CHICO HERITAGE • ASSOCIATION •

Founded in 1981, Chico Heritage Association–CHA–is an all-volunteer not-for-profit dedicated to the preservation of Chico's cultural heritage.

January 2022

Written and edited by the CHA board.

President's Message

Thanks to the ongoing pandemic, 2021 provided another round of challenges for everyone everywhere. Fortunately, life in Chico has settled into a modified version of the normal routine as more people returned to work, businesses began to reopen, and schools returned to in-person instruction. Even traffic has started to pick back up. Personally, if I end up missing anything about the pandemic, it will be how easy it was to get around town during the shutdown. Like the rest of the community, we at Chico Heritage Association returned to doing the things we normally do.

Speaking of which, thanks to our hard-working volunteers, the CHA office is again open for business! We are helping people who want to research their homes, genealogy, or anything else related to local history.

I want to thank all our members and donors for helping us to make it through the shutdown and what was, hopefully, the worst of the pandemic. We would not be able to provide the services we provide without your ongoing support.

Discovery Shoppe Foundation Grant

The CHA received some welcome news last fall when The Discovery Shoppe Foundation awarded us a grant to purchase a new large-format scanner. We will use it to scan maps and older documents too big to scan on our little office scanner. This will enable us to share more information from our archive with researchers of all stripes. The grant also funded the purchase of multiple historical books, including older Chico directories. Now our collection is complete! The city directories are valuable repositories of all kinds of useful information, and we are happy to share them with the public. Our sincere thanks to the good people with the Discovery Shoppe Foundation for helping us to help the Chico community!

CHA Mission Statement

The mission of the CHA is to encourage and support the preservation, maintenance, enhancement, restoration and protection of buildings, neighborhoods, monuments, artifacts, and natural resources that exemplify or constitute a part of the historic, architectural and cultural heritage of the greater Chico area.

Rod Thomson and Dave Nopel present Dr. Shover with a framed certificate acknowledging her outstanding contributions to local history.
Photo by Richard Macias.

CHA and Chico History Museum Recognize Dr. Michele Shover

Last September CHA teamed up with the good people at the Chico History Museum to recognize Dr. Michele Shover's copious contributions to researching and preserving local history. Thanks to CHA board member John Gallardo, we held the event on the grounds of the Stansbury Home. Dave Nopel of the Museum and Rod Thomson of CHA expressed their shared appreciation for what Michele has done for local historians, and she shared with the audience some of her process and news of her upcoming book on Augustus Chapman, the founder of Chapmantown. Dr. Shover has raised the bar for what it means to do local history, and we have all benefited from it.

Dr. Shover speaking at the event.
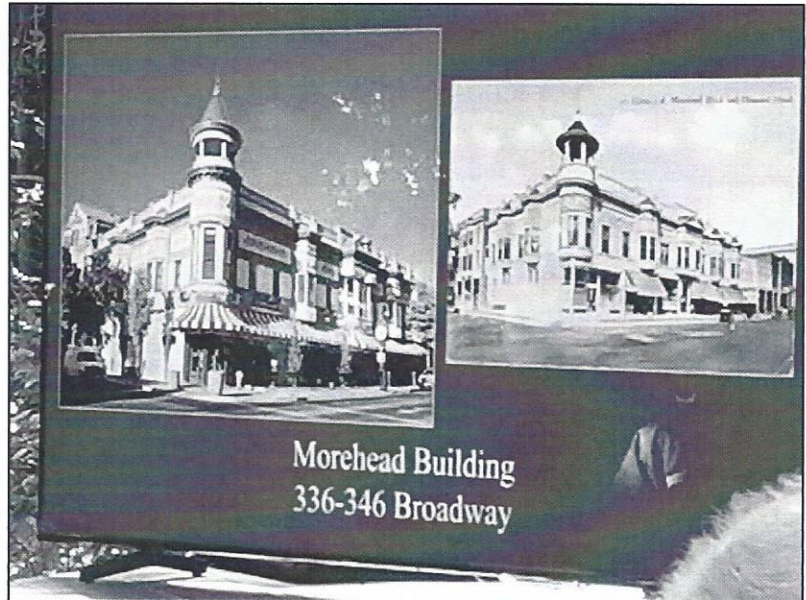*Photo by Richard Macias.*

Join CHA's Facebook Page!

Join our Facebook page for weekly (and sometimes daily) posts about the history of our community. Just search Facebook for "Chico Heritage Association."

Wayne Cook Awarded for Preserving Chico's Architectural Heritage

On June 13, 2021 we recognized local developer Wayne Cook's many contributions to preserving Chico's architectural history. Dr. Michele Shover generously offered the grounds of her home, the lovely Little Chapman Mansion, for the event. It was well attended in spite of the heat. Afterward, Wayne extended an offer to the CHA board to attend the grand opening of the addition to the Hotel Diamond, where we saw firsthand his dedication to craftsmanship and attention to detail in restoring one of Chico's most-visible landmarks.

Morehead Building
336-346 Broadway

Left: Mr. Cook speaks to the approximately 100 attendees.

Above: Photos from the presentation showing the original Diamond Hotel (right) and Cook's recent restoration. *Photos by Paul Lieberum.*

CHA Historical Research Resources

Want to know more about the history of your neighborhood, or a particular building, event, or person? An important part of our mission is to provide resources and assistance for those interested in researching local history or conducting historical preservation. To that end, we maintain a significant collection of documents, maps, etc., that chronicle different aspects of life in and around Chico. It turns out that quite a volume of material has been published on the city over the years, but a lot of it can be difficult to find and access. It has been our goal to collect and make available as much of that material possible, and make it of use to our community.

Please feel free to drop by our office and see what we have to offer! We are open Monday through Thursday from 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm. Our volunteer staff have a lot of knowledge on local history, and if there is something they do not know, they will know where to find it!

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