

Ser. No. _____
HABS _____ HAER _____ Loc _____ SHL No. _____ NR Status 5
UTM: A 10/627864 4096707 C _____
B _____ D _____

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: _____
2. Historic name: Walter Mead House
3. Street or rural address: 7493 Chestnut Street
City Gilroy Zip 95020 County Santa Clara
4. Parcel number: 84100641
5. Present Owner: Wilburt Lawrence Address: 7493 Chestnut Street
City Gilroy Zip 95020 Ownership is: Public _____ Private Y
6. Present Use: Residence Original use: Residence

DESCRIPTION

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

This one and one-half story dwelling is constructed over a basement. The facade is divided between a three sided slanted bay with gable roof and a recessed porch. The porch is supported by turned posts. Fish scale shingles sheath the front gable and cut out brackets of both lacey and sun patterns adorn this cottage. There is very little alteration to this structure.



8. Construction date:
Estimated _____ Factual 1898
9. Architect Unknown
10. Builder Unknown
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage 81 Depth 142
or approx. acreage _____
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
Mar. 1986

5671-23

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.)

Walter Henry Head was known in Gilroy as a blacksmith and mechanic of the old school. He was born in England in 1832. Head and his brother arrived in Gilroy in 1855 and set up a blacksmith shop at the corner of Sixth and Egleberry Streets. Head's blacksmith shop was noted for the fine wrought iron work he produced and the carriages he built. In later years, Head built custom bodies for the autos and trucks coming into vogue. In 1989, Head and his wife, Jane Stevenson Head of Prince Edward Isle, Canada, built their one and a half story home. The property now belongs to the Wilburt Lawrence family. This structure is significant as the later home of one of Gilroy's earliest businessmen. The stylistic architecture portrays the refinement occurring in Gilroy during the community's fourth decade.

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).
City Tax Rolls
A Field Guide to American Houses
McAlister

Sanborn Map 1888,1908

22. Gilroy Museum File - W.H. Head
 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

