

# PRIMARY RECORD

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

\*Resource Name or #: Washington House

P1. Other Identifier:

\*P2. .Location: \*a. County Solano

b. Address: 333 First Street

\*c. City: Benicia Zip 94510

d. UTM: N/A

e. USGS Quad: Benicia T2N R3W MDM

\*f. Other Locational Data (APN #): 89-243-13

\*P3a. Description

This is one of Benicia's earliest commercial buildings, constructed in 1850. A two-story Greek Revival building, it was constructed as a hotel and housed many of the members of State Legislature during the period when Benicia served as the state capital. The building has a moderately pitched gable roof with the eaves oriented toward the street. A plain fascia, verge board, and eave returns accentuate the gable ends. There is a large rectangular attic vent in the gable end which replaces an original upper story window. The building has a wrap around covered porch at the second story level which provides covering over the side walk. Originally it had a one story veranda. The current upper story porch has a shed roof and is supported on posts. Fenestration consists of multi-light replacement windows. The building is clad with clapboard.

\*P3b. Resource Attributes: HP6

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

P5b. Description of Photo:

Front façade, view south

\*P6. Date Constructed/Age: Circa 1850

Prehistoric  Historic  Both

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



\*P7. Owner and Address:

Anis Shamiyeh  
221 Olympia Blvd. Suite 100  
Walnut Creek, CA 94595  
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: Washington House

\*NRHP Status Code: 3D

B1. Historic Name: Same

B2. Common Name:

B3. Original Use: Hotel

B4. Present Use: Commercial

\*B5. Architectural Style: Greek Revival

B7. Moved?  No  Yes  Unknown

Date: N/A

Original Location: same

\*B8. Related Features: None

B9a. Architect: unknown

B9b. Builder: unknown

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

Property Type: Hotel Applicable Criteria: A / C

The building is of outstanding historic significance because of its early construction date and its association with important events in the history of Benicia, particularly the brief location of the state capital in the town. Although the building retains its original massing and form, its integrity has been substantially impaired by non-historic additions and replacements. Most notable among these is the second story covered porch. The original porch was a restrained upper veranda with an open rail and was well within the Greek Revival vocabulary. The current porch appears to imitate the appearance of a western frontier building, an association which is enhanced by the rustic finish of the porch posts and rails. It is completely out of character with the original design of the building and appears to have more to do with the current use of the building as a steak house than with the historic origins or authenticity of the building. The replacement of all the windows with modern vinyl windows severely affects the character of the building. Although it is designated as a City Landmark, the integrity of the building is so poor that it would not be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historic Resource or 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); 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.

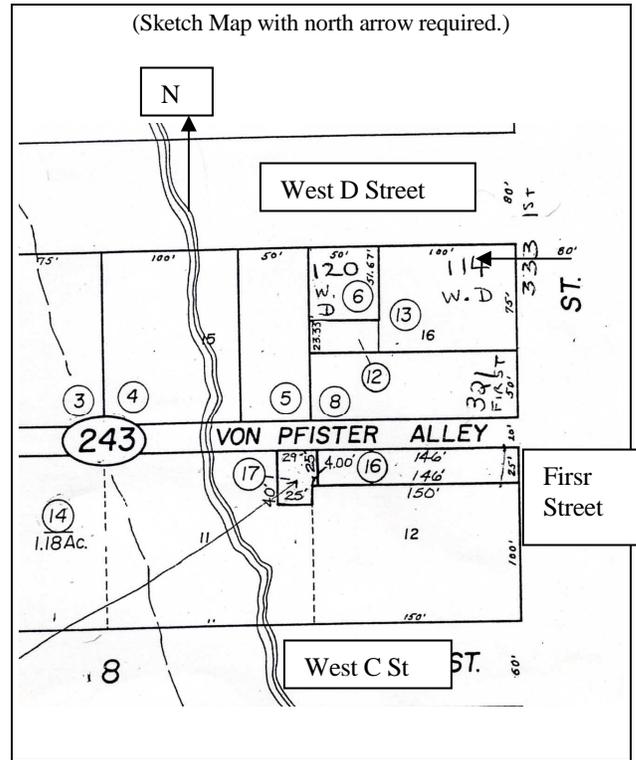
**BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD**

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.)