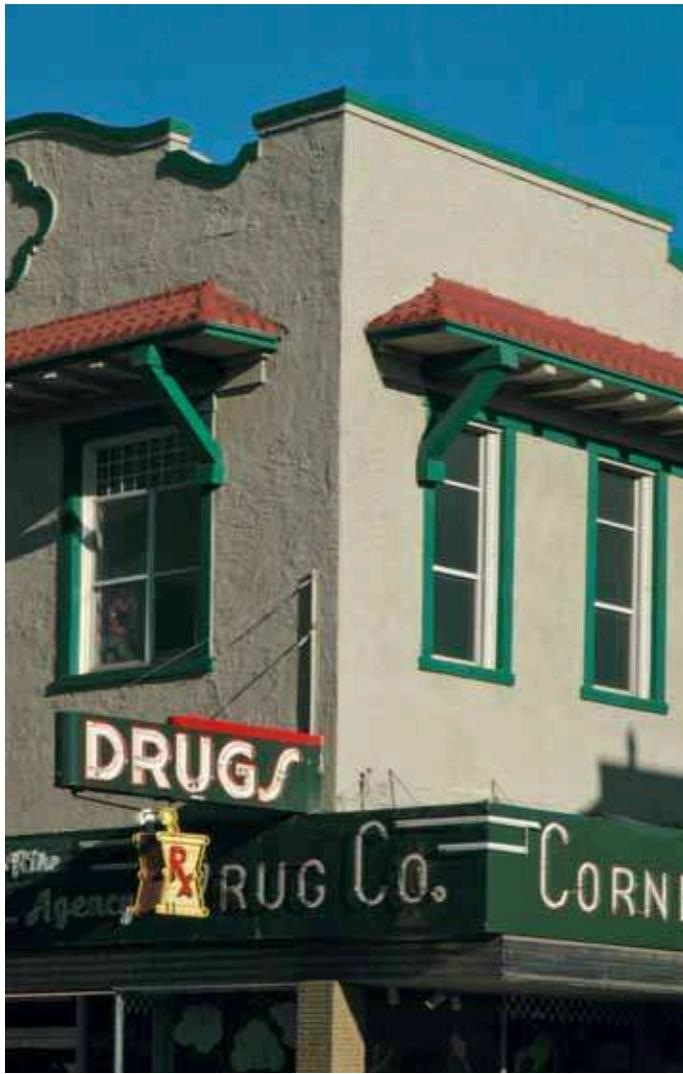


DOWNTOWN WOODLAND

Founded in 1861, Woodland features a classic Main Street downtown, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This fascinating tour captures the historic development of a small farming hamlet that grew steadily to become a wealthy commercial hub and seat of Yolo County government. Downtown Woodland is an intact cultural center with Victorian brick buildings, including the Woodland Opera House, a superbly crafted Renaissance-Revival courthouse, a lovely Spanish Colonial Revival hotel, and an Art Deco movie theatre. Learn the history and transformations of a quintessential small American town as Main Street evolved from its horse and buggy origins to a busy state highway to its present-day period of pedestrian-oriented revitalization.





1. CITY HALL
300 First Street

1932-1936-1961-1976

The Spanish Colonial Revival style City Hall was built in several phases, starting in 1932 with the firehouse and jail building, including the tower, which was not only picturesque, but also created a functional space for hanging wet fire hoses. Woodland contractor Joe Motroni built the first phase, designed by prominent Sacramento architect, Dean & Dean. This new public building replaced the 1892 city hall and firehouse, which developed structural problems and had to be demolished. In 1936 the building was enlarged to include space for a new city hall. Designed by noted Sacramento architect, Harry J. Devine and built by Charles F. Unger, the second phase included the present-day council chambers and Finance



Department, with a main entrance on First Street. It was funded in part by New Deal WPA funds (45%).

In 1961 Woodland architect Robert Crippen designed a large two-story southern wing to the building in a modern style of glass and aluminum housing city offices. In 1976 the Woodland firm of Schaefer & Wirth created a plan that successfully integrated the various additions to the building into a unified Spanish Colonial Revival style executed by contractor, V.L. Gavel.

2. HOLMES-BAILEY BUILDING

1883

303 First Street

When this Victorian-era building was renovated in 1988 by Shaffer Realty, construction work indicated the building was originally used as a blacksmith shop. At one time the front of the building had large doors for moving carriages (and later, vehicles and machinery) into the building. L.B. Holmes was the first owner and Charles E. Dingle, who was principal at Woodland Grammar School (later renamed Dingle Elementary School), owned the building at one time. About 1940 attorney Archibald G. Bailey purchased the building and remodeled it into offices.

3. WOODLAND PUBLIC

LIBRARY

1905, 1915-1927, 1988

250 First Street

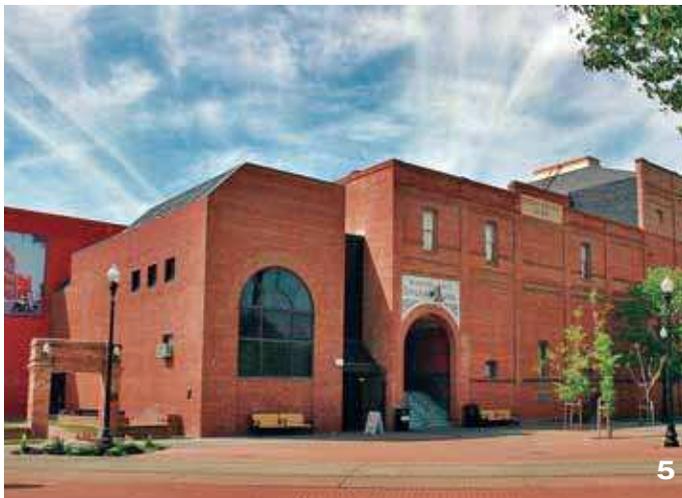
The Mission Revival style Woodland Public Library was constructed on the grounds of the old Woodland Flour Mill, erected in 1862 by Frank S. Freeman and Adam Gurlock. The original library structure of 1905 was funded by a \$10,000 grant from industrialist Andrew Carnegie who funded library buildings throughout California, the United States and the United Kingdom. Woodland Public Library is the oldest Carnegie building in California still functioning as a library. Designed by Dodge and Dolliver of San Francisco, and constructed by Woodland contractor William Henry Curson, the Mission Revival style building features many classical elements such as the flight of stairs and columns leading to the front porch, and the interior rotunda and columns which form the entrance into the building. In 1915 San Francisco architect William H. Weeks designed the west wing to be used for the Yolo County Library, and in 1927-29 the north wing was extended to accommodate a growing collection.

In 1985 voters approved a \$2.5 million renovation and expansion. Completed in 1988, a children's wing was added, meeting space, an interior courtyard, and a completely restored fireplace in the main reading room. The tall palm trees lining the street around the library were planted in 1905. In 2005 these palm trees were designated "Landmark Trees" by the City Council. The John A. Saltsman Rose Garden was created in 1998 with the assistance of many volunteers and includes over 600 varieties of roses. The Woodland Library Rose Club maintains the gardens.

4. KOPP-EAKLE APARTMENTS
618 Court Street

1925

Originally developed as a fourplex apartment building, the structure has been converted into offices. Similar small apartment buildings were constructed near downtown during this period at 902 Court and at 504 North Street by designer-contractor William Fait, who may have also built this structure. The architecture is modern, with little ornamentation. An interior floor plan of four similar units resulted in a symmetrical facade. The arched entry and window hoods add a touch of the Mediterranean Revival. The shallow hipped roof has overhanging eaves and the building is finished in stucco.



5. WOODLAND OPERA HOUSE

STATE PARK

1885, 1895-96

340 Second Street

The original Woodland Opera House was built in 1885 and designed by prominent San Francisco architect, Thomas J. Welsh. The building was destroyed in the great fire of 1892, which also consumed other structures west of the Opera House, stopping at the Capital Hotel at First Street. After some uncertainty and anxiety about the fate of the building, a local syndicate was formed to fund the reconstruction of the Opera House. David N. Hershey purchased the site and the syndicate comprised of Richard H. Beamer, Louis Dietz, Marshall Diggs, Adam M. Elston, Dr. George H. Jackson, Peter Krellenburg & Son, Edward E. Leake, John Leithold, and J. McGriff backed the project. Using some of the partially standing walls from the burned structure, the Opera House was rebuilt between 1895-96 by local contractor William H. Winne at a cost of \$8,990. The Opera House was the cultural hub of the region and by 1913 over 300 touring companies had appeared on stage. Adam M. Elston (former president of Hesperian College) was the first manager and was succeeded by E.C. Webber in 1898. In 1912 a patron mistaking a backstage loading door for an exit fell three feet to the sidewalk breaking her arm. The lawsuit that followed combined with the growing popularity of movie theatres hastened the Opera House's closure in 1913.

The Opera House remained dark and boarded up until purchased by the Yolo County Historical Society nearly sixty years later in 1971. Declared a state historical park in 1976, the property was deeded to the state of California in 1980. Reopening in 1989, the complete restoration of the building took nine years to complete over several phases. Woodland architect, Gary Wirth, handled all but the last phase of interior design, including the addition of a three-story annex to enlarge the facility. Brocchini & Associates of Oakland were responsible for the elegant interior restoration of the theater, which includes antique lighting, historic paint colors, and Arts and Crafts wallpapers. The Opera House is a rare example of a functioning, small town Victorian performing arts center, complete with a horseshoe balcony. Funding for the restoration came from state and Federal historical preservation grants, local businesses and individuals. The Intermission Garden, adjacent to the Opera House annex, was completed in 1990 through the efforts of the Rotary Club and local donors. The Opera House is California State Historical Landmark #851.

6. DINZLER-MINIS BUILDING

1882-1889

315-317 Second Street

This two story Italianate Victorian building was developed by Adam Dinzler. At that time, Dinzler was the owner of the Court House Hotel located at the corner of Court and Second Streets. William Minis, a 49er who came from Pennsylvania to the Golden State to seek his fortune, purchased the building in 1888 and made substantial improvements, contracting with Gilbert & Sons and brick mason Harrison Ervin. After settling in Woodland Minis became a grocer and held numerous public offices including County Sheriff (1865), County Surveyor General (1875-1880), County Treasurer (1886-1894), local Justice of the Peace, and Town Recorder.

After Minis died in 1906, his daughter, Mollie Minis Lambert assumed ownership and operated a successful millinery business in one of the ground level shops. In the early 1920's the County/City Engineer, Asa Proctor and his family, lived upstairs before building their home at 540 Cross Street in 1923. Eugene Lampton had his law office downstairs for many years. In 1985 the Dead Cat Alley Investment Company, led by Stan Brown of Woodland, renovated the building under the Federal historical preservation tax credit program.

