Cultural Landscapes in the Western United States

A Workshop Cosponsored by the Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation and the U.S. National Park Service

Trinity United Methodist Church
Denver, Colorado
October 4 – 5, 2011
Cultural Landscapes in the Western United States

Segment 3 of 9
The Hispanic / Latino Landscape Legacy

This is an automated presentation of the speakers’ PowerPoint slides with their notes if provided and some video (mostly from the second day) of the presentations. Due to the file size of the October 4 & 5, 2011 presentations the workshop has been uploaded in nine thematic segments. The viewer can pause, advance forward or return to any slide by clicking on the index at any time.
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5. An Overview of Hispanic American/Latino Landscapes
   Maria Mondragon-Valdez (N.I.C.)

6. Cultural Landscapes in Barrio Logan, San Diego, California
   Melanie Lytle (URS Corporation)
Cultural Landscapes in the Western United States

Maria Mondragon-Valdez
Valdez & associates

The Hispanic / Latino Landscape Legacy (N.I.C.)

AN OVERVIEW OF HISPANIC AMERICAN/ LATINO LANDSCAPES
Cultural Landscapes in the Western United States

Melanie Lytle
URS Corporation

The Hispanic / Latino
Landscape Legacy

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES IN BARRIO LOGAN, SAN DIEGO, CA
Identifying and Evaluating the Urban Mexican-American Cultural Landscape in San Diego, California

Preserving the Barrio
Community Plan update offered fresh opportunity...

Barrio Logan
...to identify and preserve historic resources.
Historical Background

Early 20th Century: Bayfront land developed for maritime and naval use.
1920s-1950: Exodus of wealthier Caucasian residents and migration of Mexican Americans, African Americans, and Asian Americans into area.
1950s-1960s: Rezoning and large-scale transportation projects split the neighborhood and drastically change landscape.
1970s: Chicano Civil Rights Movement and founding of Chicano Park
Complications make it challenging
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- Ethnic/Racial makeup of community significantly changed over time
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- Development and Redevelopment Have Changed the Landscape
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Complications make it challenging

- Ethnic/Racial makeup of community significantly changed over time
- Development and Redevelopment Have Changed the Landscape
- Necessity of Oral Histories, Community Participation, and Research Outside of Traditional Sources
- Differing Definitions of What Is/Was Important within the Community
Thinking outside the building

Most buildings failed to be eligible individually or as contributors to a district under conventional application of integrity.

The neighborhood’s cultural heritage was far better exemplified in its landscape.
“A landscape that evolved through use by the people whose activities or occupancy shaped it. Through social or cultural attitudes of an individual, a family, or a community, the landscape reflects the physical, biological, and cultural character of everyday lives.”

National Park Service, *Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*
Criteria for Eligibility

NRHP Criterion A: Events

NRHP Criterion B: People

NRHP Criterion C: Design
Character-Defining Features

hide in plain sight
• Planner James Rojas’ Mexican American Environment of East Los Angeles
  – the people (intangible)
  – the props (tangible)
  – a unique vernacular form (tangible)

• Geographer Daniel D. Arreola’s Mexican American Housescape
  – fence-enclosed front properties
  – exterior house color
  – front-yard religious shrines
  – murals
Characteristics of Mexican American barrios are

*Rooted in Historic Precedent*

but many of the meanings attached to them are not recognized by the current generation.
Character-Defining Features

Enclosed and personalized front yards

Use of color to fill blank walls
- bright colors
- murals
- advertising
- graffiti

Religious shrines
Enclosed and personalized front yards
Various fencing materials
Evolving building traditions
Front yards tell personal stories.
Some stories are less pleasant than others.
Use of COLOR to fill blank walls

Bright Colors
Bright Colors
Bright Colors
Murals
National Register-eligible Chicano Park Murals
Chicano Park Takeover Mural
Chicano Park NASSCO mural
Amontonado (stacking)
Religious SHRINES

St. Michael (San Miguel), Huejotzingo, Puebla, Mexico, Posa Chapel (www.mexicanarchitecture.org)
Chicano Park shrine

Front yard shrine
Integrity?
Only 3% of National Register-listed resources are associated with diverse communities.

European-Americans represent 64% of our population.

Hispanic population represents 16% of our population (up from 13% in 2000).
Helpful Resources

Arreola, Daniel D. “Mexican American Exterior Murals.” 

Arreola, Daniel D. “Mexican American Housescapes.” 