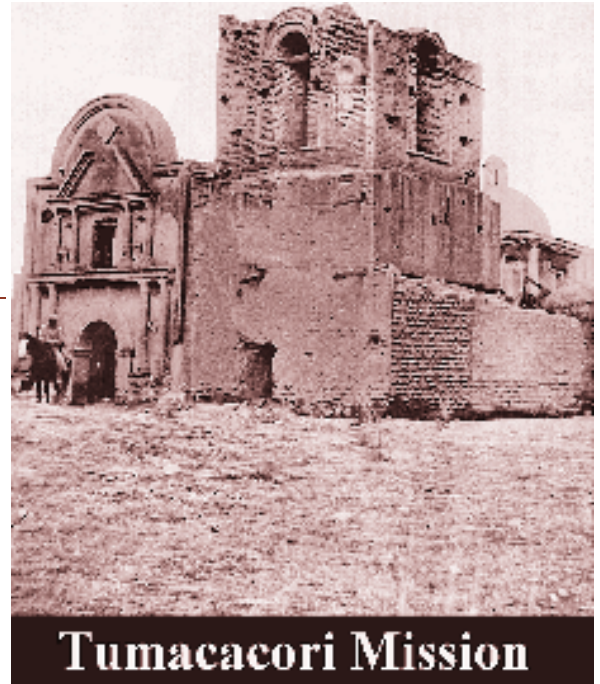


David Yubeta

Patrimonios Culturales Kino Missions in Sonora Mexico and United States

A frantic plea by Sonoran Bishop Quintero Arce in 1994 to save mission San Ignacio de Cabórica from years of neglect is what first brought preservation specialists and volunteers from the National Park Service into the Sonoran preservation scene. Roof failure and moisture wicking up into the walls of the 1687 Kino mission were placing valuable 16th-century statuary and original wall fabric in jeopardy. Through a donation funded by the Southwestern Mission Research Center (SMRC) in Tucson, Arizona, materials were purchased and volunteer labor patched and repaired the faulty roof and effected preservation strategies to stabilize the deteriorating walls and mitigate the majority of the damaging moisture from penetrating the walls. Once the immediate danger was remedied, the next step was the important task of training interested individuals, from the village of San Ignacio, on the care and maintenance of their precious cultural resource. Thus, was formed a Patrimonio Cultural or cultural partnership with the "Patronato" in the village of San Ignacio. A workshop was held to discuss the most effective preservation treatments for the mission church that would not alter or harm the original fabric in any way. Funding for materials and equipment came from fund-raising efforts of the Patronato de San Ignacio and from the National Park Service's Mexico Affairs Office in Las Cruces, New Mexico. The Mexico Affairs Office continues to assist in funding separate phases of work in the ever continuing preservation and conservation of mission San Ignacio de Cabórica.

San Ignacio de Cabórica, Nuestra Señora de Pilar y Santiago de Cocospera, and San Antonio de Padua de Oquitoa are a handful of mission systems founded by Jesuit Eusebio Francisco Kino from 1687-1692 that are near or have reached a state of accelerated deterioration. The Kino mission chain extends from northern Mexico to southern Arizona and includes the mission system of San José de Tumacácori, Los Santos Angeles de Guevavi, and the northernmost mission system of San Francisco Xavier del Bac. The preservation needs of this chain of missions and the securing of viable partnerships to ensure future preservation interventions is one goal of Tumacácori National



Tumacacori Mission

Historical Park. Tumacácori NHP has made significant inroads into creating working partnerships with the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH) in Sonora, Mexico. INAH, Mexico's cultural resource arm, and Tumacácori NHP are **working together in sharing** resources and cross training preservation specialists and historic architects on one another's resources. A grant from the Cultural Resources Training Initiative (CRTI) has made it possible for Tumacácori National Historical Park and Centro INAH-Sonora to host an international symposium on the restoration and conservation of earthen architecture sites. This symposium brings together INAH preservationists from the five Mexican states of Sonora, Coahuila, Durango, Chihuahua and Nuevo Leon and preservation specialists from the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Arizona SHPO, and various other agencies into one forum to discuss the future of earthen architecture mission sites in Mexico and the United States. Only through the combined efforts of preservation specialists from both countries can we best stem the deterioration of our shared legacies.

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