

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

UTM: A _____ C _____

B _____ D _____

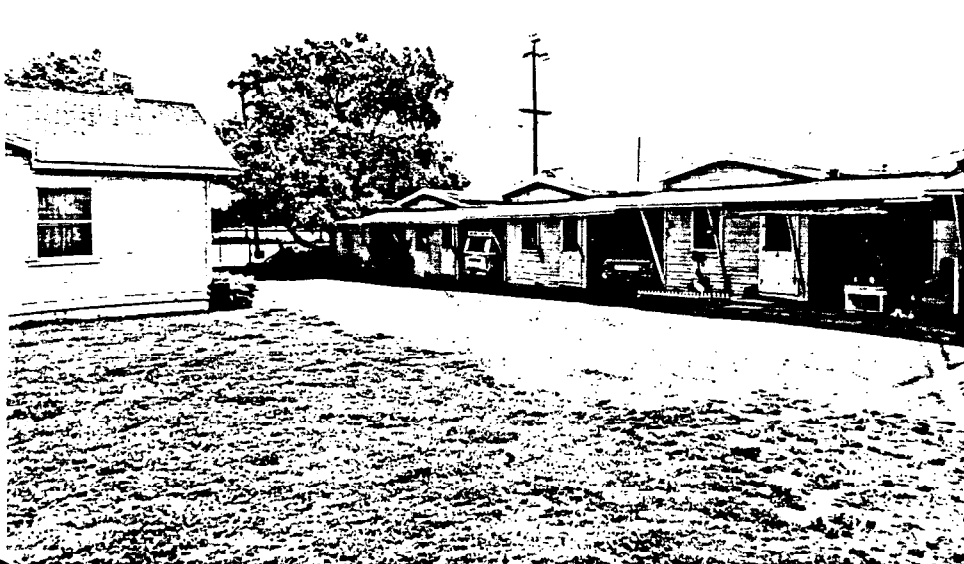
IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: _____
2. Historic name: Lilly's Auto Camp
3. Street or rural address: 8877 Monterey Road
 City Gilroy Zip 95020 County Santa Clara
4. Parcel number: 79001536
5. Present Owner: Unknown Address: _____
 City _____ Zip _____ Ownership is: Public _____ Private
6. Present Use: Apartments Original use: Auto Camp (early motel)

DESCRIPTION

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

Fifteen small cottages form a "U" shape with the owners house between the two legs of cabins. The square buildings are separated by a space where an auto could be parked. The two rows of cabins are connected by a continuous roof which extends to cover the walkway in front. Each cabin has a small gable over the entrance. A larger building of the same style faces onto Monterey Road (Highway). This was a service station and convenience store. All evidence of the service station are gone, only the building remains.



8. Construction date:
 Estimated _____ Factual 1926
9. Architect Unknown
10. Builder Unknown
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
 Frontage _____ Depth _____
 or approx. acreage 1
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
Mar. 1986

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13. Condition: Excellent ___ Good ___ Fair X Deteriorated ___ No longer in existence ___
14. Alterations: minor
15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land ___ Scattered buildings X Densely built-up ___
Residential ___ Industrial ___ Commercial X Other: ___
16. Threats to site: None known ___ Private development X Zoning ___ Vandalism ___
Public Works project ___ Other: ___
17. Is the structure: On its original site? X Moved? ___ Unknown? ___
18. Related features: Central open area remains of plantings

SIGNIFICANCE

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

Forerunner of the modern motel, these early highway cabins may represent the oldest, unaltered motel in the Bay Area. "Auto Camps" first appeared in California in the mid 1920's. Located on what was once the main automobile route between San Francisco and Los Angeles, this one was operated by Allen and Alice Lilly from about 1927 until 1932. Each of the original 15 cabins was sparsely equipped with a metered gas, stove, double bed, table, one or two chairs, and a small toilet. Showers were available in a small building to the north.

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

21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).
 American Architecture Since 1780; Whiffen
 Gilroy Advocate 10/8/27
 Gilroy Museum Files

22. Date form prepared April 1986
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