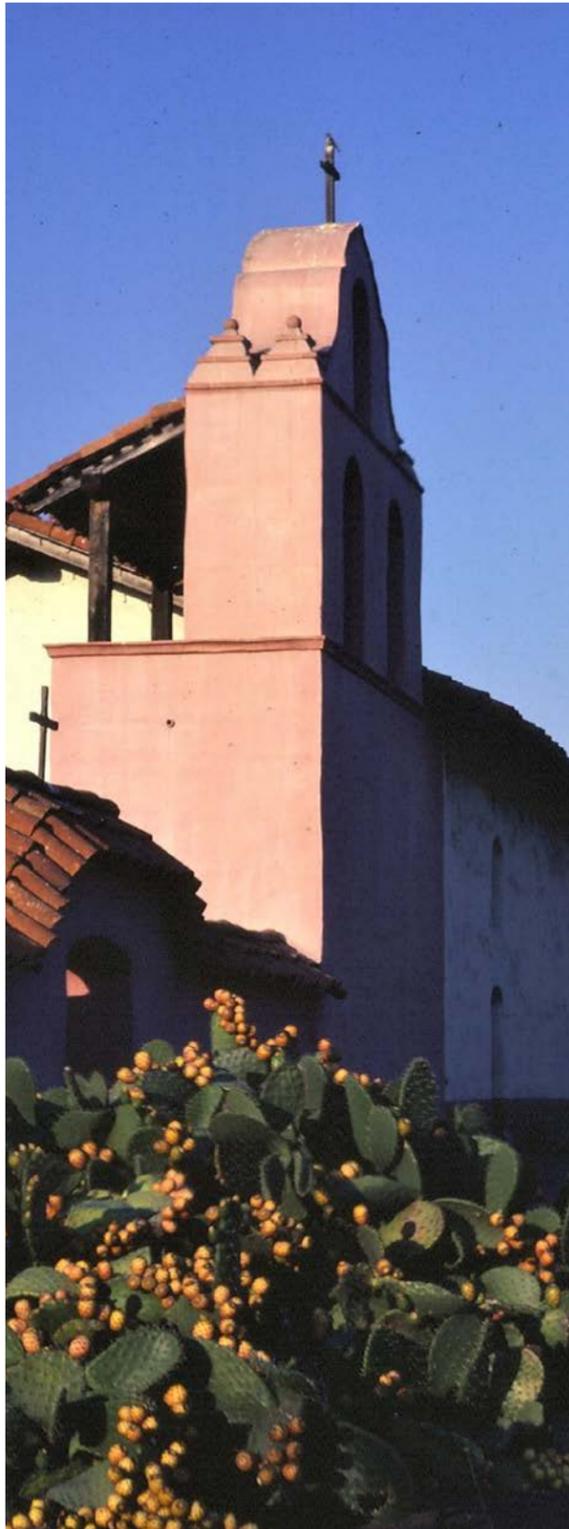


# Even





Above: The reconstructed bell tower at La Purisima Mission State Historic Park is based on the one at Mission Santa Ynez. The pink color was determined from plaster fragments discovered by the archaeologists. Prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia* sp.) is native to the southwest and was used by the Spanish for food and hedging. Photo by Susan Chamberlin.

# Eden

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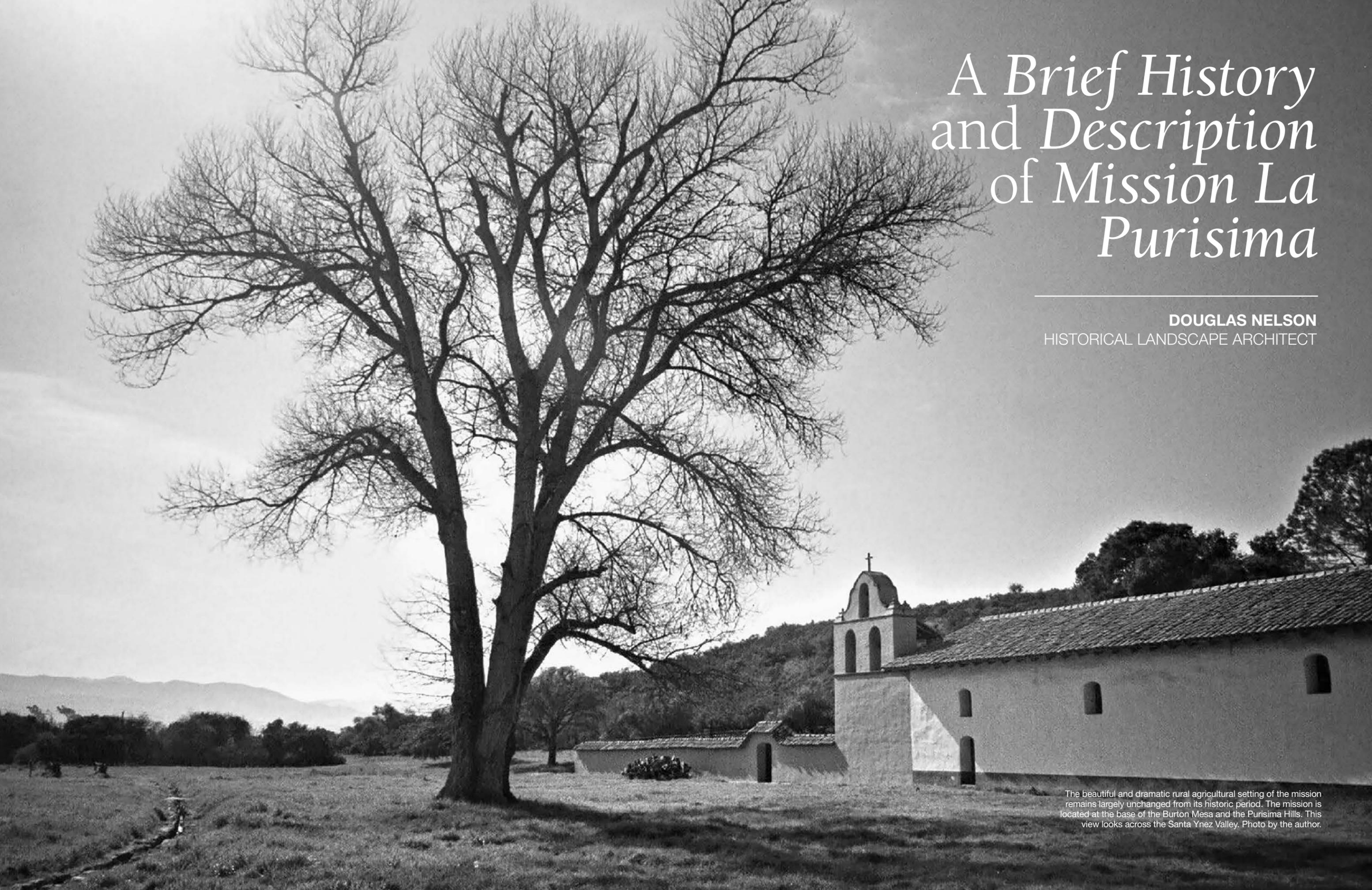
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The unique columns of the reconstructed Residence Building with hollyhocks at their bases as specified in the "Landscape Plan for Mission Garden" drawn by Louis Brandt. Photographer unknown; Community Development and Conservation Collection, Department of Special Research Collections, UCSB Library, University of California, Santa Barbara.

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# *A Brief History and Description of Mission La Purisima*

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**DOUGLAS NELSON**  
HISTORICAL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

The beautiful and dramatic rural agricultural setting of the mission remains largely unchanged from its historic period. The mission is located at the base of the Burton Mesa and the Purisima Hills. This view looks across the Santa Ynez Valley. Photo by the author.

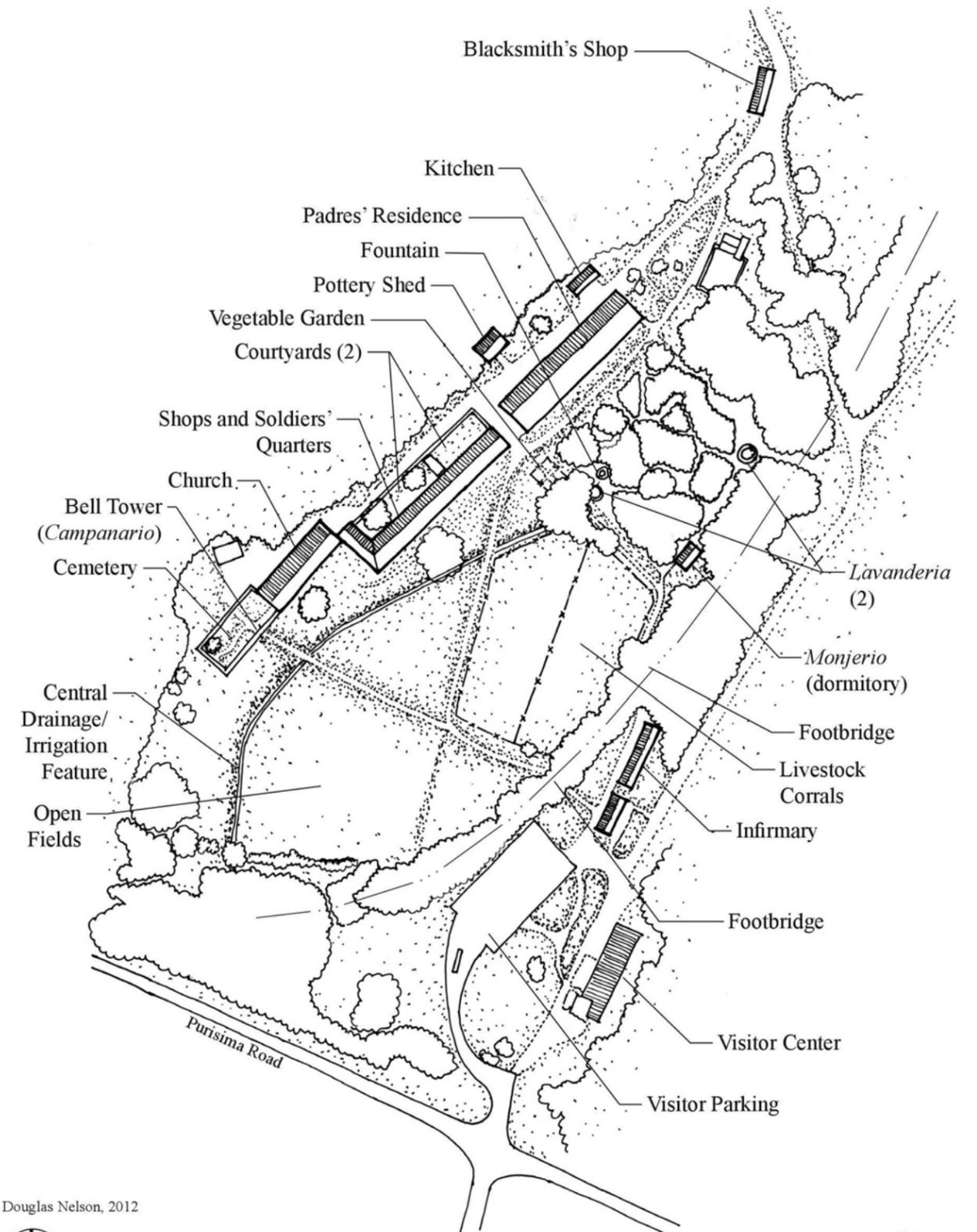


Above: View from the entry path towards the cemetery, bell tower, and church (left to right). Photo by the author.

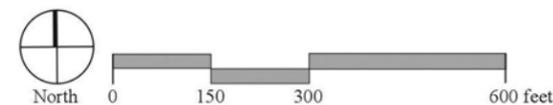
Right: This partial site plan was created by the author at the time the HALS report was written. The central fountain is hidden by foliage in this drawing.

This article is adapted from an Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS) documentation that was prepared in 2012 by Douglas Nelson and Kerri Liljegren. HALS is administered by the National Park Service with a mission to record historic landscapes in the United States and its territories through measured drawings, written histories, and large-format photographs. Similar to the Historic American Building Survey (HABS) and the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), HALS documentation is held by the Library of Congress and is made available to the general public. The documentation of Mission La Purisima was part of an exemplary communal effort of the HALS Northern California Chapter that documented 16 of the 21 California Missions.

Between 1769 and 1823, the Spanish Empire set out to colonize California by establishing a chain of missions along the California coast. Eventually, twenty-one missions were established along El Camino Real, spaced about thirty miles apart, the distance traveled on horseback in a day or three days on foot. The missions were established to convert the local natives to Christianity and to support and protect the frontier colony. In turn, the Spanish introduced European livestock, fruits and vegetables, horses, and grazing to the region. The missions have gone through many phases since their origin as thriving settlements under the Spanish Empire. During Mexican rule, 1821 to 1848, the missions entered a period of declining



Douglas Nelson, 2012



Site Plan  
Mission La Purisima Concepcion





Below: Central drainage/irrigation feature.  
Photo by the author.

Conservation Corps arrived on site in 1935, this building was in ruins with only remnants of the original adobe brick and stucco walls and columns. Still, this building contains more original wall structure than any other building on site. It has stone buttressing on its west side and a wide covered walkway with large columns on its south side.

Adjacent (south) to the mission's main buildings are open fields, gardens, and an olive grove. A portion of the open fields is used for livestock corrals that have been created using rustic wood fences. A small vegetable garden has been built between the open fields and the wooded area. Though a vegetable garden was likely original to the site, the current location and spatial arrangement are not thought to be historically accurate.

As one moves northeast into the valley, the open fields become more wooded with olive trees. This olive grove functioned historically in part as a laundry washing area as evidenced by two original *lavanderias* that have been restored and filled with water. A raised stone fountain sits in the center of the grove where several unpaved paths converge. Also in this area, a reservoir constructed of brick has been excavated and restored. The reservoir is a remnant of a larger water supply and irrigation

system established by the mission population in the nineteenth century. The system included reservoirs, cisterns, flumes and aqueducts that carried water from the springs in the canyon to the *lavanderias*, and then out to the open fields. The aqueduct structure, a stone trench, be seen running through the fields.

On the south side of the valley is the historical Chumash dwelling site, where straw huts have been reconstructed as an interpretive feature, demonstrating how the native Chumash people once lived on the site during the nineteenth century.

Several other ancillary buildings are set throughout the site and include a pottery shed with outdoor kiln and kitchen on the north (rear) side of the padres' residence, the blacksmith's shop situated along the dirt road leading into Purisima Canyon, two infirmary buildings, and a building called *Monjerío*, which was historically the dormitory for neophyte<sup>1</sup> girls.

Pedestrian circulation throughout the site consists of informal paths of decomposed granite.

Above: The ruins of Mission La Purisima were an attraction in the early 1930s. Courtesy San Luis Obispo County Regional Photographs Collection.



## HISTORY

The dedication of the original *La Misión de La Purísima Concepción de la Santísima Virgen María* occurred on December 8, 1787, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. This dedication took place in the mission's first location in a fertile valley south of the present city of Lompoc. With the leadership of Father Fermín Lasuén, soldiers and workmen constructed a series of simple structures. Within three years the mission flourished, and the hastily-erected buildings were replaced by new facilities of adobe with tile roofs. The mission continued to grow in population as converts were baptized in the church. However, on December 21, 1812, two earthquakes damaged the buildings and subsequent floods further destroyed the entire site.

With over one thousand mission inhabitants to shelter and feed, the padres decided to relocate the mission to a site that would be less prone to flooding on the north side of the Santa Ynez River. They selected a place four miles to the northeast in the 'Valley of the Watercress.' Work soon began on the construction of a new mission using materials at hand: adobe, clay, rawhide, timber, and tules. The new buildings were made of four-foot

thick adobe walls to withstand future earthquakes. Between 1812 and 1822, the mission experienced a period of prosperity and population growth. During this time, the church and padres' residence was constructed, as well as a series of workshops connecting the two buildings. These workshops included a pottery and carpenter's shop, weaving rooms, and even a small hospital.

By 1822, however, Mexico had declared independence from Spain and stopped supplying the missions with provisions or money for soldiers. The Chumash population began to decline, and the remaining neophytes were burdened with supporting the soldiers. In 1824, an inevitable Chumash revolt occurred at nearby Mission Santa Inés. The rebellion spread to La Purisima, where the Chumash seized possession of the mission for an entire month. Soldiers were sent down from Monterey and quickly regained control of the mission, killing sixteen Chumash and imprisoning others as punishment. The rebellion coincided with the beginning of the period of secularization, during which the Mexican government opened the mission properties for settlement. By 1834, a plan for the secularization and dispersal of mission property was proclaimed. The padres were allowed to



Above: The vegetable garden, a more recent addition, is adjacent to the shops and soldiers' quarters. Photo by the author.

remain on site but were given charge of only the church buildings. As a result of the declining Mission population, spurred in part by the revolt, as well as secularization, the mission was soon largely abandoned and gradually fell into ruin. In 1836, the church building collapsed.

In 1845, the mission passed into private ownership when the property was sold to Don Juan Temple of Los Angeles for \$1,100. It was passed from owner to owner, continuing in its dilapidated state until the 1930s. In 1933, then owner Union Oil Company deeded the mission and surrounding land to Santa Barbara County, and in 1934 the State of California acquired the 507-acre property under the Division of Parks.

The National Park Service studied the history of the site and developed an extensive set of plans, which the Civilian Conservation Corps (Company #1951) used when it began reconstruction work in 1935. The CCC established a camp on the site and rebuilt the mission in its entirety. Upon arrival, the only original structures on site were ruined brick and stucco walls and columns of the padres'

residence and a few smaller ruins throughout the site. From 1935 to 1937, the CCC completed the initial phase of the project by reconstructing the padres' residence, and in 1941 the church was rebuilt.

By the end of 1951, the CCC had completed work on the mission, using original tools and methods where possible, such as using clay from the site to make adobe bricks and roof tiles. As a result of this impressive and thorough reconstruction, La Purisima is one of the most fully restored missions in California. Today, the mission is a State Park operated by the California Department of Parks and Recreation and is visited by many each year.

The site is California Historical Landmark No. 340; a National Historic Landmark; is listed in the National Register of Historic Places; and is HABS CA-211.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

*Douglas Nelson is a historical landscape architect and principal at RHAA Landscape Architects in Mill Valley, CA. His work focuses on parks and historic landscapes with particular expertise in*

*national parks. He has completed two decades of projects in Yosemite National Park and he is a co-author of the Golden Gate Park Master Plan and its nomination to the National Register. He has prepared numerous cultural landscape reports, documentation for the Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS), and successful nomination reports for the National Register of Historic Places.*

#### Endnote

1. The definition of 'neophyte' in this context is: A religious convert; a newly baptized mission Indian. At the missions, neophytes would be required to adopt Christianity, learn agriculture, carpentry, weaving, and other vocational skills, and "adopt European modes of dress."



Above: Mission La Purisima, 1870s. Photograph courtesy California History Room, California State Library.

## Chronology of Events

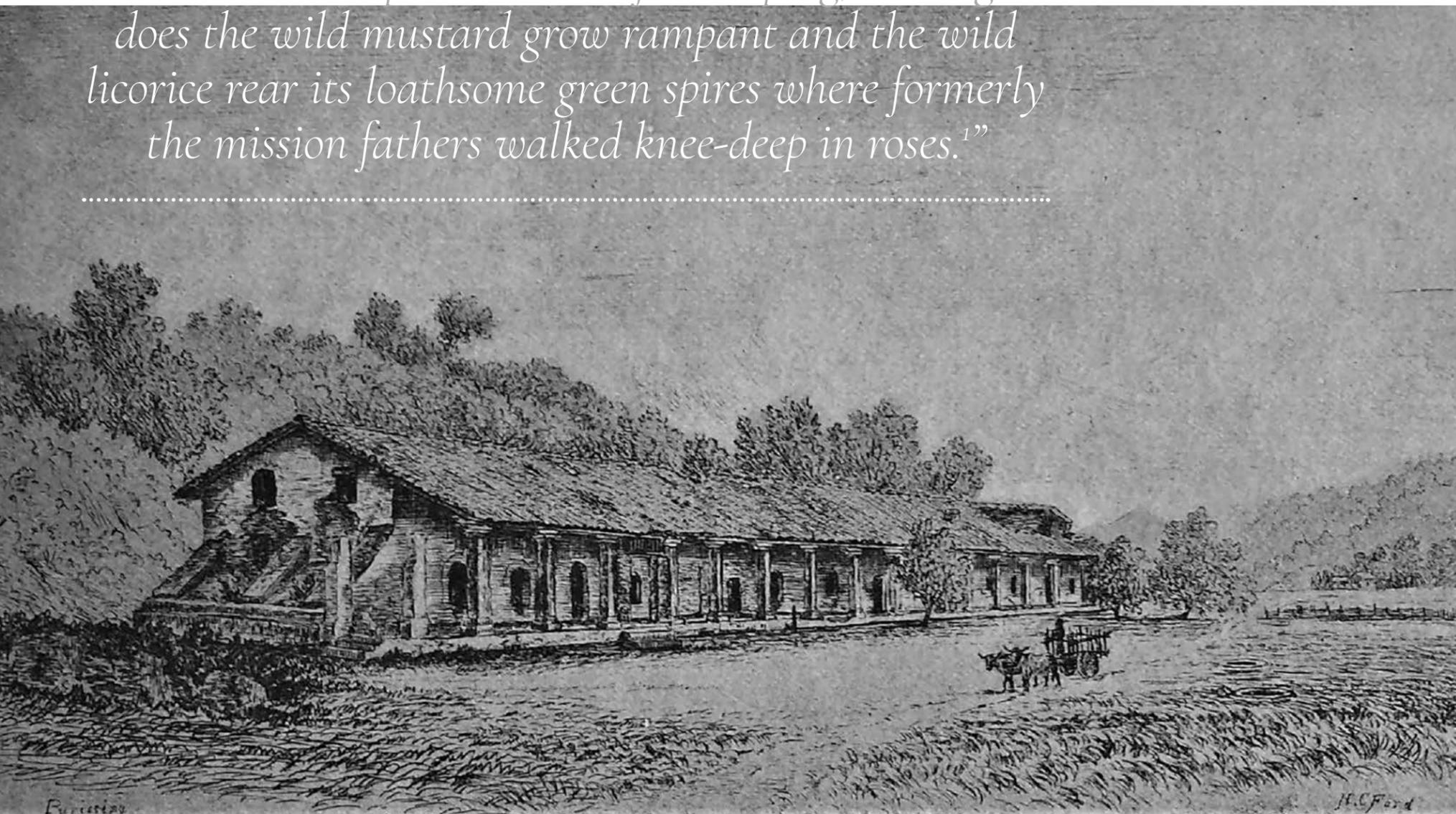
<b>DECEMBER 8, 1787</b>	Mission Founded by Father Fermín Lasuén.
<b>MARCH 1788</b>	Construction begins on the mission (original site).
<b>1801 – 1802</b>	New adobe structures are built following the ruin of first buildings.
<b>1802 – 1812</b>	Period of prosperity and population growth.
<b>DECEMBER 21, 1812</b>	Major earthquake destroys the entire mission site.
<b>1812 – 1822</b>	Mission is relocated to second site 4 miles northeast of the original site. A decade of prosperity follows with the mission becoming self-supporting. The church is reconstructed. Padres' residence is constructed.
<b>1815</b>	Series of workshops are constructed between church and padres' residence.
<b>1816</b>	Mexico declares independence from Spain and stops sending supplies and money to the Mission.
<b>1821</b>	Chumash neophyte revolt in nearby Santa Ynez spreads to La Purisima. Neophytes seize possession of the mission for a month before the revolt is quelled by Mexican soldiers.
<b>1824</b>	Secularization (settlement of government land). Mission is largely abandoned and lapses into ruin.
<b>1834</b>	Church building collapses.
<b>1834 – 1845</b>	Mission is sold to Don Juan Temple for \$1,100.
<b>1836</b>	The mission property is passed from owner to owner and deteriorates further.
<b>1845</b>	Union Oil and Catholic Church deed the property to Santa Barbara County.
<b>1845 – 1933</b>	State of California acquires the property under the Division of Parks.
<b>1933</b>	National Park Service studies the history of the site and develops a series of preservation treatment plans.
<b>1934 – 1935</b>	Civilian Conservation Corps sets up a camp on the site and begins reconstruction/restoration of the site.
<b>1935</b>	Reconstruction of the padres' residence.
<b>1935 – 1937</b>	Reconstruction of the church.
<b>1941</b>	Reconstruction of three main buildings complete; mission is dedicated as a State Historical Monument.
<b>DECEMBER 7, 1941</b>	Additional buildings reconstructed and visitor center added.
<b>1941 TO PRESENT</b>	

The CCC "Mission Garden" at La Purisima and its Forgotten Designers

SUSAN CHAMBERLIN



“No longer are the bare ruined choirs of Mission La Purisima Concepcion a cause for weeping; no longer does the wild mustard grow rampant and the wild licorice rear its loathsome green spires where formerly the mission fathers walked knee-deep in roses.<sup>1</sup>”



**M**ission La Purisima Concepcion in Lompoc is unique among the twenty-one missions established by the Spanish colonizers of California. It is surrounded by enough undeveloped land to give a sense of it as an isolated, self-sustaining, eighteenth-century pioneer outpost, and it was completely reconstructed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s New Deal program, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), during the Depression in the 1930s.<sup>2</sup> Actually, not completely—its garden was not a reconstruction. Like so many other places where the original architecture is respected, the landscape was not. Rather it was conceived as an attractive “setting” for the buildings. Wallace C. Penfield, Louis Brandt, and Edwin Denys Rowe are the forgotten designers of this landscape and what was once called the “Mission Garden” at La Purisima.

From the beginning, it was recognized that La Purisima had the potential to uniquely represent Spain’s settlement of the colonial southwest and thus achieve educational significance equal to Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia or the replica Lincoln village in Springfield, Illinois.<sup>3</sup> Prior to the arrival of the Spanish colonists in Alta California in 1769, the Native American inhabitants managed California’s natural resources using different techniques depending on the cultural group, region, and season. Only as recently as the late twentieth-century was this “protoagriculture” examined and considered as a new perspective on the history of agriculture.<sup>4</sup> However, the concept that the Indians were simple hunter-gatherers who relied on acorns and shellfish in an untouched wilderness is still widespread. Certainly, the abundant acorns from the live oak trees (*Quercus agrifolia*) in the Lompoc Valley where La Purisima was established were important food sources

for the Chumash Indians who lived there. Other plants were utilized for food, medicines, fibers, and intricately-crafted Chumash baskets. Many medicinal plants used by the Indians were adopted for medicinal purposes by the Spanish. Some of these native plants were incorporated into the CCC garden at La Purisima in one of the early acknowledgments of Indians’ lives in a State Park.<sup>5</sup>

Much has been written about the CCC reconstruction of La Purisima from almost total ruins. The story of CCC Company #1951 and their project at Camp SP-29 is readily available in print and online.<sup>6</sup> The story of the garden there is more difficult to parse, and published information about its several designers is virtually nonexistent. Most of what is in print about Ed Rowe, the landscape architect who located, propagated, and then planted the garden with mission-era fruits, flowers, and vegetables plus native plants familiar to California Indians, is incorrect.

Previous spread: La Purisima Mission State Historic Monument. Photo probably taken December 7, 1941, at the “Old Mission Days” celebration of the complete reconstruction of all the main buildings, from left: cemetery and church, Shops and Quarters Building, Residence Building with the “Mission Garden” laid out in front of it and the Burton Mesa behind. In lower right corner is the large *lavanderia*, also known as the Indian Bathing pool. Photo by Wilkes, Community Development and Conservation Collection, Department of Special Research Collections, UCSB Library, University of California, Santa Barbara.

Left: La Purisima Residence Building in 1883 before it fell into ruins. Note two *lavanderias* in lower right corner, what is probably the California pepper tree (*Schinus molle*) in front of the colonnade, and the canyon setting with Burton Mesa on the left. Henry Chapman Ford, *Etchings of the Franciscan Missions of California*, 1883, private collection.



Above: A romanticized depiction of the "Sacred Garden" at Mission Santa Barbara.

## TWO MISSION LA PURISIMA SITES

For a chronology and history of La Purisima, see "A Brief History and Description of Mission La Purisima" by Douglas Nelson in this issue. Initially a simple structure, the first 1787 La Purisima Mission site had property that stretched from the Santa Maria River to the coastline around Gaviota. With the labor of Christian-convert Indians, called neophytes, the mission grew into a large complex built around a quadrangle, or courtyard. Neophytes tended to 12,000 sheep, 4,000 cattle, 1,150 horses, an orchard, vineyards, and fields planted to wheat, beans, and corn.<sup>7</sup> The Lompoc Valley, like the rest of the California landscape, was eventually transformed by the livestock and invasive species introduced from the Old World including annual grasses,

mustard, and fennel (or wild licorice, *Foeniculum vulgare*.) In 1812, La Purisima (including approximately 100 Chumash dwellings) was destroyed by earthquakes and flooding. Its ruins in the city of Lompoc are called *Mission Vieja de La Purisima*.

Lands and livestock were intact, but a new site was selected for the buildings a few miles away and closer to El Camino Real. In 1813 the current La Purisima Mission complex was founded in *La Cañada de los Berros* (today called Purisima Canyon.) A portion of the botanically-unique Burton Mesa is directly behind the complex to the west, and hills flank the canyon to the east.<sup>8</sup> After ten years the new site had about thirteen buildings including a church, the Shops and Quarters Building, which contained craft workshops and soldier barracks, and a residence building for the priests and their guests. This structure had



a colonnade, or covered corridor, on the east side supported by unusual square columns (henceforth Residence Building—its name in State Park materials—also called the Padres' Residence, the Monastery, *el monasterio*, and the living quarters.) The site plan is unusual for a mission: the three main buildings and the cemetery south of the church were arranged in a linear fashion at the base of the mesa, rather than in a quadrangular, or courtyard, layout. El Camino Real separated these buildings from the Indian facilities.

In front of the Residence Building was a laundry yard with three basins, sometimes called *lavanderias*, sometimes cisterns, sometimes fountains. Two were located close together toward the building's south-east end, and the largest one was located closer to the Chumash tule-reed dwellings and facilities opposite the north-east end of the building. It is called the Indian *lavanderia* and bathing pool or a reservoir. These basins were part of an extensive water system with reservoirs, aqueducts, and a spring house to filter water. The southern-most of these basins, sometimes identified as a settling basin, drains into an aqueduct that irrigated the field in front of the Shops and Quarters Building and the church. Perhaps this was the location of the original mission garden or an orchard. Wherever the garden was, it probably would have been a *huerta* for simple foodstuffs and herbs and not an ornamental garden. There was a pear orchard near a reservoir north-east of the Residence Building. One tree remained when the CCC arrived.

Following Mexican independence in 1821, California's Mexican governors began taking the missions from the Catholic church and distributing their lands to



private individuals. In 1834, La Purisima was secularized and began its decline into ruins. About fifty years later, the artist Henry Chapman Ford (1828-1894) did an etching of La Purisima as part of a series on the California missions. He depicted the Residence Building with trees next to the colonnade. One is probably the California pepper tree (*Schinus molle*, native to Peru) that was later revered and photographed. Lester Rowntree (the renowned native plant enthusiast) liked to spread her sleeping bag under it on her campouts.<sup>9</sup> Also visible in the etching are two of the three basins or *lavanderias* in the open space in front of the Residence Building.<sup>10</sup>

"No sweeter bells ere rung from mission towers than were to be heard from the arches of La Purisima."<sup>11</sup>

Toward the end of the nineteenth-century, people seeking a regional, California identity distinct from the Victorian styles that dominated in the United States looked to the missions for architectural inspiration.<sup>12</sup> Fueled in part by Helen Hunt Jackson's novel *Ramona*, a period of romanticizing the Spanish-era missions began. By this time, mission gardens were different than originally laid out. The utilitarian *huerta* (where herbs, vegetables, and a few flowers for the altar were grown outside the mission walls) had largely been replaced in the public imagination by an ornamental garden, or *jardin*, centered on a fountain within the mission walls similar to a medieval cloister. This Spanish patio type became the iconic mission garden tended by Franciscan priests—always called

Left: Old California pepper tree next to the Residence Building ruins (*Schinus molle*) standing on the site when the CCC arrived. Will Connell, photographer. Will Connell Collection, California Museum of Photography, University of California, Riverside.

Right: Gathered on the Residence Building ruins under the shade of the old California pepper tree for the First Restoration Policy Meeting at La Purisima on August 8, 1934 are from left, seated: Wallace C. Penfield (Santa Barbara Co. Planning Commission Engineer and Chair of the Advisory Committee who will draw the "Preliminary Sketch Plan" for the development of La Purisima), Lawrence Libau (NPS-CCC Fire Suppression Foreman), Arthur Woodward (Curator, Los Angeles Museum), Harvey Johnson (Camp Superintendent), Owen C. Coy (USC historian and Director of the California State Historical Commission). Standing from left: L. Deming Tilton (Director Santa Barbara Co. Planning Commission who helped make La Purisima a CCC project), Ronald L. Adam (Santa Barbara Co. Supervisor), Ed Rowe (landscape architect and Camp SP-29 Landscape Foreman), Frank E. Dunne (Santa Barbara Co. Forester), Harry Buckman (Santa Barbara Co. Board of Forestry), Frederick C. Hageman (Camp SP-29 eventual Senior Foreman-Architect), Arthur L. Darsie (NPS Engineering Foreman). Courtesy of California State Parks, Photo 090-29296.



Below: Ed Rowe's nursery beds and lath house at La Purisima with young plants in cans recycled from the mess hall. Courtesy of California State Parks, Photo 090-29653.

construction. But first he undertook archaeological surveys of the ruins using CCC men to excavate them. (Melted adobe and wind-deposited sand had buried the ruins, in some cases eight feet down; much of this adobe was reconstituted for the reconstructions.) Eventually his title would be Senior Foreman (Architect).

Born in Los Angeles, Hageman studied architectural engineering at USC and did post-graduate work at UCLA. He went to work as a draftsman for the Santa Barbara architectural firm Edwards and Plunkett, where he learned enough to freelance as an architectural designer. Sometimes described as a genius, his friendship with Santa Barbara County Planning Commission Engineer Wallace C. Penfield led to the job at the CCC camp in August 1934.<sup>17</sup> Hageman began the archaeological excavations with the water system in November 1934. He related how in January 1935 "landscape foreman" Ed Rowe made photographic records of the Residence Building excavation because he had experience and equipment.<sup>18</sup>

## EDWIN DENYS ROWE (1881-1954)

*"His story alone is really worthwhile... because of his brilliance."<sup>19</sup>*

Edwin Denys Rowe was a tall, slim, landscape architect and California native plant expert who usually had a pipe in his mouth. He was dashing and "very gallant." Lester Rowntree "absolutely adored" him.<sup>20</sup> Although he signed his name E. Denys Rowe, he was known as Ed. The third La Purisima Project Superintendent H.V. Smith wrote that Rowe was "very intelligent," with a "particularly pleasing personality," attracted the "universal respect of the enrollees," had an "extraordinary knowledge of native plants," and could be "somewhat 'bull-headed.'"<sup>21</sup> CCC enrollees recalled that he drove a LaSalle and "was the only foreman who never got dirty."<sup>22</sup>

Born in Finchley, England on January 18, 1881, Rowe worked in nurseries before emigrating to the U.S. in 1903. He made his way to Santa Barbara in 1904 where he began working for Dr. Francesco Franceschi's

Above: Early planning phase at La Purisima shows Residence Building ruins before reconstruction and, from left: L. Deming Tilton (Advisory Committee and Santa Barbara County Planning Commission), Russell Ewing (National Park Service Regional Historian), Daniel R. Hull (National Park Service Chief Landscape Architect for the State of California), Charles Wing (National Park Service Engineer in Charge of Federal Projects in State Parks), Pearl Chase (Advisory Committee and Chair of the Santa Barbara Community Arts Association's Plans and Planting Committee), Ed Rowe (landscape architect and La Purisima Camp SP- 29 Landscape Foreman), Guy Fleming (District Superintendent for the Southern California State Park System), Kelly Hardenbrook (Advisory Committee and Lompoc Attorney). Courtesy of California State Parks, Photo 090-29313.

padres—a myth that ignores the reality of Indians using the patios as work spaces and laboring in the gardens and fields.<sup>13</sup> Various groups, notably the Landmarks Club, began trying to preserve and restore the missions, often relying on Ford's art. Their efforts at La Purisima fell short of their promises, so the Union Oil company (which owned most of the original mission land) and the Catholic Church (which regained title to the mission church and cemetery in 1874) gave the property to Santa Barbara County in 1933, the year Roosevelt took office and established the Emergency Conservation Work Act (ECW) to alleviate unemployment. The ECW soon evolved into the CCC.

### LA PURISIMA MISSION STATE HISTORIC PARK & THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

Phillip T. Primm, the CCC inspector for the National Park Service, came up with the idea of making La Purisima a CCC "restoration" project. Along with Santa Barbara County planner L. Deming Tilton, Primm orchestrated the transfer of the mission property to the County. The next year it was decided to the

State of California with additional land to total 520 acres, and La Purisima became a State Historic Monument.<sup>14</sup> Tilton wrote up the notes from the first Restoration Policy Meeting held at La Purisima on August 8, 1934. He stated that the water system including "tanks and fountains...are all in a fair state of preservation." Technically these structures could be restored; the rest of the mission structures would have to be reconstructed, although that terminology was somewhat vague in the 1930s, and the entire project would be (and still is) erroneously called a restoration by the State Parks Department. Much of the program for the mission and how to achieve it was outlined in the policy meeting notes compiled by Tilton. To make the place "more attractive" he suggests, "Aqueducts, troughs, tanks and fountains which had such a large part in the life of the mission community...can again be supplied with water from the original source. Trees, shrubs and lawns can be established in a pleasant park."<sup>15</sup>

Frederick C. Hageman was the 28-year old "staff architect" and second Project Superintendent for the reconstruction. He drew the plans for the buildings (vetted by historians) after conducting historic research in mission archives, as did Russell Ewing, Regional Historian for the NPS.<sup>16</sup> Hageman then oversaw the



Right Top: CCC enrollees laying adobe bricks to reconstruct a building at La Purisima. Photographer unknown, Community Development and Conservation Collection, Department of Special Research Collections, UCSB Library, University of California, Santa Barbara.

Right Bottom: A promotional brochure included this very early concept based on Wallace C. Penfield's "Preliminary Sketch Plan" for the development. Note the location of the old pear orchard, an incorrect version of the mission's name in the title, and the "Mission Garden" separated from the "Mission House" (Residence Building) by El Camino Real. Courtesy Lompoc Valley Historical Society.

Southern California Acclimatizing Association. By 1912 Rowe was self-employed. He was a widower and a naturalized U.S. citizen when he got the job at La Purisima at age 53. In the 1920 census he listed his occupation as landscape architect, but in the 1930 census his occupation is real estate. Rowe was clearly feeling the effects of the Depression. Thanks to President Roosevelt's New Deal, Rowe began his employment with the Department of the Interior National Park Service's Emergency Conservation Work Camps at La Purisima Camp SP-29 in 1934. He started as a "temporary landscape foreman." His title by the time he left the CCC in 1942 was "Landscape Foreman (Landscape Architect)."<sup>23</sup>

In her excellent book, *New Deal Adobe*, Christine Savage relates the memory of a CCC employee that "Rowe was not experienced with California native plants and spent time picking the brains of Construction Foreman Ed Negus's wife, Martha, who was a school teacher with botany training."<sup>24</sup> In fact, Rowe was recognized as an important early authority on native plants by Maunsell Van Rensselaer (the Director of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden,) Harry M. Butterfield (the Director of the College of Agriculture at UC Berkeley,) James Roof (Director of the Botanic Garden in Tilden Regional Park in Berkeley,) and Howard McMinn (professor of Botany at Mills College, who named *Ceanothus papillosus* var *Roweanus* after Rowe.)<sup>25</sup> In 1908, about 25 years before Rowe met Martha, he sailed to Santa Cruz Island with botanist Harvey Monroe Hall where they collected seed of Catalina ceanothus (*Ceanothus arboreus*.) Rowe is credited with introducing *Ceanothus arboreus* to the trade in 1911.<sup>26</sup> It is quite likely, however, that Rowe enjoyed picking Martha's brains because he regularly met his pals, Van Rensselaer and Roof, at the Santa Maria Inn for drinks, dinner, and to get "heavily" into friendly arguments about native plants.<sup>27</sup>

Elizabeth Kryder-Reid, the author of *California Mission Landscapes*, calls Rowe a "Santa Barbara horticulturalist [sic] who was brought in as foreman for the CCC garden crew to finish the planting phase of the

project."<sup>28</sup> This is not true. Rowe was hired by the ECW on July 23, 1934, and he attended the first Restoration Policy Meeting held at La Purisima on August 8, 1934. Notes on the meeting compiled by L. Deming Tilton correctly describe Rowe not as a horticulturist but as a "Landscape Architect."<sup>29</sup> His career in Santa Barbara was probably well known to County Forester Frank E. Dunne, who was also present at the meeting and was one of Rowe's references when he filled out his May 22, 1935 application for permanent employment with the Department of the Interior. Rowe began propagating plants for the project almost as soon as he was hired.

### THE "MISSION GARDEN"

The "Mission Garden" was a large four to five-acre formal garden with a traditional fountain on axis with the center of the Residence Building colonnade serving as the focal point. From the fountain, wide paths radiated to the *lavanderias*. How this design was arrived at was not a simple process.

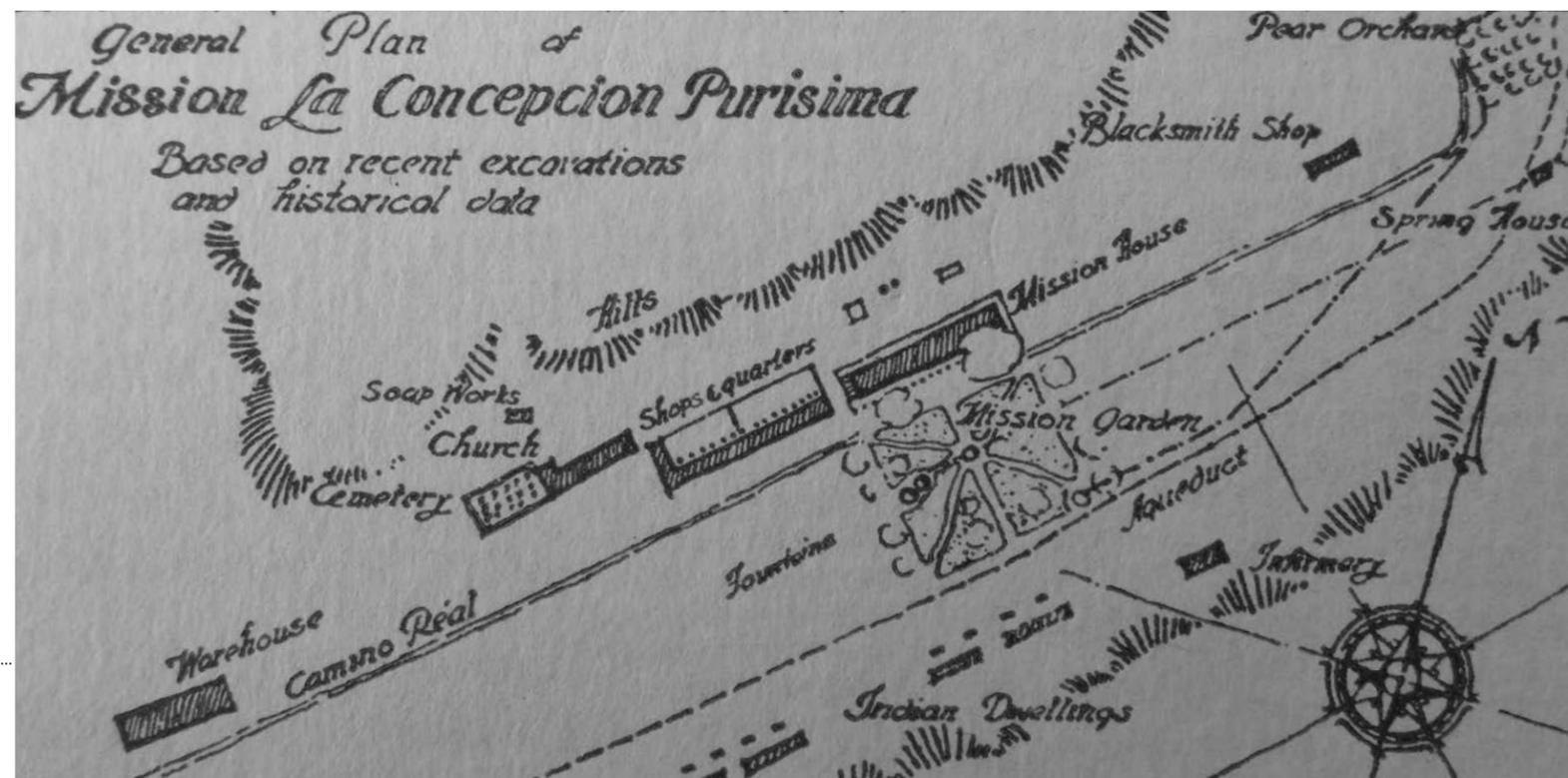
In February 1935, the La Purisima Advisory Committee was named to guide the reconstruction process.<sup>30</sup> These important civic and academic leaders held their first meeting in March. Committee Secretary Wallace C. Penfield drafted a letter with their recommendations, number one being "Any development of the park should be designed with the idea of preserving the mission ruins and surrounding them with a harmonious and appropriate landscape." The location for what will be named the "Mission Garden" had already been selected because Penfield recommended moving the CCC tent camp "in what should be the mission garden area."<sup>31</sup> (The camp was relocated to the Burton Mesa and barracks were built to house the men.) The Committee wanted to ensure that when the park opened to the public, they would experience completed buildings in an established landscape. To achieve this, it was suggested that a nursery be started as soon as possible. By February 1936 Rowe had 8,000 plants growing in containers in the nursery

area of La Purisima, including 125 different kinds of native plants.<sup>32</sup>

Like the other CCC projects in California, La Purisima's reconstruction was a cooperative venture between the Department of the Interior's National Park Service and the California Division of State Parks. The young men of CCC Company #1951 manufactured oversize adobe bricks out of mud and straw, fired their own clay roof tiles, and hand-cut massive wooden rafters. The first building to be reconstructed was the Residence Building, and the "Mission Garden" was laid out in front of it before the other structures were completed.

A garden was mentioned in the church records that were studied during the historic research phase, but what type of garden it was, its location, and how to design and interpret it, was the subject of intense debate. Daniel Hull, the Chief Landscape Architect for California State Parks, noted that "...an ornamental garden probably never existed at La Purisima."<sup>33</sup> Rowe later described the dilemma: "...the question arose—how should the immediate foreground of the main building be treated? Originally it was a dusty plaza, but a garden seemed logical if the visitor of today was to be interested."<sup>34</sup> However, he was not the one who came up with this philosophy or the design of the garden, which Penfield believed had to be "...of generous scale in accord with the buildings and outlying structures [and] ...should provide a setting."<sup>35</sup>

The garden philosophy was summarized by Superintendent H.V. Smith: "This was not intended as a restoration of a mission garden...it was rather intended as an exhibit of plants introduced to California by the mission padres and the early Spanish and Mexican colonists." Because an exhibit of these plants would have been "disproportionately small by comparison to the building group, the garden was expanded to include a remarkably fine collection of some 250 varieties of native flowering plants and shrubs, many of which were used medicinally by the Spaniards, Mexicans and Indians."<sup>36</sup> This philosophy and the design to carry it out would be the subject of innumerable letters and meetings arguing about





Left: Edwin Denys Rowe, La Purisima Camp SP-29 Landscape Foreman-Landscape Architect selected many of the plant varieties for the "Mission Garden" including those introduced by the Spanish (such as these hollyhocks, *Althea* sp.) and native plants utilized by California Indians. Photo by Wilkes, c. 1941, Community Development and Conservation Collection, Department of Special Research Collections, UCSB Library, University of California, Santa Barbara.

Your brilliant appointee and eminent member of the historical profession together with one Emerson Knight, who claims to be an eminent landscape architect, have just about gummed the whole works. The State Park Commission passed the landscape design plan at their meeting of November 10, 1935, and later was approved by the Regional office. The work has already been started on the parking area, etc.; and the other day a letter comes from Colonel Wing stating that there was considerable controversy in the office over the plan and that all work should cease. This order was strangely co-incident with the return of Dr. Ewing to San Francisco and also with the return of the eminent Emerson Knight from a visit here. Knight, as I understand it, has been transferred from one Regional area to another (I wouldn't say "kicked out") and has finally landed on Merriam. He has seen fit to side in with Ewing on all the brilliant theories advanced by that gentleman and has become quite jealous of the fact that you have been called in without a request from the Regional office. In other words, he has suddenly appeared, apparently, to take the whole situation over after all these months.

This excerpt from an April 20, 1936 letter between Wallace Penfield, head of the Advisory Committee for the La Purisima mission reconstruction by the CCC, and its consultant Harry Shepherd of UC Berkeley makes evident that tensions were high between the local authorities and State and National Parks officialdom. The letter indicates that National Park Service Regional Historian Russell Ewing, apparently, and ironically, recommended by Shepherd for that position, is objecting to the

Berkeley landscape architect's plans for La Purisima. In the process of contemning Ewing, Penfield also manages to disparage San Francisco landscape architect Emerson Knight, also employed at this time by the National Park Service as, evidently, a frequently reassigned Inspector. In 1937 Ewing, subsequently a professor of Western history at the University of Nebraska, wrote a history of the mission for the purpose of guiding its reconstruction. (This survey was republished by the Santa Barbara Trust

for Historic Preservation as part of *An Archeological and Restoration Study of Mission La Purisima Concepción* edited by Richard S. Whitehead, 1980 & 1991.) Knight is best known for his design for Marin County's Mt. Tamalpais amphitheater. (See *Eden*, Fall 2016, Staff of the Environmental Design Archives, *Emerson Knight, a Summary Biography and Description of his Collections at the Environmental Design Archives, U.C. Berkeley.*)

—Phoebe Cutler

the garden's location, formality, and authenticity of proposed features.

A "Preliminary Sketch Plan Showing a Suggested Development of La Purisima State Park" subtitled "The La Purisima State Park Advisory Committee" is dated September 1935 and signed by Penfield, now the Chair of the Committee. His plan covers the entire site with future reconstructions shown (including the water system) as well as roads, parking, recreation and picnic areas, and the note "Mesa Land To be Planted with Native Material." Penfield's layout of the "Mission Garden" centered in front of the Residence Building colonnade is by necessity a tiny detail, but straight, wide paths that lead to the existing lavanderias and radiate from a new feature (which is not-quite-in-the-middle) are easy to see.<sup>37</sup>

The final "Mission Garden" design was the product of a contentious process among members of the Advisory Committee, State and National Park personnel, consultant Harry Shepherd (a landscape architect who taught at UC Berkeley),<sup>38</sup> and author-architect Rexford Newcomb. Newcomb's 1925 book, *The Old Mission Churches and Historic Houses of California*, which Penfield relied on, is blamed by author Kryder-Reid for the formality of the design and its resemblance to the romanticized gardens at Missions Santa Barbara and San Juan Capistrano.<sup>39</sup> Newcomb himself, however, hated the formality at La Purisima and warned in a 1936 letter to Penfield that all visitor facilities should be kept well away from the archaeological [building] features including the proposed garden, which "does certain violence to the whole idea of a 'working' museum of

mission culture.” Newcomb was particularly worried about the scale and formality because a garden with “paths thirty to sixty feet wide is entirely unthinkable and unjustified. The old mission gardens were simple practical affairs...the location and width of the paths were determined by the line of travel of the padres and their neophytes in going from building to building.” He concluded by appealing to Penfield’s Advisory Committee “to keep the gardens in the same spirit of the old mission buildings, and above all do not let the thing become the type of place that lovely old Capistrano...has become.”<sup>40</sup>

Perhaps Newcomb’s letter is why the 30-60-foot paths he loathed were reduced to 30-40 feet in the “Landscape Plan For Mission Garden” rendered in January 1937 by National Park Service associate landscape architect Louis Brandt of the NPS Regional Offices in San Francisco and Glendale. Signatures of approval include Hull, Penfield, and Primm.<sup>41</sup> This is essentially the final plan. Despite more than a year of criticism, numerous competing plans, and hand-wringing, in general it follows Penfield’s preliminary sketch plan.<sup>42</sup>

Only the “Mission Garden” in front of the Residence Building and the area around it are treated. A parking lot beyond it is shown.<sup>43</sup> In this attractive rendering, the large, existing California pepper tree (*Schinus molle*) is a feature of a “Plaza” in front of the Residence Building, with hollyhocks and geraniums planted around each of the building’s columns. Axial paths follow the layout of Penfield’s plan, but dimensions and surfaces of decomposed granite are specified. There are six *Phoenix* palm trees, with areas labeled “shrub masses,” and “herbaceous plants” under numerous olive, fig, and California pepper trees. Several kinds of citrus, two apricot trees, and a peach tree are in planting beds subdivided by narrow paths. On its north and south edges, the garden is enclosed by two straight lines of “Mission fruit trees” and surrounded by informal groupings of oaks and pepper trees. Numerous *Platanus racemosa* (western sycamore) are located in the riparian drainage ditch enclosing the garden on its eastern edge. Plant material thus achieved the walled garden feeling that some of the design authorities had wanted. A not-quite-in-the-middle, octagonal fountain is shown surrounded by tile pavement in an octagonal layout. The design for this fountain, as well as another placed in one of the lavanderias, was based on fountains and features at Missions San Luis Rey and San Fernando and made by artists in the Works Progress Administration Federal Art Project. The same inspiration was used by WPA artists for carved, stone faces which decorated the Indian *lavanderia* and bathing pool. The authenticity of these features, like

that of the church and bell tower designs, has often been questioned.

There is a note that tree specifications are “suggestive” and to see “Plan LPM-9107-1-1 for detailed planting lists...” On that plan, “Planting Plan for Mission Garden,” (January 1937) the template is the same as Brandt used for his base map, but masses and quantities of plants are diagrammatically laid out and keyed to an extensive list of trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals for interplanting, and herbs, both Spanish era and native.<sup>44</sup> Hull’s signature is in the “Prepared by Park Authority” box, however the “Drawn By” box is empty.

Advisory Committee member Edith B. Webb recalled that Rowe “was particularly interested in the medicinal value of some of the [native] plants in the Garden...”<sup>45</sup> According to the Project Superintendent’s report of 1942, Rowe is the one who made the “decision as to varieties and placing of plants to be planted,” and his duties also included “primarily the research for data, search for and propagation in the nursery of seeds and cuttings of historic plants introduced to California by the Mission Fathers, as well as native California plants.”<sup>46</sup> Rowe wrote that guiding his research were plant lists compiled by “Professor Henry [sic] and Chas. Francis Saunders. In some cases it has been possible to obtain reproductive stock from original plants still growing at or near the missions, and at some of the old ranchos.”<sup>47</sup>

.....  
**“The transformation from a barren, dusty bean field to a garden of surpassing beauty and loveliness was amazing.”<sup>48</sup>**  
 .....

Rowe planted the Mission Garden c. 1936-1937 and also installed the landscape for the entire mission grounds.<sup>49</sup> He had a crew of 126 CCC men to help him propagate plants (mainly from seed), move mature trees, plant the Mission Garden, and maintain it.<sup>50</sup> His attitude toward maintenance was loose. “The padres never pruned,” so Rowe didn’t prune the rose of Castile bushes, and he let things go to seed and “spring up where they will and grow in the fashion which best pleases them” because “the padres didn’t landscape...they just put the things in and let them grow in their own fashion.”<sup>51</sup> Pear trees were propagated by cuttings from the one tree that remained in the orchard north-east of the Residence Building and grafted onto rootstock, as were numerous other mission-era fruit trees from other locations. Brandt’s plan specified palm and olive trees. Mature date palms (*Phoenix dactylifera*) were transplanted from Goleta about 30 miles away. Rowe went even farther to transplant 27 fifty-year-old olive trees (originally

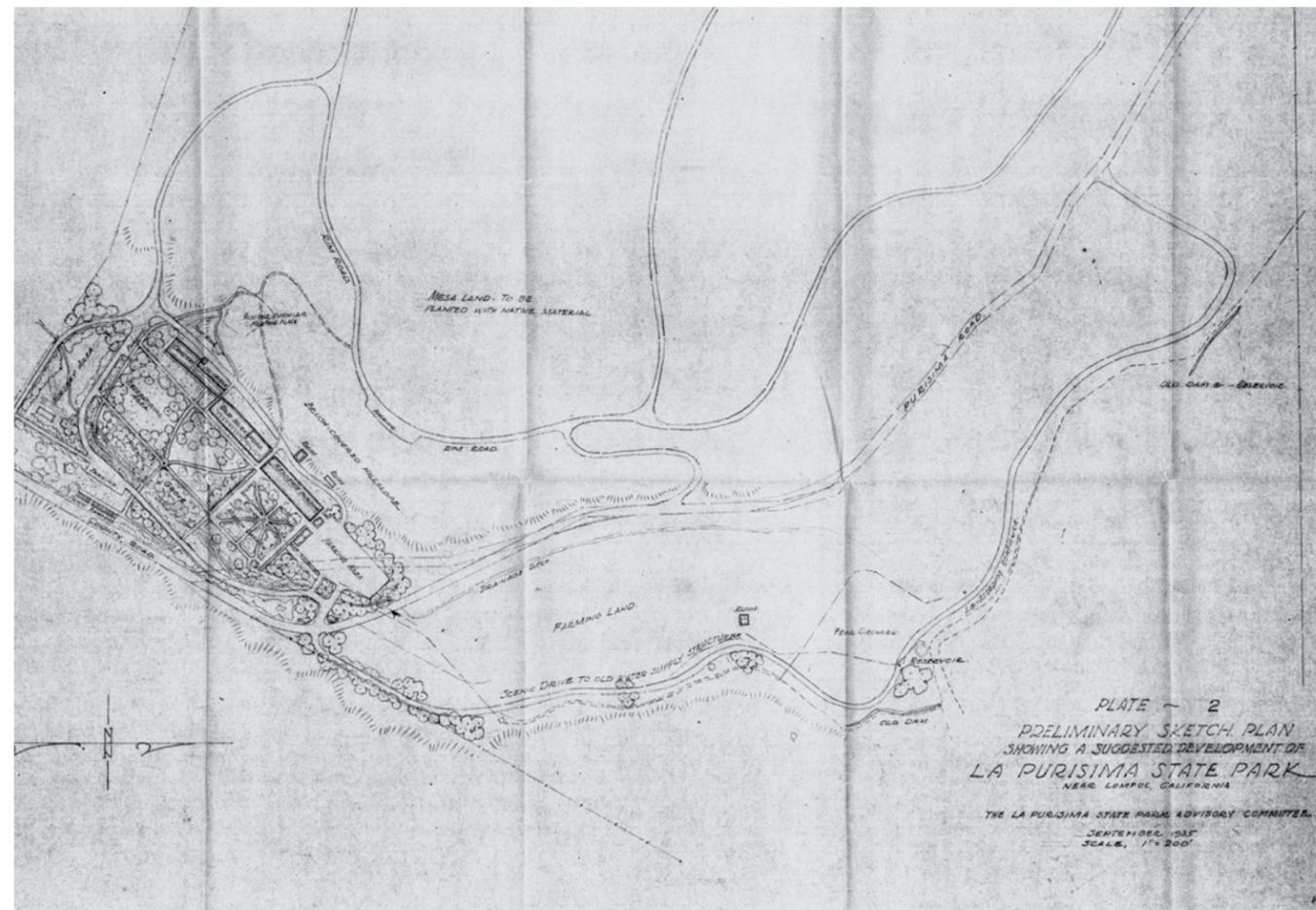
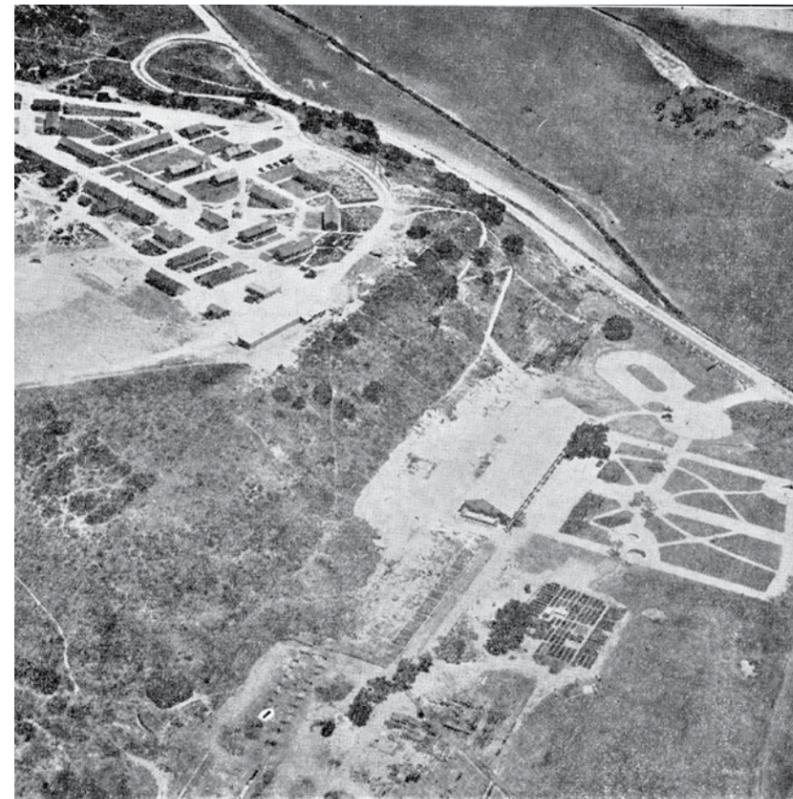


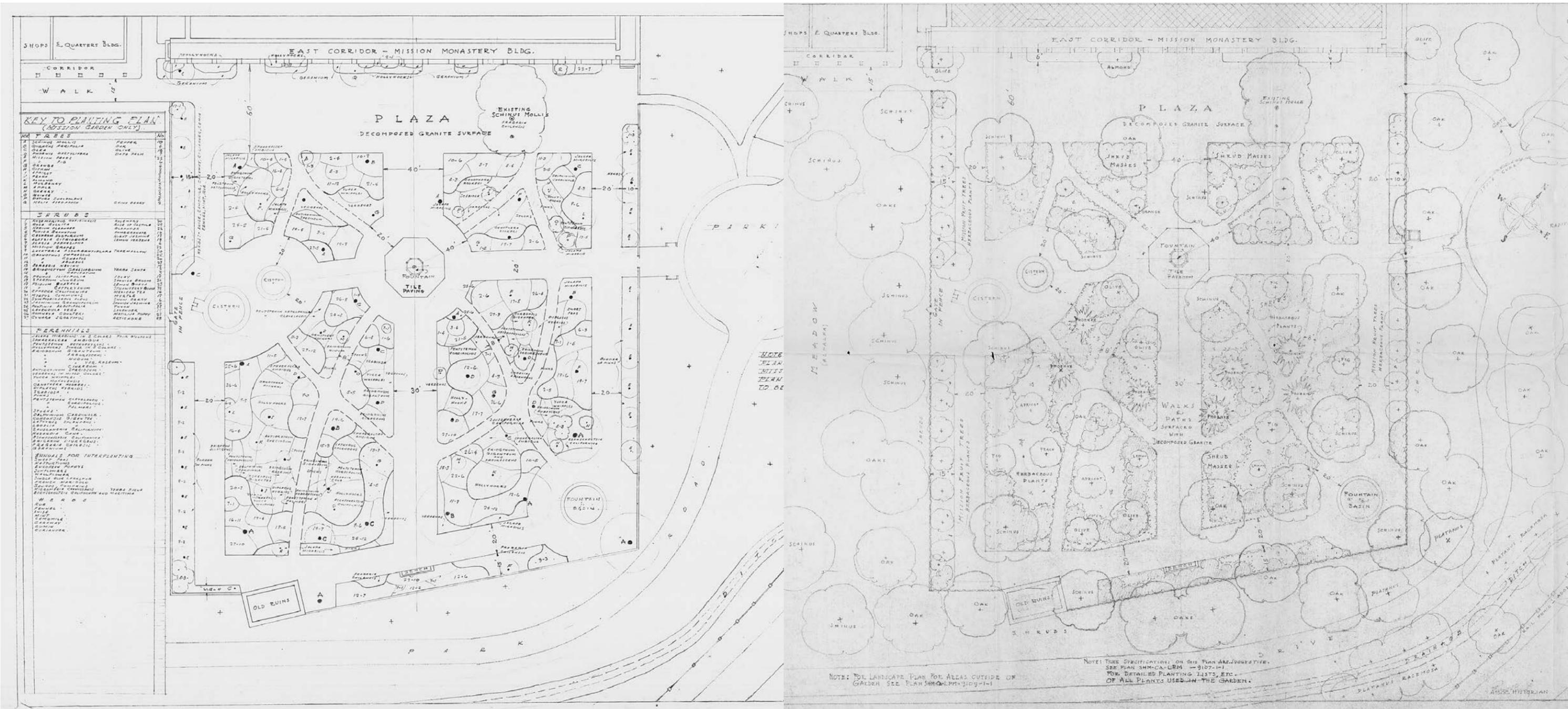
Above: Camp SP-29 Superintendent H.V. Smith. 1935 Union Oil brochure, Courtesy Lompoc Valley Historical Society.

Opposite Left: Near Goleta mature date palm trees (*Phoenix dactylifera*) were boxed up by CCC men and trucked about 35 miles north to the La Purisima Mission Garden. Courtesy of California State Parks, Photo 090-29706.

Opposite Right: Aerial view of the CCC camp on the Burton Mesa (top left), the completed Residence Building (center right) with the old California pepper tree, the formal lines of the Mission Garden, and the parking area clearly visible. Nursery beds are shown in front of the un-reconstructed Shops and Quarters Building. Courtesy Lompoc Valley Historical Society.

Opposite Bottom: The “Preliminary Sketch Plan Showing A Suggested Development of La Purisima State Park” drawn by Wallace C. Penfield in September 1935 was based on ideas generated by the Advisory Committee he chaired. The words, Mission Garden, are written in the formal landscape space in front of the Residence building next to the Parking Area. Community Development and Conservation Collection, Department of Special Research Collections, UCSB Library, University of California, Santa Barbara.

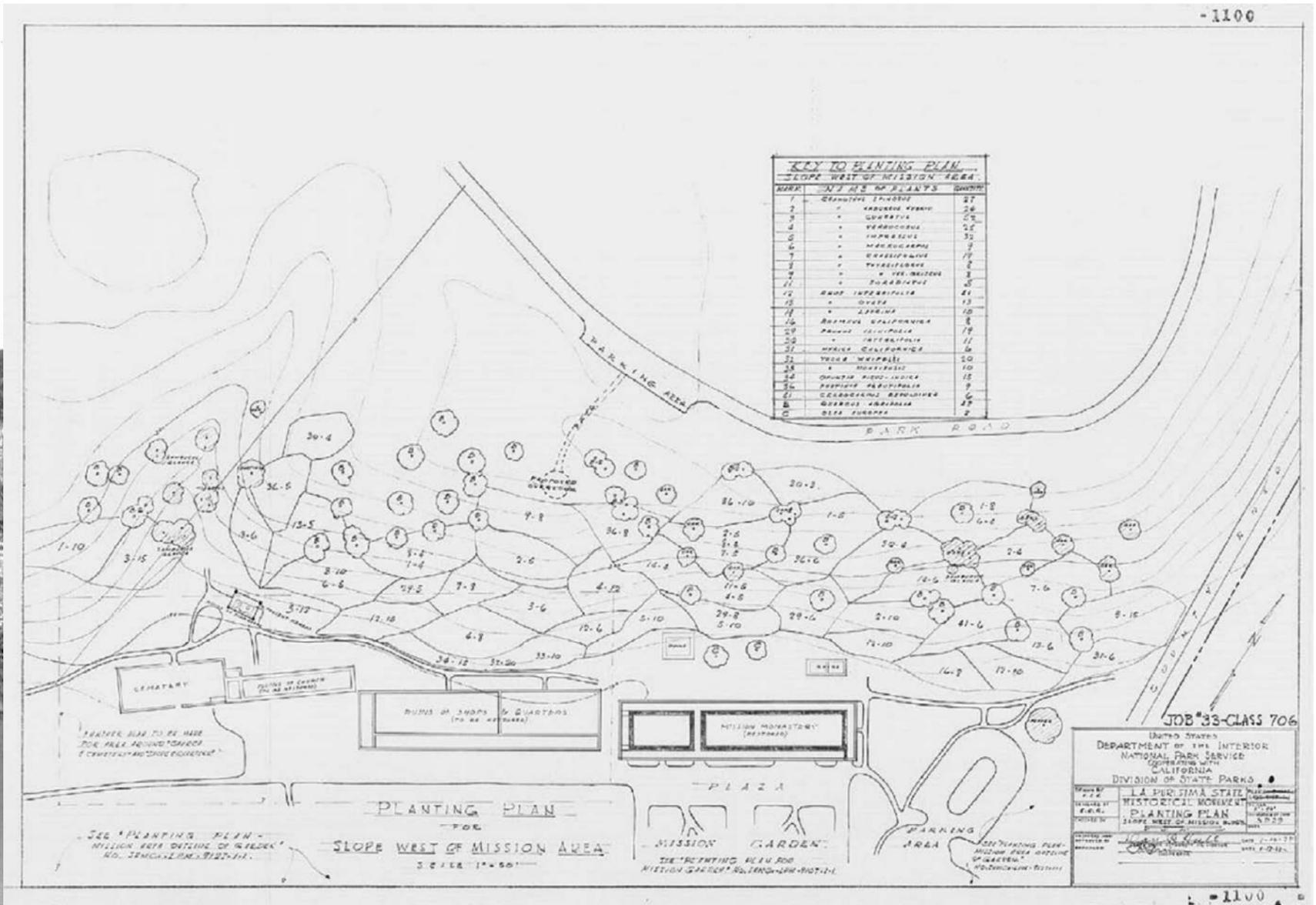




Above: A detail of "Planting Plan for Mission Garden" January 1935 specifies the plants that will fill the beds in Brandt's more conceptual "Landscape Plan for Mission Garden." Ed Rowe selected many of the plants for this garden and propagated all of them except the mature palm and olive trees he transplanted from miles away. Courtesy of La Purisima Mission State Historic Park Archive.

Far right: The formality of the January 1937 "Landscape Plan for Mission Garden" (seen here in detail) drawn by Louis Brandt, Associate Landscape Architect for the National Park Service, Western Regional Office, was based on Penfield's "Preliminary Sketch Plan" of September 1935. Community Development and Conservation Collection, Department of Special Research Collections, UCSB Library, University of California, Santa Barbara.





Opposite page, top: CCC men hoist a mature olive tree into place in the Mission Garden around 1937 with the Residence Building and the Burton Mesa in the background. The numerous olive trees at La Purisima were transplanted from an orchard that had been propagated from Mission Santa Barbara trees. Courtesy of California State Parks, Photo 090-29701.

Opposite page, bottom: The Mission Garden with central fountain surrounded by transplanted olive and date palm trees. The plants are a mixture of those introduced from Europe by the Spanish and native plants utilized by Indians. Photo by Wilkes, Community Development and Conservation Collection, Department of Special Research Collections, UCSB Library, University of California, Santa Barbara.

Above: Ed Rowe's "Planting Plan for Slope West of Mission Area" is almost entirely native plants. Courtesy of La Purisima Mission State Historic Park Archive.

propagated from the trees growing at Mission Santa Barbara) from an orchard in Santa Barbara. A 1937 NPS press release said, “no other phase of the project has contributed more to the coveted atmosphere of age than the addition of the olive trees.” The Garden was erroneously described as “a near duplicate of that planted by the padres.”<sup>52</sup>

In September 1937, when the Residence Building reconstruction was complete, the La Purisima State Historical Monument officially opened to the public with a dedication ceremony that included a tour of the building and Mission Garden. However, work on the octagonal fountain and *lavanderias* in the garden was not completed until 1938. Also in 1938, Rowe designed informal planting for a small part of the Burton Mesa.

On Penfield’s September 1935 “Preliminary Sketch Plan...” he had indicated a “Brush-Covered Hill-Slope” behind the main buildings. Rowe was the designer for the January 10, 1938 “Planting Plan, Slope West of Mission Bldgs.”<sup>53</sup> Except for two olive trees, the planting is devoted to natives including two of his *Ceanothus arboreus* hybrids. He eventually had 240 varieties of native plants at La Purisima including 30 varieties of *ceanothus*.<sup>54</sup> The Shops and Quarters Building, church, bell tower, and cemetery were completed by 1941. Many minor buildings would be reconstructed later.

In September 1941 Lester Rowntree described the “restored” garden in glowing terms: “I like to see this mixture of wild and tame, just the sort of thing which must have been going on in the padres’ day.”<sup>55</sup> Three months later, on December 7, 1941, High Mass was conducted by a Catholic Priest in the reconstructed church at La Purisima to celebrate the completion of all the main buildings and “Old Mission Days” in Santa Barbara County. When people emerged from the church, they learned of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Architect Fred Hageman had left La Purisima in 1939. He worked for the Navy during World War II, lost everything on a failed development project after the war, and committed suicide in 1948. He was 43.<sup>56</sup> Ed Rowe’s services had been terminated in July 1942 when the CCC camp at La Purisima was shut down.<sup>57</sup> By 1943 he had a job as a Farm Labor Assistant with the UC and USDA Extension Service Farm Labor Office in Lompoc, where he became a civic leader. In 1952 he was elected a member of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden’s Advisory Council.<sup>58</sup> He died in Lompoc on March 18, 1954.

The Advisory Committee continued to meet after the war. A survey of the Mission Garden by Arthur Sill was recorded by Advisory Committee member Edith B. Webb, who noted that the long period of neglect and the short life span of some native plants had resulted in a shocking number of plants dying.<sup>59</sup>

The Mission Garden at La Purisima was a Colonial Revival-style garden, today a legitimate historic style fraught with ideological implications. It was not a reconstruction, or replica, of the original garden at the mission. The concept that was established here—of

a garden displaying authentic plants of the mission period in a sort of living museum—was the basis for similar garden projects at El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park, *La Huerta* at Mission Santa Barbara, and the Mission Garden Project in Tucson, Arizona.<sup>60</sup> Garden merely as “setting” for historic buildings continues to haunt us. La Purisima Mission State Historic Park materials no longer mention Indian uses of plants, but say, “Buildings and grounds were painstakingly restored and furnished to appear as they had in 1820.”<sup>61</sup>

Despite this disrespect for the integrity of historic gardens, still embedded in the Mission Garden at La Purisima is the remains of an early ethnobotanical display of native plants utilized by California Indians that celebrates the California landscape and the people who inhabited it before the Spanish colonizers arrived.

.....  
**“There is such a splendid opportunity here to perpetuate a garden containing plants that were valuable to the Indians and to the Padres that it should never be lost sight of. Ed Rowe certainly laid the ground-work for it, and a continuing garden would be a most fitting monument to him.”<sup>62</sup>**  
.....

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*Phoebe Cutler, MLA and author, generously shared her thoughts, scans of landscape plans for La Purisima, and her unpublished chronology that was the basis for her lecture delivered to the California Preservation Foundation’s 28th Annual Conference in Santa Barbara, CA, April 26, 2003 session: “Cultural Landscapes—Garden Gems.” Many thanks also to: Carol Bornstein, Director, Living Collections, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County; Betsy Collins, Director of Horticulture, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden; Chris S. Ervin, CA, Archivist and Librarian, Presidio Research Center, Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation; Edward C. Fields, Assistant Head, and Staff, Department of Special Research Collections, University of California, Santa Barbara-Library; George Fuller, Archival Reference Technician, National Archives, St. Louis, MO; Laurie Hannah, MLS librarian extraordinaire; Michael Hardwick, author; Shyra Liguori, California State Parks, La Purisima Mission SHP; Joel Michaelsen, Geography Professor Emeritus, University of California, Santa Barbara; Karen Paaske, Lompoc Valley Historical Society; Susan C. Eubank, Arboretum Librarian, Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden; John Woodward, esq, historian; Randy Wright, Information Resource Steward, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Blakley Library.*

Below: The reconstructed fountain and mature olive trees provided instant atmosphere. Will Connell Collection, California Museum of Photography, University of California, Riverside.



## Endnotes

1. Lester Rowntree, “A Mission Garden Blooms Again,” *Los Angeles Times*, September 7, 1941, H15. Rowntree is referring to invasive species, and probably the native California rose species, *Rosa californica*.

2. The Spanish name for this mission is *Misión de la Purísima Concepción de la Santísima Virgen María*, or Mission of the Immaculate Conception of Most Holy Virgin Mary, shortened today to Mission La Purísima or La Purísima Mission. Spanish accents are used in my text as the original authors being cited use them. Otherwise, I omit accents as does the California State Parks system, which administers La Purísima. For an excellent overview of the mission, see Michael R. Hardwick, *La Purísima Concepción: The Enduring History of a California Mission*, Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2015.

3. Letter from Herbert E. Bolton, National Park Advisory Board & UC Berkeley Department of History to A.E. Demaray, Acting Director, National Park Service. This undated letter is included in Fred C. Hageman and Russell C. Ewing, Richard S. Whitehead editor, *An Archeological and Restoration Study of Mission La Purísima Concepción*, Santa Barbara CA: Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation, 1980, 204-205, but reference to only the monastery (Residence Building) being complete implies a date of c. 1937. In 1973 interpretation by costumed mission docents begins earning La Purísima the title, “Williamsburg of the West.”

4. M. Kat Anderson is a pioneer in this field. Her book, *Tending the Wild: Native American Knowledge and the Management of California's Natural Resources*, Berkeley CA: UC Press, 2005 is an excellent overview, and her bibliography surveys the field. In California many Native Americans refer to themselves as “Indians,” a term I adopt here.

5. There is abundant evidence that this was the intention including H.V. Smith's “Mission La Purísima Concepcion: A Glance Through Its History and the Story of Its Restoration,” c. 1938-1939, 19, Department of Special Collections, UCLA Library; Edith Webb's unpublished manuscript “La Purísima Mission Garden,” June 27, 1957, Community Development and Conservation Collection (formerly the Pearl Chase Collection.) SBHC Mss 1, Department of Special Research Collections, University of California, Santa Barbara-Library—henceforth CD&C Collection, UCSB; and an old “La Purísima Mission Tour Guide” that shows the location of the “Interpretive Center-Museum” in the Infirmary. Chumash uses of plants was little known in the 1930s.

6. The essential history is *New Deal Adobe: The Civilian Conservation Corps and the Reconstruction of Mission La Purísima 1934-1942* by Christine E. Savage, Santa Barbara CA: Fithian Press, 1991. There are numerous online accounts including a short film on the reconstruction entitled “Federal Theatre Project C.C.C. at La Purísima” that ends with the nursery and Ed Rowe (the man with a pipe.)

7. Estimates of the number of sheep, cattle, and so on vary depending on the source. These numbers are from Hardwick, *La Purísima Concepción*. More detailed information is in Appendix 4: “Cultivated Crops Grown at Mission La Purísima,” 121-122.

8. The main buildings are aligned southwest to north-east, but common usage is to describe them as if they are oriented south to north. The Burton Mesa chaparral is considered to be a unique plant community of statewide significance with unusual endemic plants. See Wayne Ferren, “The Botanical Resources of La Purísima Mission State Historic Park,” a 1984 paper cited on page 23 and summarized in *La Purísima Mission State Historic Park General Plan*, California State Parks, Sacramento, CA: State of California The Resources Agency, 1991.

9. Lester Rowntree, “A Mission Garden Blooms Again,” H15, 19.

10. Henry Chapman Ford's 1883 etchings of the missions were widely published. They are included in a 1915 book published by The Grafton Publishing Corporation of Los Angeles, *The Miracle Missions of California* compiled by Vernon J. Selfridge, which mentions the Landmarks Club of California efforts to restore the mission chain. Ford was a resource for these efforts. The earliest view of La Purísima and another resource for its reconstruction is Henry Miller's 1856 drawing in the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley.

11. Elizabeth Gore Miller, *Romances of the California Mission Days*, Portland ME: Press of Lefavor-Tower Co, 1903, 10.

12. Harold Kirker, *California's Architectural Frontier*, 1960; David Gebhard “The Spanish Colonial Revival in Southern California (1895-1930),” *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, May 1967; and Karen J. Weitz, *California's Mission Revival*, 1984 are some of the early authors to examine the impact on architecture.

13. Tom Brown, “Gardens of the California Missions,” *Pacific Horticulture* 49 (Spring 1988), 3-11 in particular tried to dispel the myths. See *Eden* (Summer 2019) for a reprint.

14. Savage, *New Deal Adobe*, 21 and note 12. Today the La Purísima Mission State Park totals almost 2,000 acres.

15. L. Deming Tilton, “Restoration Policy: Meeting at Mission La Concepción Purísima [sic], August 8, 1934.” Tilton's notes of the meeting are reproduced in Whitehead, ed. *An Archeological and Restoration Study of Mission La Purísima Concepción*, 197-199. The Restoration Policy meeting held at La Purísima included: “Dr. Owen C. Coy, California State Historical Commission; A.A. Woodward, Curator Los Angeles Museum; Ronald A. Adam, Supervisor Santa Barbara County; Mr. Johnson, Camp Superintendent [soon replaced]; Frank E. Dunne, County Forester; Wallace C. Penfield, Engineer [Santa Barbara] County Planning Commission; Ed. Rowe, Landscape Architect; Arthur Darsie, Engineer; Fred Hageman, Architect; L. Deming Tilton, [Santa Barbara County] Director of Planning”.

16. Smith, “Mission La Purísima Concepcion,” 10 and Whitehead, ed., *An Archeological and Restoration Study of Mission La Purísima Concepción*.

17. Savage, *New Deal Adobe*, 58. Hageman was not licensed as an architect until 1940 after he left La Purísima. Landscape Architects did not require a license in California until much later, so Rowe could legitimately call himself one. He was also described as a landscape gardener and ornamental horticulturist, terms that predates landscape architect.

18. Whitehead, ed., *An Archeological and Restoration Study of Mission La Purísima Concepción*, 2.

19. James Roof, *Lester Rowntree: California Native Plant Woman*, Regional Oral History Office, The Bancroft Library, Interviews Conducted by Rosemary Levenson, 1978, 71.

20. Ibid, 70. Roof, first director of the Botanic Garden in Tilden Regional Park in Berkeley, noting Rowe's fondness for Bushmill's Irish Whiskey, believed Rowe was Irish, and he thought Rowntree did too. However, in Rowntree's article, “A Mission Garden Blooms Again,” H15, she describes Rowe as English but erroneously says his name is Edward. Both called him Ed.

21. Report of Efficiency Rating for 6-12-1940 and 5-6-1941, National Archives at St. Louis MO, Record Group 146.

22. Savage, *New Deal Adobe*, 126.

23. Record Group 146, National Archives. Information on Rowe's life is from a search in Ancestry's online records; Rowe's applications for employment and his ratings by superiors in Records Group 146, National Archives; his obituary, “E.D. Rowe, Civic Leader Passes

Here,” *The Lompoc Record*, March 18, 1954, 1 (which is inaccurate on some dates.); letters in the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Papers, Folders 114 for Rowe and 18 for Harry Butterfield, courtesy Santa Barbara Botanic Garden; and materials cited. A more complete biography of Rowe will appear in the Lompoc Valley Historical Society Newsletter, *The Legacy*.

24. Savage, *New Deal Adobe*, 125 and note 17 cites her July 19, 1989 interview with CCC Construction Foreman Edward Negus. Negus is incorrect that Rowe “landscaped the Royal Hawaiian Hotel on the Hawaiian Islands.” Ralph T. Stevens was the landscape architect. Rowe was “in charge of construction of grounds” for the hotel according to his May 22, 1935 Application for [permanent] Employment with the Dept. of the Interior, Record Group 146, National Archives.

25. Howard E. McMinn, “Notes on the Genus *Ceanothus* in California,” *Madroño* 5:1 (January 1939) 14. Rowe collected this species on Mt. Tranquillon near Lompoc in 1935. See also *Ceanothus* by Maunsell Van Rensselaer and Howard E. McMinn, Berkeley CA: Gillick Press/Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, 1942, 68, 215. The online Jepson Manual says, “not recognized taxonomically...study needed.”

26. Van Rensselaer and McMinn, *Ceanothus*, 13. They say Rowe collected it in 1908 [when he was working for Dr. Franceschi's Southern California Acclimatizing Association. By 1911 when it was introduced, Rowe was still with the SCAA, but it was owned by Peter Riedel.] Roof in *Lester Rowntree*, 71, says Rowe regularly went to the Channel Islands to collect plants. Rowe also hybridized ceanothus. See July 8, 1955 letter from Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Director Katherine K. Muller to Barbara Rowe, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Papers, Folder 114, Courtesy SBBG.

27. Roof in *Lester Rowntree*, 71.

28. Elizabeth Kryder-Reid, *California Mission Landscapes: Race, Memory, and the Politics of Heritage*, Minneapolis MN: University of Minnesota Press, 2016, 111.

29. L. Deming Tilton, “Restoration Policy: Meeting at Mission La Concepción Purísima,” notes reproduced in Whitehead, ed., *An Archeological and Restoration Study of Mission La Purísima Concepción*, 197-199.

30. Ibid, 199. Members suggested by Wallace C. Penfield in 1935: Frederic Clements [first Director of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and Carnegie Institute]; Carleton Monroe Winslow [architect]; Kelley Hardenbrook [Lompoc Attorney]; Marion Parks [California historian]; Pearl Chase [Chair, Santa Barbara Plans and Planting Committee, later Chair of the Advisory Committee, and today known as the “First Lady of Santa Barbara”]; ex-officio members: Ronald Adam [SB County Supervisor]; L. Deming Tilton [Director of the State Planning Commission and of the SB Co. Planning Commission]; Frank Dunne [SB Co. Forester]; Wallace C. Penfield [Engineer of the SB Co. Planning Commission]. Membership would change over the years and include Edith B. Webb, artist and author.

31. Ibid, 201, letter from Penfield to The State Park Commission, San Francisco, March 27, 1935. The Advisory Committee issued a report outlining restoration policy on September 24, 1935.

32. “Architect is Employed to Draw Up Master Plan of Mission Gardens,” *The Lompoc Record*, February 28, 1936, 1.

33. Daniel Hull cited on p. 108, note 118 of Kryder-Reid, *California Mission Landscapes*. For Hull's biography, see Carol Roland, “National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form: The National-State Park Cooperative Program and the Civilian Conservation Corps in California State Parks, 1933-1942,” June 30, 2009 or his Wikipedia page.

34. E. Denys Rowe, “The Story of a Garden.” *Golden Gardens* 9:9 (June-July 1941), 3.

35. Kryder-Reid, *California Mission Landscapes*, note 124 to page 110 attributes this quote to Wallace C. Penfield, “Standards and Policies of the La Purísima Advisory Committee Concerning the Grounds of the La Purísima Mission,” June 15, 1936, 5.

36. Smith, “Mission La Purísima Conception,” 19. An undated, typewritten manuscript, “The Significant Plants and Trees in the Garden at La Purísima Mission State Historic Park” in the CD& C Collection, UCSB includes a plan of the garden with numbered “plots” and a description of the plant therein: “Labelled Plants of Use to the Padres, Indians and others to be Found in the Garden at La Purísima Mission State Historic Park.” The notes were “based on a study of the garden by [Advisory Committee member] Mrs. Edith Webb in an unpublished manuscript.” Savage, *New Deal Adobe*, 124 includes the numbered plan (based on Louis Brandt's) but not the plant list.

37. Penfield's plan “A Preliminary Sketch Plan Showing a Suggested Development of La Purísima State Park” is subtitled “The La Purísima State Park Advisory Committee” Sept. 1935, CD&C Collection, UCSB.

38. “Architect is Employed to Draw Up Master Plan of Mission Gardens,” 1. Shepherd (spelled Shephard) had been associated with Daniel Hull (NPS Chief Landscape Architect), Emerson Knight (landscape architect and Regional Inspector), and Charles Wing (NPS Engineer in Charge of Federal Projects in State Parks) in the 1928 California State Park Survey. Like Newton Drury (Acquisition Officer for the State Park Commission), Russell Ewing (NPS Regional Historian), and Lawrence Merriam (Director of the NPS Regional office in San Francisco), all voiced strong opinions on the Mission Garden design. For the NPS office in San Francisco and these men, see Roland, “National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form: The National-State Park Cooperative Program and the Civilian Conservation Corps in California State Parks 1933-1942,” 3-7.

39. Kryder-Reid, *California Mission Landscapes*, 109 and notes 121-122. Arguments about the garden design are summarized on pages 106-111. I was forced to rely on Kryder-Reid's account and Phoebe Cutler's chronology because I was unable to review the files in the La Purísima State Historic Park Archive. It was being renovated and was not accessible to me (7-10-2019 email from Shyra Liguori, California State Parks, La Purísima Mission SHP.) Phoebe Cutler's unpublished chronology that was the basis for her lecture delivered to the California Preservation Foundation's 28th annual conference, April 26, 2003 was a useful, straightforward timeline of events.

40. Rexford Newcomb to Wallace C. Penfield, September 17, 1936 in Whitehead, ed., *An Archeological and Restoration Study of Mission La Purísima Concepción*, 205-207 Kryder-Reid doesn't note this letter in her discussion.

41. “La Purísima State Park SP-29 Lompoc-California Landscape Plan for Mission Garden” Plan No. LPM 9106-1-1, Date approved 1-27-1937 Drawn by L. Brandt, Assoc. Landscape Archt. CC&D Collection, UCSB.

42. “Mission Garden Plans Acceptable,” *The Lompoc Record*, January 15, 1937, 1 says, “more than a dozen plans had been submitted at different times in recent months...”

43. There are notes about landscape plans for the areas outside of the Mission Garden on this (and the subsequent planting plan, LPM 9107-1-1.) A parking area next to the Residence Building had been rendered on Penfield's plan, but Brandt's is given a different shape. All parking near the buildings was eliminated at a later, unknown date.

44. Edith Webb, “La Purísima Mission Garden” typewritten manuscript, June 27, 1957, CD&C Collection, UCSB. Webb's book, *Indian Life at the Old Missions*, published in 1952, was based on years of research and her paintings of the missions. Contemporary critics find fault with its Euro-centric approach.



Above: The Advisory Committee continued to meet, and many minor buildings were reconstructed after WWII. Here the Grist Mill building ruins are inspected in 1950 by Edith B. Webb, left, other committee members, and State Park authorities. Courtesy of California State Parks, Photo 090-29348.

44. U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service, CCC Region Four, 601 Sheldon Building, San Francisco, July 22, 1937 Press Release in the CC&D Collection, UCSB, says, “The garden was planned by a group of prominent landscape architects, the final details being handled by Louis Brandt, landscape architect for the National Park Service.” My interpretation is that the “more than a dozen plans” noted in *The Lompoc Record*, Jan. 15, 1934 article are by these prominent landscape architects, such as Shepherd and Hull. Probably Brandt's associates in the San Francisco or Glendale offices prepared the base map sepia (based on Penfield and Brandt preliminary plans) for Brandt's final plan and the planting plan. Savage *New Deal Adobe*, 125 and note 9 cites the same press release with a slightly different interpretation.

47. E.D. Rowe, “A Report of the Gardens and Plants at the Purísima Mission,” August 1939, cited in Michael R. Hardwick, *Changes in Landscape: The Beginnings of Horticulture in the California Missions*, Second Edition, Orange CA: The Paragon Agency Publishers, 2005, 76-77. Because the LPMSHP Archive was closed, the original manuscript was not available to me. Rowe's “Professor Henry” is probably George W. Hendry, who taught at UC Berkeley and analyzed pollen embedded in adobe bricks to determine mission era plants. There is a memo from Hendry to Pearl Chase dated 4/15, 1935 in the CC&D Collection, UCSB, which may have been a source for Rowe; see also “Spanish Mission Gardens of California” by G.W. Hendry, *California Arts & Architecture* v. 46 (August 1934) 12-13, 28. Hardwick has a chart “Sources of Plants for Restoration of Mission La Purísima” on pages 77-81 describing where Rowe obtained plants, which also appears on pages 123-126 in Hardwick's *La Purísima Concepción*.

48. Smith, “Mission La Purísima Conception,” 19.

49. “Mission Rebuilding Progresses Rapidly,” *The Lompoc Record*, October 23, 1936, 1.

46. “Report of Efficiency Rating” for Rowe rated by H.V. Smith, Project Superintendent, March 31, 1942. Record Group 146, National Archives.

47. E.D. Rowe, “A Report of the Gardens and Plants at the Purísima Mission,” August 1939, cited in Michael R. Hardwick, *Changes in Landscape: The Beginnings of Horticulture in the California Missions*, Second Edition, Orange CA: The Paragon Agency Publishers, 2005, 76-77. Because the LPMSHP Archive was closed, the original manuscript was not available to me. Rowe's “Professor Henry” is probably George W. Hendry, who taught at UC Berkeley and analyzed pollen embedded in adobe bricks to determine mission era plants. There is a memo from Hendry to Pearl Chase dated 4/15, 1935 in the CC&D Collection, UCSB, which may have been a source for Rowe; see also “Spanish Mission Gardens of California” by G.W. Hendry, *California Arts & Architecture* v. 46 (August 1934) 12-13, 28. Hardwick has a chart “Sources of Plants for Restoration of Mission La Purísima” on pages 77-81 describing where Rowe obtained plants, which also appears on pages 123-126 in Hardwick's *La Purísima Concepción*.

48. Smith, “Mission La Purísima Conception,” 19.

49. “Mission Rebuilding Progresses Rapidly,” *The Lompoc Record*, October 23, 1936, 1.

50. In 1937 Rowe “employed sixteen enrollees as tree foremen, thirteen as tree trimmers, seven as gardeners, one nurseryman, forty-one laborers, and forty-eight equipment operators, for a total of 126 landscape workers.” Savage, *New Deal Adobe*, 126.

51. Lester Rowntree quoting Rowe in “A Mission Garden Blooms Again,” H15. Rose of Castile is *Rosa x damascena*.

52. July 22, 1937 press release from the U.D. Dept. of the Interior National Park Service quoting Primm; virtually the same as “48-Year-Old Olive Trees Add Much to Atmosphere of Age Sought at Mission,” *The Lompoc Record*, July 30, 1937, 1.

53. This is the title in the title block of the drawing where the initials E.D.R. appear in the “Designed By” block. The initials H.R.H. appear in the “Drawn By” box. Approved by Hull and Primm. On the drawing itself it says “Planting Plan for Slope West of Mission Area.” Thanks to Phoebe Cutler for giving me a copy of this plan. Rowe materials in Record Group 146 in the National Archives repeatedly state that he does not draw landscape plans.

54. Rowe, “The Story of a Garden,” 4. Rowe's number is different than the 306 number of native plants Savage, *New Deal Adobe*, 125 note 15 tallies quoting Edith B. Webb. In those days, the concept of introducing natives from other regions to the Burton Mesa was

apparently not controversial.

55. Lester Rowntree, “A Mission Garden Blooms Again,” H15.

56. Savage, *New Deal Adobe*, 158 and note 35.

57. Letter to Rowe from H. Maier, Acting Regional Director, July 16, 1942, Record Group 146, National Archives.

58. Letters in Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Papers, Folder 114, Courtesy SBBG.

59. Edith Webb, “La Purísima Mission Garden,” June 27, 1957. CC&D Collection, UCSB.

60. Michael R. Hardwick, *La Purísima Concepción*, 90.

61. “Step Back in Time: La Purísima Mission State Historic Park, Lompoc, California, 2018” brochure. There is nothing about Indian uses of native plants on the State Park website for La Purísima, and the self-guided tour brochure, “A Bridge to the Past and the Road Beyond” available for purchase at the new Visitor Center also omits their use of plants.

62. Edith Webb, “La Purísima Mission Garden,” June 27, 1957. CD&C Collection, UCSB quoting a letter to her from Mr. [Arthur] Sill. Webb hoped to write a book on the Mission Garden “as a tribute to Ed Rowe.” Webb died in 1959.



# Louis Brandt (1887-1939): Landscape Architect for the National Park Service in California

SUSAN CHAMBERLIN

Louis Brandt was hired by the National Park Service to work in the NPS Region IV, Western office that administered Civilian Conservation Corps work crews developing parks in cooperation with the California Division of State Parks. This New Deal Depression-era program was responsible for numerous parks in California, and Brandt is associated with many of them from at least 1934 until his death in 1939 at age 52 before the program ended. He was “one of the earliest NPS landscape architects.”<sup>1</sup>

Brandt was born in Boston, Massachusetts on November 5, 1887 to parents originally from Norway. He graduated from Everett High School in Everett, Massachusetts and attended Massachusetts Agricultural College in Amherst (later called Massachusetts State University) majoring in either horticulture or landscape architecture.<sup>2</sup> Brandt was a standout student in several activities and was the “artist” on the board of editors for his 1910 yearbook as well as “Class Captain” and captain of the hockey team. Following his graduation in 1910, he worked with the City Park Department in Minneapolis, and then taught “landscape gardening” at the University of Illinois, where he may have been associated with its landscape plan.<sup>3</sup> The 1918 “Master Building Plan” for Bowling Green State Normal College in Ohio (later Bowling Green State University) is attributed to him.<sup>4</sup> He practiced landscape architecture in Cleveland, Ohio, and Miami, Florida where he also served as mayor of Fulford, a Miami suburb. At some point, he studied at the Institute of Civic Design and Town Planning in Liverpool, England. In the early 1930s, Brandt moved to Los Angeles to work as a landscape architect for the county designing playgrounds and parks.<sup>5</sup> In March 1934 he is described as the landscape architect and engineer for the County of Los Angeles Forestry and Park Department in charge of the work at the Los Angeles County fairgrounds. By December Brandt was the landscape architect in charge of “the planning and developing of the four state parks [Natural Bridges, New Brighton, Sealiff Beach, and Sunset Beach] being built in Santa Cruz County by the CCC boys.”<sup>6</sup>

In 1933 the new Roosevelt administration created the Emergency Conservation Work Program (soon to become the Civilian Conservation Corps) with the National Park Service as its key administrator because most CCC projects were in parks. A State Park Division

for the NPS was established in Washington, D.C. with a Western Regional Office in San Francisco and a branch office in Glendale for Southern California. Several newspaper stories that briefly mentioned Brandt in the context of the CCC said he was from San Francisco. By 1937 Brandt was overseeing “the branch regional office in Glendale.”<sup>7</sup> With only Sundays off, his itinerary for one month in the spring of 1937 had him checking in at a dizzying array of projects up and down the coast from Silver Strand State Park in San Diego to New Brighton Camp SP-24 in Santa



Cruz County, including La Purisima SP-29, San Clemente State Park SP-27, San Mateo Camp WC-1, the Old Lodge Camp SP-15, Big Sur Camp SP-12, Griffith Park WC-2, Cuyamaca Rancho Camp SP-4, Steckel Park SP-34, Doheny Beach State Park, and Brand Park SP-30, with 13 days in the Glendale office (where presumably he worked on designs) and two days in the Regional Office in San Francisco. Brandt signed his monthly reports “Resident Landscape Architect.”<sup>8</sup>

“Associate Landscape Architect” is how Brandt signed the title block on the La Purisima “Landscape Plan for Mission Garden, LPM-9106-1-1,” which he drew and dated January 27, 1937 for the Department of the Interior National Park Service and California Division of State Parks Cooperating.” This final plan followed more than a year of controversy over competing visions and plans for the garden. Consistent with his artistic background, Brandt’s rendering of the plan is beautiful. The garden is quite formal with axial, symmetrical paths based on a 1935 “Preliminary Sketch Plan” prepared by Wallace C. Penfield, the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission Engineer who was the Chair of the La Purisima Advisory Committee.<sup>9</sup>

With the “Mission Garden” design

complete in January, Brandt turned his attention to Morro Bay State Park. His Monthly Report itineraries put him at Morro Bay c. 1937-38.<sup>10</sup> This CCC Camp SP-17 project is just the opposite of the formal design at La Purisima and more in line with other CCC projects. The landscape was designed in the Park Rustic style and “is clearly modeled on the sample campground designs presented in E.P. Meinecke’s *Camp Planning and Camp Construction*” with loop roads and pull-through auto-trailer campsites.<sup>11</sup> To blend with the natural environment, camp

tables, fire pits, and restrooms are made of local stone, and many trees and shrubs are California natives. It is considered one of the best and earliest examples of the Park Rustic style in California. Brandt is also associated with the rustic design of Big Basin in Santa Cruz County.<sup>12</sup>

Brandt was married in Chicago in 1916 and was living in Florida as a landscape architect in 1930. His wife and two daughters continued to live in Florida after Brandt’s move to California, and she described herself as a widow in the 1935 Florida State census. Brandt died in San Francisco on November 21, 1939.

Above Left: Brandt in 1910.

Above Right: Morro Bay State Park was designed in the “Park Rustic” style with structures, curbs, and fire pits made of local stone by the CCC to blend with the natural environment.



Above: On the left and right of this path through the Mission Garden are primitive varieties of European artichokes brought from nearby Mission Santa Ynez. A native *Artemisia pycnocephala* (beach sagewort) is in the left foreground. Photo from the Will Connell Collection, California Museum of Photography, University of California, Riverside.

Previous spread: Some California Indians used evening primrose (*Oenothera elata* var. *hookeri*) to produce a cure-all tincture. Its flowers are enjoyed by Gladys Pendley (left) and Betty McLoughlin during a visit to the Mission Garden in about 1941. Photo by Wilkes, Community Development and Conservation Collection, Department of Special Research Collections, UCSB Library, University of California, Santa Barbara.

## Endnotes

1. Carol Roland, “National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form: Multiple Property Listing: The National-State Park Cooperative Program and the Civilian Conservation Corps in California State Parks 1933-1942,” June 30, 2009, 9 dates Brandt’s employment from 1936, but he is in charge of four CCC projects in Santa Cruz County in 1934, “Big Improvements Being Made at State Parks in the Santa Cruz Region,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, December 14, 1934, 9.

2. Biographical information comes from Brandt’s birth record, 1917 Draft Card, U.S. and Florida Census records, and from his obituary: “Louis Brandt” 10 Died in San Francisco on Nov. 21, 1939,” *The Alumni Bulletin, Massachusetts State College, Amherst, Mass.* 22:5 (February 1940), 4 where it says he majored in landscape architecture. However, his college yearbook, *The 1910 Index*, says he “elected Horticulture.”

3. See *Horticulture* 12 (October 29, 1910), 608 for Brandt’s appointment at University of Illinois. Roland, “The National-State Park Cooperative Program,” 28 says Brandt was associated with the landscape planning for the University of Illinois at Urbana but has no citation for this information. On page 27, Roland says not much is known about Brandt.

4. Enders, Fred E. “Fraternity Row Competing with Oinks,” *The B-G News*, November 4, 1965, 1. (Bowling Green State University Student Newspaper.)

5. “Louis Brandt,” *The Alumni Bulletin*, 4.

6. “Fairground Work Will Be Speeded,” *Los Angeles Times*, March 25, 1934, 66. “Big Improvements Being Made at State Parks in the Santa Cruz Region,” 9.

7. Carol Roland, “National Register of Historic Places Registration [Nomination] Form, Morro Bay State Park: Trailer and Tent Campground,” Draft June 30, 2009, 12 and note 2 based on his Monthly Narrative Report to Chief Architect for Nov. 25, 1937 and June 15, 1938.

8. “Monthly Narrative Report to Chief Architect by Louis Brandt, Resident Landscape Architect, Branch of Plans & Design, Region IV, Itinerary, March 25, 1937 to April 25, 1937.” SP camps are CCC camps; WC camps are the forerunner: Emergency Conservation Work Camps. Thanks to Phoebe Cutler for this document from the National Archives in San Francisco.

9. See pages 29 (Brandt Plan) and 27 (Penfield Plan), both plans are archived at the Department of Special Research Collection, UCSB Library, University of California, Santa Barbara. “Mission Garden Plans Acceptable,” *The Lompoc Record*, January 15, 1937, 1 mentions the more than a dozen plans that had been considered, alluding to the conflict over the design. “48-Year-Old Olive Trees Add Much to Atmosphere of Age Sought at Mission,” *The Lompoc Record*, July 30, 1937, 1, says Brandt handled the final details of the design.

10. John W. Hammond, *Cultural Landscape Report for Morro Bay State Park Campground*, Boston MA: Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, National Park Service, 2010, 155 cites Brandt’s Monthly Narrative Report for October to November 1937, and Roland, “Morro Bay State Park,” 12 note 2 cites his Monthly Narrative Reports for Nov. 25, 1937 and June 15, 1938.

11. Roland, “Morro Bay State Park,” 10. Meinecke’s book was published by the U.S. Forest Service in 1934. Another influence on the design may have been Daniel Hull (an important figure in the development of the Park Rustic Style) who was the National Park Service Chief Landscape Architect in California and Brandt’s superior.

12. Roland, “The National-State Park Cooperative Program,” 9. See also “Boulder Creek News,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, February 17, 1939, 8. Brandt died later in 1939.



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Front Cover: The largest of the *lavanderias* at La Purisima in the "Mission Garden" (also called the Indian bathing pool) features a face copied from Mission San Luis Rey and crafted by WPA artists. Photograph taken in 1939, Will Connell Collection, California Museum of Photography, University of California, Riverside.

Back Cover: Not long before he died, Ed Rowe stood on Mount Tranquillon near Lompoc next to *Ceanothus Roweanus*, a shorter, more attractive clone of *C. papillosus Roweanus*. Both were collected by Rowe here and named after him by Howard E. McMinn in 1939. Photo by Katherine K. Müller, Courtesy of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.