

American Latino National Historic Landmark Nominations

Four properties illustrating American Latino heritage will be presented to the Landmarks Committee on November 8-10, 2011. These properties will then be presented to the National Park System Advisory Board for consideration at its meeting on December 1-3, 2011.

Drakes Bay Historic and Archeological District, Marin County, CA is being nominated for its representation of early cultural contact between Spanish, English, and Native American peoples. In November 1595, the Spanish Manila galleon *San Agustín*, under the command of Sebastian Rodriguez Cermeño and carrying a cargo of Chinese export trade goods including porcelain, silk, and other luxury items, wrecked in Drakes Bay while en route from the Philippines to New Spain. From an archeological standpoint, this event resulted in one of the most intriguing cases of intercultural engagement in early California history.

Mission San José de los Jémez and Gúsewa Pueblo Site, Sandoval County, NM is being nominated for its association with the late sixteenth and early seventeenth-century spread of Spanish rule northward in New Spain. The push into what is now New Mexico represents the initial movement of European culture into lands occupied by native peoples in the southwestern United States. This occurred in advance of the settlements at Jamestown (1607) and Plymouth (1620) and a century-and-a-half before the establishment of the first missions in California, Arizona, and Texas. A detachment of the Francisco Vásquez de Coronado expedition first encountered the Jémez in 1541, followed by exploratory parties in the 1580s and the founding of the San José mission in 1598. Mission-building activities spread Spanish rule over new territories and forced indigenous peoples to adopt a new religion, language, skills, and lifestyle, as well as provide substantial labor to accomplish the newcomers' goals. In addition, the friars brought new domestic animals, plants, and products to the pueblos.

Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz, Kern County, CA is being nominated for its association with the United Farmworkers of America (UFW) and for its association with the renowned labor leader, César Chávez. It was at La Paz that the UFW grew and expanded from its early roots as a union for farm workers to become a voice for the poor and disenfranchised. Political and social leaders from all over the country and the world traveled to La Paz to meet with Chávez.

Trujillo Homesteads, Alamosa County, CO is being nominated as an exceptional representation of both the expansion of Hispano-American settlement into a newly acquired region of the American frontier and the influence of Hispano culture on American culture. Teofilo Trujillo, a New Mexico native, traveled north from his Taos-area home as a young man and in 1865 settled on an isolated and undeveloped site in Colorado's high, arid San Luis Valley a few miles west of the present-day Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve and the towering Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Together with his New Mexican wife, Andrellita, he became one of the first permanent residents to claim land and develop a ranch in an area considered the domain of indigenous peoples. During the course of almost four decades, Teofilo and Andrellita, their son, Pedro, and his wife, Sofia, erected houses and agricultural facilities and expanded their holdings to nearly 1,500 acres by astutely taking advantage of opportunities to acquire public domain, including actions under the Homestead Act, as well as purchasing property from other Hispanos.