Mission San Francisco Solano
About The Mission

- Mission San Francisco de Solano
- Date Founded: July 4, 1823
- Mission Founder: Fray Altimira
- Mission Number: 21
40 miles north of San Francisco in a valley called Sonoma or Valley of the Moon. It is the most northern of all the missions.
The patron saint of the mission is St. San Francisco Solano who was a missionary for 20 years to the Peruvian people.
Timeline for Mission San Francisco Solano

1823
Father Altimira chooses sight and starts building with out permission from president of missions. Other missionary convinces president to let mission open.

1824
Church was dedicated and quadrangle building constructed. Russians sent fine gifts.

1826
Church destroyed by fire. Father Altimira replaced by Father Fortuni who made the buildings adobe instead of wood.

1827
Church replaced by larger church at the east side of the quadrangle.

1834
Mission secularized with General Mariano Vallejo as commissioner.

1835
Vallejo laid out the town of Sonoma with a large plaza in front of the old mission.

1838
The 1838 was torn down.

1840
Vallejo had a chapel built on the site of the 1824 church for the town which was growing around the mission site.

1846
America Took control over California and it became a state.

1881
Buildings of the mission were in a bad state of repair and were sold for uses such as storage for hay.

1903
Historical Landmarks League purchased the mission.
Mission Design

- **Church:** The first church was made of wood and white-washed with mud and used for three years. Replaced by a larger church made of adobe on the other side of the grounds, and it was destroyed in 1838. It was 105 feet long and 23 feet wide. They restored the church in 1840.

- **Style:** None of the two churches had any special characteristics. The 1840 was plain and built of adobe. Decoration was on beams above entrances and windows. The walls probably had painting in native style and color.

- **Walls:** The walls were made of adobe.
Mission Design [cont.]

- **Mission Campground** - The monastery was a long, low building which were the living quarters for the mission staff.

- There were no bell towers or walls. One simple bell hung from a wooden frame. The bell was first donated by friendly Russians but later a Spanish bell was made for the mission.

- **Mission Grounds** - The mission had over 10,000 acres of vineyards, orchards, and grain fields. Since this mission was established late in history there was little time for this mission to develop.
Mission Today!

It took quite a few years before Historic Landmarks League could start to restore the mission and the 1908 earthquake hit before there was any help to the old mission. The property given to the state of California by the league in 1926.

The mission is now the Sonoma Mission State Historic Park. The church is not used for religious purpose any longer, but the mission is still fun to visit.
Mission Music

The Spanish padres and the natives both had music. There had been music in California before the missionaries came. The people in California had many different types of music like dance songs, hunting songs, children’s songs, songs of their pass, and many more. They also made instruments like drums, flutes, rattles and clappers.
The Spanish also liked music and brought music to the missions. Some padres had a choir, but they were only for men and boys. Some missions even instruments like violins, bases, flutes, cymbal and hand organs. They sang songs like *Alabado* and many others. Some choirs had uniforms in military style. There were sometimes an instrument maker at the missions.
Acrostic Poem

Site chosen in the valley of moons
Altamira built with approval of the president of mission
Northern most mission
Father Altamira was no good at leading a mission
Russians were friendly
Altamira replaced by Father Fortuni
Not able to prosper for very long
Church of 1827 torn down in 1838
In all of the mission there was only one bell
Secularized with General Mariano as commissioner
Church's tiles used to build
towns
Old church no longer used
Sadly, the mission was falling apart
Over time the building were sold
Leaving the mission abandoned, unknown
And Sonoma sprang up as a city
Now the mission was bought and declared as an historical landmark and overtime was repaired
One last thing is now, today, the mission is fun to visit, I must say!