

STAFF REPORT ON LANDMARK NOMINATION OF
THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
401-11 NORTH RAMPART STREET

The Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe, located at the corner of North Rampart and Conti Streets, originally served as the Mortuary Chapel of St. Anthony of Padua. During the mid-1820's, the City Council became concerned over the growing number of funerals being held in the Cathedral, due to its prominent location and the then common belief that contagious diseases could be spread by dead bodies. Therefore, the City granted the ground upon which the building is located for the express purpose of erecting a mortuary chapel. The chapel was dedicated on December 27, 1827, some thirteen months after the cornerstone was laid. It was used solely as a mortuary chapel until 1860; since then it has been associated with various ethnic groups. In 1875, it became the church of the Italian community. Between 1903 and 1915, it served the Phillipine Dominicans. In 1918, it was renamed Our Lady of Guadalupe for use by Spanish speaking Catholics of New Orleans. At that time, it also became the official chapel of the New Orleans Police and Fire Departments.

The chapel was designed and built by Gurllie and Guillot, two of the most prominent architects - builders working in the Creole section of the city at that time. The church, which is constructed of stuccoed brick, resembles an early Italian Renaissance chapel, with its elegant yet simple details, rounded-arched openings and open loggia. Although the belfry is original to the building, the existing steeple is a more recent addition. The rectory, located adjacent to the church has/particular historical or architectural significance.

Based upon a careful consideration of the four areas of criteria determining landmark qualification, any one of which will qualify a property for designation, the staff of the Historic District Landmarks Commission finds that the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe at 401-11 North Rampart Street meets three of the four categories in that it reflects the broad cultural, political, economic, and social history of the state and community; embodies distinguishing characteristics of architectural types, inherently valuable for a study of periods, styles, methods of construction, and indigenous materials or craftsmanship; and represents notable works of architects whose individual ability has been recognized.

STAFF REPORT ON LANDMARK NOMINATION OF
THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
401-11 NORTH RAMPART STREET

The Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe, located at the corner of North Rampart and Conti Streets, originally served as the Mortuary Chapel of St. Anthony of Padua. During the mid-1820's, the City Council became concerned over the growing number of funerals being held in the Cathedral, due to its prominent location and the then common belief that contagious diseases could be spread by dead bodies. Therefore, the City granted the ground upon which the building is located for the express purpose of erecting a mortuary chapel. The chapel was dedicated on December 27, 1827, some thirteen months after the cornerstone was laid. It was used solely as a mortuary chapel until 1860; since then it has been associated with various ethnic groups. In 1875, it became the church of the Italian community. Between 1903 and 1915, it served the Phillipine Dominicans. In 1918, it was renamed Our Lady of Guadalupe for use by Spanish speaking Catholics of New Orleans. At that time, it also became the official chapel of the New Orleans Police and Fire Departments.

The chapel was designed and built by Gurlie and Guillot, two of the most prominent architects - builders working in the Creole section of the city at that time. The church, which is constructed of stuccoed brick, resembles an early Italian Renaissance chapel, with its elegant yet simple details, rounded-arched openings and open loggia. Although the belfry is original to the building, the existing steeple is a more recent addition. The rectory, located adjacent to the church has/particular historical or architectural significance.

Based upon a careful consideration of the four areas of criteria determining landmark qualification, any one of which will qualify a property for designation, the staff of the Historic District Landmarks Commission finds that the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe at 401-11 North Rampart Street meets three of the four categories in that it reflects the broad cultural, political, economic, and social history of the state and community; embodies distinguishing characteristics of architectural types, inherently valuable for a study of periods, styles, methods of construction, and indigenous materials or craftsmanship; and represents notable works of architects whose individual ability has been recognized.