



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

**September 2019**

*Written and edited by the CHA board.*

### **President’s Message**

Last May’s Preservation Month was a success for the CHA! Our historical walking tours of the South of Campus Neighborhood and Downtown both were well attended and very informative; kudos to John Gallardo and Randy Taylor, respectively, for their sterling efforts. We had a booth on the downtown plaza during the Chico Pioneer Days Parade, and our annual awards ceremony featured an excellent presentation on relocating historic structures by Richard Macias, our vice president. One of the award winners, Frank and Kasia Lewis, later held a tour of their historic Broadway home for CHA members; you can read more about that event in this newsletter.

We do not have any more big events for 2019, but are already looking forward to 2020. We have been approached by a couple of parties to help them with history-themed projects within the community, and it is time once again for our annual fund drive. You will find more information on those and other happenings in this newsletter.

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### **CHA to Receive Historic Preservation Award**

The CHA will be receiving a California Preservation Foundation (CPF) President’s Advocacy Award for its part in preservation of the two downtown Chico water towers. The award also will recognize the efforts of California Water Service Company and former CHA board member Michael Magliari in this regard. In the official notification, CPF Executive Director Cindy Heitzman stated that “The successful resolution of the plan to demolish all of the Chico water towers is a model for other organizations, working with property owners to find reasonable solutions to preserve historic resources. We are pleased to accept this nomination and will honor your role in this extraordinary example of effective advocacy and collaboration.”

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### **Downtown Chico Business Association (DCBA) and Historic Preservation**

At our June 5 meeting, DCBA board member Tom Overbeck shared his organization’s plan to post plaques on the exteriors of 15 to 20 of downtown Chico’s historic structures, and “way signs” on downtown street corners to guide tourists and newcomers. Tom asked for CHA’s help in making sure the signs are as factually correct as possible. We think this project is a great idea and are happy to help make it become a reality, as it will help spread knowledge of our community’s interesting history.

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### **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.

### Chico's History in Photos in the Garden Walk Mall

The owner of the Garden Walk Mall in downtown Chico has approached us in regard to helping him select photos and images from Chico's historic past for posting in the mall. He also asked CHA to provide some relevant captions. Like the DCBA project, we think this is another productive way to share some local history with passers-by, and will provide whatever assistance we can. There is currently no deadline set for completion, but we will keep you posted!

### Frank and Kasia Lewis Home Tour

By the good graces of the owners—Frank and Kasia Lewis—Chico Heritage members were treated to a tour of their beautiful home at 1384 Broadway. It was originally built around 1904-1905 for a Mr. F.M. Clough, general manager at the Diamond Match Co., and then remodeled and added on to in 1922 by the famous Architect Julia Morgan (California's first female Architect and designer of Hearst Castle and over 700 other notable buildings). The Lewises gave a wonderful tour of the house, with many stories of the trials of their current remodel in which they have tried to maintain the historic flavor of the house while bringing in modern conveniences. They used repurposed materials when possible from other historic structures, blended with new materials when necessary. Some of Julia Morgan's drawings were even framed and on display. The Lewises received an award from CHA at our last awards ceremony which they richly deserve. Thanks again to them for a wonderful tour!



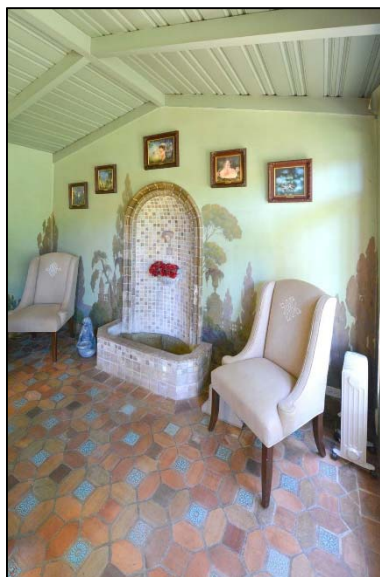
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*Tour photos by Ray Rolls.*



### 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."

[Affix envelope here.]

## 2019 Fund Raising Drive

Thanks to our generous members and supporters, the CHA is financially stable at present. However, we have decided to go ahead with our annual fund raising drive for several reasons. First, we want to carry on with our mission of conducting and supporting research into local history. Second, we have our Wright-Patrick House History Project (see article of that title in this issue), which will require funds to complete. Third, we want to help other local-historical societies and organizations, particularly those displaced by or otherwise recovering from the Camp Fire. And fourth, we would like to institute an award that recognizes significant contributions to local history, whether by student, amateur, or professional historians. If you would like to support these and other CHA efforts, you will find a return envelope included with this newsletter which you can use to send in your donation. Chico Heritage Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Federal Tax ID 94-2807823. Your contribution will be tax deductible to the fullest extent provided by law. Chico Heritage Association will not provide any goods or services in consideration of a donation. We will send you a letter that you can use as a receipt for tax purposes. As always, we appreciate your support!

## Wright-Patrick House History Project

While we continue to do everything in our power to protect and preserve it, the Wright-Patrick House is falling into greater disrepair from age, weather, and other circumstances outside our control. According to our research, it is the oldest surviving wood-frame home in Chico, one that predates the foundation of the city. These and other factors make it an invaluable and irreplaceable historical resource. As we carry on with our advocacy efforts, we also have been working on preserving the Wright-Patrick House's history in writing. Thanks to the long and arduous work of some CHA board members (gifted researchers all) and others, we have amassed a lot of source material on the structure and the various families and individuals who have called it home. At present we are gathering and organizing that material to make it part of a local history project which we hope to publish as a book. As conceived, the final product will make use of the history of the home and its residents as a means to tell a larger story about the founding and growth of Chico and Butte County, and how local events reflected things happening on the state, national, and international stages. The CHA board is blessed with talented amateur and professional historians alike, and we all agree that this is a story worth telling. It will also allow us to preserve the legacy of the Wright-Patrick House in a meaningful way, even if the building itself were to eventually fall—a fate we will continue to advocate against.

## 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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## CHA Meetings and Board of Directors

Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at 225 Main Street, Suite D

Rod Thomson: President, Richard Macias: Vice President, Liz Stewart: Secretary, Margaret Siemsen: Treasurer, Nancy Deter, John Gallardo, Shelley Hutchens, Paul Lieberum, Eric Norlie, Adrienne Pustejovsky, Frank Roberts, and Randy Taylor

## Our Watch List

Bidwell Bowl Amphitheater; Faculty Row Houses; Humboldt Wagon Ruts and Rock walls; Downtown Post Office; The Esplanade; Anna Barney/Dean House; Bridge Replacements; Heritage Trees; A.M.E. Church

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### **The CHA Wants Your Input!**

Our board members have been considering ways to use CHA's financial resources to good effect within the community, above and beyond our ongoing efforts in historical resource monitoring and preservation. These ideas include:

1. Funding an annual award that recognizes significant contributions to local history. We are thinking it should include a certificate of recognition and a modest cash prize, along with a press release issued via a local news media outlet. The intentions of this award would be to recognize and reward efforts to preserve our community's history, share the significance of such efforts with the public, and encourage others to publish their own research.
2. Provide what assistance the CHA can to other local historical societies and similar organizations in need. The Camp Fire took a tragic toll on these groups by destroying their facilities resources, many of which were irreplaceable, and those losses hurt everyone with an interest in Butte County's history. Our idea is to help such organizations by providing financial assistance that would allow them to purchase supplies and equipment necessary to resume their normal operations.

We want your feedback on these ideas! We would also love to hear any ideas you have for how the CHA can use its resources to support the preservation of local history. You may call us at (530) 345-7522, or email us at [chicoheritage@gmail.com](mailto:chicoheritage@gmail.com).