

PRIMARY RECORD

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

*Resource Name or #: Congregational Church

- P1. Other Identifier:** none
***P2. .Location: *a. County** Solano
b. Address: 135 West J Street
***c. City:** Benicia **Zip** 94510
d. UTM: N/A
e. USGS Quad: Benicia T2N R3W MDM
***f. Other Locational Data (APN #):** 87-164-13

***P3a. Description**

This Gothic Revival church was originally a more ornate building with a high steeple and finials at the corners. It survives largely intact with the exception of these elements. The building is rectangular in plan with a gabled roof of moderate pitch. A steeple tower rises through the front façade and is punctuated with arched latticed vents above the roof ridge. The tower has corner pilasters which serve to emphasize its rectangular proportions. A hip roof surmounts the tower structure, replacing the original steeple. A gabled entry vestibule projects from the tower. Paneled double entry doors are surmounted by a gothic window. The entry gable has a plain fascia and a newel at the gable ridge. On the front façade fenestration consists of gothic windows with leaded glazing. Fenestration on the side elevations consists of long narrow windows set into arched openings. Fenestration is symmetrically arranged. A rosette window is located just above the entry vestibule in the tower structure. Inset panels on either side of the doors and on the side facades add texture to the building surface. The building is of frame construction and is clad with clapboard.

***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 northwest

***P6. Date Constructed/Age:** 1868
 Prehistoric Historic Both

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Manuel Neri Trust
135 West J Street
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: 135 West J Street

*NRHP Status Code: 3D

B1. Historic Name: N/A

B2. Common Name: none

B3. Original Use: Religious

B4. Present Use: Artist studio

*B5. Architectural Style: Gothic Revival

*B6. Construction History:

*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 former church is a City Landmark and continues to contribute to the Downtown Historic District. It retains its integrity. The steeple was destroyed by lightning in the 1920s, within the period of significance for the District. Although the building has been adaptively reused, its exterior appearance remains largely intact. It has become substantially overgrown with vegetation since the 1986 survey. Despite the loss of the steeple the church is an important building in the history of Benicia.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: N/A

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

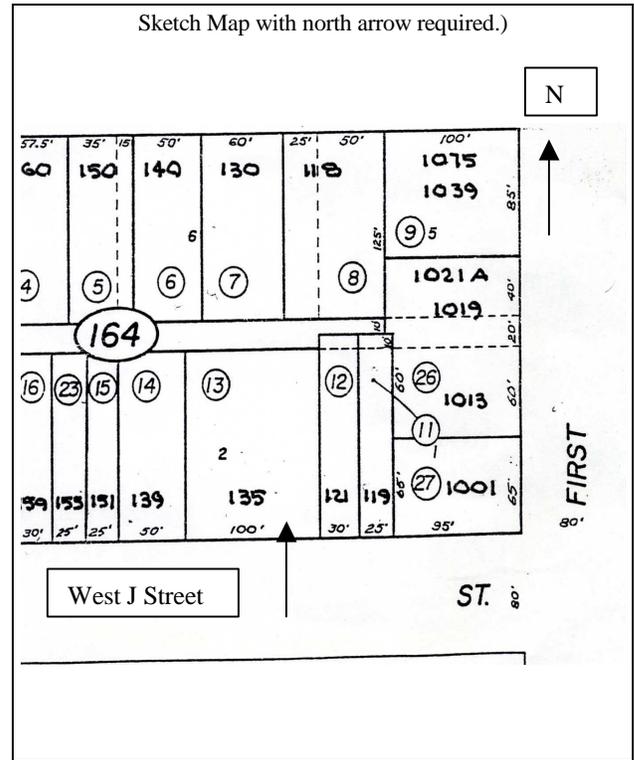
BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

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: 135 West J Street

Congregational Church

Continuation Update



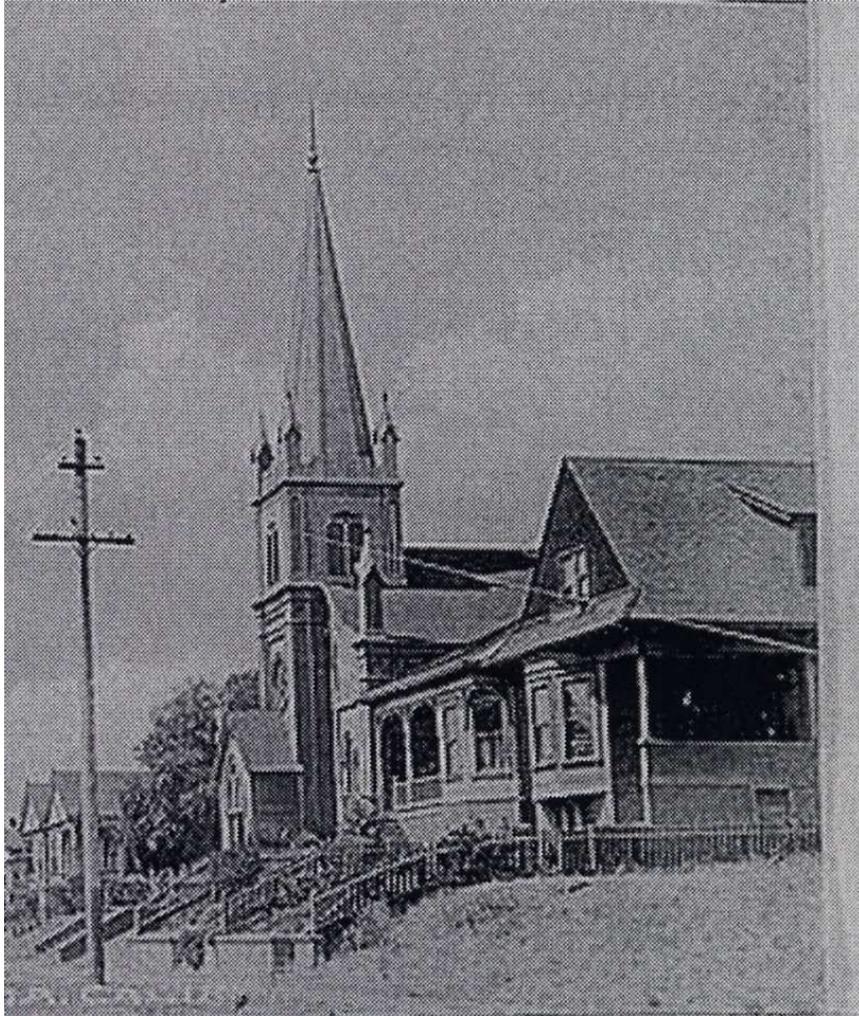
HABS photograph 1977

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD



Historic Photograph date unknown HABS

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD



Historic Photograph date unknown HABS