

MILESTONE OF MISSION SAN JUAN BAUTISTA

- 1797 Mission San Juan Bautista established on June 24th. Nine adobe buildings were built, including the chapel.
- 1799 With conversions and baptisms progressing steadily, more buildings were constructed. The livestock (cattle, sheep, pigs, horses, mules) tripled.
- 1800 During October there were six earthquakes a day for 19 days. This damaged all the adobe buildings.
- 1803 On June 13th, the cornerstone was laid for the present church.
- 1805 Preparations were being made for erecting dwellings for Indian families while the work on the church continued.
- 1809 On June 3rd, our patron San Juan Bautista statue was placed on the main altar of the sacristy.
- 1810 Adobe buildings continue to be constructed including a kitchen.
- 1811 Cemetery laid out and a roof placed on the church.
- 1812 The church was completed.
- 1825 Padre Estevan Tapis, third President of the California Mission, died November 3rd. He had served at San Juan Bautista for over ten years. His talent for music brought San Juan Bautista the title of "Mission of Music."
- 1829 A barrel organ was given to the Padres in Monterey by an English sea captain. This organ was sent to San Juan Bautista.
- 1832 The annual report indicated a total of only 925 Indians living in and around the Mission.
- 1833 Mexican born Padre Jose Antonio Anzar was assigned to the Mission. Mission "secularized," taken from the Catholic Church by the Mexican government.
- 1834 The leaders of the California Territorial Government ordered confiscation of Missions and their property.
- 1838 Cemetery next to the church was full and a new cemetery was opened.
- 1842 Mexican Governor Micheltorena issued a decree restoring what remained of the Mission properties to the Franciscans.

- 1846 May, United States declares war on Mexico.
- 1847 March 1, United States Military Governor of California issued a proclamation protecting the rights of religious institutions (Missions) under the U. S. Constitution.
- 1848 March, United States-Mexican war ends.
- 1853 The Catholic Bishop of California files claims with the Land Commissioners for all 21 Missions.
- 1859 U. S. President Buchanan signs a patent restoring San Juan Bautista Mission to the Catholic Church.
- 1860 Under the direction of Father Ubach and the Sisters of Charity, a day school and orphanage was opened.
- 1865 Father Rubio became pastor. He built the bell tower of two rooms, one above the other capped by a belfry.
- 1897 Heavy windstorm blew the conical spire off the bell tower.
- 1906 Earthquake damaged the sidewalls of the church.
- 1923 Bell tower remodeled.

- 1949 Bell tower removed.



- 1975 Restoration work began on the church.

- 1976 Present bell tower built.

