

# PRIMARY RECORD

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

\*Resource Name or #: Fischer-Hanlon House

- P1. Other Identifier: none
- \*P2. .Location: \*a. County Solano
- b. Address 135 West G Street
- \*c. City: Benicia Zip 94510
- d. UTM: N/A
- e. USGS Quad: Benicia T2N R3W MDM
- \*f. Other Locational Data (APN #): 89-113-14

**\*P3a. Description:**

One of the oldest houses in Benicia, the Fischer-Hanlon House was originally constructed as a hotel on lower First Street. In 1858 it was moved to its present location and turned into a single family residence. The house is Adamesque/Federalist in style, although it lacks the strict symmetry usually associated with the residential versions of this style. The house is divided into three, rather than the usual two or four bays, with the entry located slightly to the east of center. Rectangular in plan, the building is two-story and is surmounted by a low pitched side gable roof. Slight eave overhangs are enclosed and there is no cornice. A hip roof porch occupies the area in front of the entry door. The porch roof is supported on turned incised posts and it is trimmed with a dentil cornice. The porch roof is enclosed at the top by a low open rail creating a small second story veranda. A wooden stair provides access to the porch with an open balustrade and curved newels. Fenestration consists of six-over-six double hung windows which are flanked by decorative louvered shutters. Two brick interior chimneys pierce the roof ridge. The house is clad with lap siding.

**\*P3b. Resource Attributes:** HP2

**\*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 north

**\*P6. Date Constructed/Age:** 1850/1858  
 Prehistoric  Historic  Both

**\*P7. Owner and Address:**  
State of California  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
146 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**\*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: Fischer-Hanlon House

NRHP Status Code: 1S/3D

B1. Historic Name: Fischer-Hanlon House

B2. Common Name: Fischer-Hanlon House

B3. Original Use: Residential

B4. Present Use: House Museum

\*B5. Architectural Style: Adamesque/Federalist

\*B6. Construction History: The house was constructed as hotel on a lot on lower First Street circa 1850. In 1858 it was purchased by Joseph Fischer and was moved to the lot on G Street where it now stands. The original building probably consists of the front three rooms in the house. The original rear veranda was enclosed at a later date to create a nursery and kitchen. Additional rear structures were added over time, a practice not uncommon with this style of house.

\*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 Fischer-Hanlon House is one of the oldest well documented residential structures in Benicia. It is associated with the founding and early development of the town and with an individual, Joseph Fischer, important in the town's early economic and civic life. It is also an excellent, although slightly unusual, example of its style. In massing, form, design and detailing the building is a typical Federalist house. However, it deviates from the norm in the asymmetry of its plan and front façade. The building remained within the Fischer-Hanlon family for 100 years until it was donated to the State of California by Joseph Fischer's granddaughters. It has been recognized as California State Landmark no. 880, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and contributes to the Benicia Downtown Historic District. There has been no change in the appearance or historic integrity of the house.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: N/A

B12. References: McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred Knopf (1986); Brueggemann, 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.

