

### 26. McNear's Mystic Theatre (continued)

15-23 Petaluma Blvd. N.

The McNear family was a mercantile dynasty, starting with John A. McNear, who came to Petaluma in 1856 and moved from real estate to the grain business, to flour milling, to shipping, banking and railroads. His son George continued the family tradition with a feed mill empire to serve the emerging egg industry. McNear Park and Cypress Hill Cemetery are two McNear family legacies.

### 27. Tomasini Rex Ace Hardware and Country Store

313 B St.

In 1917, this was the site of McNally's Blacksmith shop. Note the blacksmith tools imprinted in sidewalk in front.

### 28. The Great Petaluma Mill

6 Petaluma Blvd. N.

The Mill complex is actually four different buildings. In the 1850s, the oldest section was used as a meat warehouse for the hunters who came to Petaluma. The stone walls of the building were 1.5 feet thick. Owners of the mill included business tycoons Isaac Wickersham and G.P. McNear who added more warehouses in the 1920s.

### 29. Water Street Trestle

West side of the Petaluma River

The trains that once ran along this spur track from Petaluma to Santa Rosa, Sebastopol and Forestville made this one of the busiest railroads in America. At its peak, the railroad hauled 10,000 carloads of produce and products and a quarter of a million passengers each year.

### 30. Petaluma River Turning Basin

Weller St. south of E. Washington St.

Created in 1921, Petaluma's second turning basin was created to provide boats with enough room to turn around and head south toward the San Francisco Bay.



#36 Petaluma Historical Library and Museum

### 31. Petaluma Yacht Club

10 C St.

Yacht Club members can dock and be within steps of excellent restaurants, dining, entertainment and shopping.

### 32. Historic D Street Drawbridge | Petaluma River

D St. east of Weller St.

Installed in 1933, the drawbridge was designed by the company of Joseph Strauss, famous for designing the Golden Gate Bridge. It is a Bascule bridge, which is movable with a counterweight that continually balances the span. This is the second bridge in this location since 1883.

### 33. Boulevard Cinemas

200 C St.

The cornerstone of Petaluma's Theatre District, the multiplex is the result of seven teenage girls who in the early 2000s, rallied community support around their vision of a movie theater in downtown. The seven stars in front of the theater honors their lasting contribution to the city.

### 34. Theatre Square Fountain

2nd and C Streets

At the center of Theatre Square is the Faces of Petaluma Fountain, featuring sculptures created by children and adults as an artistic link between Petaluma's past and future. Completed in 2007, the dining, shopping and entertainment district was the first multi-building addition to the downtown area since John McNear built the Mystic Theater in 1911.

### 35. 4th Street Post Office

120 4th St.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Spanish Revival-style downtown post office was built in 1933 to replace the original Brainerd Jones designed post office (see #25) which is still standing on Petaluma Blvd.

### 36. Petaluma Historical Library & Museum

20 4th St.

Built with funding from a Carnegie Foundation grant, the neoclassical-style building was designed by Brainerd Jones and opened in 1906. It served as the Petaluma Library until 1976 and became the city's historical museum in 1978. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Visit the Museum Thursday through Sunday and enjoy the permanent collection rich in local history. Or enjoy a free guided walking tour led by a costumed docent on most Saturdays, May through October. Tours meet on the museum steps at 10:30 a.m.



Take a stroll through Petaluma, one of California's oldest cities and discover landmarks that reflect the history and events that shaped the community, Sonoma County and the country.

### 1. Masonic Building | Clock Tower | WCTU Water Fountain

Corner of Western Ave. & Petaluma Blvd. N.

Constructed at the height of Petaluma's river-centered prosperity in 1882, the building features cast-iron façades designed in the Italianate style. The original clock atop the building was built in Connecticut, shipped around the Horn of Africa, and up Petaluma Creek. Get refreshed at the fountain placed by the Women's Christian Temperance Union at the height of their campaign against the bars and pubs in this frontier town.

### 2. Balshaw Bridge

Water St. & Western Ave.

Built in 1989 to connect the downtown district with the shops and restaurants east of the river, the Balshaw Bridge is a testament to Petaluma's forward-thinking city government. The name honors former city councilmember and dedicated river advocate John Balshaw.

### 3. Steiger Building

132 Petaluma Blvd. N.

The site of the city's first general store, folklore recounts that it was also the site of Petaluma's first Independence Day celebration in 1852. And what a celebration it was! It reputedly lasted three days.

### 4. Sienna Building

119 Petaluma Blvd.

It was a proud moment for the city when a 1950s plywood and stucco slipcover was removed in 2006 revealing the ornate iron-front, circa 1885. This location was the site of the town's first blacksmith shop owned by Zartman and Fritsch, a company that went on to become buggy-makers famed throughout the west.

### 5. California Flour Mills

148 Petaluma Blvd. N.

At the time this flourmill was built in 1878, Petaluma was a major manufacturing center producing silk, shoes, buggies, beer, flour and other items. One of several mills in town, grain was shipped here from as far away as South America.

### 6. Wickersham Building

170 Petaluma Blvd. N.

Built in 1910, this building – and Wickersham Park at 4th and G Streets – honors Isaac Wickersham, a 19th century railroad financier, banker, and entrepreneur. At one time, it housed a silent movie house featuring an electric piano, and reputedly, Petaluma's first telephone.

### 7. Chicken Pharmacy

170 Petaluma Blvd. N.

When your chickens are under the weather, where do you go to help them feel better? The chicken pharmacy, of course. Petaluma had the world's first and only. The storefront that is now a part of Seared Restaurant dispensed 50,000 pills and doses daily during its heyday in the 1920s.

### 8. Historical Mural

Corner of Washington & Petaluma Blvd.

It's Petaluma's history condensed. Painted by local artist Steve Della Maggiora, the mural depicts the development of Petaluma from the days of Mariano Vallejo to the early 20th century.



#4 Sienna Building



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### 9. Soberanes Bronze Statue

Corner of Washington St. & Petaluma Blvd.

Newspaper columnist and “Peopleologist” Bill Soberanes was a true Petaluma character and the founder of Petaluma’s World Wrist Wrestling Championship. Installed in September 1988, this sculpture celebrates his contribution to bringing international attention to Petaluma for almost 50 years.

### 10. Sonoma County Bank Building

199 Petaluma Blvd. N.

Built in 1926, this Roman Renaissance Revival building is clad in terracotta to simulate masonry. It has housed many businesses; its current use is as an event venue and community hub.

### 11. Penry Park | Byce’s Incubator

226 Kentucky St.

The top of the park is the perfect vantage point to imagine what the town might have looked like 150 years ago. Across from the park at 228 Petaluma Blvd. N. was the location of Lyman Byce’s Petaluma Incubator, a company that would have a lasting impact on the city. Byce perfected the first practical chicken incubator in 1879 which allowed egg production to be “industrialized” leading to a boom in chicken farms and Petaluma’s title as the “World’s Egg Basket.”

### 12. Hillside Hospital

223 Kentucky St.

This address was once the location of the hospital built in 1880. Nearby, is the site of the old Baptist Church where a bell was rung during the Civil War to celebrate each Union victory. Unlike Santa Rosa, Petaluma’s neighbor to the north which was rebel territory, Petaluma strongly supported Lincoln and the Union.

### 13. Hotel Petaluma

205 Kentucky St.

Designed by San Francisco architect Frederick Whitton, the elegant five-story, Mediterranean-style hotel was built in the early 1920s. It has recently undergone a complete renovation to restore it to the glamour of a bygone era. In the evening, settle into a comfy couch before a roaring fire and enjoy a libation from the lobby bar.

### 14. Volpi’s Restaurant

124 Washington St.

Originally an Italian market with a small tavern in the back, little has changed since Prohibition. Step back in time for a cold one and enjoy the accordion collection and yellowed dollar bills stuck to the ceiling in the former speakeasy. If those walls could talk...

### 15. Hill Opera House | Phoenix Theater

201 Washington St.

The one-time Hill Opera House was built in 1904 and served as the city’s opera house, theater, and vaudeville palace. It has found new life as the Phoenix Theater, a music venue and teen center.



### 16. The Herold Building

Corner of Washington and Kentucky St.

Built in 1899, its corner cupola is a favorite architectural detail. It’s one of many buildings on Kentucky Street that owes its existence to the chicken. The flourishing poultry industry spurred a building boom here between 1905 and 1915.

### 17. Old Opera House

149 Kentucky St.

Built in 1870 to replace the Music Hall on Main Street (now Petaluma Boulevard N.) as the city’s cultural center, the location now features an eclectic mix of shops and restaurants.

### 18. Putnam Plaza Park

129 Petaluma Blvd. N.

Always a focal point for the city, this location was the site of the American Hotel built in 1852. Next door was the Wells Fargo office where the arrival of the stagecoach down the dust-filled streets was a momentous event. The mini-park was dedicated as Putnam Plaza in 1987 in honor of Mayor Helen Putnam (1965-79).

### 19. Odd Fellows Hall

107-113 Petaluma Blvd. N.

The hall is one of the city’s oldest buildings, built between 1871-1878. It replaced the Petaluma House, a hotel built at

the location in 1852, that was constructed with the provision that no Chinese labor could be used.

### 20. Linch Building

10 Western Ave.

Designed by architect Brainerd Jones, the “man who built Petaluma,” it was completed in 1910 as Baldwin’s Bakery and Restaurant and was the first steel-framed building north of San Francisco. The building is unique from others of the same period due to its vertical design.

### 21. Iron Front Row

Western Ave. between Kentucky St. & Petaluma Blvd.

This is one of the largest blocks of iron-fronts located west of the Mississippi River. Thought to provide protection against fire, the facades were composed of multiple parts, cast separately at one of San Francisco’s many ironworks. Covering brick construction with an iron-front offered an affordable way to create elaborate detailing.

### 22. Prince Building

24 Western Ave.

The building features a glazed-brick exterior with terracotta trim and housed a pharmacy from the time of its construction in 1915 until 1983.

### 23. Coca-Cola sign on the Mutual Relief Building

25 Western Ave.

The south wall displays a restored classic 1920-era Coca-Cola sign featuring a uniquely Petaluma chicken and egg motif.

### 24. American Graffiti Filming Location

Adjacent to 23 Petaluma Blvd. N.

Many of the iconic movie’s most memorable scenes were filmed in Petaluma in 1972. Once the site of the Cosmopolitan Hotel, today the lot it is best known as the “tie the chain to the cop’s axle” stunt location. A brochure with a full list of *American Graffiti*’s Petaluma filming locations is available at the Visitor Center, 210 Lakeville St.

### 25. Post Office Building

22-34 Petaluma Blvd. N.

Once again, the talents of architect Brainerd Jones, who by some estimates designed 75 percent of the buildings within the downtown area, are apparent. The Post Office Building was built in 1926, combining neoclassical elements with Gothic Revival-style detailing. The site was originally the location of the Pioneer Hotel, favored by the women of the era because they could step directly from the ships on the river onto the hotel’s walkway.

### 26. McNear’s Mystic Theatre

15-23 Petaluma Blvd. N.

The building to the north was built in 1886 and housed a National Guard armory on its upper floors. The Mystic Theatre built in 1911, featured silent movies accompanied by organ music.