

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 #: 261 West J Street

- P1. Other Identifier: none
- \*P2. .Location: \*a. County Solano
- b. Address: 261 West J Street
- \*c. City: Benicia Zip 94510
- d. UTM: N/A
- e. USGS Quad: Benicia T2N R3W MDM
- \*f. Other Locational Data (APN #): 87-162-15

**\*P3a. Description**

This is a fine example of a house that is elaborately detailed. The house has a compound plan with cross gable and hip roofs. The roof is moderately pitched with gable and closed eave overhangs supported on curved brackets. The gables are finished with decorative fascia and plain verge boards. The front gable end displays applied woodwork in a scroll motif. Two complimentary porches are found on the east and west sides of the front elevation. The west entry porch is covered by a front gable roof supported on turned posts. It is elaborated with a decorative fascia and frieze and with applied woodwork on the gable end. Wooden steps provide access to the front entry and are flanked by a turned balustrade with newels. The east porch is a side porch, but presents a gabled end to the street which repeats the decorative treatments of the entry porch. A two-story square bay dominates the front gable wing. Paired one-over-one double hung windows are centered on each story. Elaborate casings with bracketed pediments and applied woodwork make the bay windows a major character defining feature. The house is clad with clapboard. Although the decorative detailing is suggestive of Eastlake Stick style, the walls themselves are not transformed into a decorative surface, rather they serve as a platform for the application of cutwork detailing.

**\*P3b. Resource Attributes:** HP2

**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 north

**\*P6. Date Constructed/Age:** 1880  
 Prehistoric  Historic  Both

**\*P7. Owner and Address:**  
 Michael Brown  
 261 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: 261 West J 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:** Eastlake Stick

**B7. Moved?**  No  Yes  Unknown

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

\***B8. Related Features:** Two large palm trees flank the entry stair to the property and are important elements in the setting of the house.

**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

This is one of the larger and more impressive residences in downtown Benicia. It maintains its integrity of design, materials, workmanship, setting, location and association. It is particularly notable for its decorative details, especially the use of applied cut woodwork. The building is listed as a possible Landmark on the district map, but is classified as a potential district contributor on the City's list. It should be elevated to Landmark status due to its fine decorative detailing. The house 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); 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.

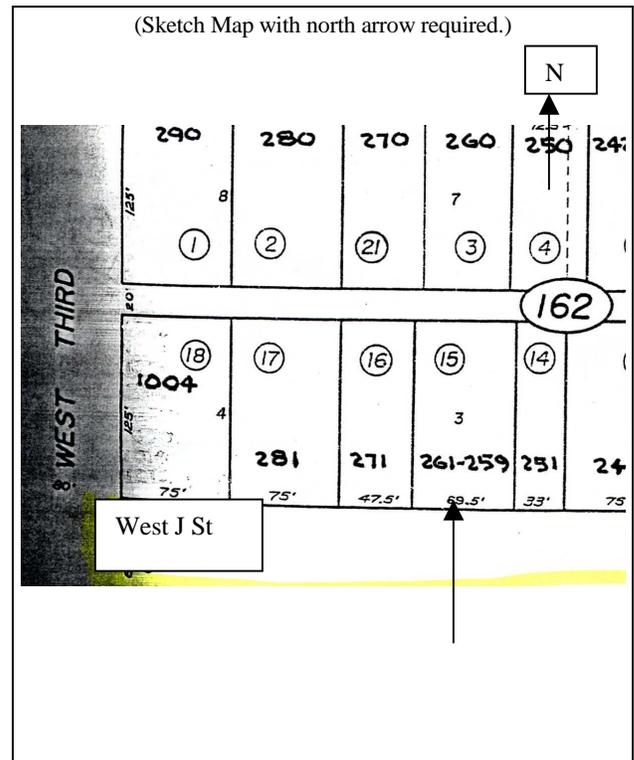
# BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

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.)

**BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD**

Resource Identifier: 261 West J Street

Continuation  Update



HABS photograph 1977