STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

EDMUND G. BROWN, JR., Governor

OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
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AUG 1 6 2012

August 10, 2012

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

RE: California Register of Historical Resources
Maravilla Handball Court and El Centro Grocery

Dear Board of Supervisors:

As required by the California Code of Regulations, California Register of Historical Resources (Title 14, Chapter 11.5), Section 4855(c)(4), I am writing to inform you that at its regular meeting on August 3, 2012, the State Historical Resources Commission (Commission) designated the Maravilla Handball Court and El Centro Grocery in Santa Ana , Orange County as eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register), and accepted it for official listing in the California Register. Enclosed is a copy of the Commission's Findings.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Jay Correia of the Registration Unit at (916) 445-7008.

Sincerely,

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure: State Historical Resources Commission Findings

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California Register of Historical Resources
Maravilla Handball Court and El Centro Grocery
Los Angeles, Los Angeles County
State Historical Resources Commission Findings

On August 3, 2012 at the regular quarterly meeting of the State Historical Resources Commission in Beverly Hills, Los Angeles County, California, the State Historical Resources Commission listed the Maravilla Handball Court and El Centro Grocery in the California Register of Historical Resources. Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 11.5, Section 4855.c.3, the State Historical Resources Commission shall adopt written findings describing the resource and identifying its historical or cultural significance and identifying those criteria on which any determination is based.

Located in the Maravilla Neighborhood of East Los Angeles, the historic record indicates that the handball courts were constructed in 1928, and the attached grocery in 1946. The grocery includes an attached four-room residence. A long, rectangular space enclosed by high walls and made entirely of brick, the handball court is the most architecturally distinct and largest portion of the property.

The Maravilla Handball Court and El Centro Grocery is eligible for the California Register under Criterion 3 as an excellent, rare, and well-preserved example of a vernacular recreational building. To date, research has been unable to identify extant handball courts in Los Angeles that are older than Maravilla. The facility is also eligible for the California Register under Criterion 1 for the role it has played in the development of Los Angeles' complex, multi-layered ethnic history. The store, handball court, and activities that took place there were an important focal point for the early residents of the neighborhood and the later Mexican-American community.

The period of significance for the property is 1928 to 1989. After 1989 many regular patrons moved to suburban neighborhoods and the facility ceased to play the significant role it once did in the community. The Maravilla Handball Courts and Grocery meets California register Special Consideration (2). Scholarly research documents that small community social centers were an integral part of the broad patterns of development of East Los Angeles's multi-ethnic communities, and are likely the best type of properties to represent the social history of these particular communities.

With this signature, it is hereby certified that the State Historical Resources Commission adopted these findings pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 11.5, Section 4855 on the 3rd day of May 2012.

Bryan K. Brandes
SHRC Chairperson

Aug. 3, 2012
Date