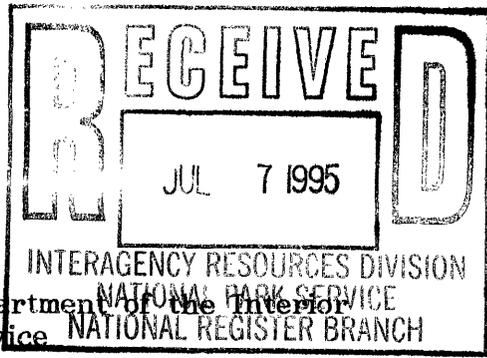


NPS Form 10-900  
Rev. 10-90



MAY 17 1995

OMB 996

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

historic name: Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs

other name/site number: CA-SCL-691H; Gilroy Hot Springs

2. Location

street & number: 9 1/2 miles NE of junction of New Avenue and Roop Road  
not for publication: N/A

city/town: Gilroy

vicinity: X

state: California

county: Santa Clara

code: 085

zip code: 95020

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant statewide.

Signature of certifying official

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs, Santa Clara County, California

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
     \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the  
     National Register  
     \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the  
     National Register
- removed from the National Register

*Paul R. Jagan* 8/21/95

\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Keeper      Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: district

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>16</u>	<u>6</u>	buildings
		sites
<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	structures
		objects
<u>22</u>	<u>11</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic: health care      Sub: resort

Current: health care      Sub: resort

Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs, Santa Clara County, California

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

no style

Other Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Materials: foundation wood roof wood  
walls wood other concrete

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

X See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Entertainment/Recreation  
Ethnic Heritage - Asian  
Social History

Period(s) of Significance: 1938-1942 and 1945

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: Japanese-Americans

Architect/Builder: N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet

Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs, Santa Clara County, California

9. Major Bibliographical References

X See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- X Local government
- University
- X Other

Specify Repository: Gilroy Museum; property owner's private collection

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: eight acres

UTM References:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. <u>10 635200 4107940</u><br>Zone Easting Northing | 3. <u>10 635340 4107620</u><br>Zone Easting Northing |
| 2. <u>10 635340 4107920</u><br>Zone Easting Northing | 4. <u>10 635200 4107640</u><br>Zone Easting Northing |

Verbal Boundary Description: X See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: X See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: James C. Williams and Kent Seavey

Organization: N/A Date: January 13, 1995

Street & Number: 20010-C Rodrigues Avenue Telephone: (408)366-1342

City or Town: Cupertino State: CA ZIP: 95014

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7-A. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The nomination boundaries for Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs encompass approximately eight acres of valley woodland on a bench along a steeply sloping hillside above Coyote Creek twelve miles northeast of Gilroy, CA. This location marks the core resort site of the original 160 acres of property purchased by George W. Roop and William F. Oldham in 1866, and expanded over time to its present size of approximately 240 acres. The extant historic buildings and structures, the majority of which are one story wood framed guest cabins, are within the core site. There are sixteen contributing buildings and six contributing structures from periods of historic development, the 1870s-1920s and 1938-1942. The buildings include twelve wood-framed vertical board-and-batten guest cabins dating from the 1870s to the 1920s, a wood-framed barn from about 1924, and two wood-framed cabins dating from 1939-1940. There also is one wood-framed Buddhist shrine built in ca. 1939. Contributing structures include one concrete-capped hot springs covered by a wooden kiosk, from the 1890s, one concrete cistern from about 1913, one redwood water tank from about 1913, a concrete mineral pool from 1917, a wooden Japanese tea house and a decorative wood Japanese garden bridge, both from 1939-1940. There are six noncontributing buildings and five noncontributing structures within the proposed district boundaries. The buildings include a deteriorated wood-framed bathhouse from the 1890s, one concrete brick bathhouse from about 1950, one deteriorated wood-framed shack built in 1945 by Masuo Kitaji, a small wood-framed generator house with corrugated metal sheathing from 1938-1942, a concrete block dressing facility built in 1955, and a concrete block bathroom, also constructed in 1955. The noncontributing structures include three redwood water tanks constructed in 1954, a concrete swimming pool built in 1955, and one hot tub with wooden deck constructed in 1993. All resources are in fair to poor physical condition. The grounds of this core site of the historic resort have been contoured for paths, roads, trails, and picnic areas. Some evidence of an extensive gas lighting system remains. A few undated low walls have been made from local rock set in concrete. A three-story wood-framed residence (1874), a one-story wood-framed Club House (1870s), and H.K. Sakata's one-story wood-framed residence (ca. 1939) were destroyed in a fire in 1980. A two-story wood-framed hotel annex (1870s) was demolished in 1946, and the one-story guest cabin Arizona (ca. 1924) was lost to fire in 1992. With the exception of a few eucalyptus trees along the access road to the bathhouse, the natural valley woodland landscape prevails and, in context with the

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remaining historic buildings, affords a strong sense of time and place.

**7-B. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

The present Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs occupies a core site of eight acres within the total resort property of about 240 acres of valley woodland forest above Coyote Creek in the Mount Hamilton spur of the Inner Coast Range Mountains. The physical topography of the historic resort includes a north-south running bench above Coyote Creek that is intersected towards the north by a steep east-west finger ridge separating the original hotel site to the south from the actual hot springs, to the north. The remaining guest cabins from the 1870s-1920s period of significance occupy the finger ridge and western slope of the bench above the original hotel site. Buildings from the 1938-1942 period of significance appear in the bathhouse area and at the north-south extremes of the proposed eight acre boundary, with the 1939 Buddhist shrine on rising ground to the west, above some of the earlier cabins.

Over time a large number of buildings and structures have been erected and razed on the property, according to newspaper reports, advertising brochures, and photographs. Cabins were present as early as 1866 and numbered forty in 1872, nineteen in 1879, twenty-two in 1881, fifteen in 1913, twenty-four in 1925, and fifteen in 1978 plus a later house built around an earlier cabin. A three story hotel was erected in 1873-1874, a large single-story club house probably was built during the 1870s, along with a two-story sleeping annex. The sleeping annex was demolished around 1946, and the hotel and club house burned in 1980. In the immediate area of the hot spring source, bathhouses, plunges, mud baths, dressing rooms, and sweat rooms were erected, replaced, and renovated at various times between 1866 and the early 1950s. A kiosk at the spring source probably was erected in the early 1870s, although the earliest documentation for it is from 1892, and a large swimming pool with dressing rooms was installed in 1917. A new pool with dressing rooms was constructed away from the spring area, south of the hotel, in 1955. Two of three cabins built in the late-1930s, when H.K. Sakata owned the property, still stand. Other ancillary buildings extant on the property at various times included a Buddhist shrine, a tea house, barns, an automobile garage, water tanks, toilet facilities, an acetylene gas plant, and utility sheds.

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Visitor Cabins

The majority of the contributing buildings are small one and two room guest cabins, running in a rough arc from the eastern tip of the finger ridge, west, then south along the slope above the original hotel site. Named for the various states of the Union, all the 1870s-1920s era cabins are one story and wood framed with gable roofs. Some have open porches. They are all rectangular in plan and have on-grade post foundations. Some of the original wood shingle roofs have been covered with composition roll roofing and, one, with corrugated sheet metal. The exterior wall cladding is universally vertical board-and-batten.

The earliest cabin is Minnesota (MN), just southeast of the 1938 bathhouse. By design and method of construction this appears to be the oldest contributing building on site and probably dates to about 1877.

The finger ridge guest cabins, from east to west, California (CA), Nevada (NV), Oregon (OR), Washington (WA), and Ohio (OH), are from the period 1908-1913. A concrete cistern from this era sits just south of OH. Pennsylvania (PA), immediately northwest of OH on the ridge, is stylistically similar to Texas (TX) and Louisiana (LA), found adjacent to the bathhouse road at the east end of the finger ridge overhanging a steep slope. All were built about 1924. A fourth cabin of this style, Arizona (AZ), a little southwest of LA was destroyed by fire in 1992. Other structures on the finger ridge include two redwood water tanks a little southwest of PA, one constructed in about 1910, the other in 1954.

Three "open air cottages" remain from a group of seven or eight guest cabins constructed about 1910 on the rising ground west of the original hotel site. From north to south, in line, they are Nebraska (NE), Wyoming (WY), and Montana (MT). A fourth, Idaho (ID), between WY and MT, was incorporated into the noncontributing Kitaji dwelling in 1945. There are four more noncontributing structures in this area. They include two redwood water tanks, one just west of WY and the other a little east of the wood-framed Kitaji dwelling, both built in 1954. The concrete foundation and walls for a ice house (ca. 1910), plus concrete foundations and retaining walls for the H.K. Sakata dwelling (ca. 1939) are all located about forty feet east of MT.

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Bathhouse Area

The contributing features in the bathhouse area include the kiosk covering the hot springs source (ca. 1892), just southwest of the concrete bathhouse; a 1917 concrete swimming pool, a little east of the concrete bathhouse and immediately northeast of MN; an decorative Japanese bridge between MN and a generator house (ca. 1938-1942); and MN. While retaining its original form, the kiosk has been repaired and slightly modified over time. Noncontributing features include the concrete block bathhouse (ca. 1950), built by H.K. Sakata on the site of a much earlier structure; a wood-framed bathhouse (ca. 1892), slightly northwest of the concrete block bathhouse; a small 1930s era corrugated metal generator house about forty feet southeast of MN along the bathhouse road; and a modern hot tub with wooden deck (1993), just northeast of the concrete block bathhouse.

Japanese-American Ownership

Contributing buildings and structures from the Japanese-American period of significance, 1938-1942 and 1945, include the wood-framed Enomoto family cabin and tea house, from about 1938-1939, about fifty yards northeast of the ca. 1950 bathhouse; a Buddhist shrine on a steep slope about fifty feet west of MT, built about 1939; and the wood-framed Shikano family cabin, from 1939-1940, about six hundred feet south of MT. The aforementioned noncontributing ca. 1950 concrete brick bathhouse was built by H.K. Sakata, incorporating inside bath tiles from the 1939 World Fair at Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay. Masuo Kitaji's dwelling also has already been mentioned as a noncontributing structure. The remaining noncontributing buildings and structures begin about fifty feet southeast of MT with a 1955 concrete swimming pool and dressing room. A little further to the southeast is a related concrete block bathroom of the same date. East of this feature is a wood-framed livestock barn that is undated but may be from the 1920s.

Most of the contributing buildings and structures at the Gilroy Hot Springs have suffered over time from natural weathering, deferred maintenance, and vandalism, and are in fair to poor condition. However, they appear to be structurally sound. Taken in concert with their natural landscape setting, they retain a strong sense of time and place, and particularly with the Japanese-American community, an equally strong sense of feeling and association. Individually and collectively the contributing buildings and

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structures at Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs retain sufficient integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to warrant their listing in the National Register at the local level of significance for the 1870s-1920s and state level of significance for the 1938-1942 and 1945 period. It is the intent of the present owner to commit funds to the rehabilitation of the contributing buildings as part of the ongoing operation of the hot springs.

Historic boundaries have been drawn to encompass the significant features of this complex. The following inventory describes each listed contributing building and structure, by the feature's number as it appears on the sketch map, and by name where known. The number of the photo in which the feature appears is also indicated.

1. Minnesota (MN) (ca 1877, window alterations 1993)  
Contributing building Photo 5

Minnesota is a one-story wood-framed guest cabin, rectangular in plan, resting on a wood post-on-grade foundation. The exterior wall cladding is board-and-batten. The thin angular battens give the cabin an almost corrugated appearance. The medium pitch side-gabled roof has boxed eaves and a simple cornice molding. The wood shingle roof has been covered by roll roofing. Fenestration is fairly symmetrical with six-over-six double hung wood sash windows and low cruciform wood door entries on the southwest, southeast and northeast elevations. The northeast door leads to a wooden, full-width deck overlooking the 1917 swimming pool. An undated shed roofed door hood, capped with roll roofing, is above the door on the SE end elevation. The six-over-six windows along the southwest and northeast side elevations were removed, stored, and replaced with temporary plexiglass sheets in 1993 because of vandalism. This is the oldest guest cabin at the resort and probably dates to a ca. 1877 expansion of the resort. Structurally sound, the cabin is in good to fair condition.

2. Concrete Mineral Water Pool (1917)  
Contributing structure Photo 6

A concrete outdoor mineral water swimming pool, rectangular in plan and constructed in 1917, sits directly northeast of and below MN. The wooden

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deck and dressing rooms that once adjoined it are no longer extant. The pool is in poor condition, but adds continuity to the chronological development of the resort and is therefore counted as a contributing structure.

3. Kiosk covering hot springs source (1892, rehab ca. 1984)  
Contributing structure      Photos 7, 37

The kiosk is a polygonal wooden dome of Islamic character originally topped by a bud-shaped finial that is no longer present. It is carried on round wooden posts V-braced at the roof plate. It covers the concrete encased source of the Gilroy Hot Springs. The earliest recorded date for this feature is 1892. An original decorative wooden skirt that wrapped the base of the dome and is shown in turn-of-the-century drawings and photographs was removed sometime before the Sakata ownership (1938). With the exception of the disappearance of the finial between 1980 and 1984, the kiosk remains unchanged from the time Sakata acquired the property to the present. According to former resort manager Henry Kato, about 1984 the structure was taken down, repaired and reassembled, retaining as much of the original material as possible. Photo 37, taken in 1979, and photo 7, taken in 1994, provides good comparison. In illustrations that appear in a 1945 advertising pamphlet produced by H.K. Sakata for Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs, the kiosk appears exactly the same as it does in the 1979 photograph. The kiosk is structurally sound and in good condition.

4. California (CA) (ca. 1913, interior changes ca. 1924)  
Contributing building      Photo 8

This is a four-room wood-framed guest cabin, rectangular in plan, resting on a wood post-on-grade foundation. The exterior wall cladding is a simple vertical board-and-batten. A raised open porch, covered by a shed roof supported on simple square posts, wraps around the cabin on the north and south ends and on the east side. The original wood shingle on the steeply pitched end gable roof is covered by roll roofing as is the shed roofed porch. Fenestration is irregular with six-light sliding wood windows. This is the largest and eastern-most of the finger ridge cabins. A half bath was probably added during a recorded renovation about 1924. It is structurally sound and in fair condition.

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- 5. Nevada (NV) (ca. 1913, interior changes ca. 1924)  
Contributing building Photo 9

NV is a one-story, two-room wood-framed guest cabin, rectangular in plan, resting on a wood post-on-grade foundation. The exterior wall cladding is a simple vertical board-and-batten. An original raised full width shed roofed open porch across the south facing facade is no longer in place. The original wood shingle on the steeply pitched end gable roof is covered by corrugated sheet metal. Fenestration is irregular with single sliding six-light wood sash on the facade and east side elevation and smaller vertical lights on either side elevation towards the rear of the cabin. Some windows are missing due to vandalism. The low cruciform wood door is not dissimilar to that found on MN. There are interior partitions for a toilet and clothes closet. It is probable that the interior toilet was added during the documented renovation period about 1924. The building is structurally sound and in fair to poor condition. NV is directly west of CA on the finger ridge.

- 6. Oregon (OR) (ca. 1913, interior changes ca. 1924)  
Contributing building Photo 10

This one-story, two-room wood-framed guest cabin, rectangular in plan, also rests on a wood post-on-grade foundation. This building is a duplicate of NV, directly to the east, except OR retains its raised full width shed roofed open porch. The porch roof is supported on two-by-four inch wood posts with like brackets and a horizontal rail. The original side approach wood steps are missing. The original wood shingle roof is also intact. Some of the six-light sliding wood windows are missing, and a screen door is off its hinges, but otherwise the cabin is complete. The building is structurally sound in fair to poor condition.

- 7. Washington (WA) (ca. 1913, interior changes ca. 1924)  
Contributing building Photo 11

WA is a one-story, two-room wood-framed guest cabin, rectangular in plan and resting on a wood post-on-grade foundation. It is a duplicate of NV and OR, directly to the east. Its original wood shingle roof is still in place. The raised full width open porch is also in place, but deteriorated and missing the posted shed roof. The doors and windows have been vandalized on this cabin, but it appears to be structurally sound.

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8. Ohio (OH) (ca. 1913, interior changes ca. 1924)  
Contributing building Photo 12

A one-story, two-room wood-framed guest cabin, rectangular in plan, OH rests on a wood post-on-grade foundation. This building is a duplicate of NV, OR and WA directly to its east. The original wood shingle roof is still in place. The raised full width open porch with its shed roof is in place, but in poor condition. Some windows have been vandalized. The building is structurally sound in fair to poor condition.

9. Concrete Cistern (ca. 1913)  
Contributing structure Photo 13

A small, somewhat T-shaped concrete water cistern, approximately six feet deep, sits directly south of cabins WA and OH. The contractor's name, Grant Stewart, is stamped into its side. Although not documented, this structure was probably constructed during a ca. 1913 upgrade of the resort.

10. Pennsylvania (PA) (ca. 1924)  
Contributing building Photo 14

PA is a one-story wood-framed guest cabin, rectangular in plan, resting on a wood post-on-grade foundation, and overhanging a steep slope. The exterior wall cladding is a simple vertical board-and-batten siding that is narrower than those found on the older finger ridge cabins and includes vertical wood battens for venting in the gable heads. Horizontal flush wood siding covers the tall post-on-grade foundations below the porch on the down-slope side of the cabin. The side gabled roof is pitched lower than the earlier cabins and the raised, open porch that wraps around three sides of this double guest cabin is also different. PA has Craftsman elements.

The porch roof form is a wide, shallow gable extending off each end of the cabin and projecting over the hillside portion of the open porch. The vertical wooden battens from the cabin vents are repeated in the shallow gable ends of the porch roof forming a kind of brise soleil. The porch roof is supported on simple wood posts. Visible rafter tails also derive from the Bungalow form. The roof covering is roll roofing over the original wood shingle. Entries are on the slope or northeast canyon side of the building.

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There are single bedrooms at either end with closets and a shared bathroom forming a central bay. Fenestration is irregular with two single one-over-one double hung wood sash windows and a higher central transom type bathroom window along the southwest rear elevation and larger multi-paned windows at the gable ends and along the northeast front elevation. These windows are wood sliders. A number of the windows have been vandalized as has the porch in general. While the building is in poor condition the basic structure appears to be sound. The cabin was constructed in the documented renovation and expansion of the resort about 1924.

- 11. Louisiana (LA) (ca. 1924)  
Contributing building Photo 16

A one-story wood-framed guest cabin, rectangular in plan, LA rests on a wood post-on-grade foundation. It is a duplicate of the two-bedroom PA, and overhangs a steep slope to the east of CA along the road to the bathhouse. The original open porch railings with their simple square balusters are still in place. Roll roofing covers the original wood shingle roof. The building is in fair condition and is structurally sound.

- 12. Texas (TX) (ca. 1924)  
Contributing building Photo 17

This is a one-story wood-framed guest cabin, rectangular in plan, resting on a wood post-on-grade foundation. TX is directly north of LA along the road to the bathhouse. This is a four bedroom unit exactly like PA and LA, but doubled in length. The original open porch railings with their simple square balusters are still in place. Roll roofing covers a wood shingle roof. The building is in fair condition and is structurally sound.

- 13. Montana (MT) (ca. 1913)  
Contributing building Photo 18

A small one-story wood-framed guest cabin, rectangular in plan, MT rests on a wood post-on-grade foundation. The exterior wall cladding is vertical board-and-batten with wide horizontal flush board siding covering the foundation posts. The medium pitch side gabled roof is covered in wood shingle. The entry is on the southeast side near the east facing gable end with simple side approach wood steps. Fenestration consists of two long

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rectangular windows, one in the east gable end and one along the northeast side wall towards the east end. Originally there was a plain wood mullion centered in the window opening to accomodate paired four-light sliding wood sash windows. These were removed by vandals. The low cruciform wood door is similar to those found on the finger ridge cabins. An undated photograph (ca.1913) shows a number of these "open air cottages," as they are called, with an exterior screening material covering the full surface of the windows. These one room cabins are ten by fourteen feet. MT is in poor condition but is structurally sound.

14. Wyoming (WY) (ca. 1913)  
Contributing building Photo 19

WY is a small one-story wood-framed guest cabin, rectangular in plan and resting on a wood post-on-grade foundation. It is about fifty feet north and on line with MT. It is a duplicate of its neighbor but still retains its original windows and mullions. It is missing its entry door. The cabin is in fair to poor condition but is structurally sound.

15. Nebraska (NE) (ca. 1913)  
Contributing building Photo 20

A small one-story wood-framed guest cabin, rectangular in plan resting on a wood post-on-grade foundation. NE is about twenty-five feet north of WY. It is missing its windows and door and is in poor condition. It appears to be structurally sound.

16. Shikano Family Cabin (1939-40)  
Contributing building Photo 21

This one-story wood-framed family cabin is L-shaped in plan and rests on a concrete perimeter foundation. The exterior wall cladding is a medium-width horizontal V-wood siding. The low pitched gable roof with its exposed rafter tails is covered by roll roofing. Fenestration is irregular with a combination of single, paired, and triple double hung wood sash windows. A river-rock eave wall chimney on the east facing rear elevation has partially collapsed. Some of the windows and the front door have been removed or damaged by vandals. The cabin was built in 1939-1940 by members of the Ichizo Shikano family, flower growers from Centerville (now, Fremont), from plans drawn by

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Hachi Yuasa, a graduate of the U.C. Berkeley School of Architecture and a family friend. Kazuo Shikano, son of the owner, purchased the building materials in Centerville and transported them to the site where he and his father carried out the construction on weekends and after harvest. The stone chimney and retaining walls around the cabin were built of river-rock, hand carried up from Coyote Creek. The cabin is in fair condition and is structurally sound.

17. Buddhist Shrine (ca. 1939)  
Contributing building Photo 22

Located on a steeply sloping hillside about fifty feet west of MT, this small wood-framed shrine is square in plan and rests on a post-and-concrete pier foundation. A wooden deck surrounding the shrine on the north, east, and south sides has collapsed. The exterior wall cladding of the east-facing shrine is a medium width horizontal V-wood siding with vertical corner boards. The wide overhanging pagoda style roof is slightly flared at the eaves and has exposed rafters. It is covered with wood shingle. Three-panel outward opening double doors are centered on the eastern facade. Tall four-light outward opening wood casement windows appear in the north and south side elevations, their glass broken or missing. The rear (west) wall has a slightly projecting recessed alcove. Carved decorative cloud forms are found at each corner of the shrine. A large rockwork pier that once supported wide wooden stairs leading to the entrance appears immediately to the east of the feature. The wooden stair and deck members are laying around the shrine, as they fell or were torn down by vandals. The interior of the shrine is covered in some form of plasterboard, damaged over time by exposure to the elements. The basic structure of the Buddhist shrine is sound, although in poor condition. Available information suggests it was constructed by Kisuke Yamada, a seaweed wholesaler and wealthy merchant from the Asakusa part of Tokyo, Japan, who visited and stayed at the Hot Springs and wished to honor the good works of H.K. Sakata.

18. Enomoto Family Cabin (ca. 1939-40)  
Contributing building Photo 23

A one-story wood-framed family cabin rectangular in plan, this cabin rests on a post-and-concrete pier foundation. The exterior wall cladding is a slightly rounded horizontal wood siding. The side-gabled cabin overhangs a rather

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steep slope with a wide raised full width open porch covered by a shed roof supported on square posts. The porch railing employs two-by-fours, the narrow dimension facing outward, as balusters. The rafters are exposed and all roof surfaces are covered with roll roofing. Fenestration is symmetrical, with two single windows along the southeast facing facade flanking a central entry, and single windows on the northeast and southwest gable ends. The original wood sash has been replaced by tall aluminum sliders. According to John Enomoto, son of the original owner, a Redwood City nurseryman, the actual construction work was executed by a carpenter named Fujio Matsuyama. The cabin is in fair to good condition and structurally sound.

19. Enomoto Tea House (ca. 1939-40)  
Contributing structure Photo 24

This is a traditional one story wood-pole framed Japanese tea house, square in plan and resting on wood post foundations. The small open tea house overhangs the steep slope immediatly northeast of the Enomoto family cabin. It is an open, pole structure supporting a pyramidal roof with exposed rafters covered in thatch, overlaid with roll roofing. The four corner poles are V-braced at the roof plate, and carry a low rustic ladderlike railing around three sides of an exposed wooden floor--the north, east, and south. A natural fiber screen covers the foundation structure along the east elevation. The view of the surrounding landscape is commanding. The tea house was also constructed by the carpenter, Fujio Matsuyama. It is in fair condition and structurally sound.

20. Redwood Water Storage Tank (ca. 1913)  
Contributing structure Photo 25 (right)

This is one of four redwood water storage tanks within the nomination boundries dates to the 1913 period of development. It sits on a hillside about twenty feet southwest of PA and next to a 1954 redwood tank a little further south. It is a cylindrical drum of vertical redwood staves strapped in place by flat metal bands. It is covered by a redwood top made up of pie shaped sections creating a polygonal form. The roll roofing cap has worn off so the redwood sections are showing. The interior was stuccoed recently to keep the feature in active use for water storage.

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32. Wood Barn (ca. 1924, with apparent undated alterations)  
Contributing structure Photo 35

This is a one-story wood-framed barn, rectangular in plan, resting on a wood post-on-grade foundation. Its central crib lacks the second story hay loft illustrated in the 1913 birds eye view of the Hot Springs in photo No. 1. The barn has a low gabled central crib with flanking sheds. The exterior wall cladding is a combination of wide horizontal flush siding and vertical board-and-batten. The north and south gable ends have outward opening double doors on the central crib and both side sheds. The roof covering is corrugated metal. A concrete floor, scored for drainage, has been added along the west side. While it is clear from visual inspection that the barn has been much altered over time, according to former resort manager Henry Kato, the barn remains as it was when he came in 1950. It is possible that the barn was rebuilt from an older form in 1913 or 1924, during the last major building periods prior to the resort's purchase by H.K. Sakata in 1938. It may qualify as a contributing building and has been so listed.

33. Decorative Wood Japanese Bridge (ca. 1939-1940)  
Contributing structure Photo 36

According to John Enamoto, this small wood bridge with its arched wood rail and latern forms capping the end posts was part of the material purchased by his father from the Japanese exhibit at the 1939 World Fair at Treasure Island in San Francisco. Former Hot Springs manager Henry Kato remembers the bridge as formerly being closer to the Enamoto cabin, possibly as a traditional element of the family tea house.

Noncontributing buildings and structures within the nomination boundaries include:

21. Redwood Water Storage Tank (1954)  
Noncontributing structure Photo 25 (left)

The only difference between the 1913 redwood water storage tank and this 1954 storage tank, besides age, is the use of metal wire bands to hold the redwood staves in place. It is located immediatly south of the 1913 redwood tank.

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22. Old Bathhouse (ca. 1892 with undated additions)  
Noncontributing building Photo 26

This is a one-story wood-framed bathhouse rectangular in plan, resting on a wood post-on-grade foundation. The exterior wall cladding combines a horizontal drop and V-siding with vertical board-and-batten suggesting, with varying roof heights, that this is a composite of several earlier structures. The side gabled building contains what appear to be two dressing rooms and a mineral water plunge. The building has lost half of its roof and most of its structural integrity. The hillside behind the feature is slumping into it causing further damage.

23. New Bathhouse (ca. 1950)  
Noncontributing building Photo 27

The new bathhouse combines concrete brick and stucco over what may be the wooden framework of two much earlier (ca. 1892) buildings, the men's and the women's bathhouses illustrated in the center of photo No. 2. There seem to be other undated additions as well. The whole is covered by split level low pitched gable roofs covered in a corrugated concrete material. The interior baths incorporate tile walls obtained around 1940 by H.K. Sakata from the Japanese exhibit at 1939 World Fair at Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay.

24. Generator House (ca. 1913 with alterations 1930s and 1980s)  
Noncontributing building Photo 28

The fieldstone foundation on this little rectangular wood-framed utility structure, housing the resort's current generator and covered in modern corrugated sheet metal, suggests an early date of construction and perhaps a previous use. The present configuration, however, has all but erased the original form.

25. Modern Hot tub (1993)  
Noncontributing structure Photo 29

A modern, rectangular open-air fiberglass hot tub surrounded by a wooden deck with a low wooden retaining wall is found about twenty-five feet north of the concrete brick bathhouse and just adjacent to the bathhouse road.

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26. Redwood Water Storage Tank (1954)  
Noncontributing structure Photo 31

This is one of two redwood water storage tanks located near guest cabin WY. It is just west of WY and is similar in all respects to feature #21, above.

27. Redwood Water Storage Tank (1954)  
Noncontributing structure Photo 30

This water storage tank is about twenty-five feet SE of WY, and employs flat metal banding around the vertical redwood staves.

28. Captain Masuo Kitaji's House (1945+)  
Noncontributing building Photo 32

Kitaji's house is a two-story wood-framed building, irregular in plan and resting on a wood post-on-grade foundation. The exterior wall cladding is a combination of vertical board-and-batten, horizontal wood plank, wood shingle, and sheet plywood. This rambling ramshackle hodge-podge was constructed by Captain Masuo Kitaji, a retired Salvation Army officer, who came to work as caretaker for H.K. Sakata in 1945. He built his residence from available material, using one of the open air cottages, Idaho (ID), as a base. The original cottage can still be discerned within the failing framework of the larger edifice. The feature is deteriorated and structurally unsound.

29. Freshwater Swimming Pool (1955)  
Noncontributing structure Photo 33

A rectangular concrete freshwater swimming pool is located about twenty-five yards east of the Sakata house foundations. It is surrounded by a poured concrete deck. A metal cyclone fence, overgrown with vegetation, surrounds the pool area which has been badly vandalized over time.

30. Concrete Block Dressing Room (1955)  
Noncontributing building Photo 33

There is a concrete block dressing room along the west side of the freshwater swimming pool. It has a low pitched gable roof with wide overhangs, covered by roll roofing. Fenestration is symmetrical. Rectangular windows placed high

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along the east and west side walls have sliding aluminum windows. Entries are at the north and south gable ends.

31. Concrete Block Bathroom (1955)  
Noncontributing building Photo 34

There is a concrete block bathroom about twenty-five feet southeast and down-slope of the freshwater pool. It is one story and rectangular in plan, resting on a concrete slab foundation. It has a wooden shed roof with wide overhangs, covered by roll roofing. There are two entries on the southeast facing facade. This building has also been badly vandalized over time.

Interiors

Because of the generally fair to poor condition of the contributing resources due to age, environmental conditions, and vandalism, there are no remaining significant interiors within the proposed district boundaries.

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8-A. SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs is historically significant at the state level under criterion A of the National Register in the areas of Asian Ethnic Heritage, Recreation, and Social History, during the years 1938-1942 as an important and rare resource which provided a form of recreation and leisure, as well as a spiritual center, not normally available to Japanese and Japanese Americans in California, and from 1945-1946 as an important resettlement and hostel facility for Japanese Americans newly released from internment camps. While many of the original buildings associated with the Hot Springs are no longer standing or in fair to poor condition, a sufficient number of structurally sound buildings remain to provide solid testimony of the Hot Springs significance as a uniquely important resource for Japanese-Americans in the history of California.

8-B. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Discovery and Historical Background.

Gilroy Hot Springs, situated in fairly rugged and heavily wooded terrain in the Mount Hamilton spur of the Inner Coast Ranges, does not appear to have been settled by Native Americans, although they probably visited the area in seasonal hunting and gathering forays (Schwaderer 1991:6-3). Although the late eighteenth-century Spanish exploratory expedition under the command of Juan Bautista de Anza passed within a few hundred feet of the hot spring on April 6, 1776, its discovery by European-Americans occurred in the 1860s (Bolton 1930:150-151, 288-289; Bolton 1931:272). On September 4, 1865, Jose Quintin Ortega and Iganacio Maria Ortega filed a preemption claim for 160 acres of land that included the hot spring. The tract, soon called Gilroy Warm Springs, was under commercial development before March 1866. With the Ortegas permission, Gilroyans George Roop and William F. Oldham, who owned and ran the Exchange Stage Hotel in Gilroy, erected cabins, built a bath, and opened for business as a resort in 1866. Although during the next several years he had a number of partners, George Roop served as the driving force behind development of Gilroy Hot Springs (Records Office 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868; Munro-Fraser 1881:41; Chittenden 1884:174).

During the early nineteenth century, upper-class Americans adopted from

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Europeans the practice of "taking the waters" at mineral spring resorts. By the 1830s, resorts at Saratoga, New York, and White Sulphur Springs, Virginia, were well-known. Westward expansion fostered discovery and development of springs from Illinois to Michigan to the Pacific Coast. During the 1860s, particularly after the Civil War and with the expansion of railroads in California, springs were developed in several counties from Napa and Lake to San Diego. The presumed medicinal benefits of mineral waters made these resorts popular destinations for local people as well as tourists, and by the 1880s, they were part and parcel of a health boom in California that was inspired by climate and incited by promoters, the railroad, and doctors. Among the resorts described by a Chicago magazine in 1871 was Gilroy Hot Springs, "the favorite sanitarium of rheumatics" (Lakeside Monthly 1871:169; Harris 1988:2-3; Anderson 1965; Sanders 1916; Baur 1959:101-103).

Between 1867 and 1872, George Roop vigorously developed Gilroy Hot Springs and got Santa Clara County to assume responsibility for and improve the access road from Gilroy. By May 1872, an improved county road was open, he had in place "forty cottages, elegantly furnished," and set for his guests a "table supplied with the choicest food that rich Santa Clara Valley can afford" (Gilroy Advocate, 25 May 1872:3, 29 March 1873:4; Board of Supervisors, n.d.). The local paper opined that "the medicinal properties of the waters are superior to any yet known in the world," and as many as seventy-five people a week checked into the resort during summer months (Records Office 1871; Gilroy Advocate, 25 May 1872:3, 15 June 1872:3; 27 July 1872:3). The Hot Springs was designated a U.S. Post Office on March 28, 1873, and toward the end of the year, Roop constructed and furnished for \$18,000 a three-story hotel that became the centerpiece of the resort. "The magnificent structure," crowed the Gilroy Advocate, "is a model building both in architectural design and interior arrangement" (18 April 1874:3).

In July 1874, the Advocate reported that since March, when the Hot Springs season generally started, "from 150 to 200 visitors have been sojourning there . . . and there is no diminution of the travel." It added that "the number of guests has averaged 80 and greater numbers are expected. The accommodations are ample for 170 persons" (11 July 1874:2-3). During the last part of the 1870s, Roop continued improving the resort, razing some of the original forty cabins, remodeling others, building new cottages, and constructing a two-story sleeping annex with seventeen rooms, the Lick House. By 1881, in addition to the hotel and annex, the resort had

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twenty-two cottages and a Club House. Roop could accomodate two hundred guests, and they would enjoy up-to-date bathhouses, plunges, mud baths, and other appurtenances (The Valley Record, 27 May 1881; Gilroy Advocate, 5 September 1874:3, 17 February 1877:3, 20 September 1879:1; Gilroy Weekly Leader, 25 June 1875:3; Robert Thompson collection 1878, 1881).

Gilroyans both benefited from and took great pride in the Hot Springs. The local press exulted in the increasing number of visitors to the resort and praised, as the "spring of life which De Soto sought for in Florida," the "healing virtues" of its average 110°F water (Gilroy Advocate, 18 April, 1874:3 and 25 May 1872:3, 29 March 1873:4, 11 July 1874:2-3, 3 June 1876:3; The Valley Record, 13 August 1881 and 3 June 1887). A pamphlet celebrating "Gilroy as a Home" devoted three pages to describing and praising the resort as "the finest springs in the State" (Coffin 1873:31). The Advocate regularly reported on Hot Springs improvements, as well as counseled Roop to expand, provide the best possible facilities, and appeal to pleasure seekers as well as to invalids seeking the curative powers of the water. The prosperity of Gilroy, felt the newspaper, depended on its taking advantage of the Hot Springs. The resort was an important element in Gilroy's potential as a winter resort for San Franciscans and other people "seeking retirement from care" (28 February 1874:2, 24 April 1875:2, 9 November 1878:3). By the end of the 1870s, most Gilroyans probably agreed with the Advocate that the Hot Springs was "one of the most celebrated watering places in California" (21 June 1879:5; "The Gilroy Valley" 1886:4).

The last two decades of the nineteenth century were prosperous for Gilroy Hot Springs. Travel guides cited it, and advertisements regularly appeared in northern California newspapers. San Franciscans were alerted to Gilroy Hot Springs as early as 1875, and the resort soon became a favorite destination (Williams 1881:271, 274, 277; Chittenden 1884:174; Robert Thompson collection 1886; Knowlton [Joseph] Co.:1874-1875). Some visitors were quite notable. San Francisco voice teacher and singer Margaret Alverson Blake was a regular guest, and in 1878, she organized a musical festival at the Hot Springs to raise funds for San Francisco's Mercantile Library (Blake 1913:69-71, 130-136). In June 1885, Comstock Lode entrepreneur, Adolph Sutro, and future reform mayor of San Francisco, James Phelan, spent a week at the resort. During the 1890s, A. B. Spreckels was also among the notable guests to visit Gilroy Hot Springs (Robert Thompson collection 1884, 1895).

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In 1904, George Roop and his son, George B. Roop, turned over day-to-day operation of the resort to William J. McDonald and his wife, Emily. Under McDonald's management, Gilroy Hot Springs continued to flourish as a center for recreation and entertainment. The local press continued reporting on activities at the resort, as well as showing its appreciation of the Hot Spring's value to the community. For example, after the devastating April 1906 earthquake, the Gilroy Advocate took note of the fact that San Francisco's soon-to-be infamous mayor, Eugene Schmitz, along with Congressman Julian Kahn, Mayor Dunlap of Gilroy, and other local notables, stayed at the resort in July, dancing on Saturday night to Thiriet's Orchestra (28 July 1906). In 1914, the newspaper touted the resort's value in an editorial opposing a local prohibition measure on the June ballot. Observing that prohibiting liquor sales in unincorporated areas of the county would probably cut back on patronage at the resort, the editor wrote: "For over 30 years the Gilroy Hot Springs has been one of the principal assets to the trade of Gilroy, and has brought Gilroy before the country more than any other attraction." Guests at the resort were usually people of means, and their trade with local merchants was worth between \$18,000 to \$20,000 per year. Although probably not because of this one editorial, voters turned down the ordinance two weeks later (13 June 1914, 27 June 1914).

As had previous proprietors, the McDonalds made improvements to the Hot Springs. Around 1913, they supplemented an acetylene lighting system with a gasoline system, renovated the grounds, and both removed and replaced some of the older cottages, leaving a total of fifteen (Pamphlet ca. 1913). Their advertising noted that "thousands of marvelous cures have been effected by [the spring] waters in cases of Rheumatism, Gout, Lead and Mercurial poisoning, Alcoholism, Kidney and Liver troubles, Bladder and Urinary complaints," but they underscored that they were not running "a sanitarium." "Rheumatics coming here in a helpless condition must be accompanied by an attendant. THE WATERS ARE OF NO BENEFIT WHATEVER TO CONSUMPTIVES" (Pamphlet ca. 1915) Because existing bathtubs and plunges seemed to attract people seeking the spring water's medicinal value, the McDonalds added a swimming pool to better serve healthy visitors. In 1917, they opened a twenty- by sixty-foot, concrete lined swimming tank. Ten "gents" and eight "ladies" dressing rooms surrounded it, and soon Gilroyans began to undertake day visits just to enjoy the new bathing facilities (Gilroy Advocate, 27 January 1917:1, 28 April 1917:1, 26 April 1918:1).

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By 1919, automobile ownership in California was rising quickly, and, in July, the Advocate reported: "Gilroy Hot Springs is the haven of numerous auto parties these weekends" (26 July 1919:8). Not surprisingly, the roadway to the Hot Springs became an issue. Henry Hecker, the county supervisor representing the Gilroy area, often visited the Springs, and he took a personal interest in improving the county road. By May 1921, County Engineer Irving L. Ryder had a force of men cutting down the length of Gilroy Hot Springs Road and widening it so that it would "permit the passing of autos at almost any point" (Gilroy Advocate, 14 May 1921:1; Board of Supervisors, n.d.; Gilroy Museum 1925; Cooper 1925:289).

During the 1920s, the resort attracted the largest crowds in its history. Additional cottages were built, bringing the total to twenty-four, and the total number of registrants at the resort regularly surpassed three hundred in July and August. In 1923, 420 guests registered in July and 460 in August, and Sunday, July 5, 1925, brought a record of over five hundred revelers to the Hot Springs, McDonald turning away 133 people. The three-day Memorial Day holiday drew a sell-out crowd in 1924, and numerous groups visited the Hot Springs, including, for example, "a large delegation of the San Francisco Motorcycle Club" and the Gilroy High School Senior Class (Robert Thompson collection 1920; Gilroy Advocate, 17 May 1924:5, 24 May 1924:5, 21 June 1924:1, 26 July 1924:8, 25 April 1925, 11 July 1925:1). The resort hosted a variety of events: birthday and swimming parties, Saturday night dances, local service club socials, a masquerade ball, the county public health nurses's barbecue, an outing of the Coast County Lumber Dealers Association, and regular Thursday night poker games that drew notable Gilroyans. A special attraction of Gilroy Hot Springs--well known locally, but for which no documentation exists--was its ready stock of boot-leg liquor and slot machines (Gilroy Advocate, 9 July 1921:4, 16 July 1921:5, 24 September 1927:5, 3 August 1928:5, 21 September 1928:1, 30 May 1930:5; Gilroy Dispatch 1967).

During the early 1920s, the McDonalds acquired full title to the Hot Springs from George B. Roop and his wife, Maud, and brought William's sister, Mary Elizabeth, and her husband, Harry E. Maggard into the business. Then, unexpectedly and suddenly, in late-September, at the end of their most successful summer season, William died. Emily McDonald, with other family members and the Maggards, continued running the resort, but financial problems beset the operation. In the end, Emily failed to pay a promissory

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note due the Roops. They brought legal action, and, in September 1932, a foreclosure sale conveyed ownership of the Hot Springs to a trusteeship for the Roop's minor daughter, Florence (Recorders Office 1921, 1924, 1932, 1933; Superior Court, 1932; Gilroy Advocate, 26 September 1925:1, 28 December 1928:1).

On September 12, 1928, an article in the automobile section of the San Jose News headlined: "Gilroy Hot Springs Have Been Magnet of Valley for 60 Years." Yet, after McDonald's death, the number of guests diminished, slowly at first, then more quickly as the Great Depression impacted Californians. In 1932, A. A. Crabbe became the resort manager on behalf of Florence Roop, but things did not improve. In 1934, the postal service closed down the Gilroy Hot Springs Post Office. In 1935, the Southern Pacific Railroad ended its authorization of the auto stage running between Gilroy and the resort, a service which it had supported for many years. That year, only sixty-eight guests registered in July, fewer in than in any July since the 1860s. In March 1936, Florence Roop reached maturity, gained full title to the resort, announced plans to renovate the hotel for the 1937 season. She managed to sustained the some patronage through two years but, in September 1938, sold out (Gilroy Advocate, 5 August 1932:1, 6 April 1934:1, 28 February 1936:1; San Jose Mercury-Herald, 25 February 1937:11; Recorders Office 1936).

A Center for California's Japanese-Americans.

"Japanese Capitalist Buys Famed Gilroy Hot Springs Resort," announced the Gilroy Advocate on September 15, 1938. The L. and W. Land Company, controlled by (Harry) Kyuzaburo Sakata, a successful lettuce grower and shipper in nearby Watsonville, purchased the Hot Springs from Florence Roop. Sakata announced he would be investing \$50,000 in improvements, including building a tennis court, golf practice course, and a Japanese garden, the latter to be planned by Nagao Sakurai, the Imperial gardener from Tokyo, who helped design the Japanese exposition at San Francisco's World Fair Exposition at Treasure Island. He kept the Hot Springs open to the public, hired an "experienced manager" named Mrs. Tanaka, and by 1939 had installed Japanese style bathtubs for both men and women. Because Sakata also was prominent in activities of the Pajaro Valley Japanese Presbyterian Church, he opened the resort for Japanese Young People's

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conferences and other church activities. Within weeks of his purchasing the Hot Springs, almost all guests signing the resort register had Japanese names. Through the winter, between fifteen and thirty people registered each week, largely coming from Monterey, San Francisco, and Oakland, some from southern California and the Central Valley (Gilroy Advocate, 15 September 1938:1; Masaru Seido collection 1941a:6 and ca. 1938:12-13; San Jose Mercury-Herald, 14 September 1938:1, 10 October 1938:7; Robert Thompson collection 1920; California State Archives 1918).

Sakata's ownership of Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs symbolized, on various levels, the Japanese-American experience in the United States. Unlike some immigrant groups to America that chose to withdraw to separate cultural enclaves in the face of discrimination, Japanese immigrants persistently struggled against exclusion from full equality in American society, while at the same time retaining their own cultural traditions and pride. When oppressed by low wages and high rents, they resisted with their own agricultural cooperatives and living arrangements. They combated discrimination by forming Japanese language schools, organizing churches, and holding festivals to celebrate traditional Japanese holidays. When white Californians enacted the Alien Land Law Act in the 1913, legislation aimed at preventing Japanese immigrants from owning or leasing land, Japanese-Americans successfully bypassed it. By the 1930s, their struggle for full inclusion in American life seemed, in some ways, to have paid off. Despite the Great Depression, many Japanese-Americans, like Kyuzaburo Sakata, were economically successful, and Nisei (American-born, second-generation Japanese) were well acculturated to European-American society (Lukes and Okihiro 1985).

Yet, Japanese-Americans, particularly those who immigrated from Japan, the Issei, continued to feel strong ties to their homeland and culture. Sakata himself came from the Wakayama Prefecture, near Osaka, Japan, an area known for its hot springs, and he envisioned Gilroy Hot Springs as "ideal for aging issei to take a rest physically and mentally" (Masaru Seido collection 1941a:7, 1941b:14). By acquiring the resort and renaming it Gilroy Yamato [Japanese] Hot Springs, he provided Japanese-Americans throughout California with a health, recreation, and entertainment center that tapped into strongly felt cultural tradition. The "prelude" of the advertising booklet he published soon after World War II particularly captured this: "We, Japanese," it began, "have special sentimental attachment to Hot Springs." Bathing and

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soaking in hot springs was an active part of Japanese life that also represented Japanese appreciation and enjoyment of nature. "Americans of Japanese ancestry became sentimental recalling their mother land by dipping into [Gilroy] Hot Springs" (Masaru Seido collection ca. 1945). In 1939, an Issei visitor to the Hot Springs also expressed this: "Growing up in Japan, we have nurtured a longing for a hot spring since our childhood. We are proud of having added to our community a hot spring resort, though only one." (Masaru Seido collection ca. 1939).

As the only Japanese-American owned hot springs resort in California, Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs quickly became a focal point for Japanese-Americans who, despite their struggle for inclusion in American society, desired a traditional and culturally comfortable hot springs experience. "It is hard to watch Japanese people being expelled from wherever they go," wrote one visitor in 1939. "Only here in Yamato Hot Springs, Japanese people can put on yukata [traditional robes] and make themselves feel at home" (Masaru Seido collection 1939b:5). Keiji Kameno, from Fresno, endorsed this view: "It would be impossible to enjoy the comfort of wearing Japanese yukata and geta [traditional wooden clogs] in hot springs managed by Americans" (Masaru Seido collection 1939a:3). But, Jinichiro Abe, from Sacramento, in calling Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs "a world of our own," underlined the profundity of feelings inherent in the fact of Japanese-American ownership:

I believe that it is not only me who, like it or not, feels an indefinable sense of oppression in everyday life. This oppressive feeling deepens especially in public places such as American hotels, restaurants, swimming pools, entertainment centers or hot springs. In addition, it is not rare that, although often paying more than others, we are treated as a nuisance. Generally, hot springs managed by Americans welcome us only during the winter when the number of customers decreases, but during the summer when their business is good, they treat us coldly. What kind of rest can we take when we are received coldly and feel unpleasant? What kind of vacation is it? (Masaru Seido collection 1941b:18-19.)

Perhaps Abe had visited Mono Hot Springs, near Southern California Edison's Big Creek hydroelectric project in the southern Sierra Nevada. It was popular among Japanese-Americans during the late-1930s, and the Caucasian attitude, as reported by David Redinger, was that "they really took over the

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place. Whole families moved in and remained for the season; consequently, it was not so popular with other campers during that period" (Redinger:74; Rose:95). The dull throb of daily discrimination was everywhere. Even at Gilroy Hot Springs, before Sakata acquired the property, it seems to have been the rule. In 1941, Hiroshi Ryokaku wrote somewhat bitterly that Japanese-Americans previously felt unwelcome there: "under the previous management, puny legged white people frowned upon Japanese tourists and preferred nothing to do with us" (Masaru Seido collection 1941c:2).

Ironically, under Sakata's proprietorship, although "a Japanese atmosphere took over, erasing the traces of American origin, . . . that did not mean the disappearance of American guests." Caucasians may no longer have registered as overnight guests, but they continued to be day visitors. In 1939, a Japanese-American visitor noted the pool "was almost exclusively filled with Americans enjoying swimming. Yukata-wearing Japanese in the bleachers looked upon those Americans in the pool. This was a really funny spectacle." The Japanese visitor went on to say that "Japanese guests have an idea that they own this resort. As a result they are not constrained and can enjoy themselves. Americans seem to feel friendly toward Japanese people just be seeing us act naturally. This resort cultivates in silence friendly relations between America and Japan" (Masaru Seido collection 1939b:4-5).

Having a hot springs resort that they could call their own was an important part of the Japanese-American experience in California during the late-1930s. Keiji Kamen, from Fresno, wrote in 1939 that lying down after a bath the sound of the surrounding natural environment led him to feel very sentimental: "It was the very first time in my life of more than thirty years in America that I relished the sound of rain and the singing of crickets: It enabled me to yearn for my beloved old home" (Masaru Seido collection 1939a:3). In 1941, Abe, from Sacramento, wrote that he experienced "the illusion that I am relaxing in a rural hot spring located in a secluded ravine in Japan." He said, for people who might object to his suggesting that there could exist such "a place rich with Japanese mood in wild California, . . . "Yes, come to Yamato Hot Springs in Gilroy" (Masaru Seido collection 1941b:17, 14).

Sei Mitani, in a long article about the resort that appeared in the May 8, 1941, Los Angeles Japan Times, suggested he had found his "spiritual hometown in Yamato Hot Springs." Reminding him of Mt. Yoshino in the Nara

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area near Wakayama and other Japanese mountains, he wrote about the spiritual importance of Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs for Japanese-Americans. "The spirit of the Japanese people derives from the purity of their minds," he said. "Being clean and pure is the essence of the national spirit. If this spirit disappears, Japanese people will also disappear from the North American Continent." He suggested, therefore, that the Hot Springs was a gift to Japanese-Americans from Kyuzaburo Sakata, and they had a responsibility to "protect the pureness of the hot spring given by Mother Nature and make this a place to revive the Japanese spirit among our fellow countrymen along the Pacific coast" (Masaru Seido collection 1941a:7, 9, 11).

In 1940, Kisuke Yamada, a seaweed wholesaler and leading merchant from the Asakusa part of Tokyo, visited the Hot Springs and built a Buddhist Shrine there (Masaru Seido collection 1941b:15). Calling it "the North American Shrine," Mitani said the Imperial Rescript on Education, issued in 1890 in the name of the Meiji Emperor, was to be enshrined there as well. The approximately two-hundred-word long Rescript guided the conduct of Japanese at home and abroad, reinforcing in them a deep sense of racial and national pride and of conjugal harmony and family life. For Mitani it was not just "auspicious words from the great Emperor Meiji but also the eternal truth of heaven and earth given by our ancestral gods enshrined far away. . . . If we abide by the spirit of the Imperial Rescript and make it the law to govern our daily living, we will be eventually welcomed in American as respectable and virtuous citizens." At Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs, he said, "the North American Shrine will wait for you as your spiritual hometown. . . . [a] sacred place to purify and sanctify our family life and thus fulfill our mission for the further development of our race." By faithfully realizing the teaching of the Rescript "in our everyday life," both Issei and Nisei could fulfill "the most important mission given to us . . . and make the Japanese family life as a model for American family life" (Masaru Seido collection 1941a:9-11; Masakazu:4-6).

In fact, it appears that Sakata found some of this a bit awkward. Salvation Army Captain Masuo Kitaji (1897-1973), leader of the Oakland and San Jose Japanese Corps of the Salvation Army before World War II and postwar manager of the resort, recalled that "Mr. Sakata was a good Christian man," committed equally to his beliefs and to his Japanese-American countrymen. Because many Japanese-Americans were Buddhists, Sakata often found himself torn between his religious beliefs and his people. "Ninety-nine percent of old

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people were Buddhists," said Kitaji. "Everynight they want gambling. No good" (San Jose News-Herald 1972). And, they drank as well, although Sakata opposed it and welcomed guests who sought to overcome problems with liquor. Indeed, Kisuke Yamada apparently came to the Hot Springs with a drinking problem and built the Buddhist Shrine as a memorial to his personal victory. While Mitano praised the presence of the shrine, Sakata actually opposed having a temple on the grounds but felt he could not refuse Yamada. He did, however, insist that Yamada locate it up the hill, some distance from the cottages above the hotel (Interview 1994a).

In addition to running the Hot Springs as a resort, Sakata also offered Japanese-American friends and acquaintances the opportunity to pick out a spot on the property and build their own cabin, with the understanding that they could occupy the land as long as he owned it. In 1939, he made a verbal agreement with a San Francisco transport company owner named Fujii who built a house which Sakata took over after World War II, and with Ichizo Shikano and Sadakusu Enomoto. Shikano was a flower grower from Centerville (now Fremont, north of San Jose), who specialized in sweet peas and chrysanthemums. He chose a site a few hundred feet south of the hotel and had plans drawn for a small cabin by Hachi Yuasa, a graduate student at U.C. Berkeley's architecture school. Shikano bought his building materials in Centerville, gathered stone for a fireplace, chimney, and retaining wall from the creekbed below his building site, and constructed his cabin over the winter of 1939-1940. His family used it for vacations, their last visit on December 7, 1941. They did not return after the war. When Sakata finally sold the Hot Springs in the 1964, he compensated them for the cost of materials they had purchased for the cabin (Interview 1994a, 1994b, Masaru Seido collection 1941b:16).

Sadaskusu Enomoto owned a nursery in Redwood City. Around 1938, he chose a site north of the spring and bathhouses to build, and one of his nursery employees, a carpenter named Fujio Matsuyama, designed and built a cabin with two bedrooms separated by a kitchen. On a precipice overlooking Coyote Creek, Matsuyama also constructed a redwood tea house. Enomoto brought his family to the Hot Springs until the war began, and again in the years following the war. His son, John, who regularly brought his own children to the cabin during the 1950s and early 1960s, remembers that his father and mother often would take dinner with Sakata in the "dining room," located in the Club House. As a boy and later when he had his own family with him, John never joined his elders for dinner (Interview 1994c).

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Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, American wartime fears and ethnocentrism engendered the greatest of oppressions against Japanese-Americans: their removal to internment camps and, in most cases, the loss of their property (Lukes and Okihiro 1985). As elsewhere in California, little was said openly, at the time, about the removal of Japanese-Americans in and around Gilroy from their homes. According to the Gilroy Advocate, 550 Japanese-Americans, about 400 of them Nisei, resided in the Gilroy area in 1942. Comprising about 13 percent of the Japanese-American population of Santa Clara County, they had been in the community for some years. They operated about forty-three farms in the area, some as tenants and some as owners. Some were quite successful, like Kiyarshi (James) Hirasaki, age 52, one of the largest garlic farmers in California. In early 1942, the Advocate, in three brief mentions, noted the size of the local Japanese-American population, indicated businesses owned or operated by them, and reported on Japanese and other aliens in the community. In a fourth report, the newspaper reported perfunctorily that gun shots fired into a Japanese-American home on New Years Eve had injured an adult and ten year old child. Then, on May 28, it reported simply that all Japanese in the Gilroy district had been removed the week before and taken to a reception center in Salinas (8 January 1942, 29 January 1942, 26 February 1942, 12 March 1942, 28 May 1942.)

From 1942 until 1945, Gilroy's Japanese-Americans, along with some sixty thousand other Japanese-Americans who lived in California, were held isolated camps far from their homes and, in most cases, their state. Almost all accepted relocation simply because the government of their nation asked them to do it. Their sons joined the military; they remained patriotic Americans. They continued striving for inclusion in American society, even as they experienced the worst possible exclusion. And, when they returned, they sought to heal the wounds inflicted on both themselves and their nation (Houston and Houston, 1973).

In the prelude to Kyuzaburo Sakata's postwar advertising booklet for Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs, one senses the Japanese-American struggle, their wounds, and their healing. Sakata invited his fellow Japanese-Americans to join him in "the blessing nature created in Hot Springs in our search for the power of healing." The springs were "once a place to cure illnesses and a place to rest souls. It was a peaceful rehabilitation." It should be again. Once more, "it is a place to refresh the body and soul and to prepare for

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life's real challenges." "Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs is the ideal place to satisfy all of these conditions and the very place of nature's grace." Sakata wanted "to build a recreation center with aesthetic Japanese sentiment and long to preserve our pride in the U.S.A. as a race of Japanese," and to that end he offered his resort to his people and to his country, both before and after the war (Masaru Seido collection ca. 1945).

Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor and before he and other Japanese-Americans were forceably evacuated from their homes, Sakata offered to donate the Hot Springs to the U.S. Army as a rehabilitation center for wounded servicemen. The government turned him down, on the grounds that the property was too hilly, and Caucasian partners in the L. W. Land Company watched over the Hot Springs until Sakata returned after the war. In September 1945, Sakata asked for and got the War Relocation Authority and the Presbyterian Home Mission Board to jointly sponsor use of the Hot Springs as a hostel for Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, San Benito, and Monterey county Japanese-American servicemen, ex-servicemen, and families returning from concentration camps. The WRA provided equipment necessary to house up to 150 people in the hotel and cottages. Advertisements and announcements about the hostel were placed in Japanese language newspapers and special reports issued by the Salvation Army and Presbyterian Church. Every Sunday, from San Francisco, the hostel provided guests with automobile transportation (Masaru Seido collection ca. 1945, 1945a, 1945b; San Jose News-Herald 1972; Gilroy Dispatch 1973).

In July 1946, Sakata reopened the Hot Springs for regular business, advertising in the Gilroy Dispatch. During the next few years, he raised some funds by selling 158 acres of the property to rancher Frank Coit and hired Henry Kato and Masaaki Kato, no relation, to manage the resort. The guests continued primarily to be Japanese-Americans, and they came from every corner of California to enjoy wearing yukata and geta in the special comfort of Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs. As the 1950s unfolded more Caucasians came, and overall attendance climbed, the number of guests reaching two hundred and more during July, August, and September. Church groups also met at the resort, such as conferences of members of the National Mission Staff of the Presebyterian Church working in the north coastal region of California. He replaced the hotel's mud sill foundation with cement, replaced the last original bathhouse in 1950 with a concrete brick one that incorporated the tile from the 1939 Japanese pavilion at the World Fair

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held on Treasure Island in traditional men's and women's Japanese soaking tubs, and, in September 1955, opened a new thirty- by sixty-foot swimming pool, with changing rooms, an adjacent barbecue area, and a bamboo forest that shielded it from the back of the hotel. In addition picnicking, swimming, and soaking in the baths, visitors could rent horses for riding or lessons. Eighteen of the cottages were open to guests, each now equipped for housekeeping with butane cooking and heating stoves (Recorders Office 1951; Masaru Seido collection n.d., 1948, 1953, 1955:22; Robert Thompson collection 1955a, 1955b, ca. 1955a, ca. 1955b, ca. 1955c, ca. 1955d; Gilroy Dispatch 1946:3; San Jose Mercury News 1960:1 and 4; Interview 1994a).

Sakata's use of butane stoves undid his efforts to maintain the Hot Springs resort. In the late 1950s, two people were gassed to death in a Santa Cruz motel because of a faulty butane heater. A subsequent statewide inspection of public accommodations using butane followed. When the Hot Springs were inspected, state officials told Sakata that he would have to modify the heating systems in the cottages. According to Kitaji, the state insisted the job had to be done on all the cottages at once. Since this was beyond Sakata's means, he locked up the cabins. Day use of the pool, barbecue area, and baths continued, but Sakata finally decided to sell out. In March 1964, Philip S. Grimes, a landscape architect and contractor from Portola Valley, his wife Marcia and Boyd C. and Jill Johnson Smith bought the Hot Springs, excepting the "Sakata cabin," standing just on the hill above the new pool and old hotel. Nine months later, Grimes organized the Gilroy Hot Springs Limited Partnership, to which he and Smith transferred the resort (San Jose News-Herald 1972; Records Office 1965a, 1965b)

Between 1964 and 1988, Grimes's Gilroy Hot Springs Limited Partnership used the facilities as their own private resort. In September 1980, a fire, allegedly started by vandals, consumed the hotel, Club House, four cottages, and the ca. 1939 Sakata house (built by Mr. Fujii). In 1988, Grimes and his partners sold the Hot Springs to Fukuyama International, Inc., which launched plans to rehabilitate Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs as a Japanese-American cultural and recreational center (Gilroy Dispatch, 1980:1; San Jose Mercury News, 1988:2B). This effort is currently underway.

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Interview (continued)

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Masaru Seido collection (continued)

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Robert Thompson collection (continued)

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Verbal Boundary Description.

Gilroy Hot Springs Resort is located twelve miles northeast of Gilroy, CA. The actual resort site covers approximately eight acres of land. The proposed nomination boundaries are indicated by solid pencil lines on the accompanying base map, USGS Gilroy Hot Springs, Calif., 1978.

Boundary Justification.

The proposed boundaries for the National Register nomination for Gilroy Hot Springs, described above, represents the area of land containing the historic buildings and structures. The north boundary is just beyond the northern edge of the Enomoto house, the south just beyond the southern edge of the Shikano house, the east boundary parallels Coyote Creek, and the west boundary follows the canyon slope just past the western edge of the Buddhist Shrine. The boundaries are in accordance with those established by Archaeological Site Record CA-SCL-691H.

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(Except where noted the information for items 1 through 5 are the same for all photographs listed.)

- #1
  - 1. Gilroy Hot Springs Resort
  - 2. 12 mi. northeast of Gilroy, CA
  - 3. Unknown
  - 4. ca. 1913
  - 5. Gilroy Historical Society, Gilroy, CA
  - 6. Bird's eye view of Gilroy Hot Springs looking west from the east side of Coyote Creek. Note the finger ridge cabins in the right foreground, and the "open air cottages" behind the hotel just left of center.
  - 7. Photograph #1 of 37
  
- #2.
  - 6. Looking east from the hillside west of the bath house area. Note kiosk in right foreground with cabin MN directly above it. Old bathhouse is at extreme left center. Men and women's facilities are in the center of the image.
  - 7. Photograph #2 of 37
  
- #3
  - 6. Looking southwest from current parking area at group of small "open air" cabins.
  - 7. Photograph #3 of 37
  
- #4
  - 4. ca. 1925
  - 6. Looking northeast from bathhouse road at the southern end of cabin LA.
  - 7. Photograph #4 of 37
  
- #5
  - 3. Kent L. Seavey
  - 4. 1994
  - 5. Gilroy Hot Springs Resort, Gilroy, CA
  - 6. Looking east from bathhouse road towards southwest facade of ca. 1877 cabin MN. Note that the original six-over-six wood sash windows on the northwest side have been replaced by plexiglass and stored because of vandalism.
  - 7. Photograph #5 of 37
  
- #6
  - 6. Looking southeast from northwest end of contributing 1917 concrete mineral water pool.
  - 7. Photograph #6 of 37

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- #7 6. Looking west from bathhouse road towards the wood ca. 1892 kiosk covering the hot springs source.  
7. Photograph #7 of 37
- #8 6. Looking a little northeast from the southwest slope of the finger ridge at cabin CA, constructed ca. 1913.  
7. Photograph #8 of 37
- #9 6. Looking northeast at the southwest side of cabin NV. Note loss of raised full width open front porch. Constructed ca. 1913.  
7. Photograph #9 of 37
- #10 6. Looking northeast at the southwest side of cabin OR, constructed ca. 1913.  
7. Photograph #10 of 37
- #11 6. Looking northeast at the southwest side of cabin WA (left) and OR (right), both constructed ca. 1913. Note loss to vandalism of shed roofed porch and missing window and door.  
7. Photograph #11 of 37
- #12 6. Looking northwest at the southeast side of cabin OH from slope of finger ridge. Note visible post-on-grade foundation center foreground.  
7. Photograph #12 of 37
- #13 6. Looking northeast at south side of ca. 1910 concrete cistern along finger ridge. Two cabins are visible at right.  
7. Photograph #13 of 37
- #14 6. Looking north at the southwest side of cabin PA, constructed ca. 1924.  
7. Photograph #14 of 37
- #15 6. Looking west at the southeast elevation of cabin PA. Note the lower gabled porch roof with its vertical wooden battens.  
7. Photograph #15 of 37
- #16 6. Looking southeast from the bathhouse road at the west side elevation of cabin LA, constructed ca. 1924.  
7. Photograph #16 of 37

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- #17 6. Looking southeast from the bathhouse road at the west side elevation of cabin TX. Note that this is a double cabin with four bedrooms.  
7. Photograph #17 of 37
- #18 6. Looking northwest at the southeast side elevation of cabin MO, constructed ca. 1913. The 1945 Kitaji residence is visible to right. Note effects of vandalism.  
7. Photograph #18 of 37
- #19 6. Looking northwest at the southeast side and east end elevations of cabin WY, constructed ca.1913. Note mullion in east end window.  
7. Photograph #19 of 37
- #20 6. Looking north at the southeast side elevation of cabin NE, constructed ca. 1913.  
7. Photograph #20 of 37
- #21 6. Looking northeast from hillside at the west side and south end elevations of the Shikano family cabin, constructed ca. 1939. Note interesting offset to meet physical constraints of site.  
7. Photograph #21 of 37
- #22 6. Looking north at the south side elevation of the ca. 1939 Buddhist shrine. Note loss of the wooden deck that surrounded the feature on three sides. All the framing members, are still on site.  
7. Photograph #22 of 37
- #23 6. Looking southwest from a hillside at the northeast end and southeast front elevations of the Enomoto family cabin, constructed ca. 1939. Note the aluminum sliding windows that replaced the original wood sash.  
7. Photograph #23 of 37
- #24 6. Looking southwest from the bathhouse road at the east and north elevations of the Enomoto family tea house.  
7. Photograph #24 of 37
- #25 6. Looking southeast, down-slope at the ca. 1910 (left) and 1954 (right) redwood water storage tanks, about twenty feet southwest of cabin PA.  
7. Photograph #25 of 37

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- #26 6. Looking northwest from the bathhouse road towards the southeast side of the ca. 1892 wood bathhouse. Note deteriorated condition.  
7. Photograph #26 of 37
- #27 6. Looking northwest from the bathhouse road toward the southeast end and southwest side elevation of the 1950 concrete brick bathhouse.  
7. Photograph #27 of 37
- #28 6. Looking easterly at the north side and west elevations of the ca. 1913 generator house. Note early stone foundations below left corner of building. Photo taken from the bathhouse road.  
7. Photograph #28 of 37
- #29 6. Looking southeast from the bathhouse road towards the modern hot tub and wooden deck, about twenty-five feet north of the ca. 1950 bathhouse.  
7. Photograph #29 of 37
- #30 6. Looking north from a hillside at the south side of a 1954 redwood water storage tank, about twenty-five feet southeast of cabin WY.  
7. Photograph #30 of 37
- #31 6. Looking northwest from a hillside at the southeast side of a 1954 redwood water storage tank, just west of cabin WY.  
7. Photograph #31 of 37
- #32 6. Looking east from up-slope at the west side of Masuo Kitaji's residence. Note the end gable of cabin ID at the extreme left of the deteriorated ramshackle building.  
7. Photograph #32 of 37
- #33 6. Looking west across the 1956 freshwater swimming pool towards the east side elevation of the concrete block dressing rooms. Photo taken the main access road.  
7. Photograph #33 of 37
- #34 6. Looking northwest at the southeast facade of the 1956 concrete block restroom, about twenty-five feet southeast of the freshwater pool.  
7. Photograph #34 of 37

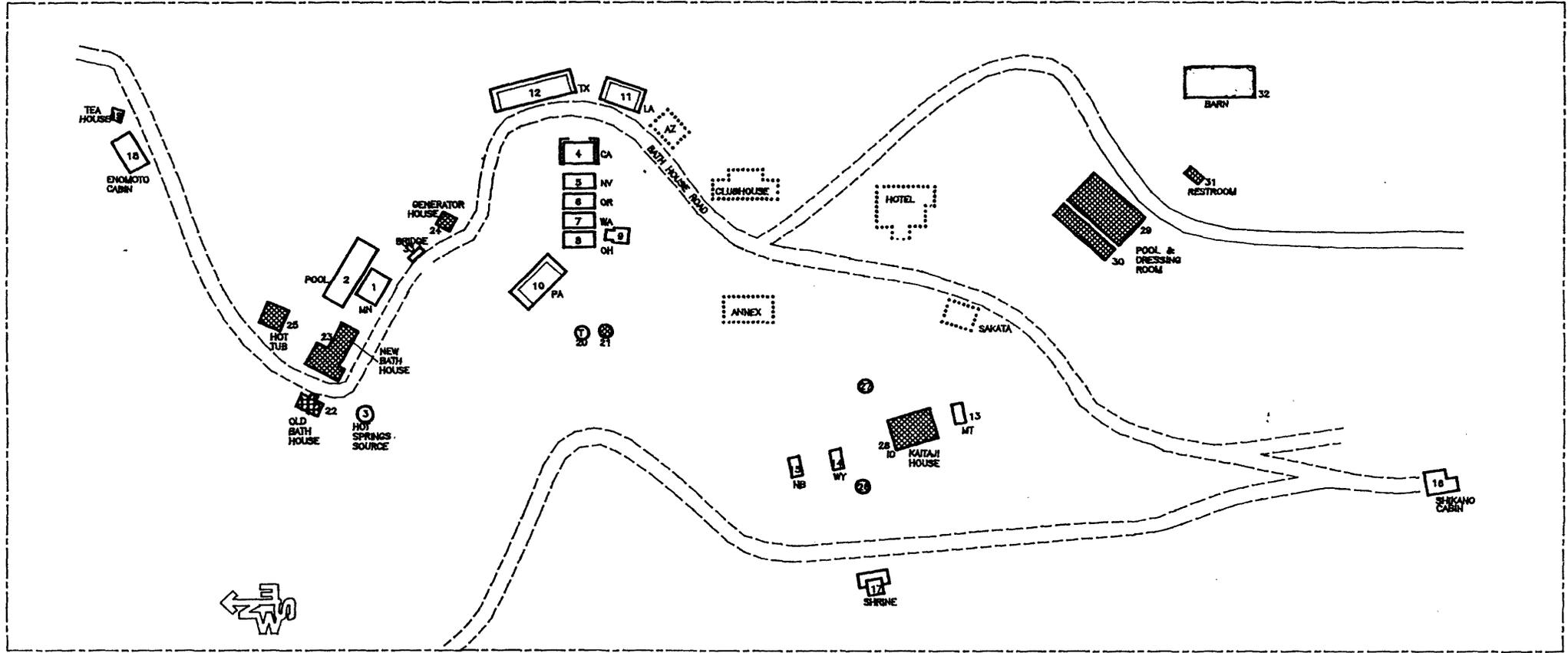
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

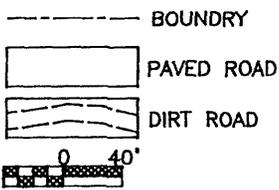
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- #35 6. Looking southeast at the northwest end elevation and roof of an undated wood framed livestock barn. The barn may date to ca. 1913 or 1924 but has been altered over time.
- 7. Photograph #35 of 37
  
- #36 6. Looking east from the bathhouse road at a decorative Japanese wood bridge. Note generator house to right.
- 7. Photograph #36 of 37
  
- #37 3. James C. Williams
- 4. 1979
- 6. Looking generally west at the east elevation of the kiosk covering the water source for Gilroy Hot Springs. Note finial still in place and slightly different configuration of concrete cap. The kiosk appears the same in illustrations in Sakata's 1945 pamphlet.

COYOTE CREEK

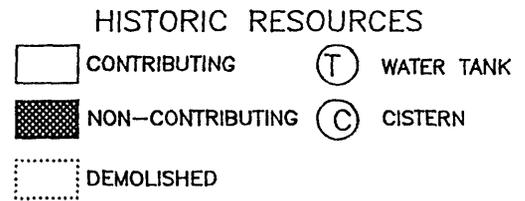


# GILROY HOT SPRINGS, VICINITY GILROY, CALIFORNIA

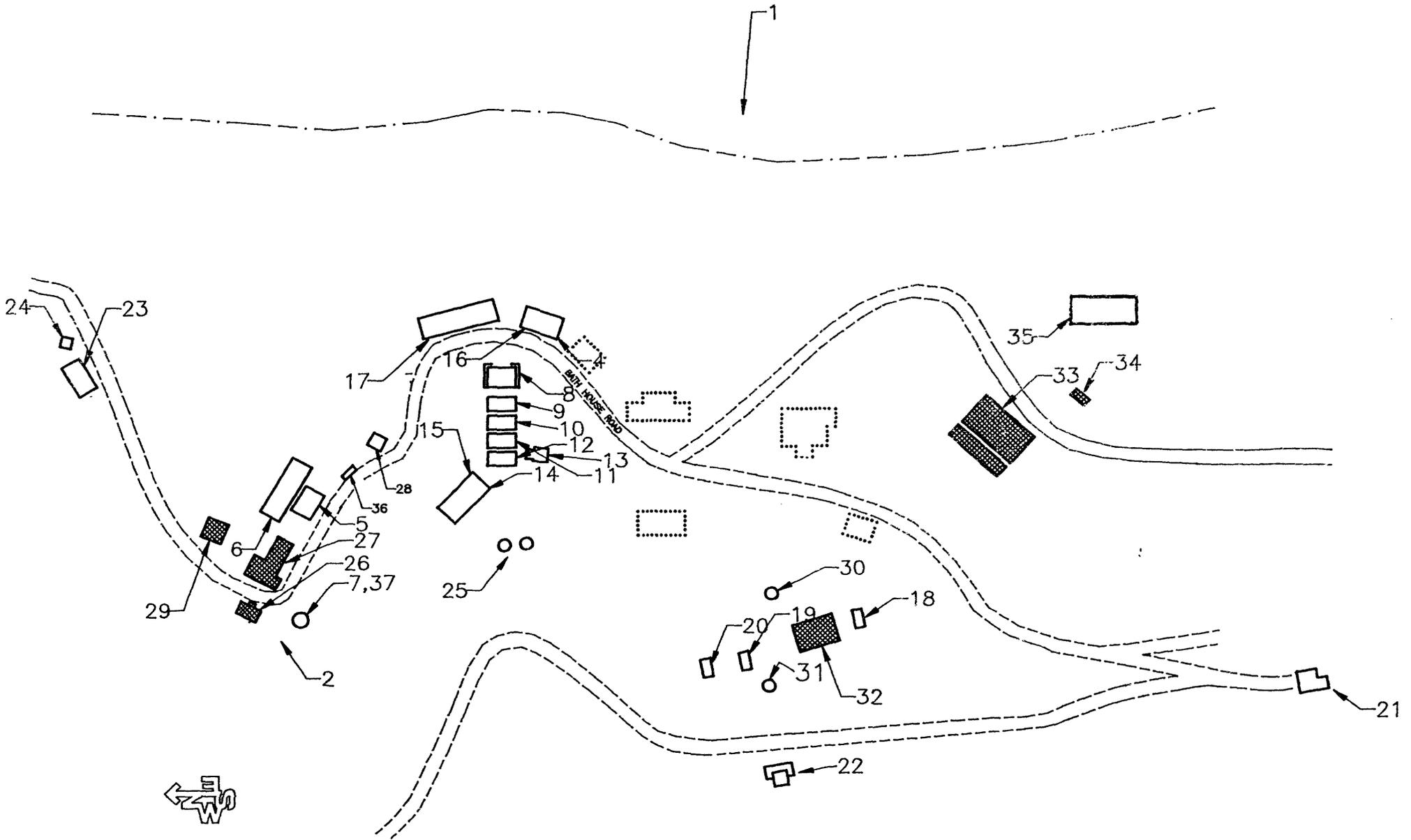


SKETCH MAP

NOTE: BOUNDARY LINES NOT TO SCALE. SEE SECTION 10 FOR PRECISE BOUNDARIES



Santa Clara County



**GILROY HOT SPRINGS, VICINITY GILROY, CALIFORNIA**

*Santa Clara County*

PHOTOGRAPHIC KEY

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

**NRIS Reference Number: 95000996**

**Date Listed: 8/21/95**

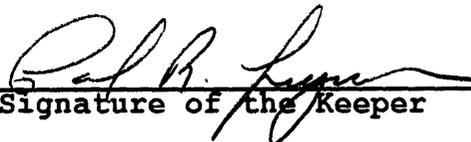
Gilroy Yamato Hot Springs  
**Property Name**

Santa Clara  
**County**

CA  
**State**

N/A  
**Multiple Name**

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
Signature of the Keeper

8/21/95  
Date of Action

**Amended Items in Nomination:**

**Significance:**

The box for Cultural Affiliation is completed only if Criterion D is marked on the form [NR Bulletin 16A p.44]. Since this nomination is listed under Criterion A only, the term Japanese-Americans is deleted.

This information was confirmed with Cynthia Howse of the California SHPO.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)