## National Register of Historic Places Inventory — Nomination Form

**State:** Texas  
**County:** Bexar

### 1. Name

**Common:** Mission San Juan Capistrano  
**And/or Historic:**

### 2. Location

**Street and Number:** .8 mile north of Loop 410 on Mission Road  
**City or Town:** San Antonio  
**State:** Texas

### 3. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Accessible to the Public</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Occupied</td>
<td>Restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>In Process</td>
<td>Unoccupied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>Being Considered</td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td>Public Acquisition</td>
<td>Preservation work in progress</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Present Use:**

- [ ] Agricultural
- [ ] Commercial
- [ ] Educational
- [ ] Entertainment
- [ ] Government
- [ ] Industrial
- [ ] Military
- [ ] Museum
- [ ] Religious
- [ ] Scientific
- [ ] Park
- [ ] Private Residence
- [ ] Other (Specify)
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Comments

### 4. Owner of Property

**Owner's Name:** Catholic Archdiocese of San Antonio  
**Street and Number:** Chancery Office, P.O. Box 13190  
**City or Town:** San Antonio  
**State:** Texas

### 5. Location of Legal Description

**Courthouse, Registry of Deeds, etc.:** Chancery Office, Archdiocese of Bexar County Courthouse and San Antonio  
**Street and Number:** P.O. Box 13190  
**City or Town:** San Antonio  
**State:** Texas

### 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

**Title of Survey:** Historic American Buildings Survey TEX-321  
**Date of Survey:** 1934  
**Depository for Survey Records:** Library of Congress  
**Street and Number:**

**City or Town:** Washington  
**State:** DC

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Dist. 20, Rep. Henry B. Gonzales  
Form 10-300  
(313) 234-2000  
BexSA 389  
SJC
The Mission San Juan Capistrano, one of the five San Antonio missions, underwent several building periods during its ninety-three-year existence as a Spanish outpost in the New World.

The mission compound follows a traditional plan of rooms arranged side by side in a rough quadrangle around a plaza. Entrance to these rooms is gained through walls facing the plaza. Spaces not occupied by structures are walled (see site map). Minor modifications on this plan were made in the several building periods of the mission's life.

By 1756 a church had been completed, with a cloistered convent and a granary. The Indian quarters were composed of jacales, homes made up of upright posts plastered with adobe for walls and thatched roofs. Evidence of these jacales (rows of post holes evenly and closely spaced along the south wall) were revealed during excavations at the site in 1971 (Mardith K. Schuetz, personal communication).

In 1762 Fray Mariano Francisco de los Dolores inspected the mission. He states that a second church was under construction and the convent expanded. Indians were still living in the temporary quarters (Schuetz, 1968: 40-42).

The apex of mission development is considered to be that period between 1756 and 1777 when the economic stability of the mission allowed it to supply goods to other missions.

In 1794 Mission San Juan Capistrano was partially secularized. Twelve Indian families received ownership of mission land and properties, but by 1823 (the complete secularization of the mission) when San Juan property was sold at auction nearly all the Indian population had disappeared and only four or five Indians were left at the mission (Schuetz, 1968: 58).

What remains now are the ruins of the second church (c. 1756-1763/64) and the third church (post 1762), originally the granary, that chapel which is now in use. During excavations conducted in January-March 1971 foundations of what is believed to be the first church (1731) were uncovered. (Mardith K. Schuetz, personal communication).

Additional remains of the mission complex are the walls surrounding it, foundations of some of the Indian quarters, the convent, granary foundations, the well and an old residence (c. 1824) built within the mission walls after its secularization (see site plan).

Restoration done by the Works Progress Administration in the 1930s was located for the most part on the south and east walls. Excavations conducted by them at this time also uncovered part of the complex located within the plaza. Additional res-
Restoration sponsored by the Archdiocese of San Antonio in 1967 followed archeological work conducted by the Texas State Historical Survey Committee (Schuetz, 1968). Continuing restoration of the major buildings is being directed by the architectural firm of Ford, Powell and Carson of San Antonio for the archdiocese.

Beginning on the west wall with the chapel and moving clockwise, those standing buildings and ruins are:

**Post 1763 chapel (present church; originally a granary)**

The most prominent building at the site is the recently restored chapel. The rectangular building is of rubble construction with buttresses along the east and west walls. The east wall buttresses occur at regular intervals along a decorative arcade of segmental arches. A two-tiered espadaña, located at the north end of the east facade, has three bells arranged with one in the center of the top tier, two in the bottom tier. Finials on either side of both tiers, as well as one on the top of the highest section, complete the decoration of the wall belfry.

The flat roof, which is surrounded by a parapet, slopes on the west. Canales project from this west wall. The exterior of the building is stuccoed.

Entrance to the chapel is gained along the east wall through double doors at the north end under the belfry. There is also another door in the center of the building and a third at the south end.

**Indian quarters**

Two restored Indian quarters stand to the immediate north of the chapel. The building now serves as residences for the caretakers. The small cottages are rectangular buildings of stucco-covered rubble construction. The side walls (south and north) extend to create a parapet for the thatched hip roof. An entrance is located at the north end of the east facade. Two windows are adjacent to the door on the south. The houses have chimneys on the north walls.

**1824 house**

A third residence—a small, one room, square house with a hip roof—stands against the east wall. Construction is of limestone blocks. This house was built on the mission grounds after the completed secularization of the mission (1824).

**1756-1763/64 church ruins**

Located along the east wall of the complex are the ruins of the large stone church built c. 1756-1763/64, which was the second church constructed at the site. The octagonal baptistry (see continuation sheet #2)
7. (contd. 2)

on the southeast corner and the south wall were reconstructed by the Works Progress Administration in the 1930s.

Convento

The convento, located along the west wall adjacent to the chapel is of rubble construction. The rectangular building has two entrances on the east. The flat roof is surrounded by a parapet and slopes toward the west. Canales project from the west wall. The building has been restored and now serves as a museum.
Spanish interest in the occupation of Texas was based on the presence of the French in Louisiana and the native inhabitants of the area. The basis of the mission/presidio system was the extension of controls to hold the area through Christianizing the natives and settlement of the area.

"The center and defense of the western settlements was the presidio of San Antonio de Bexar, founded in 1718. By its side stood the mission of San Antonio de Valero...Within a stretch of twelve miles down the river there were four other missions, named Concepcion, San Jose, San Juan Capistrano, and San Francisco della Espada, and located in the order here given" (Bolton, 1970: 5).

After a succession of moves beginning in East Texas, San Juan was finally established in 1731 along the banks of the San Antonio River. The sporadic life in East Texas, move to Central Texas, and final permanency in San Antonio came as a result of the inability of the Spanish to send supplies, equipment and personnel to the outposts.

Missionary activity at San Juan lasted from 1731 (the establishment of the mission) through its complete secularization in 1824. Its longevity is evidenced by the fact that today, 240 years after its establishment, it is still a functioning parish.

Mission San Juan Capistrano stands, with its companion missions, as an historical and political symbol of the Spanish colonial empire in Texas and its principal vehicle, the mission system. Additionally, it is an architectural reminder of and memorial to the "accomplishments of Spain's Franciscan missionaries" built because of the success of the padres in their cultural and religious conversion of the Indian population.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>29°20'00&quot;</td>
<td>98°27'21&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>29°20'00&quot;</td>
<td>98°27'10&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>29°19'51&quot;</td>
<td>98°27'10&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>29°19'51&quot;</td>
<td>98°27'21&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **15 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CODE</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Wayne Bell, Project Director
Marsha Jackson, Research Associate

ORGANIZATION: Texas State Historical Survey Committee
DATE: 10-20-71

STREET AND NUMBER: 108 W. 15th Street
CITY OR TOWN: Austin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>048</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National [ ] State [ ] Local [ ]

Name
Title: State Liaison Officer
Date: 10-26-71

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
FEB 23 1972

ATTEST:
Keeper of the National Register
JAN 27 1972
1. NAME
COMMON: Mission San Juan Capistrano
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: .8 mile north of Loop 410 on Mission Road
CITY OR TOWN: San Antonio
STATE: Texas

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee
DATE OF PHOTO: March, 1971
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee
108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711

4. IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
East facade. View southwest.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. NAME</th>
<th>COMMON: Mission San Juan Capistrano</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AND/OR HISTORIC:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 2. LOCATION | STREET AND NUMBER: 0.8 mile north of Loop 410 on Mission Road |
| CITY OR TOWN: San Antonio |
| STATE: Texas |
| CODE: 048 |
| COUNTY: Bexar |
| CODE: 029 |

| 3. PHOTO REFERENCE | PHOTO CREDIT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee |
| DATE OF PHOTO: March, 1971 |
| NEGATIVE FILED AT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee 108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711 |

| 4. IDENTIFICATION | DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. |
| View toard wouth wall. Excavation at left foreground of 1731 church. |
1. NAME
   COMMON: Mission San Juan Capistrano
   AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: .8 mile north of Loop 410 on Mission Road
   CITY OR TOWN: San Antonio
   STATE: Texas
   CODE 048
   COUNTY: Bexar
   CODE 029

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
   PHOTO CREDIT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee
   DATE OF PHOTO: March, 1971
   NEGATIVE FILED AT Texas State Historical Survey Committee
   108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711

4. IDENTIFICATION
   DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
   Ruins in east wall area of second church--1756-1763/64.
   View east.
**1. NAME**

**COMMON:** Mission San Juan Capistrano

**AND/OR HISTORIC:**

---

**2. LOCATION**

**STREET AND NUMBER:** .8 mile north of Loop 410 on Mission Road

**CITY OR TOWN:** San Antonio

**STATE:** Texas

**CODE:** 048

**COUNTY:** Bexar

**CODE:** 029

---

**3. PHOTO REFERENCE**

**PHOTO CREDIT:** Texas State Historical Survey Committee

**DATE OF PHOTO:** March, 1971

**NEGATIVE FILED AT:** Texas State Historical Survey Committee 108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711

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**4. IDENTIFICATION**

**DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.:** View across quadrangle toward chapel and restored Indian quarters. Excavations in progress reveal in foreground probable foundations of first church (1731) View northwest
### 1. NAME

**COMMON:** Mission San Juan Capistrano
**AND/OR HISTORIC:**

### 2. LOCATION

**STREET AND NUMBER:**
- 8 miles north of Loop 410 on Mission Road

**CITY OR TOWN:** San Antonio

**STATE:** Texas

**CODE:** 048

### 3. PHOTO REFERENCE

**PHOTO CREDIT:** Texas State Historical Survey Committee

**DATE OF PHOTO:** March, 1971

**NEGATIVE FILED:**
- Texas State Historical Survey Committee
  - 108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711

### 4. IDENTIFICATION

**DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.:**
### Mission San Juan Capistrano

**STATE:** Texas  
**COUNTY:** Bexar

---

**1. NAME**  
**COMMON:** Mission San Juan Capistrano

---

**2. LOCATION**  
**STREET AND NUMBER:**  
.8 mile north of Loop 410 on Mission Road

**CITY OR TOWN:** San Antonio

**STATE:** Texas  
**CODE:** 048  
**COUNTY:** Bexar  
**CODE:** 029

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**3. MAP REFERENCE**  
**SOURCE:** United States Department of the Interior Geological Survey

**SCALE:** 1:24000  
**DATE:** 1967

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**4. REQUIREMENTS**  
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS:  
1. Property boundaries where required.  
2. North arrow.  
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

**Texas Map Reference #2998-132**  
Southton Quadrangle
Adapted from Schuetz (1968: Figure 1)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mission San Francisco de la Espada</td>
<td>San Antonio Bexar County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission San Juan Capistrano</td>
<td>San Antonio Bexar County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky Dell (41 OL 4)</td>
<td>Adrian Oldham County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardenham House</td>
<td>Austin Travis County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Port Eliss, 1878-1893</td>
<td>El Paso El Paso County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garcia Pasture Site (41 CF 8)</td>
<td>Port Isabel Cameron County</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Also Notified**

Hon. John G. Tower  
Hon. Lloyd M. Bentsen, Jr.  
Hon. Henry B. Gonzales  
Hon. Robert D. Price  
Hon. J. J. (Jake) Pickle  
Hon. Richard C. White  
Hon. Eligio de la Garza  

State Liaison Officer  
Mr. Truett Latimer  
Executive Director  
Texas State Historical Survey Committee  
Post Office Box 12276 Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711
NOTIFICATION OF GRANT-IN-AID ACTION

1. STATE APPLICATION IDENTIFIER
48-75-00139-00

2. (Reserved for use by State central information reception agency)

3. GRANTOR: a. Federal agency
   Department of the Interior
   b. Organizational unit
   National Park Service
   c. Administering office—(1) Name
   Division of Grants
   (2) Address—Street or P.O. Box
   18th and C Streets NW.
   City Washington State DC Zip Code 20240

4. FEDERAL AGENCY GRANT IDENTIFIER: a. Code 48-75-00139-00
   b. Title Mission San Juan Capistrano Development, Phase I
   c. Purpose Archeological investigation to establish original construction of building.

5. GRANTEE: a. Name
   Texas Mr. Truett Latimer, Exec. Dir., Texas State Historical Survey Committee
   b. Address—Street or P.O. Box
   Post Office Box 12276, Capitol Station
   City Austin State Texas Zip Code 78711

6. GRANTEE TYPE (Check only the single most applicable box)
   a. State
   b. Interstate
   c. County
   d. City
   e. School district
   f. Special unit
   g. Community action
   h. Sponsored organization
   i. Other

7. APPLICATION RECEIPT DATE
   Year Month Day
   75 04 07

8. ACTION DATE
   Year Month Day
   75 04 29

9. EFFECTIVE STARTING DATE
   Year Month Day
   75 04 29

10. ENDING DATE
    Year Month Day
    78 04 28

11. TYPE OF ACTION (Check as many boxes as apply to this action)
    a. New grant
    b. Continuation grant
    c. Supplemental grant
    (identify agency in item 16)
    d. Change in existing grant
       (1) Increase in duration
       (2) Decrease in duration
       (3) Cancellation
       (4) Increase($) (5) Decrease($) (6)

12. AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTION
    a. Federal—(1) basic
    b. Supplemental
    c. State
    d. Local
    e. Other
    $ 10,498
    $ 10,498

13. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (if none, clarify in item 16)
    a. Program Number
    b. Supplemental Program Number
    15.904

14. AUTHORIZATION
    a. Federal Budget Accounts
    10-58-1040-0-1-405
    b. Public Laws PL Title Sec.
    89 665
    c. U.S. Code
    16 U.S.C. 470

15. FACILITY LOCATION: (For facility grant actions only)
    a. City Mission Road, San Antonio
    b. County Bexar

16. REMARKS
    *Archdiocese of San Antonio

Prepared by Ralph E. Thomas 523(139)-5054

STANDARD FORM 240