

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

THEME: Architecture

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DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC San Luis Rey Mission Church

AND/OR COMMON San Luis Rey Mission

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 4 miles east of Oceanside on California 76

CITY, TOWN	San Luis Rey	___ VICINITY OF	42nd	___NOT FOR PUBLICATION			
STATE	California	CODE	06	COUNTY	San Diego	CODE	073

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Franciscan Fathers of California

STREET & NUMBER Mission San Luis Rey

CITY, TOWN San Luis Rey VICINITY OF STATE California 92068

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. San Diego County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN San Diego STATE California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic American Buildings Survey (25 sheets, 24 photos)

DATE 1936-37 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress/Annex Division of Prints and Photographs

CITY, TOWN Washington STATE D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

One of the most extensive of the mission chain, the buildings of San Luis Rey covered nearly six acres and were arranged around a patio 500 feet square. In front of the mission was an elaborate sunken garden and lavanderia or laundry area, now being restored. Perhaps the most outstanding feature of the complex is the church. Plans for the existing church were prepared by Father Antonio Peyri and the construction, which was executed by Mission Indians, was supervised by Jose Antonio Ramirez, a master stonemason from Mexico. The church was one of the two cruciform mission churches to be built in California by the Spanish. The other church was at San Juan Capistrano Mission, built in 1797-1806. The nave of the church is 163 feet long and 37 feet wide outside. The transept arms, to the right and left, are each about 15 by 26 feet. The walls, 30 feet high and 5 feet thick, have an adobe core faced by burned brick and stucco. The brick masonry of the church is of exceptionally good workmanship. All architectural trim of the facade-mouldings, cornices, niches is made of molded brick, so smooth that it resembles terra cotta.

The broad facade, with its towers projecting outside the nave walls, is divided into three sections, with attention focused on the center section. The central bay has a simple rectilinear frame for the portal, flanking statue niches, a round window over the round-arch door, and a curved gable, with a central niche, at the top. The original plan apparently called for two flanking bell towers of equal height, thus giving the facade a symmetric grouping, but only the right or east tower was completed. The two upper terraces of the tower are broadly beveled at the corners to form an irregular octagon; this is also repeated in the shape of the dome. The two terraces contain single arch openings on each side.

Beneath the left tower is a small baptistry. A stairway in the right tower leads to the choir loft, over the entrance, and on up to the belfry. There is also an exterior stairway to the choir loft. An unusual feature is the small mortuary chapel on the right side of the nave. Octagonal in plan, and with a rectangular altar space opening from it, this chapel is roofed by a brick dome resting on engaged columns at angles below. The altar, with paired Corinthian columns and a broken segmental pediment above, is a sophisticated baroque composition. All the details of this small chapel are of fine molded brick covered by stucco. The nave is divided into five bays by brick pilasters against the wall, with stucco surfacing crudely painted to simulate black marble. The open ceiling beams resting on corbels have been restored. The original floor and roof of the church were of tile.

The transepts project 15 feet at the sides and the sancutary, with the high altar, projects at the back. Rising at the corners of the square crossing thus formed are massive pilasters carrying four brick arches of 24-foot span. Above these, flat triangular "pendentives" convert the square to an octagonal base on which rests the dome. The dome is of wood, octagonal in shape and crowned by a lantern which admits a flood of light through its eight windows. As restored, this dome and lantern correspond to a description of the one completed in 1829;

(Continued)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1811-15

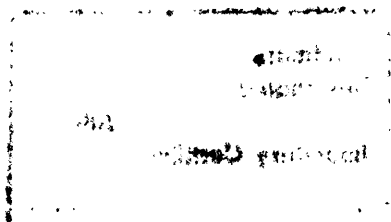
BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As an architectural composition, San Luis Rey de Francia Church, erected in 1811-15, is probably second only to the Santa Barbara Mission Church in its design and beauty. In the extent of surviving original construction and workmanship, the San Luis Rey Church is today undoubtedly the finest existing example of a California mission church as well as mission complex.

HISTORY

Mission San Luis Rey de Francia was founded by Father Fermin Francisco de Lasuen on June 13, 1798, as the 18th Spanish mission in California. The first small adobe chapel was built in 1798 and this was replaced in 1802 by a large adobe, tile-roofed church. Construction of the third and existing church was started in 1811 and completed in 1815. The mission was secularized by the Mexican Government in 1834, but was returned to the Catholic Church by the United States Government in 1865. Unlike nearly all the other 20 California missions, the remains of this church and other mission buildings, although in ruined condition, were still quite extensive in 1893, when the Catholic Church rededicated the mission as a Franciscan college. The old Mission is still used for this purpose.



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuation Sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. 35

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	1
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4	3,0
3	6
7	7
0	9,0

B

1	1
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4	3,0
3	6
7	6
6	9,0

C

1	1
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0	6,0
3	6
7	6
7	8,0

D

1	1
4	7,0
0	4,0
3	6
7	7
0	9,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See Continuation Sheet)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Boundary determined by Patricia Heintzelman, Architectural Historian, Landmark Review Project; original form prepared by Charles Snell, 1968.

ORGANIZATION

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

September 1975

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW.

TELEPHONE

202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Designated: APRIL 15 1970
date
Boundary Certified:
DATE APRIL 17, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11/24/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

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it is a feature unique among the California missions. The nave is also lighted by windows placed high in the lateral walls. Flanking the sanctuary and entered from it are two large sacristies.

Although in ruined condition, the remains of the church and other mission buildings were still quite extensive in 1893. Since that date a program of gradual restoration and reconstruction has been carried out and nearly completed. A sketch map of the area is included to illustrate the mission complex.

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- Englehardt, Father Zephyrin, San Luis Rey Mission, San Francisco, 1921.
- Hallenbeck, Cleve, Spanish Missions of the Old Southwest, New York, 1926.
- Morrison, Hugh, Early American Architecture, New York, 1952.
- Stanford, Trent E., The Architecture of the Southwest, New York, 1950.

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The boundary of San Luis Rey Mission is drawn to include all of the mission complex and the surrounding acreage which maintains the natural open setting and quiet serenity of the site. Beginning at the northern curb of the intersection of Mission Avenue and El Camino Real, proceed north approximately 1500' to a point; thence west approximately 1500' to a point; thence south approximately 1100' to the northern curb of El Camino Real; thence east along the northern curb of El Camino Real to the point of origin. (See sketch Map)

Included in the boundary are the relatively modern dormitory and priest quarters. They do not contribute to the national significance of the landmark.

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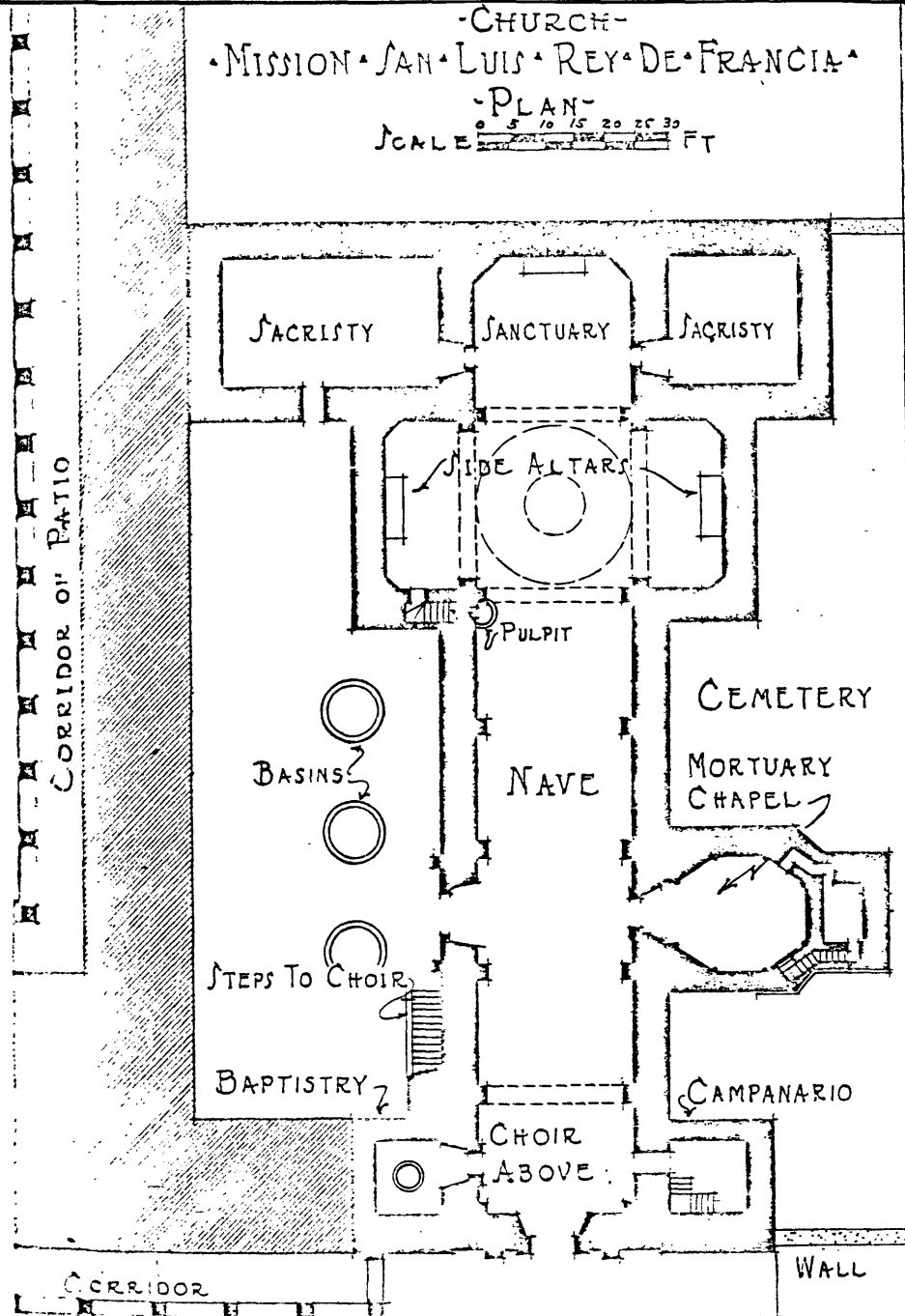
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From Rexford Newcomb, The Old Mission Churches and Historic Houses of California, Philadelphia, 1925.