

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 #: Riddell-Fish House  
P1. Other Identifier: none  
\*P2. .Location: \*a. County Solano  
b. Address: 245 West K Street  
\*c. City: Benicia Zip 94510  
d. UTM: N/A  
e. USGS Quad: Benicia T2N R3W MDM  
\*f. Other Locational Data (APN #): 87-161-34  
\*P3a. Description

Built circa 1890 by Franklin and Henrietta Riddell Fish this is one of the largest and most impressive houses in Benicia. A high style Queen Anne design, it exhibits all of the major characteristics of the style including a dominant front facing gable, varied and decorative cladding, canted and square bays, and a prominent turret. The house is asymmetrical with a multi-plane façade. It is three story with a steeply pitched roof. At the first floor level a centrally located porch and entry is flanked on the east by a canted bay and on the west by a plane wall surface that ends in a canted corner window. The porch is covered by a shed roof supported on paired posts and an arched lintel. The double entry door is paneled and glazed. At the second story level the front façade is broken up by a square bay that rises above the lower story canted bay, a ribbon of windows above the porch roof, and the lower portion of the turret. The second level is clad with multiple patterns of shingle and a decorative cornice in the center bay. At the third floor or roof level there is a prominent gable with plain fascia. An arched double hung window with side lights is inset into the gable end. On the west side of the roof a steeply pitched roof crowns the corner turret. It has a decorative cornice and a metal finial. A metal decorative rail runs along the gable ridge. There is a prominent corbelled brick chimney on the east elevation.

\*P3b. Resource Attributes: HP2

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



Milling Station Record  Rock Art Record   
 Artifact Record  Photograph Record  Other (List):

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

P5b. Description of Photo:  
Front façade, view north

\*P6. Date Constructed/Age 1890  
 Prehistoric  Historic  Both

\*P7. Owner and Address:  
Victorian Vanhorn  
245 West K 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

## BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

\*Resource Identifier: 245 West K Street

\*NRHP Status Code: 3D

B1. Historic Name: N/A

B2. Common Name: same

B3. Original Use: Residential

B4. Present Use: Residential

\*B5. Architectural Style: Queen Anne

B7. Moved?  No  Yes  Unknown

Date: N/A

Original Location: same

\*B8. Related Features: A large ornamental palm tree rises just west of the house.

B9a. Architect: unknown

B9b. Builder: unknown

\*B10. Significance: Theme: Benicia Downtown District  
Single Family

Period of Significance: 1847-1940

Property Type:

Applicable Criteria: A / C

This is one of the most elaborate and grandest houses in Benicia. It is a fine example of Queen Anne architecture, is associated with pioneer family of Benicia, and exemplifies the economic development of the community in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. It provides an interesting contrast to the middle and working class Italianate cottages that occupy the rest of the block. The house retains excellent integrity. It is a City Landmark and should retain this status. It contributes to the Downtown Historic District. It was recorded by HABS in 1977.

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.

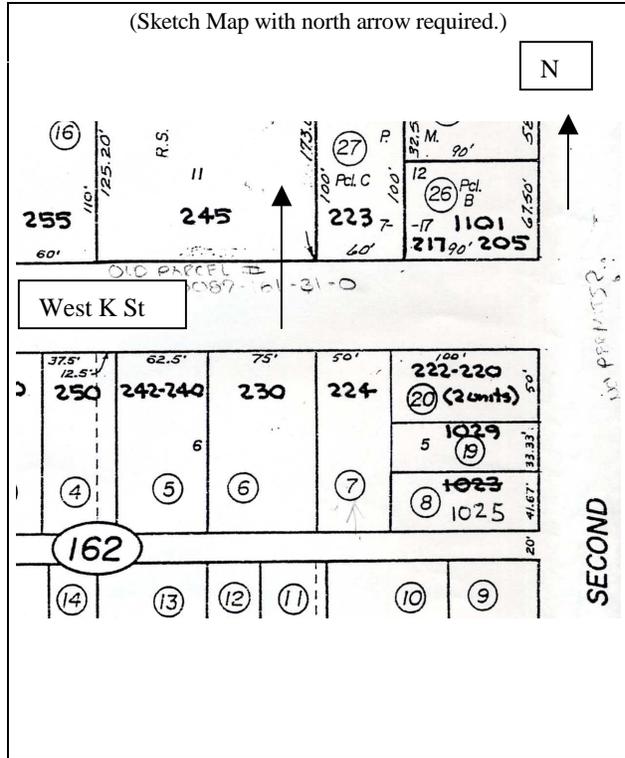
# BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

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.)

Resource Identifier: 245 West K Street

Continuation  Update



HABS photograph 1977