

State Historic Preservation Review Board Meeting
January 22, 2016, the Montana Historical Society,
Helena, Montana
Minutes

January 22, 2016

Board Members Present: Dr. Tim Urbaniak, Carol Bronson, Lesley Gilmore, Zane Fulbright (Chair), Dr. Riley Auge, Jon Axline, Miki Wilde, Deb Hronek (Absent, excused: Milo McLeod)

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

Guests: Daphne White, Scott White, Bill Bronson, Emerson Bull Chief, Rebecca Nathan, Kathleen Harrington, Neil Harrington, Carole Ann Clark, Jerry Clark, Ellen Sievert, Karen Janssen, Patrick Rennie

Call to Order-1:30 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. Emerson Bull Chief, Crow Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), was asked to speak about his preservation program on the Crow reservation.

Mr. Fulbright called for approval of the September 2015 minutes. Ms. Hronek motioned to approve the minutes. Ms. Bronson seconded the motion. The Review Board unanimously concurred and the motion passed.

SHPO Preservation News-1:35 p.m.: John Boughton briefed the Review Board about several subjects including:

- **Local Preservation/Certified Local Government (CLG) program:** The 2014-2015 CLG special small project sub-grants recently ended. One project, an updated historic walking tour for Hardin was cancelled with the funds re-distributed to the Lewistown CLG to do an additional building condition assessment (Broadway Apartments).

Partial unused funding for the Butte storefront mural display project was re-distributed to the Billings-Yellowstone County CLG project to further assist in the survey, inventory and National Register nomination of the McKinley School Neighborhood (aka "North Elevation") Historic District in Billings.

In all, a little over \$46,000 in CLG special project funding was successfully administered by SHPO in federal FY2015.

- **New SHPO Special projects:** SHPO received a \$10,000 grant allocation from funds established as mitigation by railroads and the FCC for the installation of the positive train control system nationwide. The allocation was used to contract with Metcalf Consultants to undertake the recording of the active main historic railroad system statewide in the Montana Cultural

Resource Information System (site records) as a historic site. A Phase 2 and 3 of competitive grants from this fund is currently available to SHPOs and THPOs for application in FY2016 and FY2017.

- **Identifying Montana African American Heritage Places:** This project, led by Kate Hampton, continues with funding provided by the National Park Service Under-represented Communities initiative. A final report to the Montana History Foundation (MHF) for their matching grant of \$4446 to support the preparation of forms for a dozen properties in communities outside Helena was recently submitted. Application for a second small MHF grant to help facilitate web development for the project was submitted the day of the review board meeting.

2016 50th Anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966:

To acknowledge the Act, responsible for the creation of the State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) across the country, the National Register of Historic Places, the Certified Local Government (CLG) program, and the Section 106 process of preservation consultation, Montana SHPO plans a variety of outreach and educational events in 2016. These include the design of a 2016 preservation poster highlighting the Act, a National Register workshop in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management-Lewistown, and the production of a deck of Montana National Register playing cards featuring photographs of Montana NR-listed properties from each of Montana's 56 counties.

Old and New Faces: Anthony Wood, a long time SHPO intern and short-term hire (African American Project) completed his term of work at SHPO. He has secured a paid internship with the National Park Service next.

Lisa Pocha, who started June 15 as the new SHPO Grants Manager resigned in November to take a job in the private sector. Brad Hanson replaced Lisa on January 4, 2016. Brad has lived in Helena with his wife for the last several years. He is from Utah and has a background in history (M.A., Utah State University 2013).

Properties NR-listed since January 2015 Review Board Meeting:

- ❖ First National Bank of Ekalaka/Rickard Hardware Store (this listing completes at least one National Register property in every county in Montana)
- ❖ University Area HD amendment—Patterson Block addition (Missoula)

Potential Upcoming nominations:

- ❖ Rock Creek Ranger Station near Red Lodge
- ❖ Glacier National Park Amended MPD—reflecting the boats of Glacier

Consideration of National Register nominations-1:58 p.m.

1) Elkhorn Ranch Historic District (NW of Yellowstone National Park)

Daphne White of the Elkhorn Ranch presented the nomination. The property was presented as significant under criteria A and C.

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- Several buildings have Dutch-doors. Is this unusual? [It may not be common, but it isn't unusual].
- Change the end of the period of significance to 1972 and add a paragraph addressing Criteria Consideration B (significance less than 50 years old).
- Please add the images used in the power point (“then and now” photographs) to the nomination.
- Edit for typos.
- Kudos to Ms. White for writing the nomination.

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

2) East Side Neighborhood Historic District (Great Falls)

Ellen Sievert, Great Falls historic preservation officer, and Carol Bradley, committee chair of the project, presented the nomination. The property was presented as significant under criteria A and C.

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- The Criterion A box needs to be checked in the Section 8 table.
- Delete reference to “Great Falls Central High Historic District” in Section 8.
- Provide a small paragraph describing the general interior configuration of Craftsman style houses as the interior floorplan is somewhat unique to the style.
- Provide a bit more information regarding the lot sizes. Are they a standard size?
- Were any home-buyer advertisements found during the research for this project? [None were located.]
- Any historic photos found? [None.]
- Photos in the nomination were likely taken in the late spring, not August as the captions read.
- Change the boundary description to "one full block and two ½ blocks."
- Add an "s" to "neighborhood" on page 5 of Section 7.

- Revise the location description of paragraph 3, page 5 of Section 7—the district is not truly centrally located.
- Kudos to the committee for their effort in working this through the process.

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

Break-2:55 p.m.

Resumption of Nominations-3:10 p.m.

3) Stafford's/ Winifred Grocery (Winifred)

Jon Axline, who co-authored the nomination with Mr. Fulbright, presented the nomination. The building was presented as significant under criteria A and C.

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- The lights are probably original to the building, but the photo doesn't illustrate this well.
- Add the construction date of the addition.
- Did other sandstone buildings once exist in town or was this the only example?
- Mention that the setting has changed significantly since construction of the building. (A photograph from across the intersection may better illustrate the current setting).

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

Public Comment and New Business-3:25 p.m. Mr. Fulbright called for public comment; none occurred.

New Business:

2016 biennial State Heritage Property Stewardship Report discussion:

Mr. Fulbright invited Patrick Rennie of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) to share his thoughts and his progress on the current third biennial reporting cycle since passage of the 2011 amendments to the State Antiquities Act (SB3) requiring agencies to report on their stewardship of state-owned heritage properties. Mr. Rennie discussed the database he set up in Access to better track the status and condition of DNRC state-owned heritage properties and facilitate his reporting. Dr. Baumler noted

that the SHPO also compiles and posts a current heritage property list and database that includes information from all the reporting agencies.

The board felt that private ditches that cross DNRC land should be removed from responsibility for DNRC reporting as they fall outside of DNRC management. This may also apply to other properties that technically exist on state land but for which DNRC lacks managerial control.

A short discussion of using volunteers, including the relatively new Montana site stewardship program under Project Archaeology, to assist in monitoring state heritage properties ensued.

MDT (Jon Axline) reported that the reporting process this time around was expedited, especially for properties with no changes. In many cases, simple edits could be made to previous property condition reporting forms and submitted for 2016.

The board discussed potential changes in reporting, such as the possibility of agencies only submitting update forms during the reporting cycle for those heritage properties where some change in status or condition occurred. The board will consider this and other possible recommended changes during the 2016 review of agency reports.

The board formed a committee consisting of Dr. Urbaniak, Ms. Gilmore and Mr. Fulbright to facilitate the board review with SHPO of the 2016 heritage stewardship reports from state agencies.

Montana Agricultural Experimental Stations:

Mr. Fulbright broached the idea of prioritizing and finding time/labor for the preparation of a Multiple Property Document (MPD) to nominate the numerous state-owned agricultural stations across Montana. The board felt this would be a good subject to include in the letter addressed to Montana State University (MSU) regarding their stewardship reporting, as MSU owns and uses these historic stations and not all are presently evaluated or even recorded. The preparation of a MPD for these properties could perhaps be linked to a mitigation strategy for other work the University does on their Bozeman campus that has adverse effects to heritage properties.

May 2016 Meeting:

The board discussed the dates and location of the May review board meeting, but remained undecided. Mr. Boughton said he would e-mail out a survey poll to the board members with different suggested dates for the board to vote on. A meeting location will be determined in the same way.

Adjourn-4:50 p.m. Ms. Hronek motioned for adjournment of the meeting. Ms. Wilde seconded the motion. The Review Board unanimously concurred. Motion passed.