

PRIMARY RECORD

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

*Resource Name or #: 250 East L Street

- P1. Other Identifier: City Hall
- *P2. Location: *a. County Solano
- b. Address: 250 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 The City Hall, formerly the Benicia High School building, is a Tudor Revival institutional building constructed on a U-shape plan. Sited on a sloped lot, it is one-story on the L Street elevation and two-story at the rear. The building has cross gable roofs of varying heights with slight eave overhangs and gables finished with a central pediment trimmed with a coping. Primary entries are located at the gable ends with a prominent centered double door on the east wing. This entry is highlighted with terra cotta pilasters and an arched pediment. The white color of the terra cotta provides a vivid contrast to the brick walls. Small paired arched windows flank this entry. On the west side of the front elevation the entry is recessed into the L formed by the conjuncture of the main cross wing and the projecting gable wing. It has a gabled roof and an arched entry voussoir of alternating terra cotta and brick. Fenestration along the front of the cross wing consists of long ribbons of tripartite windows, originally multi-light, but now with replacement glazing. The west projecting gable end has a contrasting concrete inset wall which is trimmed at the bottom with brick bands. Fenestration on the side walls consists of large arched windows set into terra cotta casings that are trimmed with a brick banding motif. The building is brick masonry of variegated hue which gives the wall a strong visual interest. The interior of the building is organized around a central courtyard which is a character defining feature.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: HP14

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



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

P5b. Description of Photo:

Front façade, view southwest

*P6. Date Constructed/Age: 1925
 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: 250 East L Street

*NRHP Status Code: 3S/3D

B1. Historic Name: Benicia High School

B2. Common Name: City Hall

B3. Original Use: secondary school

B4. Present Use: government offices

***B5. Architectural Style:** Tudor Revival

B7. Moved? No Yes Unknown

Date: N/A **Original Location:** same

***B8. Related Features:** None

B9a. Architect: George C Sellon, Sacramento

B9b. Builder: W.H Richardson, Sacramento

***B10. Significance: Theme:** Benicia Downtown District

Period of Significance: 1847-1940

Property Type: Government Building

Applicable Criteria: A / C

This is the largest and most architecturally distinguished public building in the city. It was designed by architect George Sellon of Sacramento in 1925. Sellon was the first State Architect. The building follows many of the conventions developed for school architecture in the period, including U-shape plan, extensive fenestration, and classical decoration. The building is a good example of its type and has been converted to office use without significant impact to its exterior historic appearance. It is also a good example of Tudor Revival architecture, which was very popular in the period of construction, and was frequently used in school design. The building is also noteworthy as an important educational institution in the history of the city. The building is a City Landmark and should continue in this status. It is also eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

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

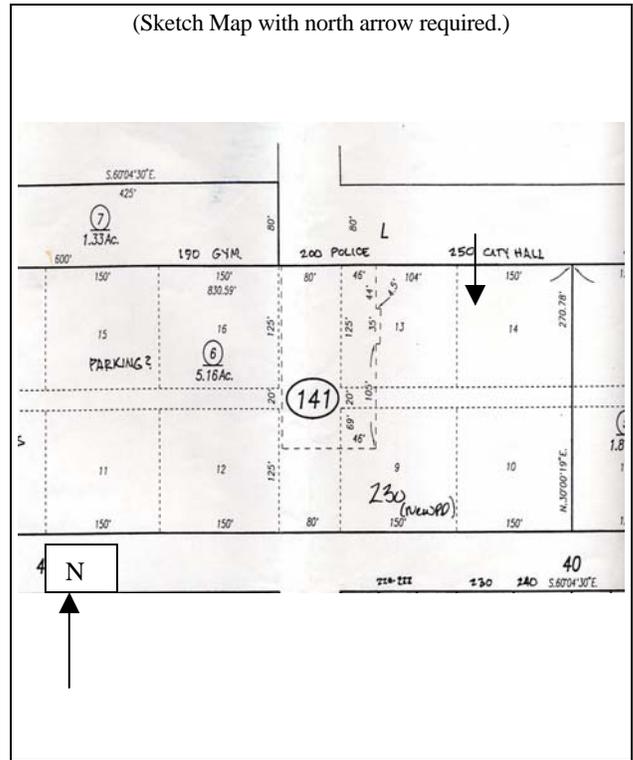
Remarks: N/A

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

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)



(This space reserved for official comments.)