

# RANCHO DAYS FIESTA



Heritage Hill Historical Park  
Sunday, May 4, 2014  
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.



## Schedule of Events

*Historic buildings are open for touring all day courtesy of the Amigos de la Colina*

### PEPPER TREE STAGE

- 11:10     **Acjachemen Invocation Ceremony with Jacque Nuñez**
- 11:40     **Slackjaw Bros**  
*Listen to Brother Tom & Brother Ray's melodic interpretations of classic American music*
- 12:05     **Banelos Charro Team**  
*Enjoy the riding and roping skills of this team of traditional Mexican horsemen*
- 12:40     **Los Californios  
and Ecos del Fandango**  
*Double performance! Hear music and see dances from the era of the ranchos*
- 1:10     **Native American Hoop Dancers**  
*View a ceremonial storytelling dance traditional to many Native American tribes*
- 1:45     **Banelos Charro Team**  
*Enjoy the riding and roping skills of this team of traditional Mexican horsemen*
- 2:20     **Grupo Folklórico Monte Alban**  
*Watch over forty dancers share regional folk dances from across Mexico*



### PIÑATA BREAKING – in the Wagon Wheel Corral

*All Ages:*     11:30am, 12:10pm, 12:50pm, 1:30pm, 2:10pm, 2:40pm



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## ACJACHEMEN VILLAGE

Learn the local traditional weaving techniques in one of these basket weaving workshops

## EL TORO SCHOOLHOUSE

Ecos del Fandango will dance in the nineteenth century styles and you can even join in a dance lesson!

## ST. GEORGE'S MISSION

Hear Los Californios perform music from the rancho era

## SERRANO ADOBE

Tour the 150-year-old adobe with early California music performed by Frances Rios

## BENNETT RANCH HOUSE

Experience adobe brick making, spinning, rope making, and butter churning

## ST GEORGES MISSION CHURCH PLAZA

Try out native tool making, cattle roping, candle dipping, and more

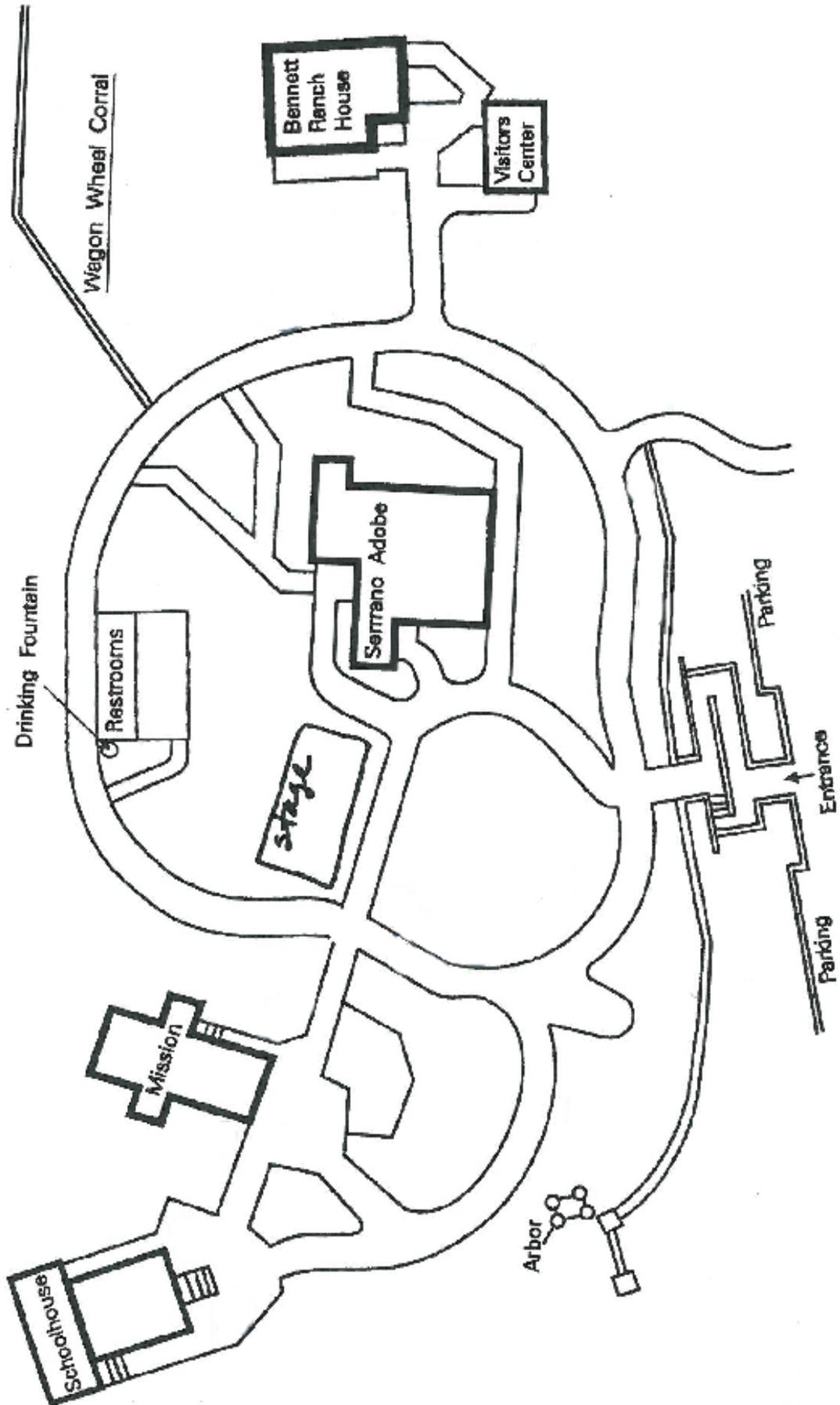
## AROUND THE PARK

- Make rancho era crafts
- Play old fashioned children's games
- Take home a piece of the rancho era by using block prints
- Have your face painted in traditional Mexican style
- Discover what it means to be a blacksmith
- Discover local history and how we use it today:
  - Blas Aguilar Adobe Museum
  - Two Tribes Pottery
  - Guerilla Beekeepers
  - Orange Clementine
  - Amigos de la Colina
  - Orange County Archives
  - Saddleback Area Historical Society
  - Santa Ana Canyon Historical Society



*Food for sale by SOHO Taco in the Wagon Wheel Corral*

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# Rancho Days History

## When was the Rancho Era?

The 'textbook' definition of the Rancho Era places it between 1810 to 1848 or 1850. In 1810, Mexico declared its independence from Spain. 1848 marked the end of the Mexican-American War and California became a territory of the United States. Some scholarly sources designate the end of the Rancho Era in 1850, when California became the thirty-first state to join the United States.

But these 'textbook' definitions do not take into account that the culture and people of the Rancho Era stayed in California after 1850. In fact, the Serrano Family did not build their adobe which currently stands at Heritage Hill Historical Park until the early 1860s. While 1850 marks the start of a decline in the rancho way of life, it was by no means the end.

## What was a Rancho?

The Mexican government secularized the mission in the 1830s, and opened up a large portion of the mission's lands for new ownership. Wealthy Californians petitioned and the government granted them ownership.

These Californians established ranchos on this land. The rancho economy was based on the trade of cattle hides and tallow. In addition to the owners, the ranchos functioned with the work of gardeners, weavers, blacksmiths, servants, cooks, and cowboys. About twenty ranchos made up what was to become Orange County.

## Who were the Serranos?

The Mexican government granted Jose Serrano a total of 10,688 acres in 1842 and 1846. Serrano named the rancho, "*Rancho Canada de los Alisos*," or Canyon of the Sycamores. Jose and his wife, Petra, had ten children, and they built five adobes on the property. The only adobe left today is here at Heritage Hill Historical Park. In addition to 250-700 heads of cattle, the Serranos had sheep, fruit orchards, and vineyards. After Jose and Petra died, the children each received a portion of the rancho, which most of them sold off in the early 1880s.