

State Historic Preservation Review Board Meeting Minutes
May 23 and 24, 2019
the Train Depot at the Beaverhead County Museum, Dillon, Montana

May 23, 2019

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

Guests: Mr. and Mrs. Tom Rice, Shannon Gilbert, Joan Brownell, Jon Axline, Bill Bronson

Call to Order-1:30 p.m.: Dr. Urbaniak (Board Chair) called the meeting to order and read the State Historic Preservation Review Board mission statement.

Welcome/Introductions-1:43 p.m.: Dr. Urbaniak requested that the Board, SHPO personnel, and guests introduce themselves.

SHPO Preservation News-1:45 p.m.: John Boughton briefed the Board about several subjects including:

Local Preservation/Certified Local Government (CLG): A permanent Historic Preservation Officer for the Miles City CLG has not yet been appointed. Alley Caps is presently serving as the acting CLG.

SB338—the Montana Museums Act of 2020

The legislature passed funding for the construction of a new Montana Historical Society (MHS) building, renovation of the present historical society building, and to provide support to rural museums for preservation projects.

Ice Age Exhibit

Dr. Stan Wilmoth, the SHPO State Archaeologist, worked extensively with the MHS Museum Program in the planning and development of the new Ice Age Exhibit being installed at the entrance to the Montana Homeland exhibit area. The 2019 Montana Preservation Poster highlights the new exhibit.

2019 Vernacular Architecture Forum (VAF) Paul Buchanan Award: The MHS *Montana African American Heritage Resources Project*, anchored by Kate Hampton, received the VAF Paul Buchanan Award, recognizing contributions to the study and preservation of vernacular architecture and cultural landscapes. The VAF is the premier national organization for the understanding and appreciation of the everyday, every-person built environment. Ms. Hampton attended the conference, which occurred the time of this review board meeting, to accept the national award on behalf of the Montana Historical Society and Montana State Historic Preservation Office.

NPS Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program (HRSP) grant proposal: On March 29, SHPO submitted a grant request to the National Park Service under a new federal program to support the rehabilitation of historic properties in rural

areas through brick-and-mortar subgrants. SHPO's requested \$391,067, to be administered over three years (2019-2021). Under the proposal, \$350,000 is programmed for subgrants with the remainder budgeted to travel and indirect costs. Pete Brown assumed the lead in preparing the grant with assistance from Ms. Hampton and Mr. Craig Mrock.

Properties Listed in the National Register Since January 2019

Lyman-Neal Residence, Helena

Potential Upcoming Nominations

Dillon City Hall Municipal Building
James McCrossin Cabin, Ravalli County
Libby Heritage Center
Whitetail Beacon
Andrus Hotel, Dillon
Dean School, Dean
Silver City Cemetery
Bottler Residence, Park County

Consideration of National Register nominations-1:45 p.m.

1) William F. Henneberry Homestead

Shannon Gilbert, Bureau of Land Management Archaeologist in the Dillon Field Office, and co-author, presented the nomination. The property was presented as significant under criteria A and C. The William F. Henneberry Homestead sits on Bureau of Land Management land.

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- Does the property have electricity? [Yes, the 1905 house has electricity powered by solar panels. However, the refrigerator in the building often runs down the power. Propane powers the stove.]
- Why not list the property under Criterion D? [Although the property might be eligible under Criterion D, little testing has occurred to confirm this.]
- During the 2009 work, was anything documented or saved? [Original samples and items from the early use of the buildings were saved, but not later items dating to the 1950s and 1960s.]
- Was the 1883 log cabin placed on a new foundation at the same time as the 1905 house? [No. The BLM would like to move the cabin away from the river where flooding occurs before placing it on a new foundation, an endeavor that will require consultation with the SHPO.]
- Does the BLM have other cabin rentals? [Yes, the Axolotl Cabin, which isn't historic.]

- Did Henneberry have an agreement with the railroad to use ties for construction of some of the buildings? [Not sure if he received approval to use railroad ties.]
- What types of artifacts were recovered during the restoration process? [A Virgin Mary figurine, numerous bottles representing a variety of different uses, food containers, and hydrogen peroxide bottles.]
- Dr. Urbaniak then asked for any public comment on the property. Beaverhead County Commissioner Tom Rice discussed how the property was once owned by his wife's family. Mr. Rice and the County Commissioners support the nomination.

Mr. Sheldon moved and Ms. Casne seconded, support of the Federal nomination, and that the nomination with discussed edits, be forwarded to the Keeper. The Review Board unanimously concurred.

2) Canyon Resort Airway Beacon

Jon Axline, Montana Department of Transportation historian, prepared and presented the nomination. The property was presented as significant under Criterion A and Criterion C within the contexts of the *Sentinels of the Airways: Montana's Airway Beacon System, 1934-1979* MPD. The property sits on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management but is currently owned by the Montana Department of Transportation; however, the property is slated to be transferred to private ownership in the near future.

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- Is the use of "No Style" correct for the architectural classification? [Yes, the term has been used for the three prior beacon nominations submitted to the Keeper.]
- When the beacon transfers to the new owners, does the deed state the beacon will be cared for? [No, however, MDT does have paperwork indicating the new owners will maintain it.]
- Do the new owners plan to move the beacon when they gain ownership? [The new owners have indicated they will not move the beacon.]
- Will the new owners keep power on to the beacon? [Yes, possibly using solar panels.]
- Include on page 1, and add a short sentence or two, other common names locals use when referring to the beacon.
- Sentence 2, page 4, change "on" to "above" (Pipe Organ Rock).

Beaverhead County Commissioner Tom Rice indicated the county commissioners support the nomination. Ms. Bronson moved and Mr. McLeod seconded, that the nomination with discussed edits be forwarded to the Keeper. The Review Board unanimously concurred.

3) Valley Masonic Lodge No. 21

Jon Axline, historian, prepared and presented the nomination. The property was presented as significant under Criterion A and Criterion C.

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- Were any historic photographs located that could be added to the nomination? [None found.]
- Why was the lodge constructed so soon after the end of World War II? [The lodge postponed construction until after the War and donated the money for construction saved to that point to financially aid the War effort. After the end of the War, the lodge had enough money left to begin construction.]
- Correct the difference in the number of active lodges on page 11.
- Any standard architectural plans for Masonic lodges? [No, not that is known.]
- Add more specifics about Townsend history and activities and the lodge's importance to the community.
- Why was the charter revoked? [Don't know.]

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

Break-2:55 p.m.

Resumption of meeting-3:15 p.m.

4) Stillwater County Courthouse

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

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- Recheck the National Register boundary on the map to make sure the jail and annex are included.
- Shift integrity from "excellent" to "good".
- Confirm if the building material is "stone" or "artificial stone".
- Straighten out photos.
- Provide a short comparison to other courthouses in the state—any others display the same architectural style?

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

New Business/Public Comment-3:45 p.m.: Dr. Urbaniak called for public comment. None was given.

Dr. Urbaniak called for approval of the January 2019 Board minutes. Mr. Shelden moved and Ms. Bronson seconded to approve the minutes. The Board unanimously concurred.

National Register Proposed Rule Changes: The Board discussed proposed rule changes to the National Register process. The National Register requested comments on these changes in the Spring. The SHPO prepared and sent comments on April 24. The Board acknowledged their support for the letter.

Montana Heritage Center: Dr. Baumler provided further information regarding the passage of SB338 and how it will affect the Historical Society and provide financial support to rural museums for preservation projects. Dr. Baumler also discussed tentative scheduling of construction and project goals.

May 2019 Review Board Meeting: The Board voted to hold the next Board meeting in Columbus on September 19 and 20, 2019.

Retirement of Dr. Mark Baumler: Mark Baumler, the State Historic Preservation Officer, announced to the Board his impending retirement on July 19. The Board offered their congratulations and support for the next chapter in Dr. Baumler's life, while acknowledging the hole that will be left with his departure.

Adjourn-4:35 p.m. Ms. Hronek moved, and Dr. Auge seconded, for adjournment of the meeting. The Review Board unanimously concurred.

May 24, 2019

State Historic Preservation Review Board tour of the Dillon City Hall Building – 8:30 a.m.