



Chico Heritage Association, APRIL 2007

CHICO HERITAGE ASSOCIATION--CHA--FOR 25 YEARS A VOLUNTEER, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF CHICO'S CULTURAL HERITAGE.

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, April 22, 2007, 2:00-4:00pm

Butte County Library, Chico

1108 Sherman Ave., at E 1st Ave.

The old Patrick Ranch House (aka the Wright-Patrick House) may be one of the oldest wood-frame farm houses remaining in the rural west. The earliest part of the home dates to 1852-53. Learn the history of this interesting home and its place in early settlement in the interior valleys of the west.

Presenters are Lucy Sperlin, Butte County Historical Society, and Darrell Deter, descendant of the Wright-Patrick family.

An update on current Chico Heritage activities, a short business meeting, and election of Board members will precede the talk. Refreshments will follow.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

In the past 25 years since our founding, there have been many people who have given unselfishly of themselves to help with the cause of historic preservation and local history. Some of these dear people have since passed on; and we miss them and their dedication. John Nopel, dean of Chico historians, passed away last fall. He unselfishly gave many years to the pictorial and written history of our area, and we are so much the richer for his efforts. We will always miss his enthusiasm and positive, giving nature. Others who gave so much in their time with us here include the late Lois MacDonald, Elroy Nathan, Ted Meriam, Hester Patrick, and Louis Poor. Our "Founding Father", Dr. Quentin Griffiths, gave our preservation efforts a firm foundation by serving as our first president, and mentoring our efforts for years. These people, and other friends, have left a permanent mark on the local preservation community, and our city, and we will always be indebted to them.

John Gallardo

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

Meeting-First Wed. of Month, 7:00p.m., 635 Flume Street

John Gallardo, President

Lucy Sperlin

Liz Stewart, Vice-President

Ann Sands

Kathleen Hillman, Secretary/Treasurer

Tim Simonds

Mike Magliari

Jannis Wentworth

The Senator Theatre Tower

In 1999 the Senator Theatre tower began to lean, due to a degradation of its interior structure. The theatre's owners, United Artists, removed the tower in sections and was stored by the City. In October of 1999, Chico Heritage Association held a fundraiser, "Robin To The Rescue", to raise money towards the eventual restoration of the tower. The gala event included a showing at the Senator of the 1938 film "The Adventures of Robin Hood"--filmed to a large part here in Bidwell Park - and a dance at the Ballroom On Broadway in the historic IOOF/Odd Fellows Building, better known as "The Lee Pharmacy Building" (or to newcomers as "The Starbucks Building"!)

The local chapter of the Building Council gave \$5,000 toward the tower!

The Senator Theatre was first opened in April of 1928 and was designed by the prestigious San Francisco firm of Miller & Pflueger. Its cost was then a huge amount of \$300,000. In the 1970's the building was portioned into four small theatres, but has since been returned to its original single-theatre configuration. Eric Hart purchased the building, and interior and exterior renovations have taken place. The very slow and meticulous process of replicating the tower took much longer than anyone expected. The City was able to give Eric a low-interest loan for the tower's replacement. In fall of 2006 Chico Heritage Association was able to give Eric Hart a check for \$10,000 towards the costs of the replacement. We thank Eric for giving the community back its landmark. Not many people are building towers locally these days!

BARBER NEIGHBORHOOD

The Barber Neighborhood Association asked Chico Heritage to teach them how to research their home's history. John Gallardo and Liz Stewart held a mini-workshop on January 27th at the Chico Branch Library. The library has wonderful collections of old city directories, newspaper clippings and published works. Everyone who came received a notebook and Kathleen Hillman's admonition to researchers: "Always write the date and place where you are, the name of the book or plan and NEVER write on both sides of the sheet of paper."



FALL 2006 -left to right: PRINCIPALS IN THE EFFORT TO RETURN THE TOWER

Pat Conroy, Pres. Local Chapter Building Industry Assoc. of Superior Calif.
Dave Burkland, City of Chico
Bob Summerville, City of Chico, CHA Vice-Pres. During fundraisers
Eric Hart, Building owner
Pam Figge, Pres. CHA during fundraiser
Kris Zappettini, past CHA Pres. & liason with city

AVENUES/VECINO NEIGHBORHOOD

The City of Chico has been working with the Avenues Neighborhood Association to establish a vision of the future for that neighborhood. Their Email address is:

Chicoavenues@sbcglobal.net

Their website is: www.Chicoavenues.org

CHICO HERITAGE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Memberships are due at the first of the calendar year. If you have paid within the last four months, yours is not due until January, 2008. Our only current income sources are our membership dues and donations. Please help us save Chico's heritage by your membership and/or donations.

Simply fill out and mail this form to:
Chico Heritage Association, P.O. Box 3517, Chico, CA 95927

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

\$10 Senior/Student \$15 Individual \$25 Family
 \$50 Supporting \$50 Business/Professional \$100 Patron

SOME OF OUR BASIC EXPENSES:

Office rent Telephone
Insurance
Newsletter printing & mailing
Photocopying & photography for research

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD:

To working on an index of local historic information. We are coordinating with other local groups to form a "Compendium of Historical Resources" so that anyone researching historical information will know where to look!

To updating the Historic Building Survey.

To hosting preservation conferences, workshops, and educational programs. (Possibly more neighborhood mini-workshops as we did for the Barber neighborhood).

If any of these projects interests you, please join us, we can always use the help!

Collier
HARDWARE



105 Broadway
Chico, CA 95928

Phone (530) 342-0195
Fax (530) 342-1032

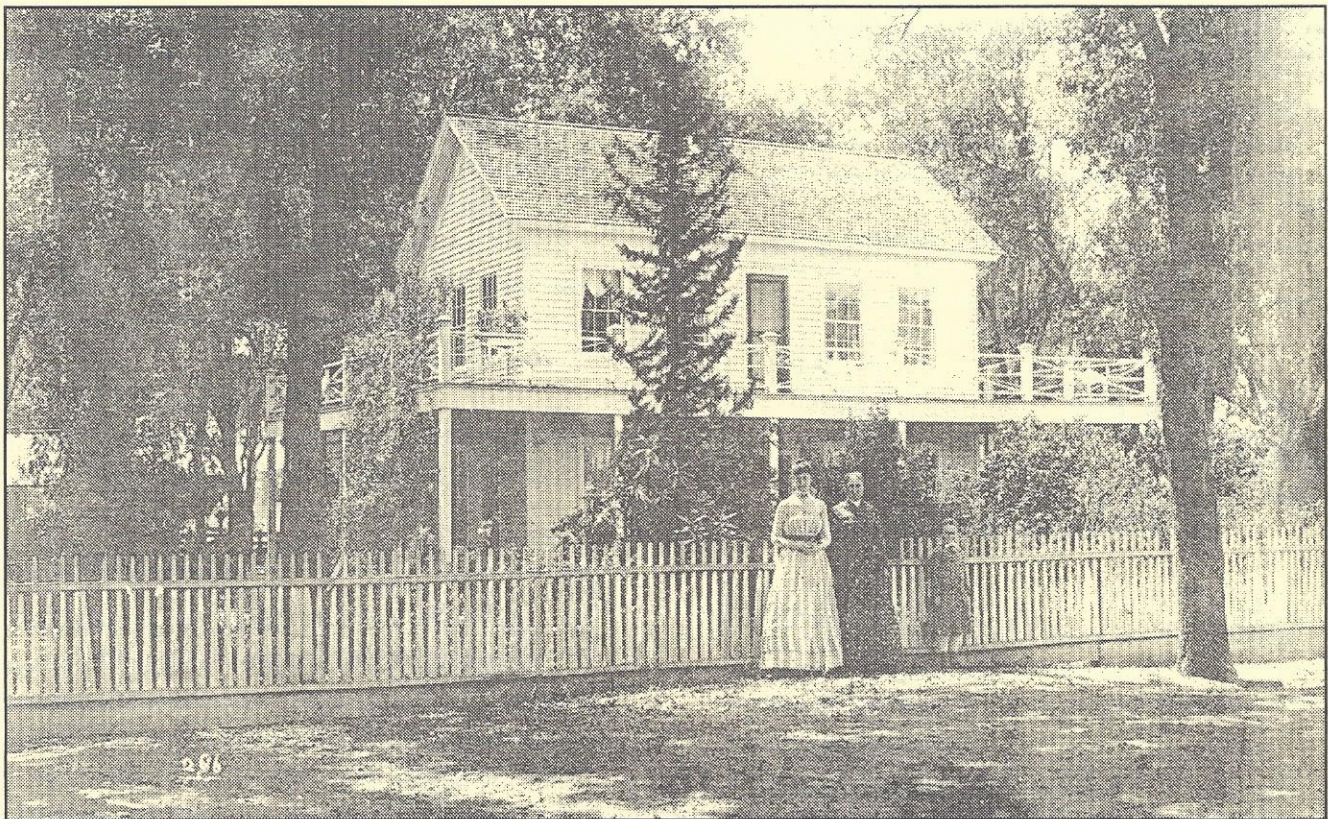
THANK YOU to Gene McCutchen for the donation of a four drawer file cabinet.



CHICO HERITAGE
ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 3517
Chico, CA 95927
Phone 530-345-7522

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Three unidentified females at the Old Patrick Ranch House, about 1906