

Not for Permanent File

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16-500 (Rev. 10-75)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

DATE: 1976 12 17

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

CONDITION

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR

DESCRIPTION

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

NAME

HISTORIC Van Voorhies Residence

AND/OR COMMON  
same as above

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 925 G Street

CITY, TOWN Sacramento

STATE California

VICINITY OF 3

COUNTY Sacramento

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CODE 067

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Sacramento Heritage, Incorporated

STREET & NUMBER 630 I Street, Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency

CITY, TOWN Sacramento

STATE California

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Sacramento County Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER 901 G Street

CITY, TOWN Sacramento

STATE California

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Sacramento "Old City" Comprehensive Survey of Significant Structures

DATE 1976

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS 915 I Street, City Hall

CITY, TOWN Sacramento

STATE California

The Van Voorhies house is an excellent example of early 20th century architecture. The house is a two-story, five-arched window, fashionable Alkali first occupant, built in recent years, the house is

The house is rectangular brick, it is two stories, five arched windows, is embellished with plaster. There is plaster on bandsawed corner on the front west.

In recent years, though it retained up to current condition. The stoop's brick with wooden stairs from the back wall. All the exterior is in keeping with what painted a medium blue. Small yard of shrubs. The office is to the

The interior of the house is a gracefully curved. Upstairs there are fireplaces, broken by the living room. The molding and wainscoting. The furniture, wall

## SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> FOLK ART
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIETY
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATRE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> TELEGRAPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES circa 1868 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Charles Cate

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Van Voorhies residence is an excellent example of an early Victorian family's simple yet stately, the house reflects the life-style of one of early Sacramento's most successful businessmen, Albert A. Van Voorhies. Today the house is one of the few remaining historic structures left in the Alkali Flat neighborhood, one of Sacramento's first residential areas.

Albert Alexander Van Voorhies was a descendant of Coert Van Voorhies, a Dutchman who settled in the Hudson River Valley in 1632. Born in Bergen County, New Jersey, Van Voorhies came to California from New York in 1853, working for I. Mills as a Saddlery in San Francisco. Two years later, Van Voorhies established a successful wholesale and retail leather goods store in Fiddlersville, prospering during the Comstock Rush. In early 1859, he moved his family to Sacramento, beginning an interest in the harness business of H. Stone and Company. In 1862, Van Voorhies bought H. Stone and established the firm of A.A. Van Voorhies and Company. His other partners were L.C. Montford, R.C. Irvine, and George A. Pirney, who married Van Voorhies' daughter Kate in 1865. The company, located at 322-324 J Street, employed 100 men and manufactured an extensive line of saddle and leather goods. The company also owned a horse collar factory that produced as many as 150 horse collars a day. In the mid-1860's, the Van Voorhies name was one of the biggest on the West coast.

Van Voorhies also served as president of the Sitter Club, as a member of the Union Lodge, and as a warden to St. Paul's Episcopal Church. He was one of the founders of the Sacramento Chamber of Commerce. Because of his vitality and business acumen, Van Voorhies was often called "the Prince". His biography in *California Fifty Years of Progress* states that Van Voorhies was an affable man and "a liberal subscriber towards all enterprises that would promote the growth of Sacramento".

Early city assessment records show that Van Voorhies bought the house at 925 G Street from Charles Cate in 1872. It is likely that Cate, a bricklayer, built the house for himself around 1868, though Van Voorhies was the first to occupy it. Today there are only about a half dozen Victorian brick residences still standing in Sacramento. In order to simulate stone, popular but expensive in the early city, the Van Voorhies house was faced with plaster and given beveled quoins. With the exception of the Stanford mansion, few Sacramento Victorians retain the delicate detailing of the Van Voorhies'. Located in the once lively Alkali Flat neighborhood, the house was surrounded by early Sacramento's most notable citizens, including California governors and a Supreme Court Justice. Many of the later houses in the district were built by Southern Pacific Railroad employees.

### CONDITION

### CHECK ONE

### CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT  DETERIORATED   
 GOOD  POOR   
 FAIR  UNEXPOSED

UNALTERED  ALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE  MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Van Voorhies home is unique to Sacramento, a blend of Georgian and Italianate features resembling many Eastern "brownstones". Located in the once fashionable Alkali Flat district, the house reflects the charm and elegance of its first occupant, Sacramento businessman Albert A. Van Voorhies. Neglected in recent years, the home was restored to its early Victorian appearance in 1976.

The house is rectangular, the shorter side running across the front. Built of brick, it is two stories tall with a low gabled roof. The flat, narrow facade has arched windows, two on the first floor and three on the second. Each window is embellished with narrow panels, ornate brackets, and ornamental hood molds. The interior is plaster bracketing under the eaves and window frames. A wooden stoop with sawed corner details and a pediment supported by two free-standing columns is on the front west side. Cement quoins adorn all four corners.

In recent years, the Van Voorhies home has suffered damage through neglect. Although it retained its basic integrity, restoration was needed to bring the house into current commercial building code requirements as well as to its 1868 appearance. The stoop's brick steps, added sometime after the house was built, were replaced with wooden stairs and balustrades. A shed, also a later addition, was removed from the back wall and a wooden flight of stairs was constructed as a fire exit. The exterior walls were reinforced with steel and the facade detail was restored. Working with what was most likely the home's original appearance, the brick was repointed in a medium beige. A low brick fence was constructed across the front and a small yard of shrubbery and flowers was planted. A parking lot serving county offices is to the back and sides of the house.

The interior of the home has also been restored. Downstairs are an entry hall with a gracefully curved stairway, an elegant dining room and living room, and the kitchen. Upstairs there are two bedrooms, a sitting room, a study, and a bath. Both fireplaces, broken by vandals, were replaced during restoration. A white Italian marble fireplace, taken from the E.W. Hale mansion in Sacramento, replaced the original in the living room. Still in use are the doors and windows, and most of the original trim and wainscoting. The original pine plank flooring was covered with hardwood. Furniture, wallpaper, and draperies were selected to reflect the Victorian era.

Form No. 10-750a  
Rev. 10-74

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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APR 10 1977

DATE ENTERED

POV 17 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE

1

In 1905, the Van Voorhies moved to a larger home on the northeast corner of 14th and H Streets. From 1885 to 1907, the house was owned by William Henson Davis, a native of Australia and a compositor for the Sacramento Record Union and the California State Printing Office. As the center of residential Sacramento moved eastward, the neighborhood deteriorated and the home was threatened with demolition. Early in 1976, the Sacramento Heritage, Incorporated, a nonprofit, city-organized corporation purchased the home and used HUD funds for restoration. The home is currently on display courtesy of local CREATORS and the Sacred Heart Mothers' Club.

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## MAJOR DEMOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Association of University Women, Sacramento Branch. Vanishing Victorians: A Guide to the Historic Homes of Sacramento. Sacramento: American Association of University Women, 1973.

(continued)

### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .055

UTM REFERENCES

A	10	613,214,00	4,217,115,00	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

### FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE

Judy Bond, Student Intern

ORGANIZATION

Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

9-1-76

STREET & NUMBER

1416 Ninth Street, Resources Building

TELEPHONE

(916) 445-8036

CITY OR TOWN

Sacramento

STATE

California

### STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-663) I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*[Handwritten Signature]*

TITLE

California State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

Oct 17, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*[Handwritten Initials]*

DATE

11/11/76

BY *[Handwritten Name]*  
ATTN: *[Handwritten Name]*

DATE

11/11/76