Joseph Rodriguez was foreman or "Boss Vaquero" for Henry Miller when the cattle herds were driven to South San Francisco's meat packing plants. Rodriguez, a member of one of the oldest California Spanish families, was well known to the caballeros and cowboys of the central coast. With the coming of the railroad and the end of the cattle drives, Rodriguez became a cattle buyer and traveled to Mexico and other countries, shipping cattle for Miller and Lux. Joseph Rodriguez married Juanita Vasquez of Monterey, a member of another early California family. They built their home in Gilroy in 1902. From 1915 to 1927, the home was owned and occupied by the family of Alfred Louis Gilroy. He was the grandson of John Cameran Gilroy, the colorful Scotsman for whom the City of Gilroy was named. The property is now the residence of Joseph Serrano.

20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)
Architecture 3 Arts & Leisure ___
Economic/Industrial 1 Exploration/Settlement 2
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
Assesment Rolls

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