

Close-up: Woodland Opera House State Historic Park

Woodland Opera House State Historic Park [YOLO COUNTY] is the last of the once-numerous opera houses in California still used for performing. Such famous names as John Phillip Sousa and his band, George M. Cohan's troupe, comics Weber and Fields, and actor Sidney Greenstreet once appeared on the stage.

The historic park is located northwest of Sacramento in historic downtown Woodland at the corner of Main and Second Streets.

The original building was erected in 1885, burned down in 1892, and rebuilt in 1896, which is the structure that is in use today. The interior of the theater was restored to its turn-of-the-century beauty, with reproductions of wallpaper friezes, new carpeting and seating, and paint colors.

Over 300 touring companies appeared at the theater until 1913, after which it was used occasionally. In 1971 the Yolo County Historical Society purchased the building, which became a California State Historical Park in 1980 when the society gave the site to the state. Restoration began the following year.

For more information, call the park at (530) 666-9617.

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