

The Mission Period (1769–1833) & the Spanish & Mexicans in California



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**Mission San Francisco de Asís,
San Francisco, CA**



**Junípero Serra at age 61,
ten years before his death.**

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With the arrival of the Spanish in northern California in the 1770s and the creation and development of the missions, new technologies, new materials, and new ways of living were introduced to the California Indians. Many of the Indians, who once lived off of the natural resources of the land and moved their villages as needed, became a part of mission life and gave up their old ways and freedom in exchange for lives controlled and provided for by the missionaries. At the missions the Indians were taught new skills so that they could construct buildings, grow crops, herd animals, and to learn a new way of life.

The Spanish missions were mainly constructed along the California coast except for the two missions established on the Colorado River which were destroyed within a year of their creation. There were no missions established in the central valley of California. California was considered the last outpost of the Spanish global empire. Twenty-three missions were established in all, although only 21 missions endured. The first three of the 21 missions were located at San Diego, Monterey and one to be located in between were meant to hold the spread of the Russians southward in California. The first mission established was San Diego de Alcalá, which was founded in 1769, and the last mission was San Francisco Solano Mission founded 1823 in Sonoma.^{2 p.56}

Fray Junípero Serra was a Majorcan Franciscan friar who founded the mission chain in Alta California today the state of California. Serra was appointed superior of the Indian Missions of Baja California in 1768. He took over the administration of the missions on the Baja California Peninsula when King Carlos III ordered that the Franciscans be forcibly expelled from “New Spain” on February 3, 1768. At that time, Serra became the “Father Presidente,” and early in 1769 he accompanied Governor Gaspar de Portolá on his expedition to Alta California. Serra remained at San Diego in order to start the Mission San Diego de Alcalá, the first of the 21 California missions. Serra moved to what is now Monterey in 1770 where he founded Mission San Carlos Borromeo de Carmelo. He relocated the mission to Carmel in 1771 and it became known as “Mission Carmel,” which he used for his headquarters. Mission San Antonio de Padua, Mission San Gabriel Arcángel, Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa, Mission San Juan Capistrano, Mission San Francisco de Asís, Mission Santa Clara de Asís, and Mission San Buenaventura were all founded under his presidency. During the last three years of his life, Serra “visited the missions from San Diego to San Francisco, traveling more than 600 miles in the process, in order to confirm all who had been baptized. He suffered intensely from his crippled leg (due to an insect bite early in his life) and from his chest, yet he would use no remedies. He confirmed 5,309 persons, who, with but few exceptions, were Indians (‘neophytes’) converted during the 14 years from 1770.” Father Junipero Serra died on August 28, 1784 at the age of 70 at Mission San Carlos Borromeo where he is buried under the sanctuary floor.¹⁰

The missionary priests’ primary purpose was to spread the Christian doctrine among the Indians by baptizing them and to teach them to become self-sufficient, but Spain used the missions and missionaries as the most economical, peaceful means of settling the new territory. Spain needed to subjugate, control, and civilize the natives in order to achieve these goals.^{2 p.53}

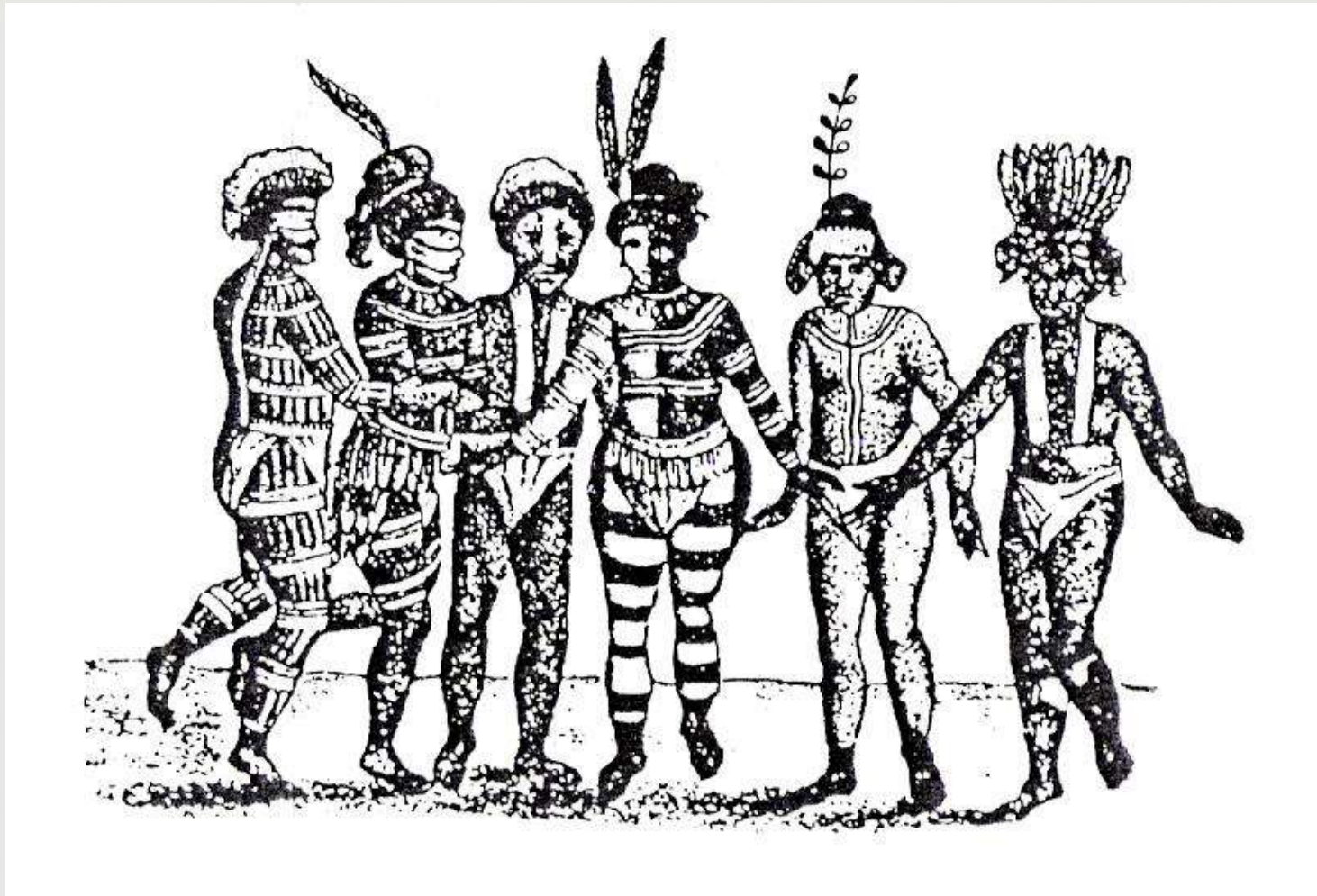


The first recorded baptisms in Alta California were performed in "The Canyon of the Little Christians." Engelhardt 1922, p. 258 (From "Spanish Missions of California")

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The missions were meant to be only temporarily under the control of the missionaries for a period of 10 years. Once the missionaries' work was done, the mission lands, that had been held in trust for the Indians, were to be given to the mission Indians.

From their lives before they entered the mission communities, the natives “knew only how to utilize bone, seashells, stone, and wood for building, tool making, and weapons. The California Indians were criticized because they appeared to be idle and did not “raise crops, herd flocks, or practice other disciplined forms of food production characteristic of other cultures.” ²
p.⁵⁰ The Spaniards looked down upon the Indians, although the Spaniards suffered famines when they first settled while living in the same environment as the Indians lived when the Spaniards' imported supplies did not arrive on time.



Georg von Langsdorff, an early visitor to California, sketched a group of *Costeño* dancers at Mission San José in 1806. “The hair of these people is very coarse, thick, and stands erect; in some it is powdered with down feathers”, Langsdorff noted. “Their bodies are fantastically painted with charcoal dust, red clay, and chalk. The foremost dancer is ornamented all over with down feathers, which gives him a monkey-like appearance; the hindmost has had the whimsical idea of painting his body to imitate the uniform of a Spanish soldier, with his boots, stockings, breeches, and upper garments.” (From “Spanish Missions of California” <http://reference.findtarget.com/search/Spanish%20missions%20in%20California/>)

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Prior to the Indians joining the missions, the Indians lived healthy lives using the natural resources within their territorial boundaries and trading with nearby Indians for things not available in their own territory. The California Indians were not an agrarian society because they lived off of the land because there was ample game to hunt and natural orchards of oaks that produced acorns for the Indians' use. The Indians were very healthy until diseases, such as measles and chickenpox, were brought in by the white men which killed hundreds of Indians because the Indians had no natural immunity to the diseases. ²

p.51



Foliage and acorns of *Quercus robur*
(on Wikipedia. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oak_trees)

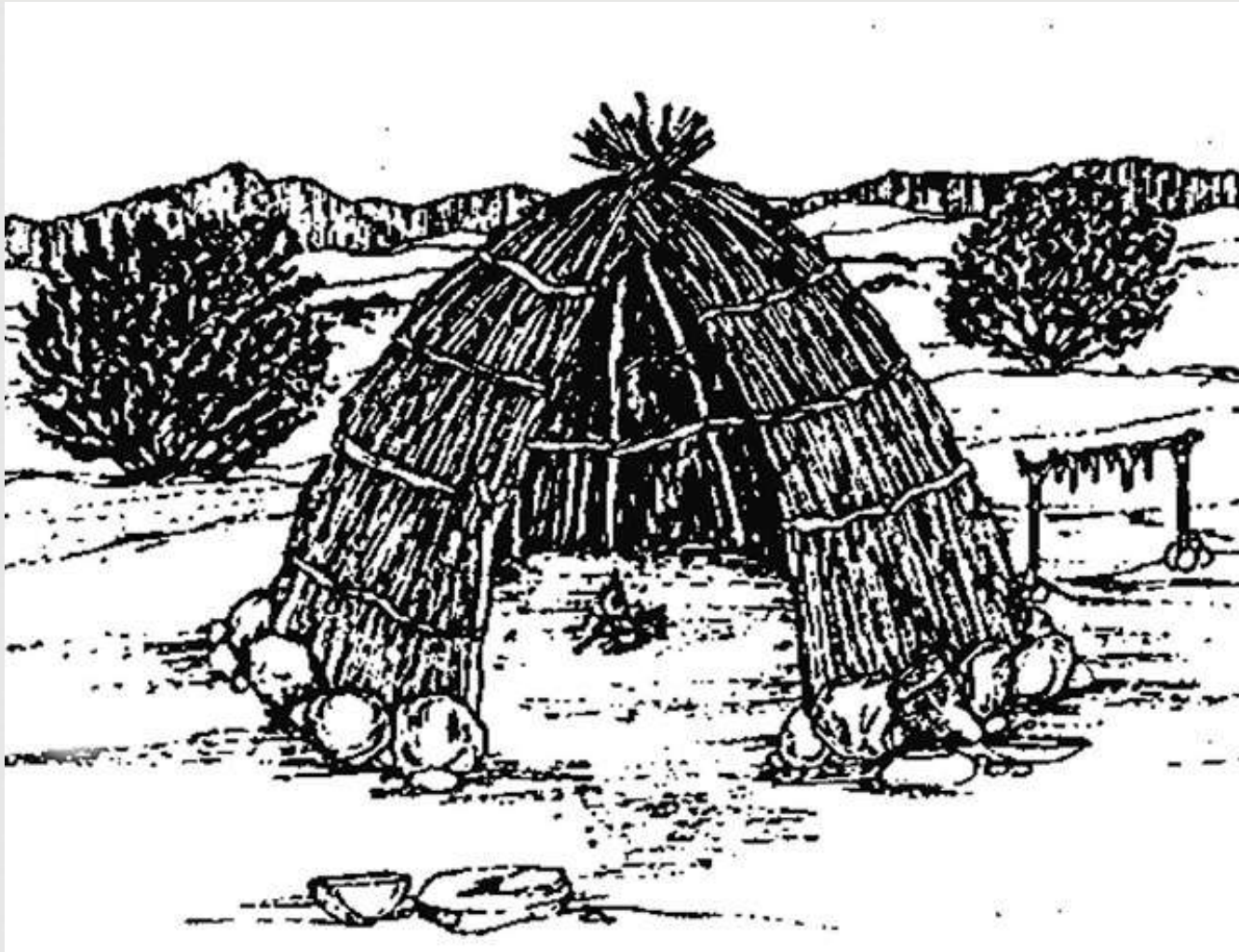


**Indian Grinding Stones at Mission San Antonio de Padua,
Monterey County, CA**

(copyright Lisa Paul, [Left Coast Cowboys](#), Creative Commons license)

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The Indians villages were located near streams, the ocean, or groves of live oaks so they would have a good supply of water and food. They used brush or tules bent and tied to form conical or hemispherical shelters, which they destroyed once they became too filthy or verminous. Until they had access to metal after being introduced to it by the Spaniards, their weapons, tools, and appliances were made from stone, bone, and wood. They were also known for their fine baskets that were so tightly woven that they could hold water. The California Indians built well-caulked plank boats to travel off of the channel of Santa Barbara and to trade with other Indians, such as the Indians who lived on the Santa Catalina Island in what is today Los Angeles County. Because of their free lifestyle, many of the Indians resisted the organized life and loss of freedom that the missionaries wanted them to follow. ^{2 p.51}



Many native cultures built cone-shaped huts (wikiups) made of willow branches covered with brush or mats made of tule leaves. The shelters were utilized primarily for sleeping or as refuge in cases of inclement weather. Europeans generally regarded such contrivances as “...evidence of the Indians' inability to fashion more sophisticated structures.” (From “California Mission Clash of Cultures,” on Wikipedia.)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_mission_clash_of_cultures



Indian Dwelling at La Purisima Mission,
on Flickr (Courtesy of PJM#1. Used with permission)
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/pjm1/4178396816/>

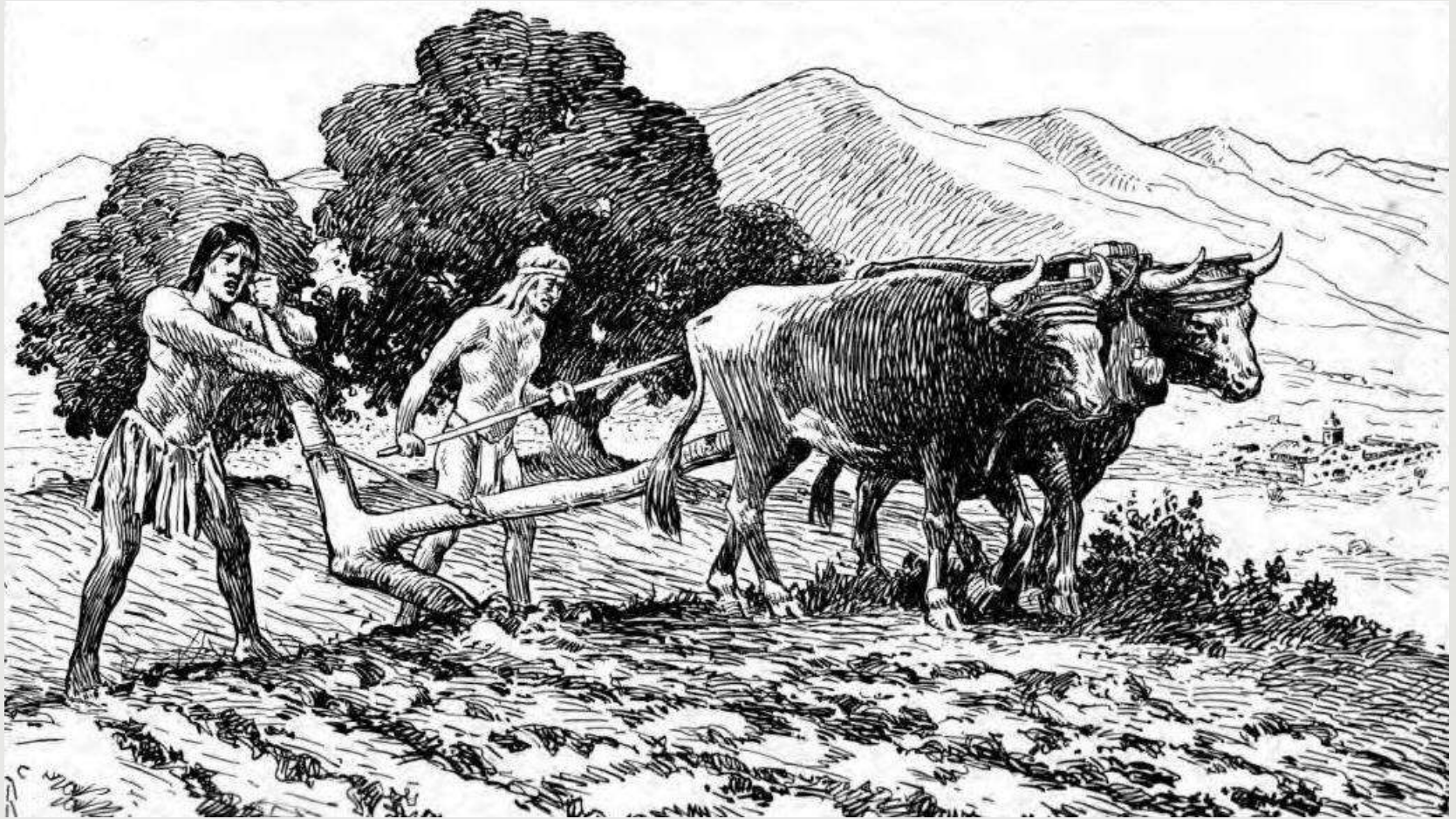


***Schoenoplectus acutus*, called Tule**

Dyed and woven, tules are used to make baskets, bowls, mats, hats, clothing, duck decoys, and even boats by Native American groups. At least two tribes, the Wanapum and the Pomo People, constructed tule houses as recently as the 1950s and still do for special occasions. Bay Miwok, Coast Miwok, and Ohlone peoples used the tule in the manufacture of canoes or balsas, for transportation across the San Francisco Bay and using the marine and wetland resources. Northern groups of Chumash used the tule in the manufacture of canoes rather than the sewn-plank tomol usually used by Chumash and used them to gather marine harvests.” (From “*Schoenoplectus acutus*” on Wikipedia) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tule>

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Due to the missionization of the California Indians, hundreds or thousands of Indians worked in the mission fields, gardens, orchards, and vineyards. The missions were not just a church but an “agricultural pueblo, or town.”⁵ The Indians at the missions were taught skills in a trade or in agriculture, although their training rarely got beyond the industrial school level. The neophyte Indians learned to work with leather, iron, wood, stone, and the loom. They also herded the animals that roamed the ranchos that were under mission supervision.^{2 p.257}



**Natives utilize a primitive plow to prepare a field for planting
near Mission San Diego de Alcalá**

(From "Spanish Missions of California")

<http://reference.findtarget.com/search/Spanish%20missions%20in%20California/>)

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After sixty-five years of missionary rule, missionaries did not believe that the mission Indians were sufficiently “civilized” enough to take over the control of any of the 21 missions when the orders came through to secularize the missions in 1833, although mission lands had been settled by many individual Indians.^{2 p.54} While some of the missions were processed immediately after the secularization orders were issued, it took 16 years before the secularization process was completed for all of the 21 missions starting in 1833 and the last mission was secularized in 1836.^{2 p.65}

Missionaries were assigned to the missions in pairs. In addition to creating the mission community and civilizing the Indians, the missionaries used the Indian labor to construct the mission buildings from natural resources found near the missions.



“The Missionaries as They Came and Went. Franciscans of the California missions donned gray habits, in contrast to the brown that is typically worn today.”

(From “Spanish Missions of California”

<http://reference.findtarget.com/search/Spanish%20missions%20in%20California/>)

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A successful, flourishing commerce was carried on by the missions with the trading vessels that came from the eastern United States and foreign countries. Goods that the missions traded included: hides, tallow, soap, grain, wine, brandy, olive oil, (and) leatherwork for manufactured goods ^{2 p.56} in exchange for tools, furniture, glass, nails, hardware, cloth, chests, rendering pots, cooking utensils, lighting fixtures, musical instruments, and other goods. Trade and assistance was also obtained from nearby missions.

Eventually, the El Camino Real (meaning in Spanish, The Royal Road or the King's Highway) became the Mission Trail that connected the missions, presideos, and pueblos starting from Mission in San Diego in the south to the mission in Sonoma in the north.³

Construction of the Missions

Building traditions, new technologies, and skilled craftsmen (such as stone masons and laborers) were brought from Europe and Mexico by the Spanish and the missionaries to work at the missions and to train the Indians. Many of these Indians were taught to paint, carve, and forge. Indian basketry designs were sometimes incorporated into the mission decorations. The missionaries and craftsmen also copied designs from books, patterns on the priests' ceremonial robes, altar pieces; and they incorporated Indian designs. Sometimes the missionaries had the artisans paint imitation marble on the walls.^{2 p.69} Typically, the Mexican masons and the Indian neophytes created many pieces from locally-quarried stone such as wash basins, water coolers, and fountains for the missions.^{2 p.222} At Mission Santa Cruz, there is a baptismal font carved from local sandstone. Baptismal fonts were also chipped by stone masons or the Indians from locally-quarried granite.^{2 p.69}



Stone Baptismal Font at Mission Santa Cruz, by Robert English on Flickr

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<http://www.flickr.com/photos/bobindrums/1062977164/>

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Due to introduction of these new technologies and materials, there was an evolution in the culture, architecture, and the kind of structures used in California. The Indians, who historically used structures made from brush or tule mats bent and tied to form conical or hemispherical shelters, lived in adobe structures at or near the missions that they help to build. Using the new building technologies and materials, buildings became larger, taller, and became more complex than those of the Native Californians.

There was still a reliance mostly on local resources and materials at the missions and pueblos. Often it took four or five years to construct the mission buildings because it would take time for the materials to be gathered or made as in the case of the adobe bricks. Maintenance and preservation of the existing buildings also took away from new construction, and many times floods, earthquakes, and fires interrupted construction of mission buildings.

Architecturally, the mission buildings were designed by the padres who remembered features of churches in Mexico or Spain or from books that they had brought with them. Included were architectural customs that was introduced by the Moors in Spain. They also took into consideration the available building materials to determine the form of the missions. Many missions have low silhouettes massive pillars because of the limitations of the adobe blocks made of sun-dried mud, which could not be stacked very high. The adobe “...walls had to be four or five feet thick to sustain their weight and that of the tile roofs.”^{2 p.68}

“...The most prevalent type of construction used was adobe bricks, made from clay and straw, and a masonry technology common in Spain and Mexico. Thick walls were constructed of adobes held together with mud mortar. Buildings had flat or pitched roofs, made of clay tile or thatching, and were often covered with a white limestone coating. More substantial buildings were constructed of stone from local quarries.⁸ Other materials were used in early California when available such as in the construction of the San Diego mission church in 1801 where Indians transported timber from nearby mountains. “Building beams came from pine logs and rafters from sycamore poles.”⁹ Another example was when the mission Indians transported large sandstone rocks from the quarries to construct Mission San Juan Capistrano.

“For building, adobe bricks were laid in rows and columns and with staggered joints...When the walls had been raised, the mortar was allowed to settle for several days before a roof was added. Pillars, arches, and walls were weighted to the ground in solid proportions: to sustain their own weight and that of the tile roofs, adobe walls were four or five feet thick...Even though, they could not build too high; adobe buildings were usually low, with a single entry secure by a strong gate. Wide eaves and roofed corridors protected the soluble walls from rain, and all exposed surfaces were plastered with lime stucco.”⁹

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Disasters such as earthquakes, flooding, and fire also affected where the buildings were constructed, where people lived, and how they built their structures. During Wrightwood Earthquake in December 1812, about half of the Spanish missions suffered damage; and there were other earthquakes that caused damage to missions buildings in 1868 and later. Some of the missions had to be moved from sites that proved to be vulnerable because of flooding, etc. After damage from earthquakes, adobe was sometimes replaced with steel-reinforced concrete or with the addition of buttresses constructed from stone and mortar, burned-brick, or concrete.

The center of each of the missions was the mission church, which was the most imposing of the mission structures. Typically, the center of the mission was a large rambling, four-sided building that formed around a square. The covered arcades⁴ and rooms for the priest's quarters, dining, cooking and storage rooms were located round the inner side of the square.

Wood and adobe were the principal building materials, although stone entered into almost all of the structures to some extent such as for columns, foundations, and trim. Quarried stone and field stone were also used in the construction of the missions and some ranch buildings during the late 1700s.



Rock and Mortar Bell Tower at Mission San Miguel Arcángel,

by Robert English, on Flickr (Used with permission)
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**Mission San Antonio de Padua, Monterey County, CA.
A view of the front of the mission, with a giant stone mill wheel in front.**

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Cobblestone Foundations at Mission San Antonio de Padua, Monterey County, CA

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Cobblestones in circle at Mission San Antonio de Padua, Monterey County, CA

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2. *The California Missions: A complete pictorial history and visitor's guide*, Elizabeth L. Hogan, Ed., Sunset Publishing Corp., Menlo Park, California, 7th ed., 1993, pp. 53.
3. “El Camino Real,” Wikipedia. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El_Camino_Real_%28California%29
4. “An **arcade** is a succession of arches, each counterthrusting the next, supported by columns or piers, or a covered walk enclosed by a line of such arches on one or both sides. In warmer or wet climates, exterior arcades provide shelter for pedestrians.” Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arcade_%28architecture%29
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Stone Used in the California Missions

Following is a brief description of the 21 Spanish missions in California and some ways that stone was used on mission lands by the Indians. Many of the mission buildings were destroyed after the secularization orders were given, although many of the mission churches and some buildings have been restored. Some have been built to look like the original buildings whenever there were historical descriptions available.

San Diego de Alcalá Mission
1st Spanish mission founded July 1769 at San Diego
Secularized in 1834² p. 71



**“The chapel façade of Mission San Diego de Alcalá
as it appeared in 2008.”**

(from Wikipedia)

San Diego de Alcalá Mission

1st Spanish mission founded July 1769 at San Diego

Secularized in 1834² p. 71

The San Diego mission was founded in 1769 by Spanish friar Junípero Serra in an area long inhabited by the Kumeyaay Indians.

The San Diego Mission was formed around a quadrangle of shops, residences, and storage rooms. Today only the church and a portion of the monastery are now standing.² p. 75 Two of the most striking features of the San Diego mission are the companario, the espadaña (false front), and the parish church.² p. 317

Stored water was brought by miles of aqueduct to the mission from the mission dam built in 1816, which was built 6 miles up the river. Remnants of the stone aqueduct can still be seen.² p. 77 According to the “[Timeline of Water History in Hillcrest and San Diego, California](#),” the Franciscan missionaries organized construction of the first water engineering project on the west coast of the United States by building the [first dam to cross the San Diego River](#). This web site includes an old photograph showing the stone and cement dam. (The date of 1813 is given on this web site.)

Another old photograph and more information about the San Diego Mission dam and flume is available on the National Park Service web site, “Explorers and Settlers (Old Mission Dam (Padre Dam)). This site indicates that the flume carried the water from the dam to the mission grounds was 5 miles long. They believe that the dam was probably started in 1803, and it had assumed its final form by 1817. The site describes the dam as being built “Of solid masonry, it was about 220 feet wide, 13 feet thick at the bottom, and 12 feet or more high. Native stone and locally produced cement were used to construct the dam, aqueduct, and flume. The flume, 2 feet wide and 1 foot deep, conducted water to the mission gardens and vineyards some 5 miles distant.”

(Note: Per Wikipedia: An [aqueduct](#) is a water supply or navigable channel (conduit) constructed to convey water. In modern engineering, the term is used for any system of pipes, ditches, canals, tunnels, and other structures used for this purpose.” “A [flume](#) is an open artificial water channel.”)

After secularization, all mission property was broken up into ranchos and given to ex-military officers who had fought in the War of Independence against Spain.¹

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 2. *The California Missions: A complete pictorial history and visitor's guide*, Elizabeth L. Hogan, Ed., Sunset Publishing Corp., Menlo Park, California, 7th ed., 1993, pp. 71.



**“The chapel façade of Mission San Diego de Alcalá
as it appeared in 2008.”**

From Wikipedia.



**Old Mission Dam, a major irrigation project of the early 19th century,
supplied water to the Mission of San Diego de Alcalá.**

A flume carried water about 5 miles from the dam to the mission grounds.”

(From the National Park Service web site, “Explorers and Settlers (Old Mission Dam (Padre Dam)).”

http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/explorers/sitec7.htm

**2nd – San Carlos Borromeo Mission founded June 1770
at Carmel, Monterey County; Secularized in 1834² p83**



**The façade of the *capilla* (chapel) at
Mission San Carlos Borromeo de Carmelo.**

(from Wikipedia)

2nd – San Carlos Borromeo Mission founded June 1770 at Carmel, Monterey County; Secularized in 1834^{2 p.83}

The Carmel Mission is a Roman Catholic mission church in Carmel, California. In the mid-19th century it was destroyed, and the restoration began in 1884. The Carmel Mission is the only presidio chapel remaining in California that has been in use since 1794.^{2 p. 99}

Nearby Esselen and Ohlone Indians “were taken in and trained as plowmen, shepherds, cattle herders, blacksmiths, and carpenters. They made adobe bricks, roof tiles and tools needed to build the mission....”¹

Starting in 1781, Father Serra ordered that the stone be quarried for the stone church, which would replace the adobe church on the same site.^{2 p. 83} The stone church at the mission and the Royal Chapel at Monterey were both designed and built by imported master mason Manuel Ruiz.^{2 p. 85} (San Carlos Borromeo Mission is the final resting place for Blessed Junipero Serra.)

In *The California Missions*, the San Carlos Mission is described as: “San Carlos Borromeo is considered to be one of the most beautiful of the California missions...In its setting against sea and river, its fair gardens, the unequal towers through which the cliff swallows sweep past the full-skirted bells, the star window ‘that seems to have been blown out of shape in some wintry wind...’” “With its rough sandstone walls, Moorish tower, unique windows, and its beautiful setting against the sea and mountains, Carmel Mission is the romantic gem of the California chain....”^{2 p. 83} (Photographs of the Moorish tower at the Carmel Mission are available on “[Mission Trail Today](#) - The California Missions,” presented by Kenneth A. Larson.)

There the coats of arms of the brother Orders of the Dominicans and Franciscans are carved in a stone in the wall of the courtyard shrine. Also, there is a figure of the Virgin of Guadalupe carved in chalk rock at the top of the façade tucked into a shell niche.^{2 p. 99}

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1. “Mission San Carlos Borroméo del río Carmelo,” from Wikipedia
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_San_Carlos_Borromeo_de_Carmelo
 2. *The California Missions: A complete pictorial history and visitor’s guide*, Elizabeth L. Hogan, Ed., Sunset Publishing Corp., Menlo Park, California, 7th ed., 1993, pp. 65.



The façade of the *capilla* (chapel) at Mission San Carlos Borromeo de Carmelo.

From Wikipedia.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_San_Carlos_Borromeo_de_Carmelo



**Cathedral of San Carlos Borromeo Façade
completed in 1794**

by Darren Kruger on Flickr (Used with permission)
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/14927100@N07/4377217781/>

**3rd - San Antonio de Padua Mission founded in 1771
Alta California (29 miles from King City, Monterey County);
Secularized in 1834² p101**



**View of the front of Mission San Antonio de Padua Mission,
with a Stone Mill Wheel, Monterey County, CA**

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permission under the creative commons license)

3rd - San Antonio de Padua Mission founded in 1771 Alta California (29 miles from King City, Monterey County); Secularized in 1834^{2 p101}

Construction of the [San Antonio de Padua Mission](#) church began in 1810. No town grew up around this mission, and it's in a remote location.^{2 p. 101} The mission was restored in 1949 "to an authentic approximation of its original state...The elegant companario of burned brick stands unique among the bell-walls of the mission chain...."^{2 p100}

Father Buenaventura Sitjar had the Indians build dams to impound the water from the San Antonio River about three miles above the mission. The water was brought to the mission grounds, crops, and animals by long aqueducts where it was stored in reservoirs at the mission. The water was used to turn the gristmill, and it supplied the mill-race, the fountain, and a bathing pool. A lot of the water system is still visible today.^{2 p. 102}

Stone was used in expanding the mission beginning in 1778 with the addition of an "extensive network of stone lined irrigation ditches."⁵ Stone was also used for the "high, thick wall of stone topped with adobe" that was constructed at the San Antonio de Padua Mission in 1804, according to an historical report. In 1806 it was reported that the mission had a water-powered gristmill constructed to grind the Mission grain with millstones. According to the "San Antonio de Padua – History of Mission San Antonio" web site, the "reservoir, millrace and stone masonry of the mill remain intact; the water wheel and mill house have been restored."⁵ Cobblestones were used to mark paths and as a part of building foundations. Some of these cobblestones still show the outline of the adobe brick building with ran parallel to the church, according to a sign at the mission. These cobblestone foundations were "3 1/2 feet wide."⁶

Wheat was raised and processed to support the mission's Indian population, and the wheat was threshed in a stone-covered area where wild horses were driven through the mound, grinding the wheat to bits.^{2 p. 102}

3rd - San Antonio de Padua Mission founded in 1771 (Contd.)

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 3. San Antonio de Padua – "History of Mission San Antonio" web site
<http://www.missionsanantonio.net/history.html>
 4. Athanasius Schaefer - Virtual Church web site <http://www.athanasius.com/camission/padua.htm>
 5. Mission San Antonio de Padua Cobblestone Sign in photograph by PJM#1 on Flickr.
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/pjm1/3989794952/>



**View of the front of Mission San Antonio de Padua Mission,
with a Stone Mill Wheel, Monterey County, CA**

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Fountain Mission San Antonio de Padua

(from the 1950s restoration), by Darren Kruger on Flickr (Used with permission)

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**Viewing the bottom of the water wheel at the mill outside
Mission San Antonio de Padua, CA**

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<http://www.flickr.com/photos/matthigh/2124839327/>



**Bottom of the water wheel at the grist mill outside
Mission San Antonio de Padua, CA**

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<http://www.flickr.com/photos/homer-dog/351181935/in/set-72157594468579513/>



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Cobblestone Foundations at Mission San Antonio de Padua, Monterey County, CA

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The Threshing Floor at Mission San Antonio de Padua

"This threshing floor is the original - I believe it is the only original in-tact threshing floor in California that is still visible to the public. It was the area that the neophytes and friars separated the wheat from the chaff by spreading the wheat out on the stone floor and having donkeys walk all over it to loosen the wheat kernels and then using a breeze, they were able to further separate the chaff. They then took the wheat kernels to the grist mill (also on property) and ground it into flour." (Joan Steele, Administrator, Mission San Antonio de Padua, Jan. 8, 2011)



**The threshing floor at Mission San Antonio. Mission San Antonio de Padua,
Monterey County, CA**

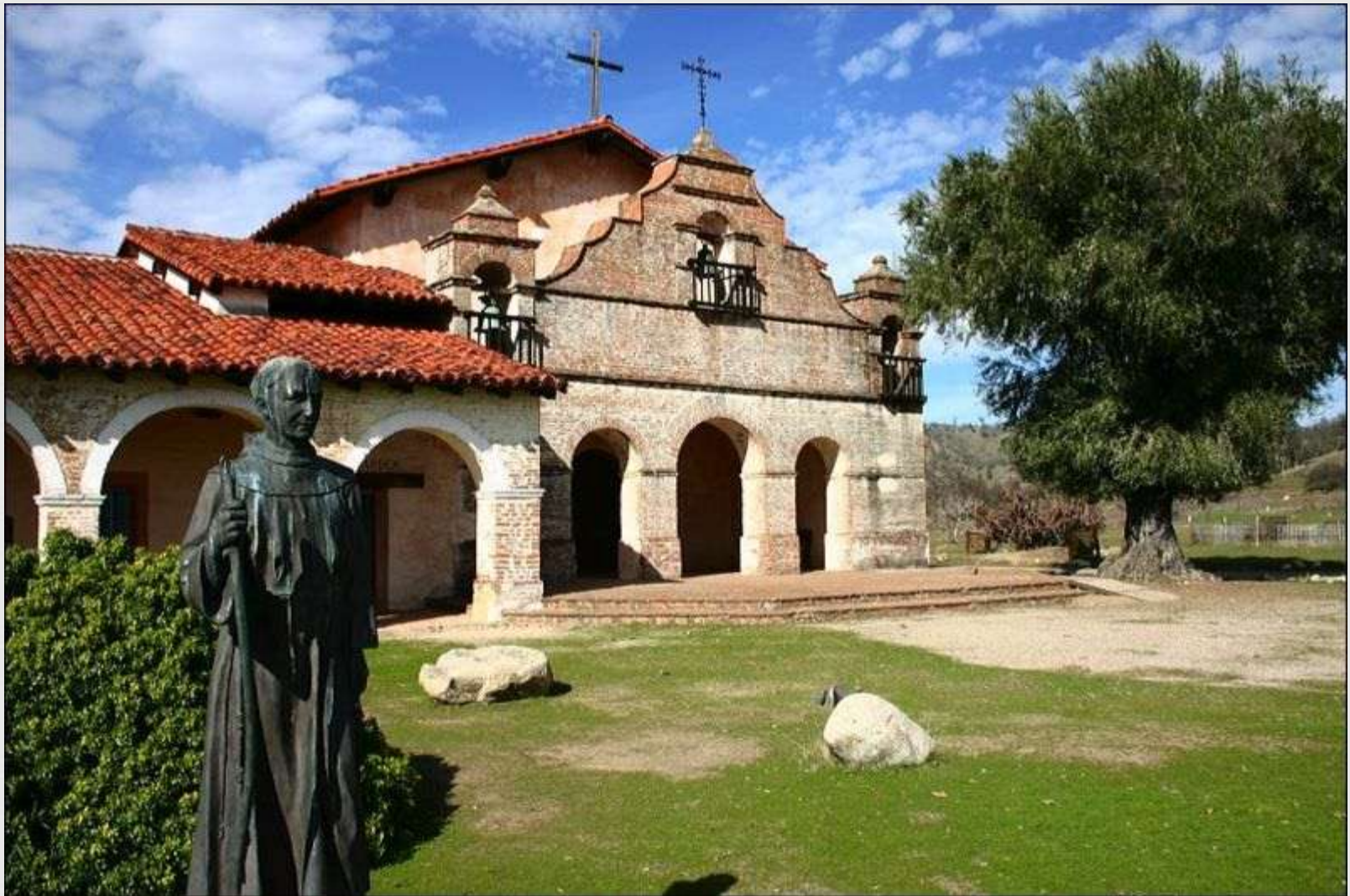
(copyright Matthew Lee High on Flickr; used with permission under the creative commons license)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/matthigh/2124843385/>



**Indian Grinding Stones at Mission San Antonio de Padua,
Monterey County, CA**

(copyright Lisa Paul, [Left Coast Cowboys](#), Creative Commons license)



The reconstructed Mission San Antonio de Padua as it appears today.
The baked brick Campanario is unique among the Missions.

From Wikipedia.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_San_Antonio_de_Padua

**4th – San Gabriel Arcángel Mission founded in 1771
at San Gabriel, Los Angeles County; Secularized in 1834² p. 113**



A view of Mission San Gabriel Arcángel in April, 2005
...to the left is the six-bell *campanario* ('bell wall') that was built after the original bell structure, located at the far end of the church, toppled during the Wrightwood Earthquake of 1812.

(from Wikipedia)

4th – San Gabriel Arcángel Mission founded in 1771 at San Gabriel, Los Angeles County; Secularized in 1834^{2 p. 113}

Today the Mission San Gabriel Arcángel is a Roman Catholic mission and historic landmark in San Gabriel, California.

Father Antonio Cruzado, from Córdoba, Spain, designed the building that shows a strong Moorish architectural influence. According to the Wikipedia article on Mission San Gabriel Arcángel, “The capped buttresses and the tall, narrow windows are unique among the missions of the California chain.”¹

The stairway at San Gabriel Arcángel was constructed of hard-burned brick that was placed on top of stone, which was then covered in plaster; the stonework stopping at the base of the windows. According to *The California Missions*, this type of construction was used throughout the structure.^{2 p. 113} A new church was built in 1779 using stone and concrete up to the windows at which point brick took over from there. Concrete was used for the vaulted ceiling, but it was cracked by earthquakes and replaced in 1803 by a flat tile roof. The church was completed in 1805 having taken 25 years to build.^{2 p. 116} Originally, the roof of the San Gabriel mission was a low stone vault.^{2 p. 118}

Some people have described the San Gabriel Mission as a “fortress style” or “fortress architecture,” but many elements can be traced directly to Spain. The capped buttresses and long narrow windows are distinctly different from the other missions.^{2 p. 118}

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1. “Mission San Gabriel Arcángel,” from Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_San_Gabriel_Arc%C3%A1ngel
 2. *The California Missions: A complete pictorial history and visitor's guide*, Elizabeth L. Hogan, Ed., Sunset Publishing Corp., Menlo Park, California, 7th ed., 1993.



A view of Mission San Gabriel Arcángel in April, 2005

...to the left is the six-bell *campanario* ('bell wall') that was built after the original bell structure, located at the far end of the church, toppled during the Wrightwood Earthquake of 1812.

From Wikipedia.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_San_Gabriel_Arc%C3%A1ngel



Stone feature and mask at Mission San Gabriel Arcángel

by Caeruleus3, on Flickr (Used with permission)

http://www.flickr.com/photos/fm3dg_share_pics/3814593624/in/photostream/



Stone feature and mask at Mission San Gabriel Arcángel

by Caeruleus3, on Flickr (Used with permission)

http://www.flickr.com/photos/fm3dg_share_pics/3813784905/in/photostream/

**5th – San Luis Obispo de Tolosa Mission founded
at San Luis Obispo in 1772.^{2 p. 127}**



Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa *circa* 1909.

(from Wikipedia)

5th – San Luis Obispo de Tolosa Mission founded at San Luis Obispo in 1772.^{2 p. 127}

The San Luis Obispo Mission is located halfway between Santa Barbara and Monterey. This mission is the fifth mission in the chain constructed by Father Junipero Serra. Inside the church is an unusual design with a combination of belfry and vestibule that is not found in the other California missions. The church has the only “L”-shaped interior.¹ The stark façade was restored to its original form in the 1930s.^{2 p. 127} The Missionaries had their workers experiment and create the curved tiles used for the roof in 1790. The tile-making process as described in *The California Mission* was: “The clay was worked in pits under the tread of animal hoofs. Then when it had ‘fermented,’ square of clay of the right thickness were patted over curved wooden forms, well sanded to keep the clay from adhering. The edges were trimmed, the clay dried in the sun and then baked in a kiln.” This new style of roofing tile was then copied as new missions were built.^{2 p. 129}

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1. “Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa,” from Wikipedia.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_San_Luis_Obispo_de_Tolosa
 2. *The California Missions: A complete pictorial history and visitor's guide*, Elizabeth L. Hogan, Ed., Sunset Publishing Corp., Menlo Park, California, 7th ed., 1993.



Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa *circa* 1909.

From Wikipedia.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_San_Luis_Obispo_de_Tolosa

**6th – San Francisco de Asís Mission founded in 1776
at San Francisco today known as Mission Dolores;
Secularized in 1834² p. 139**



San Francisco de Asís Mission founded in 1776 at San Francisco.
“The original adobe Mission structure is the smaller building (at left),
while the larger structure is a (Mission Dolores) basilica completed in
1918....” (on the right).

(from Wikipedia)

6th – San Francisco de Asís Mission founded in 1776 at San Francisco today known as Mission Dolores; Secularized in 1834² p. 139

Today the San Francisco Mission is known as Mission Dolores. Originally, the mission church building was made of adobe (located to the left of the basilica). The basilica (to the right of the mission church), is today known as the Mission Dolores Basilica. Construction of the new church (the basilica) began in 1913 and was completed in 1918, having been delayed by World War I.² p. 146 & 147 The style of the basilica was influenced by designs exhibited at the San Diego's Panama-California Exposition in 1915.¹ While the Mission Dolores church only lost a few roof tiles in the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, the basilica to the right was in the process of being enlarged; and the structure was weakened by the shocks, and it had to be dismantled.

The California missions were not only churches but “They were farming communities, manufacturers of all sorts of products, hotels, ranches, hospitals, schools, and the centers of the largest communities in the state...(In) 1810 the Mission owned 11,000 sheep, 11,000 cows, and thousands of horses, goats, pigs, and mules. Its ranching and farming operations extended as far south as San Mateo and east to Alameda.” Disease caused the death of many of the Mission Dolores Indians. After Secularization in 1834, most of the church property was sold or granted to private owners.¹

Two of the outstanding features of Mission Dolores are the Moorish-Corinthian architecture and the garden cemetery.² p. 317

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1. “Mission San Francisco de Asís,” on Wikipedia.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_San_Francisco_de_As%C3%ADs
 2. *The California Missions: A complete pictorial history and visitor's guide*, Elizabeth L. Hogan, Ed., Sunset Publishing Corp., Menlo Park, California, 7th ed., 1993.



San Francisco de Asís Mission founded in 1776 at San Francisco

“The original adobe Mission structure is the smaller building at left, while the larger structure is a (Mission Dolores) basilica completed in 1918....”

From Wikipedia.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_San_Francisco_de_As%C3%ADs

**7th – San Juan Capistrano Mission founded twice in 1875
and again in 1776 at San Juan Capistrano, Orange County;
Secularized 1833² p.153**



A close-up view of the ruins of Mission San Juan Capistrano’s “Great Stone Church,” dubbed by architects the “American Acropolis”....“The most important and pretentious building of the whole Mission period...” was modeled after the Byzantine cathedrals scattered throughout Europe and Western Asia.”

(from Wikipedia)

7th – San Juan Capistrano Mission founded twice in 1875 and again in 1776 at San Juan Capistrano, Orange County; Secularized 1833² p.153

Mission San Juan Capistrano, originally founded in 1875, is located in the San Juan Capistrano. In 1794 over 70 adobe structures were built to permanently house the Indians, and for shops, and other uses.

Isidro Aguilar, a master stonemason imported from Culiacán, Mexico, was retained by the padres to design and build a large, European-style church due to the large population in the area. The church was to have a domed roof structure made of stone instead of the usual flat wood roof. Construction of “The Great Stone Church” began on February 2, 1797.

In *The California Missions*, “The sandstone building sat on a foundation seven feet thick. Construction efforts required the participation of the entire neophyte population. Stones were quarried from gullies and creek beds up to six miles (10 km) away and transported in carts (*carretas*) drawn by oxen, carried by hand, and even dragged to the building site....” “Heavy boulders were hauled in squeaking carretas, large stones were dragged with chains, and smaller ones were carried by the neophytes. Even women and children carried stones in nets on their backs. For endless days they formed two lines to the rock-filled creek beds, going empty-handed and coming back laden.” “Limestone was crushed into a powder on the Mission grounds to create a mortar that was more erosion-resistant than the actual stones....” “Nine long years were consumed in building this cathedral-like church...Designed in the form of a cross, it had a vaulted ceiling surmounted by seven domes....”² p. 153 The Mission church had carved arches, doorways, capitals, and keystones.² p. 162

In late November 1800, tremors from the San Diego earthquake cracked the walls, necessitating repair work. Another loss was the death of Señor Aguilar, their stonemason, six years into the project, which led to inferior construction. The church was completed in 1806. Early in 1812, the mission experienced severe storms and flooding that damaged mission buildings; and, on December 8, 1812, the 7.0-magnitude Wrightwood Earthquake destroyed the stone church.² p.153 The ruins of the stone church have changed little except for normal deterioration in more than a century.² p. 161 One of the outstanding features of were the “jewel-like gardens (and) pools.”² p. 317 The swallows of Capistrano are the best known feature of the mission.² p. 162

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1. “Mission San Juan Capistrano,” on Wikipedia. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_San_Juan_Capistrano
 2. *The California Missions: A complete pictorial history and visitor’s guide*, Elizabeth L. Hogan, Ed., Sunset Publishing Corp., Menlo Park, California, 7th ed., 1993.



**A close-up view of the ruins of Mission San Juan Capistrano's 'Great Stone Church,'
dubbed by architects the 'American Acropolis'**

...“The most important and pretentious building of the whole Mission period...” was modeled after the Byzantine cathedrals scattered throughout Europe and Western Asia.”

From Wikipedia.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_San_Juan_Capistrano



“San Juan Capistrano Mission,” by Sarah Kotlova on
Flickr (Photo used with permission)

**8th – Santa Clara de Asís Mission founded in 1777
at the Indian village of *So-co-is-u-ka* on the Guadalupe River, Santa Clara County;
Secularized 1836² p. 167**



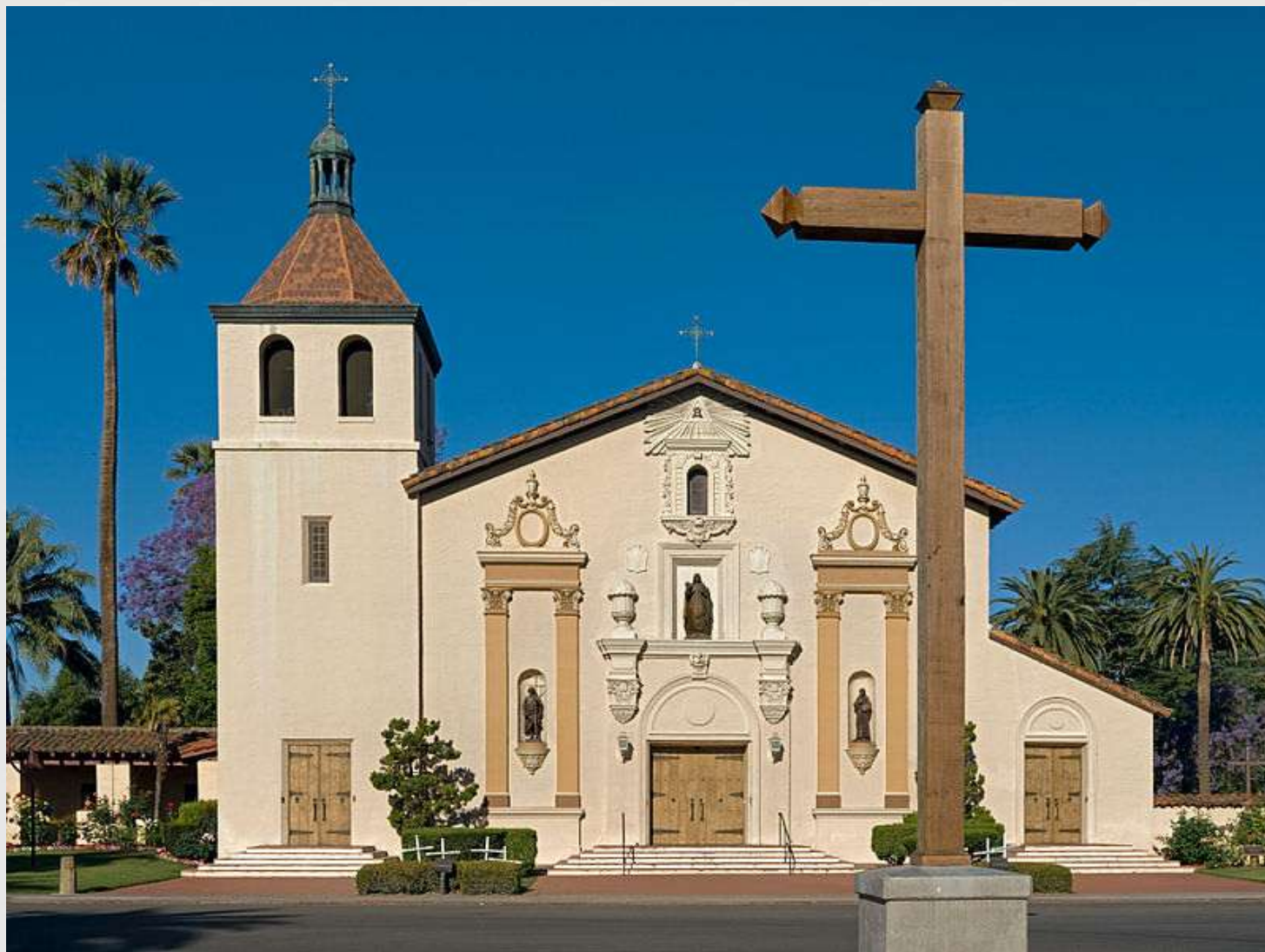
Santa Clara de Asís Mission

(from Wikipedia)

**8th – Santa Clara de Asís Mission founded in 1777
at the Indian village of *So-co-is-u-ka* on the Guadalupe River, Santa Clara County;
Secularized 1836^{2 p. 167}**

The Santa Clara Mission was ruined and rebuilt six times, although the settlement was never abandoned. In 1926, the old church building burnt down, and only portions of the adobe walls which had been incorporated into the building were standing after the fire.^{2 p. 173} The present structure is “a modern (1929) interpretation in stucco and concrete of the simple structure of 1825....”^{2 p. 167} Mission Santa Clara was the last to be secularized in 1836, and the Indians’ lands and chattels were dispersed. Part of the land was returned to the Church, which was then turned over to the Jesuit Order to use as a college, and classes began in 1851. The name of the college is now the University of Santa Clara.^{2 p. 167}

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1. “Santa Clara de Asís Mission.” on Wikipedia. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_Santa_Clara_de_As%C3%ADs
 2. *The California Missions: A complete pictorial history and visitor’s guide*, Elizabeth L. Hogan, Ed., Sunset Publishing Corp., Menlo Park, California, 7th ed., 1993.



Santa Clara de Asís Mission

on Wikipedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_Santa_Clara_de_As%C3%ADs



Statue enclosed by Rock Wall at the Mission Santa Clara de Assis

by Robert English, on Flickr (Used with permission)
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/bobindrums/774108471/>

**9th – San Buenaventura Mission founded in 1782
at Ventura, Ventura County; Secularized in 1836² p. 177**



San Buenaventura Mission

(Photo by Peggy B. Perazzo)

9th – San Buenaventura Mission founded in 1782 at Ventura, Ventura County; Secularized in 1836^{2 p. 177}

Mission San Buenaventura was a part of the Spanish Viceroyalty of New Spain, and it was the first of the channel missions to be dedicated.^{2 p. 188}

The first mission church burned down, and a new large stone church was dedicated after fifteen years in 1809. The violent earthquake of 1812 severely damaged Mission San Buenaventura, but repairs were completed in about a year. One of the repairs was the addition of “an immense buttress was added to the church for reinforcement.”^{2 p. 178}

Of the local Indians, one account by Palóu wrote about the Channel of Santa Barbara: “...there are twenty-one large towns....” Palóu estimated that there were about 20,000 Indians who lived in those twenty-one towns.^{2 p. 177} The local Chumash Indians were known for the large canoes that they rowed in their frequent trips to the Channel Islands to visit other Chumash Indians. These Indians were also known for their water-proof baskets made of reeds.^{2 p. 178}

According to *The California Missions*, “Not only the expected fruits, grains and produce were plentiful, but also quantities of exotic crops usually grown only in the torrid zone, such as bananas, coconuts, figs and sugar cane.” “Whaling ships often dropped anchor here, where corn was said to be harvested within a few feet of the shore....” In an 1829 account, Alfred Robinson listed the following fruits and vegetables: “apples, pears, peaches, pomegranates, tunas or prickly pears, and grapes.”^{2 p. 179} The mission survived secularization.^{2 p. 180}

One side door to the church includes a Moorish decoration. The two lines in the decoration were interpreted by the Indians as representing the two rivers that pass on both sides of the mission.^{2 p. 182}

A water system was built by the San Buenaventura Mission Indians between 1805 and 1815 and it consisted of both ditches and elevated stone masonry and holding tanks to store the water behind the San Buenaventura Mission. The water was obtained from the San Antonio Creek about one-half mile north. The water system was abandoned in 1862 due to the destruction of the entire water distribution system by floods.² The Mission San Buenaventura Aqueduct (located at Canada Larga Road) is designated as “California Historical Landmark #114-1,” and it consists of two surviving sections of the Mission San Buenaventura viaduct about 100 feet long, made of cobblestones and mortar.

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1. “Mission San Buenaventura,” on Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_San_Buenaventura
 2. *The California Missions: A complete pictorial history and visitor's guide*, Elizabeth L. Hogan, Ed., Sunset Publishing Corp., Menlo Park, California, 7th ed., 1993.



San Buenaventura Mission

(Photo by Peggy B. Perazzo)



Portion of the remains of the aqueduct built by the Chumash Indians that provided water from San Antonio Creek to the San Buenaventura Mission.

(Photo by Peggy B. Perazzo)



Reproduction of the fountain at San Buenaventura Mission

(Photo by Peggy B. Perazzo)



Metal-rimmed stone wheel

(Photo by Peggy B. Perazzo)



Mortars, pestles, metates, etc., at Mission San Buenaventura

(Photo by Peggy B. Perazzo)

More photographs of the [San Buenaventura Mission](#) and grounds are available on our web site at: San Buenaventura Mission.

10th – Santa Barbara Mission founded in 1786 at Santa Barbara² p. 187



The *capilla* (chapel) at Mission Santa Barbara

(Photo by Peggy B. Perazzo)

10th – Santa Barbara Mission founded in 1786 at Santa Barbara^{2 p. 187}

Mission Santa Barbara is located near the present-day Santa Barbara, California. Mission Santa Barbara is the only mission to remain under the leadership of the Franciscan friars since its origin.¹

By the time of the violent earthquake of 1812, the third church built at the mission was almost destroyed. It was repaired and used, but they built a new stone church around it. This last church took five years to construct, and the stone church is the one that is standing today.^{2 p. 190} Damage to the towers, façade, and a wing of the living quarters was all due to another earthquake in 1925. The front of the church was dismantled and rebuilt again with steel-reinforced concrete. “The stone facing...retains the contours, dimensions, and appearance of the Mission Santa Barbara is called the “Queen of the Missions,” and it is the only California mission that has two similar towers.^{2 p. 190} In *The California Missions*, the author states that the church has not changed much since 1820. It is noted that the “arches and pilasters were decorated with imitation marble.”^{2 p. 200}

The plot map in *The California Missions* shows “...an intricate water system with reservoirs, aqueducts, filters, and fountains. The presently restored portions...comprise only a fraction of the original plans.”^{2 p. 189} Water was conducted to a 110-foot-square reservoir that is still in use today.^{2 p. 194} The stone aqueduct was well constructed by the Chumash Indians, and parts of it are still in good condition.^{2 p. 190} Water from the dammed Pedragoso Creek was conducted by a stone aqueduct two miles to a storage reservoir and then onto a 110-foot-square reservoir that is still in use today. A second reservoir sent water through stone aqueducts to the “ornate fountain, gardens, and orchards. Overflow water from the fountain in front of the monastery was led to a stone lavandería where the Indian women washed their clothes.” “Another aqueduct led drinking water from the first reservoir to a settling tank and from there through an aqueduct that arched over the road and ran to the rear of the mission.”^{2 p. 194} (Maps of the intricate water system is available on pp. 188, and another map of the aqueduct that provided water to the fountain and lavandería is on pp. 194 of *The California Missions*.) (Photographs and more history about the Mission Santa Barbara aqueduct is available on “[A Virtual Tour of California Missions – the Santa Barbara Aqueduct](#),” on the Mission Tour web site, and on the “[California Mission Resources Center](#)” web site.)

10th – Santa Barbara Mission founded in 1786 at Santa Barbara² p. 187 (Continued)

The missionaries made great use of local stone in addition to their use of stone for walls and their water system. According to *The California Missions*, the Moorish fountain built in 1808 is today shaded by huge pepper trees, and the overflow runs into a stone laundry basin.² p. 190 There are two carvings of interest: One is located at the Roman doorway leading from the church to the cemetery. One is decorated with two genuine skulls and crossbones embedded in mortar and the other (under the Moorish window) carved in stone, is a decorative device which is not uncommon in Mexican churches....”² p. 199 “Northeast of the church fragments of the rock walls of the abandoned gristmill can still be seen.”² p. 195

(Note: More photographs of the Santa Barbara Mission and grounds are available on our web site at: http://quarriesandbeyond.org/states/ca/structures/ca-santa_barbara_mission_1_menu.html)



The *capilla* (chapel) at Mission Santa Barbara

(Photo by Peggy B. Perazzo)



**Mission Santa Barbara's *lavandaria* was constructed
by the Chumash Indians around 1806**

(Photo by Peggy B. Perazzo)/



Santa Barbara Mission lavanderia viewed from the north end

(Photo by Peggy B. Perazzo)



**Another View of Santa Barbara Mission lavandera viewed
from the north end**

(Photo by Peggy B. Perazzo)



Close-up of bear figure located at the north end of the Santa Barbara Mission Lavanderia (sandstone blocks can be seen lower-right hand corner in lavanderia wall of photo)

(Photo by Peggy B. Perazzo)



Close up of Lion figure at the south end of the lavanderia at the Santa Barbara Mission

(Photo by Pat Perazzo)



Moorish fountain built in 1808 in the front of the Santa Barbara Mission

(Photos by Peggy B. Perazzo)



Sandstone Pillar

(Photo by Peggy B. Perazzo)



Sandstone sundial

(Photo by Peggy B. Perazzo)



Roman doorway decorated with 2 genuine skulls and crossbones embedded in mortar and one (under Moorish window) carved in stone

(Photo by Peggy B. Perazzo)



Sandstone mausoleum & wall

(Photo by Peggy B. Perazzo)



Sandstone buttress and wall in the cemetery area of Santa Barbara Mission

(Photo by Peggy B. Perazzo)



Close-up of sandstone wall

(Photo by Peggy B. Perazzo)

**11th – La Purísima Concepción Mission founded in 1787
at Lompoc, Santa Barbara County;
Secularized in 1834² p. 202**



La Purisima Concepción Mission

(from Wikipedia)

11th – La Purísima Concepción Mission founded in 1787 at Lompoc, Santa Barbara County; Secularized in 1834^{2 p. 202}

The original Spanish name of La Purisima Mission was *La Misión de La Purísima Concepción de la Santísima Virgen María*.

The first buildings constructed for the mission between 1788 and 1791 were destroyed in an earthquake in 1912. New buildings were erected on a new site between 1815 and 1818.^{2 p. 202} The La Purisima Mission buildings were not built in a quadrangle like the other California missions were but were stretched out in a chain.^{2 p. 203} According to the California Missions Research Center web site, La Purisima Mission is sometimes referred to as the “Linear Mission.”³

Materials used for the structures obtained locally included adobe, clay, rawhide, timber, and tules. They tried to make the mission buildings earthquake resistant. A stone buttress used on the southwest wall, and the walls were 4 ½ feet thick.^{2 p. 204} The mission building was restored the way it would have appeared in the original building.^{2 p. 206}

Springs in hills three miles away. The mission had an elaborate system of open aqueducts, pipes, reservoirs, and dams.

The mission had an elaborate system of open aqueducts, pipes, reservoirs, and dams to bring the water from springs located in the hills three miles away to the mission grounds.³ There is a ditch lined with stone that carried excess water to fields.^{2 p. 203}

As restored, the structure at right captures the feeling of the original, with its “amateurish masonry, rough-plastered surfaces, and exposed beams lashed with rawhide.”^{2 p. 206}

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1. “La Purisima Mission,” on Wikipedia.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_La_Pur%C3%ADsima_Concepci%C3%B3n
 2. *The California Missions: A complete pictorial history and visitor’s guide*, Elizabeth L. Hogan, Ed., Sunset Publishing Corp., Menlo Park, California, 7th ed., 1993.
 3. “La Purisima Mission,” on the California Missions Research Center web site
<http://www.missionscalifornia.com/keyfacts/la-purisima-concepcion.html>



La Purisima Mission

on Wikipedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_La_Pur%C3%ADsima_Concepci%C3%B3n



Grinding Stone at La Purisima Mission

on Flickr (Courtesy of PJM#1. Used with permission)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/pjm1/4173076949/>



Indian Dwelling at La Purisima Mission

on Flickr (Courtesy of PJM#1. Used with permission)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/pjm1/4178396816/>



Stone Buttress at La Purisima Mission

by Jonathan K. Essl, on Flickr (Used with permission)
http://www.flickr.com/photos/jakes_shoebox/114271211/



Ditch Lined with Rocks at La Purisima Mission

by John Schrantz, on Flickr (Used with permission)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/mytravelphotos/3395527649/>



Stone and Brick Structure at La Purisima Mission

by John Schrantz, on Flickr (Used with permission)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/mytravelphotos/3395529147/>

**12th – Santa Cruz Mission founded in 1791 at Santa Cruz;
Secularized in 1834² p. 219**



“The reconstructed Mission Santa Cruz chapel”

(from Wikipedia)

12th – Santa Cruz Mission founded in 1791 at Santa Cruz; Secularized in 1834² p. 219

On an old adobe building and the modern replica of the mission church exist today.² p. 219

According to *The California Missions*, the baptismal font was carved from local sandstone. It is typical of “is typical of the work of the Mexican masons and their Indian understudies who created fonts, wash basins, water coolers, and fountains for the missions.” The font at Mission Santa Cruz is similar to a lavabo at the Carmel Mission.² p. 222

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1. “Mission Santa Cruz,” on Wikipedia. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_Santa_Cruz
 2. *The California Missions: A complete pictorial history and visitor's guide*, Elizabeth L. Hogan, Ed., Sunset Publishing Corp., Menlo Park, California, 7th ed., 1993.



“The reconstructed Mission Santa Cruz chapel”

on Wikipedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_Santa_Cruz



Stone Baptismal Font at Mission Santa Cruz, by Robert English on Flickr

(Used with Permission)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/bobindrums/1062977164/>

**13th – Nuestra Señora de la Soledad Mission founded in 1791
3 miles south of Soledad, Monterey County;
Secularized 1835² p. 224**



Mission Nuestra Señora de la Soledad

(from Wikipedia)

13th – Nuestra Señora de la Soledad Mission founded in 1791

3 miles south of Soledad, Monterey County;

Secularized 1835² p. 224

The large church was not built for six years after the mission was founded. In the meantime, other mission buildings were constructed in addition to a temporary thatch-roofed adobe church. The prosperity of the mission peaked in 1820. The mission rooms were known to be “damp, cold, and gloomy” causing attacks of rheumatism for the missionaries.² p. 226

Water for the mission was obtained from the Salinas River to irrigate their fields and to water the herds of horses, cattle, and sheep, which grazed around the mission quadrangle. A 15-mile-long zanja or aqueduct was built by the neophyte Indians which was used to irrigate some 20,000 acres in the Llano del Rey or the mission land.³

While the river provided necessary water for the mission, it also caused the destruction of the church and other mission buildings in 1824 and again in 1828. A third flood in 1832 and secularization in 1835 continued the destruction of the mission; and by 1843, Mission Nuestra Señora de la Soledad had ceased to exist and the mission lands were sold.² p. 226 The mission chapel was restored in 1854 by the Native Daughters of the Golden West, and the only part of the original structure that could be utilized was the front corner of the chapel.² p. 226

The rooms at Nuestra Señora de la Soledad Mission were damp, cold, and gloomy, caused many of the missionaries that served at the mission to suffer attacks of rheumatism. Often missionaries asked to be relieved of their assignment at the mission after a year or so.² p. 226

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1. “Nuestra Señora de la Soledad,” on Wikipedia.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_Nuestra_Se%C3%B1ora_de_la_Soledad
 2. *The California Missions: A complete pictorial history and visitor's guide*, Elizabeth L. Hogan, Ed., Sunset Publishing Corp., Menlo Park, California, 7th ed., 1993.
 3. “Nuestra Señora de la Soledad Mission,” on the California Mission Resource Center web site.
<http://www.missionscalifornia.com/keyfacts/soledad-mission.html>



Mission Nuestra Señora de la Soledad

on Wikipedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_Nuestra_Se%C3%B1ora_de_la_Soledad

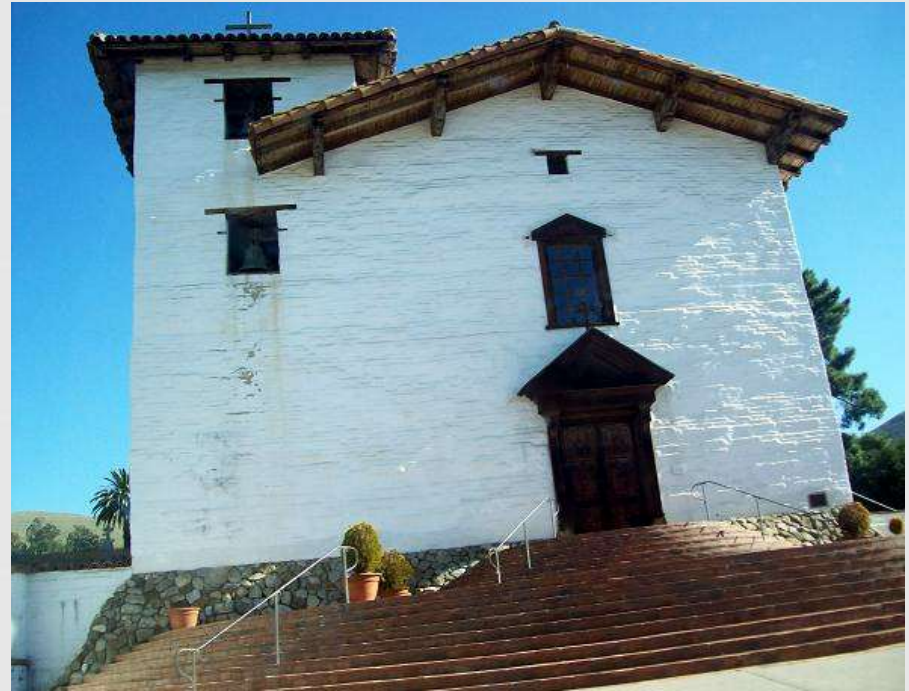


Mortar and Pestle at Mission Nuestra Señora de la Soledad

by Robin Kanouse, on Flickr (Used with permission)

http://www.flickr.com/photos/spirit_rainbow_sunshine/3053573196/

**14th – San José Mission founded 1797
northeast of San Jose; Secularized 1834² p. 231**



Mission San José

(from Wikipedia)

14th – San José Mission founded 1797 northeast of San Jose; Secularized 1834² p. 231

The location of Mission San José was chosen because of the abundance of natural resources in the area that included water, fertile ground, stones, and adobe soil suitable for building....”¹ For most of its existence, Mission San José was used as a military base for punitive expeditions against the hostile native Indians in the interior of California.² p. 234

The first Mission San José church was completed in September 1797, and was destroyed by an earthquake in October 1868. A wood gothic-style church was built in 1869 on the foundation of the previous church. The church was partially restored in 1916 and 1950 from early drawings and historical accounts, and the mission church was reconstructed between 1982 and 1985. The mission was sold after secularization in 1846 and returned to the Catholic Church in 1858.² p. 231 Several mission outbuildings remain from the former mission complex.² p. 235

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1. “Mission San José,” on Wikipedia. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_San_Jos%C3%A9_%28California%29
 2. *The California Missions: A complete pictorial history and visitor's guide*, Elizabeth L. Hogan, Ed., Sunset Publishing Corp., Menlo Park, California, 7th ed., 1993.



Mission San José

on Wikipedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_San_Jos%C3%A9_%28California%29



**Another view of Rocks used at base
of Adobe Buttress at the San José Mission**

by Jonathan K. Essl, on Flickr (Used with permission)
http://www.flickr.com/photos/jakes_shoebox/3925360736/



Fountain in Mission San José Garden

by Jonathan K. Essl, on Flickr (Used with permission)

http://www.flickr.com/photos/jakes_shoebox/3925348450/

**15th – San Juan Bautista Mission founded 1797
at San Juan Bautista; Secularized 1835² p. 241**



“A view of the restored Mission San Juan Bautista and its added three-bell *campanario* (“bell wall”) in 2010....”

(from Wikipedia)

15th – San Juan Bautista Mission founded 1797 at San Juan Bautista; Secularized 1835² p. 241

Mission San Juan Bautista is now the San Juan Bautista Historic District in San Juan Bautista. The mission church and other buildings were constructed around a large grassy plaza. This mission is the largest of the Spanish missions in California.¹

The December 1906 earthquake caused the walls of the large church (with the capacity to hold over a thousand worshipers) and other buildings to topple, although the 1812 earthquake that had damaged half of the missions in the province did not affect the San Juan Bautista Mission.² p. 242 The buildings “were then strengthened with steel and concrete and heavy cross-bracing.”² p. 243 They braced the church walls with concrete buttresses.

According to the “Vertigo” movie section on Wikipedia, San Juan Bautista Mission was filmed by Alfred Hitchcock for his movie Vertigo in 1957.³

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1. “Mission San Juan Bautista,” on Wikipedia. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_San_Juan_Bautista
 2. *The California Missions: A complete pictorial history and visitor’s guide*, Elizabeth L. Hogan, Ed., Sunset Publishing Corp., Menlo Park, California, 7th ed., 1993.
 3. “Vertigo,” (film) on Wikipedia.



“A view of the restored Mission San Juan Bautista and its added three-bell *campanario* (“bell wall”) in 2010....,”

on Wikipedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_San_Juan_Bautista



Fountain and Front of Mission San Juan Bautista

by Kaspar Bams, on Flickr (Used with permission)
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/rapsak/123795731/>



Rock Structure in the Garden of Mission San Juan Bautista

by Anna Fox, on Flickr

(Used with permission, according to licensing rights on Flickr)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/harshlight/3799538269/>

**16th – San Miguel Arcángel Mission founded in 1797
at San Miguel, San Luis Obispo County;
Secularized in 1834² p. 254**



Front of Mission San Miguel Arcángel

by TheMuseCalliope's, on Flickr
(Used with the permission of "E. Collacott.")

16th – San Miguel Arcángel Mission founded in 1797 at San Miguel, San Luis Obispo County; Secularized in 1834^{2 p. 254}

The original church was destroyed in 1806 in a fire causing the loss of the church and all of the wool, cloth, and hides that they had accumulated. The nearest missions helped restock Mission San Miguel.^{2 p. 255} A new church was planned, and tiles and adobe blocks were made and accumulated for the building materials for a period of 10 years before the stone foundation of the church was completed in 1816. The entire church was completed by 1821.³ This church stands today.

The fountain that you see at Mission San Miguel today is not the original fountain. This one was made of concrete in the design of the fountain at Santa Barbara. In *The California Missions*, the author states that the designs for the fountains were “freely copied from one mission to another.”^{2 p. 254}

The neophyte Indians were taught trades such as working with leather, iron, wood, stone, and the loom. Hundreds of the Indians worked on growing crops, caring for the vineyards, and herding the “thousands of animals that roamed the ranches under mission supervision.”^{2 p. 257}

Mission San Miguel did not fare well after secularization in 1834 because the deserted buildings were used by “riffraff attracted by the Gold Rush who loitered hereon their way between San Francisco and Los Angeles....” In the mid-1800s, space was rented for private use. In 1878 the church was reactivated and some of the buildings were restored. In 1928 it was returned to the Franciscan Order who used it as a parish church and monastery. Today you can visit Mission San Miguel.^{2 p. 258}

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1. “Mission San Miguel Arcángel,” on Wikipedia. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_San_Miguel_Arc%C3%A1ngel
 2. *The California Missions: A complete pictorial history and visitor's guide*, Elizabeth L. Hogan, Ed., Sunset Publishing Corp., Menlo Park, California, 7th ed., 1993.
 3. “Mission San Miguel,” on the Athanasius Schaefer web site. <http://www.athanasius.com/camission/miguel.htm>



“The ‘Mission on the Highway’ *circa* 1910,”

on Wikipedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_San_Miguel_Arc%C3%A1ngel



Front of Mission San Miguel Arcángel

by TheMuseCalliope's, on Flickr (Used with the permission of "E. Collacott.")

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/themusecalliope/4800886595/>



Front of Mission San Miguel Arcángel

by TheMuseCalliope's, on Flickr (Used with the permission of "E. Collacott.")

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/themusecalliope/4798680208/>



Rock and Mortar Bell Tower at Mission San Miguel Arcángel

by Robert English, on Flickr (Used with permission)
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/bobindrums/2255418205/>



Brick, Rock and Mortar Bell Tower at Mission San Miguel Arcángel, by Danel W. Bachman, on Flickr (Used with permission)



Bell Tower, San Miguel Arcangel Spanish Mission, by Danel W. Bachman, on Flickr (Used with permission; Jan. 2010)

**17th – San Fernando Rey de España Mission founded in 1797
northern Los Angeles, Los Angeles County;
Secularized in 1834² p. 263**



**“Mission San Fernando Postcard, circa
1900,”**

(on Wikipedia)

17th – San Fernando Rey de España Mission founded in 1797 northern Los Angeles, Los Angeles County; Secularized in 1834² p. 263

Mission San Fernando Rey de España is located in northern Los Angeles near the site of the first gold discovery in Alta California. According to *The California Missions*, a major-domo of one of the ranchos pulled up some onions to flavor his dinner and noticed flakes of shiny yellow in the soil, which proved to be gold...a small army of gold-seekers descended on the spot, within four years the small bonanza was exhausted.” These were the first gold flakes that were sent from San Fernando to the mint in Philadelphia around the Horn. Rumors persisted over the years that there was gold buried under the floors of the abandoned church by the padres.² p. 266

Three churches were built at the mission; the first completed in 1799, and the last damaged by the earthquakes of 1812. The mission church was restored with a burned-brick buttress to reinforce the structures and thirty new beams. The church fell into ruin with the huge adobe convento that branched off of the quadrangle being the only remaining structure. The convento was damaged beyond repair by the earthquake of 1971. An exact replica of the church was dedicated in 1974.² p. 263

The massive gravity-fed fountain at the church is one of two fountains that were located on the mission grounds. According to *The California Missions*, “The basin in the shape of a Moorish star formed of intersecting arcs is a copy of one in Cordova, Spain....”² p. 263

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1. “Mission San Fernando Rey de España,” on Wikipedia.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_San_Fernando_Rey_de_Espa%C3%B1a
 2. *The California Missions: A complete pictorial history and visitor’s guide*, Elizabeth L. Hogan, Ed., Sunset Publishing Corp., Menlo Park, California, 7th ed., 1993.



“Mission San Fernando Postcard, circa 1900,”

on Wikipedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_San_Fernando_Rey_de_Espa%C3%B1a



An exterior view of the *Convento*, at Mission San Fernando

on Wikipedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_San_Fernando_Rey_de_Espa%C3%B1a



Fountain at Mission San Fernando Rey de España

by Tamera Godfrey-Pixton (on Flickr) (Used with permission)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/godfreypixton/3225830994/>



Fountain at Mission San Fernando Rey de España

by Tamera Godfrey-Pixton (on Flickr) (Used with permission)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/godfreypixton/3224975455/>

18th – San Luis Rey de Francia Mission founded 1798
East of Oceanside, San Diego County; Secularized 1833-34² p. 273



Mission San Luis Rey de Francia

“Today, Mission San Luis Rey de Francia is well maintained. This Mission is architecturally distinctive due to the combination of Spanish Renaissance, Moorish—Mudéjar, and Spanish Colonial architecture styles.”

(on Wikipedia)

18th – San Luis Rey de Francia Mission founded 1798 East of Oceanside, San Diego County; Secularized 1833-34² p. 273

Mission San Luis Rey is located in the city of Oceanside. The current mission church is the third church built on this location. “This Mission is architecturally distinctive due to the combination of Spanish Renaissance, Moorish–Mudéjar, and Spanish Colonial architecture styles.”¹ Mission San Luis Ray was known as one of the most extensive missions in the chain.

Several buildings were constructed during the first year, and by two years later all of the roofs were covered with tile made from the mission’s kilns.² p. 274 Throughout the life of the mission, new buildings were added to the mission grounds. The Mission San Luis Rey church was designed as a cruciform-type church (cruciform: shaped like a cross). This design was only shared with the stone church at Mission Capistrano. According to *The California missions*, “At the crossing a dome was topped by an unusual octagonal lantern, the only such feature in all the mission churches. The lantern was described in 1829 as having eight columns in its design and being lighted by a hundred and forty-four panes of glass. The design of the lantern was changed in the 1890’s when it was enlarged, simplified, and altered from octagonal to round.”² p. 275 The mortuary chapel where relatives of the deceased would watch over the body the night before the service is another unusual feature of the church.

Two of the mission’s most outstanding features were the sunken garden and the lavandería. The sunken garden and lavandería (laundry area) were built in a little valley below the mission, which was a large paved area was reach using broad steps. The Spring water “flowed through the lavanderías, ran through filters, and then was channeled into the fields beyond. Exotic fruits and shrubs graced the sunken garden....”² p. 276 In 1993 the lavandería, long covered with silt, was being excavated with plans to restore it to its original state.

In the lavandería, stone was used for the steps and the gargoyle from which the water flowed down the tiles to the area where the Indian women soaked their clothes, soaped them with the crude soap shown in the photograph at the left, and beat them with wooden paddles on the stone steps.”² p. 282

18th – San Luis Rey de Francia Mission founded 1798
East of Oceanside, San Diego County; Secularized 1833-34² p. 273
(Continued)

The monastery garden at Mission San Luis Rey included the first pepper tree brought to California by the padres. The peppercorns were dried and ground for seasoning.² p. 281 On a sketch of Mission San Luis Rey in *The California Missions*, the area in which the lime kilns was located is shown.² p. 277

After secularization during 1883 and 1884, the destruction of the mission came about through a long period of neglect. “(T)he great quadrangles collapsed and even portions of the church caved in.”² p. 276 Reconstruction of the ruins started in 1893 and were still going on in 1993 when *The California Missions* was published.

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1. “Mission San Luis Rey de Francia,” on Wikipedia. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_San_Luis_Rey_de_Francia
 2. *The California Missions: A complete pictorial history and visitor’s guide*, Elizabeth L. Hogan, Ed., Sunset Publishing Corp., Menlo Park, California, 7th ed., 1993.



Mission San Luis Rey de Francia

“Today, Mission San Luis Rey de Francia is well maintained. This Mission is architecturally distinctive due to the combination of Spanish Renaissance, Moorish—Mudéjar, and Spanish Colonial architecture styles.”

on Wikipedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_San_Luis_Rey_de_Francia



Gargoyle Waterspout in the Mission San Luis Rey de Francia Lavanderia

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<http://www.flickr.com/photos/nicmcc/3675421862/>



Gargoyle Waterspout in the Mission San Luis Rey de Francia Lavanderia

used with the permission of Nicole McCleaf (on Flickr – Used with Permission)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/nicmcc/3674604053/sizes/m/in/photostream/>



Gargoyle Waterspout in the Mission San Luis Rey de Francia Lavanderia

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Gargoyle Waterspout in the Mission San Luis Rey de Francia Lavanderia

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<http://www.flickr.com/photos/nicmcc/3675488940/>



**Grindstone & Mortars at Mission San Luis Rey de
Francia, by Konrad Summers**
(copyright Konrad Summers; Used with permission,
according to licensing rights on Flickr)



Grindstone & Mortars at Mission San Luis Rey de Francia

by Konrad Summers

(copyright Konrad Summers; Used with permission, according to licensing rights on Flickr)



Part of the Mission San Luis Rey de Francia Water System

by Konrad Summers

(copyright Konrad Summers; Used with permission, according to licensing rights on Flickr)



Water Feature at Mission San Luis Rey de Francia Lavanderia

used with the permission of Nicole McCleaf (on Flickr – Used with Permission)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/tkksummers/4665742274/>

**19th – Santa Inés Mission founded at Solvang 1804
Santa Barbara County' Secularized 1836² p. 286**



Mission Santa Inés in 2005

“The original bell structure (erected in 1817) collapsed in 1911 and was reconstructed out of reinforced concrete in 1948. The campanile has been compared by architectural historian Rexford Newcomb to the one that originally abutted the façade of Mission San Gabriel Arcángel.”

(on Wikipedia)

19th – Santa Inés Mission founded at Solvang 1804 Santa Barbara County’ Secularized 1836^{2 p. 286}

The location of Mission Santa Inés (sometimes spelled Santa Ynez) is midway between Mission Santa Barbara and Mission La Purisima Concepción. Both of these missions were overcrowded, and Mission Santa Inés was built to relieve the overcrowding at both missions. The mission is located in Solvang, California.¹

The mission was formed in the usual quadrangle with a convento building added as a wing. The violent earthquake of 1812 destroyed most of the church and damaged many of the buildings.^{2 p. 286} In 1813 rebuilding began, and a “...companario was erected beside the church and behind it, the sacristy and storage rooms.”^{2 p. 286} The existing companario is the third bell tower, and it was restored in 1948.^{2 p. 287} The companario collapsed in 1911, and it was rebuilt of concrete.^{2 p. 289} Faded green marbleized decorations cover the walls in the altar zone, one of the most authentic examples of decorative element used in many missions....,” according to *The California Missions*.^{2 p. 293}

Water was brought from the mountains several miles away to both the mission and the Indian village.^{2 p. 286} In the 1820s, a new grist mill, reservoirs, and an elaborate system were constructed to carry water from the mountains for the mission livestock and crops.³

Due to the growing Indian population, larger crops and herds, and the need for water power for the mills and for pottery production and tanning, the water system continued to grow. Today the two reservoirs and two mills once part of the mission grounds are now located in the adjacent State Park. Traces of the water system can still be found in the reservoir in front of the church, and the lavandería located south near the Indian village.⁵ (Note: *The “Santa Inés Mission Mills” is the California State Park referred to in the above “adjacent State Park” reference.*⁶)

Using an elaborate system of canals, water was diverted from Alamo Pintado Creek and Zanja de Cota Creek which was directed to pass through the mission lands into two stone-lined reservoirs, a lavandería, and mill complex.⁴

19th – Santa Inés Mission founded at Solvang 1804 Santa Barbara County' Secularized 1836² p. 286

(Continued)

A grist mill fed by Zanja de Cota Creek was constructed about a half mile from the church in 1820. According to the California Missions Resource Center web site:

“... The mill system consisted of two large stone reservoirs, a stone mill building with a water-propelled horizontal wheel and mill stone, and a network of zanjias or canals. A second (fulling) mill was added at the upper end of the large reservoir in 1821. The mill ruins are now owned by the California State Parks, with long-term plans to provide public access in a new State Park in Solvang.”⁴

When Mexico became independent from Spain, trouble started; and there was an Indian revolt in 1824. Order was restored at Mission Santa Inés and reconstruction and repair were carried out between 1825 and 1832. Once secularization was enforced in 1834, the Indians began to gradually flee the mission.²

1. “Mission Santa Inés,” on Wikipedia. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_Santa_In%C3%A9s
2. *The California Missions: A complete pictorial history and visitor's guide*, Elizabeth L. Hogan, Ed., Sunset Publishing Corp., Menlo Park, California, 7th ed., 1993.
3. “Santa Ines Mission Santa Ines Mission Buildings and Grounds,” by Betsy Malloy, About.com Guide. http://gocalifornia.about.com/cs/missioncalifornia/a/ines_bldg.htm
4. “Santa Inés Virgen y Martír,” on the California Missions Resource Center web site.
5. “Mission Santa Inés, Virgen y Mártir,” California Missions Foundation web site. <http://www.californiamissionsfoundation.org/mission-santa-ines.html>
6. “[Santa Inés Mission Mills](#),” now one of the California State Parks. Historical information about the two stone reservoirs, the stone mill building, and the grist mill is available at “[Santa Inés Mission Mills – A Brief History](#).”



Mission Santa Inés in 2005

“The original bell structure (erected in 1817) collapsed in 1911 and was reconstructed out of reinforced concrete in 1948. The *campanile* has been compared by architectural historian Rexford Newcomb to the one that originally abutted the façade of Mission San Gabriel Arcángel.”

on Wikipedia

Mission Santa Inés Mission and Grist Mills

Photographs by Kenneth A. Larson, Mission Trail Today

You will find many photographs of Mission Santa Inés and the grist mills/buildings once located on mission grounds in the “[Santa Inés Virgen y Martir](#)” section of the [Mission Trail Today](#) web site, presented by Kenneth A. Larson. The land but now protected and preserved by the [Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation](#).



Olive Mill Wheel at Mission Santa Inés

(photo date: 4-3-04)

Lavanderia at Mission Santa Inés

(photo date 9-14-03)



(Photos by Kenneth Larson, used with permission)



**South side of west grist mill at
Mission Santa Inés**

(photo date: 4-3-04)

**Two mills and mission beyond at
Mission Santa Inés**

(photo date: 4-3-04)



(Photos by Kenneth Larson, used with permission)



**West grist mill south side corner – detail of rock wall.
Mission Santa Inés**

(Photo by Kenneth Larson, used with permission)

**20th – San Rafael Arcángel Mission founded 1817
at San Rafael, Marin County² p. 295**



Mission San Rafael Arcángel

by Raul, on Flickr (Used with permission)/

20th – San Rafael Arcángel Mission founded 1817 at San Rafael, Marin County² p. 295

Mission San Rafael Arcángel was originally founded in 1817 as a “medical *asistencia* (‘sub-mission’) of the Mission Dolores in San Francisco as a hospital to treat sick Native Americans of the Bay Area, making it Alta California’s first sanitarium.”¹ Mission San Rafael Arcángel was given full mission status in 1823.

The mission church was built in 1818, and was torn down in 1870. A replica of the old mission church was built in place of the original Mission San Rafael.² p. 295 The usual quadrangle form never happened at Mission San Rafael, and it never had a bell tower. Little thought was given to its architectural design as it was built during the unsettled years of the turnover of authority from the Spanish to the Mexicans. Mission San Rafael became a stop-over for military parties traveling northward accompanied by padres.² p. 298

Captain Fremont and his men found the adobe mission buildings deserted in 1846 when they used the buildings as their headquarters. Eventually, the remains of the buildings were removed and replaced by a parish church. A replica of the old mission church building was constructed using the original design of a star window over the simple church doorway.² p. 298

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1. “Mission San Rafael Arcángel,” on Wikipedia. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_San_Rafael_Arc%C3%A1ngel
 2. *The California Missions: A complete pictorial history and visitor’s guide*, Elizabeth L. Hogan, Ed., Sunset Publishing Corp., Menlo Park, California, 7th ed., 1993.



Mission San Rafael Arcángel

by Raul (on Flickr) (Used with permission)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/orange27/2433528520/>

**21st – San Francisco Solano Mission founded 1823
in Sonoma; Secularized 1834² p 301**



Mission San Francisco Solano

by Robert English (Used with permission)

21st – San Francisco Solano Mission founded 1823 in Sonoma; Secularized 1834^{2 p 301}

The present chapel at Mission Solano was built in 1840, the third church to be built at the San Francisco Solano Mission in Sonoma, Sonoma County. ^{2 p. 301} Mission Solano was the last in the chain of Spanish missions and was the result of a compromise between suppressing Mission Dolores and Mission San Rafael in order to establish a new mission. ^{2 p. 301}

Due to harsh treatment by Father Altimira, an angry band of Native Americans stormed the mission in 1826. After fleeing, Father Altimira returned to Spain. During this event, there was looting and buildings were burnt. ^{2 p. 302} Father Fortuni took the mission over and had the Indians replace the wood and thatch buildings with an adobe enclosure, enlarging the convento, and a new adobe church until the mission contained thirty structures. ^{2 p. 302}

After secularization in 1834, the commissioner, General Mariano Vallejo, kept the old mission church in repair; but gradually the unprotected adobe walls dissolved over time. A new adobe church was built, and that is the chapel you can see today. ^{2 p. 303}

In 1846 within sight of the old mission, the Bear Flag was raised declaring the province a new republic, independent of Mexico. ^{2 p. 304}

1 “Mission San Francisco Solano,” on Wikipedia. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_San_Francisco_de_Solano

2 *The California Missions: A complete pictorial history and visitor's guide*, Elizabeth L. Hogan, Ed., Sunset Publishing Corp., Menlo Park, California, 7th ed., 1993.



Mission San Francisco Solano *circa* 1910

on Wikipedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_San_Francisco_de_Solano



Mission San Francisco Solano

by Robert English (Used with permission)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/bobindrums/774093265/>



Mission San Francisco Solano
by Peggy B. Perazzo (6/2010)

Conclusion of the Mission Era and the Beginnings of the American Occupation

New Spain separated from Spain in 1818 and became the Republic of Mexico. After the separation, the missions suffered from confusion of control and their supplies and funds no longer arrived or only arrived infrequently. Because of this, the order to secularize the missions was put into effect by the Mexican government. The churches were to retain their gardens, the churches, and the priests' quarters, and the rest of the land was to be divided and dispersed. The remaining mission buildings were to be used for public services for the new pueblos. The mission crops and herds were controlled by an commissioner for all of the pueblo. After secularization the mission properties went into private ownership.^{1 p. 66}

After the missions closed, many of the mission Indians used their crafts and trade skills to sustain themselves. But the Indians had been so controlled and regimented during their time residing at the mission or on mission lands, that they were not trained to live on their own and most never returned to their old ways. One of the lasting effects of the missions to the Californian Indians in those areas was that the mission system introduced diseases that killed thousands of the Indians as they had no immunity to these new diseases.

During the American occupation, the property rights of the missions were reviewed; and the U.S. Congress returned some of the lands and buildings to the Church in the 1850s and 1860s. "Most of the missions were given back the land occupied by the original quadrangle."^{1 p. 66} The Church leased or rented many of the outbuildings. Most of the missions were abandoned for many years, and they began to disintegrate, and people in the nearby communities used the mission buildings and grounds as a source of building materials. Eventually many of the old mission buildings were torn down. Some of the mission buildings and churches were restored, and many of the buildings, structures, fountains, etc., seen at the missions today were not originally located at these missions or constructed later or moved from other locations.

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1. *California: An Interpretive History*, Walton Bean, 1st ed., 1968, pp. 45.
 2. *The California Missions: A complete pictorial history and visitor's guide*, Elizabeth L. Hogan, Ed., Sunset Publishing Corp., Menlo Park, California, 7th ed., 1993, pp. 53.
 3. "El Camino Real," Wikipedia. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El_Camino_Real_%28California%29
 4. "An **arcade** is a succession of arches, each counterthrusting the next, supported by columns or piers, or a covered walk enclosed by a line of such arches on one or both sides. In warmer or wet climates, exterior arcades provide shelter for pedestrians." Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arcade_%28architecture%29
 5. *California: An Interpretive History*, James J. Rawls and Walton Bean, 7th ed., 1998, pp. 27.
 6. *Handbook of the Indians of California*, A. L. Kroeber, Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 78, 1925, pp. 629.
 7. *Geologic Guidebook of the San Francisco Bay Counties*, California Dept. of Mines Bulletin 154, San Francisco, December 1951, pp. 238.

Brief California History Timeline (1542-1793)

1542	In 1542 Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo discovered San Diego bay. (In the service of Spain, Cabrillo sailed his galleons up from Lower California to discover San Diego bay while trying to find the mythical Strait of Anián, known by the English as the northwest passage.)
1579	Francis Drake claimed the land north of the Golden Gate in the Name of Queen Elizabeth of England. (In 1579 Francis Drake made an emergency landing on the California coast north of the Golden Gate to repair his ship, the Golden Hind. Drake claimed the land in the name of Queen Elizabeth and called it “New Albion” before continuing on to England.)
1602-1603	Sebastián Vizcaíno repeated Cabrillo’s voyage in 1602-1603 to chart the California coast for Spain, but he missed the entrance to San Francisco Bay due to fog.
1769	San Diego de Alcalá Mission founded July 1769 at San Diego. (In 1769 Gaspar de Portolá and Father Junipero Serra established the first mission at San Diego. Also in 1769, Gaspar de Portolá and Father Junipero Serra established the first mission at San Diego. (Spain became concerned about Russian activity in the North Pacific and there was a need for a harbor for the Manila galleons. Spain began colonization in the form of missionizing the California Indians.)
1770	San Carlos Borromeo Mission founded June 1770 at Carmel, Monterey County. (The sites for the mission and presidio at Monterey were dedicated by Portola and Serra and claimed Upper California for Spain in 1770.)
1771	San Antonio de Padua Mission founded in 1771 in Alta California (29 miles from King City, Monterey County).
	San Gabriel Arcángel Mission founded in 1771 at San Gabriel, Los Angeles County
1772	San Luis Obispo de Tolosa Mission founded at San Luis Obispo in 1772.
1775	Juan Manuel de Ayala’s ship was the first to enter San Francisco Bay in 1775
1775 & 1776	San Juan Capistrano Mission founded twice in 1775 and again in 1776 at San Juan Capistrano (Orange County)
1776	San Francisco de Asís Mission founded in 1776 at San Francisco (today known as Mission Dolores)
1776-1793	The Presidio of San Francisco founded by Juan Bautista de Anza in 1776
1777	San Jose pueblo began in 1777
	Santa Clara de Asís Mission founded in 1777, located on the southern end of San Francisco Bay in Santa Clara (Santa Clara County)
1781	Los Angeles pueblo began in 1781
1782	San Buenaventura Mission founded in 1782 at Ventura (Ventura County)
1786	Santa Barbara Mission founded in 1786 at Santa Barbara
1787	La Purísima Concepción Mission founded in 1787 at Lompoc (Santa Barbara County)
1791	Santa Cruz Mission founded in 1791 at Santa Cruz
	Nuestra Señora de la Soledad Mission founded in 1791, 3 miles south of Soledad (Monterey County)
1792	British naval officer George Vancouver charted San Francisco Bay in 1792
1793	Pueblo at Santa Cruz began in 1793

Brief California History Timeline (1796-1842)

1796	Ebenezer Door, the first American sea captain, anchored in Monterey Bay in 1796
1797	Mission San José founded 1797 at San Jose
	San Juan Bautista Mission founded 1797 at San Juan Bautista (San Benito County)
	San Miguel Arcángel Mission founded at San Miguel (San Luis Obispo County)
	San Fernando Rey de España Mission founded in 1797 northern Los Angeles (Los Angeles County)
1798	San Luis Rey de Francia Mission founded 1798 east of Oceanside (San Diego County)
1804	California became a separate Spanish province and was later a province of the Empire of Mexico and a Territory of the Republic of Mexico in 1804. (The American settlers at Sonoma “raised the Bear Flag in June 1846, a rebellion at once swallowed up in the Mexican War.”) ¹
1804	Santa Inés Mission founded at Solvang 1804, Santa Barbara County.
1812	The Russians established Fort Ross above Bodega Bay in 1812. (Their efforts failed at Fort Ross, and the Russians withdrew northward in 1841.)
1812	Violent earthquakes all along the California coast caused destruction in about one-half of the existing missions ⁵
1817	San Rafael Arcángel Mission founded 1817 at San Rafael, Marin County
1822	End of Spanish Rule ³
1823	San Francisco Solano Mission founded in 1823 in the town of Sonoma
1826	Jedediah Smith reached San Gabriel from the Mojave River in 1826. (Smith was the first to complete the overland journey by any American to California. After that, many people followed.)
1834	Secularization of the Spanish Missions by the Mexican Congress. (<i>Act for the Secularization of the Missions of California on August 17, 1833.</i>)
1836	Alvarado’s “revolution” makes California autonomous ³
1841	The first emigrant home seekers from the United States arrived in 1841, and larger migrations crossed the Sierra Nevada beginning in 1843.
1842	First gold rush in California in 1842 on one of the San Fernando Rey de España Mission ranchos in northern Los Angeles. Lasted four years. (<i>See account of the San Fernando Rey de España Mission for more information.</i>)

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1. Rand McNally’s *Pioneer Atlas of The American West*, Rand McNally & Co., 1969 ed., pp. 16.
 2. “Transcontinental Railroad,” on Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transcontinental_railroad
 3. *California: An Interpretive History*, James J. Rawls and Walton Bean, 7th ed., 1998.
 4. “Mission San Diego de Alcalá,” on Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_San_Diego_de_Alcal%C3%A1
 5. *The California Missions: A complete pictorial history and visitor’s guide*, Elizabeth L. Hogan, Ed., Sunset Publishing Corp., Menlo Park, California, 7th ed., 1993, pp. 178.