

# MILL VALLEY'S ROCK & ROLL HISTORY

A SELF-GUIDED TOUR

ADAPTED FROM A **MILL VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY WALK**.

ALL IMAGES COURTESY OF THE LUCRETIA LITTLE HISTORY ROOM, MILL VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

**FROM SONS OF CHAMPLIN TO JERRY GARCIA TO BONNIE RAITT, MILL VALLEY HAS LONG BEEN A MAGNET FOR MUSICIANS AND THE PEOPLE WHO SUPPORT THEM—SHOP OWNERS, POSTER ARTISTS, CLUB MANAGERS, AND FANS. THIS 19-STOP WALK HIGHLIGHTS THE PEOPLE AND PLACES THAT HELPED SHAPE MILL VALLEY AS A TRUE ROCK & ROLL TOWN.**

USE YOUR MAPS APP FOR DIRECTIONS AND VISIT [MVHistory.org/rockwalk](http://MVHistory.org/rockwalk) FOR EXPANDED DETAILS, PHOTOS, AND A MAP FROM THE **MILL VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**.

## DOWNTOWN MILL VALLEY:

### 1. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

#### START OF TOUR – 85 THROCKMORTON

Begin your tour at the Depot Building, home to the **Chamber**. Music history radiates from this starting point—**Sweetwater** to the north, **Village Music** to the south.

### 2. RITA'S BENCH – 87 THROCKMORTON, WEST SIDE OF BUILDING

On Christmas Day 1969, teacher Rita Abrams wrote **Mill Valley** here. The song became a national hit performed with her third-grade class.

### 3. LYTTON SQUARE – THROCKMORTON & MILLER

Surveyed in 1890, this plaza was once known as Depot Square and Flagpole Square before being renamed for WWI casualty Lytton Barber in 1918. It hosted the 1971 Rockfest and has been the Dipsea Race's starting line since 1905.



1971 ROCKFEST



AUSTIN DE LONE, JAMES BURTON, ELVIS COSTELLO

### 4. OLD MILL TAVERN – 106 THROCKMORTON (NOW CORNER BAR)

In the 1970s, this bar hosted acts like Quicksilver Messenger Service, the Christmas Jug Band, and Austin de Lone's Eggs Over Easy. Noise complaints led to the end of live music by 1975.

### 5. 142 THROCKMORTON THEATRE

Opened in 1915 as the Hub Theater, it hosted silent films and Charlie Chaplin before it showcased rock bands. Briefly home to the **MV Film Festival** in 1976, it reopened in 1999 under Lucy Mercer.



JEANNIE PATTERSON, JOHN GODDARD, BONNIE RAITT, MARIA MULDAUR

### 6. EAST TOTEM WEST – 159 THROCKMORTON (NOW MILL VALLEY INN)

A psychedelic poster shop opened in 1967 during the Summer of Love. Its iconic designs now live at London's Victoria and Albert Museum.

### 7. SWEETWATER SALOON – 153 THROCKMORTON

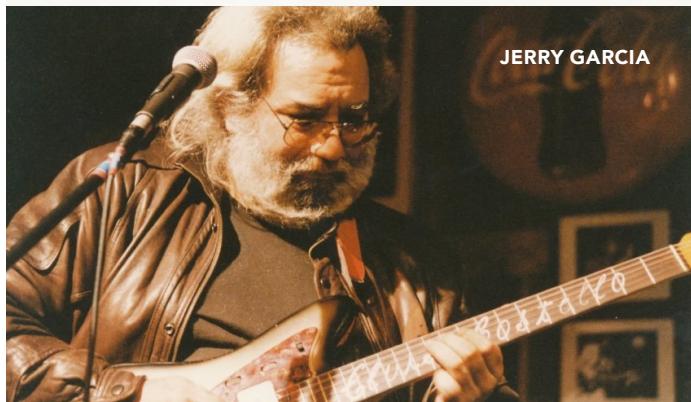
Opened in 1972, **Sweetwater Saloon** was transformed from a bar into a live music venue by Fred Martin, then elevated by Jeannie Patterson. Legends like Jerry Garcia, Bonnie Raitt, and Etta James played here. The original closed in 2007—its legacy remains legendary.

## 8. PRUNE MUSIC – 34 SUNNYSIDE (NOW HONEYGIRL BEAUTY)

Founded in 1969, this guitar shop was an early hub for local musicians. It later moved to 10 Locust near Brothers Tavern, where jam sessions continued.

## 9. MARTY BALIN'S RESIDENCE – 180 EAST BLITHEDALE

Jefferson Airplane's founder lived here in the 1960s. His home included a pyramid room for yoga and meditation, and walls covered in music memorabilia and collage art.



## 10. UNDERGROUND CAFÉ – 55 SUNNYSIDE (NOW KANTOLA TRAINING SOLUTIONS)

Run by students in the 1980s, it was a hangout for teen musicians, artists, and thinkers, described as "black, white, and red café culture."

## 11. VILLAGE MUSIC –

9 EAST BLITHEDALE (NOW THE DAPPER DOG SALON)

From 1968–2007, John Goddard ran this legendary record store, known for rare vinyl and deep roots in the music world. A close friend of **Sweetwater** owner Jeannie Patterson, they worked together to bring iconic performers to the venue. The shop inspired a documentary, and his archive at 31 Sunnyside holds over 100,000 LPs and 400,000 45s.

## 12. VILLAGE MUSIC (ORIGINAL LOCATION) –

27 THROCKMORTON (NOW MAISON RÊVE)

Started as Larson's Melody Shop in the 1940s, renamed Village Music in 1956. Goddard started here at 13 and bought the shop in 1968, later moving it to East Blithedale.



## 13. SWEETWATER MUSIC HALL –

19 CORTE MADERA

Reopened in 2012 by Bob Weir and other local investors, this nonprofit venue continues the **Sweetwater** legacy, hosting live music. Located in the historic Masonic Hall, built in 1903 by Harvey Klyce.



## 14. UNKNOWN MUSEUM –

35 CORTE MADERA

(NOW ILLUMIGARDEN)

Founded by Mickey McGowan, this surreal museum of pop culture and Americana was rooted in the 1970s–80s counterculture scene.

**BEYOND DOWNTOWN.** HEAD UP MILLER AVE., WHERE BARS, RECORD STORES, AND INTIMATE VENUES SHAPED MILL VALLEY'S MUSIC SCENE. FROM TEEN DANCES TO SPONTANEOUS JAMS BY LEGENDS, THIS STRETCH KEPT THE MUSIC GOING AFTER THE LAST DOWNTOWN ENCORE.

## MILLER AVE. & NEARBY:

## 16. MILL VALLEY MUSIC – 320 MILLER

Opened in 2007 by Gary Scheuenstuhl, a former Village Music staffer, this shop keeps vinyl alive in the digital age and hosts annual shows with the "Mill Valley Music All Stars" performing classic rock albums.

## 17. 2 AM CLUB – 380 MILLER

Known as "The Deuce," this bar began as The Brown Jug in 1933 in a former grain store. Just outside city limits, it stayed open until 2 am—hence the name. Featured on Huey Lewis and the News' Sports album cover.

## 18. BROWN'S HALL –

390 MILLER (NOW BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF MARIN)

A lively hub for concerts and dances from the 1930s to early '70s, this former community hall hosted acts like the Kustom Keys, Mississippi John Hurt, and Seatrain. After a 1963 fire, it was rebuilt and later sold in 1972.

## 19. MARIN THEATRE COMPANY – 397 MILLER

Founded in 1966 as the Mill Valley Center for the Performing Arts, it began in borrowed spaces around town. It became theater-only in 1984 and opened here in 1985, in the former Port shopping center.

EXPLORE MORE MUSIC HISTORY AND CURRENT EVENTS AT [MVHistory.org](http://MVHistory.org) AND [enjoymillvalley.com](http://enjoymillvalley.com). TO EXPERIENCE THE FULL, GUIDED MILL VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY VERSION OF THE WALK, SCAN THE QR.

