

State Historic Preservation Review Board Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2019

the Auditorium at the Montana Historical Society, Helena, Montana

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

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

Guests: Dr. Ellen Baumler, Mike Korn, Donna Wallace

Call to Order-8:30 a.m.: Dr. Urbaniak (Board Chair) called the meeting to order and read the State Historic Preservation Review Board mission statement.

Welcome/Introductions-8:32 a.m.: Dr. Urbaniak requested that the Board, SHPO personnel, and guests introduce themselves.

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

Local Preservation/Certified Local Government (CLG): Kate McCourt was hired to fill the vacant CLG local historic preservation officer position in Great Falls.

The City of Hamilton expressed interest in establishing a CLG preservation program. Kate Hampton met with the city council in November to discuss the possibility.

Montana's African American Heritage Resources Project, Part 3 proposal: *Documenting and Sharing Montana's Statewide African American Heritage:* SHPO submitted a new grant proposal to the National Park Service 2018 Underrepresented Community grant program on November 1, 2018. The proposal for \$27,052.50 seeks to continue the National Register Multiple Properties documentation and nomination work as well as further expand the Society's Montana African American Heritage Resources website successfully completed in 2017 and recognized by the American Association of State and Local Government (AASLH) with a 2018 Award of Merit.

Also, on September 18, Humanities Montana approved SHPO/MHS for \$6,000 matching funding for the African-American project for 2018-2021.

SHPO Funding: Federal Fiscal Year 2018 End-of-Year Report: SHPO prepared and submitted its annual end-of-federal-fiscal year report to the National Park Service, describing allowable preservation activities and expenditures of federal funds (Historic Preservation Fund) over the past federal fiscal year (Oct 2017-Sept 2018). A narrative of SHPO activities during FY2018 is posted:

<https://mhs.mt.gov/Portals/11/shpo/docs/SHPO2018AROA.pdf>

SHPO carried-forward \$150,762.70 (18.43%) in uncommitted FY2018 HPF funding to support the program until new federal funding is released at some point for FY2019. Congress has not passed a new budget for FY2019 and additional funding allocations to states are not yet available.

SHPO Collaborations: On November 19, SHPO staff Dr. Mark Baumler, Kate Hampton, Pete Brown and John Boughton, met with the Administrator and 20 staff of the Department of Commerce Community Development Division (CDD) to overview respective community programs and discuss areas of potential greater SHPO-Commerce collaboration.

New Faces: Craig Mrock replaces Brad Hansen as SHPO Grants Manager. Mr. Hanson left to take a position with the Montana Land Reliance. Mr. Mrock (present) introduced himself and described his background for the Board.

Mr. Mrock holds a BA in History from Eastern Michigan University (2005). Prior work experience includes accounting and claims services for the State of Montana at the Departments of Commerce, Labor & Industry, and Public Health and Human Services. Most recently he worked several years for Montana State University-Bozeman as a Budget Analyst before returning to Helena and working for Carroll College.

Properties Listed in the National Register Since September 2018

Lookout Cave (Phillips County)
Shaffer's Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church (Butte)

Potential Upcoming Nominations

Pioneer Park (Billings)
Strawberry Butte Airway Beacon
Civilian Conservation Corps on the Ashland and Beartooth Districts,
Custer Gallatin National Forest, Montana MPD and Ten Mile Road
(Powder River County)

The Frederick & Josephine Bottler Residence (Emigrant)
Henneberry Homestead (BLM, near Dillon)

Consideration of National Register nominations-8:45 a.m.

1) *Sentinels of the Airways: Montana's Airway Beacons, 1934-1969, Multiple Property Document (MPD)*

Homestake Airway Beacon (Jefferson/Silver Bow counties)

Silver Bow Airway Beacon (Silver Bow County)

Kate Hampton, Community Preservation Coordinator at the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, and co-author of the MPD presented the MPD and nominations. The properties were presented as significant under criteria A and C within the contexts of the MPD.

The Homestake Pass Airway beacon property is owned by the Montana Department of Transportation, Aeronautics Division, but sits on land managed by the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. The Silver Bow Airway Beacon property is privately-owned.

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- Why was the arbitrary date of 1969 (50 years old) chosen for the end of the period of significance? [an alternative date could be 1979 when the FAA decommissioned the eight Montana beacons remaining under their control and transferred them to the Montana Aeronautics Commission]
 - Is demolition planned for any of the beacons? [all the beacons sit on land not owned by MDT complicating the future of many of the beacons. Many sit on Federal and State land and a few sit on private land. At least one private land owner has stated that if the beacon on his property was not operated by MDT, he wants it removed].
 - Could the beacons be listed in the National Register as a noncontiguous district? [while the beacons do operate as a system, Montana's National Register nomination reviewer in Washington D.C. does not recommend this approach and stated he will not accept a nomination for the beacons presented as a noncontiguous district because the distance between the beacons is too great].
 - Why does the list of beacons presented in the multiple property document as having been previously determined eligible not include either the Homestake Airway Beacon nor the Silver Bow Airway Beacon? [this likely reflects a lack of prior consultation between SHPO and MDT regarding these two beacons].
- Dr. Urbaniak then asked for any public comment on the MPD and nominations. Mike Korn, a pilot from Helena, discussed the importance of the beacons to him and other pilots who fly small aircraft.

Mr. Keller moved and Ms. Hronek seconded, that the National Register multiple property document, with discussed edits, be forwarded to the Keeper. The Review Board unanimously concurred.

Mr. Sheldon then moved and Dr. Auge seconded, that the Homestake Airway Beacon National Register nomination, with discussed edits, be forwarded to the Keeper. The Review Board unanimously concurred.

Ms. Hronek next moved and Ms. Bronson seconded, that the Silver Bow Airway Beacon National Register nomination, with discussed edits, be forwarded to the Keeper. The Review Board unanimously concurred.

2) Lyman-Neel Residence (Helena)

Dr. Ellen Baumler, historian, prepared and presented the nomination. The property was presented as significant under Criterion A and gains additional significance at a local level of significance as a residential and commercial property associated with the history

of African American people in Helena, Montana (reference: African American Heritage Resources in Helena, MT Multiple Property Document).

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- Does this stand as the last remaining African American boarding house in Helena? [yes]
- Some confusion in the nomination exists regarding Julia Maxwell and the dates related to her in the earlier multiple property document. Please clarify and reconcile, if possible.
- Could the nomination be named something else reflecting other historically significant ownerships? [yes, but the standard is to refer to a National Register property by its earliest historic associations].

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

Break-9:45 a.m.

Resumption of meeting-10:05 a.m.

3) Cow Creek Skirmish Historic District

John Boughton, SHPO National Register Coordinator, presented the nomination. The property was presented as significant under criteria A and D.

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- Is it a problem that the National Register photographs are six years old? [the National Register would likely desire that more-recent photos be included as part of the nomination. However, the difficulty of reaching the property to take updated makes this a problem. Fortunately, the isolation and ruralness of the property makes it highly unlikely that any changes have occurred. A review of the property using recent Google images indicates no significant change has occurred to the property since the photographs were taken. It is anticipated that the Keeper of the National Register will understand this exception].

Dr. Auge moved, and Ms. Walter seconded, to support the part-Federal/part-private nomination and that the nomination with discussed edits be forwarded to the Keeper by the Bureau of Land Management. The Review Board unanimously concurred.

Public Comment-10:25 a.m.: Dr. Urbaniak called for public comment. None was given.

New Business-10:26 a.m.: Dr. Urbaniak called for approval of the September 2018 Board minutes. Dr. Auge moved and Ms. Bronson seconded to approve the minutes. The Board unanimously concurred.

State-Owned Heritage Properties: Mr. McLeod discussed sending a letter on behalf of the Board to Senator Diane Sands regarding the Fourth Biennial Report on the Status, Condition, and Stewardship on Montana's State-owned Heritage Properties (2018) and

the recommendation that funding to conduct an update to the inventory of state-owned properties be appropriated.

May 2019 Review Board Meeting. The Board voted to hold the next Board meeting in Dillon on May 23 and 24, 2019.

Adjourn-11:05 a.m. Ms. Hronek moved and Dr. Auge seconded for adjournment of the meeting. The Review Board unanimously concurred.