

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 #: 190 East L Street

- P1. Other Identifier:
- *P2. .Location: *a. County Solano
- b. Address: 190 East L Street
- *c. City: Benicia Zip 94510
- d. UTM: N/A
- e. USGS Quad: Benicia T2N R3W MDM
- *f. Other Locational Data (APN #): 88-141-06
- *P3a. Description

This 1951 building was designed by George Sellon, the architect of the City Hall. It was designed as a free-standing addition to the Benicia High School and provided gymnasium facilities for the school. The building is an example of Modernist institutional architecture. It consists of a series of block-like structures of different height, massing and form assembled into a single coherent building. There are two, two-story intersecting wings and a single story entrance walk-way. The main gymnasium wing exhibits large massing and a wide front gable roof without overhangs. The front gable end is occupied by large vertically emphasized rectangular windows with geometrically shaped transoms. Large concrete casings frame the outer perimeter of these windows. A front wing is situated on the west side of the main gym. This wing has a prominent shed roof. Fenestration consists of rectangular windows arranged around the north and east upper facades. A poured concrete entry off L Street provides a transitional element between the projecting north wing and the enclosed walkway. The north and west walls of the projecting front wing are masonry, with brick that matches the 1925 main high school building and functions to relate the two structures separated in design by twenty years. A long, horizontally massed, flat roofed enclosed walk-way extends from the shed roof wing across the front of the primary gym wing. This entry has a ribbon of high windows with cement casings. The one-story hall visually ties the two larger wings together and balances their verticality and massing with a smaller less prepossessing element at the street edge. A highly stylized Gymnasium sign rests atop the roof of the walkway and is an important element in the design.

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



- *P3b. Resource Attributes: HP14
- *P4. Resources Present: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District
- P5b. Description of Photo:
Front façade, view south
- *P6. Date Constructed/Age: 1951
 Prehistoric Historic Both
- *P7. Owner and Address:
City of Benicia
250 East L 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: 190 East L Street

*NRHP Status Code: 3D

B1. Historic Name: N/A

B2. Common Name: High School Gymnasium

B3. Original Use: school building

B4. Present Use: city offices

*B5. Architectural Style: Mid-century Modernist

B7. Moved? No Yes Unknown

Date: N/A

Original Location: same

*B8. Related Features: None

B9a. Architect: George Sellon, Sacramento

B9b. Builder: unknown

*B10. Significance: Theme: Benicia Downtown District Period of Significance: 1847-1940

Property Type: Government Applicable Criteria: A / C

The gymnasium is one of the only examples of 1950s Modernist architecture in the downtown area. It exemplifies the style in its rejection of traditional form and detail, combining three disparate elements, the massive gable roof gym, the large shed roof projecting front wing, and the narrow single story walkway to assemble a building with contrasting massing and materials. Its variation of window shapes and sizes and its use of contrasting wall materials are also characteristic of 1950s modernism. As a part of the city's principal 20th century secondary school facility it exemplifies an aspect of the city's history and development. The building is not listed in the city's list of contributing buildings and should be considered for addition.

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.

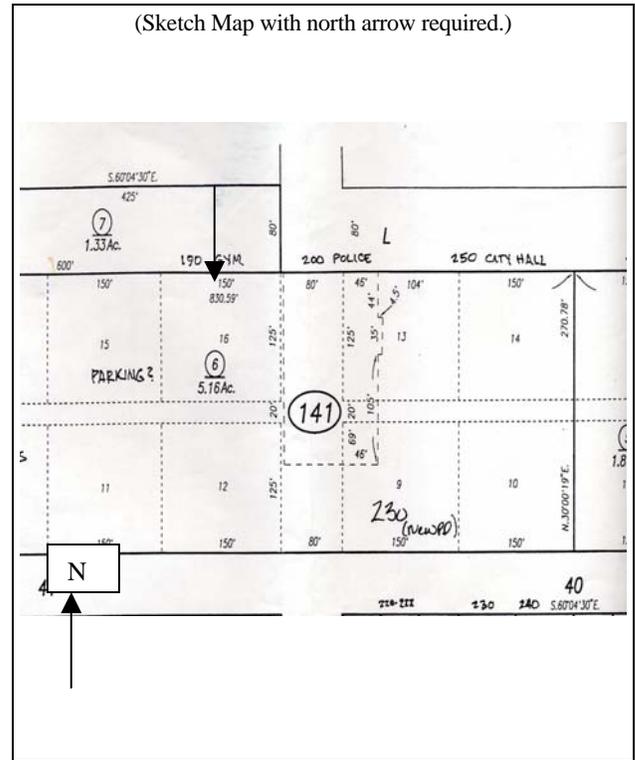
BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

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.)