

CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA HISTORIC LANDMARKS, DISTRICTS, and POINTS OF INTEREST

Landmark Number: **58**

Historic Name: **Mission Aqueduct**

Address/Location: **East end of Vince Street**

Designated: **August 2, 1982**

Description:

Chumash Indians labored to construct the approximately eight foot high wall of rubble that forms the main channel of the Mission Aqueduct. Constructed between 1792 and 1850, the aqueduct system included a dam, reservoir, filtration building, lavandaria, and fountains. Starting at the convergence of San Antonio Creek and the Ventura River, the aqueduct extended approximately seven miles, winding its way along the base of the foothills toward the mission and mission gardens, watering farms along the way.

The aqueduct was heavily damaged in the great flood of 1862, but with repairs, it continued to be used into the 1870's. Dynamite was used to blast a hole through the aqueduct during the construction of a county road. Segments of the aqueduct are still visible today, and a part of the wall exists in the basement of a house built in 1989. The City of San Buenaventura designated a portion of the aqueduct located at the east end of Vince and Lewis Streets as a historic landmark on August 2, 1982. The City designated portion is the largest and most intact stretch of surface aqueduct known to exist.



Photo by Don Taylor (3-24-2002)