

**Mission report:**

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Mission Santa Cruz

## **Introduction and General History**

Fr. Fermin Lasuen founded Santa Cruz on August 28, 1791 near the San Lorenzo River and Monterey Bay. In October he founded Mission Soledad. Santa Cruz mission was troublesome.

Mission Santa Cruz was a mission that seemed to get in trouble. In 1799 a rainstorm hit the mission so hard, it had to be built again. Also, Father Quintana was tricked into visiting a "sick" Indian, then was killed. Later, there was a warning of pirate attacks, the padres and Indians left and told the local settlers to hide their goods, but instead the settlers stole the goods. There continued to be trouble in Branciforte (the town) gambling, thievery, and drunkenness.

Also, Santa Cruz was one of the first missions not to be religious.

## **Native Americans at the Mission**

The Native Americans who lived at the mission came from different groups and spoke different languages. But when they came to the missions they were taught Spanish, practiced a new way of life, and observed a new religion. Some liked it and a lot did not.

Yokut and Ohlone were the builders and occupants of the Santa Cruz mission. They were known as the Santa Cruz Indians because most of the mission Indians, or Native Americans, were named by local Spaniards.

## **Spanish at the Mission**

There were changes of governors for padres after Governor Fages had left. The next governor got to the mission very sick and only lived a year at the mission. The third governor, Jose Joaquin de Arrillaga had the tendency to do so also, the padres did not have any more conflict until 1791. Many fearful natives ran away from the mission to escape fatal disease, strict rules, and if the rules were not obeyed, harsh punishment.

Some priest would have soldiers at the mission to give beatings when the natives did not obey. A few priests were known for their harshness. A couple priests would even beat young children! In return some indians might throw rocks or tiles at them. Though other indians might steal, not do work, or only speak their own language.

In the 1800 the population of Native americans at the missions had dropped very low. Missionaries set out to central valley to get more indians. Even though it was forbidden to force natives into missions, Manuel F. did otherwise. Ordering the soldiers to do this the Yokut had no say.

## **A Typical Day at the Mission**

## **WOMEN**

The women natives lived in crowded, unsanitary nunneries. they were treated as slaves, forced into the mission, and not a penny was payed. They had prayers in the early morning. Their job was to do textiles. They got 3 meals a day. In the afternoon they would be taught by older, more experienced natives.

## **MEN**

The men had much harder jobs than the women. They handled the animals, tanned hides , wove ropes, and all the hard heavy lifting jobs. And just like the women they were not payed, had 3 meals a day, Catholic instruction, morning prayer, and a 2 hour siesta. Bells rang on most occasions.

## **Timeline**

1791 Mission Founded

1793 Mission relocated because flooding

1796 Highest recorded population

1812 Fr.A.Q died from murder

1818 Towns people steal, not protect, when owners flee mission (they do come back)

Later...Native Americans fade away building stripped

## **Pictures and Design Information of the Mission**

Yokut and Ohlone rooms at the mission were small with little light shining through their windows. There were two doors with about a foot from the window. There was a concrete floor with a brick wall. There was a bed, cabinets, and a loft that looked like it had storage, and a fire pit with a few chairs.





#### Bibliography

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