

2.2.24 Plaza Park (Cesar Chavez Plaza) Historic District



Ordinance # 85-076
July 30, 1985
Updated by Ordinance # 2019-0052
December 10, 2019

Updated 2020

SACRAMENTO REGISTER OF HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Plaza Park (Cesar Chavez Plaza) Historic District

The Plaza Park [Cesar Chavez Plaza] Historic District has witnessed nearly 170 years of Sacramento's history and features an equally broad spectrum of architectural periods and styles. Sacramentans have referred to the plaza by a number of names over the course of its history, including its such early appellations as City Plaza, Plaza Park, or simply, "the Plaza," and its current name, Cesar Chavez Park. The one-block lot, was one of ten public squares donated to the City by John A. Sutter, Jr. in 1848 as part of the laying out of his father's rancho into Sacramento's original street grid. After Sacramento attained its status as the state capital in 1854, it was proposed that the plaza be used for the site of the Capitol building, a scheme that was later abandoned.

The square remained undeveloped open space for several decades, to the point that local newspapers described it as an "omnium gatherum of wagons and weeds." In 1872, Street Commissioner John Rider was "determined to fill-in the plaza and reclaim it from the circus, the strayed animal, the dump cart and the winter's waters." The square was filled an average of five feet with material taken from the bed of the American River. John Keating was hired to design the landscape of the park. Keating's axial plan is still visible in the plaza's present layout.

The improvement of the plaza was a major endeavor that coincided with the raising of street levels in downtown Sacramento. The devastating floods of 1861 and 1862 prompted the local government to improve the public infrastructure of the city. Not only was the street raising project undertaken in the interest of safeguarding Sacramento residents, but also as a measure to ensure that Sacramento remained a viable location for the State Capitol and an attractive destination for the terminus of the transcontinental railroad.

8th Street between I and K streets; and 9th and 10th streets between I and J streets. As a whole, the streets were raised to be level with the plaza, which was the highest land mass in the city. The resulting streetscape included hollow sidewalks, many of which are still intact within the area.

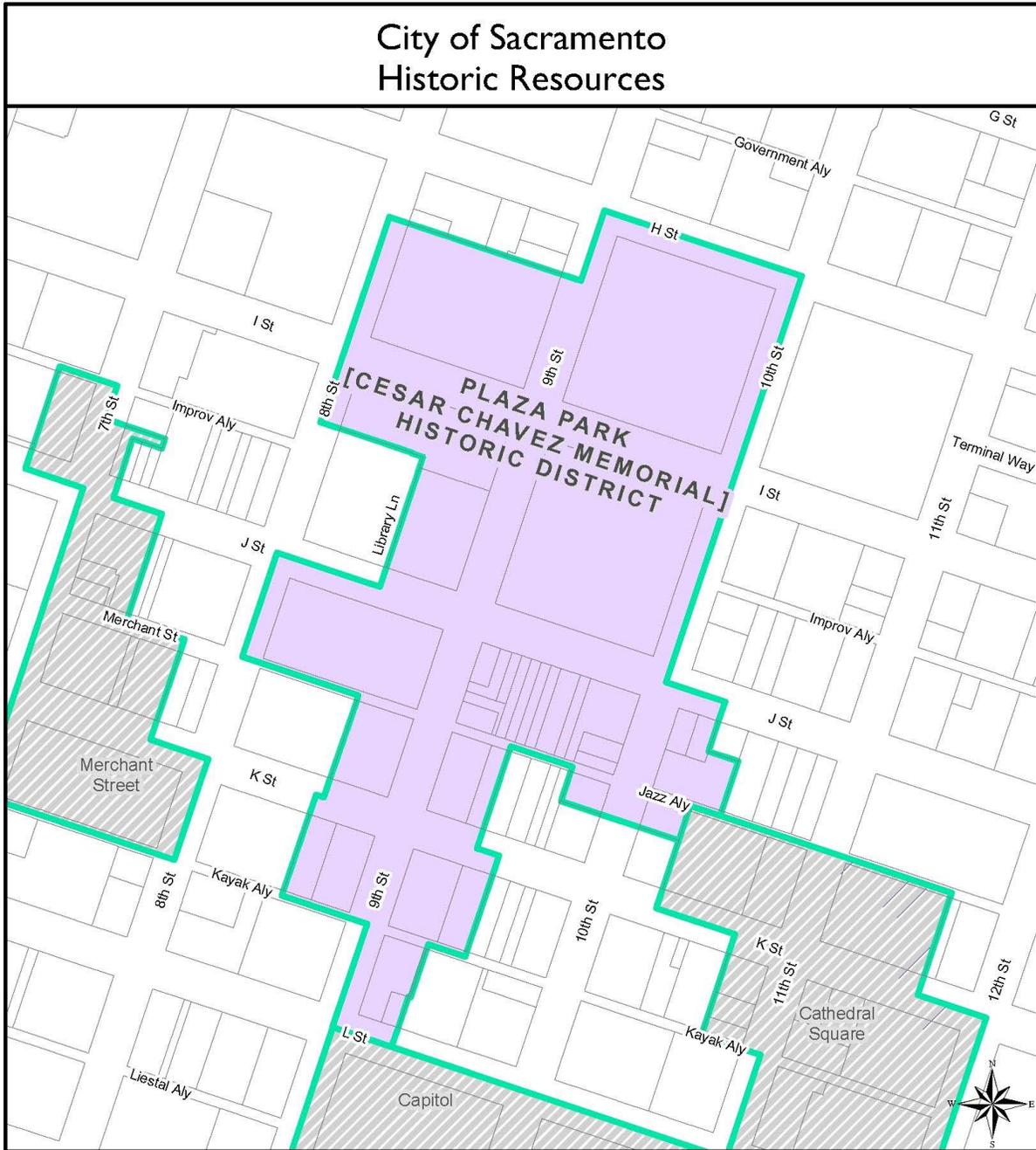
:The period of significance for the Plaza Park [Cesar Chavez Plaza] Historic District spans from 1848, when Sacramento's original street grid and public plazas were laid out, to 1951, when the Country Club Center was erected as Sacramento's first regional mall, drawing commercial activity away from downtown. The suburban mall, along with increased automobile and home ownership during the postwar period, forever changed the ways in which residents interacted with the central business district. Large shopping malls outside of Sacramento's downtown grid attracted mobile, middle-class individuals who were no longer dependent localized services and retail.

Architectural Styles: Queen Anne, Romanesque Revival Neoclassical, Italian Renaissance, Beaux Arts, Art Deco, Streamline Moderne, Late Moderne, Commercial Styles (One-Part Commercial Block, Two-Part Commercial Block, Three-Part Block, Two-Part Vertical Block, Central Block with Wings, Vault)

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City of Sacramento Historic Resources



Geographic Information System

Plaza Park [Cesar Chavez Memorial] Historic District

Ordinance # 2007-103 December 11th, 2007
Updated: Ordinance # 2019-0052 December 10th, 2019

0 50 100 150 200 Feet

- Parcel
- Plaza Park [Cesar Chavez Memorial]
- Other Historic District

SACRAMENTO REGISTER OF HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Contributing (C) and Non-Contributing (NC) Resources

Address	Parcel Number	Historic Status
1010 10TH ST	006-0101-013	Contributing
1011 10TH ST	006-0103-020	Contributing
1014 10TH ST	006-0101-014	Contributing
1017 10TH ST	006-0103-021	Contributing
1020 10TH ST	006-0101-015	Contributing
980 9TH ST	006-0036-031	Non-Contributing
1009 9TH ST	006-0101-002	Non-Contributing
1013 9TH ST	006-0101-001	Contributing
1025 9TH ST	006-0101-021	Contributing
1107 9TH ST	006-0102-020	Contributing
1121 9TH ST	006-0102-016	Contributing
1125 9TH ST	006-0102-018	Non-Contributing
801 I ST	006-0035-010	Contributing
828 I ST	006-0036-037	Contributing
910 I ST	006-0042-001	Contributing
915 I ST	006-0041-013	Contributing
800 J ST	006-0097-015	Non-Contributing
900 J ST	006-0101-003	Contributing
904 J ST	006-0101-004	Contributing
906 J ST	006-0101-005	Non-Contributing
908 J ST	006-0101-006	Contributing
910 J ST	006-0101-007	Non-Contributing
912 J ST	006-0101-008	Non-Contributing
914 J ST	006-0101-009	Non-Contributing
918 J ST	006-0101-010	Non-Contributing

Note: Addresses of properties may not be all the addresses associated with the property; address shown reflect the address assigned to the parcel by the Sacramento County Recorder's Office.

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Contributing (C) and Non-Contributing (NC) Resources

Address	Parcel Number	Historic Status
920 J ST	006-0101-011	Contributing
926 J ST	006-0101-012	Contributing
1000 J ST	006-0103-002	Contributing
1008 J ST	006-0103-003	Contributing
818 K ST	006-0098-025	Contributing
827 K ST	006-0097-012	Contributing
830 K ST	006-0098-010	Contributing
910 K ST	006-0102-003	Contributing
911 K ST	006-0101-020	Contributing
0 L ST	006-0102-017	Non-Contributing

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