

# Spanish Presidios

Robert Jackson

On the northern frontier of Mexico the Spanish established military garrisons called presidios to protect the towns and missions. Some presidio structures survive to this day.

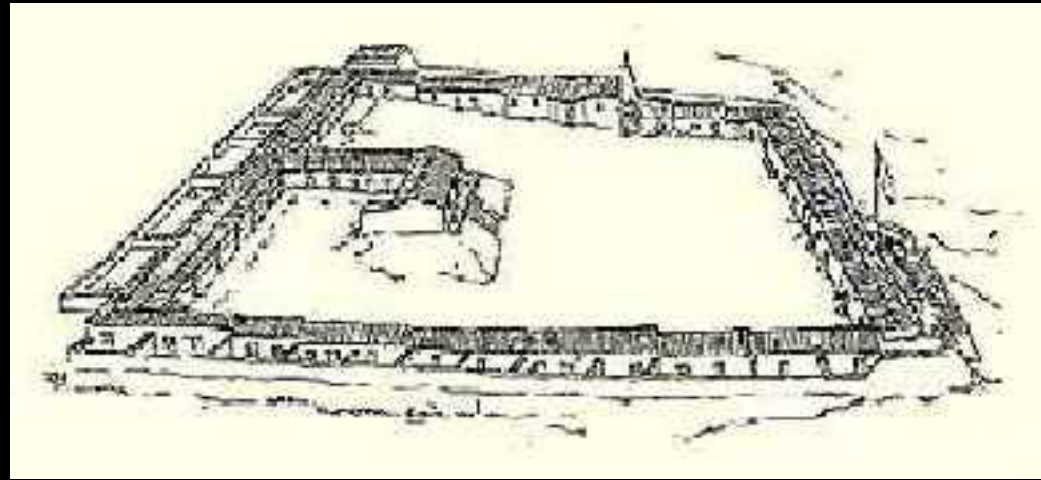
# Ruins of San Saba Presidio built in Texas in the 1750s



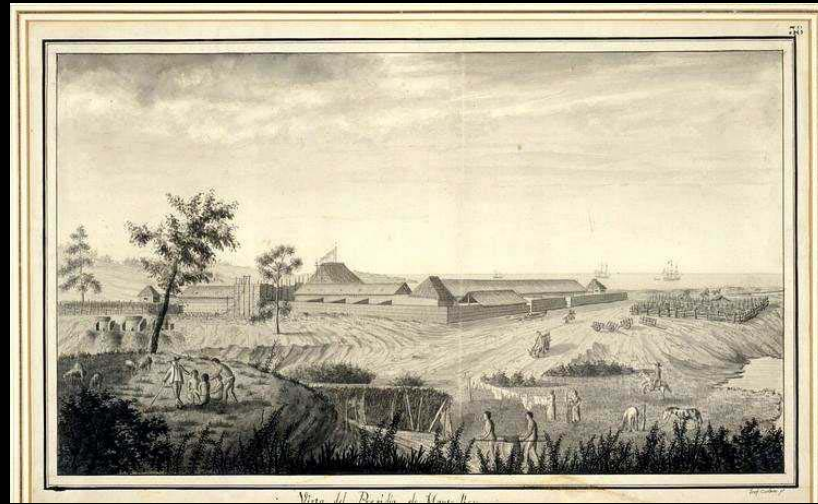
**The Spanish established  
four presidios in  
California: San Diego  
(1769); Monterey (1770);  
San Francisco (1776);  
and Santa Barbara  
(1782).**



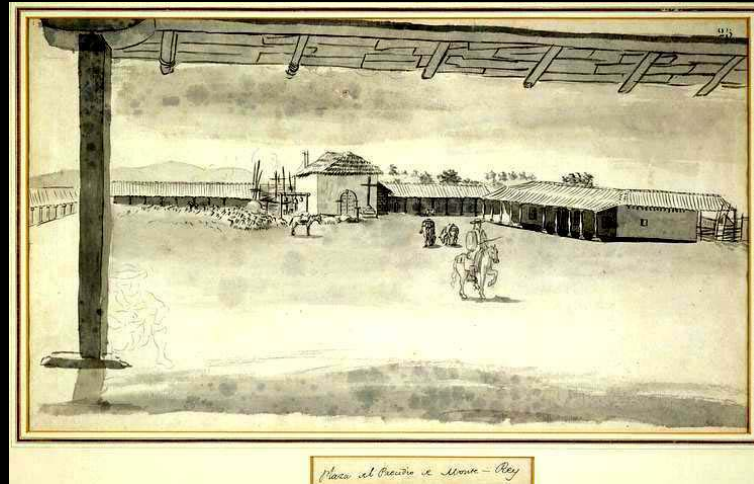
# Conjectural reconstruction of San Diego Presidio in 1820



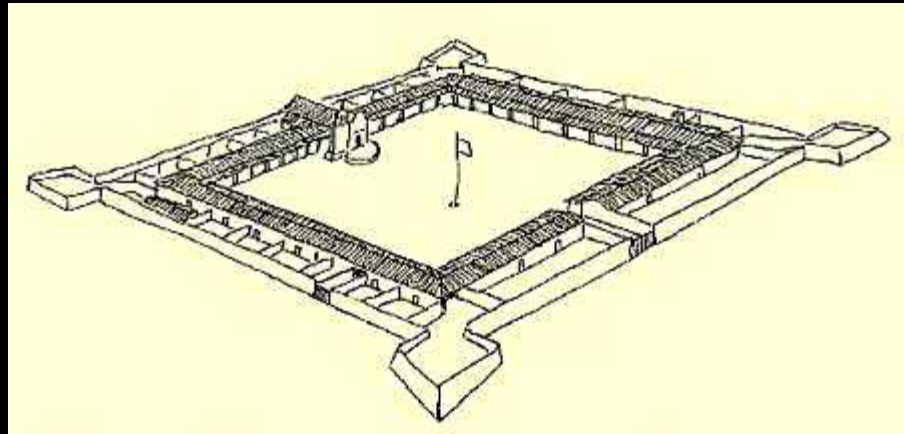
# Monterey Presidio in 1791



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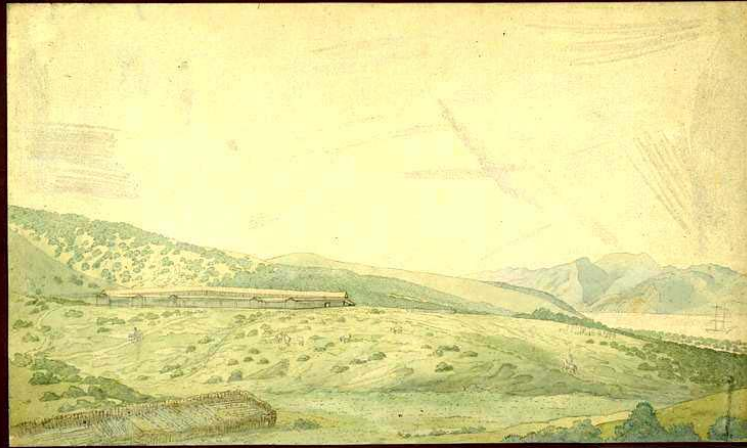
# Conjectural Reconstruction of Monterey Presidio c. 1820



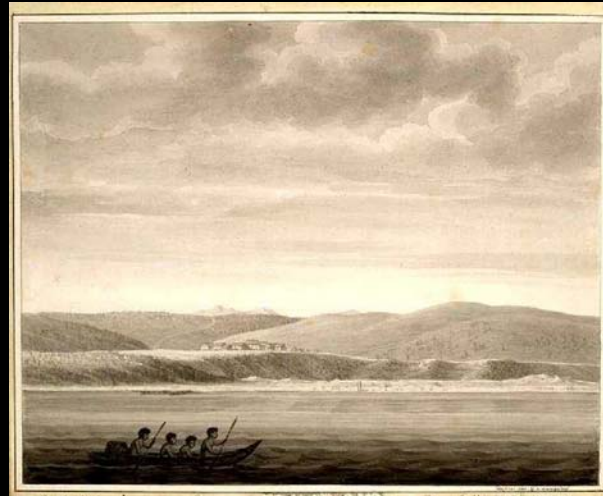
# Monterey Presidio Chapel in the 1860s



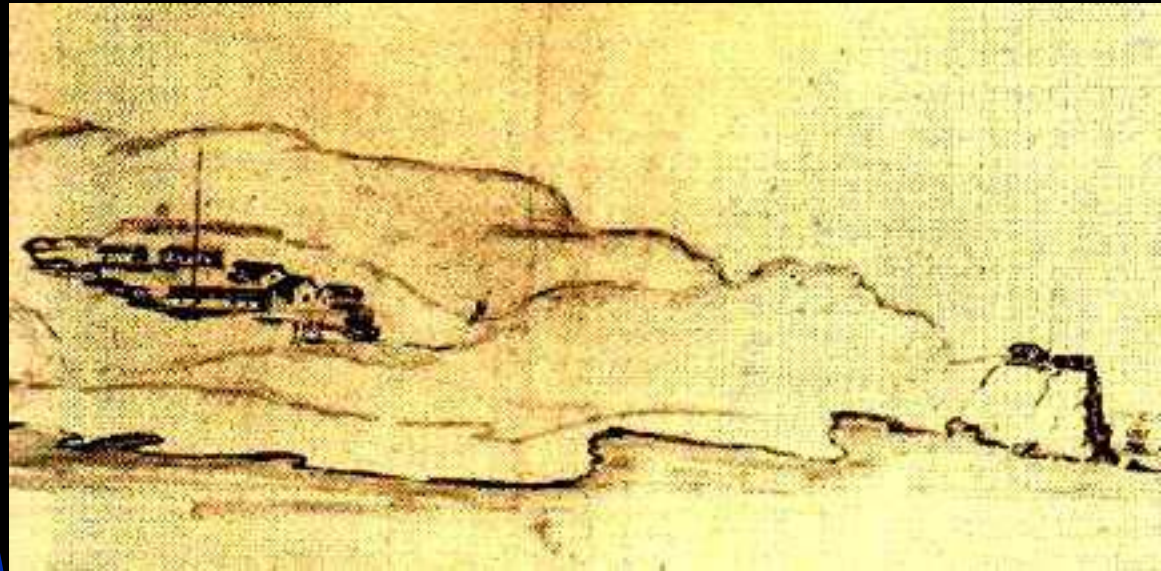
# San Francisco Presidio



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# Conjectural Reconstruction of Santa Barbara Presidio



# Restored Santa Barbara Presidio Chapel



# Aerial Photo of Santa Barbara Presidio today



# Aerial Photo of Archaeological Excavations at Santa Barbara Presidio



**In the Caribbean, the Spanish employed a different system of defense. The government had large stone forts built at major ports, in the expectation that an attacking force would be stopped at the fort and could not penetrate into the interior. These forts can still be seen today.**

# One such fort is the Castillo de San Marcos in San Agustín, Florida

