



Chico Heritage Association – CHA – for 30 years a volunteer non-profit Organization dedicated to the preservation of Chico’s cultural heritage

SUMMER 2011

CHICO HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

PRESERVATION MONTH OF MAY



*Some of the CHA Board members planning for our big month
Richard Macias picture*

CHA was busy in the month of May with our celebration of National Preservation Month. John Gallardo conducted two very successful walking tours of the south of campus area. If you’ve never been on one of these tours and are interested in Chico’s historical architectural buildings you might try to attend one.

Our biggest event was our workshop and awards presentation meeting on May 10th. Richard Macias and Paul Lieberum, both architects, and both members of our Board, presented a slide show on “Best Façade Forward.” Both good and “not-so-good” renovations were shown. Richard emphasized that Victorian is an era and not an architectural style, there being several styles in that era!!!

Heidi Ogle, a Master’s Degree candidate at CSUC, then did a presentation of her thesis, and a very ambitious one. She studied a 16 block area south of Chico (part of the area of John’s tour) using as a starting point the **Chico Heritage Association Survey** done in the 1980s.

She did a thorough search, spending untold hours at the County researching every one of the blocks and the changes from 1860

to 1960 in ownership, purchase and selling dates, prices, and the occupants of each. She is hoping this will just be a start to historically researching all of the area—and everywhere also!!! She hopes to have the information online when she has completed her project. We will inform you when it does go online.

The award winners for contributions to Chico’s historic character were:

Ellen Stephens for “Best Façade Improvement” for Grandview (the Oser’s Building)

Dorna Andersen for “Retention of Historic Character” for the Junction at 8th St., Broadway & Salem.

The two winners for “Exemplary Home Restoration”:
Marci Goulart & Richard Wodrich for their home at Cypress and 5th Streets

Ivan Houth & Jim Lamb for the home at West 11th & Magnolia Also receiving awards, in the category of “Phoenix From the Ashes”:

Michael Thomas for Tres Hombres and Marc Moretti for 8th & Main Antiques. Both were unable to attend.



*Award winners: Ellen Stephens, Dorna Andersen, Marci Goulart, Ivan Houth and Jim Lamb.
Shelley Compton Hutchens picture*

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO NOMINATE A CHICO HISTORICAL TREASURE FOR NEXT YEAR’S PRESERVATION AWARD LET US KNOW BY SNAIL MAIL or TELEPHONE.

OUR WEBSITE IS UP AND RUNNING--www.chicoheritage.org

With thanks to our newest Board member, Jon Couch, we now have a website. It is still in the early stages of development, but enough there to warrant a look. We are hoping that we can keep you informed about some of our ongoing issues that take place between our newsletters, and give you some background about our organization.

CHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting is the first Wednesday of month, 7:00pm, 635 Flume Street

Lucy Sperlin, President
Paul Lieberum, Vice President
Shelley Compton Hutchens, Secretary
Margaret Siemsen, Treasurer

Jon Couch
Nancy Deter
John Gallardo

Kathleen Hillman
Richard Macias
Mike Magliari

Adrienne Pustejovsky
Liz Stewart
Randy Taylor

Pugh Mural's Fate Remains Uncertain

by Michael Magliari, CHA Board of Directors

In November 2010, California State University, Chico, announced plans to demolish Taylor Hall at the corner of First and Salem Streets in order to make way for its replacement with a much larger "Taylor II." The razing of Taylor Hall is scheduled to take place in January 2013. Unfortunately, the proposed demolition of Taylor Hall places the popular mural "Academe" in serious jeopardy. Painted on the east side of Taylor Hall in 1981, the celebrated mural launched the spectacular career of "trompe l'oeil" (fool the eye) muralist John Pugh, then a student at Chico State who, two years later, graduated from the University with a BA in Art. Since then, Pugh has gone on to become an internationally recognized and acclaimed artist, whose creative public murals can be seen in nearly 250 cities across the United States, as well as in Canada, New Zealand, and Taiwan.

Regrettably, the University does not plan to save the mural at its present and original location or incorporate it into the new but yet-to-be designed Taylor II. Instead, the University will attempt to move the mural to an unspecified location somewhere else on campus. However, the financial and engineering feasibilities of such an attempt are not known, so there is no guarantee that the mural will be saved at all. In the event the mural must be destroyed, the University has proposed hiring John Pugh to paint a replica. Even this alternative, however, cannot be guaranteed, since it will be contingent on the University's ability to raise private donations.

The Taylor Demolition Project is now undergoing an environmental impact review under the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A draft review document was made available for public comment on February 17. At that point Chico Heritage Association launched a campaign to save the mural *in its current location* and called for concerned citizens to submit written statements during the 30-day CEQA comment period that ended on March 18. Among those speaking out on behalf of the mural were the CHA board, the Chico Arts Commission, local mural artist Gregg Payne, and, most influentially, California State Historic Preservation Officer Wayne Donaldson, who upheld CHA's basic position and faulted the University for conducting an inadequate level of CEQA evaluation. Donaldson recommended that the University go back and prepare a more detailed "focused Environmental Impact Report."

The University is now deliberating over how best to proceed. Whether it will follow Donaldson's recommendation remains uncertain, as does the fate of the Pugh Mural itself.

In the meantime, CHA board member and "webmaster" Jon Couch has put together an informative web-page on the issue that contains a photo of the mural and active links to major recent press coverage in the E-R, Orion, and News and Review. Please check it out and share the web address with anyone else who is interested in getting caught up on the Pugh Mural campaign. http://www.chicoheritage.org/pugh_mural.html



Got Warehouse History? Help us take it out to the Fair....

The warehouses of Chico will be featured as the CHA contribution to the all-County history exhibit at the Butte County Fair. There was a time when huge storage warehouses, not University buildings, were the dominant near-downtown feature. The abundant local harvests were gathered here in those days, making Chico a primary storage and shipping center.

If you should happen to have personal remembrances, photos, ledgers, shipping boxes, labeled burlap bags, or anything related, would you please let us know? We could either borrow them or photograph them for our exhibit. Last year over 2,000 people saw our exhibit and we want to intrigue the fair goers again this year with a bit of 'what used to be.' Thanks!!! (Call Liz 345-6986; John 893-1187 or Lucy 879-9369).

CHICO HERITAGE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Memberships are due at the first of the calendar year, or if you wish, you may pay in any of the last three months of the preceding year for the following year. Our membership dues and donations provide our day to day expenses, which include our office rent, telephone, insurance, newsletter printing and mailing, photocopying and photography for research. We receive **NO** government funds, and have no paid staff. 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: _____

_____ \$20 Individual _____ \$35 Family _____ \$50 Supporting _____ \$100 or more-Patron

Please note if any ADDITIONAL donation is for the Wright-Patrick Preservation Fund _____, The General Fund, _____ or Other _____

Summer 2011

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

In memoriam: Ruth Deter

Message from the President

Your CHA Board and active members have been kept hopping in recent months. In addition to our wonderful Annual Meeting Program on Chico's Chinese, Preservation Month walking tours, workshop and awards program, issues in the community seem to have been unending. The Pugh Mural and a new University parking structure which impacts historic houses nearby had to be scrutinized, and now, Bidwell Mansion. We'll be active in the campaign to keep it open, and have already started with letters to our State legislators.

We appreciate the support that all of our members provide. Working to preserve the best of historic Chico takes the help of all who care. But I would like to single out two amazing members of our Board -John Gallardo and Liz Stewart who spend



*President, Lucy, at Preservation Month meeting
Shelley Compton Hutchens picture*

countless hours and do whatever is necessary to stay on top of all projects of concern. Through their constant research, which they do so generously for a multitude of inquiries, they have become this generation's experts on Chico area history. They have themselves become 'community treasures.' Thank you so much, Liz and John!!

A WINDOW INTO THE PAST The Current Wright-Patrick House Project

The badly-deteriorated upstairs windows of the Wright-Patrick House are currently undergoing restoration. Chris Gauer, a local master craftsman, is meticulously rebuilding the hand-made windows to their original condition. Because our W-P House funds are depleted in spite of considerable donated labor, we have begun a drive to raise monies to continue the project. While many windows will not need rebuilding, they will all require reglazing and repainting. Myles and Adrienne Pustejovsky have very generously funded the first one (and the one most in need of repair). It's like new! We thank them and are encouraging our membership and the public to contribute to the project by "buying" a pane for \$100. Any amount, however, will be gratefully accepted.

At the same time, as we accumulate and record copious amounts of material relating to the house and area's history, a fascinating window into the past is emerging. Many thanks in that regard go out to John Rudderow, who has very generously shared with us the fruits of his extensive research on the area. And also to Adrienne and Margaret Siemsen for recording and indexing his work, a labor intensive job to say the least. It will no doubt be the most accurately recorded home history in Butte County.



P.O. Box 3517
Chico, CA 95927
Phone 530-345-7522
www.chicoheritage.org



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

IF YOU SEE A COLORED LINE
ON YOUR LABEL, IT'S TIME
TO RE-UP YOUR DUES!

Kris Zappettini Appointed to New Historic Preservation Board

by Michael Magliari, CHA Board of Directors

On February 2, 2011, former CHA President Kris Zappettini was sworn in as the newest member of the City of Chico's Architectural Review and Historic Preservation Board (ARHPB). The successor to the old Architectural Review Board (ARB), the ARHPB was established last Fall following the enactment of the city's new Historic Preservation Ordinance, a goal long sought by the Chico Heritage Association and finally achieved in September 2010. Zappettini's appointment by the city council represented another important victory for CHA, since the ARHPB serves as the primary decision-making agency implementing the preservation ordinance.

A long time resident of Chico, Kris is ideally qualified for the ARHPB. Kris currently serves as the Multi-family and Resident Services Manager for the Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP), a non-profit organization dedicated to building high quality affordable housing. A Chico State graduate, Kris earned her M.A. in Art History and Interior Design in 1991 by writing a thesis on the 1914 William Zwisler Home, one of the six historic "Language Houses" that line West Third Street between Chestnut and Hazel. Ten years later, Kris completed her formal education by earning a Ph.D. in Housing from Virginia Tech.

Since first going to work for CHIP in 1994, Kris has grappled with many issues of exterior and interior design on numerous housing construction projects. Coordinating building projects with private-sector businesses and local governmental agencies, Kris has learned the intricacies of the planning and regulatory processes. Along the way, she has had ample opportunity to apply her knowledge to historic preservation efforts, most notably in the restoration of the Hazel Hotel in Gridley. Not only did Kris successfully nominate the Hazel Hotel into the National Register of Historic Places, she then made use of the federal Historic Tax Credits Program to help finance the building's rehabilitation as the centerpiece of Gridley's revitalized historic downtown district.

Here in Chico, Kris has spearheaded several important historic preservation campaigns. During her ten years on the CHA board of directors (1991-2001) and her two years as CHA president (1999-2001) Kris led the successful efforts to save the Senator Theatre tower; secure city council adoption of the Mills Act and the state Historic Building Code; and, of course, rescue the Third Street Language Houses that had been slated for demolition but now stand today as beautiful examples of historic preservation and renovation.

With Kris on the ARHPB, Chico's new historic preservation ordinance is in good hands!