

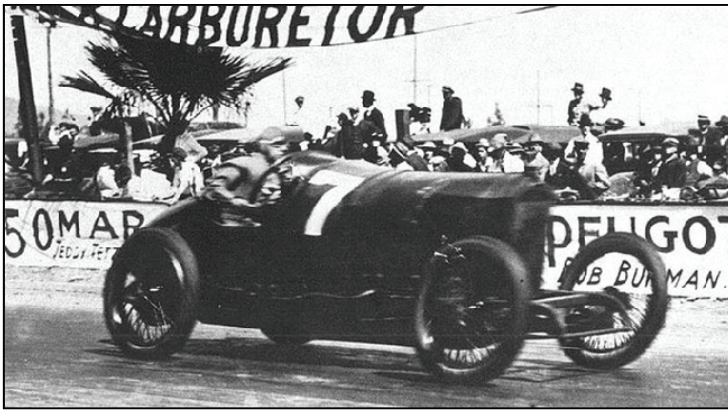
A Message From Our President Wes Speake

Dear Members,

As we transition from traditional toasty summer temperatures to our incredible fall temperatures it's easy to look back to Corona's first road race that took place September 9, 1913, 109 years ago. Over 100,000 people mobilized from all points of the compass to watch the three races; a 50 cent ticket (almost \$15 in today's dollars) got you in to see this spectacle; Race Cars on the streets of Corona going almost 8 times the speed of cars that rarely traveled Corona streets. The 300 Mile, 91 lap "Free for All" race was won by Earl Cooper with a time of 4:02:38 and at an average speed of 75MPH.

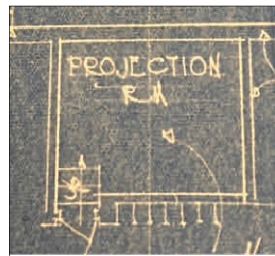
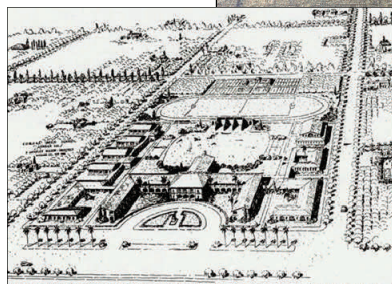
nearly 100 years prior to the present day. The main building, including the theater, was built first. The shop building and science classrooms were built along Buena Vista Avenue. In 1931 the gymnasium, east wing library, with classrooms upstairs, home economics classrooms and other structures were built along Vicentia Avenue, all of which exist today at the Historic Civic Center which served as Corona's City Hall from 1962-2005.

What does this have to do with the performing arts and the Corona Theater? One of the items that limits the use of the theater for larger productions is the number of seats. I happened to be in the sound booth last year and I remarked at the time that it really felt like a projection booth but sat at a very high angle. Lo and behold G. Stanley Wilson had designed the theater for showing movies even labeling it as a "Projection Rm".



Performing Arts in Corona and the Corona High Theater

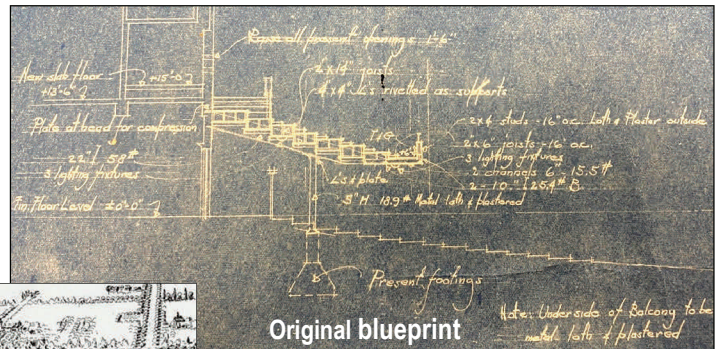
Councilmember Tom Richins is a curious guy and being a former president of this organization, he is passionate about Corona history. Recently Tom asked to take a better look at the original plans for Corona's second, purpose-built, Corona High School, designed by noted Mission Inn Architect G. Stanley Wilson. It was designed in 1922 and built in 1923. The original design was for a main building, auditorium/theater and two wings and several outbuildings and a semi-circular driveway entering from Sixth Street as seen in the rendering to the right and published in the December 6, 1922 *Corona Courier* newspaper,



Additionally in June 1929 a set of plans included a design for a balcony, but this was never added or included as well!

The city council has asked for this balcony to be included in a study of the Historic Civic

Center structure's uses...so who knows maybe G. Stanley Wilson's design will finally be built.



Original blueprint

Thank you for your continued support of this amazing organization.



Recap of Woman's Improvement Club Clubhouse Roof Repair

The Corona Woman's Improvement Club, built in 1913, recently had problems with a leaking roof. It had been patched several times since its last complete reroofing in 1995.

COVID-19 pandemic restrictions interfered significantly with the club's fundraising efforts and the roof kept getting worse.

The Club applied to the City for an ARPA grant to repair the roof and received a \$150,000, grant to completely reroof the 8,000 square foot clubhouse roof. This was able to be done under provisions of the California State Historical Building Code. Historically compliant wood cedar shingles were able to be used to preserve the building's local historic landmark status and listing on the National Register of Historic Places.



Completed north facing gabled main roof, gabled north portico, northeast hipped roof and east side/end of clubhouse.



Gabled main roof north side, work in progress, old shingles remain visible on the west end, north portico roof, etc. Northeast corner hip roof has been completed, and east end of clubhouse.



Northwest corner of clubhouse, front porch and north and west elevations in view.

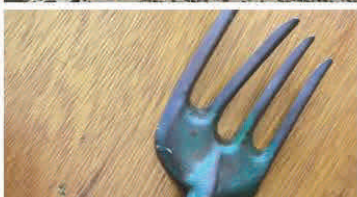


Work in progress, east end of clubhouse seen from the south, southeast hip roof, south side of gabled main roof.



Southern exposure of completed main east-west clubhouse gabled roof, southeast corner hipped roof sunroom roof and hipped roof over kitchen.

SHARE A PEEK OF THE PAST



Corona's History is everywhere! Pictures, artifacts and other items are sitting in your home, garage, or office - treasures of history just waiting to be shared. Bring your items down to display for others, and have a chance to talk about them with experts. With permission, items may be photographed and catalogued.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH
10:00-11:30AM
COMMUNITY ROOM OF HISTORIC CIVIC CENTER
815 W 6TH STREET

Don't have items to share? Come enjoy the collections and artifacts of others, and learn more about Corona's past.



Questions? Call (951) 371-5291

Questions for 2022 City Council Candidates

Five questions, selected by the CHPS Board of Directors pertaining to historic preservation, were submitted to all five Corona City Council candidates on August 12th so that their verbatim responses could be incorporated into this issue of the *CHPS Newsletter*.

The candidates were respectfully requested to send their responses to *Newsletter* Editor Mary Winn within eight days so that the deadline for this issue would be met. We express our sincere appreciation to those candidates who took time out of their very busy schedules to respond. This process is to help you, our members, become more informed voters in the upcoming election to be held on:

Tuesday, November 8, 2022

Please keep the candidates' stated positions in mind and PLEASE BE SURE TO VOTE!

QUESTIONS

- 1** - Historic Architectural Design Guidelines are found in the city's Downtown Revitalization Specific Plan. The intent was to use them to retain, preserve and restore the unique residential and commercial identity of the downtown area. Do you feel that there is any good reason to exempt any buildings within Corona's historic core from those design guidelines?
- 2** - A Strategic Plan for the City of Corona was developed with the assistance of Flint Strategies. Community forums, surveys and resident comments revealed that many Corona residents are greatly concerned with renewal/revitalization plans for the downtown area within the Grand Boulevard circle. Please be very specific as to what your vision is to revitalize historic Downtown Corona.
- 3** - Blighted conditions in Corona's central core continue. Please provide specific plans you envision to revive historic neighborhoods, homes and yards in order to protect historic resources for future generations.
- 4** - What is your opinion of the establishment of a Cultural Heritage Board as in Riverside, or a Historic Commission as in Norco, to make recommendations to the City Council/Planning & Housing Commission for changes to all properties currently considered as historic resources on the Historic Resources Inventory or the City of Corona's Register of Historic Resources?
- 5** - In Corona, many historically significant homes still stand in neighborhoods that need help to be safe and attractive. What ideas do you have for ensuring that new infill construction is sympathetic with the historic district in which it is located and complements existing historic resources?

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## **Responses from Jacque Casillas, Incumbent Candidate for District 1:**

- 1.** Our history is important and adhering to communally established guidelines is also important. As we continue to grow and evolve I want to see more historical elements incorporated into new buildings and remodels.
- 2** - What I like about the deliberate process of community engagement is that it brings out a collective vision rather than one specific councilmember or group interest's vision. This is important because the downtown will belong to all of us and will undoubtedly depend on all of us to be successful. I want what the community wants - a vibrant downtown we can be proud of where Coronans can come together.
- 3** - We have blighted conditions in our city's core and they're going to take time and collaboration with private partners to fix. But we're headed in the right direction. We have a City Manager with experience revitalizing a downtown and a Downtown Revitalization Plan that has intentionally engaged

## City Council Candidate Responses

the community and is nearly complete. It might take us a few years but I am confident that we finally have the right vision and catalyst projects to spur positive change in our city's historic core.

**4** - Before creating more government bodies I would like to learn more about the role and purpose of a new commission/board in order to decide whether it is justified. The reality is we struggle to secure public participation as is, and sometimes the government isn't the most effective or efficient at solving problems. Would the new commission/board have advisory powers or the authority to reject projects? Is the goal of the new board/commission entirely unique or can it be incorporated into an existing board/commission? Is the goal of a new board/commission something that must be actively monitored through regular meetings or can it be met by establishing policy?

**5** - Historic neighborhoods bring value to our city, it is important that infill construction does not harm our community and its value. I believe infill projects should adhere to established guidelines that match the neighborhood.

**Gary Greenwood, Candidate for District 1, provided no response**

**Jim Steiner, Incumbent Candidate for District 4, is running unopposed & provided no response**

**Responses from Wes Speake, Incumbent Candidate for District 5:**

**1** - I don't think we should exempt any building from our historic guidelines. That being said, we will never be able to recreate the downtown before urban renewal, but we can have a historic feel.

**2** - I think that strategic plans in order to stay relevant and achievable must change and be updated. I think we can pay homage to Corona History and historic downtown without building a replica of pre-urban renewal downtown. The downtown plan needs to be reimagined to make downtown a gathering place AND have a historic look and feel. Corona History needs to be shared with new residents and old residents alike as new facets of Corona's history are discovered all the time.

**3** - On the Business side: Our Economic Development Strategic plan includes a façade improvement plan via grants or a Business Improvement District (BID) be started to speed along improvements. I will be proposing that truly historic commercial buildings should be eligible for protection and Mills Act contracts.

In residential areas: I have proposed a future agenda item that would provide discounted building fees to build historic looking homes on infill lots in our historic residential areas to keep our historic areas looking historic. I would like CDBG funding to provide low or no interest loans to improve historic homes. I will be proposing to expand Mills Act contracts for homes in various states of repair or disrepair so tax savings can be reinvested into the property for repairs as well as preservation.

**4** - 100% in favor; would work as an extension of the planning commission and could eventually write a cultural historic context statement for the city.

**5** - I have proposed a future agenda item that would provide discounted building fees to build historic looking homes on infill lots in our historic residential areas. Doing so not only protects these areas but prevents these lots becoming high density housing that doesn't have a historic feel.

**Serge Tostikov, Candidate for District 5 did not respond**

# QR Codes for Historic Site Markers by Eric Bergreen

As many of you may know the CHPS has had a formal historic marker program since 1996. Twenty-one historically significant sites have been recognized by a bronze or granite plaque placed on the wall of the building or by a monument bearing the plaque. All but six of the markers have been placed by Boy Scouts as part of their requirements to attain the rank of Eagle Scout. For example, some of these markers represent a historic school, church, public building, fire station, theater or place where a meaningful historic event took place in Corona and gives a description of what the marker represents.

Recently the CHPS has been adding QR coded tiles to our markers. And although there is information explaining what the plaques are representing, the QR codes will allow the observer a more

detailed description and give more info and background about the historic site, including any updates that may have occurred since the marker was placed.

## What is a QR Code?

Short for Quick Response or Quick Read, QR codes are scannable barcodes that store data. In the marketing sphere,



they're commonly used to redirect users to landing pages, websites, social media profiles or store coupons. You may have seen them on products that you've bought, as a guide for menus at restaurants and even on your television for advertising products.

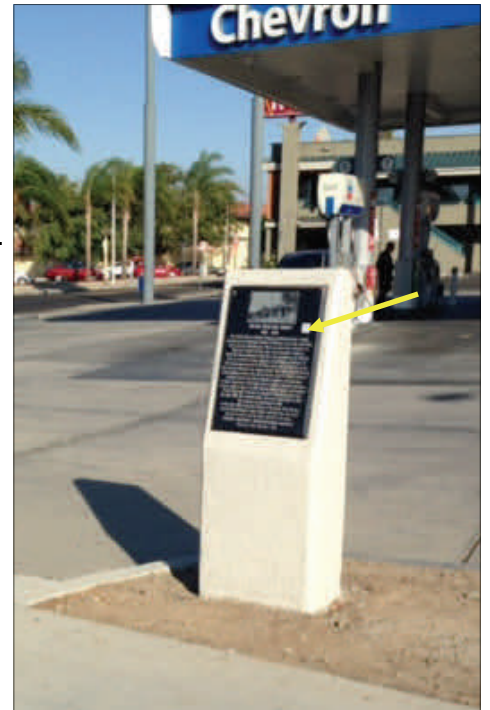
## How do QR codes work?

A QR code works similarly to a barcode at the supermarket. Each QR code consists of black squares and dots which represent different pieces of information. When scanned, the unique pattern on the barcode translates into human-readable data. This transaction happens in seconds. Users must scan the code with a QR reader or scanner, although nowadays most people scan QR codes with smart phones. On the off chance your phone doesn't have the capability, there are plenty of free apps for QR scanning like NeoReader and QuickMark Barcode Scanner.

## How to access QR coded information?

Simply open your smart phone, touch your camera app and without actually taking a picture just hover the camera lens in the smart phone over the QR code while it is on your screen. It will then produce a website address that you will need to touch that will then direct you to more information regarding the location identified by the QR code.

The QR code at the top of this page will take you to our website. Try it!



Historic Site Marker #25  
Pacific Electric Depot 1915-1945  
301 Main Street



Historic Site Marker #18 Corona Theater, 1929-1983  
201 East Sixth Street

# Membership Information

**When joining or renewing your membership, please make your  
tax deductible check payable to "CHPS"**

- |                   |          |                          |                               |                          |
|-------------------|----------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Individual Member | \$30.00  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>I'd like to volunteer!</b> |                          |
| Family            | \$40.00  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Hospitality refreshments      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Student           | \$15.00  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Newsletter writing articles   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Business          | \$60.00  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Vintage Home Tour             |                          |
| Patron            | \$125.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> | docent / volunteer            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Life              | \$600.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Board of Directors            | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Gift from \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Status: Renewal  New

**Please complete and mail to:  
CHPS  
P.O. Box 2904  
Corona, CA 92878**



## We Welcome Our New & Continuing Members

Carol Ackerman  
Randy & Cathy Leonti  
Bob German  
Steve & Karen Shultz  
Jane M. Prichard Szabo  
Juergen & Gerlinde Stens

## Home Preservation Grant Program

The CHPS Grant Committee along with the Board of Directors of the Corona Historic Preservation Society would love to assist local homeowners in making exterior improvements to their historic homes.

We will process any application within 60 days after submittal. Once a grant has been approved and reimbursement limits established, funds will be made available upon completion, inspection and onsite final approval.

Take this opportunity to do some fixing up and have part of the material cost covered by CHPS. Remember we are interested in helping people beautify their homes for others to see, so applications are primarily for curb appeal projects. If you have a place that you feel needs help, either your own



or a neighbor's, please contact CHPS Home Preservation Grant Program Coordinator Rich Winn at [rwinn141@gmail.com](mailto:rwinn141@gmail.com)/714.328.0010. We will assist you in any way possible to provide the information you need to complete the application process.

Grant applications are available at the Community Development Department at Corona City Hall at 400 South Vicentia, and at the Heritage Room of the Corona Public Library.

More information and grant applications may also be downloaded from our website:  
<<http://corona-history.org/grants.html>>

***Please share this information with others!***



Corona  
Historic  
Preservation  
Society

## Board of Directors

President - Wes Speake  
Vice President - Eric Bergreen  
Secretary - Shaylene Cortez  
Treasurer - Richard Winn

### Directors

Paula Muñoz  
Amelia Nieves  
Kelly Vela  
Mary Winn

### Advisors

Marla Benson  
Ted Taylor



To contact us call  
**951.898.2044**

*Please leave a message*



## Our Mission Statement

The Corona Historic Preservation Society (CHPS) is an active nonprofit tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the PRESERVATION, PROTECTION and PERPETUATION of Corona's historic sites, buildings, neighborhoods and resources. We do this through education, community events, preservation projects and tireless advocacy for the benefit of present and future generations.

## Monthly Meetings

CHPS Board meetings are held each month to transact Society business, discuss issues affecting the Society and preservation of local historic resources.

**All members are invited to attend.**

The next meetings are scheduled for:

**Thursday, Sept. 15, at 6:30 p.m. at CHPS office**

**Thursday, Oct. 20, at 6:30 p.m. at CHPS office**

**[www.Corona-History.org](http://www.Corona-History.org)**



Corona  
Historic  
Preservation  
Society

P.O. Box 2904  
Corona, California 92878-2904



***It is very important to vote on November 8th!***