

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

Primary #
 HRI #
 Trinomial
 NRHP Status Code 3

Other Listings

Review Code Reviewer Date

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*Resource Name or #: Raised Streets

P1. Other Identifier:

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted

*a. County: Sacramento

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Sacramento West & East Date: 1992

c. Address:

City: Sacramento

Zip: 95814

d. UTM: Zone: 10 ; mE/ mN (G.P.S.)

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate) Elevation:

*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

Those streets running north-south and east-west amid Second Street to the west, the edge of the western sidewalk on 12th Street to the east, the southern sidewalk of H Street to the north, and the southern sidewalk of L Street to the south are “raised streets” within the Raised Streets and Hollow Sidewalks District. Their current elevations represent the level to which workers filled the streets with sand and silt from local farms and the old American River riverbed between 1864 and 1878 as part of the city’s effort to “raise” the entire business district to protect it from perpetual flooding. The streets are bounded by below-grade, brick retaining walls constructed by 19th-century property owners. The original street (**continued on page 2**)

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP38

*P4. Resources Present: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #)

Bare earth map of downtown Sacramento, 2003. Courtesy of City of Sacramento Planning Department

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources: Historic
 Prehistoric Both

Streets filled (“raised”) between 1864-1878

*P7. Owner and Address:

Multiple Owners/City Streets Right-of-Way

*P8. Recorded by: (Name, affiliation, and address)

Heather Lavezzo Downey

Sacramento Old City Association

2620 P Street

Sacramento, CA

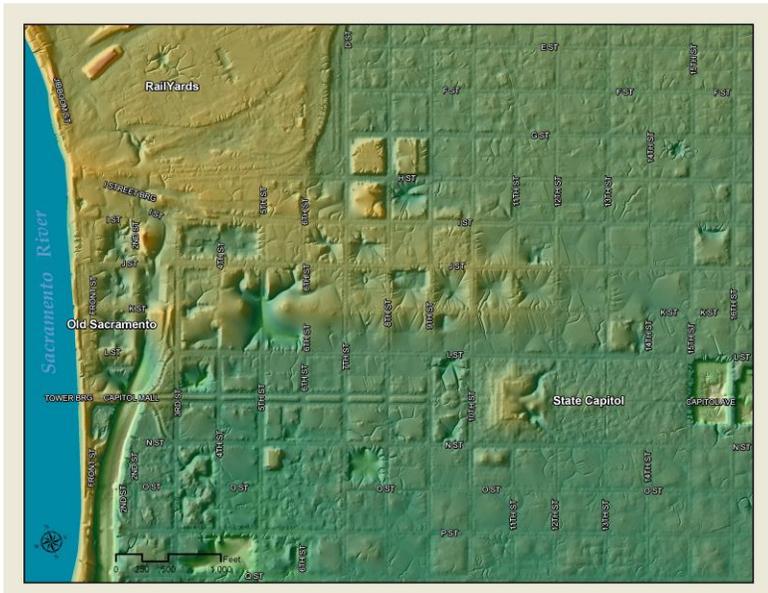
*P9. Date Recorded: November 16, 2010

*P10. Survey Type: Reconnaissance

*P11. Report Citation: *Raised Streets and Hollow Sidewalks Survey Report (Page & Turnbull,*

2009), Rediscovering A Legacy: Archaeological Monitoring Report for the Sacramento Regional Transit District Light Rail Extension Project (Tremaine & Associates, 2008), Historic Context for Sacramento’s Raised Streets and Hollow Sidewalks District (H.L. Downey, 2010).

*Attachments: NONE Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record
 Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record
 Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List):



*Recorded by: Heather Lavezzo Downey

*Date: Dec. 2010 Continuation Update

P3a Continued:

grade remains buried beneath roughly 10 feet of fill, which was then covered with various 19th-century paving materials, including Nicolson paving and cobblestones. Today, raised streets amid Second Street to the west, 12th Street to the east, I Street to the north and L Street to the south are paved with asphalt and many possess light-rail tracks. Within the RSHS District, a section of historic cobblestone paving remains intact beneath the existing asphalt paving (near Seventh and H Streets) as recorded by Tremaine & Associates in 2008. Within Old Sacramento Historic District, the raised section of Front Street, running north to south between J and L Streets, is paved with cobblestones. This paving is not historic, but rather a historic recreation of 19-century paving implemented in the 1970s during the redevelopment of Old Sacramento. The west side of this section of Front Street is paved with asphalt. Dirt and gravel, as well as railroad tracks set in cement, characterize Front Street from the foot of J Street extending northward to the foot of I Street. Crosswalks at the J and Front Street intersection, as well as those at K and L Streets, are composed of granite and cobblestone. Dipping alleyways (bisecting certain city blocks and extending east-west throughout downtown and north-south as well as east-west in Old Sacramento Historic District) are indicative of the city's original elevation and help to provide a sense of the modified landscape. Dipping alleyways may contain "disappearing windows," or bricked-in windows at the original first story of buildings. These 19-century entryways were cut off where workers brought they alleyway up to meet the new street grade. The I/J Street and K/L Street alleys dip to their original street grades at Eighth and Ninth Streets, providing a dramatic example of the discrepancy between the old and new elevations of the streets. Granite curbing dating from the time of the street improvements remains within the RSHS District, most notably on the west and east sides of Ninth between I and J Streets, and well as the south side of I Street between Eighth & 10th streets. This historic curbing is six inches wide, and typically four inches high from gutters which are roughly two to five feet wide. Throughout the downtown portion of the RSHS District, sidewalks are between 20 and 30 feet wide. Curbs and gutters within Old Sacramento are different in size that those throughout the rest of the RSHS District. On Front Street between J and L, and on I, J, K and L Streets between Front and Second Streets, gutters are cobbled to represent historic paving methods and are four feet wide. Sidewalk height within Old Sacramento ranges from six and one-half inches to two feet. Old Sacramento sidewalks are roughly 14 feet wide and planked. Streets within the RSHS District vary in width and are characterized by two to four driving lanes, bike lanes and parking spaces. Parking spaces are seven feet wide, and bike lanes are three feet wide. Lanes are between 10 and 17 feet wide, depending on the street. As such, street widths range from 30 to 70 feet wide.



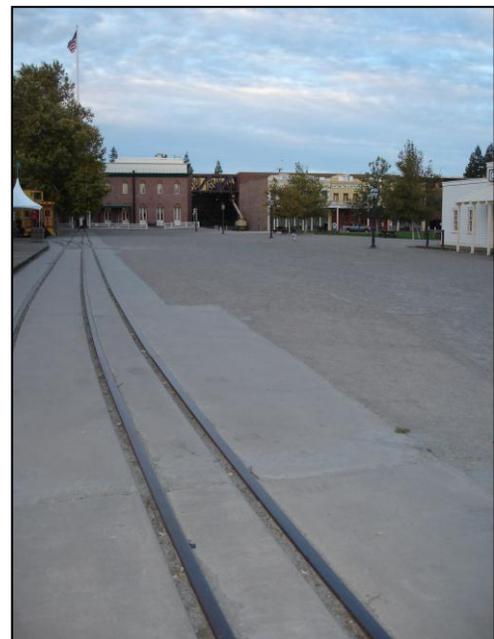
Eighth Street looking south from the southern intersection at H and Eighth Streets



Front Street at foot of J Street, facing south



Seventh Street facing southward from the southeast corner of Seventh & H Streets



Dirt and gravel-paved portion of Front Street in Old Sacramento. Facing northward toward I Street from the foot of J Street.

*Recorded by: Heather Lavezzo Downey

*Date: Dec. 2010 Continuation Update



Cobbled gutter in Old Sacramento. South side of J Street between Front and Second Streets



Granite curbing on east side of Ninth Street between I and J Streets

L1. Historic and/or Common Name: N/A

L2a. Portion Described: Entire Resource Segment Point Observation **Designation:**

b. Location of point or segment: (Provide UTM coordinates, legal description, and any other useful locational data. Show the area that has been field inspected on a Location Map)

Raised streets are found within Old Sacramento Historic District and downtown Sacramento within Front Street to the west, 12th Street to the east, I Street to the north and L Street to the south.

L3. **Description:** (Describe construction details, materials, and artifacts found at this segment/point. Provide plans/sections as appropriate.)

Raised streets were constructed in the 1860s and 70s as one component of Sacramento's street-raising project. Today, raised streets remain at roughly the same level to which they were filled at this time, represented in the sketch below by "1870 Street Grade." They are supported on either side by below-ground, brick retaining walls and buttresses constructed by 19th-century property owners approximately 14 feet from the front of their buildings' façade. Streets were filled with dirt from the old American River riverbed and local farms, on average, nine and one-half feet above their original elevation (see "1850 Street Grade"). Various paving methods were used on the newly-filled streets, including Nicolson paving and cobblestones. The spaces between brick retaining walls and a building façade were topped off with planks, creating hollow sidewalks. Today, raised streets are paved with asphalt or cobblestones – the latter a historic recreation installed in the 1970s during the redevelopment of Old Sacramento Historic District – and contain light-rail tracks, bike lanes, multiple automobile lanes, and parking spaces.

L4. **Dimensions:** (In feet for historic features and meters for prehistoric features)

- a. **Top Width:** Between 30 & 70 feet
- b. **Bottom Width:** Between 30 & 70 feet
- c. **Height or Depth:** On average 9 ½ feet
- d. **Length of Segment:** Not measured

L5. **Associated Resources:**

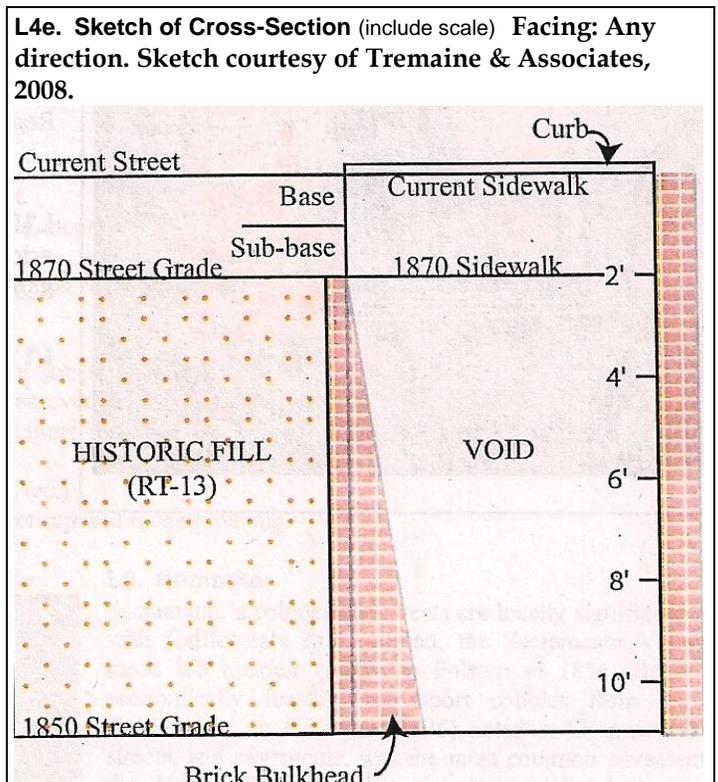
Hollow sidewalk segments & dipping alleyways – other character-defining features of the Raised Streets & Hollow Sidewalks District

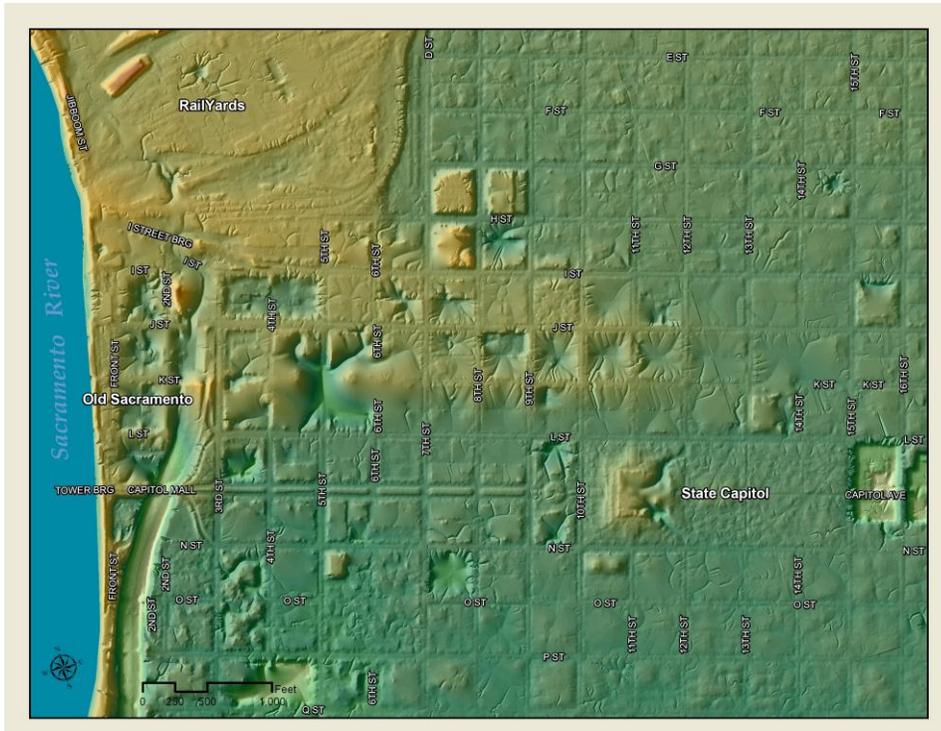
L6. **Setting:** (Describe natural features, landscape characteristics, slope, etc., as appropriate.)

The raised streets vary in elevation, changing block by block as a result of being filled to different elevations as a flood protection and drainage measure.

L7. **Integrity Considerations:**

The raised streets are a character-defining feature of the Raised Streets & Hollow Sidewalks District. The rise and fall of the streets, along with the dipping





alleyways, characterize Old Sacramento and portions of downtown Sacramento as a cultural landscape modified by people for their purposes. The interplay of these historic features with the presence of associated hollow sidewalk segments provide the integrity for the district, as a whole. As such, consideration of the district's integrity should be weighed more heavily than that of its character-defining features.

L8b. Description of Photo, Map, or Drawing (View, scale, etc.)

Bare earth map of downtown Sacramento, demonstrating the

modification of the landscape caused by raising the streets in the 1860s and 1870s. Courtesy of the City of Sacramento.

L9. Remarks:

The raised streets are a major contributor to the Raised Streets & Hollow Sidewalks District – a resource significant at the national level under National Register Criteria A, C, & D for its association with massive street raising and improvement project implemented to protect Sacramento's business district from flooding in the 19th century.

L10. Form Prepared by: (Name, affiliation, and address)

Heather L. Downey, SOCA, 2620 P Street, Sacramento

L11. Date: December 2010