

Montana State Historic Preservation Review Board Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2022

Held at the Calvert Hotel in Lewistown and via Zoom

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Review Board (Board) Members Present (via Zoom): Frank LaLiberty, Marcella Walter, Patti Casne, Jeff Shelden (Chair), KellyAnne Terry, Marv Keller, Dr. Riley Auge, Dr. Delia Hagen

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Staff: Peter Brown, John Boughton

Guests: Jon Axline, Mike Bergstrom, Halcyon LaPoint, Mitzi Rossillon, Meghan Mulholland, Dr. Tim Urbaniak, Cindy Urbaniak, Al Tompkins, Linda Tompkins, Valarie Wadman, Colin Betzler

Call to Order-12:30 p.m.: Jeff Shelden (Board Chair) called the meeting to order and read the State Historic Preservation Review Board mission statement.

Welcome/Introductions-12:35 p.m.: Mr. Shelden requested that the Review Board, SHPO personnel, and guests introduce themselves.

SHPO Preservation News-12:40 p.m.: John Boughton briefed the Board about several subjects including:

1) Local Preservation/Certified Local Government (CLG): Terri Gilpatrick assumed the Historic Preservation Officer position in Lewistown. Lewistown also submitted their CLG application.

2) Five-year Preservation Plan: State Historic Preservation Officer Pete Brown working continues to work on the five-year plan. Mr. Brown met with the Lt. Governor in February who provided several additional names for SHPO to contact to take our survey. Those results have been incorporated into the overall survey and will be included within the larger five-year plan document. The plan will be submitted by December 2022.

3) Grants, Documenting and Sharing Montana's African American Heritage project: Ms. Hampton finished the interview portion of the African American Heritage project documentary production in March. Interviews occurred in Seattle, Missoula, Helena, and Washington D.C.

The week of May 23-27 Ms. Hampton and Dr. Hagen will participate in an African American-based field school in Virginia City with students from Middle Tennessee State.

Dr. Hagen continues her work on the preparation of a statewide African American MPD and an associated National Register nomination slated for the September review board.

4) Grants, Revitalizing Montana's Rural Heritage Project: The Revitalizing Montana's Rural Heritage (RMRH) Grant continues as several projects near completion and some adapt to ensure success. The Montana Hotel and WaterWorks Museum projects are fully complete and conservation easements filed with both of these properties.

The projects at the Basin Creek Caretaker's House, Roundup Central School, and Broadway Apartments encountered some setbacks due to the increased costs of labor and materials that resulted in a reduction of the scope of work. They do, however, continue to move forward to completion. The Basin Creek Caretaker's House project is currently out to bid and work has begun on an associated National Register Nomination for the property.

The grantee for Roundup Central School and the Broadway Apartments combined the two grant amounts for use for the Roundup Central School project only, allowing the project to move forward in a timely manner. Although this means that grant funding will not be a part of the Broadway Apartments project, the applicant assured SHPO that rehabilitation will continue to happen through participation in the Historic Tax Credit program and other funding sources.

Finally, the projects at the Dion Block in Glendive, the I.G. Baker House in Ft. Benton, the Officer's Amusement Hall in Fort Assinniboine, and the F.M. Mack Mercantile in Augusta near completion with an anticipated date of this spring or summer.

6) Office changes: Grant Administrator Renee Kelly resigned the end of April to pursue an opportunity with the League of Conservation Voters. SHPO wishes Ms. Kelly the best in her new pursuit. Ms. Kelly was extremely skilled in her role as Grants Administrator and will be sorely missed.

Properties Listed in the National Register Since September 2021

Edwards & McLellan Block, Malta
First National Bank, Billings
Everson Creek Archaeological District

Potential Upcoming Nominations

Como School, Ravalli County
Missoula City Cemetery
African American Multiple Property Document and associated Drivers Saloon
National Register nomination
Yellowstone Bighorn Research Center, Red Lodge area
Morelli Bridge, Helena
Federal Building in Billings
Monture Ranger Station in Powell County

Consideration of National Register nominations-1:20 p.m.

River View Dairy Barn (Cut Bank)

John Boughton, National Register Coordinator and nomination author, 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:

- Explain many of the other buildings associated with the ranch were not built by Chasse and fall outside of the period of significance.
- Include Alida, Romain Chasse's wife, to call-outs for Romain in the text, where appropriate.
- A really nice barn and good nomination.

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

Beavertown Historic District (Jefferson County)

Jon Axline, historian with the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) and co-author, 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:

- Fabulous nomination—what a terrific property. The horse barn is very impressive.
- Is the earlier mining camp within the NR boundary? [Quite possibly. Archaeological testing would help to determine this.]
- How was the 1873 construction date of the hotel/residence determined? [Newspaper article.]

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

Poker Jim Butte Fire Lookout (Rosebud County)

Dr. Tim Urbaniak, nomination author, presented the nomination. The property was presented as significant under criteria A and C.

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- Has the lookout been converted to a rental? [No.]
- Why is the nomination not prepared under *The Role of the L-4 Lookout House in the Development of the US Forest Service Region 1's Fire Detection System, 1932-1967* Multiple Property Document (MPD)?

[SHPO responded that while the Poker Jim Butte Fire Lookout is a L-4 style lookout, it is not located in either the Lolo National Forest or the Bitterroot National Forest, the two sub-contexts prepared under the MPD. To list the Poker Jim Butte Fire Lookout under the MPD would require the preparation of a sub-context for the Custer Gallatin National Forest.]

- Are any other L-4 lookouts standing in the Custer Gallatin National Forest? [The Poker Jim Butte Fire Lookout is the last remaining L-4 style lookout in the Custer Gallatin National Forest.]
- What happened to the original structure? [Removed by the Forest Service.]
- Where was the ranger station? [A few miles away.]

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

Break-2:10 p.m.

Resumption of meeting-2:20 p.m.

Shenango Work Station (Gallatin County)

Mike Bergstrom, archaeologist with the Custer Gallatin National Forest, presented the nomination. The property was presented as significant under criteria A and C.

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- Why end the period of significance in 1942? Why not extend it to 1972 to reflect the property’s ongoing importance? [The date was selected to encompass all the buildings and structures built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) that presented a similar style.] Please change the nomination to include those buildings, regardless of CCC-associations, to contributing resources and extend the end date of the period of significance to 1972.
- Check the spelling of “Fickes” in the nomination.
- Are the interiors of the buildings intact? [Yes.]
- Add names of building below individual photographs.
- What happened to the original structure? [Removed by the Forest Service.]
- Where was the ranger station? [A few miles away.]

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

Ford Schoolhouse (Flathead County)

Meghan Mulholland, archaeologist with the Flathead National Forest, presented the nomination. The property was presented as significant under Criterion A.

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- The school sits on Forest Service property? [Yes.]
- Criterion C is not being pursued at this time? [Listing under Criterion C will likely be pursued when the present restoration work is completed.]

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

Thompson Falls Hydroelectric Dam Historic District (Boundary Modification and Additional Documentation) [Thompson Falls]

Mitzi Rossillon, historian and author of the nomination, presented the nomination. The property was presented as significant under criteria A, B, and C.

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- Add the date “1910” to the caption on page 67.
- Are the generators in the power house replacements? [No, they are original.]

Mr. Shelden asked for any public comment on the property. None was given. Mr. Keller moved and Dr. Hagen seconded support of the Federal nomination with discussed edits be forwarded to the Keeper. The Review Board unanimously concurred.

Public Comment-3:15 p.m.

Mr. Shelden asked for any additional public comment. Dr. Urbaniak thanked the review board for their service. Dr. Urbaniak commented that his time on the board was a great experience and he is always happy to come back and present nominations to associate with the board again.

New Business-3:25 p.m.

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

Approval of January 2022 minutes: Mr. Shelden called for the approval of the January 2022 Review Board meeting minutes. Ms. Casne moved and Dr. Auge seconded to approve the minutes. The Board unanimously concurred.

Selection of time and place of September 2022 Review Board meeting:

The next Review Board meeting is scheduled for September 29 in Red Lodge to coincide with the 2022 Montana History Conference

State Heritage Property Update: Pete Brown, Montana State Historic Preservation Officer, thanked the subcommittee for their efforts reviewing the state's agency reporting on historic properties under their management. Mr. Brown appreciated the subcommittee's work toward agency adherence to the Montana State Antiquity Act.

Mr. Brown reported that most agencies follow the reporting practices required under the 2011 Act, with the exception of one of the major universities in the state. It is hoped that the State Historic Preservation Review Board can provide a way forward for this particular University's compliance. The president of this University has been contacted in an attempt to garner University adherence, but the effort yielded no result.

The review board suggested contacting the Board of Regents of the university system. A short letter could be composed to the Board of Regents that states the review board's concerns and noting the specific university's failure to comply. It is possible an individual meeting could be arranged directly with the Board of Regents of possibly the review board and SHPO's concerns could be included as an agenda item as part of a future Board of Regent's meeting. The letter could state that compliance is not an issue for one of the universities; one reports as expected while the other is noncompliant.

Adjourn-3:45 p.m.

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