

MARVELOUS MAKEOVER

Thesis: Adina De Zavala (1861-1955), a woman without strong financial or political connections, created Texas' Patriotic Supersite. She did this through ongoing grit, research, and a willingness to sacrifice her life for the cause.



Query on YouTube: <Starlight. De Zavala>
I play the role of Adina De Zavala in a Feature-Length, 2020 Caldwell-Award Winning Honors film.

From a Besieged Spanish Relic to a Patriotic Supersite

DANGER!



The Long Barrack had become a grocery. The Chapel was imperiled.



Long Barrack Today

Danger

No money.
No husband.
No sons.
Women lack the right to vote until 1920.



She was inspired by altruistic, Catholic, Hispanic women like Maria Agreda, the Ursuline Sisters, and Sister Joseph (Jo-SEEF). They embodied a "Christ-like spirit of self sacrifice" which De Zavala also equated with the Texas defenders at the Alamo.

While researching the De Zavala papers in Austin, I came upon a resolution De Zavala made: "A virgin I have always been and shall remain forever: no earthly love shall come between my God and me--no, never."

Danger

Ongoing Grit: De Zavala's 141 Taylor Street home was only 7 minutes from the Alamo. As a Spanish site commemorating Christ and sacrifice, it was close to her heart as well. She took the most important first steps toward its transformation. She first approached Long Barrack owner, Hugo Schmeltzer, and first began a fund-raising campaign.

Help from, and then a catfight with Clara Driscoll and the state DRT over the fate of the Long Barrack.



Sacrificial Willingness: De Zavala locked herself in the Long Barrack in 1908 to protest its destruction. She followed the ideal of "mortification." She was trying to Catholicize Texas. Just as Jesus died on the cross for us, she was willing to die to save the Long Barrack. This act gained national attention, and re-attuned Texans to their revolutionary site.

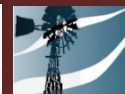


Research: DeZavala wrote a book about the Alamo, and knew about the authentic features around the Chapel, like the Long Barrack.

The Tejana Who Made It Happen

Maritza Quinones

Appearing in:



Sources: Papers of Adina De Zavala, and of the Alamo in the Dolph Briscoe Center of Austin, TX