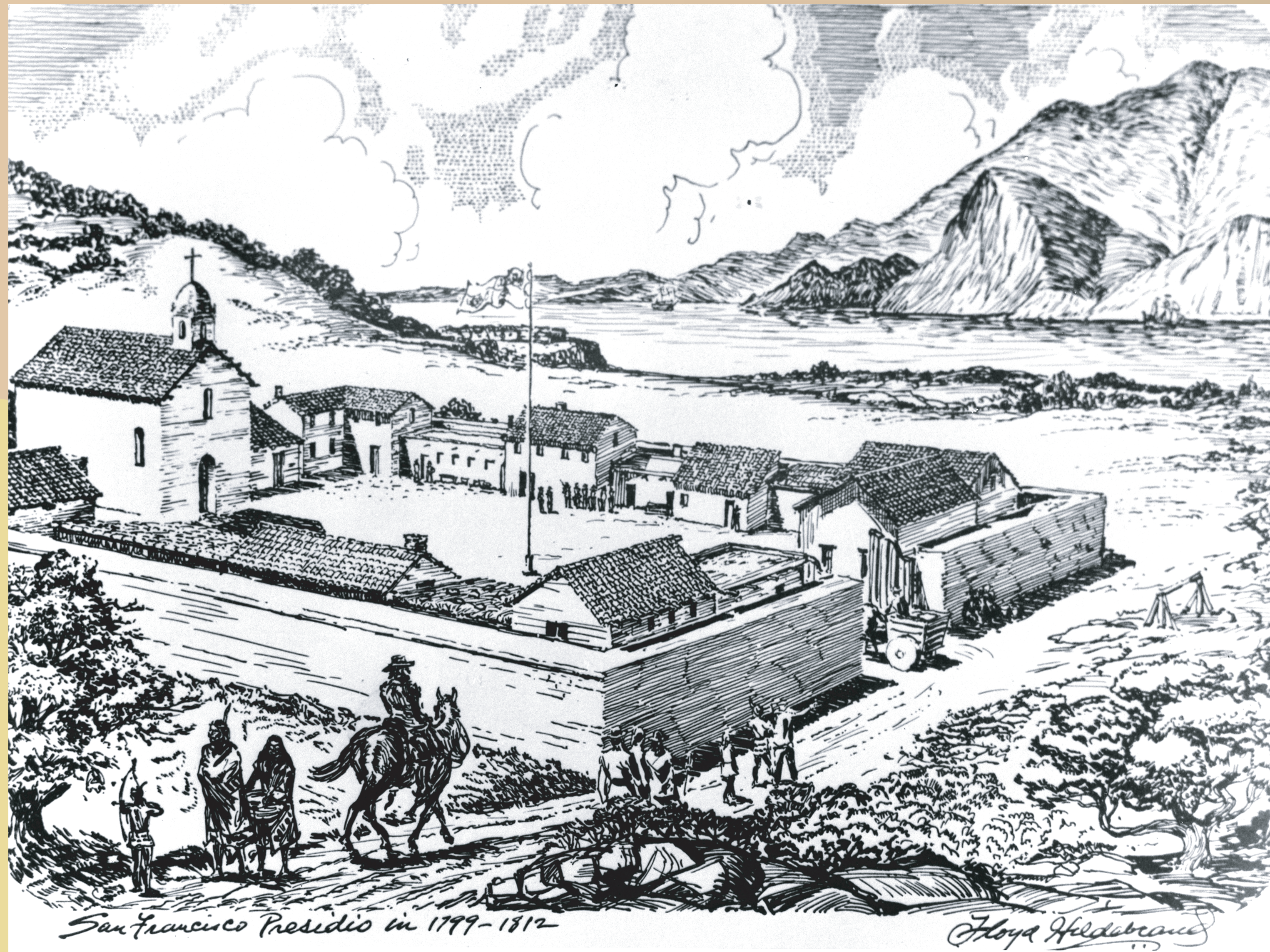




SPANISH (1776-1821) AND MEXICAN ERA (1822-1846)

Spain controlled the western coast of the North American continent in 1776 as the thirteen colonies declared independence from Great Britain. The mouth of the San Francisco Bay presented an entry to a new and rich world, ripe for the taking, as various nations vied for control of the region.



GGNRA, Park Archives, PAM Negative Collection, GOGA 35256.0645
San Francisco Presidio in 1799-1812. Sketch circa 1930s

1776 - El Presidio de San Francisco is established

Northern-most outpost of the Spanish territories. El Presidio is outfitted with two cannons and soldiers are garrisoned at the site for the protection of Spanish settlers, development of the community, and control of the native population.



The crest of the Presidio U.S. Army Post, adopted from Spanish heraldry

1794 - Construction of Castillo de San Joaquin

Adobe fort built by the Spanish to protect the mouth of San Francisco Bay from possible British and Russian aggression.

1797 - Construction of Battery San Jose

A Spanish defense at the current site of Fort Mason, built in response to the war with Britain.

1821 - Formation of the Mexican Republic

Mexico successfully battles through the War of Independence from Spain. Soldiers at the Spanish defenses in San Francisco change their allegiance from Spain to Mexico.

1835 - Mexican forces abandon the Presidio

General Mariano Vallejo transfers military headquarters to Sonoma.



Reproduced through the courtesy of the Bancroft Library, GGNRA, Park Archives, PAM Negative Collection, GOGA 35256
Fort San Jose and The Golden Gate During Mexican Regime



GGNRA, Park Archives, Richard Frear Photograph Collection, 1979-1980, GOGA 18326
Mexican dancers celebrate their local heritage at Fort Point

1847 - American forces occupy the Presidio of San Francisco