

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Ser. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
HABS \_\_\_\_\_ HAER \_\_\_\_\_ Loc. \_\_\_\_\_ SHL No. \_\_\_\_\_ NR Status 5D  
UTM: A 10/626842/4096963 C \_\_\_\_\_  
B \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Historic name: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Street or rural address: 7791 Rosanna Street  
City Gilroy Zip 95020 County Santa Clara
4. Parcel number: 79900220
5. Present Owner: Peter Gimenez Address: 8405 Watsonville F  
City Gilroy Zip 95020 Ownership is: Public \_\_\_\_\_ Private X
6. Present Use: Residence Original use: Residence

DESCRIPTION

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

Another pioneer style house that has an un-pioneer roofline, this house has a truncated hip roof with a center gable facing Rosanna Street. It has enclosed eaves with a plain frieze and wide clapboard siding. The veranda porch is supported by square pilliars.



8. Construction date:  
Estimated 1888 Factual \_\_\_\_\_
9. Architect Unknown
10. Builder Unknown
11. Approx. property size (in feet)  
Frontage 54 Depth 140  
or approx. acreage \_\_\_\_\_
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)  
Mar. 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNIFICANCE**

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

In the 1890's, this entire block on Rosanna Street was the Gilroy City Cemetery. The early Pioneer style house was built c. 1888 for the J. Holback family. Jacob Holback was a native of Germany and came to Gilroy in 1875. He was a railroader for the Southern Pacific Company. In 1937, the house was purchased by Edward H. Towner, a popular and well known Gilroy educator and music teacher. Towner was born in England and came to the United States in 1915. During World War I, he was Bandmaster of the Grenadier Guards of Winnipeg. He came to Gilroy in 1931 and became head of the Gilroy High School Band. Under his teaching, the Gilroy High School Band won state and regional honors for many years. After his retirement in 1845, Towner formed the Eagles Band from among his former students. The earnings of this group went to the Edward H. Towner Memorial Scholarship Fund, which still gives awards to Gilroy's most promising music students.

20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)  
 Architecture 1 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

Sanborn Map 1888, 1908

Gilroy Museum Files - Holback

22. 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

