



lat: 37.764389, lon: -122.427028

[Mission San Francisco de Asís \(Mission Dolores\)](#)

3320

3312a

16th St

16th St

16th St

3321

Mission San Francisco de Asis
Ornate, Spanish-style church & cemetery

310

Mission-Castro Tour

Old Mission Dolores Museum

320 Dolores Street
San Francisco, California 94114

Mission Dolores Cemetery

Mission Dolores Historic Cemetery

Dolores St

Dolores St

Dolores St

Dolores St

Dolores St

Dolores St

Chula Ln

3259

Mission Dolores, 1776 (1791)



In the 1860's, Mission Dolores remained a cultural focal point for the surviving hispanic "Californios."

Mission Dolores, 1776 (1791)

The original colonizing expedition to the Bay Area, led by the redoubtable Juan Bautista De Anza and Father Junipero Serra, arrived in the area of present day San Francisco, camped and held Mass beside a small lake

and stream in the spring of 1776. The watercourse, named Arroyo de Nuestra Senora de los Dolores, was located approximately at modern 18th and Dolores Streets. At this salubrious site, a mission, the sixth established in California, was dedicated. The first chapel, with walls of wooden poles plastered with mud and a roof of tule reeds, lasted but a short time.

In 1782, Father Palou, the pastor, decided to move the chapel to a new location, and laid the cornerstone of the present structure at what is now 16th and Dolores Streets. Completed in 1791, the chapel of Mission Dolores has changed very little since. The four-foot-thick adobe walls have been preserved by clapboard sheathing. The roof has the original rough-hewn redwood timbers and tiles. Pegs of manzanita wood and rawhide lashings hold the structure together. Other original items remaining in the chapel include the altar, statues, an Indian-made paschal candle, a revolving tabernacle and original confessional doors. The ceiling still shows decorations painted by the mission Indians, using vegetable colors and cinnabar from Almaden near San Jose. Surprisingly, this frail, ancient structure survived the 1906 earthquake undamaged.

Although originally dedicated to Saint Francis, the mission popularly became known as Dolores after its proximity to the watercourse that was for many years the community's principal domestic source. Since 1791, the mission complex and the community have grown up around the chapel, leaving it an island of Hispanic culture unaffected by the bustling city surrounding it.