

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

Landmark Number: **85**

Historic Name: **San Buenaventura Mission Lavanderia**

Address: **204 - 208 E. Main Street** (Under Store Room)

Designated: **November 14, 1994**

Description:

The archaeological remains of this Mission era lavanderia were discovered under the rear storage rooms of the Peirano Market and Wilson Studio buildings in 1991 when the buildings were to be rehabilitated. Many post mission era artifacts including bottles, porcelain, stoneware, and abalone shells were found in the crawl space under the floor of the storage areas. A segment of mortared Mission floor tile was also found in the crawl space.

Mission San Buenaventura was built in 1782, and the lavanderia was probably built between 1792 and 1815 in conjunction with the Mission aqueduct, which carried water from the confluence of San Antonio Creek and the Ventura River. The water ran from the aqueduct to the fountain and into the central tank and eventually emptied into the Mission gardens to the west. Lavanderias were constructed at many missions and had many similarities; however, local building materials were used in the construction of each lavanderia and resulted in distinguishing elements and features.

Lavanderias were important to the missions in California as the population of the surrounding area grew. Lavanderias were usually built close to the missions and provided a place to wash the clothes of the Indians and Padres. They also served as a social gathering place for the women of the missions.