

MORA CHAPEL MUSEUM

\$1,000,000



Completed in 1924, this building consists of 1,750 square feet and includes the loft area and the cenotaph created by sculpture Jo Mora. (Junípero Serra is not buried in the cenotaph, but beneath the altar in the Basilica.) The Museum's walls are of three-foot-thick adobe, and the roof system consists of wood beamed "trusses" with redwood planking and two-piece clay roof tiles. Flooring is tile over concrete slab and is currently showing severe deterioration. There is currently no heating or climate control system installed in this building.

Built between 1921 and 1924, the Mora Chapel Museum and the memorial cenotaph it houses are seminal achievements marking the birth of the modern restoration period of the Carmel Mission. For that reason, the Museum seemed the ideal site to present the overall theme of 20th century restoration. It ties the story of master restorer Harry Downie with that of Jo Mora, the famed artist commissioned for the Mora Chapel and cenotaph, and leads into the current 21st century restoration efforts. Visitors to the Mora Chapel Museum will be able to identify and learn about the symbolism of the magnificent artifacts displayed in the altar, many of them also sculpted by Jo Mora. Panels around the cenotaph will interpret the bas-reliefs and sculptures on each of the cenotaph's faces.



Junípero Serra Cenotaph

The Mora Chapel Museum is slated for seismic stabilization, new sprinklers, accessibility upgrades, and general renovations. The display cases lining the long north wall will be replaced with conservation-grade cases in a similar configuration. These cases will house future rotating exhibits. The exhibit cases along the south wall will be removed to allow an accessible circulation path from one side of the room to the other. A second visitor exit on the east side of the south wall will also be provided. Exhibit treatment along the south wall will be displays that do not protrude too far out from the walls. The exhibits will interpret Jo Mora's story, Harry Downie's story, and the general concept of the lure and mystique of the missions that sparked the restoration movement.



Cenotaph and interior of the Mora Chapel Museum

At the rear of the Mora Chapel Museum, under the choir loft, will be a new set of exhibits devoted to Harry Downie. Wall graphics and an artifact case allow for both two- and three-dimensional artifacts related to the Downie story to be displayed.

Sponsorship of the Mora Chapel Museum renovation is \$1,000,000.