

BRIEF HISTORY

1797 Mission San Miguel Founded

During the summer of 1795, Padre Sitjar, from Mission San Antonio, explored the region between San Luis Obispo and San Antonio. On July 25, 1797, Father Fermin Francisco de Lasuén established Mission San Miguel as the 16th of the 21 California Missions forming a link between San Luis Obispo and San Antonio, each a day's journey apart.

1806 Disastrous Fire Destroys Buildings

Before sturdy tile roofs could be put over the buildings, a disastrous fire occurred. A major portion of the Mission church, equipment, produce and buildings were destroyed. Neighboring missions came to the aid of Mission San Miguel and in a year's time the Mission was functioning again. The current church was built in 1816-1818.

1836 Mission San Miguel is Secularized

On July 14, 1836, Colonel Ignacio Coronel assumed jurisdiction over San Miguel's mission property and lands for the Mexican government. Three years after the secularization, many of the Salinans living at the Mission had left. Padre Moreno found the mission so despoiled that he had to move elsewhere to support himself. Padre Abella, the last Franciscan at San Miguel, left in 1841.

1859 U.S. Government Returns Mission to Church

Mission San Miguel, which had been confiscated after secularization and used for a variety of other purposes, was returned to the Church by President James Buchanan.

1878 Padre is Once More Sent to San Miguel

After 38 years without a resident priest, Fr. Philip Farrelly took up residence as pastor of Mission San Miguel. Clergy of the Diocese of Monterey/Los Angeles made various repairs to the church and mission buildings.

Today: Best Preserved Mission Interior

The Mission's appearance today is much the same as when it was first built. Many of the original decorations are still intact. In 1928, the Mission was returned to the Franciscans. For many years it was used as the novitiate for the Saint Barbara Province. Today the Mission serves as a local parish and a State and National Historical Site. Mission San Miguel is an authentic reminder of California's past.

MISSION SAN MIGUEL
GIFT SHOP & MUSEUM

775 MISSION STREET

P.O. BOX 69

SAN MIGUEL, CA 93451

PHONE: (805) 467-3256

WWW.MISSIONSANMIGUEL.ORG

OPEN DAILY:

10:00 AM TO 4:30 PM

CLOSED:

THANKSGIVING DAY &
CHRISTMAS DAY

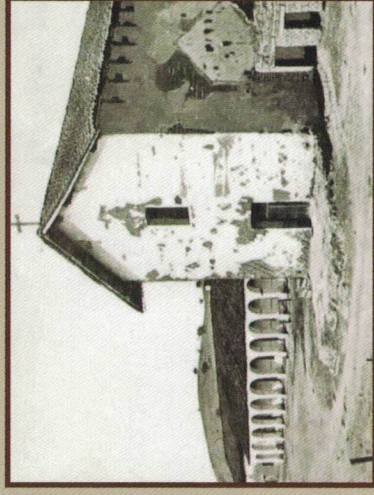
As a National Historical Landmark,
Mission San Miguel receives no Federal,
State or local funding for restoration and is
entirely dependent upon donations, gifts
and fund-raisers.



SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

OLD MISSION SAN MIGUEL ARCÁNGEL

Founded July 25, 1797

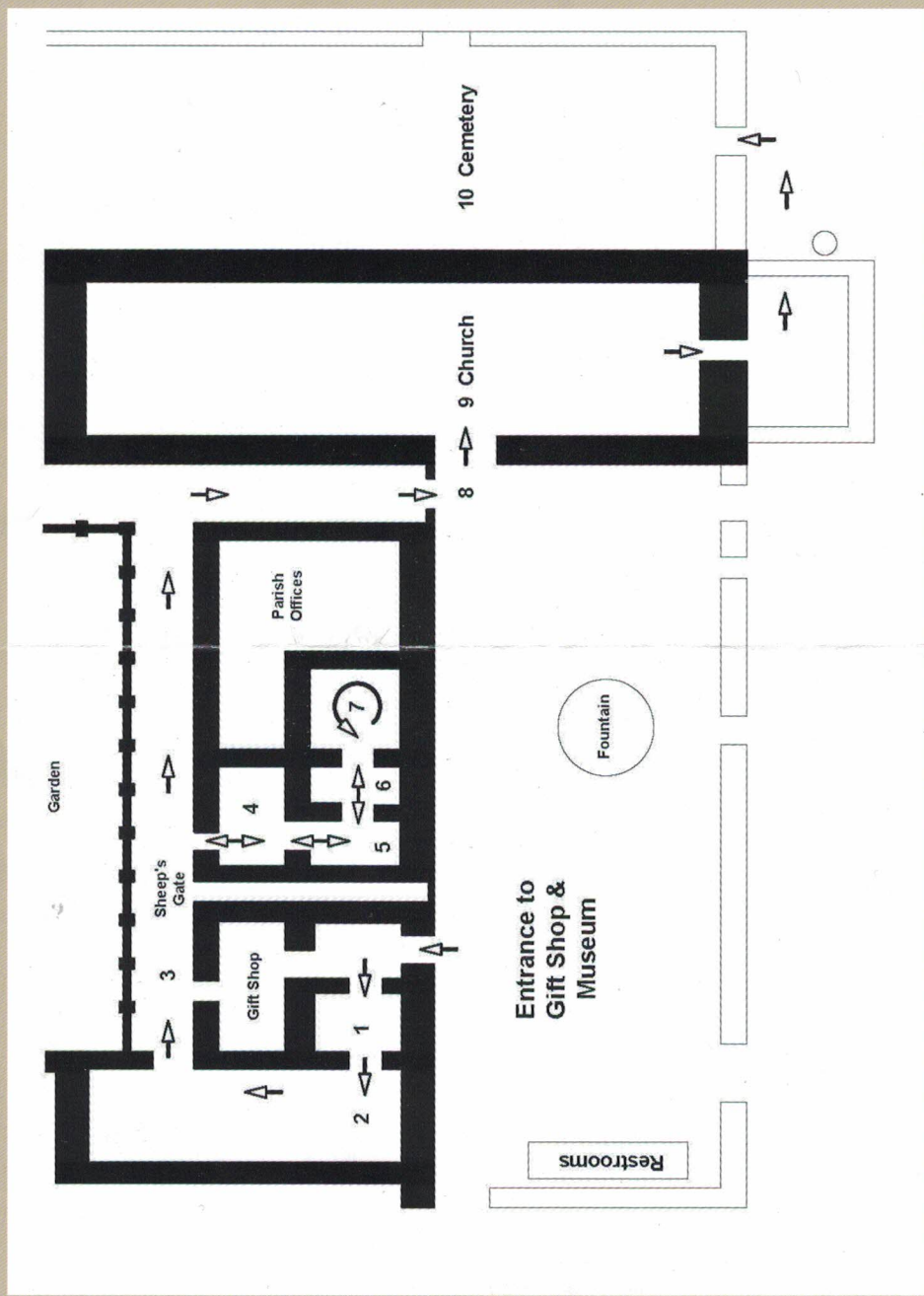


California Historical
Landmark No. 326

National Historic Landmark
2006

SELF GUIDED TOUR

- Salinan Room:** The indigenous people of this area became known as the Salinan people. They lived in small community groups using the natural resources of the area.
- Mission Room:** Originally used as a store room and wine making facility, today this space displays daily life at the mission. The huge "open style" wine vat located in this room is original and dates back to the 1820's. The end gallery chronicles the Salinan people after the mission period.
- Garden Corridor:** Originally the space was used as a work area. Today it is a peaceful garden.
- Sheep Gate:** Through this long passageway sheep were brought into the quadrangle for shearing.
- Kitchen:** This area beg ins the Padre's living quarters. The bee-hive oven was used for baking small quantities of food.
- Dining Room:** The walls with their built-in cabinets and rough furnishings are similar to those of the early mission days.
- Padre's Bedroom:** Displays a typical bed of the mission times, sheepskin windows, and the gray habit worn by the Franciscans during the mission period.
- Sala:** Originally used for administration of the mission, today it houses the Mission's collection of religious paintings and artifacts.
- Mission Arcade:** The original 12 arches in a variety of designs.
- Mission Church:** Built between 1816 - 1818. Dimensions: 144 feet long; 27 feet wide; 40 feet high. These are the original painted walls by artist Esteban Munras and Salinan neophytes. Ground minerals were mixed with cactus juice to paint the intricate designs.
- Cemetery:** The names of 2,249 Native Americans are recorded in church burial records dating from 1798; a monument to their memory stands on the west side of the cemetery.



During your visit

For the safety and preservation of the works, please keep a safe distance and refrain from touching the art. The church and cemetery require responsible and respectful behavior. Food, drink and smoking are not permitted in the church or museum areas. Please deposit your trash in the appropriate receptacles.

Please watch your step at all times. The ground surface is often uneven.

Photography

You are welcome to use non-flash photography on works of art on display and in the church.