

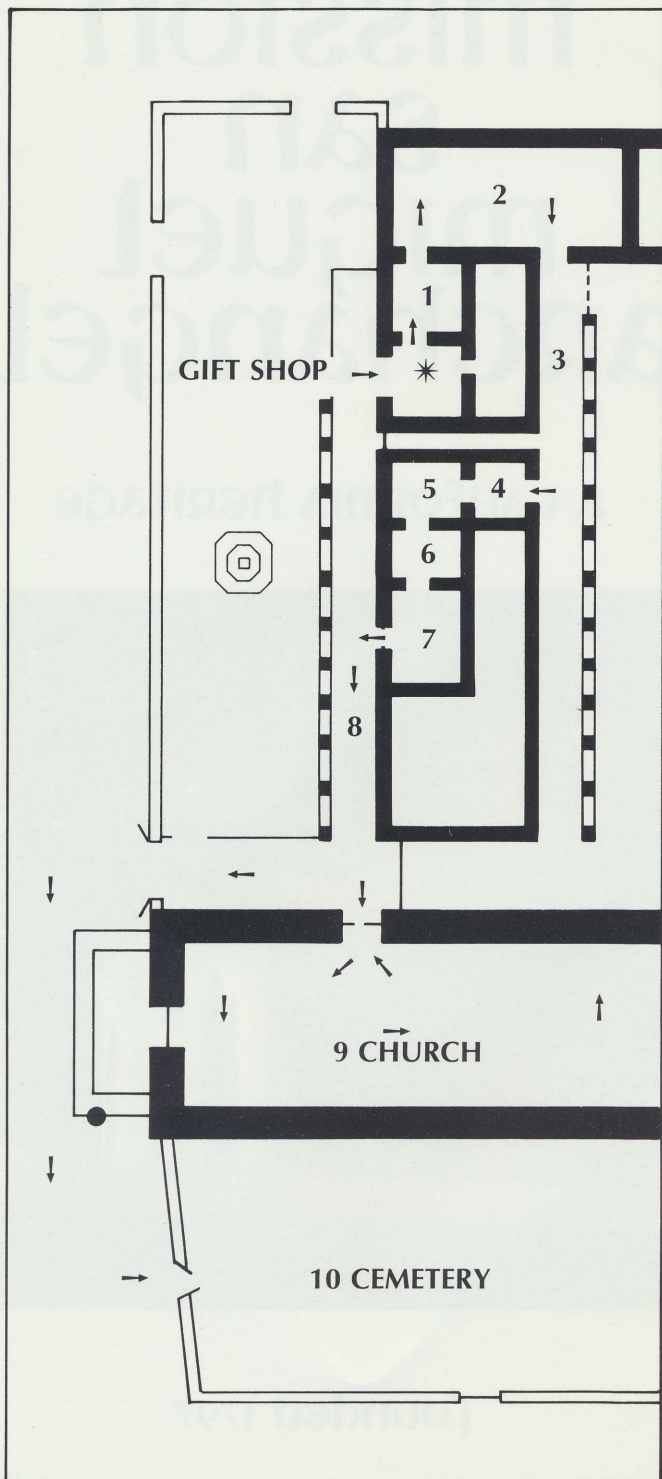
# MISSION SAN MIGUEL ARCHANGEL

a CALIFORNIA HERITAGE



founded 1797

# SELF-GUIDED TOUR AID



1. **St. Michael's Room:** To your right 16th century spanish wood-carving depicts patron of Mission (San Miguel) victorious over Lucifer; over entrance to room No.2 crucifix of original main altar (with bloody and torn back of Christ).
2. **"Mission Model" Room:** Examine layout of San Miguel and San Antonio Missions; wine vat of Indian days in corner, lovely statue of "Sorrowful Mother" in black; you may register in this room.
3. **Garden Corridor:** Sacred Garden to your left 230 ft. square (3 sides of quadrangle rebuilt completely by Franciscans since 1928); originally a work area with shops; passageway to right was Sheep Gate (see cross emblazoned on tree stump).
4. **Kitchen:** Old beehive oven (note hole in wall above and to right); typical kitchen.
5. **Dining Room:** Large chair from Mission days at table; 17th century Spanish strong box (locking device in lid).
6. **Sleeping Room:** Color of habit during Mission days was gray (brown became standard only in 1890); missionary sun hat; soft bed.
7. **Living Room:** Also used as administration room in early days; like kitchen and sleeping rooms, authentic and original; see adobe construction on upper part of wall; artifacts reproduced to demonstrate crafts.
8. **Mission Arcade:** Study variety in size of original 12 arches; 34 varieties of cactus plants in garden; cannon is 100 years older than Mission (cast in Spain in 1697 and left by Mexican army near river in 1846).
9. **Mission Church:** Present edifice built between 1816-18; suggest you start at rear of church to get feeling of length (144 feet), width (27 feet), and height (40 feet); original interior decorations best preserved of any Mission chain; walls about six feet thick; width determined by length of original timbers in ceiling; decorations work of Esteban Munras (artist) with Indian help; as you approach altar note lovely colors of reredos in sanctuary, all-seeing eye of God, graves of early friars on sanctuary floor.
10. **Cemetery:** Over 2,000 Indians buried around Mission; bronze statue of Christ was formerly in church; 2,000-pound bell was cast in San Francisco in 1888 from fragments of older bells and has beautiful tone.



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FOR YOUR DONATION



# MISSION SAN MIGUEL ARCHANGEL

**1797** For some months during the summer of 1795 Padre Sitjar from Mission San Antonio explored the region between San Luis Obispo and San Antonio. Finally on July 25, 1797, two years later, Presidente Fermin Francisco de Lasuen took formal possession of the land for Viceroy Branciforte and founded the 16th of the California missions. One of the chief purposes of the new mission was to facilitate travel between Mission San Luis Obispo and San Antonio. The mission system was so devised that each mission was a day's travel from its neighbor.

## **1806** Disastrous fire destroys buildings.

The first chapel had to be replaced in a years time by a larger adobe church. Workshops were constructed and living quarters established. But before sturdy tile roofs could be put over the buildings, a disastrous fire occurred in 1806. A major portion of the mission's equipment, produce and buildings were destroyed. Neighboring missions came to San Miguel's aid, however, and in a year's time the mission was functioning again.

## **1816** Present Mission Church begun.

In 1816 stone foundations were laid for the church which survive today. Under the direction of Padre Juan Martin the Indians had been preparing adobe for several years. The construction proceeded rapidly, and in 1818, the Church was ready for roofing. Three years later, Esteban Munras arrived to supervise the interior decorations for which the Church is now famous.

## **1836** Mission San Miguel is secularized.

On July 14, 1836, Ignacio Coronel assumed jurisdiction over San Miguel's mission property and lands for the civil government. Three years after the secularizing of the mission, many of the Indians had run away; Padre Moreno found the mission so despoiled that he had to retire elsewhere to support himself. Padre Abella, the last Franciscan at San Miguel, died in July, 1841.

## **1859** U.S. Government returns Mission to the Church.

Mission San Miguel, which had been confiscated after secularization, was returned to the Church by President Buchanan.

## **1878** A padre is once more sent to Mission San Miguel.

After 38 years without a resident padre, Rev. Philip Farrelly took up residence as First Pastor of Mission San Miguel. Secular clergy made various repairs to the church and mission buildings.

## **TODAY** Best Preserved Interior.

Mission San Miguel was eventually returned to the Franciscan Padres, the same group who had founded the mission in 1797. Today it is a parish church.

Many of its original decorations are still intact. The mission's appearance today is much the same as when it was first founded, and it stands as one of California's best-preserved and authentic reminders of the past.

