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CASTRO ADOBE HONORED BY COUNTY HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMISSION

ADOBE IS ON TRACK TO BECOME A STATE HISTORIC PARK

MAY 5, 2014—SANTA CRUZ, CA—Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks (Friends) today announced the Castro Adobe in Larkin Valley has been honored with a special certificate by the Santa Cruz County Historic Resources Commission at its Landmark Awards Celebration, held May 3, 2014, at the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History. The two-story Castro Adobe is one of only four remaining adobe buildings in Santa Cruz County and is considered to be one of the finest examples of a rancho hacienda in the Monterey Bay area. Friends is leading a multi-year restoration effort to preserve and interpret the Castro and is partnering with California State Parks to open the adobe as a State Historic Park.

The Santa Cruz County Historic Resources Commission named California State Parks and Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks as award recipients for their work “preserving the history of the Mexican Rancho Period in Santa Cruz County.”

The Mexican Rancho Period in California spanned 1821 to 1848. The Castro Adobe was built between 1848-1850 by Juan Jose Castro, son of Jose Joaquin Castro, who was an original Juan Bautista de Anza expedition member. Later, Danish-born Hans Hansen purchased the Castro Adobe. Hansen completed many alterations to the building. Subsequent owners made changes as well, each acting as stewards of the historic adobe, including noted adobe conservationist Edna Kimbro and her husband Joe, who purchased the adobe in 1988.

In 1989, the Loma Prieta Earthquake severely damaged the building, rendering it uninhabitable. The cocina north wall and the south wall of the main house were damaged and in need of reconstruction. The Kimbro’s advocacy for restoration of the building resulted in the sale of the property to California State Parks in 2002. In 2007, in partnership with State Parks, Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks managed and funded the construction of 2,500 adobe bricks used for reconstruction and subsequent seismic stabilization. Friends undertook the restoration of the Castro Adobe in order to preserve and interpret for the public the only remaining building of the Rancho era in the Pajaro Valley.

About Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks

Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks is an entrepreneurial nonprofit sustaining the legacy of our state parks and beaches. Through an innovative partnership with California State Parks, and by leveraging local community support, Friends has provided millions of dollars of funding for educational programs, visitor services and capital projects. Founded in 1976, Friends is passionately dedicated to the preservation of our spectacular natural environment and rich cultural history. Friends supports dozens of state parks and beaches in Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties and operates six ParkStores, offering nature- and history-themed merchandise for sale to benefit local parks and beaches. ParkStore locations include Natural Bridges, New Brighton, Santa Cruz Mission, Seacliff, Wilder Ranch and Online. Learn more at ThatsMyPark.org or via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Pinterest.

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