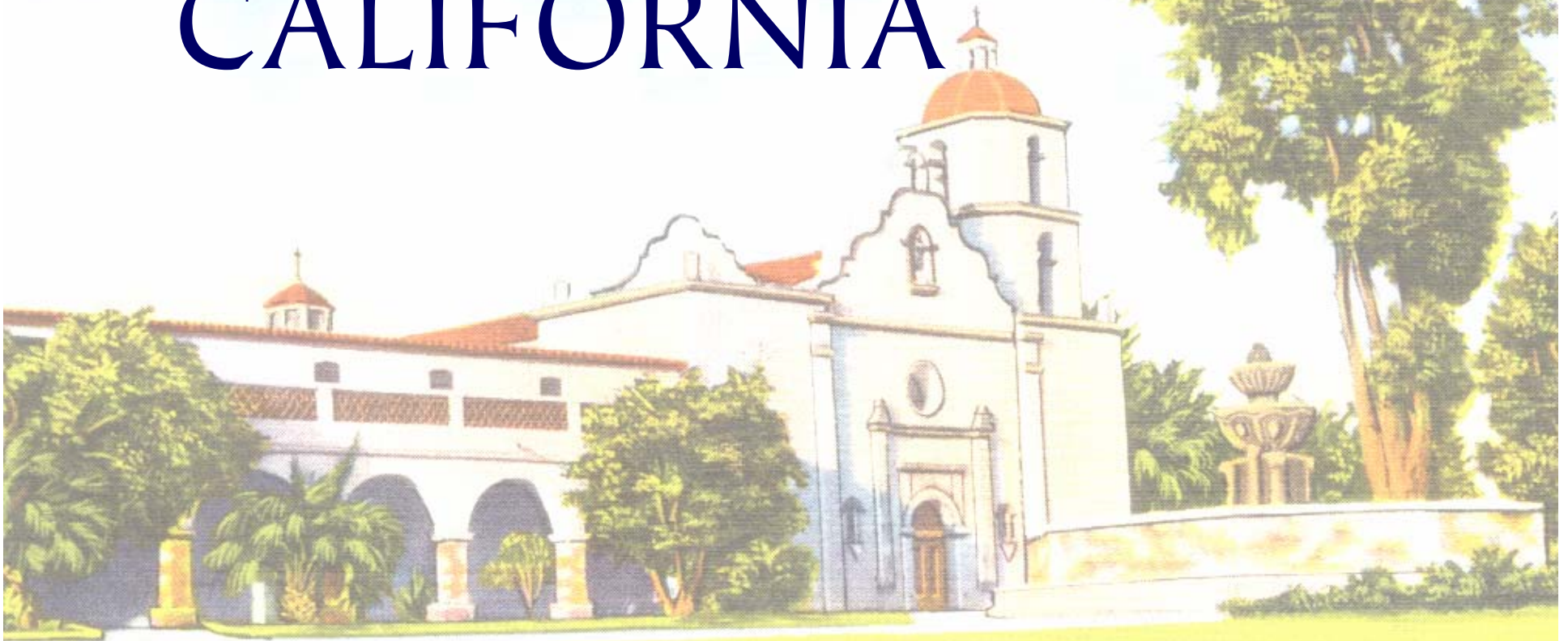



# THE MISSIONS IN CALIFORNIA



What were the  
California missions really like?



Each mission of the  
California Mission System was  
designed to be a complete community.  
The farms and workshops were capable  
of providing for the needs of  
1,000 or more residents.

In 1820, La Purisima Mission's  
population was 874, including  
Franciscan Padres, soldiers, skilled  
craftsmen and Chumash Indians.



# Who lived in the missions?



The padres and  
other religious men



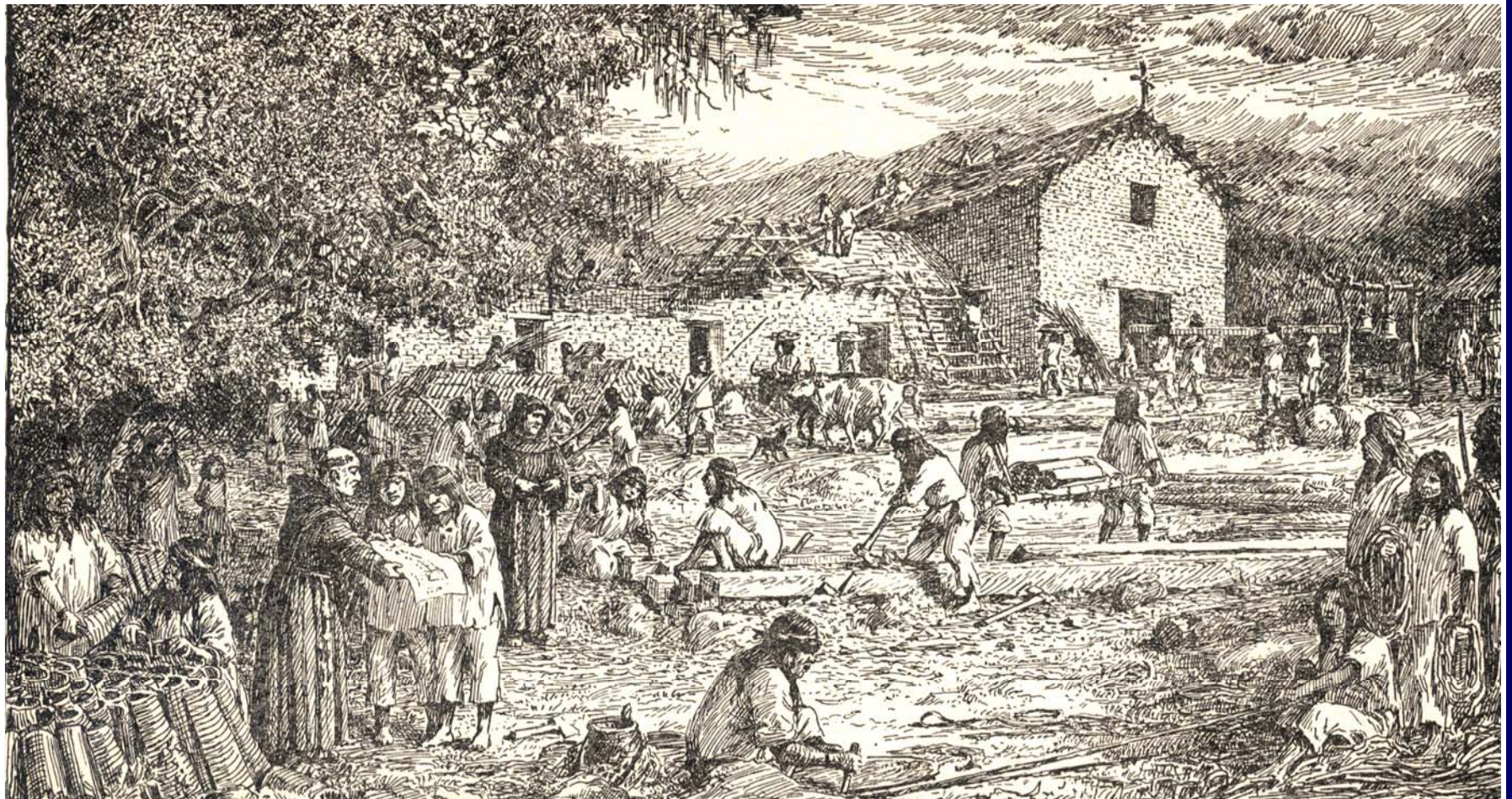
A few soldiers to guard  
the mission



Local natives, who became “Mission Indians”



# Who built the mission communities?



“Mission Indians” were set to work constructing the mission buildings under the direction of the Padres.

What kind of buildings were there?



Yes, one of the buildings was a church!  
Some missions had a large church.



*Santa Barbara Mission Church*

Some mission churches  
were smaller.



However,  
because it  
was a  
*community*,  
a mission  
also needed  
many other  
buildings,  
such as . . .

*La Purisima Mission Church*



# A bedroom for the Padre



# A study for the Padre.





The small groups of soldiers that guarded the missions needed a place to live.



# The “Mission Indians” needed a place to live also.



In some missions they were allowed to build their own huts a little away from the mission.



In other missions dormitories were built for the natives, especially the unmarried women.



What other buildings would a mission community need?

A Kitchen



An oven (or two!)



...and a dining room.

# What work needed to be done?

## Candle Making



## Leather working





All these jobs needed buildings to work in, so workshops were built.



Spinning and weaving were important activities in many missions. A “weaving room” was built.





Other types of work in a mission community included carpentry and pottery.



Carpenter shop

Pottery shop



Other structures for community work included a forge for working metal and a kiln for curing pots





# Mission communities needed a lot of storage spaces

They had to store: hides,  
wool, barrels of olive oil,  
wine and grains.



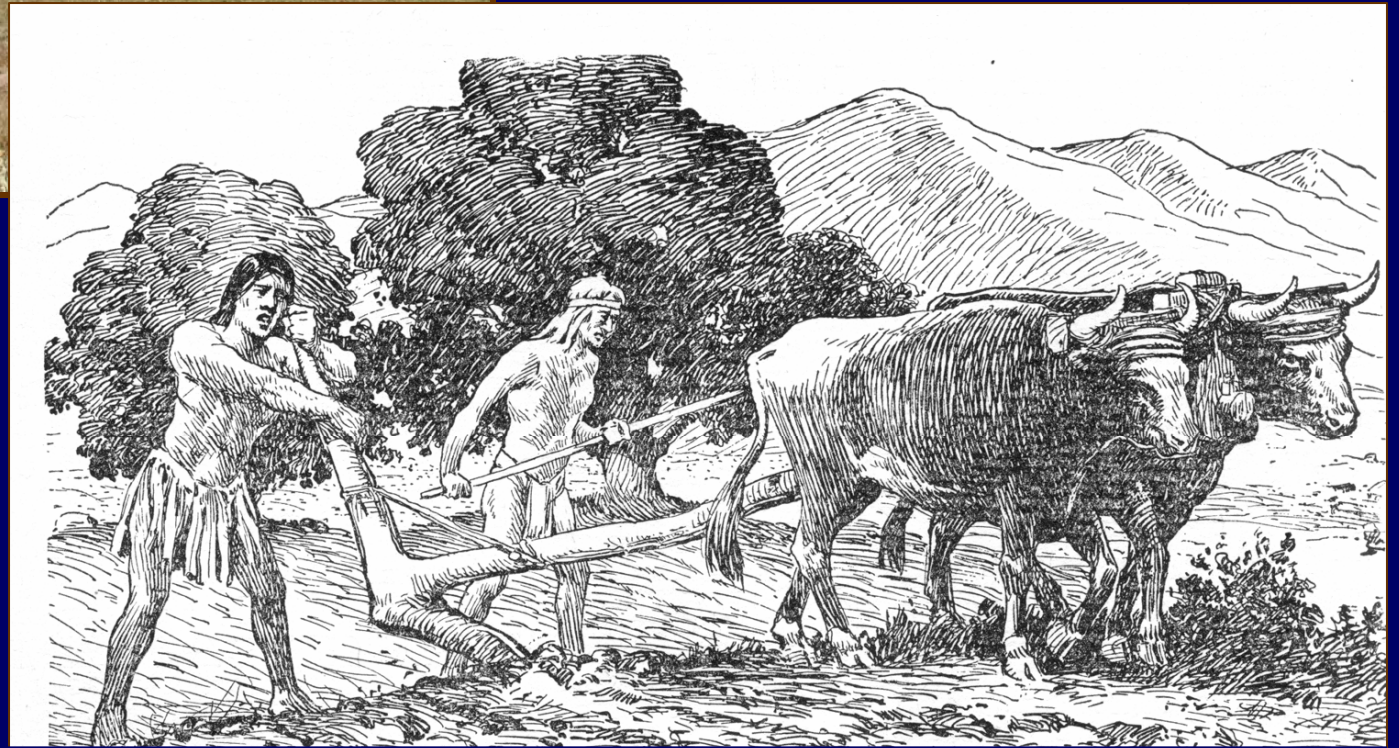
The mission needed a garden for vegetables and herbs.







Many fields were needed  
for growing grain.



“Mission Indians” were set to work plowing the fields.



# Many different tools were used at the missions.

There was a press for olives and one for grapes.



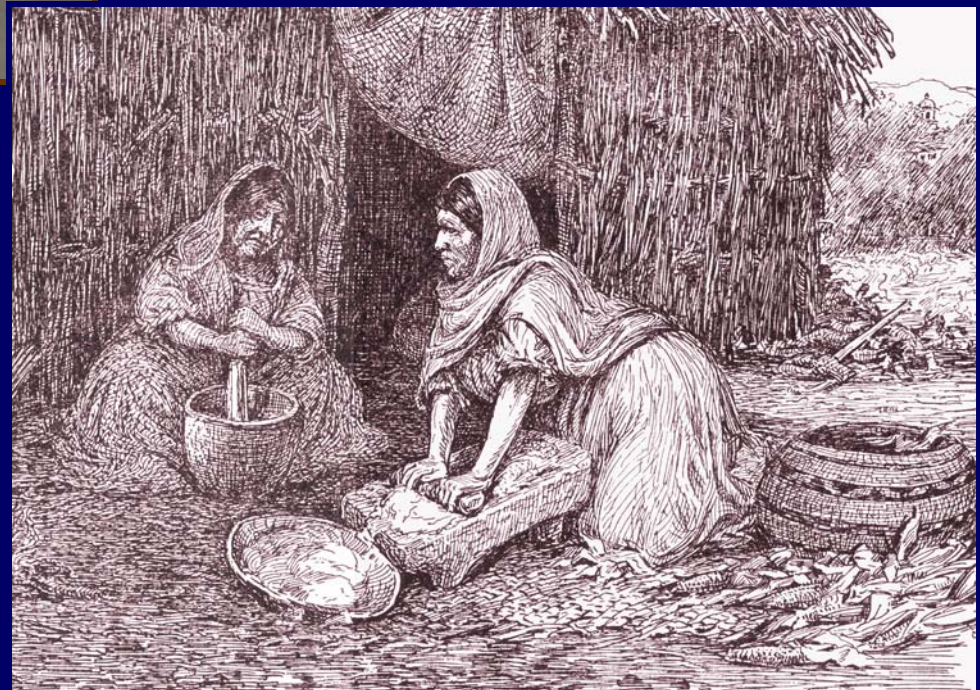
Carts were used for transportation.







Grinding stones were used for turning that grain into flour.





Tanning hides was done outdoors.





Corrals were made for tame animals.



What kinds of animals were there?



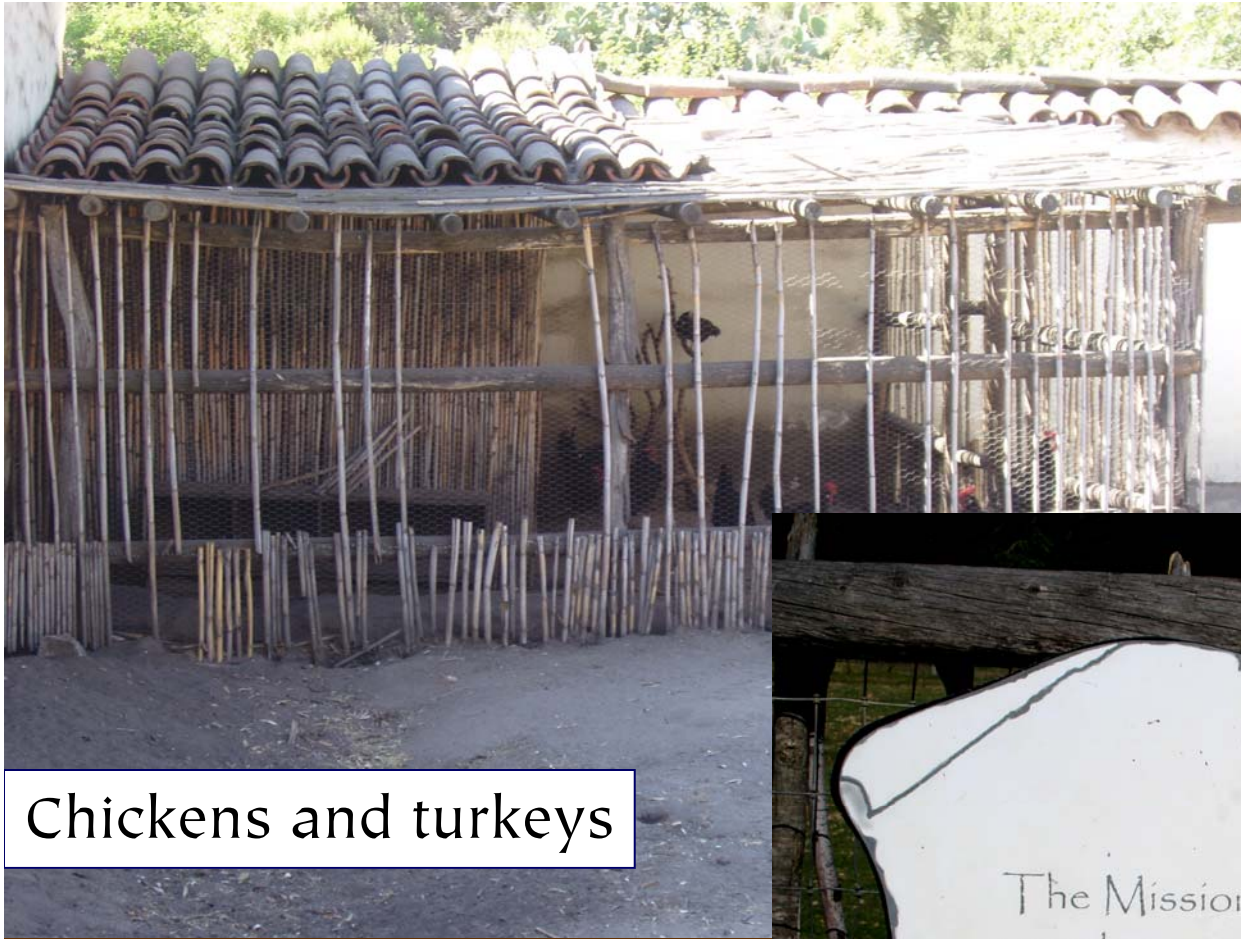
Sheep.



Pigs in a pen







Chickens and turkeys



. . . cows, horses, mules, goats, and burros. See how many!

# Water was essential to the mission community!!

Water was needed:

- To drink
- To cook
- To wash
- To irrigate the crops



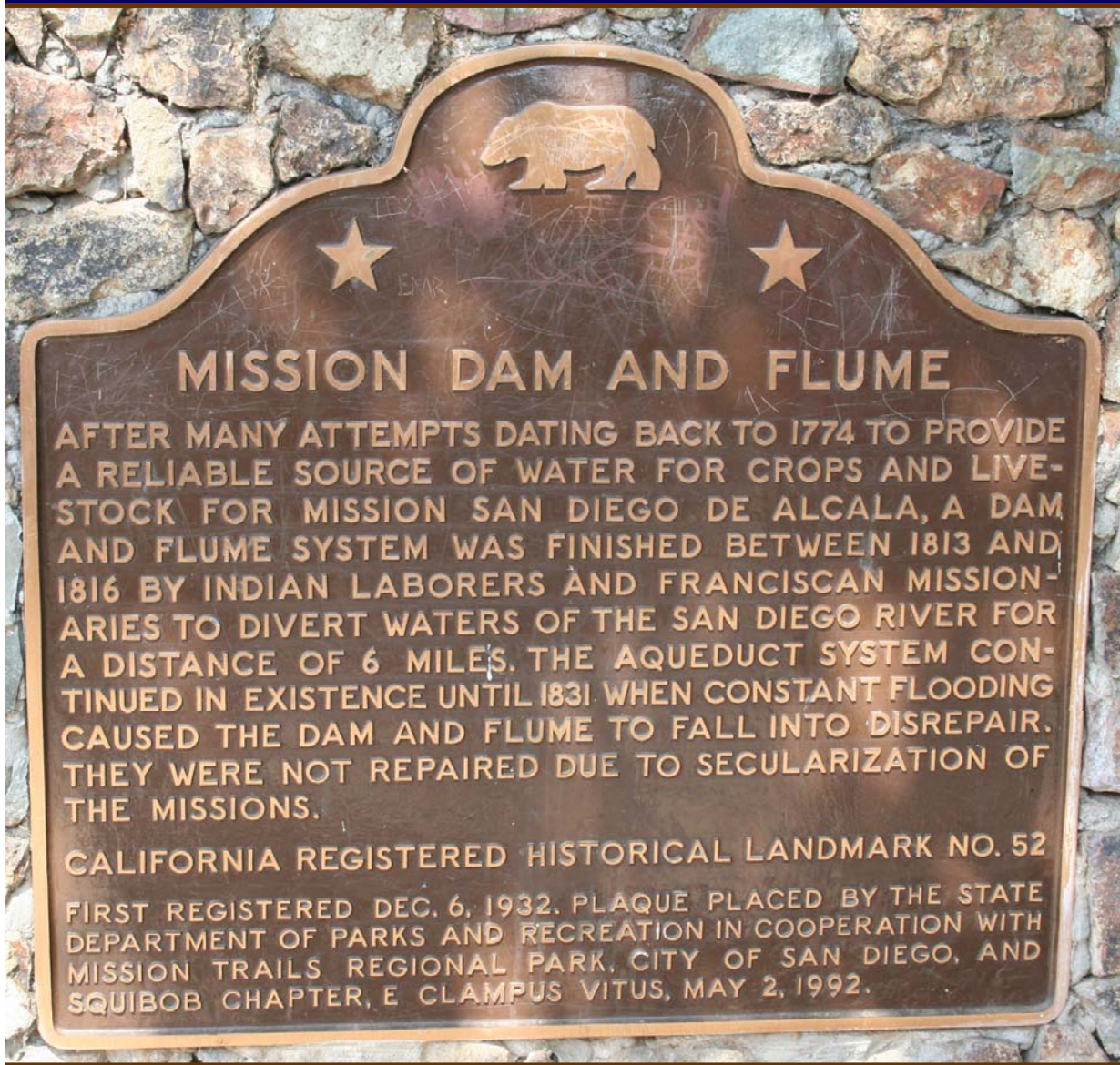
Drinking and cooking water was piped from the spring-house on the hill to this fountain. Surplus water overflowed into the lavanderia for washing clothes. Soapy water drained into the cistern where it cleared and was then used for irrigation.





THIS LAVANDERIA OR WASHING BASIN WAS COMPLETED IN 1818. IT SERVED AS THE ORIGINAL MISSION LAUNDRY. THE INDIANS SOAPED THE CLOTHES ON THE SLOPING SIDES AND RINSED THEM IN THE CENTER POOL.

A *lavandería* or “washing basin.”  
“Mission Indians” did the washing.



## OLD MISSION DAM

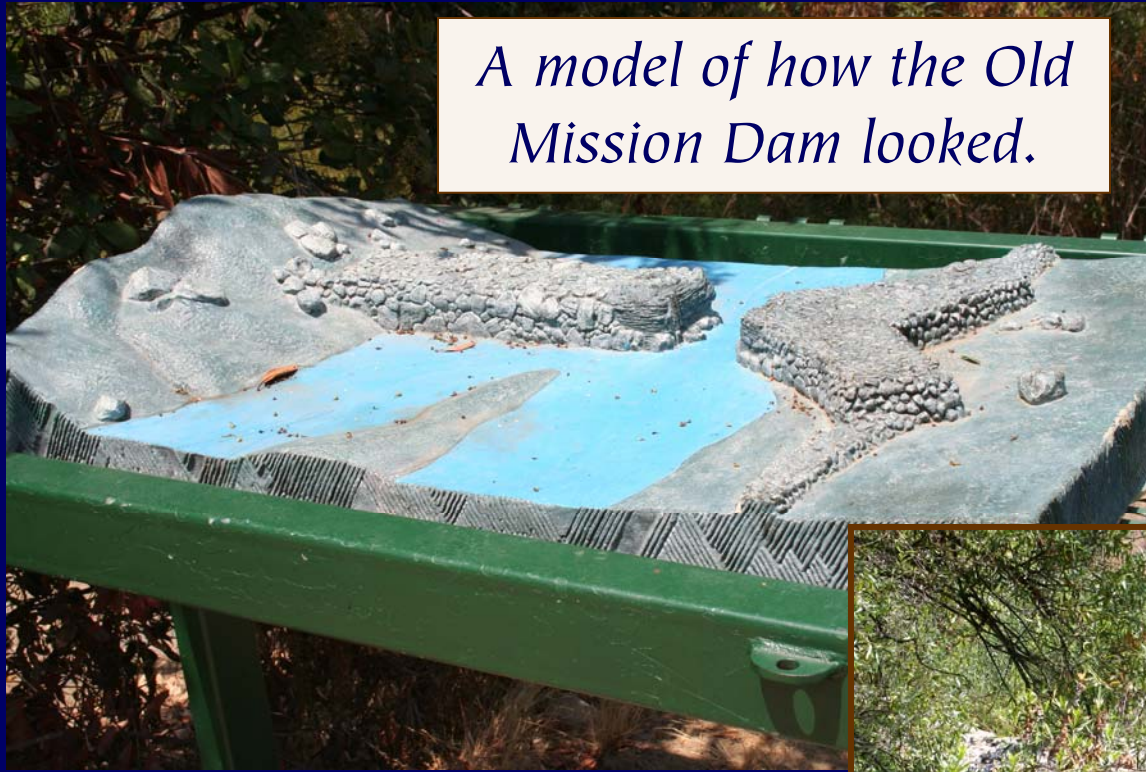
BUILT 1813-1816

A dam and *flume* [a channel to divert water] were built to bring water to Mission San Diego de Alcalá.





*A model of how the Old Mission Dam looked.*

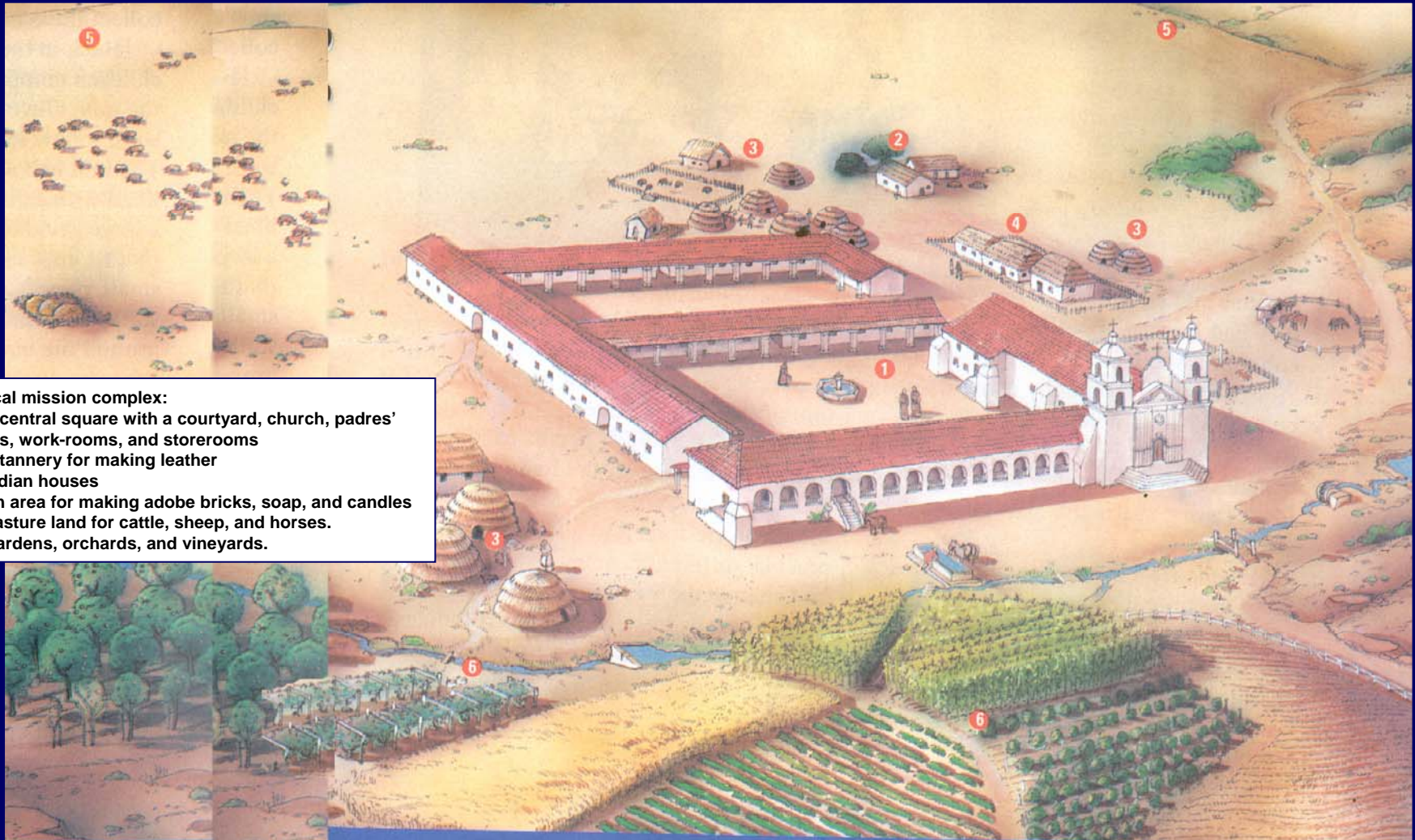


*What is left of the dam and flume.*





Now you can understand that a mission was more than just a church.



**Typical mission complex:**

- (1) A central square with a courtyard, church, padres' rooms, work-rooms, and storerooms
- (2) A tannery for making leather
- (3) Indian houses
- (4) An area for making adobe bricks, soap, and candles
- (5) Pasture land for cattle, sheep, and horses.
- (6) Gardens, orchards, and vineyards.