

THE LAN MART BUILDING

An 1876 livery stable, grocery store, and hotel has been transformed into a delightful shopping arcade. Savor the colorful atmosphere of this century-old building as you browse through its distinctive shops. The Lan-Mart was the vision of Victor and Marisa DeCarli who, in 1969, took two dilapidated old buildings, slated for demolition, and converted them into the first shopping mall of its kind in Petaluma. This redevelopment project was recognized by Heritage Homes of Petaluma and awarded the very first "Certificate of Recognition".

THE LAN MART BUILDING'S HISTORICAL AND COLORFUL PAST

With a little imagination you can picture downtown Petaluma in 1876, when a century after the Declaration of Independence the Centennial Livery Stable opened alongside the Cosmopolitan Hotel on what was then Main Street, and is now Petaluma Boulevard North. Many of the buildings of that lively era remain, among them the venerable livery stable - today a part of the Lan Mart Building.

Actually, the Lan Mart Building has been created by joining three structures: the livery stable and a saloon, which faced Main Street, and a market which adjoined them at the rear and faced Kentucky Street. Upstairs over the livery stable were comfortable chambers where ladies of the evening plied their ancient trade, while above was a large social hall favored by the local Moose Lodge. The present façade joining these two buildings dates from a major face-lifting following the 1906 earthquake.

Inside, the Lan Mart Building's sturdy stone and brick walls are evidence of the rugged construction of a century ago. The high ceilings, original doors and collected artifacts from Petaluma's colorful past all contribute to the appealing setting that you will enjoy as you browse through The Lan Mart Building's shops.

A PIECE OF PETALUMA HISTORY

A nineteenth century livery stable and hotel has been transformed into a delightful shopping arcade. This collection of specialty shops occupies the building constructed in 1876, called the Centennial Block in honor of the nation's birthday. At one time, there was a brothel on the top floor, with a door connecting to the Cosmopolitan Hotel, now a vacant lot. This lot is best known as the scene of the "tie-the-chain-to-the-cop's axle" stunt in the movie American Graffiti.

In the 1860's, this general area, on both sides of the street, was Petaluma's Chinatown, a collection of shacks and shanties, stores, Chinese laundries, and supposedly even opium dens. The Chinese had been brought here to straighten the bends in the river, hauling away the mud in wheelbarrows. Once the work was done, however, they were driven from the County.

Savor the colorful atmosphere of this century-old building as you browse through the charming shops. You'll find exciting products for all ages offered by the friendly people of The Lan Mart Building.

The Parking lot was the original site of the Cosmopolitan hotel built by George Pury in 1866. The hotel was a wood framed structure three stories high. The first story consisting of parlor, sitting and dining room. There was also Baths, a kitchen, Laundry and living space for the proprietor. The second and third stories were divided into forty six bedrooms of considerable size and comfort, all being well furnished board was 5-6 dollars a week in 1907 w/35-75 cents a room. The hotel catered to the working class clientele in early Petaluma history which provided a barber & cobbler and a large commodious Bar. The rear lot was a stable for the hotel. Burned down in the 1910's

Gross Building 1930. At the encouragement of a political friend Ms. Gross built the Kentucky street building to the highest standard. She had been promised that it would be the location of the New Post Office. Unfortunately it was not finished before re-election took her friend out of office and the new post office was located on the boulevard. Completed during the depression the building was used for an indoor miniature golf course. It was later opened up as Ascherman's Market and then changed to Tommy's Market where it continued to operate as a grocery store until the late 60's

Centennial block building constructed and named in honor of the nation's birthday.

This Neo-Classic brick commercial structure, designed by Petaluma architect Brainerd Jones, served as Petaluma's Post Office from 1920 to 1932. It is the center section of the Great Petaluma Mill Annex, which extends from 22 to 34 Petaluma Blvd. North. It is built of white Alameda brick from the McNear brick yard in San Rafael.

In 1932 the City outgrew this Post Office and a replacement was built at Fourth and D Streets, which was the former location of the John A. McNear Mansion. The newer office is on the National Register of Historic Places and continues to serve as a functioning Post Office.

Petaluma's Filmography

The Farmer's Daughter	1947
Ground Zero	1972
American Graffiti	1973
Heroes	1977
Cujo	1983
Explorers	1985
Peggy Sue Got Married	1986
Howard the Duck	1986
Tucker, The Man And His Dreams	1988
Shadow Of A Doubt (TV)	1991
Basic Instinct	1992
Lolita	1996
Inventing The Abbotts	1996
Flubber	1997
Mumford	1999