

CHICO HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

p.o. box 2078 chico, ca 95927

Pig Out Plans

Plans for a June 8th "Pig Out for Preservation" barbeque are nearing finalization. Under the competent guidance of chairpersons Jacki Headley and Nancy Lindahl, this fund-raising event looks to be another fun-filled affair complete with tasty food and live entertainment. The event will take place this year at the "Little Chapman Mansion", 12th and Nelson, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. So, start whetting your whistle for some "finger lickin good" ribs and rousing music.

Members Only Events

Our first members-only event, a slide show of English National Trust gardens and properties by Carl Peterson, was held April 7th at the Stansbury House. The gorgeous blooms of spring were displayed against backdrops of magnificent English architecture and landscapes. The event was enjoyed by all who were able to attend.

Upcoming programs will feature a possible historical tour of the cemetery, walks through previously uncharted neighborhoods, talks with local architects about their buildings, a discussion on the care of historic fabrics, and a revival of Bob Malowney's famous "Porches-I-Have-Known Tour of Chico."

Since only paid CHA members will receive notices of these programs, this may be a good reason to join for those who do not want to miss these get-togethers.



Northern California-A Favored Preservation Target

Undaunted by the bleak weather on the evening of February 11th, about seventy CHA members and guests attended our annual meeting at the Bidwell Mansion. Among those present were City Council member Mary Andrews, and former mayor, Karl Ory. The guest speaker was Kathryn Gualtieri, Governor Deukmajian's appointment as State Preservation Officer. Ms. Gualtieri indicated in her talk that preservation has strong citizen support in Southern California and growing support in the North State. She said that Governor Deukmajian has preserved budget allocations which her office hopes to target for Northern California preservation projects. She indicated as an example Colusa's rehabilitation of their Carnegie Library into a police facility which came about through grant assistance from her office. She also announced expected approval of a plan by Oroville merchants to donate building facade easements to the City in exchange for rehabilitation grants to upgrade a block of Oroville's historic downtown.

Ms. Gualtieri showed slides illustrating the variety of buildings which warrant sensitive rehabilitation. The range was extensive - from the State capitol building to a garage with a spanish revival roofline and a water tankhouse.

Later, in discussions with Chico Heritage officers, Ms. Gualtieri praised efforts here in Chico. She offered to work with our organization to provide technical advise. In addition, a staff member will assist us to plan a Northern California conference on rural historical preservation. We hope to draw participants from Yreka, Red Bluff, Redding, Colusa, Oroville and other communities with similar environments to our own.

Gift to Butte County Library

The Chico Heritage Association has made a donation of important resource materials to the Butte County Library. Many of the materials will be of assistance to residents dealing with rehabilitation problems. We have provided a nine volume indexed set of The Old House Journal which is the "bible" of rehabilitation. It is full of practical tips, project plans, inspirational stories and sources for appropriate older home rehabilitation materials. We have also contributed a subscription to Victorian Home and several books. Among these are Rehab Right, a manual for many styles of older buildings; Retrofit Right, a guide to energy solutions compatible with buildings "of a certain age"; California Bungalows by Robert Winter; and a Field Guide to American Houses by Virginia and Lee McAlister. All of these are available at the Chico Branch of the Butte County Library on East First Avenue.

Our thanks to CHA members and supporters whose financial support of Chico Heritage Association makes this educational effort possible. We hope donations of like materials will continue as an annual event.

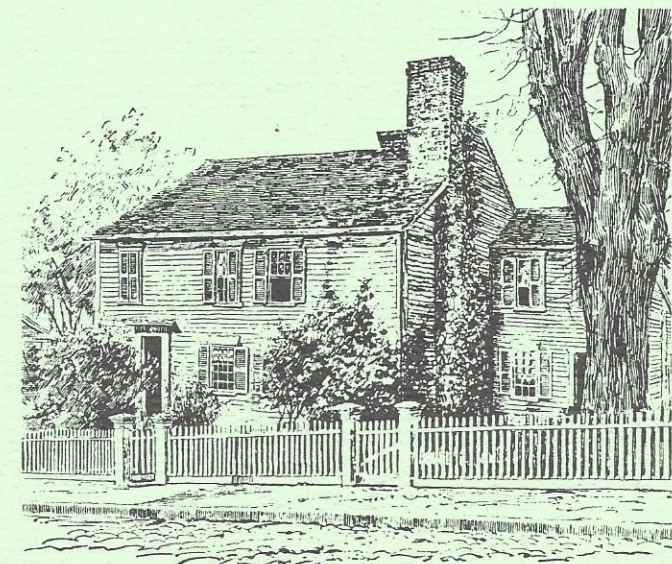
Board of Directors Elected

Seven members were elected to two-year terms on our board of directors at the February 11th annual meeting. Returning to the board are **Giovanna Jackson**, who is slide archivist for the Art History program at Chico State's Department of Art; **Jacki Headley**, local manufacturer who owns Woof-n-Poof Pillows and the Parker Building on West Third Street; **Ray Murdoch**, a Work Training Center instructor and real estate developer specializing in antique buildings; and **Michele Shover**, professor of Political Science at Chico State. New board members are **John Anderson**, **Robb Cheal** and **Tim Simonds**. **John Anderson**, a Chico architect with offices in the Nottelman/Parker Building, attended CSUC and UC Berkeley, and began his architectural firm in 1975. John seeks creative solutions to architecture, with an aim of bettering our built environment. Among John's most prideful accomplishments has been the interior of North State Bank on West 5th and Salem Streets. **Robb Cheal**, owner of KNVR Radio, has long been interested in the preservation of our cultural heritage and the betterment of Chico. He is a leader in the effort to prevent the demolition of the Gianella Bridge. **Tim Simonds** is one of Chico's general contractors, and a fine furniture maker. Architectural woodworking is a specialty he enjoys in his craft. A graduate of Chico State, Tim also spent two years in furniture design school in Massachusetts. Tim is concerned with our built environment and will be erecting the replica of the Bidwell Carriage House at the Bidwell Mansion.

We welcome John, Robb and Tim to our board, and heartily thank the returning board members for continuing their positions on the board.

Thank You Robie and Chuck!

Robie Amer and Chuck Nelson served Chico Heritage Association well as board members over the past several years, but have recently stepped down to allow others to take their place. We will miss their company and contributions while serving on the board, but have been assured they will continue to support CHA's efforts to preserve Chico's cultural heritage. Thank you for all the time and effort expended in serving as board members, Robie and Chuck!



Our New Quarters

We are settling into our new office on the second floor of the Parker Building on Third Street where we are across the hall from the office of architect, and new CHA board member, John Anderson. Our deepest thanks go to Jacki Headley, owner of the Parker Building and a CHA board member, for providing the comfortable and convenient quarters. While we cannot staff the office to serve walk-in guests, the office is already well-used.

Maps, photos, books and research materials are lining the shelves and bulletin board which expert woodworker and CHA board member Laurence Boag built. Liz Stewart is using the research collections to supervise volunteers working on building research. Giovanna Jackson contributed her set of California History while her mother, Giovanna Rendall of Dixon, gave us her sets of Americana and Preservation News. Art Etc. donated framing for our copy of the Chico Depot poster and Quentin Griffiths has contributed two chairs.

We are grateful for our office beginnings but still harbor a "wish list". A telephone hookup and answering service head the list, as well as an overhead light. A set of back copies of Diggins or other local history publications would also be warmly welcomed. Any generous individuals who can help us with any of the above should contact Chico Heritage at 895-3848 or drop a note to CHA, P.O. Box 2078, Chico, CA 95927.

Chico Brags

The Chico Enterprise in 1885 quoted a facetious article from the Oroville Mercury concerning the characteristic concerns of Butte County citizens in different localities. The author pointed out that "Biggs brags of its hard drinkers", "Wyandotte's pride and glory consists in its pretty girls", "Paradise spreads itself on fruit", "Cherokee boasts of its men who have cash and brains", and "Gridley's vanity lies in its nicely dressed ladies". Chico, however, the author goes on to say, "delights to talk of its handsome residences of which they claim there are nineteen four stories high. Chico people smile when talking of porticos and bay windows and beautiful buildings and lovely gardens. A Chico man would ante freely on his neighbor's house and bet to the limit of the game on his own. A man without a fine house in Chico is like a "greaser" without a saddle horse of an editor without scissors. Sauce without brandy, potatoes without salt, a Democrat who didn't want an office would be like a Chico man without a brown stone front, with mansard roof and moquette carpets."

Tours and Other Events

San Francisco: May 3rd-May 25th, 10-3:30 daily
Pacific Heights Mansion - Willis Polk, architect, 2255 Lyon Street, SF, cost: \$10 (sponsored by University High School)

Benicia: May 16th, 1-5:00
"Battle of the Styles; A Spectacle at Bradbury and Bradbury" (purveyors of handscreened 19th century wallpapers), B & B Factory, 940 Tyler Street, Studio 12, Benicia, cost: \$12.50 (sponsored by the California Preservation Foundation)

Mendocino: May 17th
House Tour of eleven 19th century Mendocino homes, cost: \$8.00, (707) 937-5791

Vallejo: May 18th, 1-5:00
1986 House Tour, Casa de Vallejo, 1825 Sonoma Blvd., Vallejo, cost: \$8.00 (sponsored by the Vallejo Architectural Heritage Foundation)

Shoo Fly

- * You wonder - why "shoo fly"? Well, we have borrowed this title from a miscellaneous items column published in the 1870's Butte Record, George Crossette of Chico, publisher. It will be used as our "catch all" heading as well for many assorted items of interest.
- * An added voice for preservation is the Chico News and Review which published an article on South Chico, and a special issue on architectural design in Chico. In addition, they have publicized the jeopardy which the 1870's M & T ranch house (also known as the Reavis Ranch) now faces and the initial dismantling of the Rosedale School.
- * Gail and Gordon Brown who are rehabilitating the Barnard House at Normal and Third Streets have gone the extra mile. Instead of a bulky, unsightly ramp to meet handicapped user codes, they plan to install a compact, efficient hydraulic lift (which is easier and safer than a ramp to use). Now they can use the lovely garden area in back of the building.
- * Pullins Cyclery scraped a lot of paint at their store on Main at Eighth and the result is a treat! The simple Spanish design of the shop's exterior has been brought back and only finishing touches remain.
- * Rio Chico Way, which is adjacent to the CSU, Chico campus, is undergoing a revival. Robb Cheal rehabilitated a substantial building there; Rick and Nancy Ostrom are planning to rehabilitate the exterior of their fire-damaged house to period; and Ken Reimers is eager to revive the fine style of an old home he owns down the street. It's time for the University to assure these responsible community members that it won't lay claim to that gracious old street across from the creek.
- * While our urban forester's pruning policies may be controversial, who could feel anything but delight at seeing all those new trees planted along the public thoroughfares of Chico? Chico is planning for its future arboreally-speaking. Now it's time to get serious about how buildings approved in our day are going to affect Chico in the immediate future, let alone, after we are gone.
- * If you have photos of the old Bidwell stables - or even dim memories, please contact the Mansion staff. They want to rebuild the stables as accurately as they can for use as a visitor center.
- * The newest threat to the integrity of the Stansbury House is said to be a plan to border its two street sides with parking meters. What is next - a satellite dish for City Hall on the side lawn?
- * The Gage House looks as charming as ever. Cliff Mathys, who inherited the home from his grandmother, Helen Gage, is doing a wonderful job.
- * Take note of the perfectly charming Queen Anne cottage at 1361 The Esplanade (next to Bill Squyre's "Decorator's Dream House"). The rehabilitation was sensitive, and the result is a treat to the street. Perhaps in the near future the awkward ramp can be removed and replaced by an automatic lift at the rear. Efforts like this one will retain the Esplanade's special charm - and value.
- * Take it from Robie Amer - Simoniz chrome cleaner does a wonderful job cleaning brass objects. If you are having particular problems with cleaning metal items, you might want to check out a book called Swezey Formulas (located in most libraries). This book gives tips, methods and other data on the cleaning of metal items in home and shop.

Architecture On Channel 9

Channel 9 is offering some excellent programming relating to architecture, rehabilitation of structures and the like. Tune in for some informative and enlightening watching.

"Pride of Place: Building the American Dream": 8-part series which began March 24th - Mondays, 8 pm (repeated Fridays at 2 pm)

This series examines American architecture in its historical and cultural context, focusing on what makes it distinct.

"This Old House": Saturdays, 2 pm

This is a continuing series which deals with restoring and renovating older homes.

"A House for All Seasons": Mondays, 5 pm

This is a 13-part series on energy conservation.

"Cathedral, The Story of Its Construction": Wednesday, April 30th, 8 pm

This program is based on David Macauley's book, Cathedral.

"Stone Carvers": Wednesday, April 30th, 10:30 pm

This program explores architectural stone carving tradition from the Middle Ages to the present.



"Structurally, you're sound. It's your façade that's crumbling."

The New Yorker

The Gianella Bridge

The Gianella Bridge is a valuable historical structure which the people of Butte County have the opportunity to save for new uses while substituting for it a new and safer bridge for highway traffic. We all will welcome a new bridge. Who has not felt uneasy in driving across that narrow, unforgiving expanse?

Nevertheless, uses for the old bridge remain. One of this area's most popular "sports", tubing on the Sacramento River, is concentrated at the bridge now. The bridge can continue to harbor this sport while also being open to walkers, bicyclers and casual observers. The enormous expense of removing the bridge would be adequate to cover costs of modifying it for new uses.

Credit for working to achieve this belongs to Robb Cheal and organizations which are supporting his efforts. The Chico Chamber of Commerce and the Butte County Historical Society are two such organizations that have offered their backing. Chico Heritage Association has joined them in writing CalTrans in support of the effort to keep the Gianella Bridge.

Michele Shover

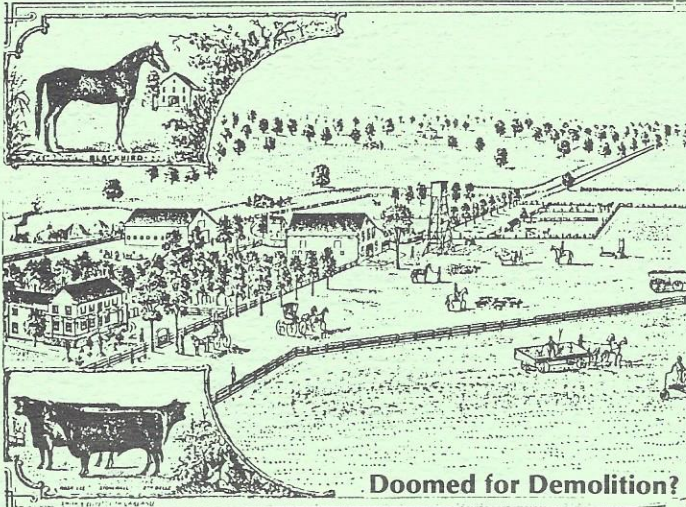
Board of Directors

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The M & T Ranch (Historically known as the Reavis Ranch)



Doomed for Demolition?

The Thunderbird Lodge Sign

The neon Thunderbird Lodge sign on Main Street has been the subject of controversy of late as its existence was threatened by Chico's sign ordinance. This ordinance has been an important addition to public policy. Over the past ten or so years the junky, cluttered appearance of unregulated sign size and design has been remedied to the City's benefit. In sticking to its guns on this policy the City Council and Planning Commission have earned our gratitude.

But to most principles, exceptions must be admitted. The City made one appropriate exception in sign policy when it permitted the Barth "fish" to extend over the sidewalk on Broadway in its familiar place. The Chico Heritage Association Board has unanimously recommended to the Planning Commission that the Thunderbird sign be the second exception.

Our reasoning is based on two grounds. First, in making the building inventory, CHA followed the national preservation practice of identifying structures that people care about as one criterion of value. The public's apparently spontaneous expression of affection for the sign itself is a valid indication of the sign's merit. In this case, the argument is not merely knee-jerk reaction of public regulation. Instead, people have memories of the sign, look forward to seeing it, and have been comforted by the sight of it on foggy nights. We believe such reactions merit respect by public agencies.

Secondly, the sign has aesthetic merit, and we believe its value will increase as we are more and more distanced from the 1950s. The Thunderbird Lodge sign represents this period's advertising style at its best.

Michele Shover

A Sad Week For Chico

Within a span of five days, three historic Chico buildings were either destroyed, or severely damaged. For those that have not read newspaper accounts of the tragic events, following is a summary of the catastrophic actions that have saddened area preservationists.

ROSEDALE SCHOOL - Wednesday, April 2nd

A Chico developer bulldozed the historic Rosedale School to pave the way for construction of student-oriented housing. The Rosedale School, built in 1914, was one of two remaining rural schoolhouses in Chico. Hopes were that the schoolhouse would be incorporated into the student apartment complex plans, or sold and moved to another location. Not so; the school was reduced to rubble before further discussion could ensue.

SOUTHERN PACIFIC DEPOT - Saturday, April 5th

The historic Chico Amtrak train depot was gutted by a fire which may have started at the hands of an arsonist. The Depot, built in 1892, suffered major damage, especially in the northern warehouse area. The waiting room section of the actual depot suffered relatively little damage. Chico Heritage Association will make every effort to preserve this building, which has much historic value to the community.

NORTHERN STAR MILLS WAREHOUSE - Monday, April 7th

The Northern Star Mills warehouse, located at Normal and 16th Streets, was destroyed in a blaze strongly suspected to be arson. The grain warehouse, believed to have been constructed in the 1890s, was engulfed in flames in the early morning hours, and said to be a total loss by the time the fire was contained.

Treasurer's Annual Report

Chico Heritage Association 1985 Income and Expenses

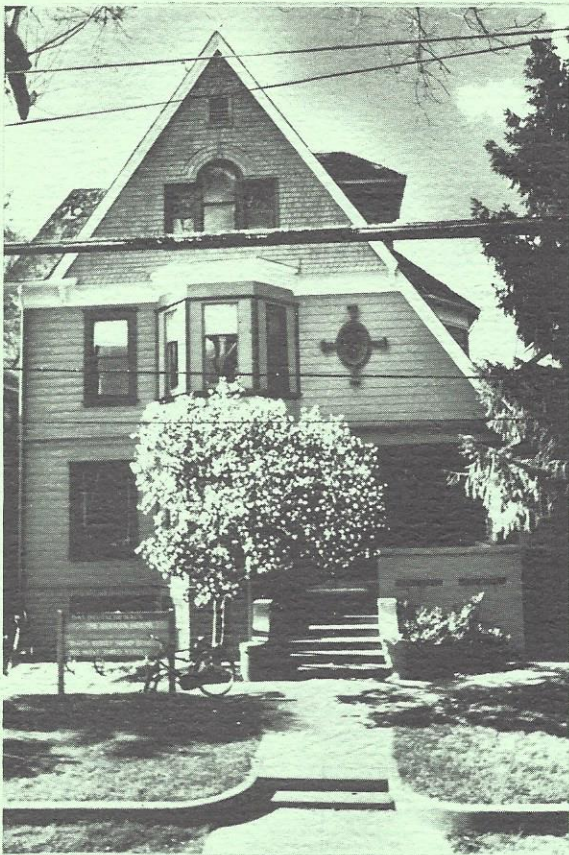
Cash On Hand January 1, 1985		\$2681
Income:		1434
Membership dues	\$ 918	
Old House Journal	258	
Walking Tour Booklet	154	
Maps and aprons	23	
Change redeposited from annual meeting	20	
Donations	11	
Sale of old doors	50	
Expenses:		-1797
Newsletter	\$ 873	
Old House Journal	286	
Insurance	200	
Gifts to Library and office expenses	107	
Chamber of Commerce	60	
Research material and copying expenses	100	
Annual meeting expenses	160	
Expense in excess of income		353
Cash on hand December 31, 1985		\$2328

Louis Poor

"When we build, let us think that we build forever. Let it not be for present delight, nor for present use alone; let it be such work as our descendants will thank us for . . ."

John Ruskin, The Seven Lamps of Architecture, 1849

A Place Called Third Street



German House 512 West 3rd Street

Historic Name: Rouke-Haile House
Date of Construction: 1903
Architectural Style: Shingle with Queen Anne & Colonial Revival Elements
Architect: Unknown
Builder: L. VanVlack
Present Owner: Calif. State University, Chico

The house, located at 512 West 3rd Street, is basically of the Shingle Style with Queen Anne asymmetry and Colonial Revival details. It is a 2-1/2 story structure with a raised basement. Horizontal siding covers the first and second floors, with shingles covering the raised basement and gables. The steeply pitched front gable extends through the second floor on the east side. A two-story bay window with a Palladian-inspired window in the gable above, and a cameo window above the porch all provide front interest. A large gable extending from the south side features another Palladian-inspired window. On the east side is a two-story truncated tower-like extension with a pyramid roof reminiscent of the Queen Anne. There are two transomed entrances opening onto the porch which is sheltered by the second floor overhang. The concrete porch includes three simple columns.

Significance: In 1903, Margaret Rouke acquired title to the lot, and the present two-story house was built for about \$4700 by local builder L. VanVlack. It is identical (in reverse), except for a few details, to the R.L. Welch House of 1900 in Colusa, which was built by the Van Dorsten brothers of that town.

In 1910, Henry Haile, an English-born rancher, purchased the Rouke house and his family lived in it until 1935. Their daughter, Irma, married local architect Chester Cole, and lived two blocks away on Normal Avenue. Jesse and Mavis Todd-Brown, a barber and an art instructor, respectively, purchased it and altered it into apartments. This and the H.W. Crew House next door are two of the most architecturally interesting buildings in this row of early 20th century residences.

French House 544 West 3rd Street

Historic Name: William H. Zwisler House
Date of Construction: Est. 1914
Architectural Style: Colonial Revival with Shingle and Craftsman style elements
Architect: Unknown
Builder: Unknown
Present Owner: Calif. State University, Chico

This two-story residence exhibits the characteristics of the Colonial Revival style in its square, symmetrical shape and low hip roof with central gable dormers. Narrow clapboards over the first floor and shingles cover the second. The porch, under the overhang of the second floor, has a brick base with a long elliptical arch springing from short square piers at either end. The front door has original beveled glass. There is a one-story bay window on the west side. Paired, double-hung windows are used on the second floor. Craftsman interest is shown in the exposed rafter tails and the "handmade" brackets supporting the dormer gables. A rear second floor sleeping or open porch has been covered by an oversized gable.

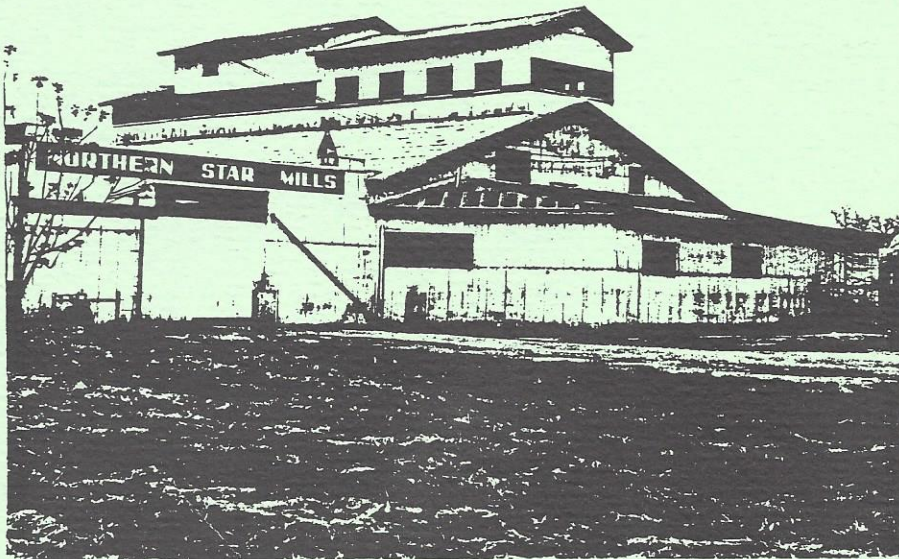
Significance: William H. Zwisler, proprietor of Hub Clothing on Broadway, lived at 544 West 3rd Street until about 1921. His widow, Grace, sold the home to Frank M. Moore, co-owner of Bicknell and Moore Funeral Chapel. After the Moores sold it in 1934, it went through a succession of owners, including the Trinity Methodist Church, which used it as the Wesley Foundation Student Center. The State of California acquired it in 1969. This is a fine example of a transitional building, having elements of new style integrated with a previous one; Colonial Revival base with some Craftsman touches including the use of brick for the front porch as a more "natural" material to tie it into the ground. This corner house has retained its bushes and shrubs and is a good balance for the Colonial Revival building at the opposite end of the block (504 West 3rd Street).



IN MEMORIAM



Rosedale School
1914-1986



Northern Star Mills
1890's-1986



520 West 3rd Street

Historic Name: C.C. Richardson House
 Date of Construction: 1907
 Architectural Style: Colonial Revival
 Architect: Unknown
 Builder: Unknown
 Present Owner: Calif. State University, Chico

This two-story clapboard house is a good example of what is sometimes called "American Foursquare", a phase of the Colonial Revival style. It has a boxy appearance, low hip roof with central dormer, and overhanging eaves. The first floor porch across the front has short stocky columns which support the porch roof. The windows are double-hung with diamond panes in the upper sashes of the first floor and 14/1 on the second floor. Classical detailing is seen in the corner fluted pilasters with Ionic caps. The notched exposed rafter tails give a Craftsman touch.

Significance: This Colonial Revival house was built for Dr. Landis probably for speculation. Dr. Scydel owned it for a short time and then Clarence C. Richardson and his bride, Edith Stevens, moved into it in 1910, down the street from his parents who lived at 528 West 3rd Street. C.C. had his dental degree from the University of California and practiced as a dentist for four years, then went to New York to learn embalming. On his return to Chico, he bought an interest in Fetters and Williams Furniture and Embalming and also served as deputy county coroner. In 1912, he sold his interest in Fetters and Williams and bought J.W. Jewell's furniture store on Main Street. This became Richardson Furniture Company at 8th and Main Street. He served as mayor of Chico in the early 1920s. The Richardson family sold the home to the State of California around 1960.

528 West 3rd Street

Historic Name: J.V. Richardson House
 Date of Construction: 1907
 Architectural Style: Colonial Revival
 Architect: Unknown
 Builder: Unknown
 Present Owner: Calif. State University, Chico

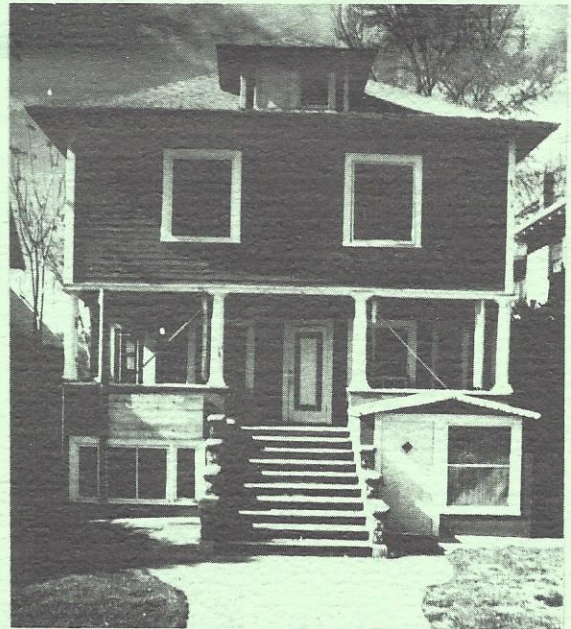
This house, in the "American Foursquare" tradition of Colonial Revival architecture, could be called a "Classic Box". It is square, presents a flat, symmetrical facade of narrow clapboards to the street and has as its only detail, four porch columns supporting the overhanging second floor. The low hip roof has a central hipped dormer. Pacific granite coping lines the stairs. The basement has been remodeled into living space, and a gable roof entry with window has been added to the right of the stairs.

Significance: Jared V. Richardson (1838-1912) came west from Indiana with his three brothers in 1863 and ranched in Butte County. They bought Richardson Springs and other farm land in partnership. Jared and his wife built the hotel at the springs. They moved to this house on Third Street in 1907. After the early 1920s, the house had a succession of owners until it was purchased by the State of California.

Sierra Hall

Historic Name: W.B. Dean House
 Date of Construction: Est. 1920
 Architectural Style: Prairie
 Architect: Unknown
 Builder: Unknown
 Present Owner: Calif. State University, Chico

This two-story, strongly horizontal and boxy building has a stucco finish. The roof is flat with wide, extending eaves. The horizontality is counter-balanced by a series of casement windows with vertical sash, in sets of six vertical windows. The porch is supported by simple, massive piers, and projects in a stately accent to break up the horizontal continuity of the front side of the building. On the whole, the geometric simplicity used for the overall form, plan and decorative details follows those established in the Prairie style architecture.



Significance: This is Chico's best example of a Prairie style home. It may have been designed by a Diamond Match Company architect, or ordered from a catalog. The plans and design were available elsewhere as evidenced by copies of this house in Orland and Fresno. It was built for William B. Dean, manager of Diamond Match Company, around 1920. Dean began his long career in the lumber business at the age of 15 by working as an office boy for Sierra Lumber in Chico. He worked his way up through a succession of jobs until he was manager of seven yards when Diamond Match Company bought Sierra Lumber in 1907. Dean was retained as manager and eventually became Pacific Coast manager for Diamond Match before his retirement in 1937. The house is the youngest of the large West 3rd Street corner houses.

536 West 3rd Street

Historic Name: Charles Ball House
Date of Construction: Est. 1869
Architectural Style: Vernacular
Architect: Unknown
Builder: Unknown
Present Owner: Calif. State University, Chico

An "L" shaped house, 536 West 3rd Street is 1-1/2 stories with a porch within the angle of the "L". The gable roof has a slope toward the street which forms the porch roof. Inappropriate wrought iron is used for porch supports instead of what most probably had been turned posts. The gable roof also caps the sort leg of the "L". Some of the original 2/2 double-hung windows remain. What appears to be an original glass and paneled door has a transom above. A recent exterior stair on the west side leads to attic rooms. The house has been resided with "clapboard" aluminum and also with "board and batten" around the porch. This is an example of mismanaged remodeling yet the building still maintains its original dignity.



Spanish House 504 West 3rd Street

Historic Name: H.W. Crew House
Date of Construction: 1903
Architectural Style: Colonial Revival
Architect: A.J. Bryan
Builder: Unknown
Present Owner: Calif. State University, Chico

The broad cross gambrel roof and the porch columns supporting the second floor overhang define this 1-1/2 story residence as in the Colonial Revival style. The

Historical House

The following article was published in 1883 in the Chico Record.

There was removed the other day from Wm. Earll's property, on the corner of Third and Hazel streets, a house that is of some note in the history of Chico, since it was the first business house erected here. When the building was erected it stood on Rancho Chico, near where the mill now stands, and for years it was a trading post of great dimensions, people bound over the mountains buying all their supplies there. It was a two-story

Significance: This Vernacular house may be one of Chico's oldest extant structures. It appears to have been built by Charles Ball around 1869 at the S.W. corner of West 2nd and Chestnut Streets. Ball was Chico's pioneer watchmaker and also, in 1877, mayor. The house was sold by Ball in 1896. Wendell J. Miller purchased it in 1912 and it remained in the Miller family until 1955. Sometime in the 1920s, Susie Miller had the house moved to the last vacant lot on the 500 block on West 3rd Street (opposite corner of the block). She then built a beautiful two-story Spanish Revival home on the corner of 2nd and Chestnut, which was later sold. It moved west of town around 1980. The Ball house was acquired in 1960 by California State University, Chico. Among the residents of 536 West 3rd Street, in 1930, was Lloyd Costar, Chico High coach and one of the inductees in the Sports Hall of Fame.

segmented gable facing 3rd Street has a slightly bowed set of three double-hung windows. Horizontal siding covers the first floor while patterned shingles face the raised basement and gables. The east slanted bay windows are almost hidden by an enclosed sleeping porch extending above from the second floor and supported by large posts. The double entrance doors have leaded glass transoms and the interior still has remnants of dark wood wainscoting and molding.

Significance: In 1903, Alexander H. Crew had this house built for his son, Henry W. Crew, at a cost of \$4000. The same year, A.J. had a house similar in style but somewhat smaller built for his daughter at 429 West 4th Street. Henry W. Crew (1864-1929) received a pharmacy degree in 1887 from the University of California. He returned to Chico in 1889 and bought out J.C. Noonan's drug store at 232 Main Street. This house was willed to Henry's wife, Elizabeth, in 1904 by A.H. Crew. It remained in the Crew family until 1937. It has been used as a rental from the early 1930s until 1970.

structure, the upper rooms being used for storing supplies. The lumber was made from hard timbers, which are yet in a good state of preservation. Finally, business at the old store became slack, the few citizens living here preferring to buy their supplies from a store that had gone up on this side of the creek, and the old store was removed to give room to the flour mills. For several years past it has been in use as a dwelling house, and when Mr. Earll was ready to commence his elegant residence the old building was removed below the railroad, where it is again doing duty as a dwelling.

Styles: American Foursquare



Continuing our series on Chico's architectural styles is the following article. It is the first page from an *Old House Journal* article by Renee Kahn which identifies and describes a style of residence that has been referred to as "the architectural mascot of the post-Victorian period."

Ubiquitous and instantly recognizable, previously one could only categorize it as a lesser subdivision of the Colonial Revival. It was referred to as a "Classic Box", "Georgian Revival Vernacular", "Neo-Colonial Row House", etc. until OHJ applied the study title of "American Foursquare", and gave it its own identity and recognized its importance.

Giovanna Jackson

The American Foursquare Post-Victorian Domestic Architecture

The American Foursquare is probably the most common--and least understood--of all of the houses built after the turn of the century. Most architectural style books ignore it completely. The few that take note of it refer to it merely as "the box" or "the classic box." And none have chronicled the central role it played in Post-Victorian architecture. Yet this is the house--in its several variations--that is the common denominator in countless neighborhoods across the U.S.

Many people refer to the American Foursquare as a "plain" house. Yet the apparent plainness belies the richness of the philosophy and history behind the style. The American Foursquare possesses the simplicity and honesty that epitomizes the turn-of-the-century striving for "the comfortable house." More than any other style, this house has been "home" to three generations of Americans.

The American Foursquare appeared during the first decade of the 20th century, and its popularity lasted well into the 1920s. During this era, although the grand public architecture still paid homage to Beaux Arts classicism, the modest homes of the middle class achieved a simplicity and honesty that had not been seen for almost 100 years. Public taste was undergoing a reaction to the decorative exuberance of the Victorian era, and was seeking a respite in humble materials and unadorned surfaces. This new-found simplicity is evident not only in the Foursquare, but also in such other house styles as the Bungalow and Prairie.

The Movement Toward Simplicity

Practical as well as philosophical considerations lay behind the movement away from excessive ornament, and the Foursquare was essentially an inexpensive way to provide large amounts of comfortable living space. A 30-ft. by 36-ft. house could easily contain four bedrooms, a living room, one or two baths, and ample hallways on both floors. This is to say nothing of the spacious attic under the hipped roof, and the basement.

Although its contemporary, the Bungalow, was chided for being "the least house for the most money," the Foursquare was quite the reverse. The square plan enabled a minimum of land, foundation, and roof to enclose a considerable amount of space. Flat unbroken walls, unadorned exteriors, turretless rooflines, and gingerbread-free porches were less expensive to build and maintain than the picturesque complexities of the Victorian era.

The Essence of the American Foursquare

The basic American Foursquare has two storeys, a square boxlike shape, and a low hipped roof with broad overhanging eaves. The exterior is unadorned, relying for its impact on its shape and proportion. There is usually a porch extending the full width of the front elevation.

Most often, there is a dormer in the roof facing front; sometimes there will also be dormers on the two side planes of the roof.

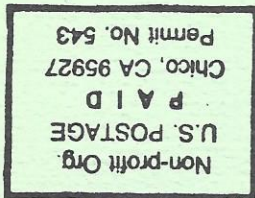
Although often devoid of any "style features," sometimes a Colonial touch has been added by inserting a Palladian window in the front facade or front dormer. There might also be a neo-Classical oval cameo window next to the front door or elsewhere. Occasionally there will be a bay window or other architectural feature that breaks up the absolute flatness of the sides.

The most common siding materials are wood shingles, stucco, and clapboards. A Craftsman styling effect can be created by allowing exposed rafter ends along the eaves. An additional Craftsman touch would be a fieldstone foundation and chimney.



Photo: Jonathan Gardner

This American Foursquare exhibits many of the basic features: Unadorned boxlike shape, low hipped roof with dormers, porch with filled-in railing and simple Tuscan columns. The most unusual feature is that the porch wraps around two sides of the house.



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