

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
PARKS DEPARTMENT
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



ITEM: 13.1
(ID # 24247)

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, February 27, 2024

FROM : PARKS DEPARTMENT:

SUBJECT: PARKS: County Historic Landmark Designations: Chapel of Memories and John Lautner's Windsong House; Districts 3 and 5 [\$0]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve and authorize the designation of Chapel of Memories as a Riverside County Historic Landmark [District 3]; and
2. Approve and authorize the designation of John Lautner's Windsong House as a Riverside County Historic Landmark [District 5].

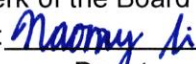
ACTION:Policy


Kyla R. Brown, General Manager 2/8/2024

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Spiegel, seconded by Supervisor Perez and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington and Perez and Gutierrez
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: February 27, 2024
xc: Parks

Kimberly A. Rector
Clerk of the Board
By: 
Deputy

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FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
NET COUNTY COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A			Budget Adjustment:	No
			For Fiscal Year:	23/24

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BACKGROUND:

Summary

On September 21, 2023, Riverside County Historical Commission recommended that your Honorable Board approve the designation of The Chapel of Memories Landmark Designation, and similarly recommended the John Lautner's Windsong House Landmark Designation on November 16, 2023 as Riverside County Landmarks. These nominations have the support of the Regional Park and Open-Space District.

The Chapel of Memories

The Chapel of Memories (St. Catherine of Alexandra Catholic Church) is a American Colonial architecture style church located at 28300 Mercedes Street (Exhibit 1). St. Catherine of Alexandra Catholic Church began as a mission church of the San Luis Rey Mission for the areas of San Jacinto, Lake Elsinore, and Pala. The construction of this structure was spurred by need for a physical space to conduct Catholic mass for the St. Catherine of Alexandra Catholic Church in Temecula. The citizens of the town pulled together to raise the funds necessary through donations, volunteer labor, and a community fundraiser at Vail Ranch. Six town lots were secured on the corner of Front and Sixth Streets. The parish priest during the time of construction, Father John J. Burri, informed parishioners that the new structure would be a "frame building 26'x36' with a sanctuary 12'x12' and a vestry of 10'x12'." Contractor R.J. Smith began construction of the church on February 9, 1917 and the structure was complete on March 30, 1917. The structure served the Catholic community for over 70 years. Over the years, the church added portable additions to serve the growing population, however, it was not sufficient. The community eventually outgrew the building and built a larger facility on C Street and Santiago. For several years after the completion of the new church, the building was used for classrooms and administrative functions. Eventually, the structure became vacant and slated for demolition to make way for commercial growth on Front Street. In order to avoid demolition the structure was sold and purchased for \$1 by Tony and Mildred Tobin who donated it to the Temecula Museum Society. In May 1989, the building was moved to its current location in Sam Hicks Monument. The building is still in use as a wedding and special events chapel.

The Chapel of Memories is historically significant because it is an excellent example of American Colonial architecture in the County. The chapel is also significant as it holds historical and cultural importance as a cornerstone of the local Catholic community.

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John Lautner's Windsong House

Windsong, a stunning architectural mountain residence located at 48700 Twin Pines Road Banning, CA 92220 and perched high above the Banning Pass along the route to Idyllwild, California, came into existence in the late 1960s through the vision of Marco Wolff Jr., a renowned designer hailing from Los Angeles. His ambition was to craft an entirely eco-conscious retreat, a sanctuary for all seasons, far removed from the hustle and bustle of mainstream Los Angeles life, yet conveniently close to make it an integral part of his weekly routine. In pursuit of this extraordinary fusion of physical and spiritual haven, he meticulously selected the ideal person for the task and a location after months of careful consideration. That person was John Lautner, FAIA, celebrated as a master of organic architecture and regarded by many as America's preeminent living architect. With a year of painstaking effort, infused with the dedication and unwavering attention to detail that epitomized the Lautner legacy, this property presents an unparalleled lifestyle and an opportunity for spiritual rejuvenation and uninterrupted creative focus.

At the top of a small hill, in a valley surrounded by mountains, Lautner sited Windsong to blend in as a little dome atop the hill. The structure is a square cabin with a parallelogram carport off the southwest corner. The four main beams are perfectly oriented to the cardinal directions. A single-level structure built on a slab foundation; the roof of the cabin is low with approximately a 3% grade. The exterior of the cabin is composed primarily of original hemlock planking, with some walls built out of concrete cinderblock—since stuccoed over. The site is incredibly windy, high above the Banning Pass, and Lautner studied the concrete and stone walls to bear the brunt of the winds, leaving the northeast side of the cabin for huge glass windows to frame the view. One of the most significant design elements of Windsong is the deep eaves that surround the house on all sides, featuring finely mitered redwood and wood composite strips original to the house. Although the eaves were historically uninterrupted, owners in the 1990s built a small entryway on the northeast side. Glass windows frame uninterrupted views to the north, east, and southeast.

Inside, the great room includes an open flow kitchen in its original location, a fireplace of Bouquet Canyon stone, an original built-in stone and glass coffee table, and a ceiling of lapped cedar and original structural beams. A dining area has been setup in the north part of the room. The original bathroom was remodeled in the 90s but is in the original location in the northwest corner of the house, with a laundry room and closet off the back in an area originally used for storage. One of the original sleeping areas is now a guest bedroom, and Marco Wolff's piano nook is now used as an office/lounge area. This part of the house features tongue-and-groove ceilings, which are original. The back of the house is excavated approximately three feet below the main cabin footprint. Originally the carport, this area has been partially converted into the master bedroom and an additional bathroom and fireplace added under the original tongue-and-groove ceilings. Outdoors, on the northeast side of the building, Lautner built a sunken stone terrace in front of the main entrance, to both shelter it from the strong winds and to avoid interfering with the view from the cabin. The land is still nearly completely unspoiled, with views

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of the wilderness of Black Mountain, Cabazon Peak, the Banning Pass, and San Geronio Mountain.

John Lautner's Windsong is historically significant because it is an excellent example of American Midcentury Modern Architecture in the region. The house is also significant because it was designed by famed architect, John Lautner


Douglas Cardonez Jr. 2/14/2024


Aaron Gettis, Deputy County Counsel 2/14/2024