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CONTACT (not for publication):
Jennifer Murray, 831-515-2802
jennifer@millermxfield.com



CASTRO ADOBE STATE HISTORIC PARK COMMEMORATES 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF ADOBE'S CONSTRUCTION

Mark the occasion by attending a Castro Adobe open house event this year

April 14, 2025—WATSONVILLE, CA — Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks (Friends) and California State Parks today announced that this year marks the 175th anniversary of the construction of the Castro Adobe, now part of Castro Adobe State Historic Park.

This important milestone provides an opportunity to recognize the Castro family, who worked and lived in the adobe, and the Indigenous laborers who built the adobe, brick by brick. The local community has worked tirelessly for many years to preserve this site as an enduring legacy, and Friends and State Parks are proud to celebrate their determination and passion.

Following the completion of previous structural and safety upgrades to the building after sustaining severe damage from the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake, the Castro Adobe now features highly accessible interpretive information, touchable exhibits and multimedia offerings to enhance visitors' experiences and tell the story of the Castro family and their lives on the rancho. Through a theme of "If these walls could talk," the museum-quality exhibits at Castro Adobe State Historic Park share the cultural and social history of the historic site.

The public can [tour the Castro Adobe](#) and explore the new exhibits during monthly open house events this year. Stroll through the beautifully restored two-story adobe – the only one of its kind remaining in Santa Cruz County. Listen to live music and experience new interpretive exhibits. Browse Friends' Popup ParkStore for books, maps and unique Castro Adobe-themed gifts. Visiting is free, though donations are gratefully accepted. Carpooling is encouraged, and dogs are not allowed. The Castro Adobe is located at 184 Old Adobe Road, Watsonville.

The next open house will be Sunday, April 27, from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Future dates include May 17, June 14, Aug. 16, Sept. 21, Oct. 18, Nov. 16 and Dec. 7. Learn more and sign up for a tour at www.SantaCruzStateParks.as.me/CastroAdobeOpenHouse.

The two-story Castro Adobe, constructed in 1849-50 and damaged in the 1989 earthquake, was restored through a special collaboration between California State Parks, Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks and hundreds of community members. Following restoration of the building in 2022, fabrication and installation of the exhibits was completed in 2024.

About Castro Adobe State Historic Park

Located in Larkin Valley, near Watsonville, the two-story Castro Adobe, built between 1849-1850, is one of the finest examples of a rancho hacienda in the Monterey Bay area. In 2007, Friends began the years-long effort to restore the Rancho San Andrés Castro Adobe in collaboration with California State Parks. Over the next 17 years, Friends, State Parks, and the community came together to repair and restore the historic adobe inside and out. Work included earthquake repairs using hundreds of 85-pound adobe bricks made on site by volunteers; seismic stabilization and a new roof; strengthening the second story with the insertion of an innovative steel beam; installation of a lift to guarantee universal access to the second floor; the addition of

electrical and fire suppression systems; restoration of the historic *cocina* (kitchen) and the Potter-Church Garden; procurement of historic furnishings and completion of interpretive exhibits.

Friends produced an award-winning short documentary to mark the completion of the building's restoration in 2022: <https://youtu.be/rI4pXzt5ymY>. In 2023, the Rancho San Andrés Castro Adobe was awarded a Preservation Design Award for Restoration by the California Preservation Foundation.

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 (seasonal), Santa Cruz Mission, Seacliff and Wilder Ranch. Learn more at www.ThatsMyPark.org or via [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#) and [YouTube](#).

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