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THE WCTU FOUNTAIN

Petaluma's Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) established in 1879, was one of the first communities in California to create its own chapter of the WCTU. Nationally, the WCTU was organized in November 1874. Its primary purpose was a social movement to combat the influence of alcohol on families and eventual support of the 18th Amendment (Prohibition) in 1919.

Petaluma's WCTU had 300 active members meeting weekly in the First Presbyterian Church. The importance of the group was based upon the statistic that Petaluma then, with a population of just 3,000, was also supporting 50 saloons.

By 1893, an Anti-Saloon League chapter had also been established here. Then, in 1902, The Professor Edward Lippitt Temperance Club began and, by 1910, 10% of Californians had signed a pledge to abstain from alcohol.

Petaluma's WCTU fountain, constructed in 1891, has been restored four times due to damage since its construction over a century ago. The fountain still stands proudly with its bold message: "Total abstinence is the way to handle the alcohol problem."

Skip Sommer, Petaluma Historian

**Made Possible by – Petaluma Downtown Association (PDA) – Business Improvement District (BID)
Sonoma County Tourism Bureau (SCTB)**

THE PETALUMA HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

This beautiful neo-classical building was constructed as a Carnegie Free Library in 1906. Designed by famed Petaluma architect Brainerd Jones, the prime location was sold to the City of Petaluma in 1904 by Addie Atwater, President of the Petaluma Ladies Improvement Club, explicitly for the construction of a public library.

The Carnegie Foundation donated \$12,500 toward construction, and remaining costs were raised by public bond. Sandstone blocks were carefully cut from a quarry on Stony Point Road, and bricks carted, via horse and wagon to site, from the McNear Brickyard in San Rafael.

This library was an important addition to Petaluma at the time, however by the 1960s, additional facilities were much needed and, in 1976 the City constructed a larger library on East Washington Street, offering off-street parking.

A public effort to re-utilize this elegant building as a Petaluma Museum, was led by local historians and Heritage Homes of Petaluma. In 1978, the building was reopened as The Petaluma Historical Library and Museum. Ten years later, the structure was to be officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Today, the museum is open to the public and features exhibits, events and concerts in the rotunda under one of the largest stained glass domes in California. On the mezzanine, permanent exhibits and artifacts from Petaluma's unique history and heritage are located.

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