



San Francisco de Asís

General Information

Founded:	October 9, 1776 - The 6th California Mission
Also Called:	Mission Dolores
Current Status:	The old mission chapel is part of the Basilica Parish of Mission Dolores. The basilica, which towers over the original mission, was dedicated in 1918. Basilica status was granted in 1952.
Summary:	Although the first mass was held on June 29, 1776, the "Official" founding date is set as October 9, 1776. The mission's iconic church is the oldest intact building in San Francisco. Popularly called Mission Dolores, the chapel contains some of the most sophisticated religious art in the mission chain. The cemetery is a well-landscaped oasis in the middle of a busy city.

Visitor Information

Key Facts

Address
3321 16th Street
San Francisco, CA 94114
United States

[Get Directions](#)

- Directions**
- The mission is located at the intersection of 16th and Dolores Streets.
 - The 22 Fillmore electric bus stops at the front door.
 - The J Church Streetcar stops one block to the west at Church Street.
 - The 16th and Mission BART station is three (3) blocks to the east at Mission Street.

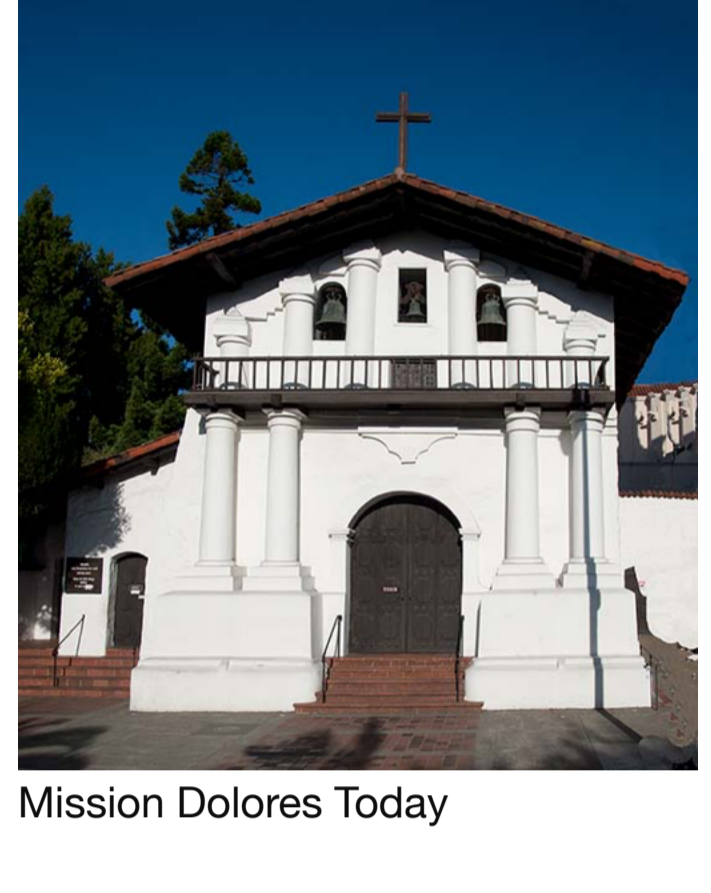
Website(s) <https://missiondolores.org>

Phone(s) 415-621-8203

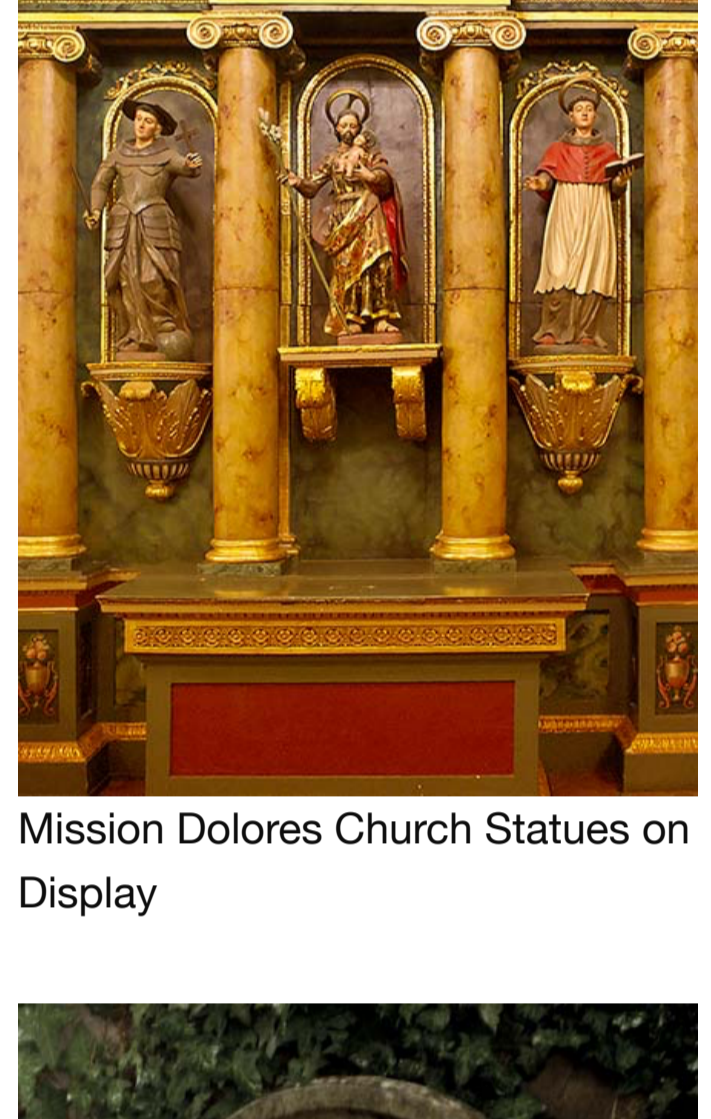
Fees, Hours, Tours and Church Services Please contact the mission directly by telephone or by visiting the [mission website](#) for the most current information. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, it is best to check for current information.

Weddings and Other Special Services For details about weddings and other special services, please contact the Parish office by telephone at 415-621-8203 or by visiting the [mission website](#).

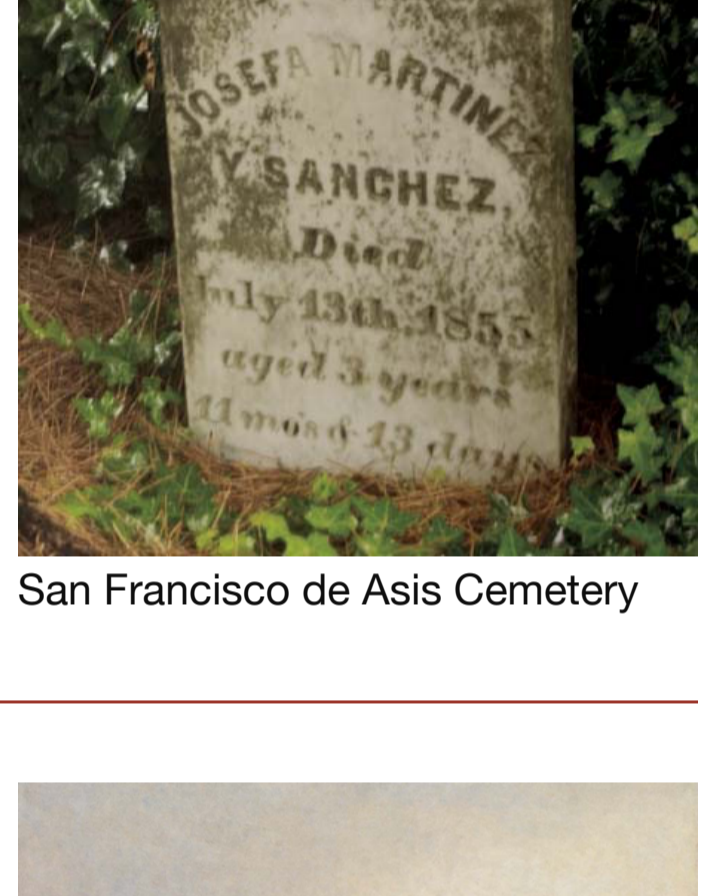
- Unique Attractions**
- The mission church dedicated in 1791 is the oldest intact building in San Francisco. It is unique, well-preserved, and charming.
 - The art at this mission is among the most sophisticated in the mission chain.
 - The mission [cemetery](#), although much reduced in size from the mission era, still has a quiet oasis in this bustling city. The old gravestones tell the story of the city.
 - The mass grave of the Mission Indians buried here is called the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine.
 - The Curator and Assistant Curator of this mission are Ohlone descendants and go out of their way to help visitors.



Mission Dolores Today



Mission Dolores Church Statues on Display



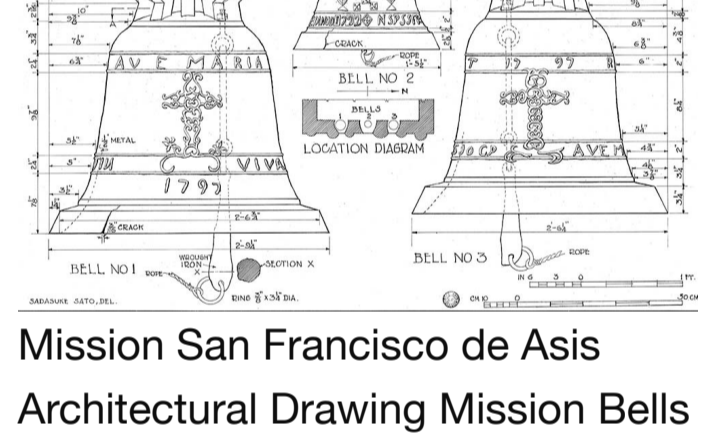
San Francisco de Asis Cemetery

- Other Historic Attractions**
- San Francisco has an almost infinite number of things to see and do and a rich history. If you are touring the city consider the de Young Museum, which has a fascinating oil painting of the mission by Oriana Weatherbee Day referred to as the "Judas Day Drawing."
 - For those who want to focus on the mission era, there are five other missions that can be seen in a couple of days with an early start:
 - San Rafael and Mission Sonoma
 - Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and San Jose



Mission Dolores on Judas Day

- Tips for Visitors**
- The art and artifacts in the San Francisco de Asis are well-labeled. Take time to enjoy the statuary and richly gilded [baroque](#) altar.
 - Pay attention to the bells which hang on rawhide thongs above the entrance way. These are all originals.
 - One of the best statues of the Founder of the California Missions, Junipero Serra, stands in the mission [cemetery](#). Arthur Putnam sculpted this statue in 1918.



Mission San Francisco de Asis Architectural Drawing Mission Bells

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Historical Gallery

San Francisco de Asis (popularly called Mission Dolores) is one of the jewels of the California Missions. While not too much remains of the original complex (just the church and part of the original [cemetery](#)), the old mission chapel is the oldest intact building in San Francisco. It has been carefully preserved. There was a complete [restoration](#) and retrofit in 1990 and 1994.

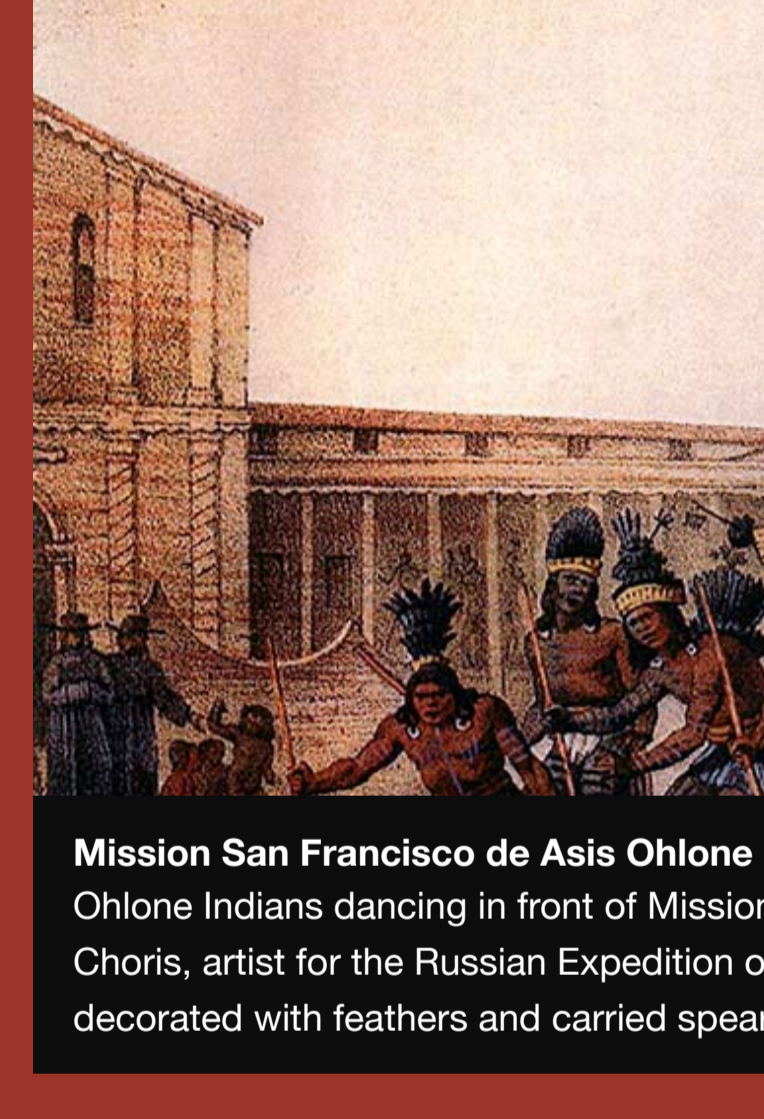
Because of this mission's location and appeal, San Francisco de Asis has been extensively illustrated by expedition artists and the prominent painters of the 19th century. The Historical Image Gallery presents fourteen of the most important paintings, drawings, and lithographs of this historic mission and several events that took place in its early history.



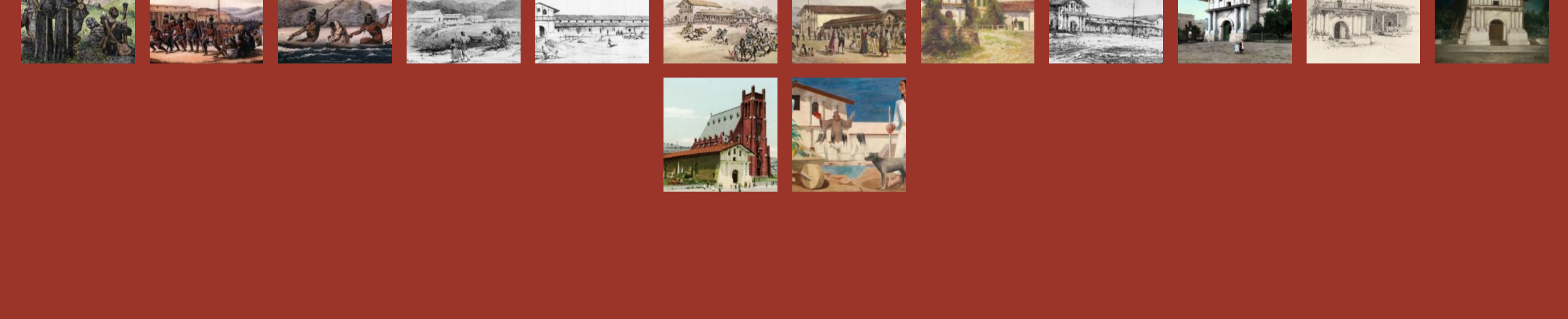
...s, designed to tell the history of San



San Francisco de Asis Discovery of the Bay of San Francisco
Discovery of the Bay of San Francisco by A.B. Dodge, colored © 2014 Pentacle Press LLC.



Mission San Francisco de Asis Ohlone
Ohlone Indians dancing in front of Mission San Francisco de Asis. Artist for the Russian Expedition on decorated with feathers and carried spear

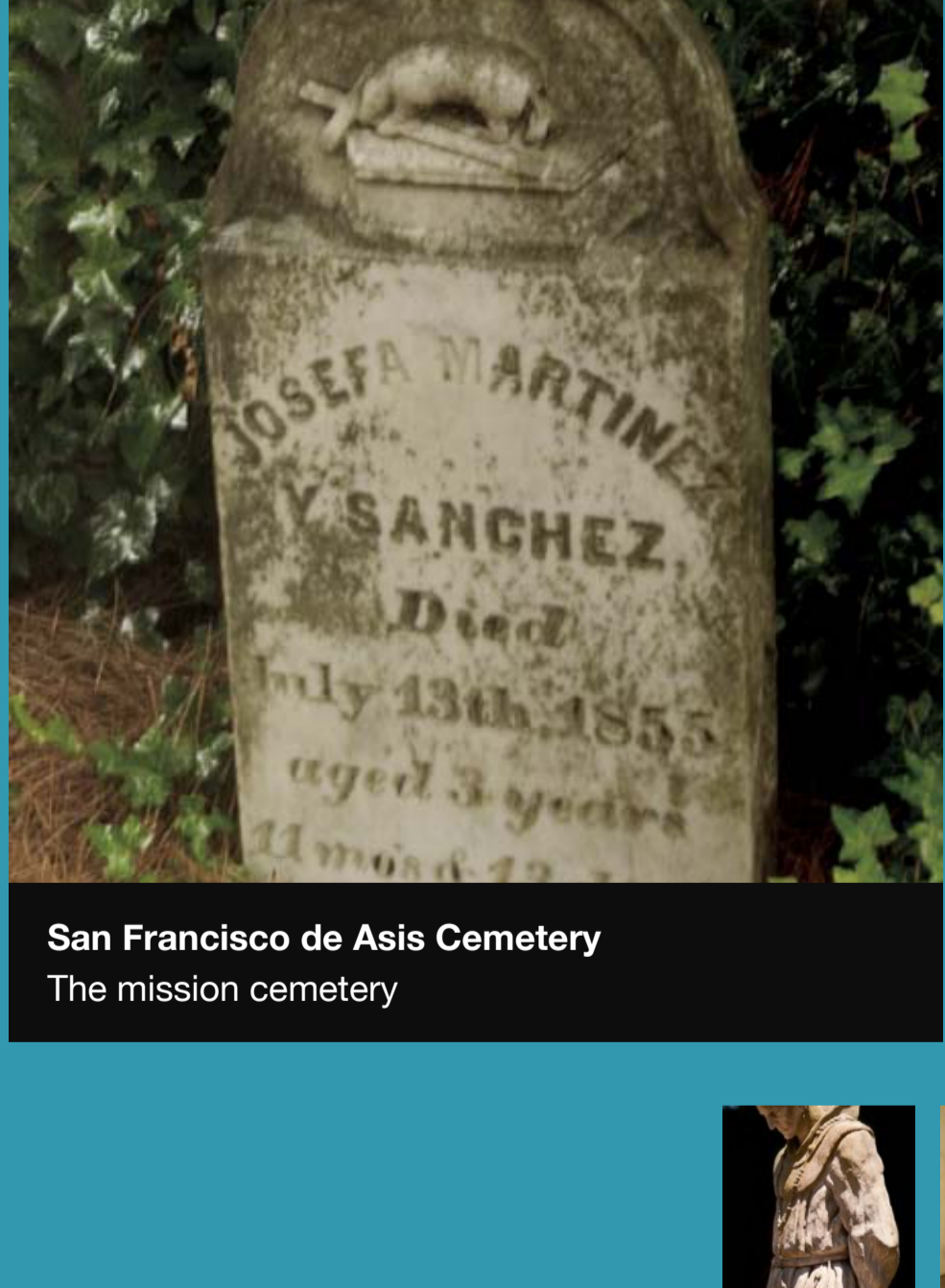


Contemporary Gallery

The Contemporary Image Gallery contains more recent photographs taken by several different photographers from around the Church gardens and the Church interior.



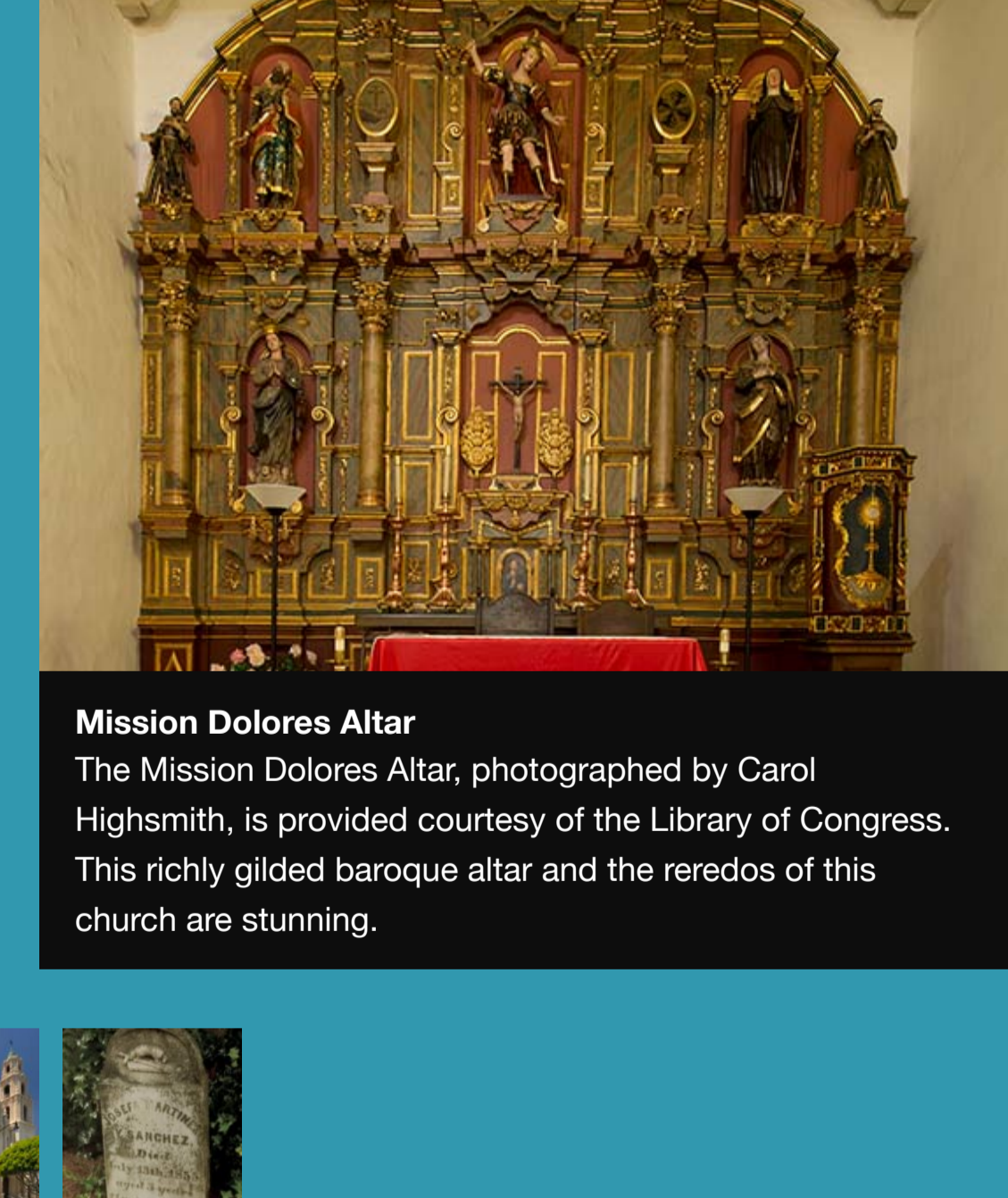
Cathedral
2014.



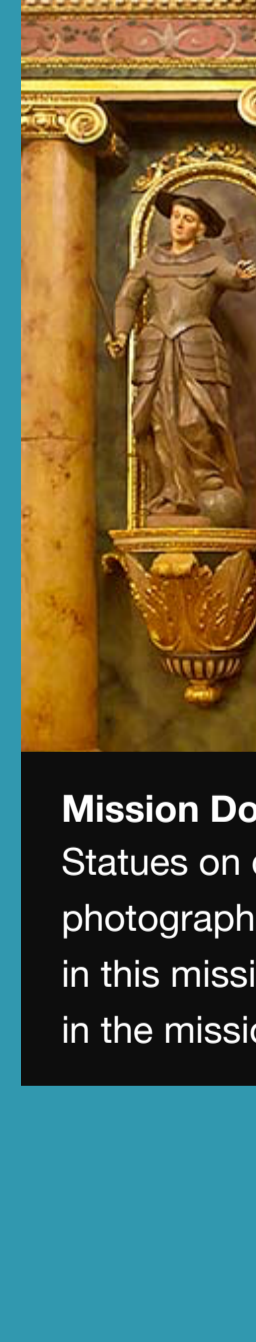
San Francisco de Asis Cemetery
The mission cemetery



San Francisco de Asis Statue of Junipero Serra
The statue by Arthur Putnam in 1918 is located in the mission cemetery, and was photographed by David J. McLaughlin. There are other notable Arthur Putnam statues on Presidio Hill.



Mission Dolores Altar
The Mission Dolores Altar, photographed by Carol Highsmith, is provided courtesy of the Library of Congress. This richly gilded baroque altar and the reredos of this church are stunning.



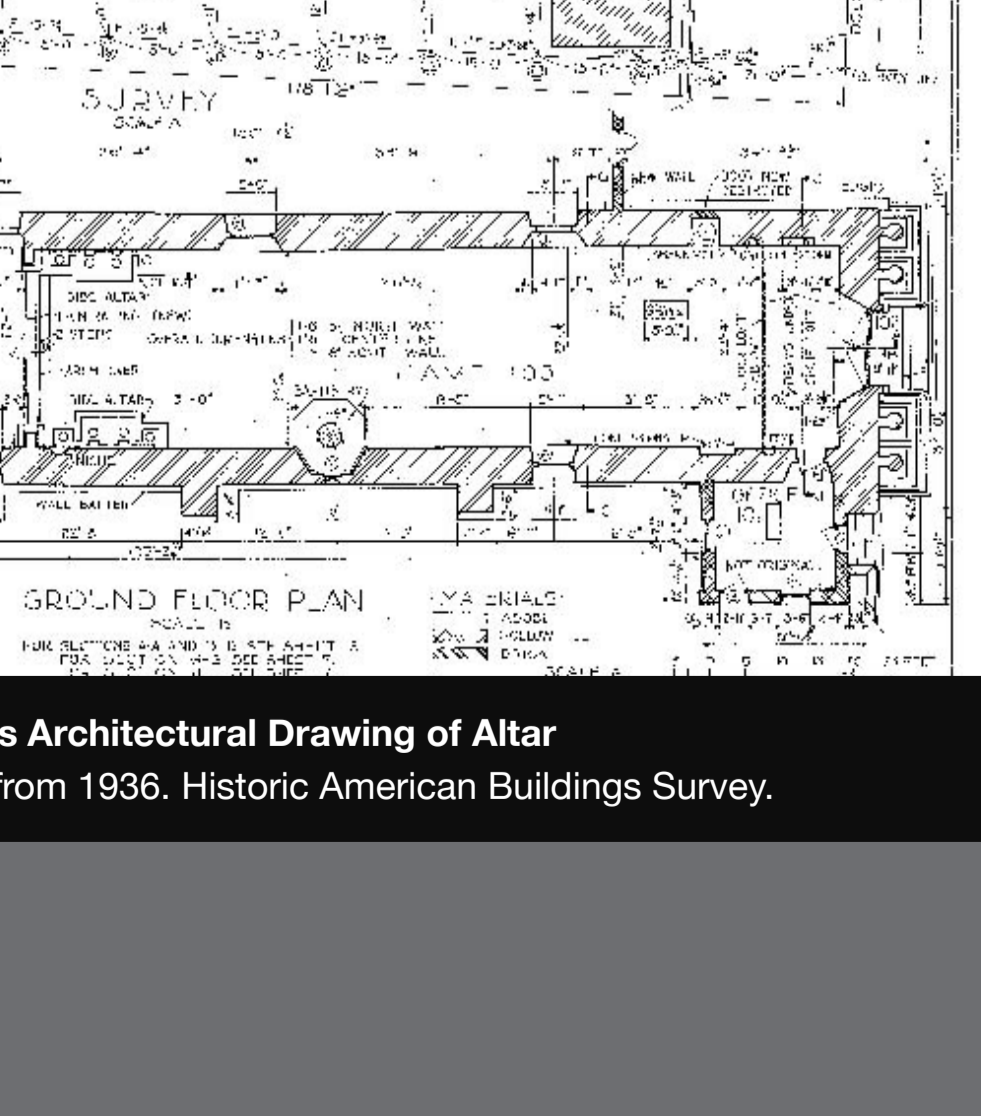
Mission Dolores
Statues on display in this mission.



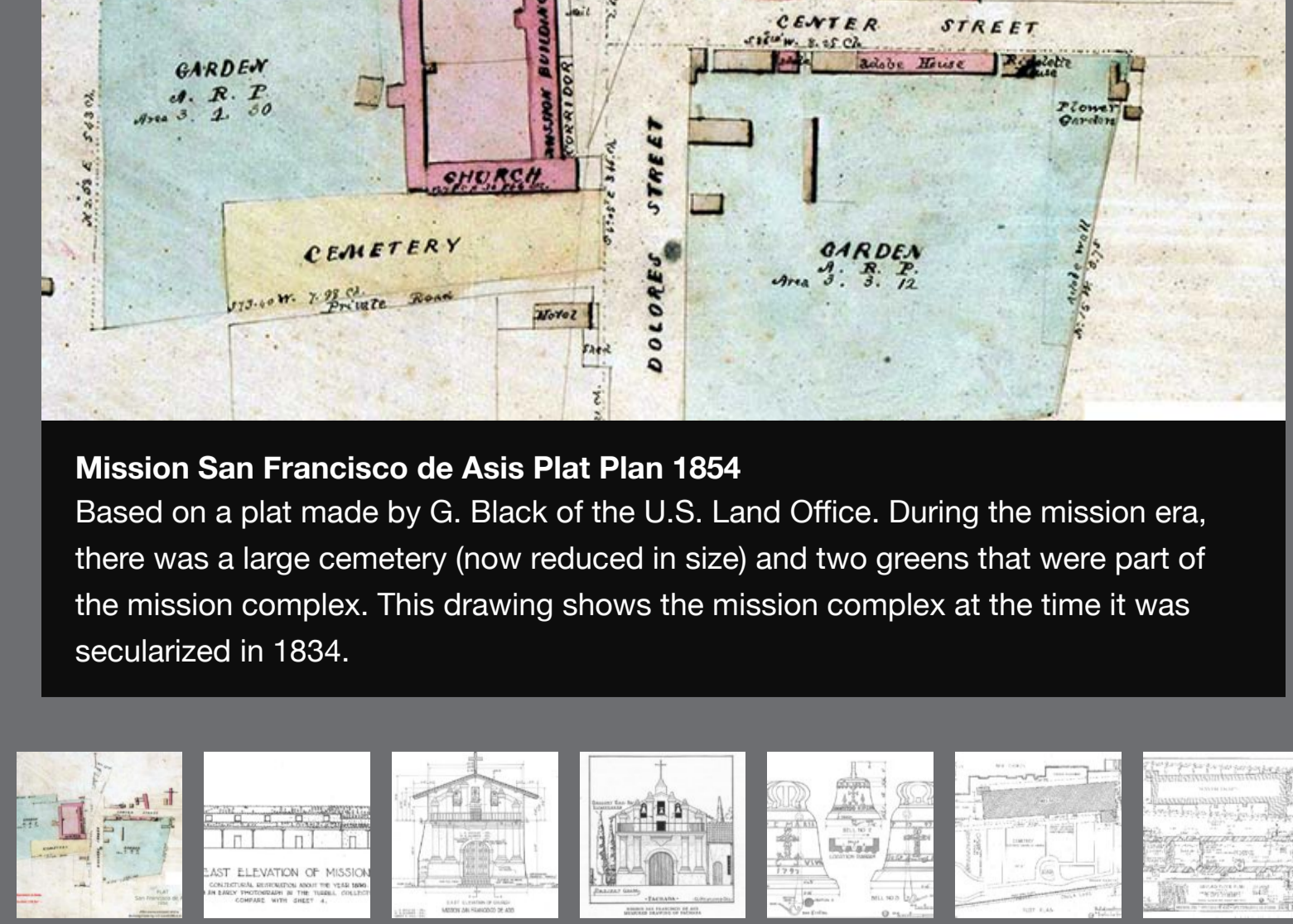
Architectural Gallery

The current mission chapel, dedicated in 1791, has survived earthquakes, fires, and other calamities. It is the oldest intact building in San Francisco. There are quite a few architectural drawings of this historic structure.

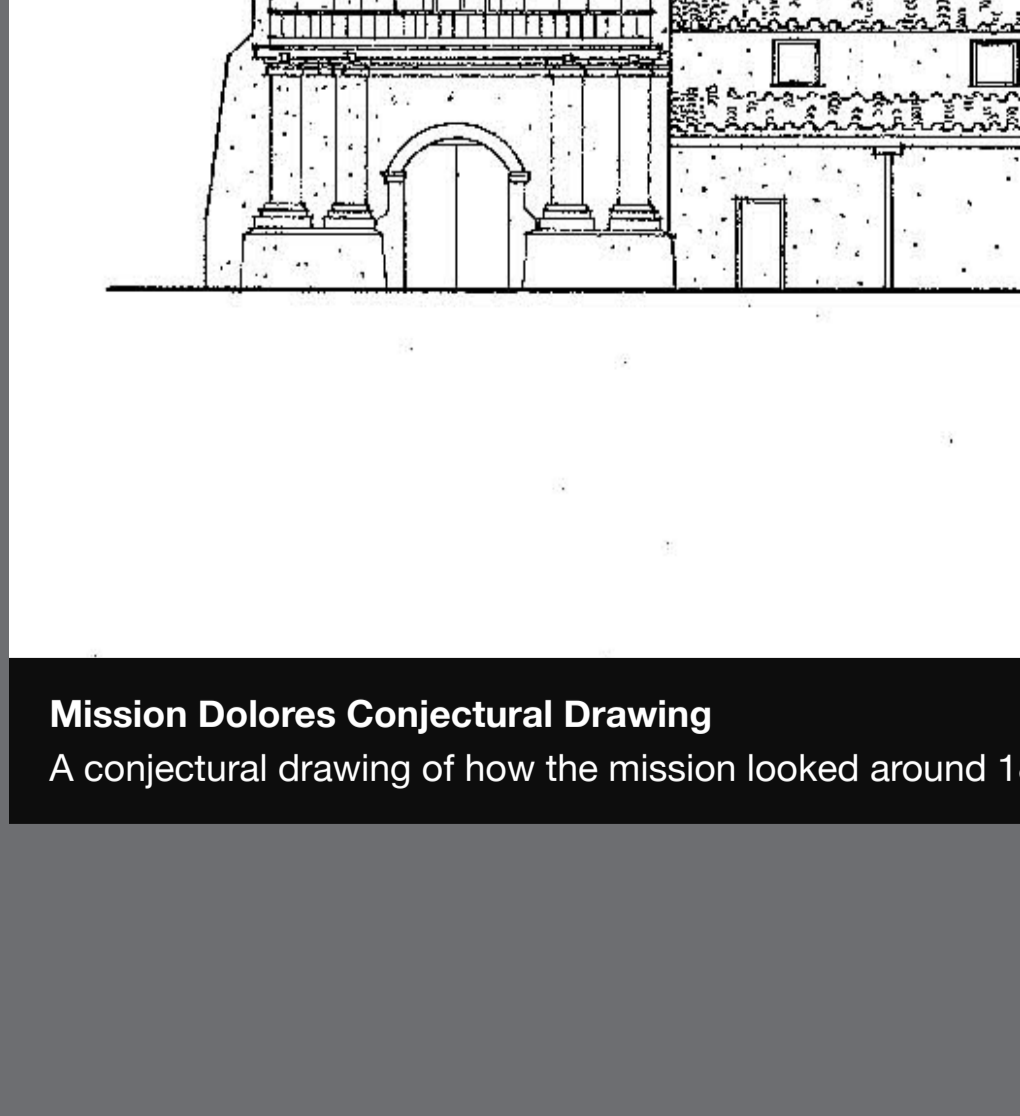
The mission complex extended over several acres during the mission era and there were additional buildings to the right of the church. Pay attention to the date of each of the drawings.



Architectural Drawing of Altar
from 1936. Historic American Buildings Survey.



Mission San Francisco de Asis Plat Plan 1854
Based on a plat made by G. Black of the U.S. Land Office. During the mission era, there was a large cemetery (now reduced in size) and two greens that were part of the mission complex. This drawing shows the mission complex at the time it was secularized in 1834.



Mission Dolores Conjectural Drawing
A conjectural drawing of how the mission looked around 1776.



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