State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

PRIMARY RECORD

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

***Resource Name or #:** 166 West H Street
P1. Other Identifier: none
***P2. .Location: *a. County** Solano
b. Address: 166 West H Street
***c. City:** Benicia **Zip** 94510
d. UTM: N/A
e. USGS Quad: Benicia
***f. Other Locational Data (APN #):** 89-113-050
***P3a. Description:**

This typical Italianate house is two-story with a rectangular plan. It has a strongly vertical orientation which is enhanced by a raised foundation and a false front gabled parapet. The roof is flat with wide bracketed eaves and an elaborate decorative fascia. A narrow entry opening and narrow double hung windows further increase the feeling of verticality. The entablature underneath the eaves is one of the principle decorative elements of the building. A half round molding runs below the cornice above a wide paneled frieze. Elaborately molded brackets support the overhanging eaves. The windows on the west side of the front façade are paired while a single window is placed directly above the entry on the east side of the façade. The windows have detailed crowns which are bracketed and casings that are incised with a curved pattern. On the lower story, the paired windows exhibit arched sashes. The single width door is paneled with half glazing and a transom. The door is recessed with the entry opening framed by a classical pediment supported on curved brackets with pilasters. A wooden stair with a replacement metal rail provides access. The house is clad with clapboard except for the raised basement which is covered with vertical boards. Houses of this proportion and with this type of façade arrangement are often associated with urban row houses, but in this case the building appears to have been built as a stand-alone.

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

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** HP2
***P4. Resources Present:** ■ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ■ Element of District
P5b. Description of Photo:
Front façade, view southwest
***P6. Date Constructed/Age:** 1870
☐ Prehistoric ■Historic ☐ Both
***P7. Owner and Address:**
Tirzah/Dirk Wanlass
166 West H Street
Benicia, CA 94510
***P8. Recorded by:**
Carol Roland
Roland-Nawi Associates
4829 Crestwood Way
Sacramento, CA 95822
***P9. Date Recorded:** 10-22-04
***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:** 166 West H Street ***NRHP Status Code:** 3D

B1. Historic Name: N/A

B2. Common Name: none

B3. Original Use: Residential **B4. Present Use:** Residential

***B5. Architectural Style:** Italianate

***B6. Construction History:** The house was constructed circa 1870 and appears to have been little altered.

***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**: Single Family **Applicable Criteria:** A / C

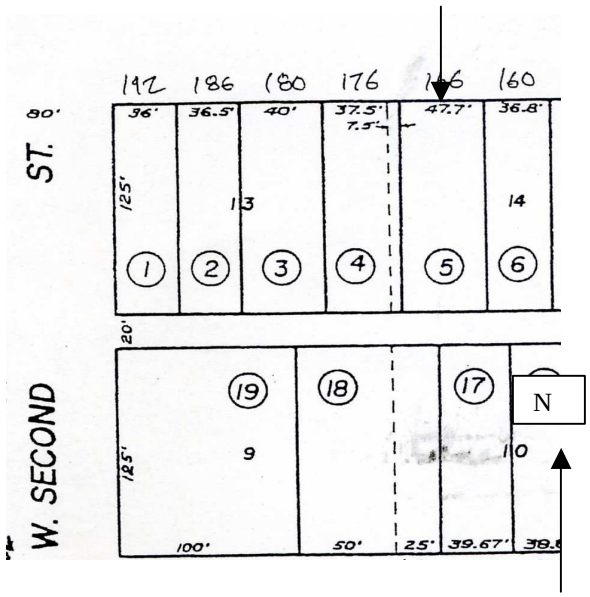
This building is significant as an example of the early residential development in the City of Benicia. It also is an excellent example of the Italianate residential style which was widely employed in the Bay Area in the period 1870-1880. A restrained, but nonetheless, elegant example of its type, it exhibits the vertical massing, flat wall surface, overhanging eaves, elaborate cornices, and intricate window treatments that are characteristic of the Italianate style. This house is featured on page 228 in Virginia and Lee McAlester's *Field Guide to American Houses*, as an example of residential Italianate architecture. McAlestar is a widely used standard reference for American domestic architecture. The house was recorded by the Historic American Building Survey in 1977. The building has been identified in previous surveys as a possible contributor to the Benicia Downtown District. It meets both Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources and should be added as a contributing building in the Downtown Historic District. It also might be considered for Landmark status based on its architectural merit.

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.

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)



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: 166 West H Street

X **Continuation** o **Update**

HABS photograph 1977