



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park  
3325 Adobe Road  
Petaluma, CA 94954  
707-762-4871

Ruth Coleman, *Director*

Dear 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Alumni:

As the days become months and then years, your education and experiences in fourth and fifth grades becomes a dim memory. However, we can guess that you remember moments of your school tour or overnight experience as a fourth or fifth grader re-living history at **Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park in Petaluma.**

Walking up hill from the parking lot and seeing the adobe building growing larger and larger; the headquarters of General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo's cattle rancho hovering above you. Those strange sensations of candle making, basket weaving, carding wool, cooking, wood working, and leather craft combine with the sounds of the ranch animals which rebound off the walls that stood strong during all our history of earthquakes, floods, and ever-expanding modern cities. These walls, which are still 80% original brick work and 20% original wood work, have many stories that they could tell us.

If you have memories of this park, then you know how special it is. The park embodies the short rancho time period in California history between the missions and the gold rush. There are not many parks in California that represent this short but very important part of our state's history. The rancho period was crucial to the Industrial Revolution in the East and the introduction of American and European traditions and customs to the Californios.

California State Parks staff and volunteers work hard to bring school programming to children from all over California as well as sponsoring three special events a year for the public to enjoy and to keep the park open during tight fiscal times.

All of these things are at risk. Perhaps, other school children will never experience what you have experienced. The Petaluma Adobe, the largest privately owned adobe building in Northern California, became a California State Park in 1951, officially registered as California State Historical Landmark #18 in 1932, in 1970 it became a registered National Historic Landmark, and **in 2012 it will be closed forever.**

**What can you do to prevent this from happening?** Join the Sonoma-Petaluma State Historic Parks Association and donate to the fund they have set up to save Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park. Donations can be sent to: Sonoma-Petaluma State Historic Parks Association, PO BOX 1702, Sonoma, CA 95476. Please make a note that it is for Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park. Online donations will soon be available; check our website for the most current information.

For more information on Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park, please visit the official website: <http://www.petalumaadobe.com> Any donation, however small, will help us preserve California's past for you and for future visitors big and small.