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MEDIA ADVISORY

SPECIAL PREVIEW FOR MEDIA: FRIDAY, JANUARY 24 STRUCTURE FROM HOME OF CALIFORNIA PIONEER JUANA BRIONES TO BE PRESERVED AND INSTALLED FOR SPECIAL SIX-MONTH EXHIBITION

- ***A wall from the site of Juana Briones' 1850s Rancho la Purísima Concepción will be preserved and installed at California Historical Society***
- ***The wall, along with paintings, maps, documents, and artifacts traces the challenges and accomplishments of Juana Briones – considered by some to be one of San Francisco's founding residents***

WHAT: Media are invited to a special exhibition preview and look at one of the last contemporary links to the life of early 19th Century Latina pioneer Juana Briones: a portion of Juana Briones' original 1850's Rancho la Purísima Concepción, which is being restored and installed as the centerpiece of the upcoming bilingual exhibition, *Juana Briones y Su California: Pionera, Fundadora, Curandera*, which opens to the public on Sunday, January 26th at the California Historical Society in San Francisco.

The installation of this architectural artifact – a restored 8'x9' wall – offers a fascinating glimpse of California's history and the settlement of the west. The wall was originally part of the Palo Alto home of Juana Briones, a pioneering figure who overcame tremendous challenges to become a prominent landowner, businesswoman, and humanitarian. Historians and architects have remarked on the wall's unique construction of post and beam in-filled with mud – a blend that symbolizes the combination of the traditional English and colonial building styles with the adobe masonry of the Southwest. The exhibition will also trace the decades-long effort at the close of the twentieth century to oppose the destruction of the Juana Briones home site in Santa Clara County, demolished in 2011.

Created in collaboration with Stanford University, the exhibition uses painting, maps, documents and artifacts to present a vision of Juana Briones as a woman adaptable and undaunted in her pursuits. Through her story, visitors to the exhibition will see how this multi-ethnic woman, mother, landowner, businesswoman, healer, and humanitarian influenced our state's history on a wide-ranging yet distinctively human scale.

WHO: Dr. Anthea Hartig, Executive Director California Historical Society
Gil Sanchez, Architect, Adobe Restoration (overseeing the restoration project)
Scott Attowe, Attowe Fine Art Services
Professor Albert Camarillo, Stanford University

WHEN: Media Preview
Friday, January 24 2014
1:00 – 5:00 PM

Public Opening
Sunday, January 26 2014
2:00 – 4:00PM

Exhibition Duration:
January 26 – June 8 2014
Tuesday – Sunday
Noon – 5:00 PM
\$5, Members & Children Free

WHERE: The California Historical Society
678 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA

VISUALS: Final preparations, installation and restoration of a portion of the wall from Juana Briones' original 1850s Rancho la Purísima Concepción. Architects, historians, and preservation specialists will be working placing final details of the exhibit. Preview of the entire exhibition.
Interviews available in both English and Spanish.