

Ynformes de Sn. Jn. Bautista

Dedicated to the Preservation of Our Mission's Historical Resources

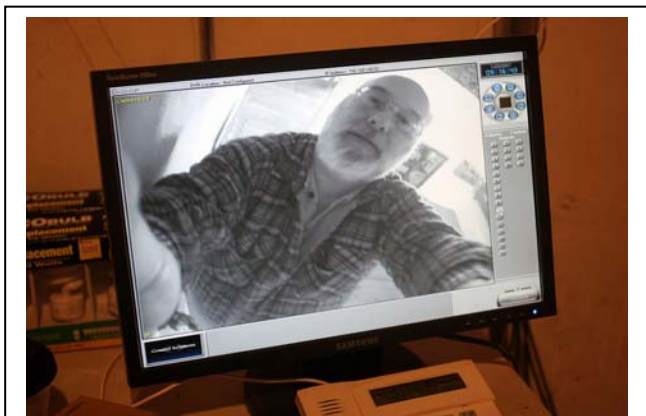


A Report of the Mission Conservation Program of San Juan Bautista, California – Volume 2, Number 2 – May 25, 2007

Homeland Security at This Old Mission

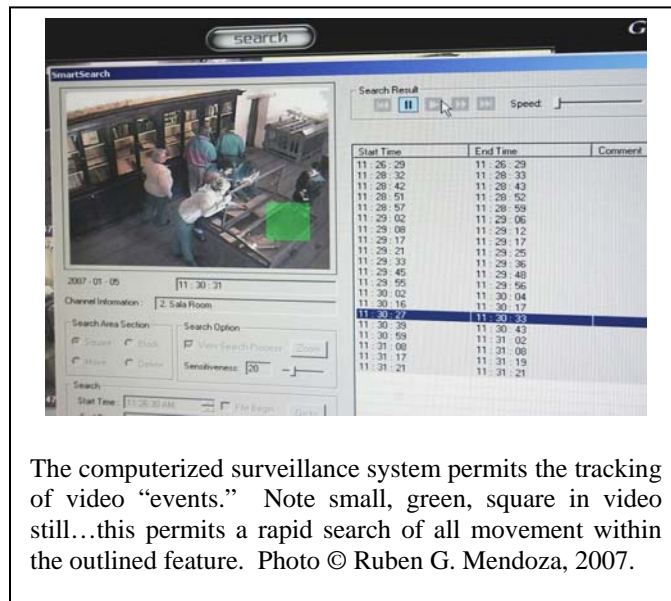
By Ruben G. Mendoza, Project Manager

For those who noticed the many security technicians roaming about the Old Mission from December through February, be assured that they were on our team and not from the Office of Homeland Security. As the result of a meeting between project patron and guardian angel Phil Hudner, and California Missions Foundation President Knox Mellon and I, concerns regarding the security of the Old Mission campus brought into focus the latest project initiative. Soon after our November 2006 meeting, project efforts were redirected toward exploring the costs of installing a new security system for the Old Mission. Benevolently, the answer to our prayers came by way of Mr. Lawrence “Larry” Tracy...the President and CEO of the Aleph America Corporation.



Mr. Lawrence “Larry” Tracy pictured adjusting a video surveillance camera in the Old Mission Museum. Photo © Ruben G. Mendoza, 2007.

Early one morning in December 2006, I received an email post from California Missions Foundation President Knox Mellon notifying the CMF Board that Lawrence “Larry” Tracy had sent notice that he was prepared to help save the California Missions. Mr. Tracy was as such offering to install high tech security systems free of charge to any California mission requiring such assistance. Naturally, I quickly pounced on the opportunity to make San Juan the initial test site for this offer.



The computerized surveillance system permits the tracking of video “events.” Note small, green, square in video still...this permits a rapid search of all movement within the outlined feature. Photo © Ruben G. Mendoza, 2007.

After a late December meeting, we were off and running. Drawing on a formidable cadre of corporations, friends, and colleagues, Mr. Tracy rapidly moved to acquire system components, including Aleph America Corporation night vision video system technologies, Honeywell control panels and wireless equipment, a General Systems DVR recorder, and *pro bono* system monitoring by Total Monitoring Services, Inc., of Roseville, California. The project team consisted of historic preservation craftsman Mike Kirby, security systems technician Steve Williams, and Mr. Tracy's sons Scott and Tim Tracy, and of course, Mr. Tracy.

Wireless at 14,000 Linear Feet

In my capacity as Project Manager for the SJB Mission Conservation Program, I saw to it that Mr. Tracy and his crew were provisioned 24/7 access to any and all areas of the Mission during the system install. The security crew in turn commuted from Auburn, California, on a weekly basis, and by the end of the project had invested some 14 very long days into the system. In fact, a typical day consisted of an early AM start, and work continued through the wee hours of the morning. As such, I had many very long days locking and unlocking doors, crawling through the Guadalupe Chapel, Church,

and Convento attic areas, and researching architectural features for routing the 14,000 feet of cabling used to network the many cameras, doors, windows, object sensors, and motion detectors that now span the whole of the Mission Church and Convento complex.



One of over 16 Aleph America Corporation Infrared Day Night cameras installed at Old Mission San Juan Bautista. Photo © Ruben G. Mendoza, 2007.

Perhaps one of the most significant features of the installation in question is that it represents the very first time that a California mission has been outfitted with a state of the art “wireless” surveillance system. While that might not sound unusual given the 14,000 feet of wire used in the installation and networking of Aleph America’s infrared video surveillance and security light sensors, penetrating or circumventing massive adobe walls such as those at San Juan Bautista for wireless technologies proved a veritable challenge.

In addition to the many innovations that were pioneered right here at Old Mission San Juan Bautista, the system has already proved its worth by way of capturing several incidents on digital video recorders...including a purse snatching incident in the Mission Gift Shop. Ultimately the system has permitted the Mission to generate some \$5,500 in funds related to compensation...and, we’re hot on the trail of a purse snatcher and his accomplices. Ultimately, given both the technology and time invested in the system so noted, the more than 16 day/night vision cameras, scores of infrared motion detectors, and door, window, and object sensors are valued at approximately \$120,000. Clearly, our prayers were answered...and right in the nick of time. The success of the install at San Juan Bautista has permitted Mr. Tracy and his crews to anticipate the challenges of similar such installations at Missions San Antonio, San Miguel, Santa Barbara, and beyond.

The Mission Hardware Survey

As a direct result of the security system install, it soon became apparent that the Old Mission was in need of a general security hardware makeover. In order to assess what hardware would need to be repaired, replaced, or added, I conducted a survey of all existing floor and door bolts, latches, locks, and hinges. The results were gathered together and are now serving as the basis for the fabrication of faithful reproductions of the earliest hardware on record for the Old Mission. Blacksmith and “living history” aficionado William “Bill” Martini of Hollister has as such been recruited to reproduce or repair missing or damaged Mission era hardware. His talents have already resulted in the creation of a Spanish colonial style slide bolt...replete with a hand forged and borax fusion-welded latch.



Image of slide-bolt from the Mission Hardware Survey collection. Photo © Ruben G. Mendoza, 2007.



William “Bill” Martini’s reproduction of a Mission era slide bolt for the new Gift Shop Manager’s office door. Bill used borax to fuse the arm of the latch to the slide bolt. The “eyelet” elements serve as fasteners for the slide bolt pictured. Photo © Ruben G. Mendoza, 2007.