

# McAllen Texas Temple Fact Sheet



**Location:** 300 West Trenton Road,  
McAllen, Texas 78504

**Plans Announced:** October 5, 2019

**Groundbreaking:** November 21, 2020

**Construction Start:** November 21, 2020

**Public Open House:** August 25–  
September 9, 2023 (excluding Sundays)

**Dedication:** October 8, 2023

**Property Size:** 10.61 acres

**Building Size:** 27,897 square feet

**Building Height:** 108 feet, including the spire

**Architect:** VCBO Architecture

**Interior Design:** VCBO Architecture

**Contractor:** Parkway Construction

The McAllen Texas Temple is the 183rd operating temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The design of the temple is inspired by citrus crops grown in and around McAllen as well as Spanish colonial architecture found in the area. Many of these patterns feature citrus blossoms, barbed quatrefoils, scrolls and ribbons. Blue colors used in the temple's design are reminiscent of bluebonnets, which are the state flower of Texas, and the nearby Gulf of Mexico. The gold and green colors bring to mind other elements of the Texas landscape. Located near the southern tip of Texas, the temple forms a beautiful silhouette over the Rio Grande River to the south.

## EXTERIOR FEATURES

**BUILDING:** The temple is a steel-frame structure with a precast exterior. The structural steel was fabricated and installed by Southern Steel. The exterior precast was fabricated and installed by Gate Precast of Hillsboro, Texas.

**SPIRE:** The temple's height to the top of the dome is 98 feet; to the top of the spire, 108 feet.

**EXTERIOR ART GLASS:** The art glass was designed by Bovard Studio Inc. of Fairfield, Iowa, in conjunction with VCBO Architecture. Holdman Studios in Lehi, Utah, fabricated the art glass.

**LANDSCAPING:** The landscape architect is Heffner Design Team, located in McAllen, Texas.

**FENCE AND WALKWAYS:** Fences and walkways use concrete and fabricated pavers designed by VCBO Architecture. Standard Ameristar fencing was used to comply with temple specifications.

## INTERIOR FEATURES

**FLOORING:** Soft-gold broadloom carpet, designed by Mannington, is used in the general areas and instruction rooms. Wall-to-wall wool rugs are used in the celestial and sealing rooms. Area rugs are rendered in vibrant blues, golds, and greens.

The carpet carving is simple, limited to a single border around the perimeter of the celestial room, which reinforces the clipped corner shape that occurs in the ceilings and floors throughout the building. The carving was done at the time of manufacture by the company that made the rugs, Rugs International of Georgia (with representation in Utah).

The Crema Marfil, Simena, Cenia M, and Yellow River marble were quarried and fabricated in Spain. Scroll shapes reminiscent of Spanish colonial architecture are water-jet-cut into the baptistry font decorative border. The stone was installed by Peritia Stone of Waterloo, Iowa.

**DECORATIVE PAINTING:** The decorative painting patterns were designed by VCBO Architecture and installed by Dale Gierisch of Finessed Finishes Inc., located in Springville, Utah. Decorative painting is featured on the ceilings of ordinance spaces, the bride's room, hallways, the entryway, waiting areas, and the celestial room.

**INTERIOR ART GLASS:** The interior art glass was designed by Bovard Studios in conjunction with VCBO Architecture and fabricated by Holdman Studios. Interior art glass is located in the doors into the celestial room, sealing rooms, baptistry and confirmation room and in a large viewing window into the baptistry font area.

**LIGHTING:** Interior lighting was designed by VCBO Architecture with Preciosa Lighting of the Czech Republic and BNA Consulting of West Valley City, Utah. Lighting fixtures are made with a variety of materials, including acrylic, bronze and crystal.

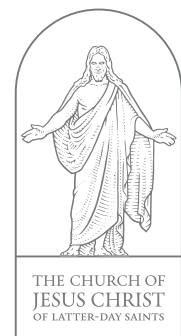
**MILLWORK:** The recommend desk, altars and the proscenium arch in the instruction rooms feature a carved repeating pattern of barbed quatrefoils. Citrus blossoms are carved into the altars, reflecting the local landscape and agriculture. Millwork was fabricated by Client's Design in Woods Cross, Utah.

**BAPTISMAL FONT RAILINGS:** The patterns in the font railings are citrus blossoms (to reflect the local landscape and agriculture) and scrolls that exemplify the Spanish colonial style of the temple. The railings were fabricated by Smith Design of Gunter, Texas, out of glass and bronze with an antique brass finish.

**DOORS AND HARDWARE:** The doors are made of mahogany, and the door hardware is bronze with an antique bronze finish. Masonite International of Tampa, Florida, fabricated the doors. Decorative hardware was manufactured by Luna Bronze, located in Heber City, Utah.

**WALLS:** The walls are painted and have a custom decorative plaster. Decorative plaster is used as an accent finish in special areas of the temple, such as inside wall recesses in the celestial and sealing rooms, on the walls of the instruction rooms and in the bride's room. Alicyn Wright of Utah designed and fabricated the wall coverings.

**CEILINGS:** The ceilings are constructed of gypsum board, acoustic ceiling tile and glass-fiber-reinforced gypsum (GFRG). In the celestial room, GFRG is used for the barrel-vaulted ceiling, fabricated by Architectural Mall Inc. of Fort Worth, Texas. Crown moldings can be found throughout, fabricated by Client's Design. They are finished with paint, decorative paint and gold leaf.



# History of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas

## EARLY CHURCH HISTORY (1920–1950)

As early as the 1920s, Latter-day Saint missionaries from the Mexican Mission taught Spanish-speaking people in the Rio Grande Valley, and a Spanish branch was organized in Brownsville on Sept. 11, 1921. Eventually, they constructed their own building in Brownsville, which was dedicated July 8, 1923.

During that same time, missionaries from the Central States Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints began their work in south Texas. They held meetings, contacted people, and had some success. An English-speaking Sunday School was organized in Brownsville by 1925, which eventually became the Rio Grande Valley Branch (congregation) in 1927. It has continuously existed since then and is now the Harlingen 1st Ward (congregation).

Prior to the establishment of the first English congregation, families such as the newly baptized Dan and Inez Smith (baptized in 1926) attended church in Matamoros, Mexico. In the 1930s, missionaries also taught and baptized the Charles and Emma Ricker family in Rio Hondo. The Smith and Ricker families helped establish the Church, and after a short time the Brownsville congregation had 20 people attending. They soon started a Sunday School in Harlingen as well.

Additional growth came during the 1940s and 1950s, when several members of the Church from elsewhere moved to South Texas. Many were farmers coming for the area's year-round growing season. They soon formed a congregation in the Rio Grande Valley and purchased a church building in San Benito, Texas.

The Alamo Branch was established in May 1951 and met in a city recreational hall. Members had to clean up every Sunday morning from the dances held the night before. Because of this, local Church members in Alamo began raising money for their own church building through fundraisers such as fish fries, chicken barbecues, "dime a dip" suppers, and rummage sales. They were soon able to purchase and remodel the old

Pharr Convalescent Center. It took about seven months to finish the renovations. The building was dedicated in October 1956.

## THE FIRST CHURCH BUILDING IN MCALLEN (1960)

Shortly thereafter, members of the Alamo congregation in McAllen began searching for an existing building of their own. However, after a short time, leaders decided to purchase a four-acre tract of land to build on at 2nd St. and La Vista in McAllen.

As construction began, the architect decided to install a rock wall to foster unity. Church members collected and contributed rocks for the wall to symbolize all members of the congregation coming together as one. Some rocks were sent, with difficulty, from former members and missionaries who had lived in McAllen. They came from 15 states, including Hawaii. For years, Church members could point out "their" rock.

As construction moved ahead, a cement truck arrived a day earlier than expected. In those days, pouring concrete was considered a man's job, but the men who were expected to help were at work. When Church member Mary McKasson learned about this dilemma, she quickly organized the local Relief Society (the Church's global women's organization) to help with the cement. Under her direction, the women climbed up scaffolding and directed the pouring of the cement into the proper molds for the chapel's tower.

The meetinghouse was dedicated on Aug. 28, 1966.

Nearly 600 people gathered for the dedication. The meetinghouse has become an attractive and well-known part of McAllen, thanks to its location on a major cross-town avenue.

## CHURCH GROWTH IN SOUTHERN TEXAS (1960–NOW)

The Church in the Rio Grande Valley has a rich history of sacrifice, heritage, honor and faith. The hard work that Latter-day Saints have poured into this area is extensive.

One example of this faith was Telesforo Reyes, who had been baptized in La Paloma, Texas, in 1930. He sacrificed great time and resources to nurture his family and members of the Church, especially the youth, in the area. He briefly served as the leader of two congregations in two countries at once while the church was still growing in McAllen and in nearby Reynosa, Mexico.

In 1975, Elder Bruce R. McConkie of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles organized the McAllen Texas Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. A stake is a group of wards, much like a Catholic diocese. D. Birch Larsen was called to serve as the first president of this newly organized stake.

Around this time, the Spanish American Mission merged into the Texas Mission. Prior to that, missionaries teaching in English and those teaching in Spanish were in two separate missions. This merger helped unify Church members and strengthen local leadership.

## **MCALLEN TEXAS TEMPLE ANNOUNCED IN 2019**

On Oct. 5, 2019, during the general conference of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Church President Russell M. Nelson announced the plan to build the McAllen Texas Temple.

A temple is a building dedicated as a house of God and is reserved for special worship. It differs from a church meetinghouse, which is used for weekly worship services.

In the early history of the Church in southern Texas, members attended the temple in Mesa, Arizona, which required roughly 27 hours of driving.

Temple attendance became somewhat easier in 1984, when the Dallas Texas Temple opened, cutting travel down to about 10 hours. In 2000, the Houston Texas Temple was dedicated, requiring only a six-hour trip. And when the San Antonio Texas Temple opened its doors in 2005, it was just four hours away.

Now the McAllen Texas Temple will be a blessing to many.

One Church member, Elizabeth Rodriguez de Anda, who was baptized as a child in 1951, said the following about the McAllen temple announcement: "I felt tremendous joy in my heart. Tears fell from my eyes, as I realized our Heavenly Father has been listening to the fervent prayers of countless [Church] members for many years. I thought about the faithful families in the Rio Grande Valley and members who live in Northern Mexico. This temple will be a great blessing and a great privilege for many families. I am grateful to our Heavenly Father for this modern-day miracle."



# EVAN A. SCHMUTZ

*General Authority Seventy*



Elder Evan A. Schmutz was sustained as a General Authority Seventy of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on April 2, 2016. At the time of his call, he had been serving in the Fifth Quorum of the Seventy in the Utah South Area. From 2016 to 2020, Elder Schmutz served as counselor and then President of the Philippines Area. He is currently serving as First

Counselor in the Utah Area Presidency and as area committee chair.

Elder Schmutz has served in many Church callings, including full-time missionary in the North Carolina Greensboro Mission, bishop, counselor in a stake presidency, and president of the Philippines Cebu Mission from July 2011 until July 2014.

Elder Schmutz received a bachelor's degree in English in 1979 and a juris doctor in 1982, both from Brigham Young University. During his professional career, he worked with several prominent law firms in Provo and Salt Lake City, Utah. At the time of his call as a General Authority, Elder Schmutz was managing partner in the Lehi office of Durham Jones & Pinegar.

Evan Antone Schmutz was born in St. George, Utah, on June 6, 1954, the son of Richard Antone Schmutz and Miriam (Christensen) Schmutz. He met Cindy Lee Sims while attending Brigham Young University, and they were married in the Provo Utah Temple in 1978. Elder and Sister Schmutz are the parents of five children and love their role as grandparents.



# JOSE L. ALONSO

*General Authority Seventy*



Jose Luis Alonso was born in Mexico City, Mexico, on Nov. 17, 1958. He married Rebecca Salazar in February 1981. They are the parents of two children.

Since joining the Church in 1974, he has served in a number of Church callings, including full-time

missionary in the México Hermosillo Mission, counselor in a bishopric, bishop, stake mission president, stake president, counselor in a mission presidency, and president of the México Tijuana Mission (2002–2005). At the time of his call, he had been serving as a member of the Fourth Quorum of the Seventy in the México Area.

He received a medical degree as a homeopathic physician and surgeon in 1986. Then in 1991, after attending the National Institute of Pediatrics, he received a degree in pediatric development.

Elder Alonso has served as a member of the Central America and Caribbean Area Presidencies. He is currently serving in the North America Southwest Area Presidency.

He has worked with a Red Cross emergency unit, a San Francisco medical clinic, and the Church Educational System as an area director.



# MICHAEL A. DUNN

*General Authority Seventy*



Michael A. Dunn was sustained as a General Authority Seventy of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on April 3, 2021, at age 63.

Michael Austin Dunn was born in Tucson, Arizona, on March 5, 1958. He married Linda Virginia Poulson in 1980. They are the parents of three children.

He received a Bachelor of Science degree in mass communications from the University of Utah in 1981. In 2008 he received a Master of Arts degree in communication from the University of Utah.

He has served in a number of Church callings, including full-time missionary in the Hawaii Honolulu Mission, ward Young Men president, counselor in a bishopric, bishop, high councilor, and stake president. He was president of the South Africa Johannesburg Mission from 2014 to 2017. At the time of his call, Elder Dunn had been serving as a member of the Twelfth Quorum of the Seventy in the Utah Area.

From 1995 to 2010, he was president of Dunn Communications Inc. In 2010 he was named general manager of KUED (PBS). At the time of his call as a General Authority Seventy, he was the managing director of BYUtv and BYUradio.



# Temples throughout the World

*More facts and statistics can be found at [Newsroom.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](http://Newsroom.ChurchofJesusChrist.org)*

## 315 TEMPLES: DEDICATED, UNDER CONSTRUCTION, AND ANNOUNCED

### NORTH AMERICA

Albuquerque New Mexico  
Anchorage Alaska  
Atlanta Georgia  
Austin Texas  
Bakersfield California  
Baton Rouge Louisiana  
Bentonville Arkansas  
Billings Montana  
Birmingham Alabama  
Bismarck North Dakota  
Boise Idaho  
Boston Massachusetts  
Bountiful Utah  
Brigham City Utah  
Burley Idaho  
Calgary Alberta  
Cardston Alberta  
Casper Wyoming  
Cedar City Utah  
Charlotte North Carolina  
Chicago Illinois  
Cleveland Ohio  
Cody Wyoming  
Columbia River Washington  
Columbia South Carolina  
Columbus Ohio  
Dallas Texas  
Denver Colorado  
Deseret Peak Utah  
Detroit Michigan  
Draper Utah  
Edmonton Alberta  
Elko Nevada

Ephraim Utah  
Farmington New Mexico  
Feather River California  
Fort Collins Colorado  
Fort Lauderdale Florida  
Fort Worth Texas  
Fresno California  
Gilbert Arizona  
Grand Junction Colorado  
Grand Rapids Michigan  
Halifax Nova Scotia  
Harrisburg Pennsylvania  
Hartford Connecticut  
Heber Valley Utah  
Helena Montana  
Houston Texas  
Idaho Falls Idaho  
Indianapolis Indiana  
Jacksonville Florida  
Jordan River Utah  
Kansas City Missouri  
Knoxville Tennessee  
Kona Hawaii  
Laie Hawaii  
Las Vegas Nevada  
Layton Utah  
Lethbridge Alberta  
Lindon Utah  
Logan Utah  
Lone Mountain Nevada  
Los Angeles California  
Louisville Kentucky  
Lubbock Texas  
Manhattan New York  
Manti Utah

### McAllen Texas

Medford Oregon  
Memphis Tennessee  
Meridian Idaho  
Mesa Arizona  
Missoula Montana  
Modesto California  
Monticello Utah  
Montpelier Idaho  
Montreal Quebec  
Moses Lake Washington  
Mount Timpanogos Utah  
Nashville Tennessee  
Nauvoo Illinois  
Newport Beach California  
Oakland California  
Ogden Utah  
Oklahoma City Oklahoma  
Oquirrh Mountain Utah  
Orem Utah  
Orlando Florida  
Palmyra New York  
Payson Utah  
Philadelphia Pennsylvania  
Phoenix Arizona  
Pittsburgh Pennsylvania  
Pocatello Idaho  
Portland Oregon  
Prosper Texas  
Provo City Center  
Provo Utah  
Raleigh North Carolina  
Red Cliffs Utah  
Redlands California  
Regina Saskatchewan



Reno Nevada  
Rexburg Idaho North  
Rexburg Idaho  
Richmond Virginia  
Sacramento California  
Salt Lake  
San Antonio Texas  
San Diego California  
San Jose California  
Saratoga Springs Utah  
Seattle Washington  
Smithfield Utah  
Snowflake Arizona  
Spokane Washington  
Springfield Missouri  
St. George Utah  
St. Louis Missouri  
St. Paul Minnesota  
Star Valley Wyoming  
Syracuse Utah  
Tacoma Washington  
Tallahassee Florida  
Tampa Florida  
Taylorsville Utah  
The Gila Valley Arizona  
Toronto Ontario  
Tucson Arizona  
Twin Falls Idaho  
Vancouver British Columbia  
Vernal Utah  
Washington D.C.  
Wichita Kansas  
Willamette Valley Oregon  
Winchester Virginia  
Winnipeg Manitoba  
Winter Quarters Nebraska  
Yorba Linda California

## **AFRICA**

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Aba Nigeria  
Abidjan Ivory Coast  
Accra Ghana  
Antananarivo Madagascar  
Beira Mozambique  
Benin City Nigeria  
Brazzaville Republic of the Congo  
Cape Town South Africa  
Durban South Africa  
Eket Nigeria  
Freetown Sierra Leone  
Harare Zimbabwe  
Johannesburg South Africa  
Kananga Democratic Republic  
of the Congo  
Kinshasa Democratic Republic  
of the Congo  
Kumasi Ghana  
Lagos Nigeria  
Lubumbashi Democratic Republic  
of the Congo  
Monrovia Liberia  
Nairobi Kenya  
Praia Cape Verde

## **ASIA**

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Alabang Philippines  
Bacolod Philippines  
Bangkok Thailand  
Bengaluru India  
Busan Korea  
Cagayan de Oro Philippines  
Cebu City Philippines  
Davao Philippines  
Dubai United Arab Emirates  
Fukuoka Japan  
Hong Kong China  
Iloilo Philippines  
Jakarta Indonesia

Kaohsiung Taiwan  
Manila Philippines  
Naga Philippines  
Okinawa Japan  
Phnom Penh Cambodia  
Santiago Philippines  
Sapporo Japan  
Seoul Korea  
Shanghai People's Republic of China  
Singapore Republic of Singapore  
Tacloban City Philippines  
Taipei Taiwan  
Tokyo Japan  
Tuguegarao City Philippines  
Urdaneta Philippines  
Yigo Guam

## **CARIBBEAN**

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Port-au-Prince Haiti  
San Juan Puerto Rico  
Santo Domingo Dominican Republic

## **CENTRAL AMERICA**

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Cobán Guatemala  
Greater Guatemala City  
Guatemala City Guatemala  
Huehuetenango Guatemala  
Managua Nicaragua  
Panama City Panama  
Quetzaltenango Guatemala  
Retalhuleu Guatemala  
San José Costa Rica  
San Pedro Sula Honduras  
San Salvador El Salvador  
Tegucigalpa Honduras

## **EUROPE**

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Barcelona Spain  
Bern Switzerland  
Birmingham England  
Brussels Belgium

Budapest Hungary  
Copenhagen Denmark  
Frankfurt Germany  
Freiberg Germany  
Hamburg Germany  
Helsinki Finland  
Kyiv Ukraine  
Lisbon Portugal  
London England  
Madrid Spain  
Oslo Norway  
Paris France  
Preston England  
Rome Italy  
Russia  
Stockholm Sweden  
The Hague Netherlands  
Vienna Austria

## **MEXICO**

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Ciudad Juárez Mexico  
Colonia Juárez Chihuahua Mexico  
Cuernavaca Mexico  
Culiacán Mexico  
Guadalajara Mexico  
Hermosillo Sonora Mexico  
Mérida Mexico  
Mexico City Benemérito Mexico  
Mexico City Mexico  
Monterrey Mexico  
Oaxaca Mexico  
Pachuca Mexico  
Puebla Mexico  
Querétaro Mexico  
San Luis Potosí Mexico  
Tampico Mexico  
Tijuana Mexico  
Toluca Mexico  
Torreón Mexico  
Tula Mexico

Tuxtla Gutiérrez Mexico  
Veracruz Mexico  
Villahermosa Mexico

## **OCEANIA**

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Adelaide Australia  
Apia Samoa  
Auckland New Zealand  
Brisbane Australia  
Hamilton New Zealand  
Melbourne Australia  
Neiafu Tonga  
Nuku'alofa Tonga  
Pago Pago American Samoa  
Papeete Tahiti  
Perth Australia  
Port Moresby Papua New Guinea  
Port Vila Vanuatu  
Suva Fiji  
Sydney Australia  
Tarawa Kiribati  
Wellington New Zealand

## **SOUTH AMERICA**

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Antofagasta Chile  
Arequipa Peru  
Asunción Paraguay  
Bahía Blanca Argentina  
Barranquilla Colombia  
Belém Brazil  
Belo Horizonte Brazil  
Bogotá Colombia  
Brasília Brazil  
Buenos Aires Argentina  
Buenos Aires City Center Argentina  
Cali Colombia  
Campinas Brazil  
Caracas Venezuela  
Chiclayo Peru  
Cochabamba Bolivia  
Concepción Chile

Córdoba Argentina  
Curitiba Brazil  
Cusco Peru  
Fortaleza Brazil  
Guayaquil Ecuador  
Iquitos Peru  
La Paz Bolivia  
Lima Peru  
Lima Peru Los Olivos  
Londrina Brazil  
Maceió Brazil  
Manaus Brazil  
Mendoza Argentina  
Montevideo Uruguay  
Natal Brazil  
Porto Alegre Brazil  
Quito Ecuador  
Recife Brazil  
Ribeirão Preto Brazil  
Rio de Janeiro Brazil  
Salta Argentina  
Salvador Brazil  
Santa Cruz Bolivia  
Santiago Chile  
Santiago Chile West  
Santos Brazil  
São Paulo Brazil  
São Paulo East Brazil  
Teresina Brazil  
Trujillo Peru  
Vitória Brazil



# MCALLEN TEXAS TEMPLE

*The following images and more are available at [Newsroom.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](https://newsroom.churchofjesuschrist.org).*



EXTERIOR



EXTERIOR



ENTRY



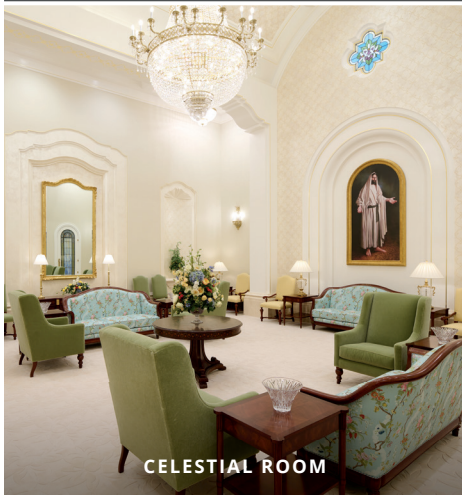
BAPTISTRY



INSTRUCTION ROOM



SEALING ROOM



CELESTIAL ROOM



BRIDE'S ROOM



INTERIOR DETAIL