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Cover: Earliest known sketch from the perspective of Presidio Hill showing the presidio ruins, Mission Valley, the San Diego River emptying into San Diego Bay, Old Town, and Point Loma drawn by William Birch McMurtrie, artist on board the U.S. Steamer *Active* on the Pacific Coast Surveying Expedition in July 1856. The sketch was probably colorized by the young James Madison Alden, a second artist on board the *Active*. Photo courtesy of the Bancroft Library, Berkeley.

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THE JOURNAL OF
SAN DIEGO
HISTORY

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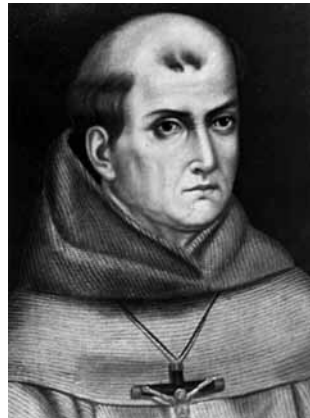


Museum built in 1929 as headquarters for the San Diego Historical Society.



Cross first erected by the Order of Panama in 1913 from Presidio tiles.

Padre Junipero Serra was born in Petra de Mallorca, Spain in 1713. He arrived in New Spain (Mexico) in 1749. After working in the missions of New Spain for twenty years, he led the expeditions to Alta California in 1769 and founded the first nine of the twenty-one California missions.



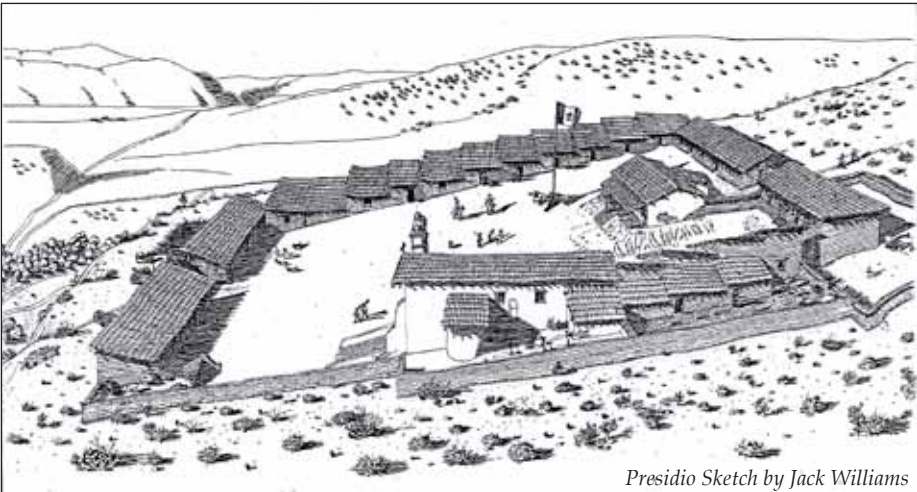
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2727 Presidio Drive San Diego, CA 92103

Serra main: (619) 297-3258 · SD History Center main: (619) 232-6203

The Serra Museum was built through funds contributed by George Marston to commemorate the first site of San Diego Mission de Alcalá and the San Diego Presidio (fort). The building was dedicated on July 16, 1929. The museum, designed by William Templeton Johnson in the Mission Revival style, is frequently confused with the current site of the Mission San Diego de Alcala six miles inland. The mission was moved in 1774, five years after its founding, to its current location in Mission Valley for better agricultural opportunities. The Presidio remained for its strategic vantage point.

Although the site represents the first mission and presidio in Alta California, it also includes Native American (Kumeyaay) history and information on San Diego in 1929 when the museum building was completed.



Presidio Sketch by Jack Williams

We have learned from archaeologists who excavated this site where the original buildings were located.



Photos by Dylan House

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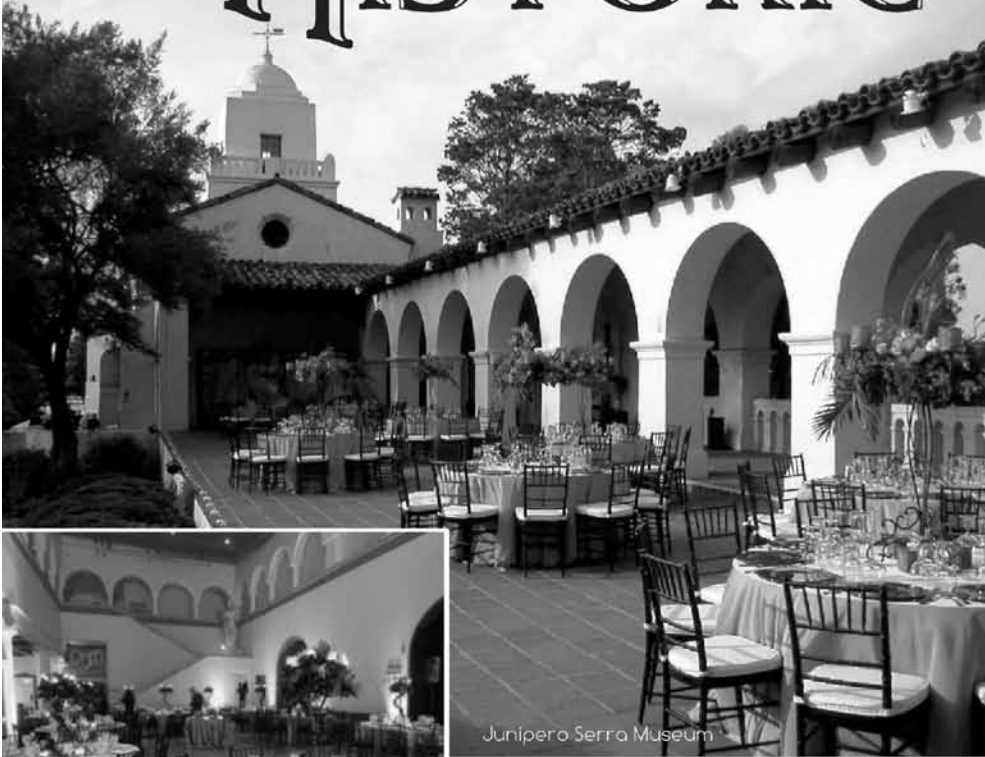
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