

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 25 1975
DATE ENTERED	APR 16 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Old City Hall

AND/OR COMMON

Old City Hall

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

7410 Monterey Street

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Gilroy

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

13th

STATE

California

\_\_ VICINITY OF

CODE

06

COUNTY

Santa Clara

CODE

085

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Gilroy

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall

CITY, TOWN

Gilroy

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

California

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Santa Clara County Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER

191 North First Street

CITY, TOWN

San Jose

STATE

California

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Map No. 6 Henry Miller Partition Suit, County of Santa Clara,  
1880-86, Case No. 5536

DATE

\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY \_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

191 North First Street Clerk Superior Court, Santa Clara Cty.

CITY, TOWN

San Jose

STATE

California

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Travelers on Highway 101 recognize Gilroy for its memorable City Hall, a landmark labeled a "begabled, beportholed, beturreted" structure at the time of its construction in 1905. Dominating the two story building is the corner tower with its four clock faces and its tiled cupola. The two corner facades are richly decorated with stone cornices, ornamental gables, tiled roofs, sandstone window trim, and stone spheres.

Designation of its style is a source of controversy but was described as "in the Mission Style" when built. The architect was Samuel Newsom in cooperation with the San Jose architectural firm of Wolfe and McKenzie.

When the cornerstone was laid for the City Hall on a windy day, November 22, 1905, students were excused from school, people came on foot and in carriage to watch the ceremony and hear the speaker extol the virtues of the new building. The Gilroy Gazette reported that "No other city in the county, except in San Jose, has so magnificent a building as this will be."

The lower story is built of greystone, the second story of compressed white brick topped with terra cotta coping and a red tile roof. The sandstone facing of the first floor was quarried from an old Indian camp near Gilroy. The sandstone was roughened with pits and holes where the Indians had grown their corn. Henry Miller, the cattle king, had the sandstone quarried for the city at his own expense to secure the proper size stones. The upper story is faced with yellow brick and stucco.

Interior partitions are of wood studs and lath and plaster. The second floor is supported by the exterior walls and cast iron columns carrying steel girders. Access to the second floor is by a double golden oak stair in the entry and a single stair in the rear. The roof is supported by wood trusses spanning wall to wall. No significant structural changes or alterations have occurred in the building.

Housed in the building were the mayor's office, chamber for the councilmen, clerk's office, marshall's office, courtroom and a jail. City fire engines were housed behind first story archways.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Urban Planning
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1904-5

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Samuel Newsom

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to Dr. David Gebhard, noted Architectural Historian, the Gilroy Old City Hall is a classic example of California architecture at the turn of the century. The architect, Samuel Newsom, working with the firm of Wolfe and McKenzie of San Jose, completed the drawing in 1904 with the construction beginning in 1905. Samuel Newsom, with his brother Joseph, is noted as the creator of the "Carson House" in Eureka and a number of other buildings of architectural significance in California.

Professor Gebhard feels the building is significant for two reasons: (a) Architecturally it is an important and major example of the use of the Mission Revival mode for Civic architecture in California, and (b) it certainly constitutes a major landmark in the small scale urban environment of the City of Gilroy.

The Gilroy City Hall enjoys a national reputation as an important turn of the century building. This is evidenced by the fact that the building has been discussed by the following architects and architectural historians over the past ten to fifteen years:

Stephen Jacobs (Prof. Architecture and Architectural History, Cornell University)  
"California Contemporaries of Wright," in: Problems of the 19th and 20th Centuries - Studies in Western Art, Vol. IV, Princeton, 1963;

Charles Moore (Dean School of Architecture, Yale University)  
"You Have to Pay for the Public Life," in: Perspecta, Nos. 9-10, New Haven, 1965;

David Gebhard & Harriete Von Breton  
1868-1968, Architecture in California, Santa Barbara, 1968;

David Gebhard, et al.  
A Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California, Salt Lake City, 1974.

The Art Galleries of the University of California, Santa Barbara, is currently preparing an exhibition of the work of Samuel Newsom who actually designed the Gilroy Town Hall. This will be presented in 1976, as part of the Universities contribution to the national Bicentennial.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Listed in:

"A Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California"  
1973 by Gebhard et al.

"Architecture in California from 1868 to 1968". Published 1968 by Exhibition of  
University of California Art Galleries - Santa Barbara

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 1/5 of an acre. *V.M. 01*

UTM REFERENCES *01*

A	1 0	6 2 7 4 6 0	4 0 9 6 4 2 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

William E. Ayer, Director of Parks and Recreation

ORGANIZATION

City of Gilroy

DATE

2-14-75

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 66

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Gilroy

STATE

California

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

3/10/75

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4/16/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

APR 9 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER