

State Historic Preservation Review Board Meeting
May 30, 2015, the Yellowstone Pioneer Lodge,
Livingston, Montana
Minutes

May 30, 2015

Board Members Present: Tim Urbaniak, Carol Bronson, Milo McLeod, Lesley Gilmore (served as chair in the absence of Zane Fulbright), Riley Auge, Jon Axline, Miki Wilde

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

Guests: Ellen Baumler, Lisa Axline, Leslie Schwab, Bill Bronson, Sue Dailey, Cindy Urbaniak, Halcyon LaPoint, Mike Bergstrom, Joan Brownell

Call to Order-8:40 a.m.: Ms. Gilmore called the meeting to order and read the board mission statement. Ms. Gilmore requested the board, SHPO personnel, and guests to introduce themselves.

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

- **Local Preservation/Certified Local Government (CLG) program:** Annual contracts for the 16 CLG participants were developed for 2015-2016, which includes the return of Anaconda/Deer Lodge County, non-active the past few years.
- **MT Capitol Campus Inventory and NR Survey:** The SHPO and Department of Administration sponsored survey and inventory of the State Capitol complex progresses. Consultant Jessie Nunn continues to conduct field work and prepare inventory forms working toward the preparation of a NR nomination which will be presented at the September review board meeting.
- ***Identifying Montana African American Heritage Places:*** Kate Hampton directs this project supported by a special grant from the National Park Service *Under-represented Communities* initiative. The project is well underway identifying and locating historic places associated with African Americans in Helena and other CLG communities.

Steffany Meredyk, SHPO Cultural Records Assistant, has developed an integrated electronic Sanborn map layer for Helena to help in the identification and mapping effort, and intern Anthony Woods has helped tremendously in researching the location and history of properties.

- **Federal FY2014:** SHPO received confirmation on March 25 of the National Park Service approval of its federal FY2014 end-of-year report and application for federal FY2015, awarding MT an annual allocation from the national Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) of \$785,524.00.

- **State Antiquities Database:** SHPO received a final consultant's report and assessment of the State Antiquities Database system from Axiom IT Solutions in Missoula. The report recommends that SHPO rewrite its main web mapping application, integrating the data entry components, while editing and continuing to use the existing database, document manager, GIS and reporting tools. Axiom estimates that such a project will entail approximately 140 hours of programming work with an associated cost of \$150,000 to \$200,000.

Properties listed since January 2015 Review Board Meeting:

- ❖ Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site Additional Documentation
- ❖ Doncaster Round Barn, north of Twin Bridges
- ❖ Graf House, Billings
- ❖ Hayward Lodge, Ravalli County

Potential Upcoming nominations:

- ❖ Mullan Road Multiple Property Document plus one nomination
- ❖ Black Bear Coulee archaeological site
- ❖ Montana State Capital Campus Historic District
- ❖ First National Bank of Ekalaka (first nomination for Carter County)

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

1) Camp Senia Historic District Boundary Increase (Carbon County)

Jon Axline and Mark Hufstetler wrote the nomination. Mike Bergstrom of the Custer Gallatin National Forest presented the nomination to the review board. The property was presented as significant under criteria A and C.

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- A discussion of Senia Croonquist (Pollari) and her influence in Billings occurred.
- Why weren't the cabins in the boundary increase area included in the original nomination? Ms. LaPoint of the Custer Gallatin National Forest responded that the original nomination focusing on the Dude Ranch period and buildings of the property. Moreover a vegetation barrier existed between the main building cluster and those in the boundary increase area providing a natural break between the two areas. After the Cascade Fire occurred in 2007, the proximity (and similarity) of the original cabins and those located in the boundary increase area became very obvious.
- Why isn't Feature 2, a dog house/small playhouse, at the Cotton Cabin Site considered contributing? Mr. Axline iterated that the date of its construction is unknown.
- Which dates should be used for Period of Significance? Nineteen seventeen to 1965 should be used.

- The title of the nomination should add the word "addendum" and be changed to "Camp Senia Historic District Boundary Increase and Addendum" to better address the updated context and dates.

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

2) Gardiner Jail (Gardiner)

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

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- Is the building accessible? Yes, with permission (locked).
- Has the ownership been transferred to the Gardiner chamber of commerce? No, the county owns the building.
- Will photos and description of some of the graffiti be included in the nomination? Yes, to be added.
- The board was pleased to see the detailed information on the Pauly Jail Company included in the nomination.

Mr. Axline 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. Dr. Urbaniak (who participated in the recording and photography of the graffiti) abstained from voting.

3) Convict Grade (Park County)

Ms. Gilmore welcomed Jon Axline (board member), who wrote and presented the nomination on behalf of the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT). The nomination was presented as significant under criteria A and C.

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- Why is the Period of Significance listed as 1913-1926? Mr. Axline answered because 1926 was the date the road ceased being the primary artery as the new highway was constructed on the other side of the river.
- The text provides the dates of both 1922 and 1925 as the year the Montana State Highway Commission quit using convict labor. Please correct.
- Please add information regarding the activities associated with the convict camps, generally or specifically with regards to this highway project. Also, if available, add information about the location of the camp(s) during the construction of Convict Grade.
- The Convict grade has been recognized as one of 12 roads in the Montana Historic Highway Program under the 2007 Programmatic Agreement for

historic preservation among the MDT, SHPO, and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

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

Break-10:05 a.m.

Resumption of Nominations-10:30 a.m.

4) McMullen Hall (Billings)

Ms. Gilmore introduced Dr. Urbaniak (board member), author and presenter of the nomination. The nomination was presented on behalf of the Montana State University as significant under criteria A and C.

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- McMullen Hall represents a later interpretation, a very streamlined version of the Collegiate Gothic Revival style. Please add a couple sentences to reinforce this point.
- Could the nomination be forwarded under Criterion B too? Dr. Urbaniak replied that while Dr. McMullen was undoubtedly important to the fledgling Eastern Montana Normal School (later Montana State University-Billings), the case isn't strong enough to forward under Criterion B.
- Were the windows replaced in the same style as the originals? Yes.
- Although some changes have occurred, the building retains sufficient integrity for listing.
- Is this nomination an outcome of the 2011 Act (Senate Bill 3) amending the State Antiquities Act to require state agency reporting on the stewardship of state-owned heritage properties? Yes.

Mr. Axline 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. Dr. Urbaniak abstained from voting.

5) Swan River Bridge (Bigfork)

Ms. Gilmore introduced Jon Axline (board member), author and presenter of the nomination. The nomination was presented as significant under criteria A and C.

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- Please clarify the historic name of the property.
- Sue Dailey (???) of Bigfork rose and spoke for a few minutes about the importance of the bridge to the community and the dismay that the county is proposing to demolish it.
- SHPO staff reminded the Board that despite the Bigfork community's attachment to the bridge, the review board should focus its deliberations

on the bridge's historic significance in terms of the National Register criteria.

- The bridge has been recognized by SHPO and Montana Department of Transportation as one of 34 bridges in the Montana Historic Bridge Rehabilitation Program under the 2007 Montana Department of Transportation's Historic Roads and Bridges Programmatic Agreement.

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

Public Comment and New Business-11:20 a.m. Ms. Gilmore called for public comment; none occurred.

New Business:

Presentation of the National Register Sign Program-11:25 a.m. Dr. Ellen Baumler discussed with the review board the National Register Sign Program and how it operates.

Approval of January 2015 Meeting Minutes: Dr. Urbaniak motioned to approve the January minutes; Mr. Axline seconded the motion. The Review Board unanimously concurred.

September 2015 Meeting: The review board decided to hold the September review board meeting in Helena on September 18-19.

NHPA turns 50: Dr. Baumler discussed that 2016 marks the 50-year anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, which originated the National Register of Historic Places, State Historic Preservation Offices, and the role of state preservation review boards. To acknowledge the significance of the Act, several SHPO projects are underway including a 2016 poster, a proposed special symposium or tour at the next Montana Preservation Roadshow in Red Lodge (June 2016; organized by the Montana Preservation Alliance), and the production of a special deck of complimentary "heritage" playing cards which will feature one National Register-listed property from each of the 56 Montana counties (similar to heritage playing cards recently produced by Nevada (<http://dncr.nv.gov/documents/nv-heritage-playing-cards/>)). Dr. Baumler suggested the review board consider what they might want to do as a Board to recognize the anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, and promised he would bring the topic up for more consideration to current board president Zane Fulbright when Zane returns from a work detail in Washington, D.C. .

Friends of the Upper Rock Creek: Milo McLeod discussed the group, Friends of the Upper Rock Creek, who gather once a year to conduct volunteer maintenance on Forest Service-owned and National Register-listed and eligible historic properties along Rock Creek, east of Missoula. Mr. McLeod said the group is looking for new "blood" in the form of participants to assist the established group, possibly preservation interns.

Adjourn-12:05 p.m.

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