

**State Historic Preservation Review Board Meeting**  
**September 21, 2016, the Bitterroot River Inn,**  
**Hamilton, Montana**  
**Minutes**

**September 21, 2016**

**Review Board (Board) Members Present:** Lesley Gilmore, Zane Fulbright (Chair), Dr. Riley Auge, Jon Axline, Patti Casne, Deb Hronek, Milo McLeod, Carol Bronson

**State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Staff:** John Boughton, Kate Hampton, Dr. Mark Baumler, Jessica Bush, Brad Hansen

**Guests:** Don Matlock, Elisabeth DeGrenier, Kevin Kooistra, Marie Vogel, James Daychild, David Klimut

**Call to Order-1:02 p.m.:** Mr. Fulbright called the meeting to order and read the Board mission statement. He then requested the Board, SHPO personnel, and guests to introduce themselves.

Mr. Fulbright called for approval of the June 2016 minutes. Ms. Hronek motioned to approve the minutes. Dr. Auge seconded the motion. The Board unanimously concurred and the motion passed.

**SHPO Preservation News-1:11 p.m.:** John Boughton briefed the Board about several subjects including:

- **Montana's Shared Heritage State Stewardship Report (2016):** The Board and SHPO's *Third Biennial Report on the Status, Condition, and Stewardship of Montana's State-owned Heritage Properties* was completed in August. The report can be found online at: <http://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo/ReviewComp/StateHeritageProperties>. Mr. Fulbright, Ms. Gilmore, and Dr. Baumler presented the report to the interim Legislative Committee on Education and Local Government September 8. The report was also submitted to the Governor's Office.
- **MT Capitol Campus:** National Register signs are being prepared for the district and contributing resources in the newly-listed Montana State Capitol Campus Historic District. A dedication ceremony is planned by the DOA General Services Division sometime this fall, and may include participation by Governor Bullock.
- **Identifying Montana African American Heritage Places:** The project is near completion (completion date September 30) under the project management of SHPO Kate Hampton. Property record forms, two National Register nominations, and an associated Multiple Property Document have been submitted to the SHPO; the National Register forms and MPD will be presented to the Board at the January 2017 meeting.

Diana Nettleton (the 2016 MHS Sobotka intern) and Anthony Wood (contractor) both worked closely with Ms. Hampton on this project.

- **Playing for Keeps:** The *Montana in the National Register* playing cards featuring photographs of NR-listed properties from each of Montana's 56 counties continue to be very popular with the public. By the end of August over 1800 decks, sometimes along with the associated preservation poster, were given out. A SHPO webpage provides additional information related to the cards and poster (<https://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo/NationalReg/PlayingCards>).
- **New Faces:** Michelle Phair, a recent graduate of Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, was hired as the new Cultural Records Assistant. Damon Murdo, Cultural Records Manager, led a SHPO selection committee in reviewing 72 applications prior to hiring Ms. Phair. Ms. Phair began July 11, 2016 and replaces Stefanie Meredyk, who left at the end of May to work for the Gallatin County GIS Department.

#### **Potential Upcoming nominations:**

- ❖ African American MPD and two nominations
- ❖ Huntley Project Administration Building
- ❖ The Pelton House near Absarokee

#### **Consideration of National Register nominations-1:24 p.m.**

##### **1) Ft. Harrison Historic District (Helena)**

Jon Axline, Historian, prepared and presented the nomination. The federal property, owned by the Veterans Administration, was presented as significant under criteria A and C.

##### *Questions and Comments from the Review Board:*

- Is the property open to the public? [Yes].
- Change "local" significance to "state" significance.
- Correct typos.
- Change Building #604 to contributing and rewrite associated paragraph.
- After making contributing change to Building 604, check/change number counts.
- Clarify the connection with Harrison (Benjamin vs William).
- Include a broader statement about the architectural significance. Include discussion of the style and military influence on the style.
- As the buildings are very ordered and regular in presentation, the layout of the property likely reflects a standard plan. Please discuss this more in the nomination. What other military installations follow such plans? Please mention.

Following Mr. Axline's presentation, David Klimut of Beneficial Communities (FL) spoke to the Board about his company's plans for a veterans' housing facility at Fort Harrison, using the now vacant properties.

Ms. Gilmore motioned for the Board support of the federal nomination, with the suggested inclusion of the discussed edits, and that it be forwarded to the Keeper by the Veterans Administration. Ms. Casne seconded the motion. Mr. Axline recused himself from voting. The Board unanimously concurred and the motion passed.

## **2) North Elevation Historic District**

Kevin Kooistra and Elisabeth DeGrenier of the Western Heritage Center in Billings, and primary authors, presented the nomination. The property, consisting of privately owned residences and some businesses, was presented as significant under Criterion A. A SHPO grant to the Billings Certified Local Government helped support the research and preparation of the nomination.

### *Questions and Comments from the Review Board:*

- Discussion of why the nomination is moving forward under Criterion A, not criteria A and C.
- The district doesn't appear on later Sanborn maps. Any idea why? [Unknown].
- Please correct typos.
- Please include a map showing growth of the district by decade, if possible.
- Rephrase the sentence on page 50 of Section 8 regarding the *Woman's Home Journal*.
- Correct the dates associated with Gustave Link on pg. 49 of Section 8.
- Better explain the closing date of 1940 for the period of significance [no contributing buildings were constructed after that date].
- Clarify that McKinley School, while important to the district, is adjacent to and not within the North Elevation Historic District.
- Add "VA" after "Richmond" to the sentence discussing trolleys on page 34.
- Please include a general statement about the roofing materials on the buildings in the district.

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

**Break-2:40 p.m.**

## **Resumption of meeting-2:55 p.m.**

### **3) Maclay Bridge (Missoula County)**

Janene Caywood of CRCS, authored and presented the nomination. The property, owned by Missoula County, was presented as significant under Criterion A.

#### *Questions and Comments from the Review Board:*

- Some uncertainty exists regarding the origin of the recycled larger truss. The Nine Mile Prairie area was believed to be the original location of the truss; however, this has yet to be confirmed. Additional research is ongoing.
- The crossing wasn't used from 1948-1952, which created great inconvenience for people living on either side of the river in this area.
- Do the extant piers date to 1948? [Likely, yes].
- Please include the engineering drawings shown during the power point in the nomination.
- Change the ending of the period of significance to 1966. [50 years]
- The importance of the bridge appears to relate to its piece-meal and recycled construction and the ability of the county commissioners to facilitate the construction of the bridge with very limited funds. Provide/elaborate a contextual paragraph or two about the resourcefulness of the commissioners to erect the bridge with limited funding.
- Discuss each of the aspects of Integrity individually and explicitly.
- Provide more information on the 1964 flooding, a major event in Montana.

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

### **4) Medicine Rocks State Park (Carter County)**

Sara Scott, the Heritage Resource Program Manager for Montana State Parks, presented the nomination. The property, owned by the state of Montana, was presented as significant under criteria A and D.

#### *Questions and Comments from the Review Board:*

- Is this the location where Sitting Bull had his vision prior to the Little Big Horn conflict? [No, that was Deer Medicine Rocks NHL].
- Make date changes from B.C. to B.P. (before present).
- This property should be classified as a district, not a site.

- Increase discussion on noncontributing resources in the district.
- Elaborate, if possible, on the origins of the state park.

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

**Public Comment-4:10 p.m.:** Mr. Fulbright called for public comment. Ms. Vogel (Crow Tribal Historic Preservation Office) asked if the database associated with Medicine Rocks State Park will be included with the submitted nomination, and if it would be online? SHPO staff responded that the database, if provided by Montana State Parks, can easily be included with the nomination to the Keeper of the National Register. If made available, it will also be included with the files at SHPO.

**New Business-4:16 p.m.:** *Montana's Shared Heritage* State Stewardship Report. Additional copies of the Shared Heritage Stewardship Report were provided to board members to distribute in their communities.

*Elkhorn Ranch Historic District.* Ms. Hronek, Ms. Gilmore, and Mr. Boughton reported on their attendance at a ceremony and sign dedication on September 10 at the Elkhorn Ranch Historic District to celebrate its recent NR listing listing.

*January 2017 Review Board Meeting.* The Board discussed the dates for the January 2017 review board meeting, deciding upon the morning of January 20 in Helena. Following the board meeting, the 2017 Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony will be held in the afternoon.

*Last Review Board Meeting for Jon Axline and Lesley Gilmore.* The Board recognized the eight-year commitments and contributions of Jon Axline and Lesley Gilmore, retiring members of the Board. The time and effort Mr. Axline and Ms. Gilmore invested in the Board was greatly appreciated by all.

*Election of New Chairperson.* Ms. Hronek motioned for the appointment of C. Riley Auge as chairperson for the upcoming year. Mr. McLeod seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

**Adjourn-4:45 p.m.** Mr. Axline motioned for adjournment of the meeting. Ms. Gilmore seconded the motion. The Review Board unanimously concurred. Motion passed.