

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Portuguese Chapel of San Diego

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 2818 Avenida de Portugal

City or town: San Diego State: CA County: San Diego

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

x A ___ B x C ___ D

State Historic Preservation Officer <u>28 Feb 2017</u>	
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>California Office of Historic Preservation</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

Portuguese Chapel of San Diego
Name of Property

San Diego County, CA
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

For Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

4.17.17
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Portuguese Chapel of San Diego
Name of Property

San Diego County, CA
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religion/Religious Facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religion/Religious Facility

Portuguese Chapel of San Diego
Name of Property

San Diego County, CA
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Portuguese Chapel

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation – Brick;

Walls - Wood/weatherboard;

Roof - Asphalt

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Portuguese Chapel, or Império Capela, is a single-story, wood frame building inspired by similar chapels from the Isles of Terceira and Pico, in the Azores, and includes Craftsman style features. The chapel has a small rectangular footprint (12' x 20'), a triune pediment with stained glass finials, and a gable roof to the rear as well as an altered front porch. The exterior is composed of Redwood clapboards, asphalt shingles, and stained glass windows along with a red brick foundation and a concrete stair. The interior represents a typical chapel found inside a tuna boat, due to three symmetrical alcoves along the far alter wall, as well as the Craftsman style, vertical-grain Douglas Fir wood altar and trim details. Located near the San Diego bay, in the La Playa neighborhood of Point Loma, Avenida de Portugal is a diverse street in parcel size and building form with little vegetation. The adjacent properties are primarily residential, in addition to the Portuguese Historical Center across the street and the hall next door, which houses the United Portuguese Sociedade do Espírito Santo (UPSES). The immediate neighborhood is also residential, but includes a larger mix of commercial uses. The chapel fronts onto Avenida de Portugal, facing southwest between the associated community hall and a small apartment building, with a 10-foot setback from the sidewalk; large sidewalk medallions lead to the adjacent hall. A masonry wall with iron fencing at a 3' perimeter surrounds three façades. The property is in excellent condition with little alteration since the 1922 construction date (see Figure 6).

Portuguese Chapel of San Diego
Name of Property

San Diego County, CA
County and State

Narrative Description

Location

The Chapel is located on the bay side of the Point Loma peninsula, faces southwest, and occupies a 50' x 40' parcel, described as a portion of Map 305, Block 11, and Lot 3, filed with the County of San Diego on September 5, 1874.

Exterior

The primary façade is symmetrical and features a triune pediment with three stained-glass and metal triangular finials (four-sided) and a Latin Cross at the pediment center. The façade also has two stained-glass windows with crown motifs and slightly flattened gothic arched transoms (also stained glass), and matching arched entry doors in the center. Chapels found on the Azores Islands, a region of Portugal, inspired the three-bay, central door design and the vernacular triune pediment, which symbolizes the Holy Trinity; see comparison examples in Figures 1 and 2. The exterior wall is located on a raised brick foundation and is composed of painted Redwood clapboards with a slight flair at the base, and trim at the corners, windows, and doors. Concrete entry stairs with two iron handrails lead to an 8'x9' platform, which replaced the original wooden steps sometime during the 1940s. Later sheathed in maroon tile, today these tiles are engraved with the names of members. Left of the stairs, the initials SES are noted in multi-colored pebbles to represent the Society of the Holy Spirit; to the right, and with the same stones, is a 1922 marker of the construction date. Above the entry is a recreation of the original crown-shaped sign with crossing American and Portuguese flags. The Crown of the Holy Spirit is illustrated above the flags, topped with a dove. Initials of the United Portuguese Association of the Society of the Holy Spirit, UPSES, flank either side of the two flags.

The gable behind the front pediment has deep eaves with exposed Craftsman style rafter tails along two identical side façades. Each elevation has two stained glass windows with transoms that match the front façade, but no crown motif, in addition to the painted cedar clapboards, window trim, and flared skirt.

The rear façade is void of any openings and the gable creates deep eaves. This elevation is composed of painted clapboards, flared at the base, with trim and two large Craftsman style brackets at either corner.

Interior

The interior is also laid out symmetrically, to reflect the chapel design of tuna boats during the early twentieth century, with an altar located at the rear, or along the eastern wall. See interior

Portuguese Chapel of San Diego
Name of Property

San Diego County, CA
County and State

plan, Figure 3. Since the primary purpose of the chapel is to house the crown of the Holy Spirit, no pews or permanent seats are located on the interior.

The double entry doors (the only interior access) have steeple-tip hinges and a slightly flattened Gothic arch. The flooring is composed of 4" vertical grain, tongue and groove Douglas Fir, same as the window trim and wainscoting beneath the windows, on all but the alter wall. A gated wooden altar rail, which divides the interior space, marks the edge of a two-step chancel. The upper walls and ceiling are lathe and plaster, while the lower wall is composed of Douglas Fir wainscoting, and the ceiling reflects an uncrossed inverted catenary arch style.

The eastern, rear wall consists of a wooden alter that is approximately 6' in length, nestled between two doors, with three arched alcoves centered above that repeat the triune motif. The alter itself is composed of Douglas Fir with three paneled sections. The doors that flank either end lead to a storage vestibule behind the alter where the walls are 2x4 Douglas Fir boards laid flat. The center alcove is the tallest and considered a place of honor where a crown or statues are to be displayed. Two arches on either side of the center are slightly shorter and house statues, and finally, two arches are recessed above both vestibule doors. There are two paired sconces located along each sidewall, above the alter rail, with push button light switch on brass plates.

Portuguese Chapel of San Diego
Name of Property

San Diego County, CA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Portuguese Chapel of San Diego
Name of Property

San Diego County, CA
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1922 – 1949

Significant Dates

1922 Chapel construction date;

1949 construction date of new UPSES Hall

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Athaide, Joseph (carpenter);

Brown, Frank (painter);

Lucas, John (stone mason)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Portuguese Chapel is significant in the area of architecture as a rare and outstanding example in the City of San Diego of a 20th century Portuguese heritage inspired chapel, meeting the requirements of Criteria Consideration A, and is appropriate to list on the National Register under Criterion C at the local level of significance. Criteria consideration A applies due to ownership by a religion-based entity, the United Portuguese Sociedade do Espírito Santo (UPSES); however, an evaluation of the architectural significance under Criterion C demonstrates the merit of this resource. The Portuguese Chapel is significant for architecture because it embodies the building type of a typical Portuguese Festa chapel, which is illustrated by the Azorian style design, and includes an interior that emulates a 1920s tuna boat chapel. The period of significance begins with the completion of construction in 1922 and continues until 1949, when the current UPSES Hall is constructed, which begins a new period of significance. The Portuguese Chapel is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, at the local level, for high architectural significance as a rare example of the Portuguese chapel building type.

Portuguese Chapel of San Diego
Name of Property

San Diego County, CA
County and State

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Portuguese Chapel is eligible to list on the National Register under Criterion C, at the local level, because the building is architecturally significant as an uncommon example in the City of San Diego of a 20th century Portuguese heritage inspired chapel, which meets the requirements of Criterion Consideration A, and has a period of significance beginning in 1922 and concluding in 1949.

Criterion C

The Portuguese Chapel is significant in the area of architecture, under National Register Criterion C, because it embodies the building type of a Portuguese chapel, which includes an Azorian style design, and has an interior that emulates a 1920s tuna boat chapel. This building type is recognized through the basic gable form with triune pediment, a width of three-bays, Azorian style of design, and an interior void of pews. The Chapel's form and Azorian style are modeled after traditional Festa chapels located in the Azores Islands; therefore, this Chapel is representative of the Portuguese chapel building type, an ancestral form of architecture originating from the motherland. The interior design of the Chapel has three alcoves along the alter wall, copying tuna boat chapels of the 1920s, because the early tuna fishing industry in San Diego was primarily comprised of the early Portuguese community, and many were involved in the construction of this Chapel. Adding to the diversity of architectural style within San Diego, in applying Criterion C, the San Diego Portuguese Chapel is an excellent example of the building type, which contributes to the authenticity of the Festa celebrations and, through the architecture, visually represents long-standing Portuguese traditions associated with the Feast of the Holy Spirit.

The Portuguese chapel building type is established first in the Azores Islands during the 15th century when Prince Henry, "the Navigator," decreed that only Catholics would be allowed to colonize the Azorean settlements. Following the settlement of the Azores Islands by the Portuguese, many of the traditional Festa chapels were constructed in modest massing and feature a gable form with triune pediment, a width of three-bays, Azorian style of design such as the use of stained glass, and an interior void of pews (see Figures 1 and 2). These two examples illustrate a humble massing, triune pediment, and a width of three-bays with a central door and windows on either side. As representative of the Azorian style, the use of stained glass in these two examples is minimal, but could have been removed at a later date. However, this style is otherwise illustrated in the hearty width and detail of the wood and door trim, detailed transom windows, and pediment detailing that highlights the triune. Typically, the interiors of this type of chapel do not have pews.

Portuguese Chapel of San Diego

Name of Property

San Diego County, CA

County and State

The San Diego Portuguese Chapel fits this building type and illustrates an Azores Island inspired style of design. The subject Chapel is a rare and excellent example of the Portuguese chapel building type because it is modest in massing with a gable form and triune pediment. This Chapel is also consistent with the building type because it has a width of three bays along the primary façade and an interior without any pews. The Azorian style design is understood through the extensive use of stained glass, both in the windows and the cupolas of the triune pediment, as well as the hearty width of window and door trim, and slightly flattened Gothic arch detailing. The building type and design provide tangible elements of the Azorian chapel design tradition, which furthers the authentic quality for the Feast of the Holy Spirit celebrations in San Diego. In applying Criterion C, the subject property is the only known and best example of this building type in Southern California, because this Chapel embodies the same form and design style of Festa chapels located in the Azores Islands built centuries before.

The interior design of the San Diego Portuguese Chapel, which is indicative of a 1920s tuna boat chapel, is unique only to this specific building. As construction on the subject Chapel (and original Hall) began, each fishing boat pledged the labor of one fisherman, for the duration of construction, making sure that each fisherman fully shared in the catch. The labor and commitment of these men is why the interior reflects the design of chapels found within a tuna boat at that time. Specifically, this includes the uncrossed inverted catenary arch of the ceiling, the wainscoting along the walls, and three symmetrical alcoves, with the center being the tallest, where a crown or statues are to be displayed. The early tuna fishing industry in San Diego was primarily comprised of this early Portuguese community, many of who were involved in constructing the Chapel. This interior honors their cultural and social commitment to their local community.

Criteria Consideration A

The Portuguese Chapel is eligible to list on the National Register, although ownership is a religious-based entity and the building has a religious-associated purpose, because this property meets Criteria Consideration A, as a rare and architecturally significant example of the Portuguese chapel building type. The UPSES, or United Portuguese Sociedade do Espírito Santo (UPSES), the current owner and operator of the Chapel was initially established to help erect the subject Chapel and first meeting hall (no longer extant). Over the years, the UPSES has become much more than a religious entity, and transitioned into a cultural establishment that utilizes the Chapel to support and promote the heritage and ethnicity of the Portuguese community. For example, the Portuguese Chapel was constructed in 1922 to house the Crown (or Coroa) during the annual Feast of the Holy Spirit, a religious celebration to commemorate the Sainted Queen Isabel and her selflessness. Today, the Portuguese Chapel is still the focal point of the annual UPSES Feast of the Holy Spirit, which is understood to be the longest running ethnic celebration in San Diego. Since construction in 1922, the Chapel has continued to house the Crown during

Portuguese Chapel of San Diego

Name of Property

San Diego County, CA

County and State

the annual Feast of the Holy Spirit celebration and serve as a focal point of the Festa activities, where devotees say prayer and provide offerings. However, as a rare and architecturally significant resource that exemplifies the Portuguese chapel building type, this building meets the requirements of Criteria Consideration A. With a modest massing and gable, along with the triune pediment, this Chapel also exemplifies the Portuguese chapel building type because it is three bays wide along the primary façade and has an interior devoid of pews. The Azorian style of design is illustrated by the extensive use of stained glass, both in the windows and the cupolas of the triune pediment; the hearty width of the trim surrounding the windows and doors; and the slightly flattened Gothic arch detailing at the top of each window and door.

Period of Significance

The period of significance for the Portuguese Chapel begins with the completion of construction in 1922 and continues until 1949, when the present UPSES Hall was erected. The Chapel was initially built to house the Crown during the annual Portuguese Festa activities and, while the function remains the same, the UPSES came into a new period of significance in 1949 due to their growth in membership and need for a larger meeting space. Therefore, the period of significance ends in 1949, upon construction of the new hall, because this notes a transition of the UPSES from a medium sized club into a large Portuguese community, with needs for a more spacious meeting hall.

Conclusion

The Portuguese Chapel is an uncommon local example of a 20th century Portuguese heritage inspired chapel, which meets the requirements of Criterion Consideration A, and has a period of significance that begins in 1922 and concludes in 1949. As a building type, the Portuguese Chapel is significant in the area of architecture because it illustrates several distinctive characteristics, including the Azorian inspired design, and has the unique interior of a 1920s tuna boat chapel. Due to the rarity of this resource and its level of historical significance, although owned by a religious affiliated entity, Criteria Consideration A has been met. Beginning in 1922, the period of significance ends in 1949, upon construction of the new UPSES Hall, which transitions the Society further as a cultural establishment of the Portuguese community. The San Diego Portuguese Chapel is eligible to list on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for architectural significance as a rare and outstanding example of the Portuguese chapel building type.

***See continuation sheets, Section 8, Pages 12-16, for figures, maps and historical photographs.**

Portuguese Chapel of San Diego
Name of Property

San Diego County, CA
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Goulart, Tony P. *The Holy Ghost Festas: A Historic Perspective of the Portuguese in California*. Portuguese Heritage Publications, Inc., 2002.

Oliver, Lawrence; Wolin, Rita Larkin, ed. *Never Backward: The Autobiography of Lawrence Oliver a Portuguese-American*. San Diego, CA: Neyenesch Printers, 1972.

Portuguese Historical Center; Alves-Calhoun, Donna. *Images of America: Portuguese Community of San Diego*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2009.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.0459 acre

Portuguese Chapel of San Diego
Name of Property

San Diego County, CA
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

1. name/title: Geri Lauriano, Chapel Committee Chairperson
organization: United Portuguese S.E.S., Inc.
street & number: 2818 Avenida de Portugal
city or town: San Diego state: CA zip code: 92106
e-mail: jilgm@att.net
telephone: (858) 271-4008
date: October 11, 2014 (original); October 1, 2016 (revised)

 2. name/title: Amie Hayes, Historic Resources Specialist
organization: Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO)
street & number: 2476 San Diego Avenue
city or town: San Diego state: CA zip code: 92110
e-mail: ahayes.SOHOsandiego@gmail.com
telephone: (619) 293 -9327
date: October 1, 2016 (revised)
-

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)
 1. Figures, maps and historical photographs (continuation sheets, Section 8, Pages 16-20)
 2. Letter from San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer (previously submitted)
 3. Letter from Council member Ed Harris (previously submitted)
 4. Letter from Council member-elect Lorie Zapf (previously submitted)
 5. Letter from County Supervisor Ron Roberts (previously submitted)
 6. Certificate of Recognition from 1975 (previously submitted)
 7. Initial UPSES Letter of Submittal, October 2014 (included in revised submission)

Portuguese Chapel of San Diego
Name of Property

San Diego County, CA
County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: United Portuguese S.E.S., Inc. Chapel

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego State: CA

Photographer: John Lauriano

Date Photographed: March 23, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 10.

- Photo 1: Portuguese Chapel, primary facade (north view)
- Photo 2: Portuguese Chapel, primary facade (northeast view)
- Photo 3: Portuguese Chapel, primary and south side facades (north view)
- Photo 4: Portuguese Chapel, rear facade (northwest view)
- Photo 5: Portuguese Chapel, north side facade (eastern view)
- Photo 6: Portuguese Chapel and Hall (southeast view)
- Photo 7: Portuguese Chapel 1922 cornerstone (southwest corner)
- Photo 8: Portuguese Chapel Sociedade do Espírito Santo (SES) cornerstone (northwest corner)
- Photo 9: Portuguese Chapel, interior (western view of entry door)
- Photo 10: Portuguese Chapel, interior (eastern view of alter)

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Portuguese Chapel of San Diego

Name of Property
San Diego County, CA
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation Page 16

*Additional Items Continuation from Section 8, Page 11.

1. Figures

Figure Log

1. Example chapel 1 from the Azores Islands
2. Example chapel 2 from the Azores Islands
3. Interior plan for Portuguese Chapel of San Diego
4. Google Map of Portuguese Chapel of San Diego
5. Assessor Parcel Map (Map 305, Block 11, Lot 3)
6. Portuguese Chapel, c. 1920s
7. Portuguese Chapel wedding, 1926

Figure 1 (bottom left): Example chapel 1 from the Azores Islands; located in Praia da Vitoria, Terceira Island, Azores (<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/479281585321104913/>)

Figure 2 (bottom right): Example chapel 2 from the Azores Islands; located in Praia da Vitoria, Terceira Island, Azores (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Porto_Martins)



Figure 1

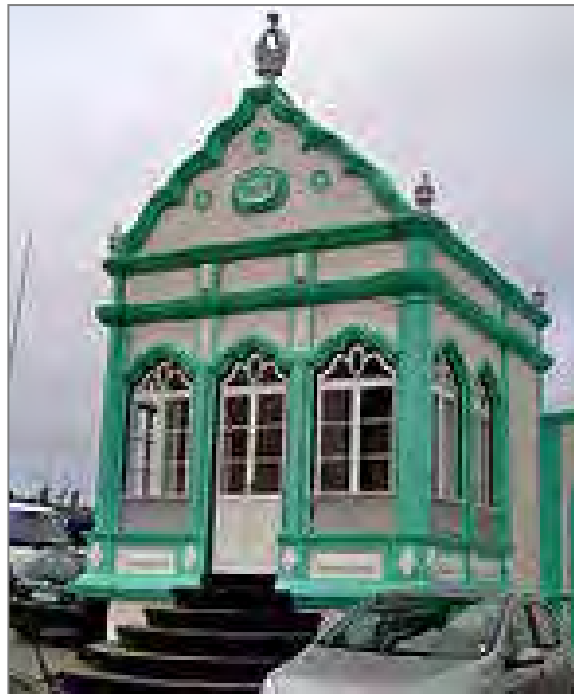


Figure 2

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

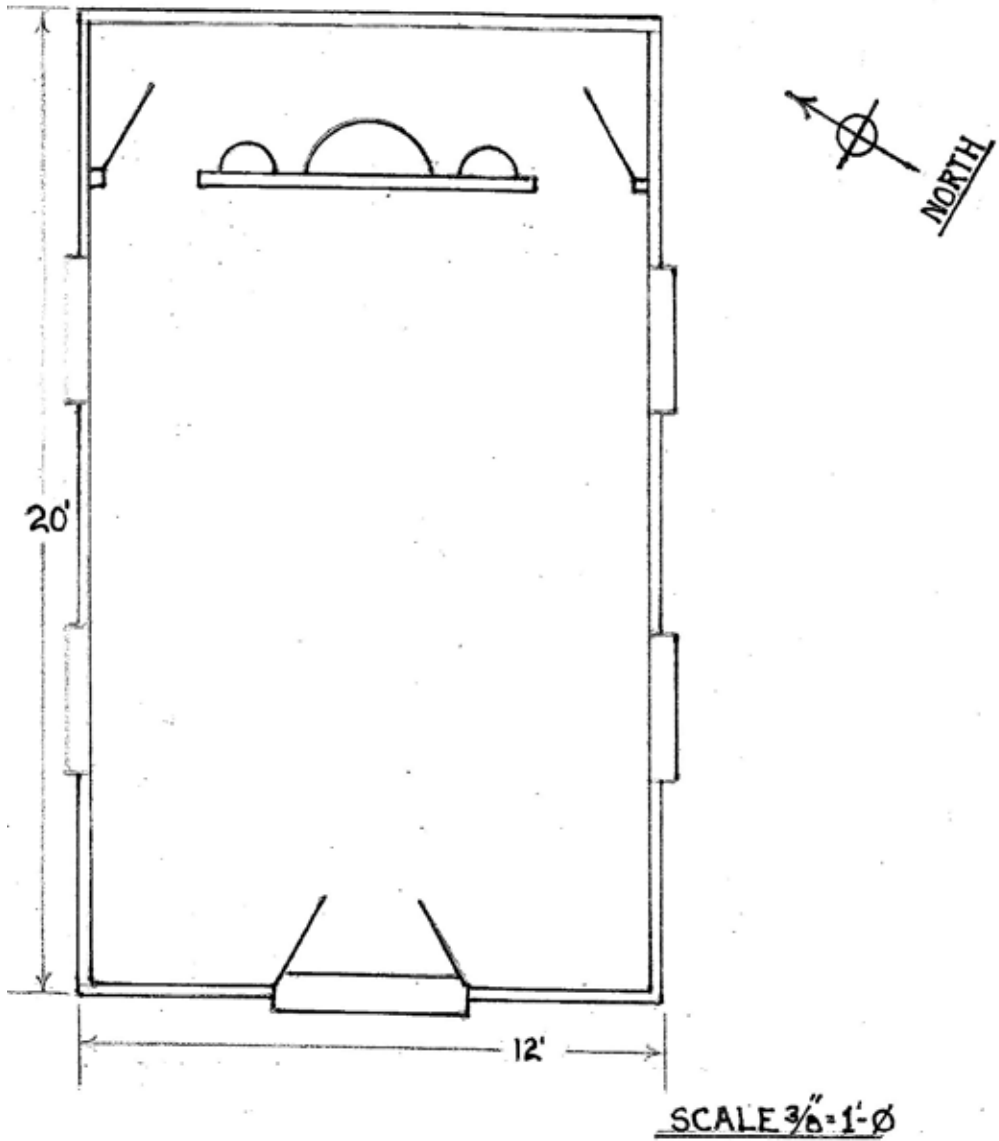
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

<u>Portuguese Chapel of San Diego</u>
Name of Property
San Diego County, CA
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 17

Figure 3: Interior plan for Portuguese Chapel of San Diego



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Portuguese Chapel of San Diego

Name of Property
San Diego County, CA

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 18

Figure 4: Google Map of Portuguese Chapel of San Diego
This Google Earth Map illustrates the location of the Portuguese Chapel along Avenida de Portugal with north arrow to the right, just above Shelter Island Drive.



Latitude: 32.721245

Longitude: -117.229953

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

<u>Portuguese Chapel of San Diego</u>
Name of Property
San Diego County, CA
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 20

Figure 6: Portuguese Chapel, c. 1920s



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Portuguese Chapel of San Diego
Name of Property
San Diego, CA
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 17

Figure 7: Portuguese Chapel wedding, c. 1926





U.P.A. S.E.S.



U.P.A.



S.E.S.













SEAS





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Edson Beall Discipline Historian

Telephone _____ Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

Portuguese Chapel of San Diego
San Diego, San Diego County, California
National Register of Historic Places

The Portuguese Chapel (*Imperio Capela*) of San Diego, is a small single-story wood-frame building with a small rectangular footprint of 12 by 20 feet, a triune pediment with stained glass finials, a front-gabled roof and small open porch.

The building's exterior design is primarily inspired by similar chapels from the islands of Terciera and Pico in the Azores. The interior design of the building is based on the design of typical chapels found on Portuguese tuna boats, including the three symmetrical alcoves along the far altar wall and altar trim details. The building also includes some elements of Craftsman architecture, including the front-gabled roof, exposed and projecting rafter tails, unenclosed eaves, and decorative beams and braces on the building rear. Windows are wooden-framed stained glass with arched upper panes. Other than the replaced front staircase, the property retains a high degree of historic integrity. Integrity of setting changed in 1949 when the previous Portuguese Hall, of similar architectural style, was replaced with a newer, larger hall.

Constructed in 1922, the chapel was built for use during the *Festa de Espiritu Santo*, "Feast of the Holy Spirit," a religious celebration to commemorate Queen Isabel of Portugal. The building is owned by a religious organization and has a religious function, but meets the requirements of Criteria Consideration A because the nomination is based on its architecture under Criterion C, rather than its religious function. The Portuguese Chapel represents a specific architectural type, intended for a specific religious function. Its design reflects its role in religious services, Portuguese maritime heritage, and in the United States, as a focal point for Portuguese American cultural heritage. Constructed as a supplemental building to an existing Portuguese Hall of similar architectural style, the architectural context of the site changed in 1949 when a new Portuguese Hall was constructed, ending the period of significance for the building.

The property is nominated by the building owner, who has provided a letter of support for the nomination. The City of San Diego, a certified local government, provided a letter of support for the nomination, requesting changes in the period of significance and building address. However, the period of significance of 1922-1949 is based on a change in the building's architectural context (demolition of the adjacent 1922 hall) and the address of the property on the nomination is the one commonly utilized, the address of the main hall, to avoid confusion. Five other letters of support have been received.

Staff supports the nomination as written and recommends that the State Historical Resources Commission support the determination that the Portuguese Chapel of San Diego is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C with a period of significance of 1922-1949 at the local level of significance, meeting the requirements of Criteria Consideration A. Staff further recommends the State Historic Preservation Officer approve the nomination for forwarding to the National Park Service for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

William Burg
State Historian II
January 13, 2017



COUNCILMEMBER LORIE ZAPF

SIXTH DISTRICT
CITY OF SAN DIEGO

October 1, 2014

State of California
Department of Parks & Recreation
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attn: Jay Correia, Supervisor State Historian III, National Register of Historic Places

Dear Mr. Correia:

As a San Diego City Councilmember and Councilmember-elect for Council District 2, I am writing to recommend that the Portuguese Chapel of San Diego be registered in the National Register of Historic Places.

Our community values the cultural importance of the Festa do Espírito Santo as it is the oldest ethnic religious celebration in our City, dating back over 100 years to when the first families arrived in 1884. It was formally organized in 1910 and twelve years later in 1922, the Chapel was built to hold the Holy Spirit Crowns during the Festa do Espírito Santo, which is a worldwide tradition among the Portuguese community for more than 700 years.

Since 1922, the Chapel has played an integral part of the annual festival serving as the starting and ending point for the procession to the St. Anges Church with the annual Queen Saint Isabel personage holding the community's Crown of the Holy Spirit.

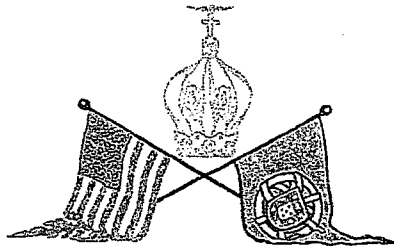
Because of this cultural significance, our former Mayor, Governor, and Senator Pete Wilson signed and presented on behalf of the City of San Diego and Historical Site Board a Certificate of Recognition to the United Portuguese Society Espírito Santo in 1975. This certificate recognized the historical and cultural significance of the Chapel and encouraged its continued use and preservation for many years to come.

As the Councilmember-elect for this community, I am proud to recommend that the Portuguese Chapel of San Diego be registered in the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Lorie Zapf
Councilmember-elect
District 2 | City of San Diego





United Portuguese S.E.S. Inc.

RECEIVED

OCT 20 2014

OHP

Letter of Submittal

October 3, 2014

State of California
Department of Parks & Recreation
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Application: Portuguese Chapel of San Diego

Attention: Jay Correia, Supervisor State Historian III
National Register of Historic Places

Dear Sir,

The United Portuguese S.E.S., Inc. hereby submits the enclosed 10-900 Registration Form for the National Register of Historic Places for national registration of the Portuguese Chapel of San Diego. Also enclosed, is a copy of the Certificate of Recognition by the Historical Site Board of the City of San Diego, dated June 1975 and signed by then Mayor, Pete Wilson. The City of San Diego saw fit to declare the Chapel as having great historical significance for the City as well as its citizens.

Achieving this designation in the National Register has long been sought by the generations of Portuguese in the community in San Diego and would be a dream come true for many. They are extremely proud of the Chapel as evidenced by its preservation and use over nearly 100 years.

Sincerely,

Carl Silva

President

United Portuguese S.E.S. Inc.

upses.president@gmail.com

Enclosed: Form 10-900 including Figures
Letters of Recommendation



COUNCILMEMBER ED HARRIS

SECOND DISTRICT
CITY OF SAN DIEGO
October 6, 2014

Mr. Jay Correia
Supervisor, State Historian III
National Register of Historic Places
Department of Parks & Recreation
State of California
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: National Register's Historic Designation of the Portuguese Chapel of San Diego

Dear Mr. Correia,

As the Councilmember representing District Two, which includes a large portion of San Diego's Portuguese community, I write to enthusiastically recommend that the Portuguese Chapel of San Diego be entered into the National Register of Historic Places. The well-preserved Chapel has been in existence since 1922, and is a cultural icon of the Portuguese community, and the City of San Diego.

The Chapel is the focal point of the community's annual *Festa do Esprito Santo* celebration, drawing festival-goers from San Diego and throughout California. (This past June the *Festa do Esprito Santo* marked its 104th year.) Additionally, the Chapel is a subject study of academia and historians alike due to the Chapel's history that dates back to the 1400s. As you are aware, the Portuguese Chapel of San Diego was recognized as a historical site in 1975 by the Historic Site Board of San Diego. I respectfully request the National Register provide similar recognition to this important icon for the Portuguese community of San Diego.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of my request. Please contact my Council Representative, Rollin Bush, or me at 619-236-6622 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ed Harris
Councilmember, District Two

EH/rcb





RON ROBERTS

SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

October 8, 2014

Mr. Jay Correia
Supervisor, Stare Historian Board III
National Register of Historic Places
Department of Parks and Recreation
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: National Register's Historic Designation of the Portuguese Chapel of San Diego

Dear Mr. Correia:

As a member of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors I strongly support the United Portuguese S.E.S.'s desire that the Portuguese Chapel of San Diego be registered in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Portuguese history in San Diego runs deep, beginning with the Portuguese explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo discovering the San Diego Bay in 1542. The first immigrants arrived in 1884 for whaling and later tuna fishing. Colonies were soon established by the Portuguese arrivals, making their permanent homes in the La Playa and Roseville sections of Point Loma.

The well preserved Portuguese Chapel of San Diego was built in 1922 and is a cultural icon of the Portuguese community. For more than 100 years, it has played an integral part of the annual Festa do Espírito Santo, the oldest ethnic and religious celebration in our city. The Chapel was built to hold the Holy Spirit Crown during the festa, a worldwide tradition among the Portuguese community dating back more than 700 years.

Again, I strongly support the request of the Portuguese Chapel of San Diego to be recorded in the National Register of Historic Places as it is not only an icon to the Portuguese community, but a piece of history for the entire city of San Diego.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Roberts".

RON ROBERTS
Supervisor, Fourth District
San Diego County Board of Supervisors



KEVIN L. FAULCONER

MAYOR

October 14, 2014

State of California
Department of Parks & Recreation
Mr. Jay Correia
Supervisor State Historian III
National Register of Historic Places
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Correia:

As the Mayor of the City of San Diego and previous City Councilmember for the Point Loma community, I am pleased to support the registration of the Portuguese Chapel of San Diego on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Portuguese Chapel has served as a vital cultural and religious institution for the Portuguese community in San Diego for nearly 100 years. To this day, the Chapel continues to play a critical role in the Festa do Espírito Santo event, San Diego's oldest ethnic religious celebration.

The Festa do Espírito Santo is a 700-year-old Portuguese religious tradition that is celebrated annually by parishioners around the world. The event was formally organized in San Diego in 1910. In 1922, the Portuguese Chapel was constructed to house the Holy Spirit Crowns during the three day festival. The Crowns serve as symbols of faith, generosity and thankfulness for parishioners who come to pray and offer donations in support of the event. The Chapel is also the starting and ending point for the procession to the St. Agnes Church where the Crowns are delivered by the personage of Queen Saint Isabel.

Securing historic recognition by the State Department of Parks & Recreation will help further demonstrate the cultural and historical significance of the Portuguese Chapel to the City of San Diego. I encourage you to approve the registration of the Portuguese Chapel of San Diego on the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Kevin L. Faulconer
Mayor

KLF:ic





COUNCILMEMBER ED HARRIS

SECOND DISTRICT
CITY OF SAN DIEGO
October 6, 2014

Mr. Jay Correia
Supervisor, State Historian III
National Register of Historic Places
Department of Parks & Recreation
State of California
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: National Register's Historic Designation of the Portuguese Chapel of San Diego

Dear Mr. Correia,

As the Councilmember representing District Two, which includes a large portion of San Diego's Portuguese community, I write to enthusiastically recommend that the Portuguese Chapel of San Diego be entered into the National Register of Historic Places. The well-preserved Chapel has been in existence since 1922, and is a cultural icon of the Portuguese community, and the City of San Diego.

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Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of my request. Please contact my Council Representative, Rollin Bush, or me at 619-236-6622 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ed Harris
Councilmember, District Two

EH/rcb





THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Report to the Historical Resources Board

DATE ISSUED: January 12, 2017 REPORT NO. HRB-17-010

ATTENTION: Historical Resources Board
Agenda of January 26, 2017

SUBJECT: **ITEM #9 - Portuguese Chapel of San Diego**

APPLICANT: United Portuguese S.E.S., Inc.

LOCATION: 2822 Avenida de Portugal*, Peninsula Community, Council District 2
(*Identified in the Nomination as 2818 Avenida de Portugal)

DESCRIPTION: Review the National Register Nomination of the Portuguese Chapel of San Diego located at 2822 Avenida de Portugal.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Recommended that the Historic Resources Board forward a positive recommendation for the Portuguese Chapel of San Diego to be listed on the National Register of Historical Places under Criterion C and Criterion Consideration A per the nomination, with the following amendments: revise the period of significance from 1922-1949 to simply 1922 consistent with the statement of significance; and revise the resource location information to include the correct address of 2822 Avenida de Portugal, and the Assessor's Parcel Number of 531-351-03-00.

BACKGROUND

This item is being brought before the Historical Resources Board pursuant to a request from the State Office of Historic Preservation to review and comment on this National Register nomination. The Portuguese Chapel of San Diego is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, and Criteria Consideration A as a significant historical resource at the local level for high architectural significance as a rare example of the Portuguese chapel building type. The subject property is not currently listed on the San Diego Register.

It should be noted that the address of the subject property indicated in the applicant's nomination, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, is incorrect. The United Portuguese SES owns two parcels which comprise the entire property – a small parcel containing the chapel itself and small portions of other buildings, and a much larger parcel surrounding the west and north sides of the smaller parcel which contains the majority of the structures on the property and a large parking lot. Figure 5 in Section 8 of the applicant's nomination clearly shows the boundary and limits of the nomination as the smaller

In regard to the building's period of significance, the applicant's nomination identifies a period of significance as 1922-1949, marked by the completion of the building and the construction of the present UPSES Hall next door to the subject property. The applicant has presented only a nomination for the property's National Register designation under Criterion C. Staff finds this proposed "end date" for the period of significance inappropriate for a property built and completed in 1922. The period of significance for a resource must reflect why the resource is significant. In this case, the building is being evaluated for significance under Criterion C as a good example of the traditional Portuguese chapel building type, and the construction of a different building has no bearing on the original construction of the subject building. A building potentially eligible under Criterion C for embodying the distinctive characteristics of a building type will achieve significance through high integrity of original materials and design from the original date of construction. Therefore, staff recommends a period of significance of 1922 when the building was originally constructed.

The subject resource is an excellent example of the Portuguese chapel building type with an Azores Island-inspired design exhibited primarily through its modest massing and triune pediment with a gable roof form. The chapel is also consistent with this building type with its three bays along the primary façade, lack of pews on the interior, arched windows and doors, and use of stained-glass in both the windows and atop the pediment. The subject property is the only known and best example of this building type in Southern California. Modeled after the traditional Festa chapels on the Azores Islands, the building provides an authentic quality for the annual Feast of the Holy Spirit celebrations in San Diego.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATION A – owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

The subject resource was constructed as a traditional Portuguese chapel in 1922. The building is owned and operated by the United Portuguese Sociedade do Espirito Santo (UPSES), a religious entity. The chapel was built in the traditional style of those found on the Azores Islands off the coast of Portugal. Each year in Portuguese communities, particularly those with Azorean backgrounds, chapels like the subject resource play a critical role in Festa celebrations, or Feast of the Holy Spirit. Chapels like these are intended to house the Crown (or Coroa) during the annual Festa, which is a religious celebration to commemorate the Sainted Queen Isabel and her selflessness. The building's continued use as a focal point of the traditional annual Feast of the Holy Spirit – understood to be the longest running ethnic celebration in San Diego – demonstrates the recognized significance of the building to San Diego's Portuguese community.

The Portuguese Chapel of San Diego, although owned by a religious-based entity and used for religious purposes, meets the requirements for Criteria Consideration A as a property deriving its primary significance from its architectural distinction embodying a significant example of the Portuguese chapel building type. The building is a rare and architecturally significant resource exemplifying the Portuguese chapel building type of Azores-inspired design with its modest massing, triune pediment, gabled roof, stained-glass windows and decorative features, and an interior devoid of pews. These architectural characteristics make the chapel a critical center of the traditional Festa activities. The resource derives its primary significance from its architectural distinction, meeting the requirements of Criteria Consideration A, and is therefore eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Historical Resources Board

January 27, 2017

Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Department of Parks and Recreation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816

RE: National Register of Historic Places Nomination of the Portuguese Chapel of San Diego

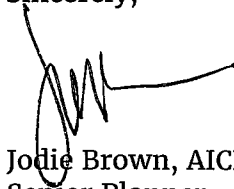
Dear Ms. Polanco:

Pursuant to the Certified Local Government Agreement between the Office of Historic Preservation and the City of San Diego, the Historical Resources Board reviewed the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nomination for 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego on January 26, 2017.

As part of the recommendation process, the Mayor and Historical Resources Board recommended that the property be designated under NRHP Criterion C and Criterion Consideration A at the local level for high architectural significance as a rare example of the Portuguese chapel building type with a period of significance of 1922-1949 as per the nomination with the following amendment: revise the resource location information to include the Assessor's Parcel Number of 531-351-03-00 (see attached staff report).

If you have any questions about the recommendation, please feel free to contact me at 619.533.6300 or jdbrown@sandiego.gov.

Sincerely,



Jodie Brown, AICP
Senior Planner

Attachment: Staff Report No. HRB-17-010

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-7100
(916) 445-7000 Fax: (916) 445-7053
calshpo@parks.ca.gov
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov



February 28, 2017

J. Paul Loether
Deputy Keeper and Chief, National Register and National Historic Landmark Program
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service 2280
1201 I (Eye) Street, NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

Subject: **Portuguese Chapel of San Diego
San Diego, San Diego County, California
National Register of Historic Places**

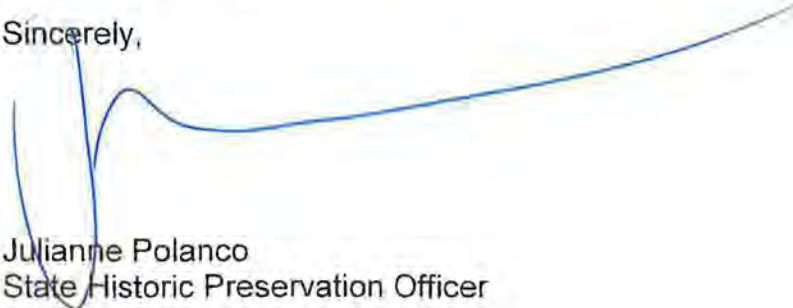
Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Portuguese Chapel of San Diego to the National Register of Historic Places. This property is located in San Diego, San Diego County, California. On February 3 2017, the State Historical Resources Commission unanimously found the property eligible for the National Register under Criterion C at the local level of significance, meeting the requirements of Criteria Consideration A, with a period of significance of 1922-1948.

The property is nominated on behalf of the property owner. Seven letters of support were received, including one from the property owner and one from the city of San Diego, a certified local government..

If you have any questions regarding this nomination, please contact William Burg of my staff at 916-445-7004.

Sincerely,



Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures