

PRIMARY RECORD

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

*Resource Name or #: Bohn Building

P1. Other Identifier:

*P2. .Location: *a. County Solano

b. Address: 638 First Street

*c. City: Benicia Zip 94510

d. UTM: N/A

e. USGS Quad: Benicia T2N R3W MDM

*f. Other Locational Data (APN #): 89-342-02

*P3a. Description

This two-story commercial bank building follows a common form developed for bank architecture in the 19th century. The building, constructed in 1882, is two-story with terra cotta detailing. Wrapping around the block at the intersection of First and G Streets, it is an excellent example of the corner commercial building form which played an important role in defining business districts in small towns and neighborhood commercial centers from the 1870's through the 1940's. In a clear architectural reference to the arcaded urban business block, the building's two major street level elevations are punctuated by large arched windows that are divided by wooden mullions. Breaking up the planer surface of the walls, these massive openings are significant features of the building's otherwise restrained and subtle interpretation of the Prairie School architectural vocabulary. Upper story fenestration consists of long narrow one-over-one double hung windows set into recessed casements. Two slightly recessed double doors with a transom provided entry into the former bank area. A second entry, similar in design to the arched windows, provides access to the upper story offices. The main entrance, located at the angled corner of the building, is a prominent feature. Its importance is highlighted by a decorative terra cotta entablature surrounding the opening. Together with the arched windows, the entries are the major features of the building that visually establish its commercial identity and purpose. The Bohn building, like many corner commercial enterprises, combined

financial and office functions into a single building envelope. The building is clad with stucco.

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



..*P3b. Resource Attributes: HP6

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

P5b. Description of Photo:

Front façade, view southeast

*P6. Date Constructed/Age: 1902
 Prehistoric Historic Both

*P7. Owner and Address:
Bohn Office Building Assoc
c/o Robert Whitehead
755 West 6th 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: Bohn Building

*NRHP Status Code: 3D

B1. Historic Name: N/A

B2. Common Name:

B3. Original Use: Bank

B4. Present Use: Commercial

*B5. Architectural Style Arcaded 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 Period of Significance: 1847-1940

Property Type: Commerical Applicable Criteria: A / C

The building is an impressive commercial building with a corner location that provides an anchor within the commercial district along First St. It is an excellent example of its building type. The building has undergone little change in appearance despite changes in use. It contributes to the Downtown Historic District and should be considered for City Landmark 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.

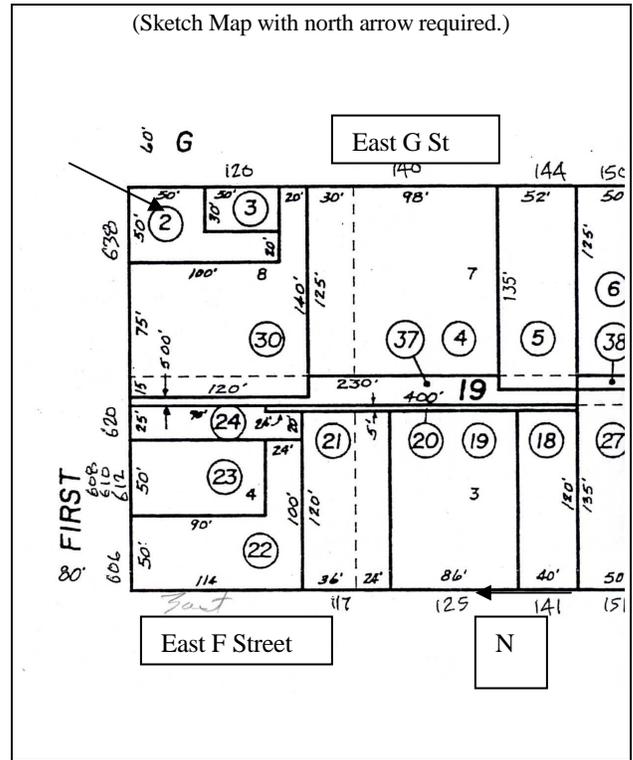
BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

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.)