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CASTRO ADOBE STATE HISTORIC PARK GETS NEW ROOF, ONE STEP CLOSER TO RESTORATION

June 6, 2022—WATSONVILLE, CA — Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks today announced the restoration work at Castro Adobe State Historic Park is progressing with the recent completion of a roof replacement project.

The \$175,210.80 roof replacement project is supported wholly through Proposition 68 funds directed to projects in California State Parks operated by a non-profit partner. In 2018, California voters passed Prop 68: California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act, which dedicated nearly \$200 million in grant funding for underserved communities to have equitable access to outdoor recreation facilities.

“We are proud to partner with State Parks to restore and interpret this critical part of Pajaro Valley’s history,” Friends Executive Director Bonny Hawley said. “The Castro Adobe provides a hub to share stories from many moments in history, helping visitors better understand and appreciate the generations of people who have called the Pajaro Valley home.”

Castro Adobe State Historic Park is the newest park in the Santa Cruz District and the first State Historic Park in the Pajaro Valley. The two-story adobe building is undergoing rehabilitation after suffering major damage from the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. It has been a joint effort between California State Parks and Friends using a phased approach over the last 15 years as funding becomes available.

“California State Parks is very fortunate to have a partner like Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks to collaborate with on this exciting restoration project,” California State Parks Senior Park and Recreation Specialist Linda Hitchcock said.

Work at the Castro Adobe has included earthquake repair and seismic stabilization, second floor strengthening and installation of an ADA lift, restoration of the exterior elements as well as ongoing interpretive planning for exhibit design and installation. Water intrusions in portions of the roof area was affecting the historic building and repair was needed for protection of the adobe construction as well as use of the site.

Though Castro Adobe State Historic Park has been open on a limited basis, thousands of people — including hundreds of elementary school students — have visited the park since 2015 through weekend open house events, private tours, special events and school field trips including through the popular Kids2Parks program.

About Castro Adobe State Historic Park

Located in Larkin Valley, near Watsonville, the two-story Castro Adobe, built between 1848-49, is one

of the finest examples of a rancho hacienda in the Monterey Bay area. The property includes the restored cocina (kitchen) and the Potter-Church Garden, a unique outdoor space originally created by then-owners (1968-72) Elizabeth and David Potter in consultation with noted landscape architect Thomas Church.

Friends is leading a multi-year restoration effort to preserve and interpret the new State Historic Park in partnership with California State Parks. To follow progress on the restoration effort, visit www.thatsmypark.org/castro-blog.

About Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks

Established in 1976, Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks (Friends) is a vital partner with California State Parks, creatively working to ensure our cherished local parks and beaches are thriving and available to all. Friends' innovative and collaborative community partnership provides support and investment for education, equity and inclusion, conservation, facilities improvements, historic preservation and cultural events. Friends currently operates a robust online ParkStore offering nature- and history-themed merchandise for sale to benefit local parks and beaches. Friends also operates ParkStores at Natural Bridges, New Brighton, Santa Cruz Mission, Seacliff and Wilder Ranch. Learn more at www.ThatsMyPark.org or via [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [Pinterest](#).

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