

**State Historic Preservation Review Board Meeting  
September 19 and 20, 2012, Montana Historical Society, Helena, Montana**

**Minutes**

**September 19, 2012**

**Board Members Present:** Tim Urbaniak, Jon Axline, Lesley Gilmore, Miki Wilde, Deb Hronek, Don Matlock, Tim Light, Rosalyn LaPier, Zane Fulbright

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

**Guests:** Phil Faccenda, Darrell Swanson, Claudette Morton, Don Olsen, Kim Olsen, Ellen Baumler, Ralph Thisted, Betty Thisted.

**Call to Order-1:30 p.m.:** Chairman Tim Light called the meeting to order. Mr. Light read the board mission statement, and asked for the board, SHPO personnel, and guests to introduce themselves.

**Safety Review-1: 35 p.m.:** Don Matlock

**SHPO Preservation News 1:37 p.m.:** John Boughton briefed the Review Board about several subjects including:

**Preserve America IV grant (Preservation Planning) update:** Kristen Moyle and Kate Hampton provided ongoing monitoring of \$150,500 in subgrants to six Montana Preserve America communities, Montana Mainstreet, and the Museums Association of Montana (MAM). All of the PAIV subgrants closed and a final SHPO report was submitted to the National Park Service on August 31.

**CLG Update**— Columbus and Stillwater County completed paperwork and are a new CLG. Discussions continue whether to expand the Virginia City CLG to include Madison County. New Historic Preservation Officer appointments include Connie Muggli in Miles City and Debbie Brown in Carbon County. The Virginia City CLG position is currently vacant.

**Inventory of the MSU Campus:** a cost sharing agreement between MSU and SHPO came to fruition. The agreement calls for an inventory of the educational resources on campus and the preparation of a National Register nomination form for a historic district. This project will result in increased consultation between MSU and the SHPO.

**SB3:** the SB3 report to the legislature was completed in August. Dr. Mark Baumler, Tim Light and Don Matlock presented the final report to the Education and Local Government Interim Legislative Committee on September 13.

**Traveling Montana Modernism Display:** SHPO Historical Architecture Specialist Pete Brown is investigating the cost of design and construction of a traveling exhibit based on the temporary Montana Modernism exhibit, which was on display at MHS earlier this year.

**Compliance Officer:** Kathryn Ore (BA from the University of Montana; MA from the University of Oregon) was hired and replaced Josef Warhank as the SHPO Review and Compliance Officer.

**Vacancy and Recent Hiring of the SHPO Cultural Records Assistant position:** Shannon Vihlene left the position and assumed the position of the Cultural Records Manager with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office. The position has been filled by Andrew Craft, currently residing in Lolo (BA from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; completing MA from Saint Cloud State University in Minnesota).

**Montana Preservation Awards Ceremony:** Slated for January 18, 2013 at 1:30 after the review board meeting.

**Properties listed since January 2012 Review Board Meeting:**

Unemployment Compensation Building (aka Walt Sullivan Building) (Helena)  
University Heights Historic District (Ravalli County)  
Lockridge Medical Clinic (Whitefish)  
Coram Hotel (Libby)

**Potential Upcoming nominations:**

John Ervin Homestead (Fergus County)  
Stockmans Bank (Martinsdale)  
Belfry Grocery (Belfry)  
Timber Bridges MPD

**Consideration of Nominations-2:01 p.m.**

**1) The Huseby House (Helena)**

Mr. Light introduced the nomination's author and property owner, Claudette Morton, who presented the nomination. The property was presented as significant under criteria A and C.

The following issues discussed by the Review Board are to be addressed prior to submittal to the Keeper of the National Register:

*Questions and Comments from the Review Board:*

- Clarify more than one earthquake occurred in 1935.
- Photos are not very clear. Please retake.
- Make clear the parapet wall is reduced in height.
- The addition of the garage was discussed regarding its impact on the integrity of the house. The board noted the addition was attached but could be easily removed, the massing is smaller than the house, and it is set back from the house. The board decided to keep significance under Criterion C.
- Add "1935" to the "Significant Dates" in Section 8.

- Discussion of the inclusion of the pre-contact history discussion—the board felt it was innocuous and to keep it. Information regarding the 1855 treaties could be included.
- Add north arrows to figures.
- Change the "Period of Significance" to 1947 to correspond with the death of Mr. Huseby.

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

## **2) C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery (Kalispell)**

Mr. Light introduced Dr. Ellen Baumler of the Montana Historical Society, who presented the nomination. The property was presented as significant under criteria A and C, under Criterion Consideration D.

The following issues discussed by the Review Board are to be addressed prior to submittal to the Keeper of the National Register:

### *Questions and Comments from the Review Board:*

- The property can be forwarded under local and state significance.
- Change "Public" to "Private" under Section 5.
- Correct the count for the "Number of Resources within Property" under Section 5.
- Check on the size of the water tank—36 gallons appears incorrect.
- Approximate the number of "Fairy Steps".
- Rework paragraphs 2 and 4 on page 12; very similar.
- Rephrase page 6 paragraph 1 to a "major defeat".

Mr. Fulbright motioned for the nomination, with the discussed edits, be forwarded to the Keeper. Ms. Gilmore seconded the motion. The Review Board unanimously concurred. Motion passed.

## **3) Great Falls High School (Great Falls)**

Mr. Light introduced the nomination's authors, Phil Faccenda and Darrell Swanson, Great Falls architects, who presented the nomination. The property was presented as significant under criteria A and C.

The following issues discussed by the Review Board are to be addressed prior to submittal to the Keeper of the National Register:

### *Questions and Comments from the Review Board:*

- Discuss the landscape of the property.

- The Industrial Arts addition is a separate building and needs to be identified as a non-contributing resource.
- Make resource count corrections to "Number of Resources within Property" in Section 5.
- Add "Integrity" statement at the end of Section 7.
- Change nomination to a district nomination in Sections 5 and 7.
- Provide more history and present chronologically. Begin with Lewis and Clark with Blackfoot discussion.
- Mention "Bird" as a footnote.
- Rework paragraph 1 of page 7.
- Theodore Binnema (Common and Contested Ground) and Hugh Dempsey are good references.

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

Ms. La Pier requested to review the history when it was rewritten.

**Break-3:50 p.m.**

**Reconvene-4:00**

#### **(4) Babcock Theater (Billings)**

Mr. Light introduced the nomination's author, Kim Olsen, who presented the nomination along with Don Olsen. The property was presented as significant under criteria A and C.

The following issues discussed by the Review Board are to be addressed prior to submittal to the Keeper of the National Register:

*Questions and Comments from the Review Board:*

- Change the style of the building from "Chicago Style" to "Two-Block Commercial" as the case isn't quite strong enough for the former.
- Add north arrow to floorplans, diagrams and maps.
- Include major renovation work to "Significant Dates" in Section 8 (e.g., 1927 and 1955).
- Include additional architects not mentioned in "Architect/Builder" in Section 8.
- The discussion of the railroads on page 10, paragraph 2 needs some editing.
- The "Summary Paragraph of Significance" and the narrative description are a bit different—reconcile.

- On page 27, change "early 20<sup>th</sup> century" to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century (end of paragraph 7).

Ms. Gilmore motioned for the nomination, with the discussed edits, be forwarded to the Keeper. Mr. Matlock seconded the motion. The Review Board unanimously concurred. Motion passed.

#### **(5) Guy Ressler Homestead House (Huson vicinity)**

Mr. Light introduced Janene Caywood of CRCS who authored and presented the nomination. The property was presented as significant under Criterion A.

The following issues discussed by the Review Board are to be addressed prior to submittal to the Keeper of the National Register:

#### *Questions and Comments from the Review Board:*

- Discussion of whether the windows were enlarged (they weren't).
- Does the metal roof present integrity issues (no).
- Discussion ensued regarding listing the property under Criterion C in addition to Criterion A. It is a fairly non-distinctive property in terms of architecture and when combined with some of the physical changes its greatest significance is under Criterion A.
- Add north arrow to site maps.
- Move footnote discussing Native Americans into text.

Ms. Wilde motioned for the nomination, with the discussed edits, to be forwarded to the Keeper. Mr. Fulbright seconded the motion. The Review Board unanimously concurred. Motion passed.

#### **Public Comment-5:10 p.m.**

Mr. Light called for public comment. There was none.

#### **Recess until September 20-5:15 p.m.**

Mr. Matlock motioned to recess. Ms. Wilde seconded the motion. The Review Board unanimously concurred. Motion passed.

#### **September 20, 2012**

**Board Members Present:** Tim Urbaniak, Jon Axline, Lesley Gilmore, Miki Wilde, Deb Hronek, Don Matlock, Tim Light, Rosalyn LaPier, Zane Fulbright

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

**Guests:** Sharon Lincoln, Shirley Groff

**Call to Order/Resumption-9:00 a.m.:** Chairman Tim Light called the meeting to order.

**Safety Review-9:01 a.m.** Don Matlock

**New Business-9:05 a.m.**

- Mr. Axline motioned to approve the minutes from the May 18 and 19 Review Board meeting in Kalispell. Ms. Wilde seconded the motion. The Review Board unanimously concurred. Motion passed.
- Discussion occurred regarding when and how much Native American history and context to include in nominations. Some consensus to include the discussion when early Montana settlement history and/or homesteading is presented; however, this is not an absolute and decisions to include the discussion will often need to occur on a case by case basis. There was general agreement that unwarranted inclusion should be avoided.
- Discussion of the Review Board's role regarding oil and gas development in Montana. Should the board be involved and if so, how? Does the board have a role with Section 106? It was determined that the board's role generally lies outside of Section 106.

**Election of New Chairperson-10:00 a.m.** Ms. Gilmore was elected as the new chairperson.

**Discussion of Montana Historic Preservation Plan 2013-2017-10:10 a.m.**

Dr. Baumler discussed preparation of the 2013-2017 five-year Montana State Preservation Plan that requires approval by the National Park Service. Much of the discussion focused on information compiled from a 2012 State Plan Survey Analysis historic preservation stakeholder questionnaire intended to assist with identifying current preservation issues. Based on the responses of the questionnaire, Dr. Baumler proposed that the current plan was still valid and working and needed updating rather than replacement. The board discussed ongoing challenges of historic preservation, threatened resources types, preservation tools, and goals/objectives of historic preservation over the next five years.

Prominent challenges defined include:

- A lack of financial incentives
- Neglect/abandonment
- Growth/sprawl
- Lack of understanding

Prominent threatened resource types include:

- Downtowns
- Cultural historic landscapes
- Rural properties

(Should note that some resources not considered threatened may be due to lack of awareness).

Effective preservation tools include:

- Outreach/education

Brick and mortar subgrants  
Tax incentives  
Local preservation ordinances  
(Suggested using technologies such as *Twitter* and *You Tube* to efficiently pass information).

Continuing/new goals/objectives of historic preservation include:

Educate  
Celebrate  
Locate/evaluate  
Advocate  
Collaborate  
Integrate (i.e., make inroads into worlds of Architects, Realtors, Construction, Government, and others who may not be preservationists but have impact on preservation)

**Discussion of future Review Board meeting locations-12:15 p.m.**

The next Review Board meeting will occur on January 18, 2013 in Helena. The board meeting will occur in the morning while the afternoon will be dedicated to the 2013 Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony.

A tentative date and location of May 17/18 in Bozeman were proposed for the spring Review Board meeting.

**Adjourn-12:30 p.m.**

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