

# Mission Santa Clara

*By Johanna, Ava, and Cyanne*



## Founding

The Santa Clara Mission was founded in Alta, California on the southern part of San Francisco Bay. In January 12, 1777 by Father Jose Murgia and Father Tomas De La Pena. It was named after Saint Clara of Assisi, a nun. It was the eighth Franciscan Mission in California. It was originally founded by Juan Bautista de Anza. The site used to be called La Mision de Santa Clara.



## History

It was first a mission, but at one point a college was added to it. The Native American women took care of the babies, cooked, wove cloth, made candles, and took care of the garden. The Native American men grew crops and took care of the many animals. In 1832 there were 10,000 cattle, 9,500 sheep, 55 swine, 730 horses, and 35 mules. In 1795 the population on the mission was 1,514. On the land they grew wheat, corn, and grapes, which they used to make wine they also grew peaches, apricots, apples, pears, and figs. The men also tanned leather and made tools. They also produced fruit and olives. Several earthquakes occurred from 1812-1822 Santa Clara was destroyed and rebuilt many times during that period. Sometimes the Indians were not easy to work with because they were probably not treated well by the people at the mission. In 1833 Father Viader left and the Mexican government ruled that all Spanish priests be replaced by

Mexican ones. This meant the end of 57 years of service by Franciscan monks at Santa Clara Mission. At this point the Indians could no longer work at the mission. Soon after this the mission began to fall into ruins. In 1850 a college was built on the mission. In 1860 the old mission church was redone to look nicer.

## Description

The Santa Clara Mission was 25 feet high, 100 feet long, and 44 feet wide. Santa Clara had a lot of rooms, including an outdoor kitchen, a vineyard, soldiers' quarters, a church, a home, storage rooms, a patio, a convent, and a cemetery.

The walls were made of adobe bricks. The ceiling timbers were mostly redwood that came from the Santa Cruz mountains, fifteen miles away. The ceiling beams were held together with strips of leather. The inside of the mission was painted in bright colors. They used Indian designs on the walls and ceilings. They used Indian dyes of red, yellow, and blue. They made the blue and yellow dye from clay and soil. A real artist named Augustin-Davila came from Mexico to paint the ceiling. There was a scene of heaven painted by this artist on the church ceiling.

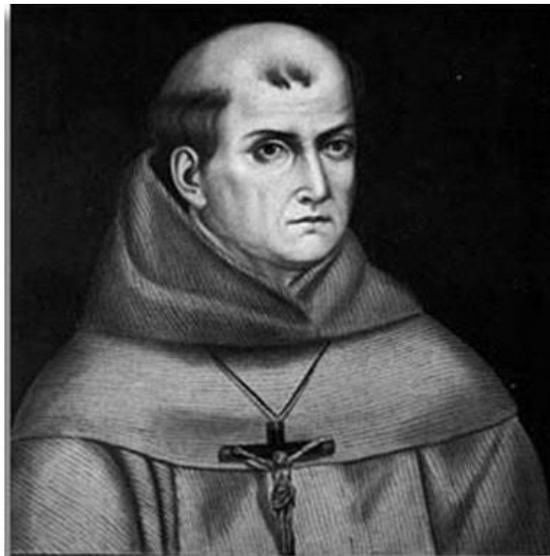
## Life at the mission

Life at the mission had a very tight schedule for both Fathers and the Native Americans. The highest population at the mission was

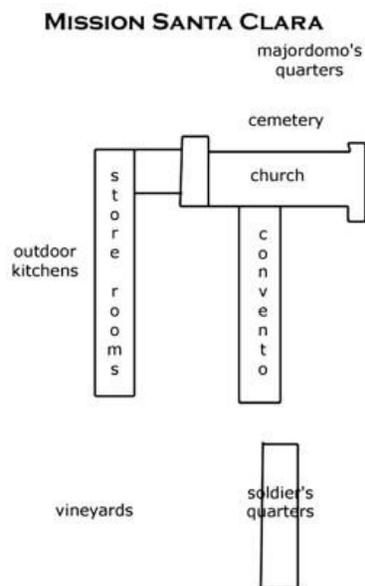
1,514 in 1795. During the early years missions had trouble supporting themselves and trusting supplies and food to come from New Spain. Sometimes the ships did not make the trip so people at the mission went hungry. It took a long time before the mission was able to plant enough food and animals to feed everybody at the same time. People that lived at the mission had a very hard schedule. Each day at the mission started at 6:00 a.m. The prayers lasted for an hour. After that everyone went to breakfast that took about a half hour or more then they would start working. Usually lunch was a thick soup made of peas and beans. Usually woman went to bed around 8p.m and the men went to bed at 9p.m.

## The End of Mission Period

At one point ,Santa Clara Mission was a college too. It was opened in March 1851 and was renamed Santa Clara University in 1912.



# Mission today



In 1926 the mission church was destroyed by fire. In 1929 the church was replaced with new concrete. The people did their best to put paintings and murals and the statues that had been saved from the fire where they were in originally. The mission is still standing today, and it is in Santa Clara.



## Bibliography

1. <http://www.californias-missions.org/>
2. <http://www.missionscalifornia.com/>
3. Mission Santa Clara de ASÍA