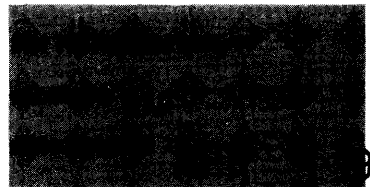


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



082

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Christian Church of Gilroy
and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 5th 160 Fifth Street not for publication
city, town Gilroy vicinity of congressional district 13th
state California code 06 county Santa Clara code 085

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Latin American Assemblies of God in California
street & number 160 Fifth Street
city, town Gilroy vicinity of state California 95020

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Santa Clara County Recorder's Office
street & number 70 West Hedding Street
city, town San Jose state California 95110

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Santa Clara County Heritage Resource Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date October 1975 and revised July 1979 federal state county local
depository for survey records Santa Clara
city, town San Jose state CA 95110

①

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>c. 1857 (reconstructed)</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		about 2 city blocks in 1885

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Christian Church is an excellent example of the western adaptation of the Greek Revival architectural style. The church is in fair condition, but it is not earthquake proof, for it is on mud sill foundations. The City of Gilroy has requested that the church be placed on concrete foundations.

The church measures 32' x 59'-8". The entrance tower is 10'-3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 8'-2". With three bays across the front elevation, this 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ story church with tower is rectangular. The gable roof has asbestos shingle covering. All sides of the entrance tower and the north elevation are finished in novelty siding and the rest of the church is finished with weatherboarding. The church is painted white. The entrance in the tower on the north elevation is reached by five concrete steps which terminate in a concrete pad at the door. The entrance is flanked by plumber's pipe handrails. A wooden porch has been added on the east elevation to facilitate entry to the new church entrance. This wooden platform is reached by seven wooden steps, has a plain wooden handrail and has a frame roof covered with corrugated fiberglass sheets. Another wooden porch at the entrance to the kitchen addition on the east elevation is reached by six wooden steps. On the church's west side, a door has been closed, altered and a stairway removed.

The doors to the vestibule in the bell tower have been covered with plaster board both inside and outside. Where the plaster board has worn away, the original two-panel doors can be seen beneath. Above the entrance door, the original transom with two vertical muntins and three lights, has been covered by a sign installed by the current parishioners. The sign reads, "Lirio del Valle De Las Asamblas de Dios."

The door to the vestibule has architrave trim and wood sills and jambs. One door, on the east elevation, (the new entrance to the church), was cut through a window opening. The other door on the east elevation is the entrance to the kitchen addition, which has plain wood trim and sills and jambs.

Two large double hung windows flank the tower on the north elevation. The windows have 4 x 4 lights and are surrounded by architrave trim. The east and west elevations have four identical windows. On the east, one window became the entrance door and one window has been closed to accommodate the new altar structure. In the rear kitchen addition, on both the east and west elevations, there is a double hung window with plain wood trim, wood jambs and sill with 4 x 4 lights. The south elevation has two identical windows.

The church tower, including the belfry, has three sections. The lowest section includes the entrance door and has corner pilasters with decorative inset panels. The next division of the tower has a window opening with double louvered shutters. The opening has architrave trim and pilasters with inset panels featured at the corners of the intermediate tower division. There is raised molding in the frieze which occurs at the top of this addition, as well as coupled ornamental scroll brackets above the corner pilasters and under the cornice. The topmost section of the tower, (the chamber that contains the bell and bell mechanism) is cubical in shape and not as deep in both dimensions as the divisions below. This section, again, has corner pilasters with no panels supporting a plain frieze and is capped by a projecting cornice with no supporting brackets. Between the pilasters is an opening with plain

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Christian Church

CONTINUATION SHEET of Gilroy **ITEM NUMBER** 7 **PAGE** 7-B

trim on each face which contains a single louvered shutter. A wooden medallion with raised molding at its edge is located on the north face of the tower and is painted with this inscription, "Christian Church - 1855". (Note: This is the year which the church was organized; the structure was built in 1857.) The bell in the belfry appears to be original and is stamped, "W. D. Garratt - San Francisco".

The interior has been changed drastically since the present church assumed the property. The present platform and pulpit is located in the northeast corner of the room. The original pews have been re-oriented to the new platform and are parallel to it. The pews are arranged in three sections with two aisles. To the rear of the room, (the location of the original altar), are four Sunday School rooms. The addition to the rear, (south), contains the kitchen and dining facilities and a lavatory. The nave has an arched ceiling, which is plastered on board lathe and painted white. The nave walls are plastered. A wainscoting ends at the base planking. The kitchen addition is also plastered and painted. The windows on the nave have shouldered trim and are double hung with 4 x 4 lights. An amber plastic decorative panel has been inserted over the glass window panes.

The only facts which could be ascertained on the 1857 church is "Gilroy built a fine building with two doors, one for the women and one for the men." The church has a seating capacity for 200 people. Mr. Hall and Mr. Jones renovated the church in 1869. Besides improving the entrance, a new carpet was installed, three "neat pulpit stands, the work and design of Mr. Jones", were added and venetian shutters were affixed to the windows. There is some confusion as to whether the tower and belfry date to 1857. After examination of the extant church, it appears that the belfry and entrance are original. However, it is known that after the church was moved to its present site in 1885, there were extensive renovations by J. J. Dorland, a contractor. "The church belonging to the Christian denomination ... will be ready for occupancy tomorrow. Some three weeks ago it was removed from the site near Third and Church Streets ... The changes, which include the vestibule and an improved bell tower, enlarged windows on weights and new doors, add materially to the appearance of the building. The outer walls, seats, panes and doors have been painted and inner walls and ceiling handsomely papered and bordered. The cost of the new improvements will reach \$1400 and this amount has been contributed by the membership and by liberal citizens interested in this moral institution." (Gilroy Advocate, August 22, 1885.) This writing is not clear as to what the actual construction was.

It was not possible to ascertain through research when the rear addition containing the kitchen, dining and lavatory facilities were built. Analysis showed that square nails were used in the church.

Tax assessment rolls indicate that the land was appraised at \$185 and improvements at \$500 in 1886. In 1891 the land was appraised at \$200 and the improvements at \$1,000.

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Christian Church
of Gilroy

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It is therefore conceivable that this addition was added during this time frame. After purchasing the church in 1967, the Latin American Assemblies of God remodeled extensively, as discussed above.

4

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 checked="" 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates (Congregation formed **Builder/Architect** Unknown
1855; Structure built 1857)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Christian Church in Gilroy is significant as the oldest extant meeting house which this denomination erected in California. This Greek Revival inspired structure has always served as a church, since it was built in 1857, and is the oldest ecclesiastical building in Gilroy. Because of disputes arising from the Mexican land grants, it was necessary to move the church a few blocks in August 1885.

Itinerant Christian preachers started exhorting in Gilroy in the early 1850's. The Christian Church was an off-shoot of the Presbyterian faith and believed in strict adherence to the New Testament. Conceived in Kentucky, the church attracted many followers in the area and in the Midwest. With the western migration these evangelical ministers followed. (Campbellites)

"Father Thompson and Will Higgins started preaching in February 1854 at the Severance School at Third and Church Street in Gilroy." In 1855 the Christian Church was formally established with thirteen members including Thomas Thompson, John McCorkle, James K. Rule and Massey Thomas. This was one of the first churches in Gilroy. By 1857 the present church had been built, at a cost of \$2,500. "There were a number of well-to-do brethren for those days, in that section, and in 1857 they built what was called a "fine meeting house... Besides, the house was painted, putting on some style." Although other Christian churches had been organized in California at this time, the Gilroy Congregation was the first to build a meeting house.

In 1859 the Gilroy Church hosted the State Meeting, when members of the faith congregated from all over the State for about ten days. It is reported that about 1,000 followers attended and it was necessary for the hosting church to establish temporary tents, fruit stores, shaving parlors, photo galleries and restaurants were erected. A typical day would be "8:00 a.m. - prayer, 9:00 a.m. - convention, 11:00 a.m. - preaching, followed by an exhorter, 2:00 p.m. - dinner, 3:30 p.m. - preaching, followed by baptism, and in the evening preaching at early candlelight, followed by teaching." The Gilroy Church was obviously important to have sponsored the State Meeting.

A tenet of this faith is immersion. In the crawl space under the church the wooden framing of the baptismal remains. The tin lining had rusted and was removed many years ago. Furthermore, baptisms were more frequently conducted in the many creeks in the area.

The members of the Gilroy Christian Church were influential in the community. In 1874 it was reported that "there are now 100 members, the largest membership in Gilroy, which includes some of our best and most wealthy citizens."

One of these was Massey Thomas, who had grown up in Ohio and Kentucky before coming to California during the Gold Rush. Subsequently, he returned to Missouri. In 1851 he headed west again bringing cattle with him and settled in Gilroy. Thomas became one of the area's leading cattle ranchers and farmer. A devoted member of the Christian Church, he allowed the Church to build its meeting house on his property in 1857. The

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Butler, Phyllis, The Valley of Santa Clara, San Jose, California. The Junior League of San Jose, 1975.
2. Christian Churches of Northern California, Historical Brochure Prepared for the Centennial State Convention, (Christian Churches, Stockton, 1955.) This is a rare publication

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property .41± acre

Quadrangle name Gilroy, CA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	0	6	2	7	1	8	0	4	0	9	6	5	0	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

The subject property is shown on the attached blue print from Book 799, Page 7, Santa Clara County Assessor's Office. Parcel 799-7-022 and 799-7-041 combined in the City of Gilroy is as follows: Starting at a pipe at the southeasterly corner of Fifth Street and Church

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 Sibyl McCormac Groff, Supervisor, Santa Clara County HABS Team

organization Historical American Buildings Survey date August 1979

street & number Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service telephone 202-343-6217

city or town Washington state D.C.

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature K. Mellon

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 10-13-81

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Melrose Byers</u>	Entered in the National Register
Keeper of the National Register	date <u>4/1/82</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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formal deed on this arrangement was not recorded until some years later, in 1879. However, as happened to many other landowners in California, Massey's property was involved in legal entanglements for some years due to Mexican grants. The referees, representing the State, finally made their decision in 1885, which necessitated the Christian Church relocating. It is interesting to note that over 250 decisions about disputed property in the Gilroy area were handed down at this time.

The Christian Church members were to continue to be interested and influential citizens of the community. However, in the late 1930's and early 1940's the congregation began to dwindle and finally closed in 1963, when the Church property was deeded to the state governing body. The Latin Assemblies of God purchased the property in 1967 and has used the church ever since. The congregation had made plans to tear down this historic church because of lack of workable space and build a new church on the adjacent property. However, because of financial considerations, this endeavor appears to be temporarily halted. In fact, since the HABS Team and the local press have pointed out the significance of the structure, the parishioners have commenced painting this historic church and are most eager to be placed on the National Register in order to hopefully qualify for some matching funds for the renovation of this significant church.

The Christian Church is located in a pleasant residential area two blocks from the main street of Gilroy. A short distance away is the Gothic Revival Presbyterian Church dating from 1869. Across the street is the Carnegie Public Library which was built in 1910 and now is the Gilroy Historical Museum.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Christian Church
of Gilroy ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 9-B

- and the only copy in the area was located at the Church's headquarters, 111-A Fairmount Avenue, Oakland, California 94611.)
3. City of Gilroy, Assessment Books (1870-1946 - Broken) At Gilroy Historical Museum.
 4. County of Santa Clara, Records Office, Deeds, 70 West Hedding Street, San Jose, California.
 5. Gilroy Chamber of Commerce. The Home of the Prune. 1926. (Located at the Gilroy Historic Museum.
 6. Meachem, Mrs. O. R., Autobiography of the Palo Alto Christian Church, Palo Alto, California, Palo Alto Christian Church, 1953.
 7. Munro-Fraser, J. P. History of Santa Clara County, California. (San Francisco, California, Alley Bowen & Co., 1881.
 8. San Jose Mercury Souvenir, Sunshine, Fruit and Flowers, Santa Clara County, 1895, picture, p. 59.
 9. Thomas & West. Historical Atlas Map of Santa Clara County. San Francisco, California, 1876. (reprinted 1973, Smith & McKay, San Jose, California.
 10. Ware, E. B. The History of Disciples in California, Healdsburg, California, 1916. (This is a rare book which is located in the vault of the First Christian Church of San Jose, 80, South Fifth Street, San Jose, California.)
 11. White, Armand, History of Gilroy, (Gilroy Chamber of Commerce - no date.)
 12. Williams, Professor James C. The Christian Church of Gilroy - An Historical Sketch, Paper at the Gilroy Historical Museum, Third Street, Gilroy, California.

Newspapers:

1. Gilroy Advocate, January 9, 1869, p. 2 and February 6, 1869, p.2, and February 6, 1869, p.2; February 7, 1874, n.p.; August 22, 1885, n.p.; August 29, 1885, n.p.; December 29, 1873, n.p.
2. Gilroy Dispatch, Old Buildings Included in National Survey, McCarthy, Nancy, July 3, 1979, p.7.
3. Gilroy Dispatch, Gilroy's Oldest Church Doomed. McCarthy, Nancy, November 21, 1975, n.p.
4. Gilroy Gazette, December 20, 1907, n.p.
5. San Jose Daily Mercury, August 14, 1892, p. 111.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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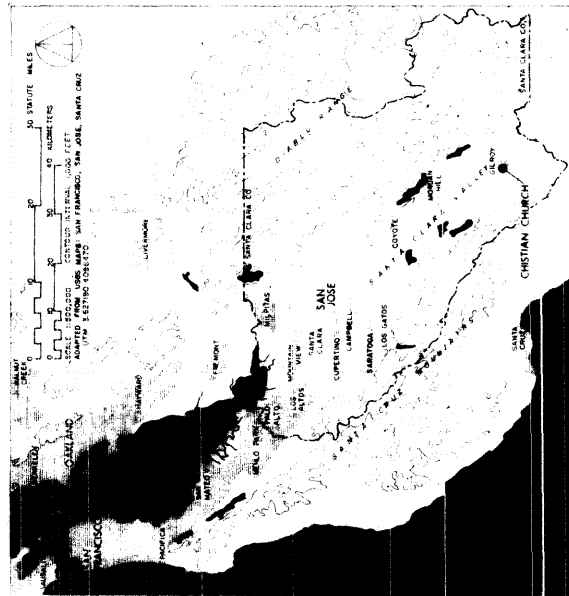
APR 1 1982

CONTINUATION SHEET Christian Church
of Gilroy ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 10-B

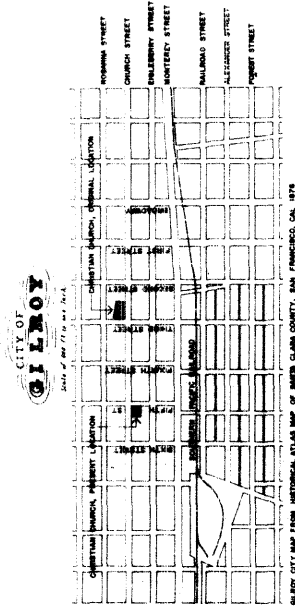
Street, 150' easterly along Fifth Street to a point then 90 degrees south 120' to a point, then 90 degrees west 149.50' to Church Street, then 90 degrees northerly 120' to the pipe, the point of beginning at Fifth Street. Consists of .41[±] acre.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

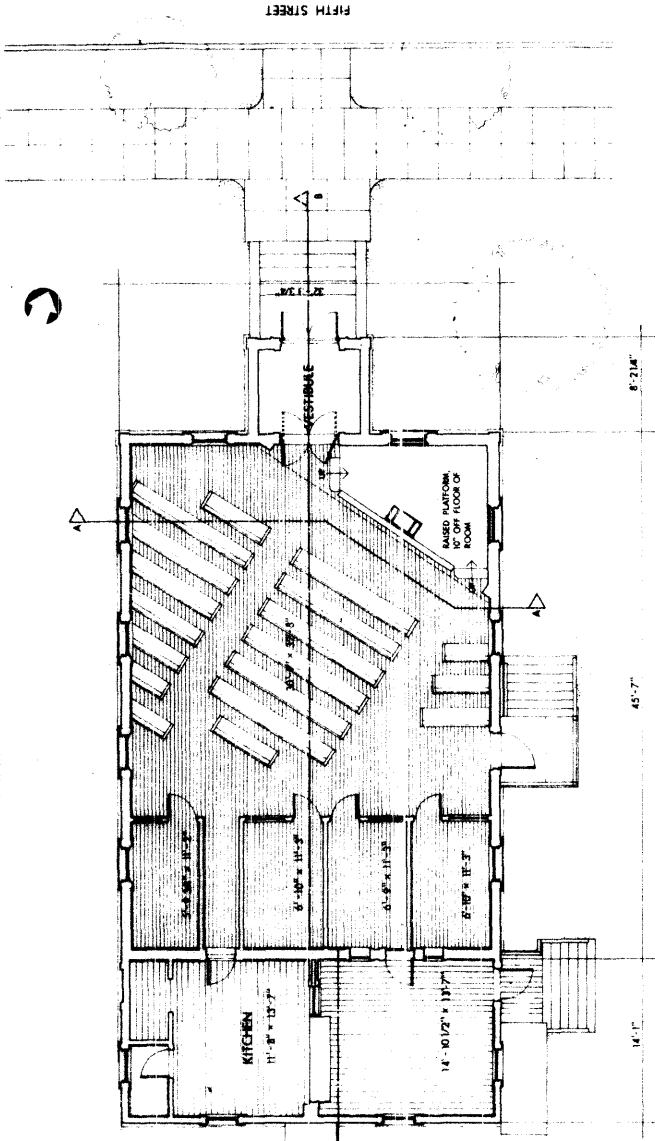
THIS PROJECT WAS UNDERTAKEN BY THE HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY IN COOPERATION WITH THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA. UNDER THE DIRECTION OF JOHN POPPELLERS, CHIEF OF HABS, AND KEN ANDERSON, PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT, THE PROJECT WAS COMPLETED DURING THE SUMMER OF 1979 AT THE HABS FIELD OFFICE, UNIVERSITY OF SANTA CLARA BY SIBYL MC CORMAC GROFF, PROJECT SUPERVISOR; K. DAVID SCHAFF, ARCHITECTURAL SUPERVISOR, AND STUDENT ARCHITECTS W. MICHAEL COPPA (UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA), JON LOURIE (UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND), ANNE MUNY (PRINCETON UNIVERSITY), JOHN MURPHY (TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY), AND MATTHEW POE (VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE).



THE GILROY CHRISTIAN CHURCH IS THE OLDEST EDIFICE ESTABLISHED BY THE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST IN CALIFORNIA, AND IS THE OLDEST CHURCH IN GILROY. IT WAS BUILT IN 1857, AND HAS SERVED CONTINUOUSLY IN ITS ORIGINALLY PLANNED USE. BECAUSE OF DISPUTES ARISING FROM MEXICAN LAND GRANTS, THE BUILDING WAS MOVED SEVERAL BLOCKS FROM ITS ORIGINAL LOCATION IN AUGUST 1885.

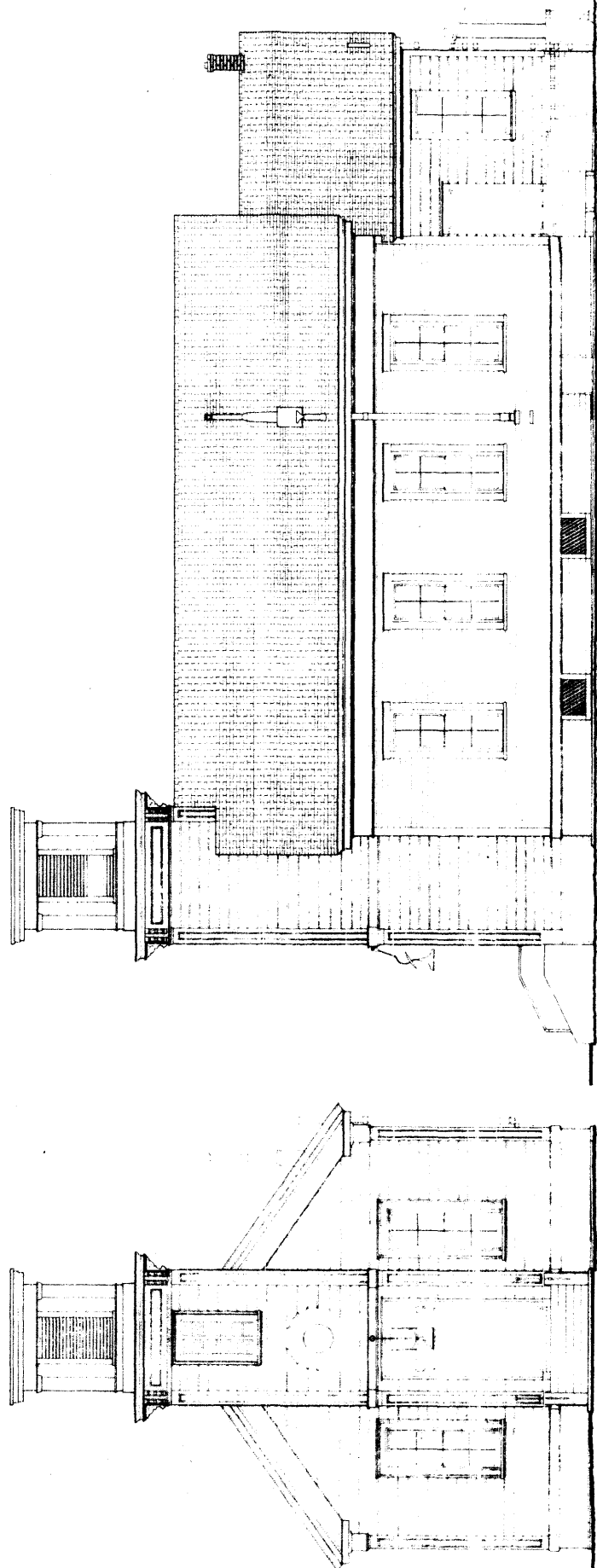


GILOY CITY MAP FROM HISTORICAL ATLAS MAP OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY, SAN FRANCISCO, CAL. 1874



0 1 2 3 4 5
 FEET 2/16" = 1/8" = 0"
 METERS 1/64

PLAN



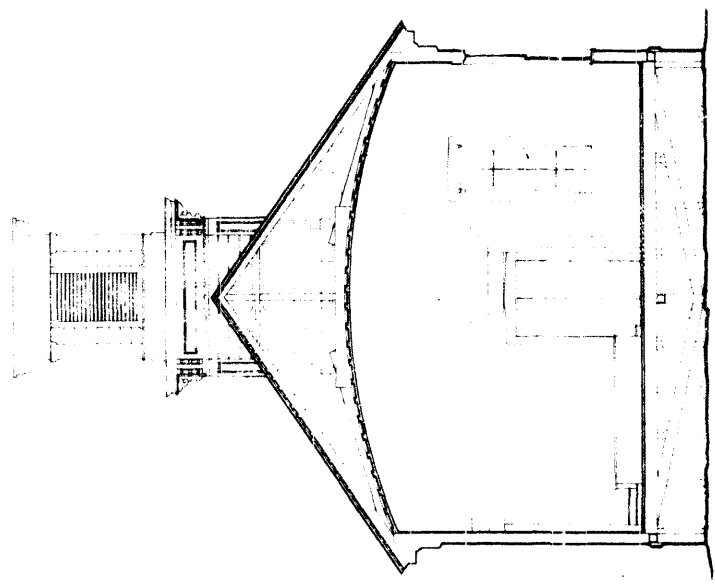
WEST ELEVATION

NORTH ELEVATION

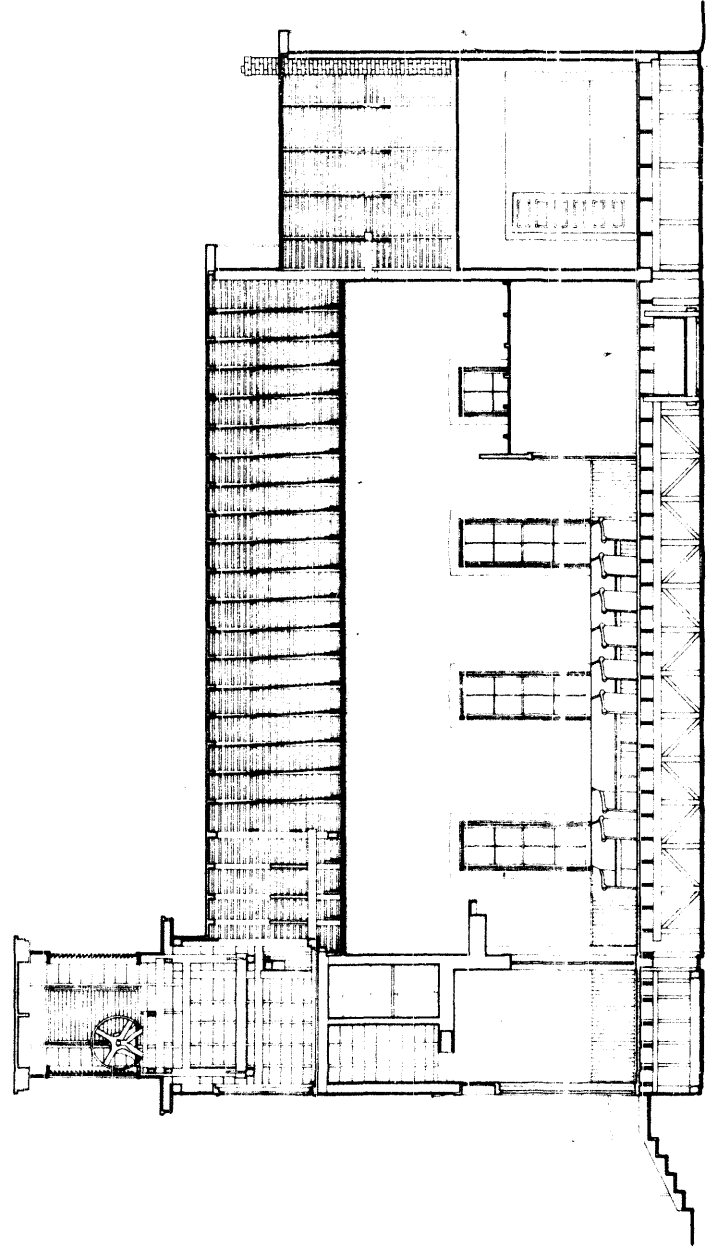
MATERIALS:
EXTERIOR: FLAT WOOD SIDING WITH PLAN
WATER TABLE
INTERIOR: PLASTER
ROOF: ASPHALT/SHINGLES

TRIM LINE

TRIM LINE



SECTION A-A



SECTION B-B

SCALE
 1" = 8'-0"
 1/2" = 4'-0"
 3/8" = 3'-0"
 1/4" = 2'-0"
 1/8" = 1'-0"