

## 8 Mission Hill

“Mission Hill” at 505 East Los Olivos Street was the estate of the Rowland Hazard family. The family built a large residence soon after purchasing the land in 1885. In 1916-1917 a second residence called “Dial House” was constructed for Rowland G. Hazard II and his wife. The Hazards were from a prominent Rhode Island family. Miss Caroline Hazard was a college president, author, and local benefactor. A portion of a Mission-period aqueduct remains on the property.

## 9 The Stone Bridge

The Stone Bridge over Mission Creek (formerly Arroyo Pedregoso) was built by stonemasons Dover and Woods in 1891. Rowland Hazard II designed, partially financed, and superintended construction, according to his daughter, Caroline Hazard. Other nearby Mission Canyon residents supported the project, and the bridge opened in October 1891. It has since been reconstructed, but retains its historical charm as one of the oldest bridges in the state. This bridge replaced a wooden one. The steel and wood pedestrian walkway attached to the eastern side of the stone bridge was added in 1929 after a request from members of the Santa Barbara Woman’s Club who occupied their new home at Rockwood.



Historic stone bridge over Mission Creek in the 1890s, looking northwest. Photo courtesy Gledhill Library, Santa Barbara Historical Museum.

## 10 The Oliver Trough-Fountain

The Oliver Trough-Fountain at the northeasterly corner of E. Los Olivos Street and Mountain Drive was built in 1910 for Mrs. G.S.J. Oliver in memory of her late husband George Stuart Johannot Oliver. The Olivers owned adjacent land; their home was called “Rocky Nook.” The stone mason was George Robson. At the time of its completion, it was “a beautiful sanitary drinking fountain for horse and man.” A bronze plaque denotes the memorial character of these large stones.

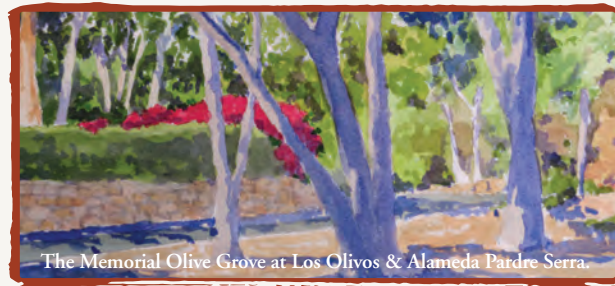
Currently, the north end of the bridge marks the dividing line on Mission Canyon Road between the Santa Barbara City Limits and the unincorporated county area. The stone bridge and the Oliver trough-fountain are City Landmarks.

## 11 Scottish Picket Wall

British-born stonemason Joseph Dover built the remarkable sawtooth-topped stone wall on the west side of Mission Canyon Road at the north end of the bridge for Rowland Hazard II in 1892. This style of wall is frequently seen in the British Isles. The Hazard family owned the land north of Mission Creek bordering Puesta del Sol Road and Mission Canyon Road.



Scottish Picket Wall at Mission Canyon Rd.



The Memorial Olive Grove at Los Olivos & Alameda Padre Serra.

## Mission Heritage Trail Items of Natural History Interest

**A Geology** – You are standing in the foothills of the Santa Ynez Mountains, a range of sedimentary rocks (mostly sandstone) thrown up by the gigantic forces of tectonic plate movement along the Santa Ynez Fault. These forces twisted the range to run from west to east (rather than N/S as most of the American west coast), providing Santa Barbara with its unique sheltered Mediterranean climate.

**B Mission Creek** – Named “Arroyo Pedregoso” (stony creek) by the early Spanish settlers, Mission Creek drains the Santa Ynez Mountains. A permanently running stream until about 1910, the creek provided an essential source of water to Chumash Indians as well as to the Mission and settlers beyond it. The creek was a permanent stream until a tunnel drilled into the mountains in 1904-1911 diverted its headwaters into the municipal water supply. Now dry most of the year, the creek becomes a raging torrent during winter storms.

**C Mission Canyon** – Typical of the topography of many of the young mountains of the California South Coast, Mission Canyon is a “box canyon”, characterized by steep walls on both sides and a precipitous cliff at its upper end. Box canyons often experience hot, dry “sundowner winds” in the late afternoons and evenings and brush fires during the dry season.

**D Mission Ridge** – The rising hills directly to the north of you are part of Mission Ridge, which was uplifted by geologic forces about 60,000 years ago. The uplifting forced Mission Creek to change what had once been a fairly straight course toward the sea to take a more torturous route.

**E Sandstone Boulders** – Giant sandstone boulders are iconic for this area. They are the result of a “debris flow” about 1,000 years ago. This catastrophic event brought about 10 million cubic yards of material down from the Santa Ynez Mountains and permanently reshaped the landscape we are walking on.

**F Coast Live Oak** – Coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) is an evergreen tree with leathery, spiny leaves, adapted to the long summer droughts of our region. It produces abundant acorns that were a starch staple for Chumash Indians and an important resource also for a number of birds and other animals.

**G Western Sycamore** – The Western Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) is a tall deciduous tree found along water courses. Its palmately lobed leaves turn golden to reddish-brown in the fall before dropping. Its fruits are an important food for birds.

**H Steelhead Trout** – In the past, when Mission Creek ran year-round, it was alive with steelhead trout, an anadromous form of the coastal rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus m. irideus*). The fish still occasionally migrate up from the ocean during the winter rainy season and persist for some months in deep pools and may spawn in gravelly shallows.



Coast Live Oak.  
Photo courtesy Kathy Bryant.

**I Chaparral** – Before Western settlement, most of this area and the surrounding hills were covered by chaparral, a shrubby community of highly fire adapted plants. Its coastal variety includes scrub oak, manzanitas, several species of ceanothus, lemonade berry, holly-leaf berry, buckwheat, various sages, and others.

**J Riparian Woodland** – The riparian corridor of the creek maintains a diverse plant community that includes shrubby species like Mulefat, sedges, and poison oak along its sloping banks and trees including White Alder, Black Cottonwood, Western Sycamore, and Coast Live Oak on top of the bank.

**K Olive Trees** – Olive trees (*Olea europaea*) are Mediterranean cultivars that were introduced to Santa Barbara in the late 18th century by Franciscan missionaries to supply the Mission and its dependents with oil.

**L Pepper Trees** – Sometimes called the California Pepper Tree (*Schinus molle*) this tree is native to the Peruvian Andes and was introduced to Santa Barbara probably in the 19th century. It is found as an ornamental in many gardens, though its fruits are edible and sometimes mixed with black or white pepper.

**M Mission Water System** – The Mission water system was constructed between 1806 and 1808. The upper structure is a sandstone Reservoir, with a water-powered Grist Mill and Lower Storage Reservoir located downslope. North is the filter house. Clay pipes carried filtered water underground to the fountains and lavanderia at the Mission.

Remnants of the two dams that were built remain visible. One is 2 1/4 miles upstream in what is now called Rattlesnake Canyon; the other, 1 1/2 miles up Mission Creek, is contained within what is now the property of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. Water flowed by gravity from the dams in stone and tile-lined aqueducts to the reservoirs. Unfiltered water that bypassed the filter house and reservoirs passed over the road in an open channel on a sandstone arch. Portions of that aqueduct remain, including one near the cemetery wall, and another in the Park, as well as on private property.



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# Mission Heritage Trail A Walking Guide



## 12 Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

Construction of the museum’s main campus began in 1922 on land donated by Miss Caroline Hazard, with construction financed by her sister-in-law Mrs. Rowland G. Hazard II. The institution itself began in 1916 as the Museum of Comparative Oology (the study of birds’ eggs). Architects for the early portions included Floyd Brewster, Carleton Winslow, Sr., and Chester Carjola. More recent portions were designed by Arendt, Mosher and Grant and by Edwards-Pitman. The museum is within the Santa Barbara City Limits and its property contains a Scottish picket wall. The museum is open daily and its main entrance is on Puesta del Sol.



Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. Watercolor by Peter W. Ehlen.

## 13 Rocky Nook Park

This County park is outside of the Santa Barbara City Limits. In 1892 the Oliver family made its home on the land. The creekside portion of the property was purchased from Mrs. Oliver’s estate in 1928 by Samuel J. Stanwood. A few months later he and his wife Carolyn transferred it to a local bank which then decided it to the County of Santa Barbara. The gift was made in memory of Mrs. Oliver from her friends. This beautiful park is known for its tree-shaded picnic areas, its boulder-strewn location along historic Mission Creek, and a walking trail that begins at Mission Canyon Road. A building formerly used for County Parks Department offices is at the border with the Rockwood property.

## 14 Santa Barbara Woman’s Club

In 1913 the E.J. Marsh family built a handsome partial-stone residence on its Mission Canyon property. Thereafter, the structure became the Rockwood Inn or Rockwood Hotel and Bungalows. The property was sold in 1921, continuing as a hotel. In early 1927 the main building burned, although a few bungalows were saved. The Santa Barbara Woman’s Club purchased the property and commissioned architects Edwards,

Plunkett and Howell to design a new clubhouse. This Spanish Revival structure was built in 1927-1928 and serves the community with distinction.



Santa Barbara Woman’s Club, Rockwood.





Mission Santa Barbara in 1872 showing the former Mayordomo's house, tanner's house and the Chumash Village in the far background. Photo courtesy of the Santa Barbara Mission Archive-Library.

## 1 Mission Santa Barbara

Mission Santa Barbara was founded in 1786. It is owned by the Franciscan Order. While this Catholic missionary group first entered Florida and Georgia in 1573, all their earlier properties were lost and this Mission remains their oldest land holding in the U.S. It has been in continuous use. Today the buildings house an active parish, a novitiate and Archive-Library as well as a museum open to the public. The church façade has undergone extensive repair and reconstruction due to 1925 earthquake damage. The stone church

dates from 1820, while the long, 2 story convento is older, with walls dating back to the 1790s and a portico added in 1811. This church and its grounds of several acres continue to be the site of many community gatherings such as the annual Old Spanish Days Fiesta.

## 2 Mission Cemetery

Adjacent to the church is the 1787 walled cemetery which contains the graves of many Indigenous Chumash who built the Mission and lived in its village, as well as Franciscan missionaries and notable citizens of early California. It is still an active cemetery.

## 3 Moorish Fountain and Lavanderia

Facing the convento portico is the 1808 Moorish fountain, once fed by an aqueduct coming 1.5 miles down Mission Canyon from a dam located in what is now the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. The aqueduct also fed the lavanderia or clothes washing trough in front of the fountain. A bear's head spout (original in the museum) fed it water. The outfall was through the mountain lion spout on the east end. It was carved by the Ventureño Chumash artist Paciano Guilajahicht.

## 4 Chumash Village

To the left (west) of the driveway is the site of the village occupied into the 1840s by Indigenous Chumash who worked here. In the 1840s this Mission was seized and secularized (sold) by the Mexican government and most of the Chumash dispersed to homes and jobs elsewhere. The United States acquired California in 1848. Several years later the site was returned to the Catholic Church by President Lincoln. The Chumash built the mission structures and water systems that fed agricultural fields they farmed. Today many of their descendants still live in the area. The Barbareño Chumash community often meets here for cultural and language revitalization events.

## 5 La Huerta Historic Gardens

Adjacent to the parking lot and Stations of the Cross garden is La Huerta, a garden repository of authenticated early Mission era plantings, including original cloned citrus varieties, sugar cane, grafted original mission peaches and original olives and grapes. This repository has provided historic plants to all the California Missions in keeping with National Park Service requests to restore the historic landscape of National Landmarks.

# Tour Map

This brochure is a general narrative of the many cultural and historical contents of one of Santa Barbara's richest areas. This series of brief descriptions is meant to tell the story of this area from its early geological formations, to the thousands of years it was home to the Chumash peoples, to the earliest Spanish and Mexican settlements beginning with the founding of the Presidio of Santa Barbara in 1782, to the city we see today.

The features described here are some of the highlights of the Mission Heritage Trail. Discoveries await you. Numbers on the map correspond with the various texts.



Engraving by Henry Chapman Ford of the aqueduct arch over East Los Olivos street in the 1880's with the wooden bridge in the distance. Courtesy Mary Louise Days collection.



Rocky Nook Park, historic boulder debris field.



Streetcar passenger shelter at Mission Santa Barbara, circa 1920's. It was removed in the 1960's. Photo courtesy of the Gledhill Library, Santa Barbara Historical Museum.



Upper reservoir in Mission Historical Park. Photo courtesy Kathy Bryant.

## 6 Mission Historical Park

This City park covers more than ten acres from Laguna Street along East Los Olivos Street and across Alameda Padre Serra (APS) up to Mountain Drive and Mission Ridge Road. Ruins of the Mission Santa Barbara complex within the park include aqueducts 17, the 1802 tanning vats 15, the 1806 lower reservoir and filter house 18, the 1807 grist mill 19, the 1807 upper reservoir 20, small stone building, and the 1808 pottery 21. A memorial olive grove along APS honors local members of the military who died in World War I 22. The grove was donated by the Garden Club of Santa Barbara.

The most southerly portion of Mission Historical Park features a large lawn area, a historic aqueduct, the fountain facing Plaza Rubio, and the A.C. Postel Memorial Rose Garden. There are commemorative plaques in both sections of the park. The park and all of its historic features, including its stone walls, fountains, and aqueducts, are a City of Santa Barbara Landmark. In 1802 a house 16 was built for the Mayordomo of Mission Santa Barbara, the administrator of its farms and ranchos. The house was destroyed in the late 19th century.

The right-of-way for a 1913 streetcar line (now lower Alameda Padre Serra) divides the two sections of the park. The streetcars ascended the hill to the Riviera Campus of the Santa Barbara State Normal School, which became Santa Barbara State College, and later the home of the University of California at Santa Barbara College.

A stone-faced post at the southeasterly corner of Mountain Drive stands on an abutment of the lower reservoir. The post dates from the very early 20th century.

## 7 Sandstone Walls

Sandstone Walls border the Mission's cemetery, itself enclosed by walls. The section beyond the cemetery continues north in front of the former Hazard estate to Mission Creek. Across the creek, the walls define a private property and the lands of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. Joseph Dover of Santa Barbara built the border wall in 1891. Near the cemetery wall, there is a sizable intact remnant of the Mission water system's aqueduct. Adjacent to it is one of the historic "Cota Sycamore" trees. At the east side of the stone bridge there is a high stone retaining wall abutting the Mission-period filter house and bordering West Mountain Drive. A portion of an aqueduct on top of the wall originally proceeded west over what is now Los Olivos Street to form an arch that was removed after 1880. The northerly extension of Los Olivos Street through Mission property was effected by a grant of right-of-way to the county by the Roman Catholic bishop in late 1880.



Portion of the 1891 stone wall and gate on Los Olivos Street.

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