

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

\*Resource Name or St. Dominic's Catholic Church

- P1. Other Identifier:**  
**\*P2. .Location: \*a. County**  
**b. Address:** 475 East I Street  
**\*c. City:** Benicia **Zip** 94510  
**d. UTM:** N/A  
**e. USGS Quad:** Benicia T2N R3W MDM  
**\*f. Other Locational Data (APN #):** 89-061-14

**\*P3a. Description**

St Dominic's Church was constructed in the 1890s as part of a larger church and monastery complex which had been founded in Benicia in 1854. The present church replaced an earlier church building in the same location. The brick building is essentially rectangular in plan with a five-bay front. It is one-story with a two-story central nave surmounted by a front gable roof. The front of the church is dominated by two elaborate domed towers. The towers exhibit pedimented gables with engaged columns and pilasters. The belfrie openings are louvered. A large cross is mounted on the dome of each tower. The flat front roof exhibits a wide denticulated cornice. Bays are separated by engaged Corinthian columns. A large double entry door with side lights is centered on the front elevation, flanked by lesser doors on both sides. The central entry is surmounted by an arched pediment supported on Corinthian columns and enhanced with swags of a garland design. The flanking entries have circular windows located above the architraves. All entries are recessed. Deeply set casement windows are found in the outer front bays and flank the door arrangement.

**\*P3b. Resource Attributes:** HP16

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

**P5b. Description of Photo:** Front façade, view northwest

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



**\*P6. Date Constructed/Age:** 1890

**Source:** Brueggemann, Robert. *Benicia Portrait of an Early California Town: An Architectural History*

Prehistoric  Historic  Both

**\*P7. Owner and Address:**

Catholic

**\*P8. Recorded by:**

Carol Roland  
Roland-Nawi Associates  
4829 Crestwood Way  
Sacramento, CA 95822

**\*P9. Date Recorded:** 11-20-05

**\*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: St Dominic's Church

\*NRHP Status Code: 1S

B1. Historic Name: Same

B2. Common Name: Same

B3. Original Use: Church

B4. Present Use: Church

\*B5. Architectural Style: Classical 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  
 Religious building

Period of Significance: 1847-1940

Property Type:

Applicable Criteria: A / C

St Dominic's is one of the most significant buildings in Benicia. It is significant for its association with the establishment of the city and with its early religious and educational history. It is an excellent example of its style, period and property type. Minimal alteration has occurred to the building over time and it retains excellent integrity. However, in recent years the relationship of the building to the street has been altered with the introduction of an elevated front courtyard area which is enclosed with a low open rail. As late as 1977 the entry doors were accessed from street level via steps which have now been eliminated. The doors now open directly onto the patio area. The building is local landmark and should continue in this status. The building lies outside the boundaries of the historic Downtown District. It is eligible for individual listing in the National and California Registers.

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.

B13. Remarks: None

\*B14. Evaluator: Carol Roland, PH.D.

\*B15. Date of Evaluation: 7-30-08



