

State Historic Preservation Review Board Meeting
January 23, 2015, the Auditorium in the Montana Historical Society,
Helena, Montana
Minutes

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Board Members Present: Tim Urbaniak, Carol Bronson, Milo McLeod, Lesley Gilmore, Riley Auge, Jon Axline, Miki Wilde, Zane Fulbright, Debra Hronek

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

Guests: Galen Hronek, Jeff Mow, Joyce Baltz, Larry Wood

Call to Order-8:30 a.m.: Mr. Fulbright called the meeting to order and read the board mission statement. Mr. Fulbright requested the board, SHPO personnel, and guests to introduce themselves.

Approval of September 2014 Meeting Minutes: Ms. Gilmore motioned to approve the September minutes; Mr. Axline seconded the motion. The Review Board unanimously concurred.

Mr. Fulbright mentioned that the National Historic Landmarks Committee of the National Park System Advisory Board will evaluate First Peoples Buffalo Jump (a nomination heard by the review board at their September 2014 meeting) on February 11-12, 2015.

SHPO Preservation News-8:45 a.m.: John Boughton briefed the Review Board about several subjects including:

New Review Board Member Appointment: C. Riley Auge was appointed to the board on October 31. Dr. Auge received her PhD from the University of Montana in Cultural Heritage Studies and Historical Anthropology.

Federal Fiscal Year 2014 report of activities: SHPO completed and successfully submitted its end-of-year grant report to the National Park Service. The report can be viewed at: (<http://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo/About.aspx>)

Grant Award: SHPO applied for and received a special grant award for \$27,788 from the National Park Service for *Identifying Montana's African American Heritage Places*. The grant will focus on locating and recording extant houses and other buildings associated with historical African American residents in Helena and other communities statewide, and serves as the next phase to the Montana Historical Society's African American heritage resources project. Additional products will include the development of a historical context for the African-American experience in Helena with at least one property nominated for listing in the NR. A combination of staff, intern, MHS volunteer, and a contracted consultant will be used to complete the project over the next year-and-a-half.

Shared Heritage Stewardship Report: The Board and SHPO's *Second Biennial Report on the Status, Condition, and Stewardship of Montana's State-owned Heritage Properties* (<http://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo/ReviewComp/StateHeritageProperties.aspx>) was mailed to each of the elected 150 state legislators on December 1, 2014.

Capital Campus Survey: A SHPO-DOA sponsored National Register survey and inventory of the State Capitol complex is underway. The contractor is architectural historian Jesse Nunn. The final product (a Capitol Campus historic district nomination) will be completed for the September 2015 Review Board meeting.

Gardiner Jail Nomination: SHPO also contracted with historian Joan Brownell to prepare a National Register nomination for the historic Gardiner Jail. The jail was built in 1903 and lies just outside one of the proposed historic districts for the town. The nomination is scheduled to be completed by May 2015.

New Faces: Steffany Meredyk was hired in the fall as the new SHPO Cultural Records Assistant. Ms. Meredyk received a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Bachelor of Arts in Geography from Bucknell University.

Properties listed since May 2014 Review Board Meeting:

- ❖ Montana State Training School Historic District (Boulder)
- ❖ Double Arrow Lodge (Seeley Lake)
- ❖ Big Creek Ranger Station
- ❖ Flathead National Forest Backcountry Administrative Facilities
- ❖ Cat Creek Oil Field Sign

Potential Upcoming nominations:

- ❖ Gardiner Jail (Gardiner)
- ❖ Capitol Campus Historic District (Helena)
- ❖ Convict Grade (eastern Park County)
- ❖ Camp Senia Boundary Increase (near Red Lodge)
- ❖ Central High School Neighborhood Historic District (Great Falls)

Consideration of National Register nominations-8:53 a.m.

1) Graf House (Billings)

Joan Brownell wrote and presented the nomination. The property was presented as significant under Criterion C.

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- Are Sanborn Maps available for this area? Ms. Brownell responded that none exist for this area of Billings at the time of the construction of the house.
- Is a single date for the Period of Significance acceptable (in this case, 1940)? SHPO responded that a single date is fine.
- Remove the initial four paragraphs of the statement of significance dealing with pre-contact information as they aren't relevant to the nomination.
- Change the reference in the text from "shakes" to "shingles".

Mr. Urbaniak motioned for the nomination, with the discussed edits, be forwarded to the Keeper. Ms. Hronek seconded the motion. The Review Board unanimously concurred and the motion passed.

2) Hayward Lodge (Lake Como)

Janene Caywood, the author, presented the nomination. The property was presented as significant under criteria A and C.

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- A discussion occurred regarding the symbolism behind the use of the hexagon and the number "3" and how they related to the subject of the nomination.
- Possible eligibility under Criterion D based on the information potential of the symbology used in the construction of the building? Not enough documentation to suggest such significance.
- Provide more information on the heating source since the removal of the fireplace.
- Any evidence of an associated dock in the lake? No evidence.
- Elaborate on what comprises "Region 1".
- Why end the Period of Significance when Hayward ceased owning the building? Because Hayward is responsible for the physical expression of the property.

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

Break-9:35 a.m.

Resumption of Nominations-9:55 a.m.

3) Doncaster Round barn (Madison County)

Mr. Fulbright welcomed Jon Axline (Board member), who wrote and presented the nomination. The nomination was presented as significant under Criteria A and C.

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- Was the interior track actually ¼ mile long? Please confirm.
- Why does the Period of Significance extend to 1965? Why not the early 1900s when the original owner sold the property? Extending the date to the maximum 1965 (50 years ago) recognizes the good stewardship of successive owners.
- Include any historic photos available in the nomination.
- Is the present color scheme historically accurate? The author responded it appears to be.
- Clarify if the central well is still in use? (No).

Ms. Bronson motioned for the nomination, with the discussed edits, be forwarded to the Keeper. Ms. Auge seconded the motion. The Review Board unanimously concurred and the motion passed. Mr. Axline abstained from voting.

4) High Bug Historic District Boundary Decrease, Red Lodge

Mr. Fulbright introduced Kate Hampton of SHPO who presented the nomination in lieu of the owner. The nomination proposed a boundary decrease to exclude a section of the existing historic district where two buildings had undergone changes. The nomination proposed that the changes to the two buildings were severe enough to preclude them from contributing to the district and that the boundary should be redrawn to exclude them.

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- Do many people in Red Lodge know the history of the property? Yes.
- Do potential historic districts lie next to the potential exclusion area/property? SHPO does not think so.
- How is the integrity of the barn on the property? SHPO responded some change has occurred.
- Does Red Lodge have any local ordinances about new building construction within the district? SHPO said this question is outside the purview of the discussion of the property's significance and integrity.
- Hypothetically, if a building burns, is there anything that mandates a boundary change for a historic district? SHPO responded that there is no mandate. Boundary changes and district narrative amendments to deal with losses are done as time and need allows.

Ms. Gilmore motioned to not change the boundary of the Hi Bug Historic District. Although the two buildings, the subject of the boundary decrease proposal, have suffered a decrease in integrity under Criterion C, the loss of integrity isn't enough to preclude their contributing status to the district under Criterion A. Ms. Hronek seconded the

motion. With the exception of one review board member (Wilde), the Review Board concurred and the motion passed.

Public Comment and New Business-11:00 a.m. Mr. Fulbright called for public comment; none occurred.

May 2015 Meeting: The review board decided to hold the May review board meeting in Livingston on May 29 and 30.

Preservation Award Ceremony, Helena: All board members were encouraged to attend the afternoon biennial State Historic Preservation Awards ceremony to be held at the Myrna Loy Theater (Old Jail) at 2:30 pm.

Adjourn-11:30 a.m.

Ms. Bronson motioned for adjournment of the meeting. Mr. Axline seconded the motion. The Review Board unanimously concurred. Motion passed.