

## About CHPS

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### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

**What is CHPS (Corona Historic Preservation Society)?** The Corona Historic Preservation Society a nonprofit education and advocacy group whose membership is dedicated to protecting and preserving the architectural and cultural heritage of the City of Corona, including active research of persons, places and things important to and/or related to the history of Corona, its predecessor, South Riverside and other local environs..

#### Why is “architectural and cultural heritage” important?

The City of Corona has a rich and significant history, some of which is evident in its preserved buildings other evidences can be found in the personalities and history of the city’s founders and early inhabitants. We still have images of many commercial structures that gave Corona its character. We are also blessed with many very beautiful homes and structures that tell a story of our past. The lives of the city’s early inhabitants and businesses are instructive of the city’s rich heritage. We try to honor our City’s motto, “To Cherish Our Past – To Preserve Our Future.” By “cherishing our past”, we more effectively “prepare for the future” so our children and grandchildren will know what kind of “roots” our city had.



Corona’s first High School 1907 - 1941

**What’s the difference between CHPS, the Corona Historical Society, the Corona History Association the Library’s Heritage Room and the Corona Heritage Foundation?** Corona Historic Preservation Society focuses primarily on research of Corona’s past, the perpetuation, protection and preservation of homes, commercial buildings, historical districts and personal histories, and designates historic sites within the city. The Historical Society existed for about 10 years and focused its efforts on preservation of the city’s Andrew Carnegie Library. It merged with the CHPS in 1983. The Corona History Association was organized in 2015 in order to provide insights into areas of Corona history not emphasized by other history organizations: create a “Wall of Fame” listing outstanding persons in Corona history whose accomplishments

made a difference, identify and celebrate minority groups' roles in episodes in Corona history, conduct lectures and discussions about topics not otherwise presented by other local history organizations, place historic markers, etc. The W.D. Addison Heritage Room at Corona's Public Library concentrates on preserving documentation of our past (i.e. books, photos, records, maps, plans, architectural renderings, manuscripts, newspaper articles and some memorabilia) and provides a place where serious research can be accomplished. The Corona Heritage Foundation operates the Corona Heritage Park and Museum where displays of historic interest are periodically presented, and historic artifacts and memorabilia are displayed of Corona business, industries, activities and events. Ephemera associated with Corona's past are open to the public for educational purposes. It is located at the former site of the headquarters ranch of the Corona Foothill Lemon Company, and has been recognized as a local Corona Historic District seeking national recognition. . One of the former homes on the site houses the Model Railroading Society's HO scale railroad layout of Corona in 1949. Another home hosts works of Corona artists. Other tenants include historic trades such as glass blowing and woodworking. Foothill Agricultural Research operates entomological laboratories and rearing facilities for the development of insects beneficial to the citrus industry. .

**What is the goal of CHPS?** To protect and preserve accurate local histories, architecturally significant homes, buildings, and historical districts within the city through advocacy and public education and to ensure that new development within the city's historic districts follows the city's historic architectural guidelines.

**How does CHPS go about this?** Through an active program of quarterly meetings, events, involving field trips, walking tours, workshops and lectures, and advocacy and activism at City Hall.

**Does the organization have regular meetings?** There are quarterly meetings providing activities for the membership and a general membership meeting at the Holiday Party in December each year. The Board of Directors meets once a month.

**Does the organization have a newsletter?** Yes. The CHPS Newsletter is published and mailed bimonthly. An electronic version is available on the internet at [www.corona-history-org](http://www.corona-history-org)

**Are there tours and workshops?** Yes. CHPS periodically presents community forums, educational programs, lectures, panel discussions, tours of vintage homes, etc for its members and the public. Please contact our office or website [www.corona-history-org](http://www.corona-history-org) for the current schedule.

**Does the Corona Historic Preservation Society have a website or is it engaged in providing information using social media?** Yes. The CHPS website is found at [www.corona-history.org](http://www.corona-history.org) and the CHPS Group can be located on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/207314265980718/?ref=bookmarks>.



## Board of Directors 2023

President – Wes Speake

Vice President – Eric Bergreen

Secretary – Shaylene Cortez

Treasurer Richard Winn

### **Directors:**

Paula Muñoz

Amelia Nieves

Fred Parr

Mary Winn

### **Advisors**

Marla Benson

Ted Taylor

## **CHRONOLOGY OF PRESIDENTS**

**Vince Bautista 1984 - 1985**

**Kent Hansen 1985 - 1986**

**Joan Thacker 1986 - 1987**

**Susanna Branch 1987 - 1988 and 1988 - 1989**

**Nita Grantham 1989 -1990**

**Lois Shockley 1990-1991**

**John Farr 1991-1992 and 1992-1993**

**Gloria Scott 1993-1994**

**Mark Costa 1994-1995**

**Irena Leigh Norton 1995-1996**

**Marla Benson 1997, 1998, 1999**

**Mary Winn 2000, 2001**

**Kathleen Dever 2002, 2003**

**Debbie Erick 2004**

**Jim Bryant 2005, 2006**

**Julie Stern 2007, 2008, 2014**

**Christine Gary 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011**

**Don Williamson 2012, 2013**

**Tom Richins 2014, 2015**

**Fred Parr 2016**

**Wes Speake 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022**

In the early years of the Society, the annual meeting was held in April and terms began the following month. In 1996 the annual meeting was shifted to December and terms became calendar year terms

## **Present & former CHPS Board Members**

Karel Armstrong	Terry Madory
Linda Barlogio	Jayne Midgley
Vince Bautista	Sandy Mitchell
Marla Benson	Paula Muñoz
Eric Bergreen	Tom Muñoz
JoAnne Binning	Janette Neumann
Jackie Bland	Irena Leigh Norton
Thurston "Bubba" Bland	Fred Parr
Kate Boswick	Kathryn Polen
Susanna Branch	Richard Polen
Jim Bryant	Val Plumley
Ted Carlton	Chris Rice
Shaylene Cortez	Tom Richins
Mark Costa	Debbie Robinson
Teresa Costa	Linda Roof
Kathleen Dever	Myrna Rose
Debbie Erick	Beverly Scray
Sandie Everson	Jane Shirley
John Farr	Lois Shockley
Sandy Fleming	Kathryn Sinkovich
Gloria Scott Freel	Wes Speake
Christine Gary	Karen Stein
Nita Grantham	Julie Stern
Mark German	Francie Taylor
Aaron Hake	Ted Taylor
Lauralynn Hake	Joan Thacker
Kent Hansen	Don Van Dalsem
Chifra Holt	Marj Welsh
Judy Hrabak	Don Williamson
Wayne Hrabak	Mary Winn
Cindy Johnson	Richard Winn
Don Johnson	Diane Wright
Bill Joor	Joe Wright
Amanda Kalkanis	
John Kane	
Bret Keesler	
John Land	
Trish Land	
Kathleen Levalle	
Mike McBride	
Chris McCoy	

## List of Charter Members

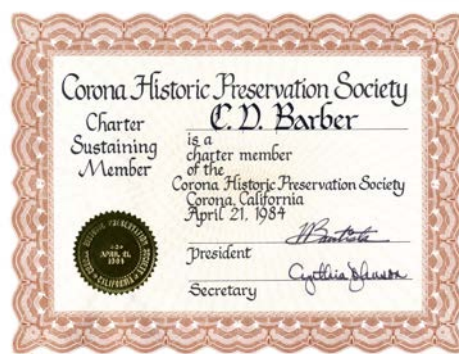
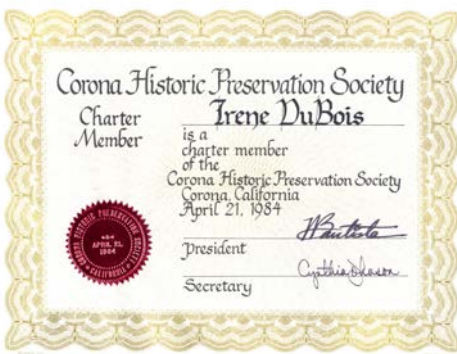
W. D. Addison	James May
Cindi Alvitri	Linden May
Ann K. Barber*	Helen McNair
C. Don Barber*	Jayne Midgley
Sharon Bautista	Phil Newhouse
Vince Bautista	Jane Oatman
Jean Bobbit	Patricia Oatman
Glen Chaffin	Valorie Plumley
Mollie Conley	Don Purcell*
Lynn A. Cudd	Margaret Purcell
Alexis Danieri	Linda Roof
Patrick Downing	Michael Roof
Irene Dubois	Mary Savage
Sandie Everson	Dorothy Schweiger
Bill Franklin	Gloria Scott
Allen Hemma	Lois E. Shockley
Avis Henderson	Karen Smith
Claudia B. Hinson	Lyle Whitcomb Smith
Sally Hoover	George Thacker
Cindy Johnson	Joan Thacker
Dollie Johnson*	Janice Verity*
Don Johnson	Roger Verity*
Elizabeth Kennedy	Mary Winn*
Evelyn Klaus	Richard Winn*
Joseph Kronmeyer	Harriet Yates
	Nita Young

## Student Members

Robert Brown  
 Terilyn Brown  
 Clendon Hodges  
 Doug Jameson  
 Sandy Jameson  
 Byron Johnson  
 Maria Johnson  
 Melita Johnson  
 Richard Johnson  
 Tom Murray  
 Marion Plumley  
 Kenneth Whitcomb  
 Kevin Wilkinson  
 Sharon Wood

\*Sustaining Members

## Charter Member Certificates







## A Brief History of the Corona Historic Preservation Society

After the City's unenlightened urban renewal efforts of the 1960's, many Corona residents became sensitive and attuned to any mention of proposed changes, construction or demolition within the downtown "Circle." Soon after the Carnegie Library, located at 805 Main Street on the east side of Main Street at the intersection of Eighth Street, closed its doors to the public in 1971, concerned citizens made numerous attempts to save the library. In July 1972, the Historical Society of Corona was formed and formally recognized as a non-profit organization in July 1974. The principal goal of this organization was to preserve the architecturally beautiful, Classical Revival style, 1906 Carnegie Public Library structure.

Rehabilitation of the 66 year-old library was estimated by the City Manager to be in the neighborhood of \$500,000. The City Staff and the City Council considered this cost to be excessive, but did not go into depths researching alternatives and the property was ultimately sold, making demolition of the structure a likely result. Competitive bids for rehabilitation or repurposing were not sought.

The Historical Society was successful in getting the Carnegie Library nominated to the State Register of Historic Landmarks and Buildings and to the National Parks Service, National Register of Historic Places, which was effected June 29, 1977. When Jean C. Bobbitt resigned as President on October 25, 1977 to accept a position as President of the newly formed Riverside County Historical Congress, no one stepped forward to keep the Society active. From November 1977 to May 1983, there was no recognized public or private entity to oversee the preservation of Corona's historic structures and programs.

Unfortunately, neither the Historical Society nor the City was able to secure federal or state grants or local assistance to restore the building, and on a Sunday night in April 1978 this once bustling Corona landmark became a pile of rubble to make way for a Pioneer Chicken, fast-food franchise. As a sore reminder of the library's disappearance, the franchise was never built and the lot remained unimproved for 38 years when a medical office building was finally constructed. For several decades, the Carnegie Library was the answer to the Corona Trivia question, "What used to occupy the weed lot at the corner of Eighth and Main?"

In 1982, a grant to survey historical resources in Riverside County became available and local volunteers identified more than 600 historic and architecturally unique or significant buildings still standing in the City of Corona. Despite the demolition mentality of urban renewal proponents and normal attrition from decay and lack of care, numerous historic structures remained within our city. Many of these volunteers felt that these structures simply needed an advocate to assist in their preservation, restoration, and/or adaptive reuse.

On May 14, 1983 an organizational meeting was held with 35 of these volunteers and other interested persons in attendance to discuss preserving Corona's historic structures, means of educating residents and others of the city's unique heritage and other preservation opportunities. An overview of what other cities were doing and what other things could be done was given. There was a great outpouring of interest. People found great value in having a common interest and sharing the goal of serving Corona by saving and restoring things of an historic nature, to perpetuate the history for future generations of Coronans. At a subsequent, well publicized meeting in the multi-purpose room of the Public Library, on June 8, 1983, the Corona Historic Preservation Group was organized. This Group was instrumental in bringing together the enthusiastic and diverse volunteers, who had worked on the survey, members of the Historical Society and others for monthly meetings where the preservation of Corona's heritage was the topic of interest. Attendance at most meetings was typically 30 to 40 persons.

Urban planner Vincent Bautista and Heritage Room Librarian Gloria Scott Freel were key leaders of the group. Other early members of the Society were: Val Plumley, Don & Cindy Johnson, Sandie Everson, Cindy Alvitre (a native American representative), Kent Hansen, Roger Verity, Nita Grantham, Sharon Bautista, Ann & Don Barber, Lois Shockley and Richard & Mary Winn.

On April 21, 1984 a meeting was held between remaining members of the old inactive Historic Society of Corona and members of the Corona Historic Preservation Group. The Historic Society leaders proposed deactivating their organization and conveying all remaining funds to a new organization with a new name, and combining their resources so that there would be "one voice" advocating preservation of Corona's heritage. What emerged was the current Corona Historic Preservation Society (CHPS).

The photo below appeared in the Corona Daily Independent in May of 1984:





### Historic board

*The Corona Historic Preservation Society has named its first board of directors. They are, left to right: Vincent Bautista, president; Gloria Scott, director; Donald Johnson, director; Cindy Johnson, secretary; Sandie Everson, director; Val Plumley, treasurer; and Richard Winn, vice president. The board has adopted the first annual budget for the newly formed society and is in the process of completing paperwork to incorporate the society as a non-profit organization.*

The main goal of the CHPS was and is a three-pronged effort to ensure that Corona's history is not ignored, done away with, nor forgotten, by:

- Educating the community on the meaning of preservation,
- Acting as community spokespersons and advocates within the political process to ensure preservation,
- Promoting preservation through education, advocacy, and social interaction.



The CHPS logo, seen above, incorporates the velocipede, or "penny-farthing" bicycle image, and was adopted shortly after the society's organization. The large round front wheel was to remind us of Corona's historic circular Grand Boulevard (The only Boulevard in town). The Society became a 501(c)3 non-profit, public benefit corporation during this period.

For nearly forty years the society has provided a variety of educational programs, including lectures on historical topics, production of the video "Corona's 100 years" during Corona's centennial year, a walking tour of the exteriors of several historic homes, periodic tours of historic homes, an annual Cemetery Walk, from 1995 to 2007, where actors provide information on notable Coronans buried in the local cemetery, published the booklet "Corona-Citrus, Races and More," awarded Saving's Bonds or monetary gifts to CNUSD students who have done meritorious History Day projects involving local history, contributed dictionaries to Lincoln School third graders, in conjunction with the Corona Kiwanis Dictionary Project, and other assistance to the Corona-Norco Unified School District in providing updated and interesting curriculum for the teaching of Corona's history at the appropriate grade level.

1999 image of  
CHPS Board of  
Directors



Most of CHPS Board in 1999; front row:  
Gloria Scott Freel, Marla Benson &  
Kathy Sinkovich. Back Row: John Farr,  
Mary Winn, Mike McBride & Ted Taylor

To further promote preservation awareness, as of 2023, the society has placed 25 historic site markers using bronze or granite plaques on structure walls or free standing monuments throughout the city to recognize historically significant sites and structures as a part of its Historic Site Marker Program.. All but seven of the markers have been placed by Boy Scouts as part of their requirements to attain the rank of Eagle Scout. The collaboration between local Boy Scouts and the Corona Historic Preservation Society has been a very productive one for more than twenty years.

Heritage Home Awards have been presented to owners of exemplary historic homes more than 75 years old or more than 50 years old with architecturally significant elements. Assistance has been provided in the relocating of vintage homes to other sites when development threatened them with the wrecking ball. In 1998, the Victoria Hotel, originally built in 1903 as the Hotel Del Rey, located at 224 East Sixth Street was dismantled, placed in storage containers and moved to Corona Heritage Park, for future reassembly

and adaptive reuse. In addition, the CHPS was instrumental in placing the Woman's Improvement Club Clubhouse (1988), Corona's Second High School and Historic Civic Center (2005), the historic streetscape of the Grand Boulevard (as an Historic District in 2011) and historic Thomas Jefferson Elementary School (2017) on the National Register of Historic Places with monuments or plaques marking these points of interest. In 1990, a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places was submitted for the Corona Theater/Landmark Building, but the listing was declined by the owner at that time. It remains eligible for national listing. In 2005, the Society also took an active part in preventing the renaming of the historic Prado Dam.

Within the political arena, the Society has worked with the City to update the Heritage Inventory List as well as a Corona Register of Historic Resources or "Landmark List", establish Historic Districts, identified with Historic District signs, in areas around Grand Boulevard and Main Street, and helped in the development of an Historic Element to the Municipal Code. More recently, the Society has provided the city with signs on adjacent lampposts identifying, for residents and visitors, Corona's 10 Historic Districts listed on the Corona Register of Historic Resources and Heritage Properties. The Society has also provided historic route signs for the old historic routes of State Highways 18 and 71 and for US 91.

CHPS co-sponsored, with the City of Corona, the re-establishment of the Corona tradition of neighborhood clean-up events. The "Corona Beautiful – Celebrating Our Neighborhoods" program was begun in November 1998 to improve Corona's historic core as well as provide community service opportunities to youth and adult volunteers who thought it was worthwhile and meaningful to clean up downtown alleys, streets, trees, yards, parkways and neighborhoods..

The Corona Historic Preservation Society served as a co-sponsor with Corona Beautiful events and played a major role in their success. CHPS Board members provided countless hours in planning and promoting all nine cleanup events. They also arrived at the crack of dawn to register volunteer participants numbering between 500 and 1,000 depending on the event. This program was active until 2003, when the City withdrew its support as being too costly. In 2017 the Society was able to assist the City of Corona in implementing a "Corona Beautiful 2.0, Polishing the Crown" program to once again foster cross-cultural, city-wide selfless service to benefit the community as well as clean and spruce up the historic heart of Corona – the neighborhoods within the Grand Boulevard Circle.

**CHPS activities include:**

Monthly Board Meetings

Quarterly Member Meetings

Bimonthly Newsletters

Historic Site Marker Program

Vintage Home Tours

Home Preservation Grant program

Awarding Heritage Home Awards

Luxury bus providing a "*Grand Tour*" of Corona historic sites and structures

Annual Holiday Party

Educational Seminars, Panel Discussions and Field Trips

Community Preservation Projects

Nominating historic structures, buildings and sites to the National Register of Historic Places

Identifying Historic Districts for recognition

Vintage Home Relocation Assistance

To join, please fill out the form below, attach your tax deductible check in the proper amount and send by mail to the address below.



# Member Application and/or Directed Donation

Please make your tax deductible checks payable to "Corona Historic Preservation Society."

## New Member / Renewal

- Individual Member (\$30) - Newsletter, Event Discounts, New Member receives: Historic pamphlet, map of Historic site Markers, Vinyl CHPS logo sticker , etc.
- Family (\$40) - Same as above but includes all members of a household.
- Student (\$15) - Same as individual, requires photocopy of student ID
- Business (\$100) - Includes all individual member benefits and annual recognition.
- Patron (\$125) - Includes family and individual benefits, copy of Corona book, annual recognition
- Life (\$600) - All benefits above and no renewal notices.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Gift from \_\_\_\_\_

## Additional Voluntary Commitments or Contribution(s)

- I would like to volunteer to contribute articles to newsletter
- I would like to volunteer as an annual home tour Guide/Docent)
- I would like to volunteer to provide refreshments for events
- I would like to make myself available for service on the board of directors.

## **I would like to designate one or more of CHPS ongoing projects for a directed contribution:**

- Veterans Memorial Wall restoration at Butterfield Park, amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Historic Site marker monument program, amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Corona Historic District No. 10 wooden barricade restoration, amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Historic Route signage for historic US-91, State Route 18 and State Route 71 signage, amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- General preservation projects, amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Del Rey Hotel structure restoration as an assembly occupancy, in conjunction with the Corona Heritage Foundation. amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Other, \_\_\_\_\_ amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form, attach a check and mail to: CHPS P.O. Box 2904 Corona, CA 92878



The Corona Historic Preservation Society (CHPS) is a not-for-profit public benefit corporation (California Corporation Number 01275472) under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, with Federal Tax Identification Number (TIN) 33-0107914.