

### **Stop 3 – The Unfinished Church Mystery**

This church, now in ruins, was to be seventy feet long and twenty-two feet wide. It would have a vaulted ceiling, a single bell tower and baptistery. Indian master mason, Antonio Salazar, and his native labor force began building this third church, in 1775.

Imagine this church rising before you. Its walls have reached their full height. They wait for the ribs and vaulting of the roof. The sacristy, a sacred room to hold the ornate robes of the priest, is a unique eight-sided shape – an octagon. By 1785, the interior is floored. Decorative plaster with painted designs adorn the walls.

What halted this construction project after ten years of labor? Was it a lack of materials or shortage of laborers? Was it another epidemic of small pox, measles, or cholera? Work probably ceased because it was just too costly to continue.

The untold story surrounding the unfinished project remains encased in these stone ruins on this holy ground.