

# **A TEACHER'S GUIDE TO SONOMA STATE HISTORIC PARK**

**Mission San Francisco Solano and  
Vallejo Home Historic Site**

**September 2023**



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## Mission and Purpose

The mission of California State Parks is to provide for the health, inspiration, and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation. In support of California State Park's mission, the purpose of this guide is designed to do the following:

1. To acquaint the teacher with the unique historic resources represented by the structures and locales of Sonoma State Historic Park.
2. To assist the teacher in preparing his/her own program with resources from the California Historical Social Science Framework, Social Science Standards, and University of California History-Social Science Project.
3. To assist the teacher in ensuring that your class has a high-quality learning experience while they are touring sites within Sonoma State Historic Park.

## The Historic Resources

Three distinct periods of California's early development, as listed in Chapter 7 of the History Social Science Framework for California Public Schools (CA Department of Education, 2017), are encompassed in the buildings and sites of Sonoma State Historic Park: the Mission Period, the Mexican Rancho and Mexican-American War Period, and the California Gold Rush and Statehood Period. These history of these buildings and sites are *briefly* described, by period, as follows:

- **The Mission Period (1769-1834):** Representing this period is the restored remnant of Mission San Francisco Solano. This mission, the northernmost and last of the 21 missions established in Alta California from San Diego to Sonoma, has the added distinction of being the only mission established while Alta California was under Mexican sovereignty (1821-1848). Mexico won its independence from Spain in 1821 however the Mexican Republic was not formally and legally established until 1824.

- **Mexican Rancho and Mexican-American War Period (1821-1848):** Several buildings and sites within Sonoma State Historic Park are representative of the era when Sonoma was a military outpost and pueblo/town of Mexico's northernmost frontier. These structures include the old adobe Barracks ("El Cuartel"), built to house Mexican soldiers from the Presidio of San Francisco. For approximately ten years, the Barracks served as the military headquarters for the northern Mexican frontier including Presidial soldiers and Comandante Vallejo.

Also representing the Rancho Period is an adobe two-story Servants' Quarters wing, which is all that remains of "Casa Grande," General Vallejo's first official residence in Sonoma. The main wing of Casa Grande was destroyed by fire in 1867.

The large Sonoma Plaza which fronts both the Barracks and the Servants Quarters follows its original 1840 dimensions, when it was laid out as a soldiers' drilling field. A public artwork sculpture known as the "Bear Flag Monument", erected by the Native Sons of the Golden West in 1914, is situated in the northeast corner of the plaza. The monument was designed to commemorate the history associated with the Bear Flag Revolt (June 14-July 1846), an event that overlaps with the early beginnings of the Mexican American War (1846-1848), officially declared in May 1846.

- **Gold Rush and Statehood (1848-1855):** Located on East Spain Street across from Mission San Francisco Solano is a structure known as the "Blue Wing Inn". Portions of the building were originally constructed to house soldiers assigned to Mission San Francisco Solano. These structures were joined together and a second story added at later date. It derives its name from a gambling saloon and hotel that operated there during the Gold Rush era.

During to the early 1850s, following California's admission to the Union, are the Toscano Hotel, built in 1852, located in the space between the Casa Grande Servants' Quarters Wing (and the footprint of Casa Grande's main wing), and the Barracks. This frame structure with its double galleries is representative of the "yankeefied" structures built in the first decade of American statehood.

Just three blocks west of the Mission/Blue Wing Inn/Barracks/Toscano Hotel complex is the early American Era estate of General Vallejo, an estate he named Lachryma Montis. On the estate is a Gothic-style American-Victorian house which began as a prefabricated wooden structure manufactured in New England and shipped around Cape Horn in the early 1850s. General Vallejo who called the house his "Yankee Style" home and had it insulated with adobe brick occupied the house from 1853 until his passing in 1890. The house and adjoining Swiss Chalet structure, also of prefabrication construction and originally built as a storehouse, serve as museums of American period construction and house furnishing as well as early California agriculture.

### **Location**

Sonoma State Historic Park is located on Spain Street running along the north side of the Sonoma Plaza. Mission San Francisco Solano is located at the corner of East Spain and First Street East. The Vallejo Home Historic Site is located on West Spain Street. Its entrance approach is the northern continuation of West Third Street. It is just three blocks west of the Sonoma Plaza.

These units are all open for public viewing seven days a week (except Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day), from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00pm. For further information you can contact the following individual sites within the park as follows:

Mission	114 E. Spain Street, Sonoma	(707) 938-9560
Vallejo Home	363 Third Street, Sonoma	(707) 938-9559

The park provides tours for the public and for school students. School tour reservations must be made two weeks in advance by calling Reserve CA at (866) 240-4655.

Parking is available in the large lots behind the Toscano Hotel and the Barracks. Restrooms are available behind the Barracks and in the Mission courtyard

### **Before Your Tour/Visit**

To accommodate as many schools and tour groups as possible during the season, school groups must typically be limited to 45 minutes at the Mission and 45 minutes at the Vallejo Home. Therefore, preparation of your

class for what they might experience during the tour is essential for a high-quality learning experience. To assist in this preparation this section of the guide provides:

1. A brief historic sketch of each sub-unit.
2. Some guidelines for your group's behavior.
3. Some suggested pre-visit and post-visit classroom activities.

## **History of Sonoma State Historic Park**

### **Mission San Francisco Solano and Secularization (1823-1834)**

The land that has become Sonoma is the ancestral territory of Indigenous peoples who lived here for thousands of years before Franciscan missionaries or Europeans set foot in Sonoma Valley. The mission was founded on the lands of the Chocuyen (alias Sonomas) Coast Miwok tribal group. Other Coast Miwok-speaking communities impacted by the mission were the Petalumas, Licatiuts, and Alagualis. A Coast Miwok camp known as Hu'tci (pronounced "hoo-chee") was located near the mission site (Milliken, 2009). Hu'tci was likely the source for the name Rancho Huichica, a Mexican land grant that covered over 18,000 acres, extending from the Sonoma pueblo east to Carneros Creek and south to San Pablo Bay. There is also a creek named Huichica Creek that has its headwaters on Sonoma County's southeastern boundary. Other Native communities also impacted by Mission San Francisco Solano included the Southern Pomo, Wappo, Southern Wintun (Patwin), and Ohlone tribal groups.

The Franciscan Order of the Catholic Church established missions in Alta California with two objectives in mind: 1) to convert the local Indigenous peoples to Christianity; and 2) to colonize California and reinforce the Spanish Empire's claim to the region. These objectives were inclusive of one another as citizenship in New Spain, which included Mexico and all of Alta CA up until 1821, required that individuals accept the Catholic religion and be fully acculturated/assimilated into Spanish society. Spain viewed Indigenous peoples of California as potential Catholic converts, laborers, and eventual citizens of the Spanish empire who could populate the presidios and pueblos adjacent to many of the mission sites after serving at the missions for a period of ten years.

Mission San Francisco Solano, the last of the 21 missions established between 1769 and 1823, was selected and consecrated by Father Jose Altimira on July 4, 1823. The mission is named after the Spanish friar and missionary Francis Solanus, who was canonized as the patron saint of Peru as well as Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, and Paraguay. It is said that Solanus predicted the devastating 1619 earthquake of Trujillo, Peru.

It is unique for three reasons: 1) it is the last of the missions founded in California; 2) it is the northernmost mission site of the 21 mission chain; and 3) it is the only mission established in California while it was under Mexican rule. Padre Altimira, Mission San Francisco de Asis (popularly known as Mission Dolores), the sixth mission founded of California's 21 missions, proposed relocating the mission to Sonoma because the cold and foggy weather at San Francisco was not conducive to sustaining a large mission community. At the time Mexico was looking to establish a colonial presence in Sonoma to serve as a buffer to Russian expansion from the north (the Russians by 1823 had established settlements at Fort Ross and Bodega Bay). By April 4, 1824, a temporary wooden chapel had been constructed at the Mission San Francisco Solano site. In 1825, a long low adobe wing for the Padres Quarters was finished. The Padres' Quarters, east of the present chapel, is the oldest building in Sonoma. Father Buenaventura Fortini, who lived at the Mission from 1826 to 1833, continued Father Altimira's work. Under his direction, the foundation for a large adobe chapel was laid just east of the Padres' Quarters in 1827. Over the Mission's 11 years of operation (1823-1834), the mission grew into a complex of buildings and claimed control over 10,000 acres of land (16 square miles) on which Indigenous laborers raised crops, tended vineyards, managed livestock, and processed hides. At its peak, close to 1,000 Indigenous people worked and studied Christianity at the Mission.

Over the course of its 11-year operation, the population of Indigenous converts, referred to as "neofitas" (neophytes), and non-baptized "gentile" workers at Mission San Francisco Solano quickly became diverse in cultural identity. Linguistically the mission population represented four major tribal groups – Coast Miwok, Patwin, Wappo, and Pomo. By the time of secularization/closure (1834), the Mission San Francisco Solano Indian community was predominately made up of Patwin-speaking peoples, secondarily Wappo-

speaking peoples, with some Pomo and Coast Miwok representation (Milliken, 2009).

In 1833, the Congress of the Mexican Republic passed the Mexican Secularization Act of 1833, officially called the Decree for the Secularization of the Missions of California. The act nationalized the missions, transferring their ownership from the Franciscan Order of the Catholic Church to the Mexican authorities. This essentially meant transferring control and authority of Mission property and lands to local civil authorities or pueblo government officials. Between 1834 and 1836, the Mexican government confiscated California mission properties and exiled the Franciscan friars who would not swear allegiance to Mexico. The missions were secularized--broken up and their property sold or given away to private citizens. Secularization was supposed to return the land to the Indians. Within the first year of secularization, five of California's twenty-one mission sites had become pueblos, Sonoma was the fifth site. Alferéz (Second Lieutenant) Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, the twenty-seven-year-old Comandante of the San Francisco Presidio was selected by Mexican Governor Jose Figueroa to undertake the task of secularizing the property of Mission San Francisco Solano and founding a military outpost that would in short order become the Sonoma Pueblo. The status of the last missionary/padre at the Mission, Padre Jose Lorenzo de la Concepcion Quijas, was reduced to that of a parish priest and neophytes either returned to their traditional homelands or went to work at the Mexican ranchos, such as Rancho Petaluma, owned by General Vallejo.

By 1838, the original adobe chapel built under Mission period had collapsed and a new smaller adobe chapel on the west side of the Padres Quarters was constructed in 1840 under the supervision of General Vallejo. This chapel operated as the parish church for the town of Sonoma from 1841 to 1881. The Catholic diocese sold the chapel building in 1881 and the proceeds were used to build the St. Francis Solano Catholic Church at 3<sup>rd</sup> Street West and East Napa Streets in Sonoma.

There are four ground markers associated with Mission San Francisco Solano and the chapel that General Vallejo built in 1840 on the mission grounds. They are as follows:



1) **Mission San Francisco Solano Marker** – mounted on the wall of the Convento structure of the Mission. Lists Mission San Francisco Solano as California Registered Historic Landmark No. 3.

2) **End of the Mission Trail Marker (1523-1823)**. Reads as follows:

“The Mission Trail marked the three hundred years of Spanish-Mexican settlement, go as far south as Guatemala and traversing Mexico to advance through eleven of our present day United States. In 1823, Mission San Francisco Solano was founded, marking the last and northernmost outpost of this historic trail.” Technically, Mission Nombre de Dios was the first Spanish mission established in North America. It was founded on the same day as Saint Augustine, Florida, in 1565.

3) **Mission San Francisco Solano Sacred Ground Marker** – A three-part stone plaque memorial located outside the west end of the mission chapel (between the mission site and the barracks on First Street East). This plaque recognizes and honors those California Indians who died and were buried in the mission cemetery during the mission's 11-year existence.

Reads as follows:

“In this sacred ground lie buried men, women, and children of the local Coast Miwok, Patwin, Wappo, and Pomo Tribes. They built, labored, and died at Mission San Francisco Solano.” There are 896 names inscribed on this stone marker. It was dedicated in 1999 by the Sonoma Mission Memorial Fund in Cooperation with the California State Parks.

4) **Maria Ignacia Lopez Carillo Grave Marker** - Maria was buried in the chapel of the Mission San Francisco Solano, at Sonoma. Her remains were laid under the font where it would receive the holy water that fell from the hands of devout worshippers. Reads as follows:

“In Memory of Maria Ygnacia Lopez Carillo, buried here Feb. 1849, Mother of Francisca Benicia Carillo Who Was the Wife of General M. G. Vallejo.”

### **Sonoma Pueblo and Mexican Military Presence (1835-1846)**

By 1836, Vallejo was promoted to Comandante of the Fourth Military District and Director of Colonization of the Northern Frontier, the highest military command in Northern California. As soon as Comandante Vallejo and his troops were established within the former mission quadrangle, steps were taken to lay out the town or pueblo itself. This consisted of a large square plaza (still extant) and the surrounding streets and lots.

The Sonoma Plaza, largest of its kind in California, was originally an eight-acre plot laid out by Vallejo in 1835. His plan for the Plaza was that of a large square, lined on either side with streets that extended out from the corners and with buildings on the streets around the square, facing inward. Over 100 Indian soldiers and a company of forty Mexican cavalymen from the San Francisco Presidio drilled on the Plaza in the late 1830s. From roughly 1835 to 1844, Sonoma Pueblo was the chief military base of the Mexican Government in Alta California.

**Casa Grande and Servants' Quarters.** Along the plaza's northern perimeter Vallejo erected a walled citadel-like complex which included the Casa Grande his official dwelling. Casa Grande comprised two wings, the main wing, and the servants' quarters. The two-story Monterey colonial style adobe wings were built with thick walls and hand-hewn lumber. The building featured a four-story watch tower from which Vallejo could survey the countryside. According to Madie Empanan, granddaughter-in-law of General Vallejo, construction of the Casa Grande was finished by 1836. Eleven of the sixteen Vallejo children were born there. It was also in this house that the retired Comandante Vallejo was taken prisoner by the Bear Flaggers in early Summer of 1846. In 1853, the Vallejo family moved from the main wing of Casa Grande to their new home on the estate of Lachryma Montis. The main wing was destroyed by fire on April 13, 1867. The Servants' Quarters is the only section of Casa Grande to have survived the fire. Vallejo's brother Salvador, once captain of the garrison, built an adobe dwelling, or "post commandancia" on the left side of La Casa Grande. This adobe dwelling is now known as the "Swiss Hotel").

**Barracks.** To the right of Casa Grande, Vallejo supervised the construction of the Barracks, a Monterey Colonial, two-story adobe, that housed a Mexican

garrison (troops stationed in a fortress or town to defend it) of approximately 30 soldiers to defend Sonoma. Its construction was not completed until ca 1841/1842. There is a marker affixed to the outside of the barracks which reads:

“Erected in 1836 by General H. G. Vallejo. Headquarters of Bear Flag Party which on June 14, 1846, proclaimed a “California Republic” and raised the Bear Flag on Sonoma’s Plaza. Twenty-three days later, July 7, 1846, Commodore John Drake Sloat, representing the United States Government, took possession of California. In April 1847, Stevenson’s regiment, Company “G” U.S.A. occupied the barracks.”

The Bear Flag Revolt is a highly controversial moment in California history that began on June 14, 1846, when a group of thirty-three American immigrant settlers marched into Sonoma, arrested Comandante Vallejo and proclaimed California a "Bear Flag Republic", a nation independent of Mexican rule. The act is considered by many historians a misguided expression of "Manifest Destiny", inspired in part by the formation of the Texas Republic (annexed by the U.S. in 1845) and instigated by Captain John C. Fremont. President Polk and the United States, interested in the lands and resources of California and Southwest, had already declared war on Mexico in May of 1846 but news travelled slowly. On July 9<sup>th</sup>, 1846, the Bear Flaggers, now under Captain Fremont's command, learned that California had been occupied by United States troops and that the American flag now flew over the territory. William Todd, a nephew of Mary Todd (wife of President Abraham Lincoln), raised the crude handmade Bear Flag over Sonoma's plaza land. Then Lt. Joseph Warren Revere of the U.S. Navy and grandson of Revolutionary War patriot Paul Revere, replaced the Bear Flag with the United States flag three weeks later.

### **American Statehood Sites and Landmarks (1846-1890)**

It took four years for the U.S. Legislature to approve California's admission as the thirty-first state to enter the Union. In that four-year interval, known to history as the U.S. Occupation Period, California was governed by military authorities. The Barracks served as the U.S. military quarters in the 1840s and 1850s. Colonel E. Stevenson’s New York Regiment was quartered there from April 4, 1847, to August 25, 1848. The U.S. Military Dragoons (Cavalry) remained in Sonoma until 1852.

In 1849, a convention met in the former Mexican capital at Monterey to draft

California's first state constitution. General Vallejo became a delegate of the convention and with the coming of statehood (September 9th, 1850) he was elected to the State Senate. During this time, he began purchasing the 500-acre tract in Sonoma that would become the estate known as *Lachryma Montis*.

It was in 1850 that Vallejo offered to donate a 150-acre site and \$370,000 worth of buildings to establish a permanent state capital and a city he proposed to call "Eureka". That city soon came to be known as "Vallejo". His plans for this new capital city fell through when the legislature moved to the neighboring city of Benicia, which Vallejo had also founded and named after his wife Francisca Benicia Carillo de Vallejo.

The following summarizes the sites and landmarks of Sonoma State Historic Park representative of California's early American statehood period:

**Blue Wing Inn (c 1840).** Although the structure known as the Blue Wing Inn has its origins in the Mexican period of California, the structure's history is most associated with events tied to the American period and California's statehood. A two-room section of this Monterey style adobe was built to house soldiers guarding the old Mission across the way. In 1849, James Cooper and Thomas Spriggs, former British seamen, purchased the property and added the present first and second floors to conduct a combined hotel and saloon known as the Sonoma House, later the Blue Wing. The Blue Wing Inn borrowed its name either from a very popular tavern in San Francisco or from a tavern in Spriggs' hometown in Scotland. Bandit Joaquin Murietta and Three Fingered Jack were often customers here as well as several junior officers who would later gain Civil War fame: Grant, Sherman, Longstreet, Halleck, Stoneman, just to name a few. Young Lotta Crabtrees's name is also found in the hotel's guest book. Used as a grocery store and later as a wine cellar, it provided the wine used to put out the fire that destroyed all of First Street East in 1911.

Restored in 1947, the building acquired by the State of California Department of Parks in 1968. The Blue Wing Inn has been shuttered and vacant since 2001, when the Sonoma State Historic Park ceased using it as apartment housing for state park employees. A marker affixed to the front reads as follows:

"Erected by General Mariano G. Vallejo about 1840 for the accommodations of emigrants and other travelers. Purchased in Gold Rush Days by Cooper and Spriggs, two retired sea-faring men and operated as

hotel and store. Among first hostelries in Northern California.

Notable guests, according to local tradition, included John C. Fremont, Ulysses S. Grant, Governor Pio Pico, Kit Carson, "Fighting Joe" Hooker, William T. Sherman, Phil Sheridan, and members of the Bear Flag Party. Classed among the notorious visitors were Bandit Murietta and "Three-Fingered Jack.""

**Toscano Hotel.** The Toscano Hotel is a two-story wood frame building built between the 'Barracks and the Casa Grande in 1852. Originally known as the Nathanson Store it was converted thirty years later into a laboring man's hotel called "The Toscano." Toscano means "man from Tuscany" the northern Italian province from when the proprietors Ciucci and Quartaroli came. The last owner of the hotel was Mrs. Amelia Ciucci Walton who sold it to the State in 1957.

**Lachryma Montis/General M.G. Vallejo Home.** In 1849-50 the Gold Rush was at its height, and it was part of Vallejo's intent to point out to the 49ers that the real gold of California was to be found in the wonderful climate and soil for raising crops. The story of the Vallejo's later years in the American period begins with *Lachryma Montis* (which translates to English literally as "Mountain Tears"), a 500-year acre estate so named for the natural free-flowing spring that originated from the mountain above the home site. The mission and General Vallejo purposefully supplanted the Coast Miwok peoples who had originally inhabited this site.

Lachryma Montis was to become a show place in which agriculture as a commercial venture was born in California. The Swiss Chalet style, prefab, building, constructed in 1851/1852, was used by General Vallejo as a storehouse for wines, olives, fruit, and other dry goods. It was built with pre-cut and numbered timber beams shipped from Europe and bricks used as ship's ballast during the Gold Rush. It is now a museum that highlights Vallejo's career as a rancho owner, winemaker, and horticulturist.

In 1852-54 the main house, a two-story frame house of pre-cut and numbered sections, was imported from the New England mills. With a large Gothic window in the master bedroom, carved fretwork under the gabled eaves and dormers, its Victorian style became an innovation of prospering Gold Rush towns. Each room had its own marble fireplace (imported from the Hawaiian

Islands), crystal chandeliers, lace curtains and elaborate walnut and rosewood furnishings. These things, brought by sailing ship, filled the ten-room house, while in the gardens were ornamental pavilions, trellised fences, and cast-iron fountains. The Vallejo family moved into the house in 1853 and raised their last six children there with the help of numerous servants (predominantly Native people and at least one Chinese man who served as the family's head cook) who occupied the cookhouse/kitchen building behind the home.

Soon after California's statehood, many Californio/Mexican rancho owners were required to confirm their land grants through the U.S. Court of Private Claims. In going through this process Vallejo lost many thousands of acres of land and a good deal of his wealth acquired from the hide and tallow trade on legal fees. Ever the entrepreneur, Vallejo saw an economic opportunity with the estate's plentiful water supply/natural mountain spring. On the hillside a dam was built to store the waters that would flow, at a rate of 7,000 gallons per hour, into the fertile farmland acres below. It was from this reservoir that General Vallejo began to sell water to the city of Sonoma in the 1870's, transporting it in lengths of redwood pipe.

Vallejo lived at his home on Lachryma Montis until 1890, dying of old age at 82. His wife, Francisca Benicia Carrillo de Vallejo, died one year later. The estate, reduced to 20 acres, passed on to Mrs. Maria Cutter and Mrs. Luisa Emparan, General Vallejo's two youngest daughters. Luisa arranged for the sale of the estate to the State of California following the death of her sister Maria in 1932. The California Department of Parks and Recreation (then called the Division of Beaches and Parks) restored the structures and opened Lachryma Montis as a State Historic Park. Luisa remained here for 10 years as a state curator until her death in 1943 at age 87.

### **Rules and Expectations for School Groups**

It is the responsibility of the California Department of Parks and Recreation to protect unique historic sites and preserve them for future generations. With this goal in mind the following rules have been formulated for visiting our historic units. Emphasis on these requirements is based on three areas: public safety; enhancement of the experience for visitors; and protection of our historic resources.

1. Please have an adequate number of responsible adults with your children. (We recommend one adult per five children). It will be the obligation of teachers and parents at each historic unit to keep the young school groups together and under supervision.

2. Keep noise to a reasonable level. Remember that other visitors may also be viewing and enjoying the site during your school group tour.

3. Please be on time and ready for your scheduled tour. That may mean allowing additional time to arrive at the park so that your students can use the facilities without cutting into their tour time. Please be considerate of the fact that other groups have scheduled tour times before or after your group.

4. For large groups please be prepared to split your group into two or more smaller groups if asked by the park staff giving the tour. For example, the house at Vallejo Home cannot accommodate more than 30 people at a time.

5. No food or drink is permitted inside the historic buildings.

6. We ask teachers and chaperones to *keep their electronic devices away / out of sight* during the tour as it can be a distraction for the students and your tour guide.

**If the above rules are not followed California State Parks staff reserve the right to end the tour. We appreciate your cooperation!**

### **Suggested Pre-Activities**

As you know, an effective field trip depends on classroom preparation. One of the best methods is to plan the trip to coincide with the proper unit in your school curriculum. The California History Social-Science Framework (adopted in 2016) provides specific curriculum and standards for teaching about California history in the classroom. Chapter 7 of the Framework specifically addresses the topics of "Missions, Ranchos, and the Mexican War for Independence" as well as "The Gold Rush and Statehood" (Standards 4.2.1, 4.2.3, 4.2.5, 4.2.6, 4.2.8; 4.3.1-4.3.5 from Chapter 7, Grade Four, California – A Changing State). The University of California's California History Social-Science Project provides excellent online resources for teaching California history at the 4<sup>th</sup> grade and other elementary grades in accordance with these Framework standards. The UC Davis-based website <https://chssp.ucdavis.edu/> provides links to detailed lesson and primary

source sets addressing topics such as “California Indians and the Missions”; “California Missions, the Environment, and the Economy”; “California Missions’ Impact on People”; and “the Discovery of Gold”. It offers specific “mini-research inquiry style” tasks and argumentative (opinion) essay prompts with primary sources to help answer investigative questions such as the following.



- Why did Spain establish missions? And how did they gain control?
- What impact did mission encounters have upon Native peoples, Spanish missionaries and military, the Spanish/Mexican settler population, and California's natural environment?
- How did the various people living in California experience the missions?
- How did the discovery of gold change California? How in particular did the gold Rush impact the life and politics of Mariano Vallejo?

In addition to the above resources, we suggest you explore the teacher resources provided by California State Parks at [PORTS - Sonoma State Historic Park \(ports-ca.us\)](https://ports-ca.us). Here you'll find links to videos on the "History of California Missions" as well as YouTube channel videos on Sonoma State Historic Park to help familiarize your students with the park's history and structures.

### **During Your Tour/Visit**

Prior to beginning your activity, please give your students the opportunity to use the restrooms and get a drink of water. There is a restroom by the front gate of the Vallejo Home as well as a drinking fountain. At the Mission there are restrooms and a drinking fountain in the rear courtyard. There are restrooms in the courtyard by the Toscano kitchen next to the Barracks.

Before your group begins their tour, you might ask them a few questions or give them a short questionnaire that will encourage them to read the signs and listen attentively to their tour guide. The questions below are merely samples.

#### *Questions for the Mission*

1. Whose ancestral territory was the Mission founded on? (Answer: the Coast Miwok, however the Mission eventually impacted the Wappo, Pomo, Wintun/Patwin, )
2. Who is the patron saint of Mission San Francisco Solano? (Answer: St. Francis Solanus, a 17<sup>th</sup> century missionary of Peru)
3. Who is buried under the floor of the chapel? (Answer: Vallejo's mother-in-law Maria Carillo)

4. What primary material was used for constructing the Mission buildings? (Answer: adobe)
5. What is a "fanega?" (Answer: Spanish unit of measurement for grain. One fanega equals approximately 1.6 bushels or 96 pounds of wheat)
6. Where is the Mission Sacred Ground Marker? Name at least one tribal group that was impacted by the Mission. (Answer: west side of present chapel; Pomo, Wappo, Wintun, or Coast Miwok)

*Questions for the Barracks and Casa Grande site:*

1. What was the sole remaining adobe wing on the Casa Grande site originally used for? (Answer: Servants' Quarters)
2. Where is the replica of the Bear Flag kept? (Answer: The Bear Flag room in the Barracks building)
3. Who built the Barracks? (Answer: California Indians and soldiers under the direction of General Vallejo)
4. What U.S. Army captain was behind the Bear Flag Revolt? (Answer: Captain John C. Fremont)

*Questions for Lachryma Montis:*

1. What does the Latin name *Lachryma Montis* mean in English? (Answer: "Mountain Tears")
2. What events in American history prompted Vallejo to create a new home at Lachryma Montis in 1848? (Answers: U.S. annexation of California territory and the Gold Rush)
3. When were the houses at Lachryma Montis built? Before or after American statehood? (Answer: ca 1851-1853, after California became a state)
4. How many children did the Vallejo's have? (Answer: 16, 10 survived to adulthood)

5. What was the "Swiss Chalet" building used for? (Answer: an agricultural storehouse or "granary")

6. From what country did the Vallejo family's last known cook come from? (Answer: China)

## Glossary

Below is a list of words your group may encounter on the tour:

<b>ADOBE</b>	Refers to sun-baked bricks of mud and straw, or to a structure of that material. It also refers to soils with a high clay content.
<b>ALCALDE</b>	The highest-ranking Indigenous neophyte in the mission hierarchy. He possessed authority to supervise mission Indians and maintain work order.
<b>BLACKSMITH</b>	A person who makes ironwork on a forge.
<b>BOTA</b>	Literally translated, a bag. The original botas were rawhides sewn into bags, (hair side in for waterproofing) used for transporting tallow which was poured into them from try-pots.
<b>CARRETA</b>	A high two-wheeled cart pulled by oxen. The main method of hauling goods and transportation in old California, it has been described as painfully simple, and simply painful to ride.
<b>FANEGA</b>	A Spanish unit of measuring dry grains (e.g., wheat), equal to approximately 1.6 U.S. bushels (55.7 liters)
<b>HACIENDA</b>	A tract of land designated for agriculture.
<b>HORNO</b>	A hive shaped oven for baking. The oldest kind of oven known to man.
<b>MAJORDOMO</b>	On mission lands or Mexican ranchos, the position of Majordomo including the responsibilities of oversight of the rancho, farms, and personnel.
<b>MATANZA</b>	The late spring roundup when all cattle were either branded or slaughtered for their hides. These hides were California's chief means of exchange in the Mexican period.

<b>NEOPHYTE</b>	A person who is new to a subject, skill, or belief. In the case of the missions, it was the term assigned to any new Indian convert to the Catholic religion.
<b>PRESIDIO</b>	A permanent military base. There were four Spanish presidios in California. San Francisco, Monterey, Santa Barbara, and San Diego.
<b>PUEBLO</b>	Spanish word for a town. Sonoma was originally considered a Mexican pueblo.
<b>RANCHO</b>	A large tract of land devoted to the raising of cattle.
<b>RIATA</b>	A rope of braided horsehair or of rawhide carried by vaqueros as a lasso or lariat.
<b>SECULARIZATION</b>	Refers to a law passed by the Mexican Congress in 1833 (made official in 1834), which placed all mission property in secular non-religious hands. Thereafter, the mission churches were to become parish churches, and the vast mission ranches were to be divided up among the natives.
<b>SQUATTERS</b>	People generally associated with the post-Gold Rush period who settled on property owned by others, and then claimed it for their own.
<b>TALLOW</b>	Animal fat which has been melted to remove membranes and impurities; the basic material for candles and soap, it was also used as a lubricant.
<b>VARA</b>	A Spanish unit of linear measure, formerly used in Latin America and Texas, equal to about 33 inches (84 cm).
<b>VAQUERO</b>	Spanish word for cowboy, from the Spanish word "vaca", which means cow.

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