Mission San Antonio de Padua

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>near Jolon, Monterey County, California</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name as founded</td>
<td>La Misión de San Antonio de Padua[1]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English translation</td>
<td>The Mission of Saint Anthony of Padua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patron</td>
<td>Saint Anthony of Padua[2]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nickname(s)</td>
<td>&quot;Mission of the Sierras&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Founding date</td>
<td>July 14, 1771[3]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Founding priest(s)</td>
<td>Father Presidente Junípero Serra[4]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Founding Order</td>
<td>Third[2]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military district</td>
<td>Third[5]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native tribe(s)</td>
<td>Salinan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish name(s)</td>
<td>Telhaya[6]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native place name(s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baptisms</td>
<td>4,419[7]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriages</td>
<td>1,142[7]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burials</td>
<td>3,617[7]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secularized</td>
<td>1834[8]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governing body</td>
<td>Roman Catholic Diocese of Monterey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current use</td>
<td>Parish Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordinates</td>
<td>36°00′54″N 121°15′00″W / 36.015°N 121.25°W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Historic Landmark</td>
<td>#NPS-76000504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date added to the NRHP</td>
<td>1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California Historical</td>
<td>623</td>
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</table>

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Mission San Antonio de Padua was founded on July 14, 1771, the third mission founded in Alta California by Father Presidente Junípero Serra, and site of the first Christian marriage and first use of fired-tile roofing in Upper California.[4]

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## History

1970s view of the mission
Father Serra left Fathers Miguel Pieras and Buenaventura Sitjar behind to continue the building efforts, though the construction of the church proper did not actually begin until 1810. By that time, there were 178 Native Americans living at the Mission.

By 1805, the number had increased to 1,300, but in 1834, after the secularization laws went into effect, the total number of Mission Indians at the Mission San Antonio was only 150. No town grew up around the Mission, as many did at other installations.

In 1845, Mexican Governor Pío Pico declared all mission buildings in Alta California for sale, but no one bid for Mission San Antonio. After nearly 30 years, the Mission was returned to the Catholic Church. In 1894, roof tiles were salvaged from the property and installed on the Southern Pacific Railroad depot located in Burlingame, California, one of the first permanent structures constructed in the Mission Revival Style.

### Restoration

The first attempt at rebuilding the Mission came in 1903, when the California Historical Landmarks League began holding outings at San Antonio.

"Preservation and restoration of Mission San Antonio began. The Native Sons of the Golden West supplied $1,400. Tons of debris were removed from the interior of the chapel. Breaches in the side wall were filled in."[8] Unfortunately, the earthquake of April 18, 1906, seriously damaged the building. In 1928, Franciscan Friars held services at San Antonio de Padua. It took nearly 50 years to completely restore the Mission. The State of California is requiring a $12–15 million earthquake retrofit that must be completed by 2015, or the mission will be closed. There are 35 private families keeping the mission open, in 2011.

### Present day

Today, the nearest city is King City, nearly 29 miles (47 km) away; Jolon, a small town, is located 6 miles (10 km) from the Mission. Historians consider the Mission's pastoral location in the valley of the San Antonio River along the Santa Lucia Mountains as an outstanding example of early mission life.

The Mission is surrounded by the Fort Hunter Liggett Military Reservation, which was acquired by the U.S. Army from the Hearst family during World War II to train troops. Additional land was acquired from the Army in 1950 to increase the mission area to over 85 acres (340,000 m²). This fort is still actively training troops today.
Beginning in 2005, a team of volunteers began restoring the gardens in the interior courtyard of the Mission. Pictured above are the restored gardens in January, 2007.

**In popular culture**

- The 1965 *horror film Incubus* was partly filmed at the Mission. The writer and director, Leslie Stevens, concerned that the Mission authorities would not allow the film to be shot there because of the subject matter, concocted a cover story that the film was called *Religious Leaders of Old Monterey*, and presented a script that was about monks and farmers. He was helped in this deception by the fact that the film was shot entirely in Esperanto. [9]

**Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail**

The Mission San Antonio de Padua is one of the designated tour sights of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, a National Park Service unit in the United States National Historic Trail and National Millennium Trail programs. A Brochure Map for driving and detailed Anza Maps by County, with a Historical destinations-events Guide and the official NPS: Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail website are all available for information about the historic 1776 Juan Bautista de Anza trail places.[10]

**See also**

- USNS Mission San Antonio (T-AO-119), a Buenaventura-Class fleet oiler built in 1944
- The Hacienda (Milpitas Ranchhouse) - the nearby Mission Revival Style guest-ranch house [now hotel] built in 1930 by W.R.Hearst.
- Mission San Miguel Arcángel - next south
- Mission Nuestra Señora de la Soledad - next north

**References**

**Bibliography**


**Notes**

1. ^ Leffingwell, p. 99
2. ^ a b c Krell, p. 101
3. ^ Yenne, p. 40
4. ^ a b Ruscin, p. 196
5. ^ Forbes, p. 202
6. ^ Ruscin, p. 195
7. ^ a b c Krell, p. 315: as of December 31, 1832; information adapted from Engelhardt's *Missions and Missionaries of California*.
8. ^ California Missions and Their Romances, Fremont Older
9. ^ Miller, John M. "Incubus" (TCM article)

**External links**

- mission san antonio de padua from Google Maps
- Mission San Antonio de Padua - official site
- Fort Hunter Liggett official website
- Monterey County Historical Society
- Early photographs, sketches of Mission San Antonio de Padua, via Calisphere, California Digital Library
- Early History of the California Coast, a National Park Service Discover Our Shared Heritage Travel Itinerary
- official U.S. National Park Service Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail website

**Categories:**

- Spanish missions in California
- History of Monterey County, California
- 1771 establishments
Mission San Antonio de Padua

Mission San Antonio de Padua was founded on July 14, 1771, and was the third mission founded in Alta California by Father Presidente Junípero Serra. The mission was the first use fired tile roofing in Upper California. Today the mission is a parish church of the Diocese of Monterey. The economy at Mission San Antonio de Padua was similar to the other missions in that they planted crops of wheat and corn. They also planted vineyards, and raised cattle and sheep. The agriculture was needed not only to maintain the mission community and the nearby Indians, but was used for trade and served to visitors to the mission. They offered the lands to the Indians who did not want the lands or could not come up with the purchase price. The lands were divided into smaller Ranchos and sold to Mexican citizens who were helpful during the war for independence. In 1845, Governor Pio Pico declared Mission buildings for sale and no one even bids for San Antonio. After nearly 30 years, the missions were
returned to the Catholic Church.