FUTURE PLANS FOR HISTORIC SALA BUILDING

The historic 18th century Sala building has been home to the Mission gift shop for decades. However, as a result of the Gate House Preservation Project’s completion, the building has been emptied for the first time in decades.

This original Mission era building is now available for a thorough inspection and evaluation to determine the scope of work involved for an eventual conservation treatment.

The Sala space has been vacated and will occasionally be used while funds are raised to carry out its conservation. Over its lifespan, the Sala has housed priests, the faithful using it as a Chapel, and has served as the private residence of the Fentner family, owners of the Mission from 1845-1866. It was most recently a gift shop until 2013.

The Many Uses of the Sala Building Through Time:

1790s: Temporary Soldiers Barracks.
1790s: Craftsmen quarters during Great Stone Church construction.
1800s: Padres Refectory or dining room.
1840s: Foster Living Room or Reception Room; Sala most likely both north and south portions.
1890s: The north end room was rented to painter C.A. Fries, by possibly Charles Lummis/Landmarks Club.
1900s: The interior of the Sala was used as a chapel between (1891-1925) due to Sierra Chapel’s dilapidated state.
1925-2013: After Sierra Chapel was restored the Sala was used as a museum room and gift store.

Today, the Mission Preservation Foundation aims to save the Sala and install an interpretive program reviving its historic significance. The Sala will be restored and interpreted as a chapel.

DID YOU KNOW THE BELLS STILL TOLL AT MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO?

Mission San Juan Capistrano conducts daily ringing of the historic mission bells in honor of Father Junipero Serra, who was born 300 years ago this year.

Every morning at 9 a.m., the bells are rung seven times, reflecting that Mission San Juan Capistrano was the seventh of the 21 missions to be established in California.

Father Serra established nine of the California missions, including Mission San Juan Capistrano, known as the birthplace of Orange County.

Bells have played an important part in Mission San Juan Capistrano’s history, since Father Junipero Serra first rang them to bless the area in 1776. In a time before microphones and amplifiers, the tolling of the bells allowed people from miles around to keep track of daily events, including times for work and prayer, and mark important celebrations, such as births, deaths and holidays.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!