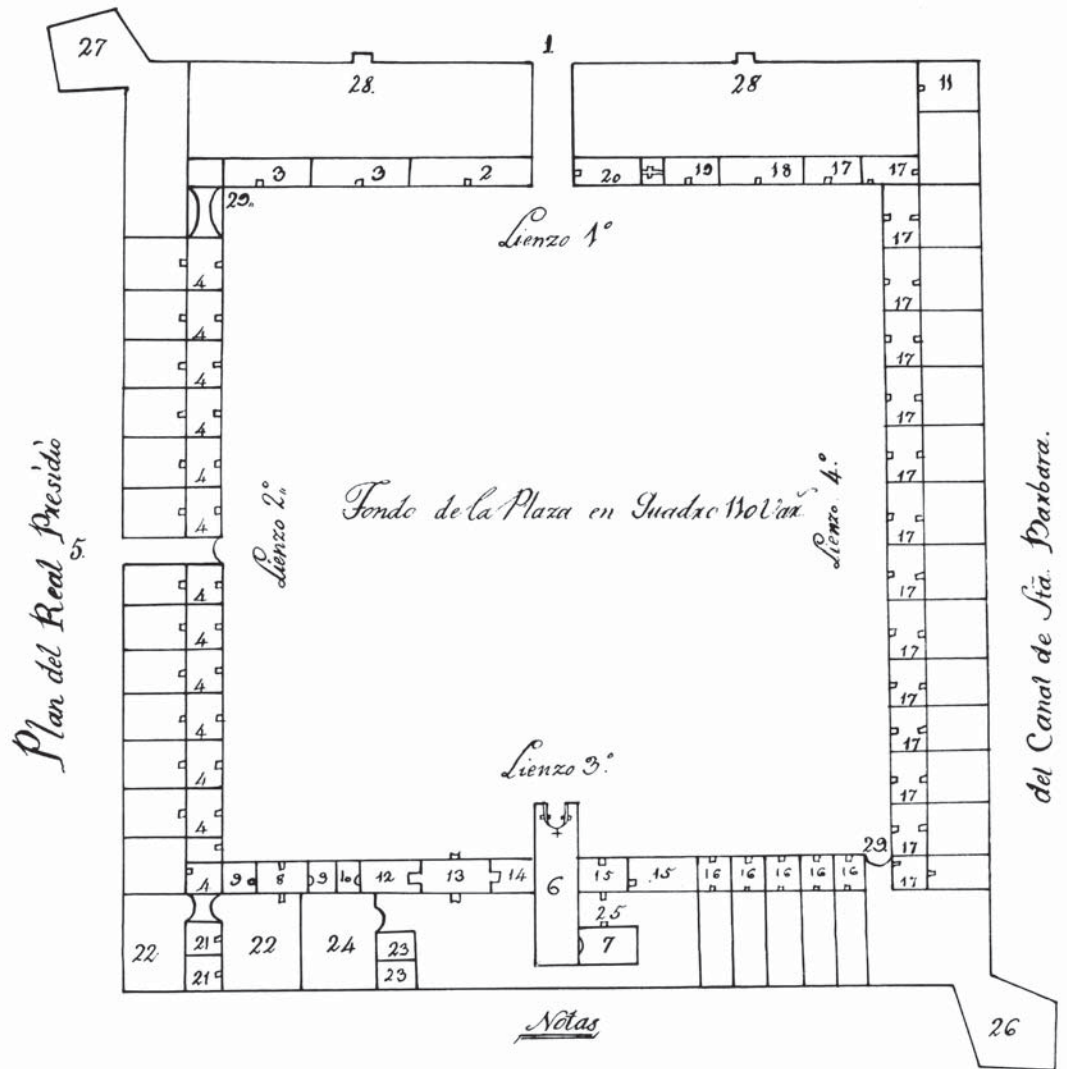


Handout 2

The Plan of the Royal Presidio of Santa Barbara (right), signed by Pedro Fages, 16 September 1783. It was accompanied by detailed notes, translated below by Richard S. Whitehead in his article, "Alta California's Four Fortresses," *Southern California Quarterly* 65 (Spring 1983): 84. The plan itself is reproduced courtesy of the Edward E. Ayer Collection, Newberry Library, and the translation, courtesy of the *Southern California Quarterly*, Historical Society of Southern California.



NOTES

Of the thirteen houses shown on the fourth front of the quadrangle, the walls are finished, three-quarters [of a vara] thick, and three varas high without the ridge of the roofs, which are to be the same as the other [houses] for the soldiers, and also the corresponding woodwork has been put into seven of them, and the little that is lacking for the rest is being brought, and more than four thousand tiles are made for their roofs. [Note: a vara = 2.75 ft. or 33 in.]

All of the outer wall shown in this plan is ready to be built, and it will be started beginning with the month of November, at which time the quadrangle will be completed. The front walls of the first front are standing; they are one and a half adobes [bricks] thick, mortared, because of the poor quality of the soil for adobes.

1. Main gate with an opening of 4 varas.
2. A storehouse for supplies, 20 varas in length and 5 1/2 in width, its roof of beams, finished boards, and good quality tile.
3. Two of the same, of the same size, for provisions and other effects, the roof of beams, wattles, and tile as above.
4. Thirteen houses for families—8 varas in length and 5 in width—the roofs of rafters, wattles and good tile.
5. Private gate with an opening of 3 varas, roofed like the houses.
6. Church, 20 varas in length, 8 in width, and 7 1/2 in height, lined with mortar and whitewashed—its roof of beams and finished boards and good tile, and adorned with painting.
7. Sacristy, 5 varas in length and 4 in width—its roof like the church.
8. Living-room of the second lieutenant, 8 varas in length, 5 in width—its roof of rafters, wattles, and good tile.
9. Two bedrooms for the above—5 varas in the clear—the roof like the living-room.
10. Bedroom of the Comandante—5 varas in the clear, its roof of beams, finished boards, and good tile.
11. House for the sentry.
12. A living-room for the Comandante, 11 varas in length and 5 in width, its roof of beams, finished boards, and good tile.
13. Entrance-hall of the above—4 varas in the clear—4 in height (sic).
14. Office for writing, 5 1/2 varas in length, 5 in width.
15. Living-room and bedroom of the chaplain, 11 varas in length for both rooms, and 5 in width, the roofs of rafters, wattles, and good tile.
16. Five houses for families—8 varas in length, 5 in width—their roofs like that of the chaplain.
17. Fifteen houses on the fourth front for families—9 varas in length and 5 in width—their roof like those before-mentioned.
18. House of the sergeant, 15 varas in length, 5 1/2 in width—its roof as above.
19. Barracks for the soldiers—20 varas in length, 5 1/2 in width—its roof as above.
20. Guard-house—12 varas, and two small cells of 4 varas.
21. Kitchen and pantry of the second lieutenant, 6 varas in length and 4 in width, its roof as above.
22. Two yards for the second lieutenant's house—one of 14 varas and the other of 7.
23. Kitchen and pantry of the Comandante, 6 varas in length and 4 in width, roofed as above.
24. Two yards for the Comandante—one of 25 varas in length and 14 in width, and the other 14 in length and 8 in width.
25. Yard of the chaplain's house, 14 varas in length and 11 in width.
26. Bastion facing the west, of 6 varas.
27. The same, facing the east, of 6 varas.
28. Gates to two corrals for stock—60 varas in length and 14 in width.
29. Gates or passage-ways to enter the bastions—2 1/2 varas in width.

—Felipe de Goycochea (but signed by Pedro Fages), "Santa Barbara Presidio in 1783," *The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, CA.*

Handout 2

Questions

1. Who was assigned the largest living space?
2. Who was assigned the next largest space?
3. What differences in size appear in the dwellings of the various officers?
4. What additional conveniences were provided for the highest ranking officer at the presidio?
5. What was the largest structure within the *cuartel* (enclosure)?
6. What is its location and position?
7. What, in your opinion, does this reveal about the values of the Spanish colonists?
8. Given that a *vara* equals thirty-three inches, how much total space was devoted to the storage of supplies?
9. What means were taken to protect the bastions from unauthorized entry?
10. Why were the corrals located along a *lienzo* (façade)?
11. Since the purpose or function of the presidio was to provide military protection to the surrounding district, analyze the design and the floor plan in terms of its advantages and disadvantages.
12. Which items are missing from the floor plan that would tell us more about the soldiers' ability to protect the district?