

PRIMARY RECORD

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

*Resource Name or #: 440 First Street

- P1. Other Identifier:
- *P2. .Location: *a. County Solano
- b. Address: 440 First Street
- *c. City: Benicia Zip 94510
- d. UTM: N/A
- e. USGS Quad: Benicia T2N R3W MDM
- *f. Other Locational Data (APN #): 89-379-20

***P3a. Description**

This is a typical 19th century commercial building with a storefront on the lower story and a residence or offices above. The building is rectangular in plan with a false front that consists of a stepped and semi-circular pediment. There are two entries located on the front façade. The principal business entry is recessed and centered between the canted storefront windows and has a double glazed door. The second entrance is located on the south side of the façade and is a single glazed door with a transom. Lower story fenestration is limited to the two storefront windows which have a clerestory above the windows and the entry. On the second story fenestration consists of two symmetrically arranged canted bays with hip roofs. These are similar to the canted upper bays on the Jorgensen building and belong to a 19th-century commercial building form frequently found in the Bay Area. There is a single window centered between the two bays over the entry. Windows on the side elevations are symmetrically arranged. All windows are one-over-one double hung. The building is clad with clapboard.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: HP6

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 east

*P6. Date Constructed/Age: Circa 1890
 Prehistoric Historic Both

*P7. Owner and Address:
Sandra Shannonhouse
430 First 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: 440 First Street

*NRHP Status Code: 3D

B1. Historic Name: N/A

B2. Common Name:

B3. Original Use: commercial

B4. Present Use: commercial

*B5. Architectural Style: False Front Commercial

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 Single Family
Period of Significance: 1847-1940 Property Type:
Applicable Criteria: A / C

The 1886 Sanborn Map shows a laundry and “Chinese wash house” in this location, suggesting that the existing building was constructed after that date. This is a typical false front wood frame commercial building of a design that was common in the Bay Area in the late 19th century. During the 1980s a portion of the building served as the studio of Robert Arneson, a well known ceramist and a nationally recognized leader of the California “funk” school of art. The building retains its historic integrity. It is a City Landmark and contributes to the Downtown Benicia Historic District. It should retain its current status.

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.

