

# Welcome to MISSION SAN JOSE VILLAGE



FREMONT, CALIFORNIA



**M**ission San Jose, home of the fourteenth Alta California mission, was one of five small towns that were incorporated into the City of Fremont, California, on January 23, 1956. Mission San Jose has a semi-tropical climate. John Horner, a schoolteacher and farmer from New Jersey who settled here in 1847 with his wife, Elizabeth, wrote, "There is no richer spot of earth than the valley of San Jose, around the Mission... for nature has been lavish with her gifts. We stood upon the loftiest point of Mission Peak and felt we could worship God there." The area has warm air thermals that make Mission Peak (elevation 2275 feet) popular for gliding and create a unique horticultural environment on the slopes below.

Mission San Jose Village is located on the site of the Ohlone village of Oroysom which was a thriving community of 200 to 400 individuals when the De Anza expedition trekked through this area on March 30, 1776.

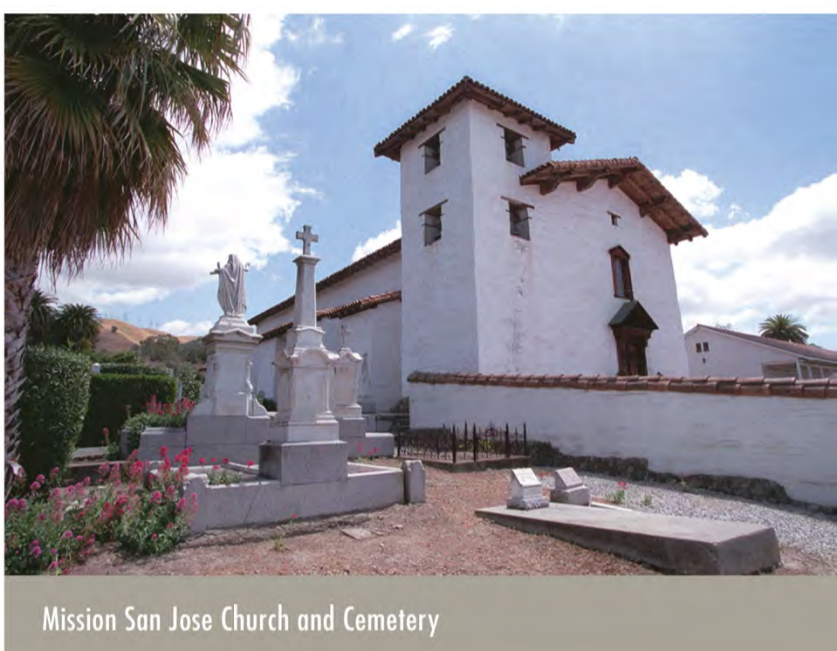
**B**egin this tour just north of Mission Creek (also called Mill Creek) and walk south, or identify an address (in parentheses) and go south or north on Mission Boulevard from there. Beginning just north of the narrow wooden bridge, note the lovely Mexican Fan palms (*Washingtonia robusta*) on your right. Across the bridge, on your left, are Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*), City Landmark Trees. On the left is the site of the **original Mission San Jose church**, built of wood with a thatched roof. Higher up the creek is the site of the mission dam and flourmill. The mission was secularized in 1834. **Elias L. Beard** bought the property in 1849. His family lived in the adobe buildings. Visitors wrote of his lovely gardens and unusual plants. In 1881 he sold the property to vintner **Juan Gallegos**, who built a home near the creek for his father-in-law, physician Jose Monteleagre, the third president of Costa Rica. The Gallegos family lived in the mansion for many years, raising and selling citrus, avocados and nuts. The Diocese of Oakland bought the property and sold the house, which was moved in 1974.



Looking South From Mission Creek Bridge

Learn more about Mission Creek at <http://msnucleus.org/watersheds/mission/missioncreek.html>

**S**t. Joseph Parish (43148) Phone 510/656-2364 grounds are to the left, including the rectory, the church, the school, the Mission San Jose cemetery, the reconstructed adobe Mission church and the museum. When you go up the ramp to the museum notice the large stones. They were part of the foundation of the original adobe church, removed during the archeological dig, and now used decoratively. After entering the cemetery through the church, you will find the names of early pioneers, including Spanish, Mexican, English, Irish and Portuguese immigrants. Several prominent early settlers, including **Robert Livermore** and **Ygnacio Martinez**, were honored by being buried inside the church. Both have cities named after them. Mission Boulevard, formerly Vallejo Street, was once part of the inland El Camino Real that ended at the mission's circular steps. An old Spanish trail continued north to Vallejo's Mills (Niles) and on to Rancho San Antonio (Oakland).



Mission San Jose Church and Cemetery



Steinmetz Harness Shop

**S**tarting back at the bridge and to the right is the site of **William Laumeister's home (43195)**, which was demolished to make way for an office complex. He was a miller in the 1870's. As you pass the City of Fremont parking lot on the right, you will see a redwood building with a false front. Originally the **Briscoe General Store (43255)** and later the Duburg's Antique Store, the building burned in 1974 and was rebuilt as a three-story Gold Rush commercial style building. Just past a private residence is the restored **Old Mill Granary (43271)**, which was moved from a site near Mission Creek. Next is the quaint **Steinmetz Harness Shop (43279)** with charming wood trim.

When California became a state in 1850, the Valle de San Jose included the pueblo of San Jose as well as the lands of Mission San Jose. Washington Township (present day Fremont, Newark and Union City) was part of Santa Clara County until 1853 when Alameda County was created. The confusion between Mission San Jose and the pueblo of San Jose began with early travelers and continues today. For many years and in many books the mission was incorrectly called Mission San Jose de Guadalupe. The Guadalupe River is near the city of San Jose and has no connection to this mission.



Olive Hyde Art Center

**J**ose de Jesus Vallejo's adobe home was on the corner of Mission and Washington Boulevards. He was administrator of the mission from 1836 to 1839. Later the **Boulder Saloon** was on this corner. It was named for the large boulder placed on the corner to protect the building from vehicles that turned too sharply. In 1935 **Miss Olive Hyde**, an active temperance proponent, moved to town. She began buying buildings and closing saloons. She bought the Boulder Saloon in 1942, tore it down and replaced it with two buildings designed by Butler Sturtevant, architect and landscape architect, who helped design the Butchart Gardens in British Columbia. She donated land for a parking lot and the two buildings to the City of Fremont in 1962. They house the **Olive Hyde Art Center and Gallery (123 Washington)** which are run by the city, with support from the Olive Hyde Art Guild 510/791-4357. Open Noon to 5:00pm Thursday thru Sunday.



The Best House at Palmdale Estates

**O**ne mile west, down Washington Boulevard, is **The Ohlones Indian Cemetery**, on the right. It is owned and maintained by descendants of these first inhabitants. (Closed to the public.) At **159 Washington**, near the entrance to the **Palmdale Estates**, are several California Peppers (*Schinus molle*), City Landmark Trees. After moving from his home in the old mission adobe in 1858, Elias Beard built a home across the road, surrounded it with acres of lush gardens and called it Palmdale. Juan Gallegos bought it in 1881, Henry Lachman in 1905, and Hazel and Oscar Starr, and Irene (Hansen) Best in 1927. The **Sisters of the Holy Family** purchased it in 1948 and built a Motherhouse in 1959. The pink English-Tudor **Starr house** is an administrative center and the white Norman-Tudor **Best house** is a reception center (510) 651-8908. The Sisters sponsor a **Mothers Day Champagne Brunch** each year (510) 624-4512. The lovely grounds are closed to the public except for special events.

**L**a Mision del Gloriosísimo Señor San Jose — **Mission San Jose (43300)** was founded on June 11, 1797 by Padre Fermin Francisco de Lasuen. The adobe church was dedicated on April 22, 1809 and was destroyed by an earthquake on October 21, 1868. It was replaced by a French-Gothic church in 1869. The wooden church served the St. Joseph Parish until 1965. It was sold to Christ Church Parish, an Anglican congregation, in 1980. They moved it to 770 North El Camino Real in San Mateo and restored it (650) 347-4423. The Diocese of Oakland authorized the reconstruction of the 1809 adobe church and it was dedicated on June 11, 1985. Four of the five original bells are in the bell tower. A Spanish pipe organ, built to specifications ordered almost two centuries earlier by Padre Duran, was installed in the reconstructed church and dedicated on October 28, 1989. **Mass is held in the Church Mon.-Fri. at 8:00.**



Interior of Mission Church

The **Mission San Jose Museum**, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is the only surviving structure of what was once a Spanish colonial institution of about 200 adobe buildings built during the mission period (1797-1836). Under Padre Narciso Duran, Mission San Jose was one of the wealthiest of all the California missions, with vast cattle herds and an active hide and tallow trade. The area between the reconstructed adobe church and the museum represents a portion of the original mission quadrangle and is the site of the Victorian Rectory, which was moved to Anza Street. Henry Smith, the father of Alameda County, added the H. C. Smith Store, possibly the first retail business in the East Bay, to the south end of this building during the Gold Rush. **Celebrate Founder's Day** at the mission on the second Sunday in June with a Mariachi Mass. **Participate in Las Posadas**, a Christmas tradition sponsored by the Committee for Restoration of the Mission San Jose and the Fremont Cultural Arts Council since 1982. Meet on the museum porch at 6:00pm December 16-24 and walk to a different host location each evening. **Gift shop:** (510) 657-1797



Mission San Jose Museum

Behind the mission and up the hill past their **Olive Grove** is the **Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose** Motherhouse, their residences and care center. The grounds are private, open only for special events. Dedicated to teaching, the Sisters now staff a two-year Queen of the Holy Rosary College, a school of music and a kindergarten. In 1891 Archbishop Riordan persuaded their foundress, Mother Pia Backes, to open an orphanage and school here in the three-story brick building originally built for the St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary. On her first visit Mother Pia was attracted by the beauty and peace of the place, despite the six saloons lining Vallejo Street (Mission Blvd). The story is told in their museum, "Heritage Room," which is open by appointment. The Sisters recently resumed harvesting their olives. The highly prized extra virgin olive oil is sold only at their **Holiday Boutique** in November (510) 657-2468. The **IDES Council #1 of Mission San Jose**, a Portuguese fraternal organization, holds their festa in the Olive Grove in June. The Mission San Jose Chamber of Commerce has an **Olive Festival** there on the first Saturday of October.



Dominican Sisters Olive Grove

South of the mission museum is a charming bed and breakfast inn and reception center. Call (510) 490-0520 for reservations. It combines two historic buildings, the **Washington Hotel** and the **Brown Barbershop (43344)**. The three-story home behind the inn is a modern addition. During the Gold Rush, Mission San Jose became a thriving provisioning center and the adobe buildings on the east side of Mission Boulevard were used as homes and shops. After the adobe structures were destroyed by earthquake, gold rush commercial style wooden stores were built between the hotel and Anza Street. They burned in the town fires of 1884 and 1894. The Dominican Sisters owned the property until 2001 when they sold it for residential and commercial development. The historic **Montealegre/Gallegos mansion**, a private residence, is up the hill at 830 Witherly Lane.



Washington Hotel and Brown Barbershop



Ehrman Store

On the corner of Mission and Washington Boulevard, across from the Olive Hyde Art Center, once stood the **Mission Bell Tavern (43301)**, formerly the **Poncet Saloon**. Locals say it was the only saloon that Olive Hyde could not buy and close down. It was refurbished and changed to retail use in 2003. Two doors down is **The Studio Center (43327)**, converted in 1958 from an old livery stable by Olive Hyde for her home and antique store. She donated it to Fremont and it is now a childcare center. Next is the **Sunderer Home** and **Cobbler Shop (43341)**. Joseph Sunderer built the original home in 1867 and rebuilt it after the town fires of 1884 and 1894. The brick **Ehrman Store (43363)** was built in 1894 as a general store and post office. It was later used as a Wells Fargo office, a Baptist church and office space. Two doors down is the **Solon Building (43377)**, used as a home, a saloon, a post office, a library and a store. Next door is the **Goodell's Harness Shop (43393)** which has been in continuous retail use since the 1880's.

On the left at Anza Street is the entrance to **Ohlone College (43600)**, and its **Smith Center for the Fine and Performing Arts** Box office (510) 659-6031, which includes the **Louie-Meager Art Gallery**. Hours are M-F from Noon to 3pm and it is open for all Smith Center events. The college is on the site of **Linda Vista**, the McIver's winery and estate where many picnics and celebrations were held. The college purchased the 480-acre campus in 1968. The gracious **Stevens/Huddleson house** was recently restored after a disastrous fire. Historians say the **double row of olive trees** along the college frontage were once part of a road that went to Mission Santa Clara. The **Ohlone Flea Market** is held in the parking lot on the second Saturday of each month from 8 to 3. A popular **East Bay Regional Park hiker's trail to Mission Peak** begins at the Ohlone swimming pool at the south end of campus. Enter at Pine Street and park in the upper parking lot. Hikers: take water!



Huddleson House



Historic Rectory

**A side trip:** Turn right at Anza Street (formerly Vine Street). On the left is the **Historic Rectory (152)** that once stood beside the St. Joseph wooden church on the mission grounds. It was moved to the site of the Nolan/Steinmetz house in 1979. **The Museum of Local History (190)**, formerly a fire station, has a written guide to the plants in the garden around the museum. Turning right on Ellsworth Street you will find the **Mission San Jose Station (43456)**. Established on April 9, 1850, before California became a state on September 9, 1850, the post office was first located in the mission. In 1965 the Mission San Jose Chamber of Commerce successfully fought to keep the historic postmark, which is still available by using the designated slot. Further down Ellsworth Street are the **Sousa house (43385)** and the **Bartlett house (43373)**, which were moved and restored in 2001. **The Ellsworth house (43347)**, also called the Ensign or Old Folger House, is an example of late Gothic Revival architecture.

Continuing south on Mission from Anza Street, on the right is the **Stevens/Millard House (43521)** built in the late 1800's. **The Old Mission San Jose Elementary School (43551)**, built in 1913, was Fremont's first city hall from 1956 until 1969 and was recently restored for live/work space. Other retail shops were built to complement it. The Deodar Cedar (*Cedrus deodara*) in the courtyard is a City Landmark Tree and is the focus of a tree lighting ceremony each December.

**Learn more about Mission San Jose** by reading *Two Centuries at Mission San Jose, 1797-1997* by Phil Holmes. It is available at the Mission San Jose Museum Gift Shop, open daily 10 to 5 at 43300 Mission Boulevard (510) 657-1797. Also at the **Museum of Local History**, 190 Anza Street, open Wed. & Fri. and the second Sat. and Sun. of each month from 10 to 4 **(510) 623-7907. www.museumoflocalhistory.org**

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Old School

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