

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE VICEROYALTY

State of Mexico

/ HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

In 1580 members of the Society of Jesus came to Tepotzotlán to serve the indigenous community, creating their first institution, the Seminary of Saint Martin, devoted to educating the sons of the native nobility. Later they established a language school where Jesuits learned Otomí, Nahuatl, and Mazahua. The third foundation was the Probation House, where young novitiates who wished to join the Jesuits studied.

In this way, various Jesuit educational institutions operated within the same building, depending on the functions they performed in each of the spaces.

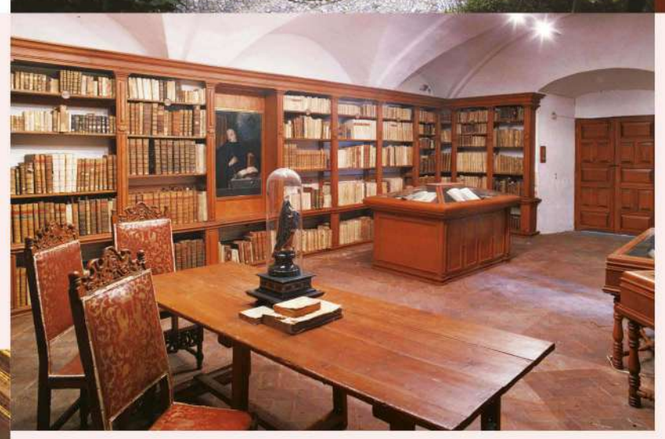
On July 4, 1767, the Jesuits who were living in the school had to leave the country, as a result of the order to expel the Jesuits from New Spain decreed by King Charles III.

In 1777, stemming from the instructions of Archbishop Alonso Núñez de Haro y Peralta, the creation of the Royal Seminary College was approved for the instruction, voluntary retreat, and correction of secular clergy and it operated in the building until the mid-nineteenth century. In 1870, Jesuit training was reinstated and in 1912 the Philosophate College was inaugurated, which in 1914 was forced to close in the tumultuous times of the Mexican Revolution.

In the twentieth century, the building was declared a national monument and in 1963 the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia began restoration work on the structure to house the Museo Nacional del Virreinato (National Museum of the Viceroyalty), inaugurated on September 19, 1964.

The architectural complex of Tepotzotlán is composed of five patios, a garden, two mills, guest quarters, and a church. It began as a simple house that—with the passage of time, the support of benefactors and its own resources—was transformed until it became the impressive building that now occupies ten thousand square meters (2½ acres).





/ MAIN ATTRACTION

Church of Saint Francis Xavier

The most representative work of the National Museum of the Viceroyalty is the Church of Saint Francis Xavier and its chapels: the House of Loreto, the Chapel of the Virgin, and the Reliquary of Saint Joseph.

The church was built in 1682, sponsored by Father Pedro Medina Picazo and his family. In the mid-eighteenth century the interior and facade were remodeled. The altarpieces in the chancel and crossing were designed and made by Miguel Cabrera and Higinio de Chávez, under the supervision of Father Pedro Reales, the school rector. The mural painting on the vaults of the chancel and crossing, as well as the canvases in the sacristy, the choir, and the area beneath the choir are by Cabrera; the facade, which was completed in 1762, was by architect Ildefonso Iniesta Bejarano.

The altarpieces, carved from cedar and gilded with gold leaf, are dedicated to the church's patron Saint Francis Xavier, Saint Francis Borgia, Saint Stanislaus Kostka, Saint Ignatius of Loyola, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Saint Joseph, Our Lady of Light, the precious blood of Christ, and the patronage of the Virgin.

The House of Loreto—a faithful copy of the original in Loreto, Italy—was built in 1680 at the behest of Father Juan Bautista Zappa.

The idea was to depict the house in Nazareth, where the Annunciation of Saint Gabriel to the Virgin Mary took place. In 1733 the Holy House was renovated and a Chamber of the Virgin Mary was built, thanks to the financial contribution of Manuel Tomás de la Canal.

Finally, the Reliquary of Saint Joseph was dedicated in 1738 and was given this name because it houses a fragment of the saint's tunic. Its interior is decorated with polychrome stucco and paintings signed by José de Ibarra and Francisco Martínez. The floor of this group of chapels is covered with tiles.



/ COLLECTIONS

The National Museum of the Viceroyalty has holdings of more than 33 thousand pieces that date to the sixteenth to twentieth centuries. The collection includes diverse genres: painting, sculpture, graphic arts, decorative or sumptuary arts, and books.

The origin of the collection is also diverse, because the works that were held in the former Jesuit college of Tepotzotlán were augmented with others from diverse INAH museums, and donations from private parties.

/ HOW TO GET THERE

Tren Suburbano (Suburban train)
Cuautitlán and Lechería station.
Subway: line 2 Cuatro Caminos station and lines 6 and 7 Rosario connection.
By car: take Periférico Blvd. Manuel Ávila Camacho and continue to México-Querétaro 57D Highway to Tepotzotlán turnoff, before passing the toll booth. Take Av. de Las Torres/Av. Insurgentes/ MEX 2 at the cloverleaf interchange.

/ HOURS

Tuesday to sunday
from 9 to 17:30 hours.

/ SERVICES

Permanent and temporary exhibitions; craft and academic activities; lectures; workshops; summer courses; and guided tours.
Old Library (by appointment only); Reference Library; Educal bookstore; Hostería del Convento de Tepotzotlán restaurant.
Wheelchairs; chairs to rest.

/ PHOTOGRAPHY

Prior permission required for the use of professional cameras and tripods. For the use of video cameras, visitors must pay the amount set by the Federal Fees Act.

/ $ ADMISSION

According to the Federal Fees Act, admission is free for children under 13; disabled people; students; teachers; and seniors with a valid ID; INAH workers and researchers. Sunday: free admission for Mexicans and duly accredited foreign residents.

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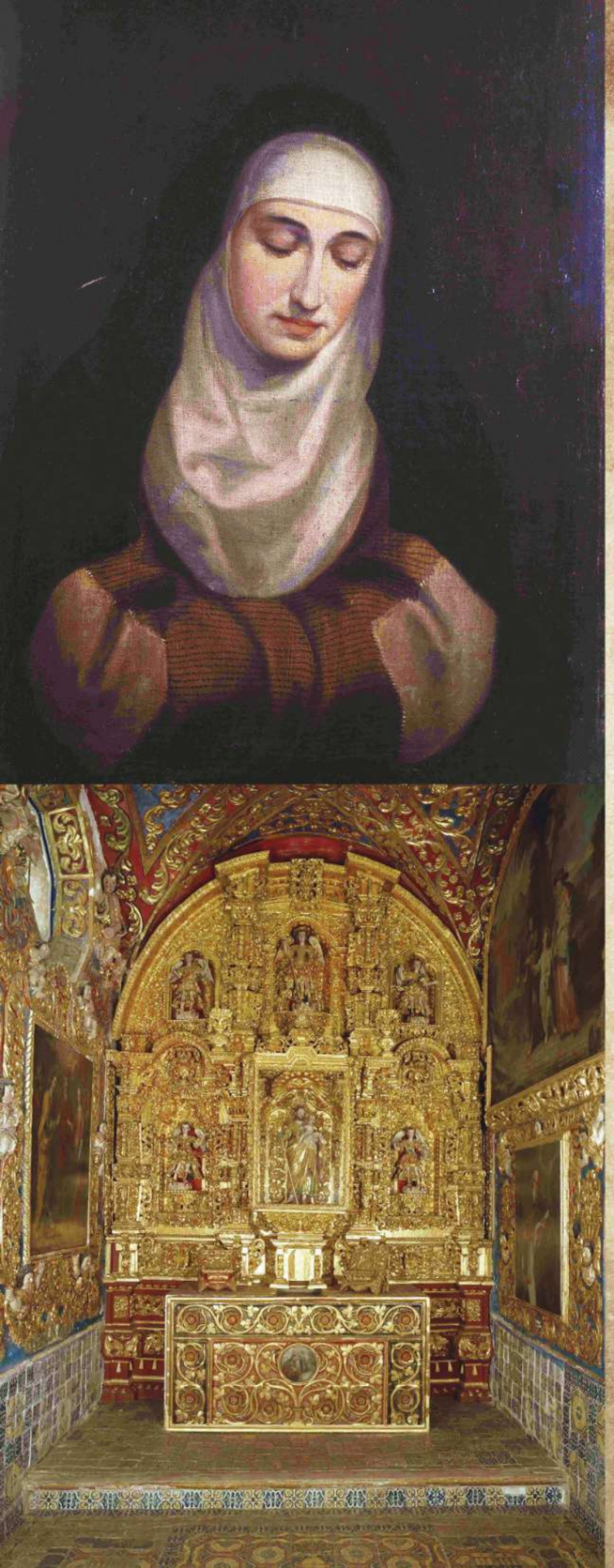
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CULTURA
SECRETARÍA DE CULTURA

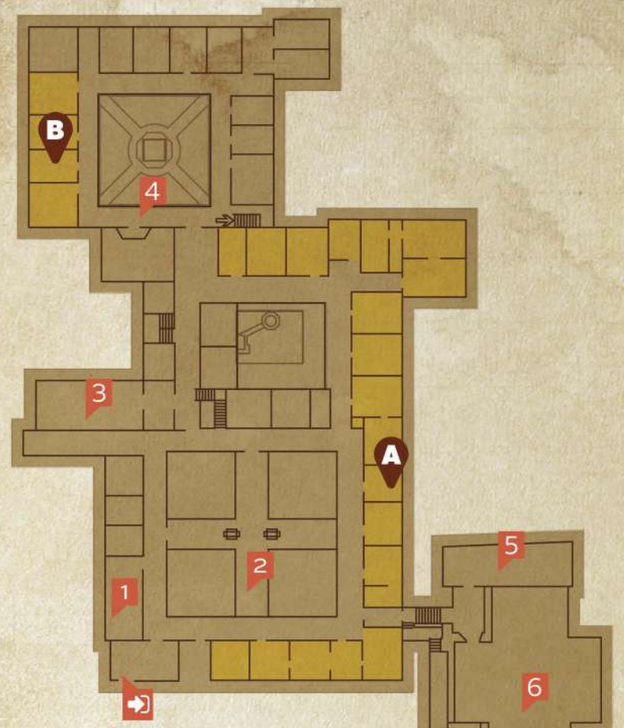
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/ SOME FIGURES

25 K	It has an average of 25,000 visitors per month.
6	It covers 6 hectares (almost 15 acres).
7	The Church of Saint Francis Xavier has 7 altarpieces.
50	50 galleries and exhibition areas.
33 K	Its holdings include 33,000 pieces.



ENTRYWAY



GROUND FLOOR

UPPER FLOOR



ACCESS

ENTRYWAY

- A *Permanent exhibition: Viceregal Mexico*
- B *Permanent exhibition: Asia in New Spain*

1 Apothecary
2 Juniorate Cloister
3 Chapel of the Novitiates
4 Upper Cloister of the Novitiates
5 Sacristy
6 Church of Saint Francis Xavier
7 House of Loreto
8 Chapel of the Virgin
9 Reliquary of Saint Joseph

GROUND FLOOR

- C *Temporary exhibition*

10 Refectory
11 Garden
12 Lower Cloister of the Novitiates
13 Kitchen patio

UPPER FLOOR

- D *Permanent exhibition: Crowned Nuns, female life in the convent*
- E *Permanent exhibition: Arts and Crafts in New Spain*
- F *Permanent exhibition: Saint James, a knight with a maize core and soul*

14 Cloister for priests and the juniorate
15 Lookout





