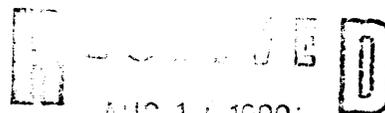


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Wheeler Hospital  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 650 Fifth Street  not for publication  
city, town Gilroy  vicinity  
state California code CA county Santa Clara code 085 zip code 95020

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: NA  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Kathryn Gualtieri \_\_\_\_\_ Date 8-8-90  
Signature of certifying official

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 \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet. 9/13/90

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

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

[Signature] \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Health Care: Hospital  
Health Care: Medical Business/Offices

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Health Care: Medical Business/Offices

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival  
Other: Mediterranean Revival  
(Spanish Eclectic)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete  
walls Stucco  
roof Terra Cotta Tile  
other Ceramic Tile

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Wheeler Hospital is an "H"-shaped reinforced concrete Mediterranean Revival building constructed in 1929 with hipped tile roofs, stucco siding, and ceramic tile and wrought iron decoration on the front elevation. The central portion of the building is two stories with a second story recessed loggia over the double arched and tiled raised entry. The wings are single story with single, double, and triple windows with turned wood mullions. The exterior is unaltered except for the plywood covered windows, doors, and transoms applied in 1989. On the interior changes include the removal of some walls.

The 1929 Wheeler Hospital is a 10,144-square-foot medical building which shares its 3.74-acre city block with a new hospital completed in 1962. The Mediterranean Revival (Spanish Eclectic) style hospital building was designed by noted California architect William H. Weeks in 1928 and is typical of the symmetrical Mediterranean villa style used by Weeks in Gilroy from 1921 to 1934. The building is constructed on an "H" ground plan with a width of five structural units and including a second story above the center section. Included in the concrete foundation is a partial basement which houses the furnace and water heaters. The exterior has stucco walls, and the low-pitched hipped roofs are covered with straight barrel mission tiles, regularly laid.

The east wing of the ground plan has major and minor surgery suites, an emergency room, a dining room, and the main kitchen. Maternity and the nursery, private patient rooms, and a visitors' room are located in the west wing. Male and female surgical patients were roomed on the east and west sides of the central two-story section. The lower portion of the central section has the main entrance (vestibule and lobby), offices, and a stairway to the second floor. The upper floor, of approximately 1,300 square feet, was originally the nurses' quarters and consists of five bedrooms, two fully tiled baths, and a sitting room with a balcony over the main entrance. There were 22 patient rooms, all with toilet and many with full baths. Each patient station was also equipped with built-in radio with earphones and nurses call button, a new innovation and the only hospital in the state to be so equipped.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

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The exterior walls of this building are stucco with beautiful ceramic tile decorations on the north side of the building, under the windows. Interior walls are painted lath and plaster with sanitary wainscoting up three feet, except in the maternity department and the surgery areas where the walls are completely covered with ceramic tile. All wood in the building is redwood of full dimension or better.

All sections of the building have low-pitched hipped roofs, and all roof areas are covered with terra cotta straight barrel mission-style tiles, regularly laid.

The building sits on a reinforced concrete foundation with a partial basement which houses the furnace (originally coal, now gas) and the water heaters. A portion of the basement is now used for record storage and has been equipped with shelves for that purpose.

Exterior features include a roofed balcony on the second story over the entrance. All windows are double-hung with three elongated panels in each half. Windows are singular, double, or triple in arrangement with turned posts between each window in the triple arrangements. On the north side, the triple window arrangements have ceramic tile bands above and below each set. Half-size, double-hung windows are covered with Spanish, almost Moorish, wrought iron grilles. Second story windows on the north side also have decorative wrought iron balconies. The windows on the other three sides are placed according to the use of the interior space and are almost symmetrical.

The central entrance to the building, on the north side, has two segmental arches framed in ceramic tile with two sets of double doors. These doors are wood frame with eight plate-glass panels in each. A second set of identical doors sits across a three-foot wide tiled entry vestibule. The arch is carried out on the east and west sides where a single set of double, eight-panel doors sit under a fan window, and open into the central hall which runs through the length of the building. Each side elevation also has a single, solid door near the north side which provided entrance to the visitors' waiting room in the west wing and a doctors' entrance to the surgical suites in the east wing. The rear center double doors are wood frame with four plate-glass panels in the upper half of each one. The side and rear doors are covered by double, wood-frame screen doors. On the rear of each wing, a single, wood door with a single glass panel in the upper half opens from the kitchen on the east wing and from the maternity department on the west wing.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

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A chimney from the furnace that runs up the east side of the building is red brick covered with decorative stucco work and is incorporated into the slope where it emerges from the roof. It is topped by a metal plate supported by a short cylindrical column at each corner.

All flooring is linoleum over wood except in the surgery suites and maternity where the floors are tile. The baths in the rooms and in the nurses' quarters have tiled floors and walls up to four feet.

Some walls in the patient room area to the east of the central section have been removed to allow large open spaces for storage of records and X-ray films. The exterior appearance has not been changed at all except for recent covering of the windows in the areas not being used, for glass protection. A majority of the windows, some doors, and all transoms were covered in August of 1989 after the building was vacated except for some offices in the center section. Quarter-inch plywood was cut to fit all door, window, and transom openings. The plywood will be removed when the planned renovation on the site is completed.

Also located on this 3.74-acre city block is the newer unit of the hospital, completed in 1962. A corrugated metal awning-style roof covers a walkway from the center rear of the 1929 building to the 1962 building on the south side of the block. The walkway roof has been in place since 1962 but will be removed when renovation of the site for ambulatory senior housing is begun.

The remainder of the city block includes a parking lot in front of the 1962 building, a parking lot on the west side of the original building, and another on the south and east sides of the original building. Appropriate landscaping includes large redwood trees, oaks, olives, and other large trees and shrubs planted in 1929, as well as lawn running the full length of the block on Fifth Street.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

 nationally     statewide     locallyApplicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1929  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1929  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

NA  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

NA  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Weeks, William Henry  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

The Wheeler Hospital is significant in the architectural history of Gilroy under Criterion C as the work of a master, William Weeks. Weeks was a prolific architect who worked successfully in many styles during his long career. He designed 20 known buildings in various styles in Gilroy during the years 1894 and 1934, but after 1920 he worked almost exclusively in the Mediterranean Revival style. The Wheeler Hospital is highly reflective of Weeks' mature work in Gilroy. The building exhibits the major characteristics of the Mediterranean Revival style and illustrates Weeks' beautiful sense of design, shape, and proportion.

Between 1892 and 1936, California was greatly enriched by the architectural designs of William H. Weeks. By 1915 over 1,000 buildings were to his credit, and he would continue to design over 1,000 more before his death in 1936. Tired of "dressing up" Mission Revival style, W. H. Weeks was most impressed by the work of Bertram Goodhue in the Mediterranean Revival (Spanish Eclectic) style at the 1915 Panama-California Exposition in San Diego. Mediterranean Revival offered Weeks and other California architects a richness of design and detail not found in previous styles of the 19th century. By 1920, William Weeks had nearly perfected his use of this style and began to incorporate it in his commissions. The collection of Weeks' designs and styles in the Gilroy area are representative of the work of this prolific architect throughout his career and most specifically in the last 15 years of his life.

For 40 years, from 1894 to 1934, William H. Weeks designed 20 known buildings in the Gilroy area which incorporate all the major architectural styles he used throughout California during the same period. Weeks' designs and styles in the Gilroy area include:

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Gilroy Advocate: Aug. 14, Oct. 16, Dec. 4, 1926  
Jan. 8, June 11, July 30, Nov. 18, Nov. 25, 1927  
Jan. 27, Feb. 3, Mar. 2, Mar. 16, May 25, July 27, Aug. 24,  
Dec. 21, 1928  
Jan. 4, Jan. 18, July 19, July 26, Aug. 2, 1929  
July 24, 1931  
Mar. 25, 1932  
Gilroy Dispatch: May 3, May 4, 1962  
July 10, 1969  
July 27, 1989  
Lewis, Betty, W. H. Weeks, Architect, Panorama West Books, Fresno, CA, 1985.  
McAlester, Virginia and Lee, A Field Guide to American Houses, Alfred A. Knopf,  
New York, 1990.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

City of Gilroy Historical Museum  
195 Fifth St., Gilroy CA 95020

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 1.25 acres

UTM References

A 110 626700 4096260  
Zone Easting Northing  
C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing  
D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

North third of a block located four blocks south of First Street and six blocks west of Monterey Street in the City of Gilroy, bounded on the north by Fifth Street, on the east by Carmel Street, on the west by Princevalle Street, and on the south by the lot of new Wheeler Hospital.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

To the rear of the hospital is an annex dating to 1960, 1971, and 1978. This annex is not attached to the original hospital and is not being included as part of the nomination. The boundary of the National Register application has been drawn along the original north, east, and west lot lines. The southern boundary has been drawn to immediately encompass the 1929 hospital and to exclude the non-historic annex.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Board of Directors, Patricia Snar, Secretary  
organization Gilroy Historical Society date 1 June 1990  
street & number P.O. Box 2190 telephone 847-2685  
city or town Gilroy state CA zip code 95020

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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1894	Rucker School	Italian Renaissance
1894	Gilroy High School	Italian Renaissance
1900	Robinson House	Colonial Revival (Dutch)
1900	Weaver House	Queen Anne
1900	Willson House	Queen Anne
1900	Dunlap House Remodel	Queen Anne
1902	Masonic Building	Mission Revival
1902	Holloway House	Queen Anne
1909	Carnegie Library	Neoclassical Revival
1912	Gilroy High School	Italian Renaissance
1913	Willey House	Craftsman
1915	Robinson Hardware Company Building	Italian Renaissance
1917	Hersman House	Craftsman
1921	IOOF Children's Home	Mediterranean Revival
1921	Milias Hotel	Mediterranean Revival
1922	Ellis Garage Building	Mediterranean Revival
1928	Barshinger Mortuary	Mediterranean Revival
1929	Wheeler Hospital	Mediterranean Revival
1930	Gilroy High School Bus Garage	Mediterranean Revival
1934	Gilroy High School Music Building	Mediterranean Revival

During the 21-year period from 1894 to 1915, William Weeks designed 13 buildings in the Gilroy area using six different styles. In the 13 years from 1921 to 1934, he designed seven buildings using Mediterranean Revival style only. After 1920, Weeks used this style almost exclusively for his public and commercial building designs as well as many houses, including his own home in Piedmont, completed in 1922. The pattern of styles in Gilroy is representative of the pattern of styles Weeks used during his career throughout California.

Because of its position in the 1920s and 1930s as a large agricultural center in Santa Clara County, Gilroy was always seeking to "modernize" its look to keep pace with its position. Mediterranean Revival (Spanish Eclectic) represented the most modern style available and one of the most versatile, lending itself well to both large and small structures. It also worked well with the modern construction technique of concrete and stucco. Not as austere or as severe in decoration as Mission Revival, the finely detailed and more classical decorations that Weeks preferred fit the perception of California as the "Italy of North America". On a statewide scale, all of Weeks' designs from 1920 to 1936, with a few exceptions, were Spanish Eclectic (Mediterranean Revival) style. All of the seven buildings in Gilroy designed by Weeks using this style are still standing and in use.

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The IOOF Children's Home of 1921 shows some signs of the Mission Revival style Weeks was using for large structures of this type but is decidedly more Spanish Eclectic in form and in the use of fine detailing. The Miliias Hotel, designed in 1921, was confined to the space on a city block and was required to go up rather than ramble in the more accustomed villa style of ground plan. Mission Revival elements have been totally abandoned as Weeks quickly became familiar with this style. The symmetry of the hotel building, the tile, and decorative detail are increasing as Weeks begins to adapt this style as his own. The Ellis Garage which is directly across the street from the Miliias Hotel was designed in 1922 to compliment the hotel building. Weeks never saw a building without landscaping or how it would fit with the surrounding structures. The detail and decoration is still more profuse, possibly because his command of the Mediterranean Revival style was growing or possibly because the large openings left little space for real surface design or window openings to be worked into the pattern and decorated. Barshinger Mortuary of 1928 afforded Weeks a chance to be quite expansive with the style. Almost all elements of the style were included to the point of richness but without being gaudy. This was the first of three structures using a gabled roof line. Again the use of the building as a mortuary did dictate some essential architectural items such as the covered driveway on the east end of the building which was given a flat roof and led to a flat roof on the west end office to compensate. The Gilroy High School Bus Garage in 1930 and the Music Building in 1934 were also designed with gabled roofs. Though less pretentious, as befits school structures built during the Depression, the bus garage and the music building nevertheless reflect Weeks' use of this style in simple massed, gable-roofed structures. The Weeks' elements of style are still present in the decorated frieze and the decorative tile blended with simple wood-framed windows and doors.

A more expansive ground plan, dictated by a need for well-lighted rooms, allowed William Weeks to fully use the villa-type of layout, which is so greatly complimented by the Spanish Eclectic (Mediterranean Revival) style, when he was commissioned to design Wheeler Hospital in 1928. His command of this style had fully matured and he was commonly using his own signature elements by the late 1920s, including the tile-trimmed arched entry, the tiled vestibule floor, and the use of wood, wrought iron, and tile to enhance many architectural elements. The severely symmetrical aspects of this building are typical of Weeks' public and commercial buildings of this style. Having reached the full maturity of the Spanish Eclectic or Mediterranean Revival style, the work of William Weeks with the style did not change after 1928. There are no finer examples of William Weeks' work in the Spanish Eclectic style in Gilroy than Wheeler Hospital, which proved to be his last opportunity in the community to fully use the scale and richness of detail this style brought to his designs.

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Continuation Sheet**

WHEELER HOSPITAL, GILROY, CALIFORNIA

Section number Photos Page 1

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The following information is the same for all the photographs submitted:

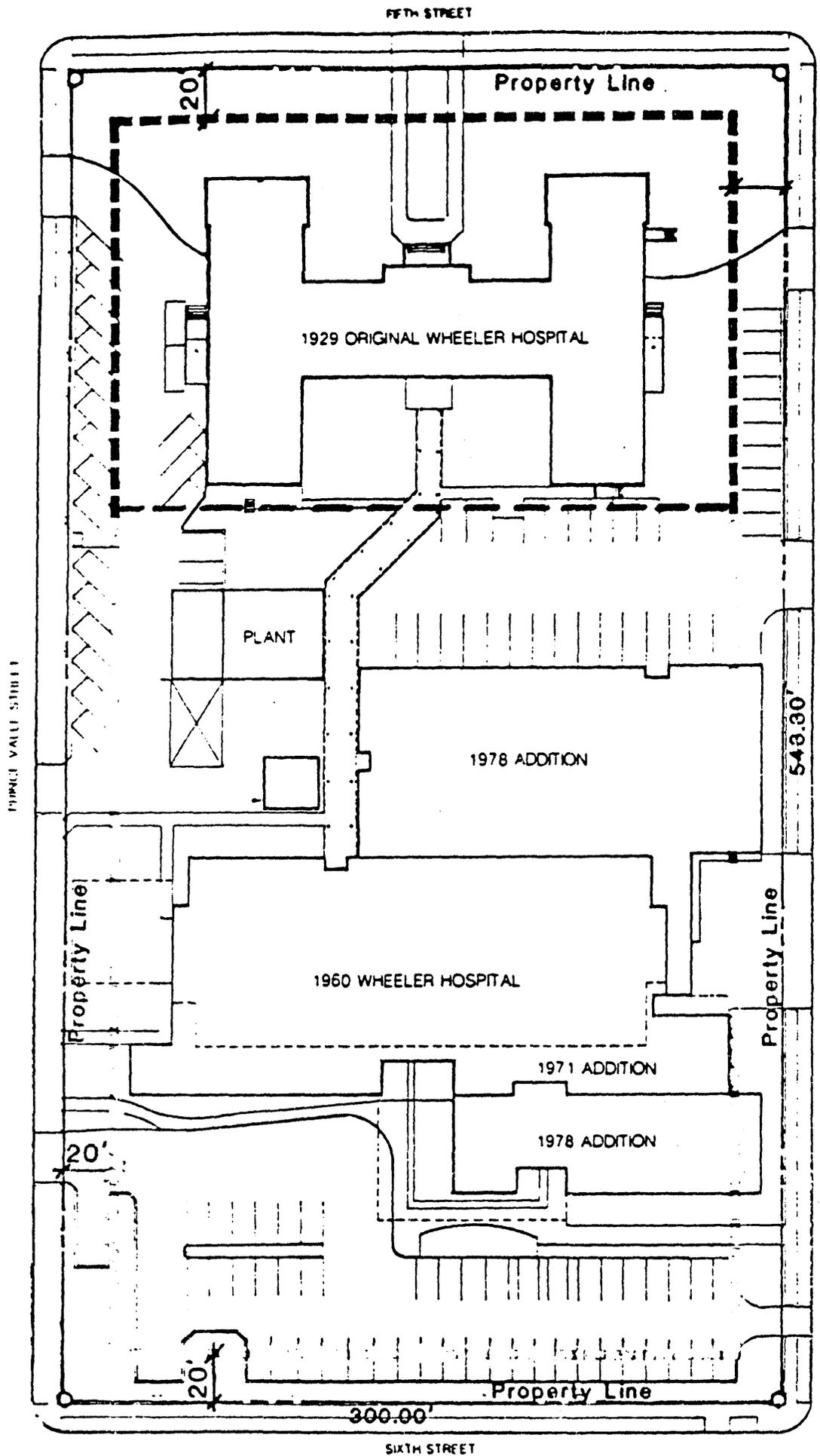
Wheeler Hospital  
650 Fifth Street  
Gilroy, California 95020

Photographer: Patricia L. Snar

Date of Photographs: June 1, 1990

Location of Original Negative: Gilroy Historical Museum  
195 Fifth Street  
Gilroy, California 95020

- (1) Front entrance on the north side of the building from across the street.
- (2) Front entrance and west wing on the north side of the building from across the street.
- (3) Front entrance and east wing on the north side of the building from across the street.
- (4) North elevation looking southwest from the corner of Fifth and Carmel Streets.
- (5) North elevation looking southeast from the corner of Fifth and Princevalle Streets.
- (6) South half of the east elevation from across the street.
- (7) North half of the east elevation from across the street.
- (8) North half of the west elevation from across the street.
- (9) South half of the west elevation from across the street.
- (10) South elevation from the southeast corner of the rear parking lot.
- (11) South elevation showing the two-story central section from the middle of the rear parking lot.
- (12) South elevation showing the rear of the west wing from the middle of the rear parking lot.



WHEELER HOSPITAL  
 GILROY, CALIFORNIA  
 650 5th Street  
 Santa Clara Co.

