

**State Historic Preservation Review Board Meeting
Downtown Holiday Inn, Helena, Montana
January 19, 2011
Minutes**

January 19

Board Members Present: Donna Coate, Jon Axline, Lesley Gilmore, Miki Wilde, Tim Light, Jeff Shelden

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Staff: Mark Baumler, John Boughton, Kate Hampton

Guests: Christine Brown, Christine Whitacre, Conrad Fisher, Jack Lepley, Steve Brady, Sr., Mike Cooney

Call to Order (8:07 a.m.): Acting Chair Tim Light called the meeting to order. Mr. Light read the board mission statement then asked for introductions of the board and SHPO, followed by guests.

SHPO Preservation News (8:10 a.m.): John Boughton briefed the Review Board about several subjects including:

- **Preserve America grant (PAIV)** to assist local communities with economic development plans promoting heritage tourism and the preservation of historic properties. \$40,000 awarded to the Montana Main Street program, \$13,000 to assist the Museums Association of Montana (MAM) in an update of an economic impact study, and \$97,000 set aside for sub-grants to Montana *Preserve America* Communities, communities applying for *Preserve America* designation, and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Offices;
- **University Site Records Office to move to SHPO;**
- **Preserve America III Post-WWII historic building context update.**
- Kate Hampton hired as **the Community Preservation Coordinator;**
- Recently listed properties;
- Upcoming nominations.

Consideration of Nominations (8:20 a.m.):

Mr. Light asked to begin consideration of nominations.

1) Target Range Elementary School (Missoula County)

Mr. Light introduced Christine Brown of the Montana Preservation Alliance who authored and presented the nomination to the Board. The property was presented as significant under criterion A.

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

The following issues discussed by the Review Board need to be addressed prior to submittal of the nomination to the Keeper.

- Please clarify if the school was originally associated with the fort.
- Please include floor plan.
- Please check the siding descriptions and change if necessary.
- Please include the architect of the addition (if known).
- Please note what happened to the original columns of the building. Are they hidden by the vestibule?
- Please add information about chimney.

Ms. Wilde motioned for the nomination, with the discussed edits, to be forwarded to the Keeper. Ms. Gilmore seconded the motion. The Review Board unanimously approved the nomination.

2) Reinforced Concrete Bridges of Montana MPD and five associated nominations

Mr. Light introduced Jon Axline of the Montana Department of Transportation who authored and presented the MPD and nominations to the Board. The individual bridge nominations associated with the MPD include Bad Route Creek Bridge (five miles northeast of Fallon), Conley Street Bridge (in Deer Lodge), Carter Bridge (four miles south of Livingston), Bluewater Creek Bridge (two miles southeast of Fromberg), and the Sheep Creek Bridge (two miles south of Wolf Creek).

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

The following issues discussed by the Review Board need to be addressed prior to submittal of the nomination to the Keeper.

- Please add information discussing how the railings of reinforced concrete bridges were often poured elsewhere but the remaining portions of the bridges were constructed on-site.
- Please discuss that the source of the concrete may sometimes be identifiable by a visual examination of the hardened concrete associated with the existing reinforced concrete bridge.
- Please add that the quality of the aggregate used in the construction of the bridges, in addition to the contractor's qualifications made a difference in the longevity of the bridges.
- Please add more context about where Montana fits in compared to other states regarding the adoption of concrete for bridge construction.
- Please add a bit more technical information and a discussion of expansion joints.

Ms. Gilmore motioned for the MPD and associated nominations, with the discussed edits, to be forwarded to the Keeper. Ms. Wilde seconded the motion. The Review Board unanimously approved the nomination. Mr. Axline abstained from voting.

The State Historic Preservation Office went on record as being very pleased with the work the Montana Department of Transportation is doing with historic bridges. Part of the bridge nomination process relates to a compliance agreement between MDT and the SHPO; the completion of these nominations reflects the commitment by MDT to this agreement.

New Board Business (9:15 a.m.):

Because the presentation of the nominations progressed ahead of schedule, Mr. Light called for discussion of new business.

Edits to the September 2010 Meeting Minutes were called for. A motion was made to accept the minutes pending the addition of “Mary McCormick” to the “guests” mentioned at the start of the minutes. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board.

Discussion of posting board minutes online occurred. Many organizations post meeting minutes on-line. The only names mentioned in minutes would be those making or seconding motions. Transparency and accountability benefits all.

Ms. Gilmore nominated Don Matlock for a second term as chair. Mr. Axline seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

May 21 (Columbus) and a day near September 22 (Missoula; in conjunction with 2011 History Conference) selected for upcoming review board meetings.

SB3 proposed in the current Legislature discussed. The bill requires state agencies to biennially report to the board on stewardship of state-owned properties and for the board and SHPO to make recommendations in reports to the Legislature and the Governor. The board needs to decide if it wishes to present an opinion regarding the bill.

Break (9:50 a.m.)

Reconvene: Continuation of Consideration of Nominations (10:20):

3) Fort Benton National Historic Landmark Boundary Definition

Mr. Light introduced Christine Whitacre, Program Manager, Heritage Partnerships Program of the National Park Service, who presented the nomination to the Board. The nomination was presented as significant under NHL Criterion 1 and National Register criteria A and C (Criterion Consideration E).

Ms. Whitacre requested comments or suggestions she could forward to the NHL committee.

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- Several noncontributing resources discussed in the nomination are not included in the count—should they be included?
- Comments on architectural descriptions will be forwarded through Mr. Boughton
- Please clarify—the boundary is smaller than the reference point polygon. Ms. Whitacre confirmed and said that a map with the outline of the boundary will be included.
- More information on the architectural styles or an overview of the architecture would strengthen the nomination.
- Discussion of “sun baked” buildings? They appear to be rare in Montana.

Ms. Gilmore motioned for support of the NHL nomination. Ms. Coate seconded the motion. The Review Board unanimously supported the NHL nomination.

4) Northern Hotel

Mr. Light introduced Jon Axline, Historian for the Montana Department of Transportation, co-author and presenter of the nomination to the Board. The nomination was presented as significant under criteria A and C.

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

The following issues discussed by the Review Board need to be addressed prior to submittal of the nomination to the Keeper.

- Any plans for the entrances? The intent is to keep historic.
- Any floor plans found? The Chicago Historical Society also has plans—maybe there?
- Please add current design plans (PDF).
- Please mention Holabird and Root continue to the present.
- The board concurred the nomination should advance under both criteria A and C.

Ms. Wilde motioned for the nomination, with the discussed edits, to be forwarded to the Keeper. Ms. Gilmore seconded the motion. The Review Board unanimously approved the nomination. Mr. Axline abstained from voting.

5) Deer Medicine Rocks National Historic Landmark

Mr. Light reintroduced Christine Whitacre, Program Manager, Heritage Partnerships Program National Park Service, who presented the nomination to the Board. The nomination was presented as significant under NHL Criterion 1 and National Register Criterion A.

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- A guest discussed how Deer Medicine Rocks is part of a larger cultural landscape and is associated with other sites in the area; the entire area is considered sacred. Tribes provided input to the project.
- National level of significance needs to be indicated in Section 8 of the nomination.
- Consistency in spelling of “Two Moon” (spelled differently on pages 10 and 15). “Two Moon” is correct.

Ms. Coate motioned for support of the NHL nomination. Mr. Sheldon seconded the motion. The Review Board unanimously supported the NHL nomination. Kate Hampton voted to support the nomination through a proxy vote from Mr. Axline who needed to leave early.

Public Comment (12:10 p.m.):

Mr. Light called for public comment.

Ms. Whitacre mentioned the NPS is currently preparing an NHL nomination for Ulm Pishkun (First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park).

Hearing no further public, Ms. Gilmore motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Coate seconded the motion which was passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.