FACT SHEET

The Santa Cruz Mission Adobe State Historic Park is home to the oldest building in Santa Cruz County. Built between 1822 and 1824 by local Ohlonean and Yokuts Indians, the park’s signature adobe is the only remaining structure from Mission Santa Cruz, founded in 1791. One of just four adobe buildings left in Santa Cruz County—and sometimes confused with the nearby replica mission chapel—it is the only building of its kind preserved as a museum in the State of California.

The adobe served as housing for Neophyte Indian families who lived and worked at the Mission, which operated until 1834 when it was secularized. After decades of private ownership, the adobe was sold to the State of California, extensively restored and finally opened in 1991 to the public as the Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park.

Saved from closure in 2012, today the park is supported by Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks, a non-profit state park partner dedicated to sustaining the legacy of our state parks and beaches. Friends funds the committed state park staff who conduct free educational programs including tours, junior rangers, campfire programs and educational programs for approximately 2,800 school children annually. Friends also operates the Mission ParkStore to benefit the park.

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Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park is located on Mission Hill, above downtown Santa Cruz at the end of School Street, just off the Mission Plaza Park.

Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks
144 School Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Next to Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park
831.429.1840
Parks@ThatsMyPark.org
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Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks saved Santa Cruz Mission Adobe SHP from closure in 2012. Since being saved, the park has been transformed into a vibrant community event venue and cultural asset, hosting the annual Mole & Mariachi Festival and the Summer Series of art, music and outdoor movie screening events. Friends’ funding for the Mission has supported maintenance and operations at the park, as well as operation of the Mission ParkStore and a commitment to partner with the community and work with California State Parks to make needed improvements. Key improvements that have already been implemented include the opening of new interpretive exhibits, renovation of patio and outdoor cooking facilities, and new hours of operation to serve local school children. The park is supported by the Mission Adobe Committee, members of which include representatives of Friends, State Parks and dedicated community volunteers.

Thank you to the California Mission Foundation, SD Bechtel, Jr. Foundation and hundreds of generous community donors for helping to keep the park open and thriving.