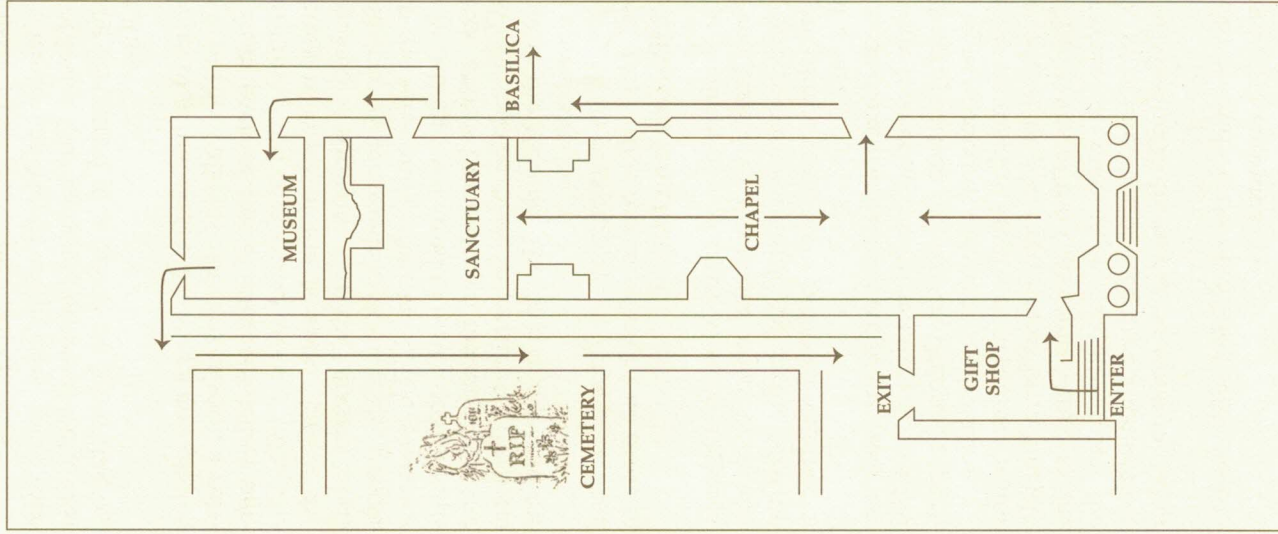


**THE CEMETERY**—The statue in the center of the garden is of Father Junipero Serra as sculpted by Arthur Putnam, an early California artist. Burials in Mission Dolores Cemetery took place from the earliest days of the Mission until the 1890's. Originally the Cemetery covered a much larger area. The first grave markers were simple wooden crosses and deteriorated completely with the passage of time. Gradually the Cemetery was consolidated to its present size. The unidentified bodies were reverently buried in a common grave.

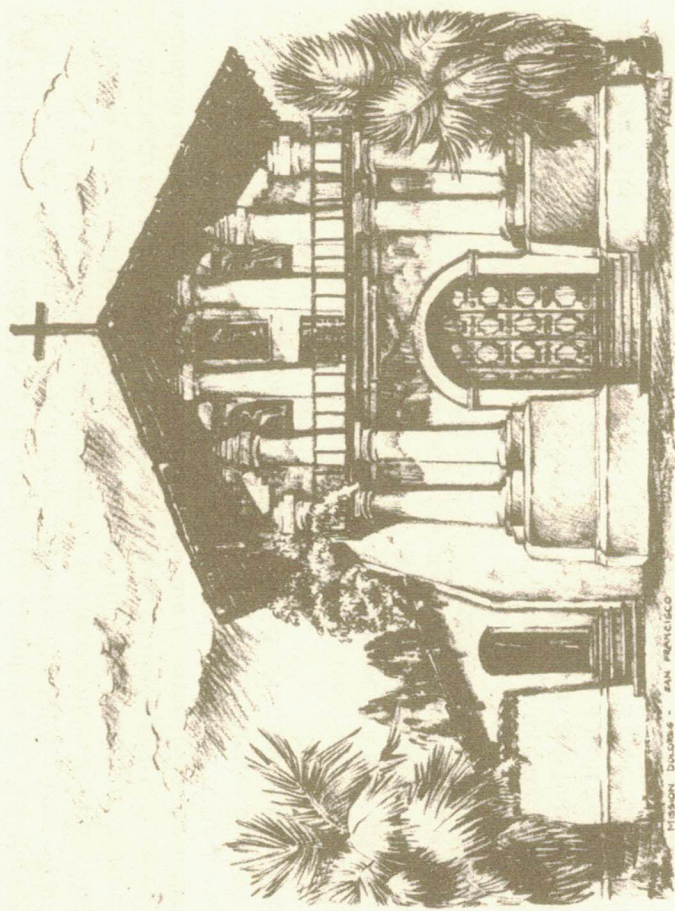


Most of the extant markers designate people who died in the decades following the Gold Rush, when San Francisco was a rapidly growing City which experienced much illness and many early deaths. Many of those who are buried here have given their names to the streets of San Francisco.

Among the notable buried here are Don Luis Antonio Argüello, first governor of Alta California under Mexican rule; Don Francisco de Haro, first Alcalde (mayor) of San Francisco; three victims of the Vigilantes: James P. Casey, Charles Cora, and James "Yankee" Sullivan; and a French family killed in the explosion of the steamboat Jenny Lind.



*We have enjoyed having you as our guest at Mission Dolores. This historic site receives no public funds. We rely completely on your voluntary offerings to maintain, restore and beautify this site and its buildings.*



## Welcome to Misión San Francisco de Asís Popularly Known as Mission Dolores

Of the 21 California Missions this is the third most northerly and the sixth to be established under the direction of Father Junipero Serra. Lieutenant José Joaquín Moraga led the group that arrived in this area on June 27, 1776. A scouting party had visited three months earlier and named a small stream nearby, Arroyo de Nuestra Señora de los Dolores.

Father Francisco Palou, a co-worker of Father Serra, celebrated the first Mass in the area under a makeshift shelter on June 29, and thus the City of Saint Francis had its official beginning five days before the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The formal establishment of the Mission of Saint Francis was delayed until the arrival of the necessary Church documents and took place on October 9, 1776.

*Help Keep Mission Dolores Beautiful—Please Do Not Litter*

**WITHIN THE MISSION**—This building, completed in 1791, the oldest intact Mission, is 114 feet long, 22 feet wide, with adobe walls 4 feet thick. Original redwood logs supporting the roof remain in place. They are lashed together with rawhide. Masses are still celebrated here. The ceiling, although repainted, depicts original Ohlone Indian designs done with vegetable dyes. The reredos, or decorative altar, came from San Blas, Mexico in 1796. The two side altars were also crafted in Mexico and were brought to the Mission in 1810. They are adorned with columns, apparently marble, which are in fact fashioned from wood. The gold leaf on the altars is basically the same as when it first arrived.

Access to the choir loft (not open to the public) was at first gained by way of an outside stairway. The present spiral staircase is a later addition. The three bells of the Mission, cast in Mexico, honor Saints Joseph, Francis and Martin. In 1868, Bret Harte wrote a poem commemorating these bells.

Immediately inside the chapel on the left wall are confessional doors. The priest would sit between the open doors. Men would stand or kneel in front of the priest for confession, while women would go to either side and confess through the opening. Midway on the left side is the baptistry. To this day parish baptisms take place here. The first of more than 28,000 baptisms during the Mission Period took place two months before the official establishment of the Mission. The records are still preserved.

There are four burial places marked within the Mission Chapel walls. Beginning at the back, they are those of William Leidesdorff, an Afro-American pioneer businessman of the City; the Noe Family; Lieutenant José Joaquín Moraga, leader of the June 1776 expedition; and Very Reverend Richard Carroll, first pastor of Mission Dolores after San Francisco became an Archdiocese.

**THE DIORAMA**—Created for the 1939 World's Fair on Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay, it shows what the area looked like around 1791. The Mission complex is extensive including the Church on the left, the Convent runs across the front (where the Franciscans and their guests stayed) and a long building on the right which was the granary. To the back are shops and servant quarters. Buildings to the far right housed soldiers and civilians based at the Mission.

**THE BASILICA**—The few steps on the right lead to the side door of the parish church. While the Mission withstood the shock of the 1906 earthquake, the parish church was not so fortunate and the present building was completed in 1918. In 1952 Pope Pius XII designated this a Basilica, an honorary Church of the Pope. The partially opened red-and-gold umbrella on the right side of the altar and the carved coat of arms with the papal insignia on the left are the marks of a Basilica.

The beautiful stained-glass window at the rear of the Church pictures Saint Francis of Assisi, patron of the Mission and the City of San Francisco. The upper side windows represent angels. The lower side windows depict

the 21 California Missions along with two in honor of Fathers Serra and Palou.

High above the main altar and set against the sunburst pattern is a wood carving of Mater Dolorosa, Our Lady of Sorrows. The Seven Sorrows of Mary are depicted individually on the front of each of the two side balconies, with the first sorrow depicted in a similar carving over the main door at the rear of the Church. The oval mosaics depict the Apostles.

From the entry point, the shrines are Martín de Porres, (and then counter-clockwise) Sacred Heart of Jesus, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Shrine of the Deceased and Señor de los Milagros, Saints Anne and Mary, and Saint Rita.

**COVERED WALKWAY**—Copies of actual period drawings and photos are exhibited on the right side of the walkway. The first shows a celebration where the best dancers from each of the 17 different tribes performed. The second shows the buildings and compound around 1826. The third shows a bullfight in progress in front of the Mission. Under the Spanish, the Franciscans had promised to someday turn the Mission lands over to the Indians. When the Mexican government took over, the people demanded that the governor strip the Missions of their land. The governor complied. During this period the buildings were used to host public events like this bullfight. The next picture shows horse-drawn hearses bringing bodies for services after the 1906 earthquake. Note in particular the total destruction of the church next door to the Mission. The final image is of the Mission's impressive facade as it appears today.

The left side of the walkway exhibits photographs of Pope John Paul II's visit to Mission Dolores in 1987. His visit is remembered by all those in attendance as a high point in the Mission's long history.

**THE MUSEUM**—In 1976, the bicentennial year of Mission Dolores, work was completed on the restoration of this room which once was used as a classroom. Artifacts, some previously displayed in the Mission Chapel and some stored away from public view, were gathered together in this small, but authentic museum.

Look at the inset in the wall near the entrance door. All of the walls are constructed of adobe bricks that were formed and sundried nearby. In 1788, Father Cambón, who directed the construction of Mission Dolores, reported that 36,000 such adobe bricks were needed to complete the building.

Most precious among the items on display are the sacred items in the central display, some of which are replicas of gifts from Father Serra himself.

Of special interest are the lithographs of the California Missions, the original roof truss, and the revolving tabernacle brought from the Philippines. When unlocked, it can be opened by rotating the center section. This tabernacle is still used here at Mission Dolores, placed upon the Altar of Repose on Holy Thursday.

The wood trusses lashed with rawhide were paralleled with steel in 1916 to further protect the building from earthquakes.