

State of California — The Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
**PRIMARY RECORD**

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

\*Resource Name or #: Salt Box House

- P1. Other Identifier: none
- \*P2. .Location: \*a. County Solano
- b. Address: 145 West D Street
- \*c. City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: 94510
- d. UTM: N/A
- e. USGS Quad: Benicia
- \*f. Other Locational Data (APN #): 89-174-10

\*P3a. Description: This rectangular plan cottage is an excellent example of the vernacular hall and parlor house. Houses of this design originated in the Southeast, and spread widely in the Midland region and in the West in the pre-railroad era. Although this folk house type was most common in the 1840s and 1850s, houses of this type continued to be built into the 20<sup>th</sup> century in some rural areas. The principal variations on the basic form of the house are found in porch configurations and in the differing patterns of rearward extensions that were used to extend the interior space. One of the oldest houses in Benicia, the "Salt Box" house is believed to have been ferried from Port Costa to its present location.

The principal mass of the house is covered by a side gable moderately pitched roof with enclosed eaves. The gable ends are trimmed with a plain fascia. The roof is covered with composition shingle. The central entry door is symmetrically flanked by vertically emphasized double hung windows in simple wood casements. A covered, wooden floored porch extends across the front elevation. The porch roof is flat and is supported on 4X4 posts. The side porch rails are closed, while those on the front are replacement wrought iron, as are the balustrades on either side of the short wooden entry stair. Typical of this house type, there is a rear addition with a front gabled roof. Cladding is lapped on the front elevation and board and batten on the sides and rear. (see continuation sheet)

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



- \*P3b. Resource Attributes: HP2
- \*P4. Resources Present:  Building  Structure  Object  Site  District  Element of District
- P5b. Description of Photo: Front façade, view north
- \*P6. Date Constructed/Age: 1850  Prehistoric  Historic  Both
- \*P7. Owner and Address: Ralph Castaneda  
1585 Edmond  
San Jose, CA 95125
- \*P8. Recorded by: Carol Roland  
Roland-Nawi Associates  
4829 Crestwood Way  
Sacramento, CA 95822
- \*P9. Date Recorded: 11-22-04
- \*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: Salt Box House

\*NRHP Status Code: 3D

B1. Historic Name: same

B2. Common Name: same

B3. Original Use: Residential

B4. Present Use: Residence

\*B5. Architectural Style: Vernacular Hall and Parlor House

\*B6. Construction History:

The house was constructed in the 1850s. It is believed to have been constructed in Port Costa and moved to Benicia, although there is no documentary evidence to support this supposition. The roofing material and porch rails have been replaced. It is probable, given the age of the house, that some of the cladding also is replacement. Photographic evidence indicates that the front porch, although similar in form and massing to the original, is a replacement.

\*B7. Moved?  No  Yes  Unknown  
(see above)

Date: unknown Original Location: Possibly Port Costa

\*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 residence at 145 D Street is one of the oldest surviving buildings in the city and probably in the region. A Vernacular design, dating from the 1850s, it is one of a small number of surviving buildings from this period and of this building type in California. It is a City Landmark. It is eligible for individual listing in the California Register of Historical Resources and is a contributor to a Benicia Downtown Historic District.

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.

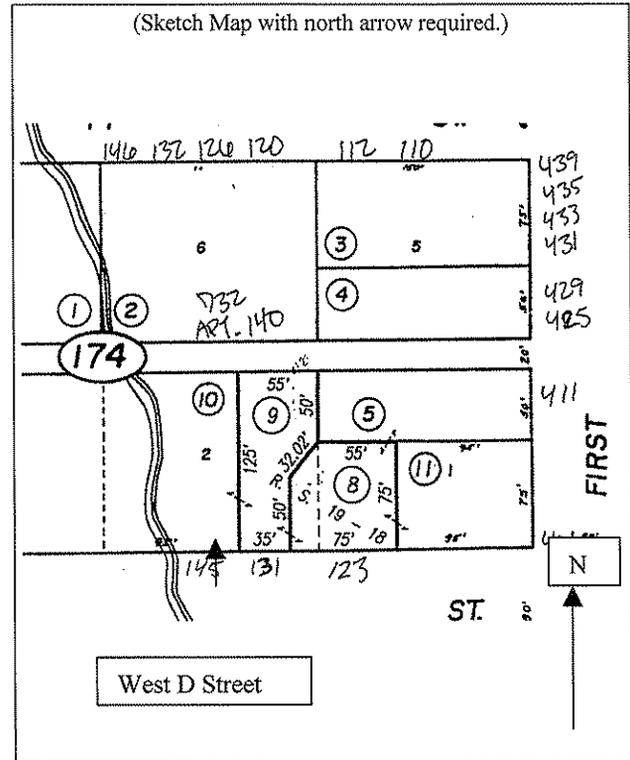
# BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

Remarks: N/A

B14. Evaluator: Carol Roland, Ph.D.

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

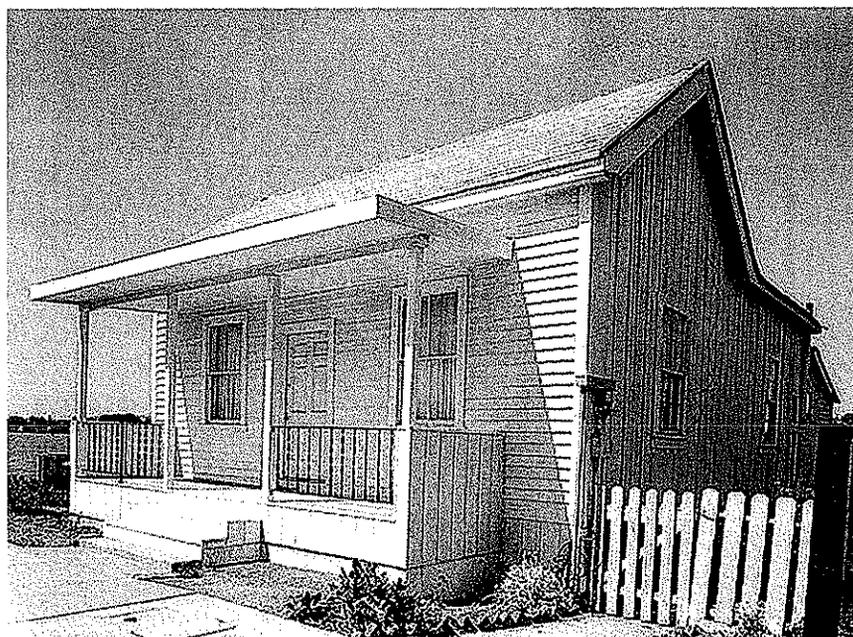
B 15. Date of Evaluation: 11-22-04



(This space reserved for official comments.)

Resource Identifier: 145 West D Street

Continuation  Update



HABS photograph 1977