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<http://www.ci.lompoc.ca.us/>

Brief Highlights of Mission La Purisima Concepcion

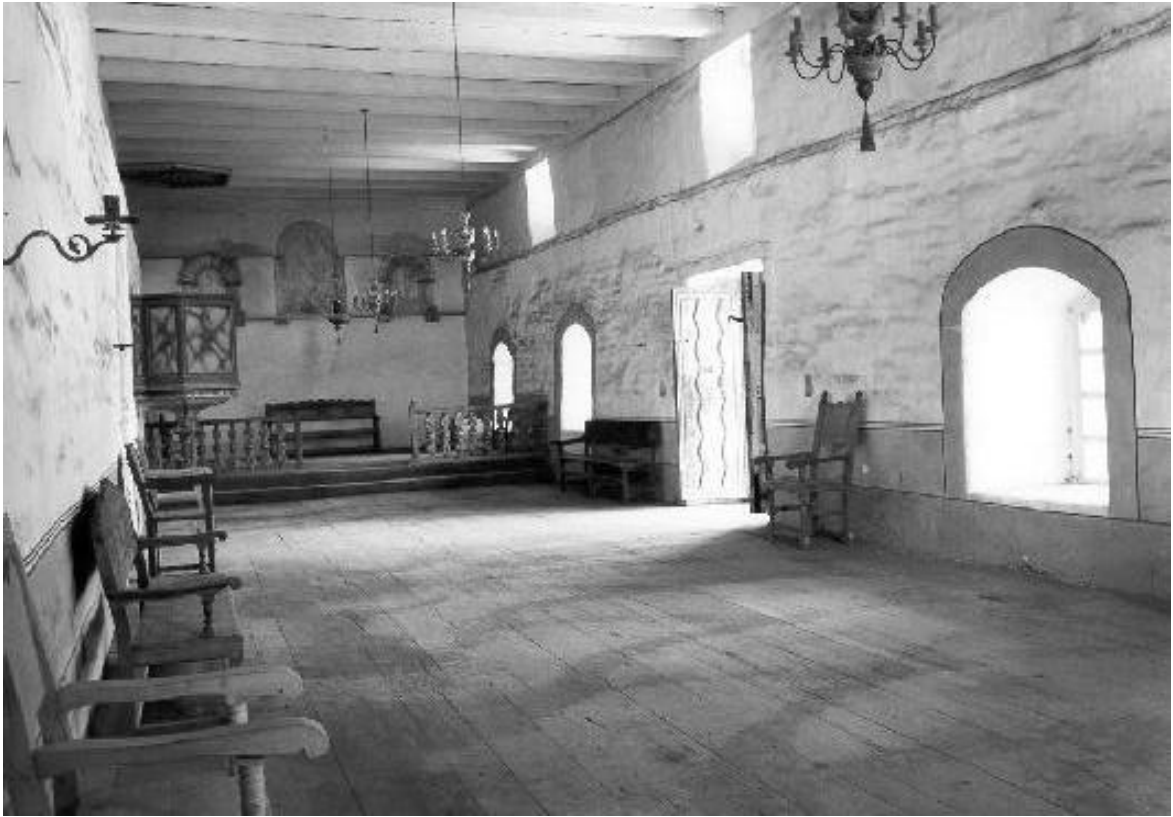
The original church was built at a site near the foot of the hills at the southern end of the present town of Lompoc in accordance with the plan of Father Junipero Serra who conceived of three mission along the central coast of California (Santa Barbara, La Purisima, and Santa Ines). It was dedicated by Father Serra's successor, Fr. President Fermin Lausuen, on December 8, 1787. After its destruction by the earthquake of 1812, La Purisima was relocated some four miles to the northeast at a place called Los Berros, its present site, about 50 miles northwest of Santa Barbara. After secularization of the Missions it was auctioned off (1845) by the Mexican government, the price paid by Don Juan Temple of Los Angeles being \$1,100.00. The padres relocated to the Santa Inez mission leaving Purisima abandoned except for occasional services. The Catholic church regained title to Purisima in 1874 due to a court case instituted by Bishop Alemany. The mission was not reestablished however, and in 1883 its lands were sold except for the ruined church and cemetery. The Residence building became headquarters for the Rancho La Purisima owners. It was used variously as housing, barn, blacksmith shop, general store, and saloon. A fire finally destroyed part of the building and it was abandoned. Union Oil Company bought the land and in 1905 deeded it to the Landmark Club of California on the provision that the club repair the building. When it could not raise the money, title reverted to Union Oil Company. Finally in 1934 the Catholic Church and Union Oil company gave the land to the County of Santa Barbara. The State and Santa Barbara County bought more land and some 507 acres became La Purisima Historic Monument under the Division of Parks. The National Parks Service established a Civilian Conservation Corps Camp at the site to work on restoration. The Union Oil Company purchased the property in 1903 and with the Church, deeded it to Santa Barbara County. It was passed on to the State of California in 1935. Restoration was made by the Civilian Conservation Corps and today La Purisima Mission State Historic Park is operated by the Department of Park and Recreation of the State of California.



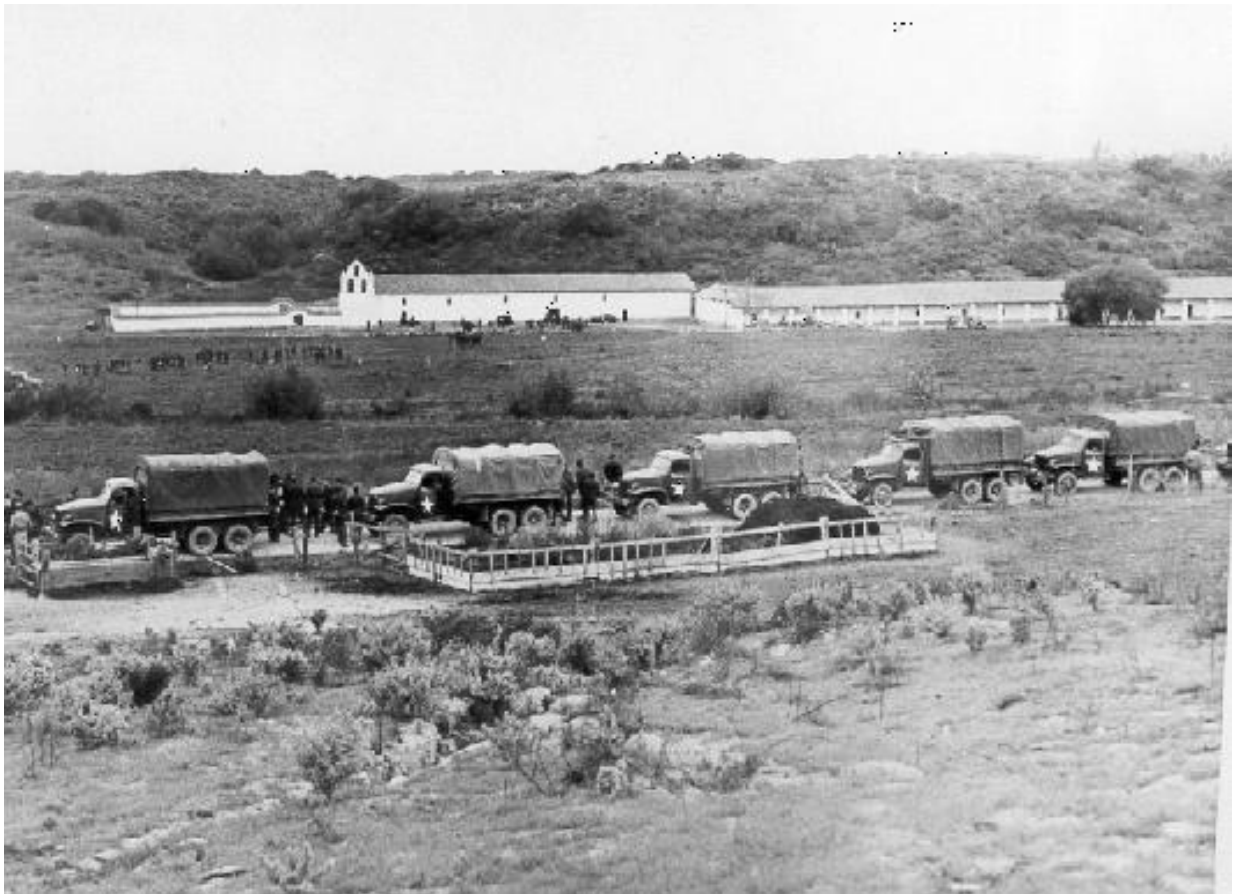
The Mission in its current state of grandeur welcoming visitors.



The backside of the Mission, looking down from the hillside.



An undated photograph of the interior of the restored Mission.



A convoy of US Army trucks departing with CCC personnel after completion of the project.



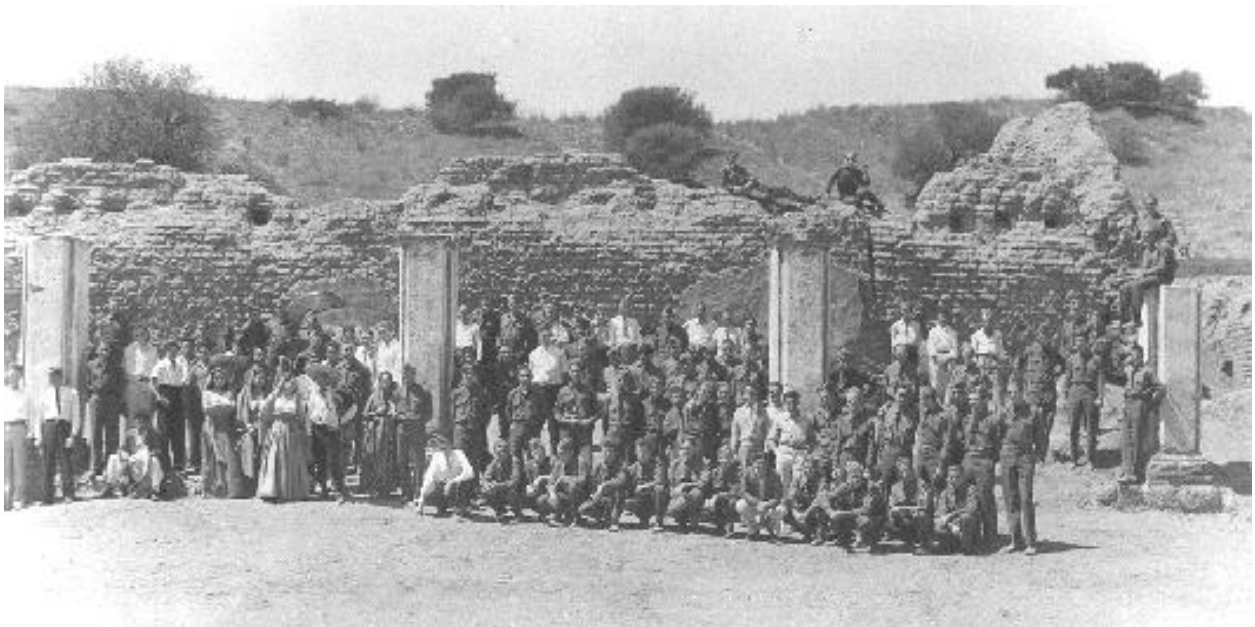
A photo dated 1938 of the later phases of reconstruction. Notice the scaffolding and the lack of roof on the center building.



The CCC camp was located on the bluff above the Mission.



The reconstruction of the Mission residence building in 1935. This was the initial phase of the project.



The arrival of the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1935, and in the background the project that lay ahead.



Early 1930's, final stage of dilapidation prior to restoration.



Early 1900's, post fire and pre-ruin state of the residence building.



1891, during the period of time when the mission was used as headquarters for Rancho La Purisima.