Citrus Elementary School was built in 1936 as a W.P.A. project, consolidating Chico Vecino and Nord Avenue Schools, as one new modern school. In the 1950’s, Citrus had 11 classrooms and was teaching over 550 pupils. Some classes had over 50 students and many lessons were being taught in the halls! In the 1960’s, a Kindergarten wing with two classrooms was built, along with a library and four new classrooms.

In the 1980’s, major remodeling and landscaping brought central heating and air conditioning to the main buildings. New lawns and shade trees were also planted, which now shade the outside eating and play areas.

In the new millennium year 2000, Citrus installed a multimedia computer lab in the library. Students were able to access a computer, some for the very first time.

The mission of Citrus Avenue Elementary School is to provide a safe, positive environment in which individual students have the opportunity to meet their full potential academically, socially, emotionally, and creatively.

Citrus has had many changes over the years, but the school takes pride in the many generations of students who have attended the school. Citrus is now the oldest operating elementary school in the Chico Unified School District.