Taqueria Dona Maria
Mexican Restaurant
2601 Navigation Blvd
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Taqueria Dona Maria is a cozy Hispanic restaurant filled with good memories and good cuisine which is currently under the ownership of Maria and Juan Hernandez who’ve been have running the establishment for 10 years. This lovely couple met through the Christian Youth Organization (CYO), at the Guadalupe Catholic Church where they used to attend religious instruction back in 1968. It wasn’t till after Maria finished college that they both decided to get married, under the belief that education was the most important thing a person should have next to religion. Maria’s mother advised her that “I can give you a car, I can give you home but those can be destroyed yet a good education can never be taken away from you”. From this fruitful marriage they had two sons and two daughters who reside in Houston and help out the family business when they have time available as each has their own careers and lives to pursue. Though one would guess that the restaurant was named after Misses Hernandez it was in fact the name of the previous owner who had to step down due to health related issues. Asides not wanting to change the name Mister and Misses Hernandez did not want change the cultural vibe and memories created by the customers and workers at the establishment, so little change went into the restaurant except for the repairs that were more than necessary to keep the business alive. The one thing did change, though by small personal touch, was of course the menu as Mrs Hernandez wished to add in her own expertise in cooking taught to her by her own mother to help reinvigorate the Latin flavor of the taqueria’s menu.
One of the most common dishes is Carne Asada and Chiles Rellenos and they are willing to adhere to some special orders by customers if it is within the realm of the cook’s abilities. Overall Taqueria Dona Maria features authentic Mexican American cooking that is kept alive through traditional cooking styles reminiscent of Hispanic culture in that of Mexico. The welcoming and home-style environment greets customers in like a patrons but leaves them feeling like friends once their dining experience is done. This creates the sense that the new owners will continue down the path of the old owners by only wanting to create good memories of dining experiences and strong ties to the Latin American community through the mutual understanding of cultural cuisine.

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Source: Taqueria Dona Maria Personal Interview, October 8, 2015, Houston, Texas