

State Historic Preservation Review Board Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2017
The Conference Room at the Montana Historical Society
Helena, Montana

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Review Board (Board) Members Present: Jeff Shelden, Zane Fulbright, Dr. Riley Auge (Chair), Marcella Walter, Deb Hronek, Milo McLeod, Carol Bronson, Dr. Tim Urbaniak

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

Guests: Rick Hanson, Jeff Baumberger, Bob Haseman, Janene Caywood, Joan Brownell, Jessie Nunn, Daniel Ladd, Linda Franklin, Roxann Lincoln, Kenneth Phillips, Charlene Howard, and Nava Connor,

Call to Order-8:30 a.m.: Dr. Auge called the meeting to order and read the Board mission statement. She then requested the Board, SHPO personnel, and guests to introduce themselves.

SHPO Preservation News-8:35 a.m.: John Boughton briefed the Board about several subjects including:

- **Archaeology Day:** The yearly K-8 Archaeology Day event occurred on October 6, 2016, on the grounds of the Montana State Capitol. Dr. Stan Wilmoth, SHPO State Archaeologist, co-organized the event with Deb Mitchell, Montana Historical Society Education program specialist. Most of the SHPO staff and many Montana Historical Society employees help during the day. Different stations include stone boiling, an atlatl throw, stones and bones, a mock bison drive, and a lithic station.
- **Local Preservation/Certified Local Government (CLG):** New CLG applications for the NPS Fiscal Year 2017-2018 grant cycle were sent to the 16 CLGs in December.

Local Historic Preservation Officer openings include the position in Missoula.

- **Identifying Montana African-American Heritage Places:** All grant funding for the *Identifying Montana African-American Heritage Places* project is expended. The Multiple Property Document (MPD) and two associated National Register (NR) nominations are to be presented to the review board at this meeting. Fifty Historic Property Record Forms have also been prepared for African-American related historic places across Montana.

A significantly revised Montana's African American website has been posted: <https://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo/AfricanAmericans>. The updated website provides new information on heritage places and links. The amount of information presented is very impressive.

- **State Antiquities Database:** Contracted ITSD work on the State Antiquities Database Upgrade concluded in December. Damon Murdo, SHPO cultural records manager, migrated the data from the old database to the new database in the middle of January. The new database, which is map-based, works very well and will be a huge improvement.
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- A copy of the Board/SHPO 2016 state heritage stewardship report (Montana's Shared Heritage) was provided to all 150 legislators at the beginning of January in a packet from SHPO that also included an invite the 2017 biennial Montana Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony, a pack of Montana in the National Register playing cards, and a cover letter.
- **Properties Listed in the National Register Since September 2016:**
 - The *Rising Wolf* (Glacier County)
 - Glacier National Park MPS/Additional Documentation approved
 - Rock Creek Ranger Station in Carbon County (southwest of Red Lodge)
 - Fort Harrison Veterans' Hospital Historic District (west of Helena)
 - McClay Bridge (west of Missoula)
 - North Elevation Historic District (Billings)
- **Potential Upcoming nominations:**
 - Lolo National Forest lookouts and MPD
 - Gearing Ranch (outside Helena)
 - Montana Aeronautics Commission Operations Building (Helena)
 - Stone Hill Springs Prehistoric District (outside Townsend)
 - Fort Assiniboine amendment (Outside Havre)
 - Little Chief (Glacier National Park)

Consideration of National Register nominations-8:55 a.m.

1) Huntley Project Office (Ballantine)

Historian Joan Brownell prepared and presented the nomination. The federally-owned Bureau of Reclamation property, was presented as significant under Criterion A.

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- Floorplan map, page 26, change the "Admin. Office" label to reflect the room's present use and to agree with text.
- Any idea of the original shingle color? [No].
- Were plans located indicating this was a standard design? Could it be listed under Criteria C? [No standard plans were found. While some plans exist, the Huntley Project Office building does not follow them

exactly. An argument to list the building under Criterion C would be much weaker than listing it under Criterion A].

- The term “No Style” was used to describe the architectural style. “Vernacular” would be better. [The term “No Style” is one of the categories proffered in National Register Bulletin 16].
- Are the floors original? [Yes].
- Elaborate on the changes to the basement and staircase with the construction of the addition.
- Please show where the “payment pass-through window” is located on the floorplan.
- Correct the date when Carroll Van West visited the building (2015, not 1915).
- Mr. Hanson of the Bureau of Reclamation explained to the Review Board that the nomination of the Huntley Project Office occurred under a Memorandum of Agreement between the Bureau of Reclamation and the Montana State Historic Preservation Office as off-site mitigation for limited but adverse effects to the BOR irrigation system.

Dr. Urbaniak moved to support the federal nomination to be forwarded to the Keeper of the National Register with the suggested edits. The move was seconded by Ms. Walter. The Review Board unanimously concurred.

2) African-American Heritage Places in Helena, MT Multiple Property Document (MPD), Crump-Howard House and Dorsey Grocery & Residence nominations

Kate Hampton, Community Preservation Coordinator at the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, presented the MPD and two associated nominations (the Crump-Howard House, and the Dorsey Grocery and Residence); the contracted author, Delia Hagen, could not make the board meeting. The two properties were presented as significant under Criterion A. The MPD and two nominations were made possible by grants to the SHPO by the National Park Service and Montana History Foundation.

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- Will other MPDs or nominations be prepared for other towns in Montana? [The MPD before the board at this meeting can be amended with additional contexts in the future].
- Congratulations to the owners of the two properties associated with the MPD.
- In the MPD, reiterate the rarity of extant African-American properties in Montana. Add similar verbiage to the individual nominations in the Integrity section of the form.
- Do other African-American properties still stand in Helena that could be listed in the NR in the future [Yes].

- Is the building associated with the African-American newspaper, the Colored Citizen, listed in the NR [Yes, as part of the Helena Historic District].
- Clarify the enclosing of the back porch on the Crump-Howard House.
- Clarify which windows of the Crump-Howard residence were changed.
- These are excellent documents.

Ms. Bronson moved, and Mr. Sheldon seconded, that the MPD, with discussed edits be forwarded to the Keeper. The Review Board unanimously concurred.

Ms. Walter moved, and Ms. Hronek seconded, that the Dorsey Grocery and Residence NR nomination, with discussed edits be forwarded to the Keeper. The Review Board unanimously concurred.

Mr. Fulbright moved, and Ms. Walter seconded, that the Crump-Howard House NR nomination, with discussed edits be forwarded to the Keeper. The Review Board unanimously concurred.

Break-10:15 a.m.

Resumption of meeting-10:35 a.m.

3) Pelton House (Stillwater County)

Joan Brownell, historian, prepared and presented the nomination. The property was presented as significant under Criterion C.

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- On page 8, change “sills” to “lintels.”
- Could the property be listed under Criterion A too? [Probably not for Mr. Pelton. Criterion C is extremely strong].
- Clarify the dates of “sale” vs the dates of the ranch (page 13).
- Was the mason the architect? [Yes].
- Do architectural plans exist? [None located].
- The plan of the Pelton House bears strong resemblance to Sears house designs. Please add an image of a Sears-designed house.
- Has the interior been altered? [Yes, changes have occurred over the years].
- Page 5, paragraph 2: the sentence should read “...22 inches above ground level...”

Ms. Hronek moved, and Mr. Fulbright seconded, that the nomination with discussed edits be forwarded to the Keeper. The Review Board unanimously concurred.

Welcome by Bruce Whittenberg-11:00 a.m.: Montana Historical Society Director Bruce Whittenberg welcomed the Review Board and thanked them for their time and service.

4) Gamble-Robinson Company Warehouse (Lewistown)

Jessie Nunn, historian and author of the nomination, presented the nomination to the review board. The property, owned by the City of Lewistown and nominated at the request of the Lewistown historic preservation commission, was presented as significant under Criterion A.

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- Architecturally, the building should be described as Early 20th Century Commercial.
- Change “Criterion C” to “Criterion A” on page 10.
- Change “widow” to “window” on page 6.
- Make it more explicit that the building is a stand-alone building, not part of a district.
- When discussing integrity, be consistent with the use of “excellent” or “sufficient”.
- Complete the basement description. This information could potentially be found in the Structural Engineering report.
- The Review Board discussed an objection letter, dated January 6, 2017, from the City of Lewistown, and the notes from a Public Comment Meeting at the Central Montana Historical Association Conference Room on January 12, 2017, received by the SHPO. The chair of the Review Board reminded the board they are only charged to review the nomination in terms of its merits for National Register eligibility based on the NR criteria; any future plans for the building falls outside the purview of the board’s review. The Board is hearing the nomination because it is a publically-owned building; if it were privately-owned and the owner objected to its listing, the nomination could not go forward.
- Will the SHPO update the owner (City of Lewistown) to let them know the outcome of the Review Board meeting? [Yes].
- The building reflects its original purpose and its association with the railroads. It easily reaches the threshold of eligibility under Criterion A at a local level of significance.

Mr. Sheldon moved, and Mr. McLeod seconded, that the nomination with discussed edits be forwarded to the Keeper. The Review Board unanimously concurred.

Public Comment-11:55 a.m.: Dr. Auge called for public comment. None occurred.

New Business-12:00 p.m.: Dr. Auge called for approval of the *September 2016 minutes*. Mr. Fulbright moved, and Ms. Hronek seconded, to approve the minutes. The Review Board unanimously concurred.

May 2017 Review Board Meeting. The Board discussed the dates for the May 2017 review board meeting, deciding upon May 19, either in Townsend or Three Forks.

Amendment of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The Review Board briefly discussed the amendment to the NHPA regarding the submittal of Federal National Register nominations.

Adjourn-12:15 p.m. Dr. Urbaniak moved for adjournment of the meeting. The move was seconded by Ms. Bronson. The Review Board unanimously concurred.