

THE WILDERNESS OUTPOST

1776 - 1821

THE SPANISH SETTLEMENT:

IN A SHELTER OF BOUGHS which Lieutenant Jose Joaquin Moraga ordered to be built on the bank of Laguna Dolores, Fra Francisco Palou celebrated the first Christian mass in what was to become San Francisco, on June 29, 1776, a date the city now observes as its birthday. This crude shelter was the first structure built in San Francisco by European settlers. Camp Street, a short street leading east from Guerrero between 16th and 17th, marks the site of that first encampment of fourteen *soldados de cuera* (leather-jacketed soldiers) of Spain, their wives and children, all of whom would soon become the first garrison of the San Francisco Presidio.

With them were seven families of settlers, plus some muleteers, servant boys and *vaqueros*, who had driven 200 head of cattle up from Monterey in the hope of establishing a settlement at the Presidio. Fra Palou and his confrere, Fra Pedro Cambon, accompanied by two servants and three native converts, had brought the supplies and tools they would need for founding the new mission, along with 86 head of cattle for the mission herd.