

## **Culinary Union Local 226 Headquarters Building**

This nomination for the Culinary Union Local 226 Headquarters Building is submitted under the Multi Property Documentation Form (MPDF) “Historic Places Associated with Latinos in Nevada, 1864-2000” under the area of significance of Ethnic Heritage, and with the theme of Labor History under the supporting area of significance of Social History. The Culinary Union Headquarters Building, built in 1956, demonstrates significant Latino labor history in Nevada between 1991 and 1997, related to labor union organizing in support of workers in the gaming and tourism industry. Through the historic context of significant Latino contributions to Nevada history, the building conveys exceptional importance as it relates to the state’s labor history, and meets National Register *Criterion A* for listing at the state level of local significance under the MPDF, applying *Criteria Consideration G* for properties that have achieved significance less than 50 years ago.

Unions have played a major role in the labor structure of Las Vegas since the birth of Nevada’s gambling-driven economy. In the early 1930s gambling became legalized in Nevada, a moment that would ignite profound impacts on the state’s economy and labor history for decades to come. This was also the decade when the Culinary Union provided its first representation to the ever-growing number of hotel and restaurant workers in the Las Vegas area—growth that would parallel that of the state’s casino industry. The early history of both the Culinary Union and the state’s 1931 Wide Open Gambling Law are important for understanding multifaceted changes that played out in Nevada’s economic and social history for decades to come, culminating with significant Latino contributions to critical labor events of the 1990s.

Perhaps Nevada’s most well-known labor union is the Culinary Workers Union Local No. 226 (hereafter referred to also as the “Culinary Union”), which has a history of effective labor negotiating tactics from its beginnings in the 1930s. Its more recent history has demonstrated prominent Latino leadership through major labor strikes of the 1990s. The Las Vegas headquarters of the Culinary Union, is the nucleus of these efforts, and the central place where leaders conducted planning for negotiations and monumental strikes as well as serving as the location for educational opportunities for members and administrative operations during the late twentieth century.

The Culinary Union is located at 1630 South Commerce Street in Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada. It consists of seven buildings constructed between 1956 and 2005 on a 2.66 acre lot. The primary contributing building the Culinary Workers Union Local 226 Headquarters Building was constructed in January 1956 by Fazio Construction Company, with major alterations in 1974. The Lil’ House is a secondary contributing building located at the southern end of the property, and is a former residence constructed around 1960 and later converted to an office. There are five noncontributing buildings on the property,

including three prefabricated buildings which serve as additional meeting space and for maintenance purposes, and two storage sheds. The property encompasses the southern half of a city block bound by South Commerce Street to the east, West New York Avenue to the south, and Fairfield Avenue to the west. The property is sited north/northwest of the Las Vegas Strip, an iconic stretch of Las Vegas Boulevard that features numerous resort hotels, restaurants, and retail and entertainment venues that provides employment for many members of the Culinary Union.

The nomination form was prepared on September 29, 2023 by Brian Matuk, Chad Moffett, and Liz Boyer, of Mead & Hunt, Inc., 180 Promenade Circle, Suite 240, Sacramento, CA 95834. Their e-mails: [brian.matuk@meadhunt.com](mailto:brian.matuk@meadhunt.com), [chad.moffett@meadhunt.com](mailto:chad.moffett@meadhunt.com), [liz.boyer@meadhunt.com](mailto:liz.boyer@meadhunt.com), phone (952) 641-8839. The final draft was reviewed by SHPO architectural historian Jean-Guy Tanner Dubé.

The Nevada State Historic Preservation Office recommends approval of listing the Culinary Union Local 226 Headquarters Building to the National Register of Historic Places.