

# PRIMARY RECORD

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

\*Resource Name or #: Crooks House

- P1. Other Identifier: none
- \*P2. Location: \*a. County Solano
- b. Address 285 West G Street
- \*c. City: Benicia Zip 94510
- d. UTM: N/A
- e. USGS Quad: Benicia T2N R3W MDM
- \*f. Other Locational Data (APN #): 89-111-20

**\*P3a. Description:**

The Crooks house is one of the largest and most important residential buildings in Benicia. A restrained Queen Anne, it is two and one-half stories tall and is set on a raised foundation. The house is basically cruciform in plan with a steeply pitched cross gable and hip roof. The roof has wide eave overhangs supported on decorative brackets. A decoratively treated closed collar beam ties together the gable ends. Two and one-half story square bays or wings project from the west, south, and east facades of the building. Fenestration consists of two-over-one single windows. A large porch wraps around the east side of the front façade and the east elevation extending from the front bay to the east bay. The porch is covered by a hip roof supported on full-length turned posts. The main entry is located on the south façade facing toward the bay. It consists of a projecting gable roof supported on elaborately turned posts. The gable end displays a gable ornament. The attic story is clad with fish scale shingles with the lower walls clad with clapboard. Belt courses separate the floors and flat vertical corner posts set off the bays.

\*P3b. Resource Attributes: HP2

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

P5b. Description of Photo:

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



Front façade, view northeast

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

\*P7. Owner and Address:  
Antonio Ruiz  
285 West G 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: Crooks House

\*NRHP Status Code: 1S/3D

- B1. Historic Name:** Crooks House  
**B2. Common Name:** none  
**B3. Original Use:** Residential  
**\*B5. Architectural Style:** Queen Anne  
**\*B6. Construction History:** Built circa 1880.  
**\*B7. Moved?**  No  Yes  Unknown  
**\*B8. Related Features:** none

**B4. Present Use:** Residential

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

**B9a. Architect:** unknown

**B9b. Builder:** unknown

**\*B10. Significance: Theme:** Benicia Downtown District **Period of Significance:** 1847-1940 **Property Type:** Single Family **Applicable Criteria:** A /B/ C

This is one of the largest and most recognized houses in Benicia. It was built by William Crooks, but was principally occupied by his brother J.E. Crooks. Crooks came to Benicia as an operator for the Southern Pacific Railroad, became president of the People's Bank of Benicia, was a large local land owner, and served as mayor of the city between 1898 and 1918. The house remained in the ownership of the Crooks family for one hundred years. The house is a City of Benicia Historic Landmark and contributes to the Downtown Historic District. It is eligible for individual listing in the California Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places. It was recorded by the Historic American Building Survey 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, HABS Information Sheet, HABS, CAL, 48-Beni. 7.

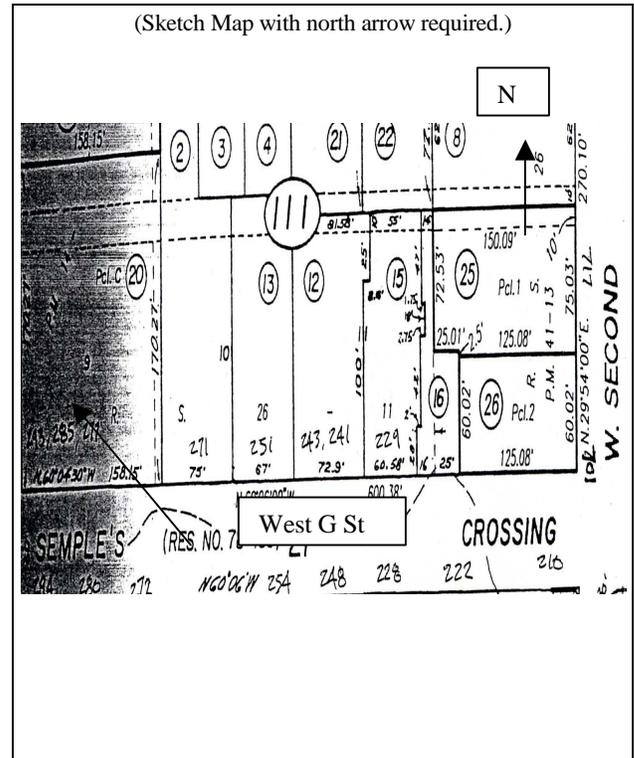
# BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

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: 285 West G Street

Continuation  Update



HABS photograph 1977