

PRIMARY RECORD

Primary #: _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code: _____
Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

*Resource Name or #: Benicia Lodge Masonic Temple

- P1. Other Identifier: none
- *P2. .Location: *a. County Solano
- b. Address: 106 West J Street
- *c. City: Benicia Zip 94510
- d. UTM: N/A
- e. USGS Quad: Benicia T2N R3W MDM
- *f. Other Locational Data (APN #): 89-043-09

***P3a. Description**

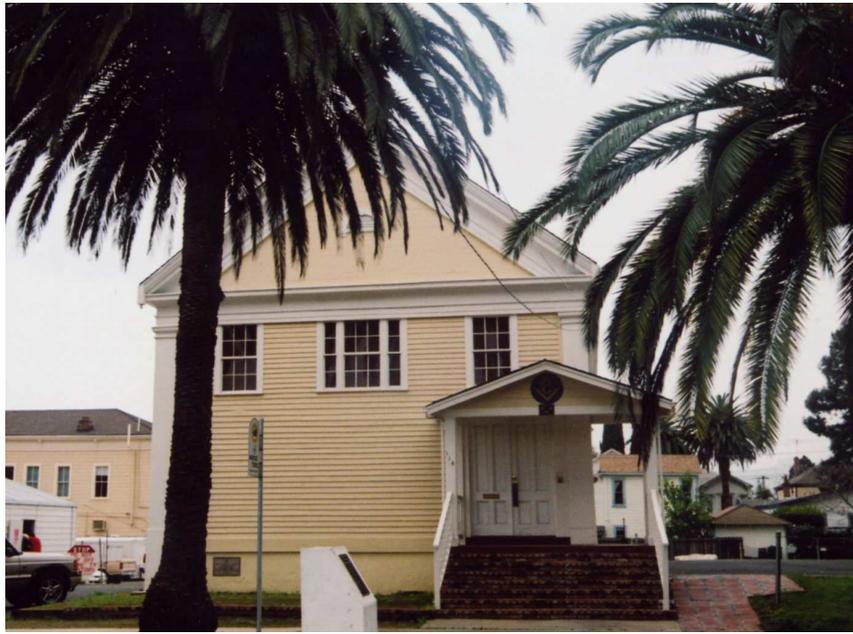
The Masonic Lodge is a rectangular plan two-story building of frame construction. One of the earliest surviving public buildings in Benicia, the Lodge is an excellent example of Greek Revival architecture. The moderately pitched front gable roof has a molded fascia and a plain verge board. A cornice is found on both the gable end and the eaves. The upper story windows about the cornice and are generally six-over-six double hung. A double hung window with side lights occupies the center of the front façade at the second-story level. Lower story windows are all six-over-six double hung and occur only on the side and rear facades. The fenestration is symmetrically arranged. A replacement double entry door is located on the west side of the front façade. The entry is covered by a projecting gable roof supported on 4X4 posts. The gable entry porch covering extends beyond the building on the west side. The building is set on a raised foundation and the entry is accessed via wide brick stairs. Cladding is lap siding with wooden pilasters with capitals at the corners of the building.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: HP 13

*P4. Resources Present: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District

P5b. Description of Photo:

P5. Photograph or Drawing (Photograph required for buildings, structures, and objects.)



Front façade, view south

- *P6. Date Constructed/Age: 1850
 Prehistoric Historic Both
- *P7. Owner and Address:
Benicia Masonic Temple Association
PO Box 611
Benicia, CA 94510
- *P8. Recorded by:
Carol Roland
Roland-Nawi Associates
4829 Crestwood Way
Sacramento, CA 95822
- *P9. Date Recorded: 11-20-04
- *P10. Type of Survey: Intensive
 Reconnaissance Other
Describe Eligibility Evaluation
- *P11. Report Citation: none
- *Attachments: NONE Map Sheet Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record Linear Resource Record Archaeological Record District Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List):

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

*Resource Identifier: Benicia Masonic Lodge

*NRHP Status Code: 3D

B1. Historic Name: same

B2. Common Name: none

B3. Original Use: Masonic Temple

B4. Present Use: Historic site

***B5. Architectural Style:** Greek Revival

***B6. Construction History:** Built in 1850. The front entry has been altered sometime prior to 1977.

***B7. Moved?** No Yes Unknown

Date: N/A

Original Location: same

***B8. Related Features:** none

B9a. Architect: unknown

B9b. Builder: unknown

***B10. Significance: Theme:** Benicia Downtown District

Period of Significance: 1847-1940

Property Type: Single Family

Applicable Criteria: A / C

The Benicia Masonic Lodge was chartered in April, 1850. The Lodge is associated with several of the founders of Benicia including Robert Baylor Semple who furnished the materials for the building and Alex Riddell who donated the land. It was the first Masonic Lodge constructed in California. The original entry to the building consisted of double doors surmounted by a pediment with pilasters. The entry stair was wooden with low balustrades. This was replaced sometime prior to 1977 with the current gabled porch and brick stair. Despite the changes to the entry, the building retains its architectural character and retains integrity of workmanship, setting and association, with the integrity of design and materials relatively intact. The building is a California State Landmark (No. 174) and a City Landmark. It also contributes to the Benicia Downtown Historic District. It is eligible for listing in the California Register of Historic Resources and the National Register of Historic Resources. Given its statewide importance the City may want to consider nomination to the National Register.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: N/A

B12. References: McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred Knopf (1986); Brueggmann, Robert. *Benicia Portrait of an Early California Town: An Architectural History* (San Francisco: 101 Productions (1980); Woodbridge, Sally and Cannon Design Group. *Benicia, California: Downtown Historic Conservation Plan*. City of Benicia, 1990; Sanborn Map Benicia, CA. 1886; 1986 Benicia Historic Inventory form.

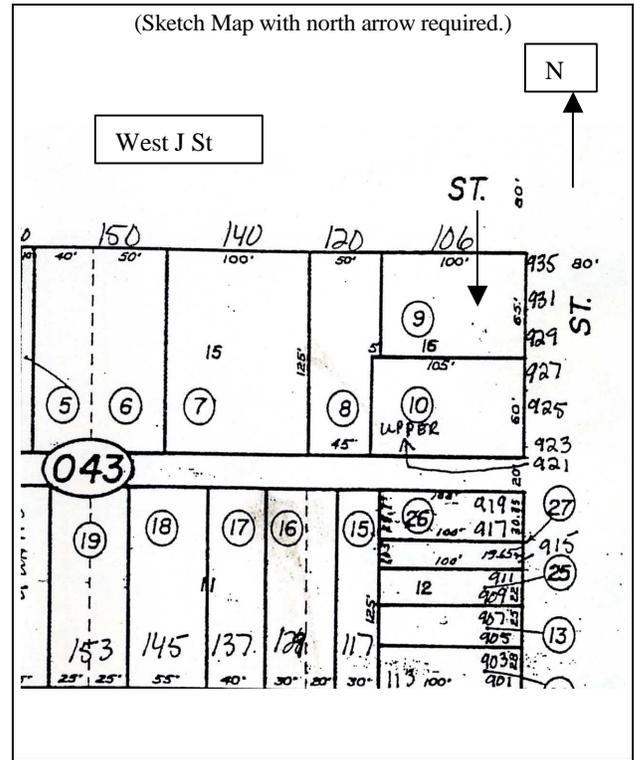
BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

Remarks: N/A

B14. Evaluator: Carol Roland, Ph.D.

Roland-Nawi Associates: Preservation Consultants
4829 Crestwood Way
Sacramento, CA 95822

B 15. Date of Evaluation: 11-22-04



(This space reserved for official comments.)

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

Resource Identifier: 106 West J Street Masonic Lodge

Continuation Update



HABS photograph 1977