



Name of Property: Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission Chapel (McDonnell Hall)
City, State: San Jose, California
Period of Significance: 1953-1958
NHL Criteria: 1 and 2
NHL Exceptions: 1 and 2

NHL Themes:

- I. Peopling Places
 - 4. community and neighborhood
- II. Creating Social Institutions and Movements
 - 3. religious institutions
- III. Expressing Cultural Values
 - 6. popular and traditional culture
- IV. Shaping the Political Landscape
 - 1. parties, protests, and movements
- V. Developing the American Economy
 - 4. workers and work culture
- VIII. Changing Role of the US in the World Community
 - 4. immigration and emigration policies

Previous Recognition: 2013 California Historical Landmark
2011 San Jose Historic City Landmark

National Historic Context: *American Latinos and the Making of the United States* (2013)
Cesar Chavez and the Farmworker Movement in the American West (published as Appendix F in *Cesar Chavez Special Resource Study and Environmental Assessment*, 2013)



NHL Significance:

- Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission Chapel (McDonnell Hall) gained national historical significance under Criterion 1 upon its dedication in 1953. The chapel was a product of the US agricultural industry's growing reliance on ethnic Mexican migrant labor, the American Catholic Church's heightened efforts to minister to ethnic Mexicans, and the growth of the Mexican American civil rights movement. Upon its dedication, the chapel became a symbol of struggle, perseverance, and faith for ethnic Mexicans who had faced decades of mistreatment in the US
- From 1953 to 1958 Guadalupe Mission Chapel gained national historical significance under Criterion 2 because of its close association with Cesar Chavez (1927-1993), the most important Latino leader in the US during the twentieth century. During these years, the building functioned as a parish church and multipurpose center. It housed religious services but also provided a home for the Community Service Organization (CSO), the most important Mexican American civil rights organization of the early Cold War era. These hybrid functions created a dynamic space that spurred Chavez's emergence as a community organizer, civil rights leader, and labor rights leader between 1952 and 1962, which the *Cesar Chavez Special Resource Study* identifies as a distinct phase in Chavez's productive life.
- After 1953 Guadalupe Mission Chapel gained additional national historical significance under Criterion 1 because it connected the Mexican American civil rights movement, Catholic ministry to ethnic Mexicans, and ongoing efforts to organize ethnic Mexican farmworkers. This broader intertwining strengthened Mexican American civil rights and labor rights advocacy during the 1950s, led to the termination of the Bracero Program in 1964, led to the passage of California's Agricultural Labor Relations Act in 1975, helped drive the early Latinization of the American Catholic Church, and ultimately helped shape modern American Latino identity.



Integrity:

- The chapel building originally was constructed as a parish church in West San Jose in 1914. It was moved to the current parish's property in East San Jose, reconstructed, and reconsecrated as a chapel in 1953. Cesar Chavez, his brother Richard, and other family members and friends helped with this work. The structural soundness of the building is an enduring testament to the quality of their materials and workmanship.
- During the period of significance (1953-1958), the fundamental character of the chapel was that of a modest, utilitarian building. The physical features that defined this character were the exterior walls and roof, which created the interior spaces that housed the functions associated with the building's historical significance. Today, the building has the same exterior walls, footprint, and overall dimensions, and the roof has the same pitch, ridge, and gables, as during the period of significance.
- In 1974 the building was moved 450 feet northwest within the parish grounds and rotated 180 degrees. Of all the comparable properties, this building retains the highest degree of integrity and thus qualifies for designation under Exception 2.
- In 1975 the building was renovated for use as the parish hall. With the deconsecration of the building, a small bell tower, stained glass windows, and exterior crucifixes were removed. Interior partition walls and a drop ceiling were installed. These additive changes concealed certain physical features but left them intact. A Historic Structure Report confirms that all additive changes are easily reversible.
- The building has an exceptionally high degree of integrity of feeling and association. During a recent visit to the building, Herman Gallegos "immediately recognized it," recalled "the good things that happened there," and felt the same "sense of well being" he felt there when working alongside Chavez in the 1950s. Dolores Huerta and Richard Chavez identified this building as the place where "La Causa" began, affirming its enduring association with Mexican American civil rights and labor rights advocacy and with the life and leadership of Cesar Chavez. For Luis Valdez, the building still resonates as a symbol of the "ongoing struggle in the heart of humanity . . . [for] social justice."

Owner of Property: The Roman Catholic Diocese of San Jose (Bishop Patrick J. McGrath)

Acreage of Property: Less than one acre

Origins of Nomination: Guadalupe Mission Chapel was one of five properties the *Cesar Chavez Special Resource Study* recommended for inclusion in a potential Cesar Chavez National Historical Park. The *Study* recognized the building's outstanding interpretive potential, especially as a property that illustrates and commemorates twentieth-century American Latino history. Based on this recommendation, the County of Santa Clara, California, commissioned a National Historic Landmark nomination in 2012.

Potential for Positive Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

- Designation would generate positive responses from those who have expressed support for the production of this nomination, including Representative Zoe Lofgren and twenty-five members of California’s Congressional Delegation, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, the City of San Jose, California State Assemblymember Nora Campos, California State Senator Elaine Alquist, the California State Legislature, the California Office of Historic Preservation, the California Catholic Conference, National LULAC, the Cesar Chavez Foundation, the American Latino Heritage Initiative’s Scholars Panel, and Latinos in Heritage Conservation.
- Designation would demonstrate the NHL Program’s capacity for supporting efforts to preserve and interpret a property that retains strong potential for inclusion in a Cesar Chavez National Historical Park (as suggested by H.R. 4882, “Cesar Chavez National Historical Park Act”).
- Designation would help cultivate a sense of partnership between the NHL Program and underserved cities like San Jose, which is the tenth largest city in the US but counts only one of our 2,560 National Historic Landmarks within its boundaries. This sense of partnership would be consistent with the NPS Urban Agenda and with the priorities articulated in the draft National Park Service System Plan.
- Designation would help the NHL Program continue to build on the work of the American Latino Heritage Initiative and other NHL initiatives that underline the importance of recognizing properties that illustrate and commemorate the diversity and complexity of our nation’s history.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: None is known.

Landmarks Committee Comments: Dr. Allan noted that the building lacks historic integrity.

Ms. Hopkins questioned why the period of significance had not been extended to 1975 to cover the alterations.

Dr. Carson asked what the interior looks like at present. What character defining features remain?

Dr. Chen noted that minority communities lack the resources to maintain the historic character of buildings.

Dr. Carson noted that he believes in embracing the untold stories of culturally diverse groups but that you shouldn’t disregard the ability of a resource to convey a feeling of time and place, what you can see and touch. We use places to tell stories.

Landmarks Committee Recommendation: Designation. Mr. Hoyos moved, Mr. Harris

seconded; 3 abstentions; 7 yeas; approval.

Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of 10/25/16):

Roger C. Rocha, Jr., League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), National President, Washington, DC

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren, California 19th District, US House of Representatives, Washington, DC

The Honorable Nora Campos, California State Legislature, Assemblymember, 27th District, Sacramento, California (Assembly Joint Resolution No. 16, Resolution Chapter 123)

The Honorable Joaquin Arambula, California State Legislature, Assemblymember, 31st District, Sacramento, California (Assembly Joint Resolution No. 16, Resolution Chapter 123)

The Honorable Jimmy Gomez, California State Legislature, Assemblymember, 51st, District, Sacramento, California (Assembly Joint Resolution No. 16, Resolution Chapter 123)

The Honorable Susan Talamantes-Eggman, California State Legislature, Assemblymember, 13th District, Sacramento, California (Assembly Joint Resolution No. 16, Resolution Chapter 123)

The Honorable Tony Thurmond, California State Legislature, Assemblymember, 15th District, Sacramento, California (Assembly Joint Resolution No. 16, Resolution Chapter 123)

The Honorable Luis Alejo, California State Legislature, Assemblymember, 30th District, Sacramento, California (Assembly Joint Resolution No. 16, Resolution Chapter 123)

The Honorable Roger Hernández, California State Legislature, Assemblymember, 48th District, Sacramento, California (Assembly Joint Resolution No. 16, Resolution Chapter 123)

The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez, California State Legislature, Assemblymember, 52nd District, Sacramento, California (Assembly Joint Resolution No. 16, Resolution Chapter 123)

The Honorable Patty Lopez, California State Legislature, Assemblymember, 39th District, Sacramento, California (Assembly Joint Resolution No. 16, Resolution Chapter 123)

The Honorable Ian Calderon, California State Legislature, Assemblymember, 57th District, Sacramento, California (Assembly Joint Resolution No. 16, Resolution Chapter 123)

The Honorable Jose Medina, California State Legislature, Assemblymember, 61st District, Sacramento, California (Assembly Joint Resolution No. 16, Resolution Chapter 123)

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia, California State Legislature, Assemblymember, 56th District, Sacramento, California (Assembly Joint Resolution No. 16, Resolution Chapter 123)

The Honorable Anthony Rendon, California State Legislature, Assemblymember, 63rd District, Sacramento, California (Assembly Joint Resolution No. 16, Resolution Chapter 123)

The Honorable Miguel Santiago, California State Legislature, Assemblymember, 53rd District, Sacramento, California (Assembly Joint Resolution No. 16, Resolution Chapter 123)

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez, California State Legislature, Assemblymember, 80th District, Sacramento, California (Assembly Joint Resolution No. 16, Resolution Chapter 123)

The Honorable Rudy Salas Jr., California State Legislature, Assemblymember, 32nd District, Sacramento, California (Assembly Joint Resolution No. 16, Resolution Chapter 123)

The Honorable Kevin McCarty, California State Legislature, Assemblymember, 7th District, Sacramento, California (Assembly Joint Resolution No. 16, Resolution Chapter 123)

The Honorable Rob Bonta, California State Legislature, Assemblymember, 18th District, Sacramento, California (Assembly Joint Resolution No. 16, Resolution Chapter 123)

The Honorable David Chiu, California State Legislature, Assemblymember, 17th District, Sacramento, California (Assembly Joint Resolution No. 16, Resolution Chapter 123)
The Honorable Christina Garcia, California State Legislature, Assemblymember, 58th District, Sacramento, California (Assembly Joint Resolution No. 16, Resolution Chapter 123)
The Honorable Jim Beall, District 15, California State Senate
Steve Glazer, District 17, California State Senate
The Honorable Jerry Hill, District 13, California State Senate, Sacramento, California
The Honorable Bill Monning, District 17, California State Senate, Sacramento, California
The Honorable Kevin de Leon, District 24, California State Senate, Sacramento, California
The Honorable Robert Hertzberg, District 18, California State Senate, Sacramento, California
The Honorable Connie Leyva, District 20, California State Senate, Sacramento, California
The Honorable Richard Roth, District 31, California State Senate, Sacramento, California
Manuel Pena
Edward Alvarez, President; The Foundation for Hispanic Education, San Jose, California
Dr. David Lopez, Executive Director, The Foundation for Hispanic Education, San Jose, California
Fred Ross Jr.,
Dr. Herman Gallegos, Galt, California
Edward E. “Ned” Dolejsi, Executive Director, California Catholic Conference, Inc., Sacramento, California
Dolores Huerta, Dolores Huerta Foundation, Bakersfield, California
Serena S. Alvarez, Esq., Executive Director, The Salvador E. Alvarez Institute for Non-Violence
Dave Cortese, President, Board of Supervisors, County of Santa Clara, Third District, San Jose, California
The Honorable Sam T. Liccardo, Mayor, City of San José, California
Magdalena Carrasco, Councilmember, District 5, City of San José, California
Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer, Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento, California,
Hilda S. Solis, Chair, Supervisor, First District, Board of Supervisors, County of Los Angeles, California

Advisory Board Recommendation: