

State Historic Preservation Review Board Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2020

The Conference Room at the Montana State Historic Preservation Office

(also via Zoom)

Helena, Montana

September 15, 2020

Review Board (Board) Members Present (all via Zoom): Dr. Riley Auge, Milo McLeod, Carol Bronson, Marcella Walter (Chair), Patti Casne, Jeff Shelden, KellyAnne Terry, Nick Kujawa, Marv Keller

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Staff (in conference room): Peter Brown, John Boughton, Kate Hampton, Eric Newcombe

Guests (all via Zoom): Hugh and Janet Enloe, Bob Majerus, Lora Mattox, Dennis Deppmeier, Nate Allie, Kate McCourt, Jane Weber, Delia Hagen

Call to Order-8:02 a.m.: Marcella Walter (Board Chair) called the meeting to order and read the State Historic Preservation Review Board mission statement.

Welcome/Introductions-8:04 a.m.: Ms. Walter requested that the Review Board, SHPO personnel, and guests introduce themselves.

SHPO Preservation News-8:10 a.m.: John Boughton briefed the Board about several subjects including:

Local Preservation/Certified Local Government (CLG): As mentioned at the previous review board meeting, an increase in money was allotted to the Billings CLG to prepare the McKinley School NR nomination. Former Review Board member Leslie Gilmore wrote Section 7 of the nomination. The SHPO office received the draft and are presently working on it for a January Review Board meeting presentation.

Grants: Documenting and Sharing Montana's African American Heritage project: In June, SHPO and Kate Hampton received local and national recognition for the ongoing Montana African American Heritage Resources Project. The National Conference of Historic Preservation Officers highlighted the project and featured it on its webpage as an example of what the preservation community is doing to call attention to race in today's elevated race-conscience climate.

The Montana Historical Society (MHS) also touted this ongoing project in its appeal letter and in response to requests for information on what MHS is doing to explore and promote diverse historic topics and perspectives.

Grants: Revitalizing Montana's Rural Heritage Project: Eight projects were previously selected to receive grants from the "Revitalizing Montana's Rural Heritage Project." Following the selection of the projects, NEPA and MEPA

documentation occurred and contracts drafted for the eight projects over the course of June.

Preservation Poster: The Montana preservation poster, *Carnegie Libraries*, was completed in June with copies and an accompanying insert printed and mailed to Montana libraries, local museums, agencies, consultants, and preservation colleagues. The poster provided a nice tie to Kate Hamptons 2019 book, *The Best Gift: Montana's Carnegie Libraries*.

Heritage Property State Stewardship Reporting: A four-person Review Board subcommittee assembled by Review Board Chair Marcella Walter drafted response letters to agencies who submitted their biennial reports for properties under their stewardship. In addition, a summary report was presented to the Legislative Education Committee on September 14 by Ms. Walter and State Historic Preservation Officer Pete Brown via Zoom. One highlight of the report clearly shows that consultation between state agencies and SHPO is generally lacking at those agencies where no dedicated cultural resources staff exists.

SHPO's cultural records assistant Jolene Keen produced a story map that summarized findings from the 2018-2019 Heritage Property Stewardship reports. The map is online and presented during the Review Board/SHPO presentation to the Legislative Education Committee.

Montana State Historic Preservation Office Joins the International Climate Heritage Network: SHPO officially joined the International Climate Heritage Network. The network launched in October 2019 in Scotland by more than 70 arts, culture and heritage organizations committed to pursuing transformative climate action to restore and protect the environment. Montana SHPO is one of 15 new members recently added to the network.

Office Changes: SHPO Compliance Officer Laura Evilsizer and Administrative Assistant Melissa Munson both completed their six-month probationary period as new employees in June.

Eric Newcombe officially began his tenure as the Historic Architectural Specialist, the position previously occupied by Pete Brown.

Vicki Sheppard was hired and began her tenure as the new grants administrator.

SHPO remains closed to the public due to Covid and is only accessible by appointment.

Properties Listed in the National Register Since January 2019

Sage Creek Ranger Station in Carbon County

The Howard Lepper Memorial Hall in Petroleum County

St. Paul's Mission Church in Blaine County

The Stark House in Missoula County

The Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School in Yellowstone County

Potential Upcoming Nominations

McKinley School-Billings

Dell Airport-near Dell

Pioneer Park-Billings

Consideration of National Register nominations-8:18 a.m.

Monarch Depot Historic District (Monarch, Cascade County)

Kate McCourt, former historic preservation officer for Cascade County, said a few words about the preparation of the National Register nomination for the property. Janet Enloe of the Monarch-Neihart Historical Group then provided a detailed account of the preservation of the Depot including the group's consultation with the SHPO. The property was presented as significant under criteria A and C.

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- Good nomination. No questions.
- State Historic Preservation Officer Pete Brown thanked the Enloes, Bob Majerus and the Monarch-Neihart Historical Group for their preservation effort to save the Depot. Their work serves as a great example of private sector preservation.
- The Review Board stated their full support for this project.
- Please add interior photographs.
- Cascade County Commissioner Jane Weber voiced support and plaudits to the group for their efforts.

Ms. Walter asked for any public comment on the property. No additional comment was given aside from that mentioned by the owner and county commissioner discussed above. Mr. Keller moved and Ms. Casne seconded that the nomination with discussed edits be forwarded to the Keeper. The Review Board unanimously concurred.

Fratt-Link House (Billings)

Dennis Deppmeier, the primary author of the nomination, said a few words about the property. The property was presented as significant under Criterion C, with Criterion Consideration B.

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- Very nice house. The move of the house with its association to the architect ties together very nicely.
- Any chance a historic district could be developed for this area (an earlier attempt to create a historic district in the area failed)? Such a possibility hasn't been pursued since the initial attempt in the 1990s.
- Please clarify the map title on page 29.

- Could the garage be considered a contributing resource? [the construction date of the garage post-dates that of the house, which represent the date of significance of the property. For the garage to be considered a contributing resource under Criterion C along with the house, it would have needed to be constructed the same year]

Ms. Walter asked for any public comment on the property. None was given. Mr. Sheldon moved and Ms. Bronson seconded that the nomination with discussed edits be forwarded to the Keeper. The Review Board unanimously concurred.

Break-9:00 a.m.

Resumption of meeting-9:26 a.m.

Pugsley Bridge (Liberty County)

As Jon Axline, the author of the nomination was not present, the Review Board began immediate deliberations on the nomination. The property was presented as significant under Criterion C.

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- Very interesting property. Good information on the camber changes over the years.
- Definite state significance with potentially National significance too.

Ms. Walter asked for any public comment on the property. None was given. Dr. Auge moved and Ms. Bronson seconded that the nomination with discussed edits be forwarded to the Keeper. The Review Board unanimously concurred.

Public Comment-9:32 a.m.

Ms. Walter asked for any additional public comment. None was given.

New Business-9:33 a.m.

The Review Board was reminded to submit their donated hours forms to SHPO.

Approval of May 2020 minutes: Ms. Walter called for the approval of January 2020 review Board meeting minutes. Mr. Sheldon moved and Ms. Casne seconded to approve the minutes. The Board unanimously concurred.

Selection of time and place of September 2020 Review Board meeting: The next Review Board meeting was set for January 15 beginning at 9:00 a.m. It is presumed it too will be a Zoom meeting.

Montana Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony: The Board discussed options for the 2021 Montana Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony, which usually occurs in January at the Myrna Loy Theater in Helena. Discussion included sending framed awards for preservation projects and service and also National Register certificates to property owners who listed their property the

previous two years. Other suggestions involved creating a slide show or short movie highlighting the awardees and properties listed, or possibly creating a preproduced streamed ceremony that would begin at a specific time (like the actual in-person ceremony did) but remain on the SHPO website for future viewings. A potential story map highlighting the awards and properties listed was another suggestion.

Heritage Property State Stewardship Biennial Reporting-9: 51 a.m.:

Historic Preservation Review Board Chair Marcella Walter and State Historic Preservation Officer Pete Brown reported on their Zoom presentation to the Legislative Education Committee on September 14. Twelve state agencies reported to SHPO and the Review Board on the 370 total properties under their stewardship that exist in 54 counties.

Other News: Reports indicate that the University of Montana now plans to build the Montana Museum of Art and Culture in the Adams Center parking lot not in the location of the National Register-listed Barry-Tremper House.

The Fall 2020 issue of *American Archaeology* contains the article “Spells, Charms, Curses, and Connections” focused on archaeology and magic. The Review Board’s Dr. C. Reilly Auge is heavily cited in the article.

Adjourn-10:35 a.m.

Ms. Casne moved and Mr. Keller seconded for adjournment of the meeting. The Review Board unanimously concurred.