



Living Landmark Award 2004

❧ Charles L. Hearn ❧

After spending his formative years in South Texas, Chuck Hearn joined the United States Marine Corp hoping to see some of the world. Most of his four years of duty were served in the Second and Third Marines Division and his travels took him to Japan, Korea, Formosa and the Philippines. In 1958, as the Korean War was winding down, Chuck left the Marines and returned to Texas. He earned a degree in Architecture from Texas A&M University in 1964.

By 1968, Chuck decided to try a new career path in Urban Planning. He returned to Texas A&M to earn his Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning. Armed with his new degree and career interest, Chuck was led to Jefferson County, Colorado, where he was able to explore the development capabilities of large geographical areas. Here, land planning use was happening on a regional level. Jefferson County's first Mountain Comprehensive Plan was one of his responsibilities. Eventually Chuck, and his wife, Polly started the Hearn Planning Consulting firm.

In early 1974, the City of Golden advertised for its first city planner, and Chuck was a natural fit. He was hired to develop and update the city's comprehensive plan, zoning regulations, and to originate a Parks and Recreation plan. But Chuck's favorite task of all was to draft ordinances to the Historic Preservation Board and Downtown Renewal Plan.

Chuck says, "I've been in this wonderful town longer than anywhere else, thirty very rewarding years. Businesses have come and gone, revenues have been up and down. And this city has been an urban planner's dream. I have always believed that planning shines brightest when it can educate the most citizens, when it provides information for decision making to townfolks who want to keep improving their quality of life and that of their children. I'm very grateful that Golden allowed me to live a dream."

This year, as Chuck prepares to retire, we thank him for his years of service and guidance and helping to make Golden the historic and livable town that we love.