

# State Historic Preservation Review Board Meeting Minutes

May 15 and 16, 2020

The Conference Room at the Montana State Historic Preservation Office

(also via Zoom)

Helena, Montana

## May 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

**State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Staff (in conference room):** Peter Brown, John Boughton, Kate Hampton, Jolene Keen

**Guests (all via Zoom):** Joan Brownell, Judge Russell Fagg, Steve Lamar, Joanne Guyer, Father Michael Schneider, Missoula County Commissioner David Strohmaier, Missoula County Community and Planning Services Officer Chet Crowser, Betsy Bradley, Andrew Graham

**Call to Order-1:00 p.m.:** Marcella Walter (Board Chair) called the meeting to order and read the State Historic Preservation Review Board mission statement.

**Welcome/Introductions-1:09 p.m.:** Ms. Walter requested that the Review Board, SHPO personnel, and guests introduce themselves.

**SHPO Preservation News-1:10 p.m.:** John Boughton briefed the Board about several subjects including:

**Local Preservation/Certified Local Government (CLG):** Most of the CLG reports have been submitted to SHPO, with the exceptions of Lewistown and Carbon County.

Miles City officially designated the interim CLG, Allie Capps, permanently to the position.

The Billings/Yellowstone County CLG received additional funding this cycle to prepare a National Register nomination for the historic McKinley Elementary School. Former Review Board member Leslie Gilmore will write Section 7 of the nomination.

### **Grants: Documenting and Sharing Montana's African American Heritage project**

After submitting a "letter of intent," SHPO Community Preservation Coordinator Kate Hampton was asked to submit a full grant application for funding through the Action Fund of the National Trust. Ms. Hampton's initial letter of intent was one of 538 the Trust reviewed from almost every state. Only 58 organizations were selected to submit the full application.

### **Grants: Revitalizing Montana's Rural Heritage Project**

A grant committee consisting of Pete Brown and Kate Hampton of SHPO, Review Board member Jeff Sheldon, and two individuals from the Department of Commerce, finalized the selection of the grant recipients. Eight projects were selected including:

- Basin Creek Caretakers House, (Butte-Silver Bow)
- Broadway Apartments (Lewistown)
- Central School Apartments (Roundup)
- Dion Block (Glendive)
- FM Mack Mercantile (Augusta)
- IG Baker House (Fort Benton)
- Montana Hotel (Anaconda)
- Waterworks Museum (Miles City)

### **Office Changes**

Pete Brown was named the State Historic Preservation Officer. In addition to his new role, Mr. Brown also continues to serve as the Historic Architectural Specialist.

Eric Newcombe was recently hired as the new Historic Architectural Specialist. Mr. Newcombe will begin work in the office the start of June. He is finishing his MA in Public History with an emphasis on Historic Preservation at Colorado State University.

### **Properties Listed in the National Register Since January 2019**

- Silver City Cemetery-Lewis and Clark County
- Quinn's Garage-Augusta
- The Heritage Museum-Libby
- Glenn's Dam Historic District-Anaconda
- Whitetail Airway Beacon-Whitehall vicinity
- Frederick and Josephine Bottler House-near Emigrant

### **Potential Upcoming Nominations**

- Fratt-Link House-Billings
- Neihart Depot-Neihart
- Dell Airport-near Dell
- Pioneer Park-Billings

### **Consideration of National Register nominations-1:24 p.m.**

#### **1) Kate Fratt Memorial Parochial School (Billings)**

Joan Brownell, nomination author, provided some background information on the property. The property was presented as significant under criteria A and C.

*Questions and Comments from the Review Board:*

- Good nomination.
- Please add a close up photograph of the main entry to the school.
- What is the plan for the building? [the owner stated conversion of the building to residential condominiums is planned, with the project anticipated to begin in the fall.]
- Will windows return to the original configuration? [owner stated many windows currently in the building are well made with a high insulation factor, so may not be removed.]
- Thanks were extended to the owner for pursuing this project.

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

**2) Spokane Hill Airway Beacon (Broadwater County)**

As Jon Axline, the author of the nomination was not present, the review Board began immediate review of the nomination. The property was presented as significant under criteria A and C, with Criterion Consideration G.

*Questions and Comments from the Review Board:*

- The present shed isn't a contributing resource to the property? [No, was constructed too recently.]

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

**Break-1:36 p.m.**

**Resumption of meeting-1:45 p.m.**

**3) St. Paul's Mission Church (near Hays in Blaine County)**

Joan Brownell, author of the nomination, provided background information on how St. Paul's Mission Church and Sacred Heart Church came to be listed. The property was presented as significant under Criterion C.

*Questions and Comments from the Review Board:*

- Are other buildings near the Church? [Yes, but they are not eligible.]

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

#### **4) Sacred Heart Church (Blaine County)**

Joan Brownell, author of the nomination, briefly discussed Sacred Heart Church. The property was presented as significant under Criterion C.

*Questions and Comments from the Review Board:*

- Why was the nearby cemetery not included in the nomination? [Inclusion of the cemetery was not stipulated in the contract.]
- Any plans for restoration? [if money became available, yes. A grant application was submitted earlier in the year for the church to obtain preservation funding through the *Revitalizing Montana's Rural Heritage Project* grants discussed above under "SHPO Preservation News", but alas, was not selected.]
- Good to see press focused on the Sacred Heart Church and St. Paul's Mission Church.

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

#### **New Business-2:50 p.m.**

Because the review of National Register nominations was ahead of schedule, the Board shifted to "New Business" to compensate, with the intent to hear the next scheduled nomination, the Stark House, at the time listed on the agenda. Jolene Keen, Cultural Records Assistant, presented her work on storymaps highlighting Montana National Register properties and state-owned heritage properties. The storymaps are planned to be included as part of the *Biennial Reports on State-Owned Heritage Property* reporting for the 2020 Education Interim Committee.

The Review Board was quite pleased and impressed with Ms. Keen's work on the storymaps and felt the agencies will also find these storymaps useful. Construction of the storymaps will hopefully spur the legislators to engage more with the biennial reporting, a legislative mandate.

#### **Break-2:35 p.m.**

#### **Resumption of meeting-2:45 p.m.**

#### **5) Stark House (Missoula County)**

Steve Lamar, co-author of the nomination, briefly discussed the property. The property was presented as significant under criteria B and C.

*Questions and Comments from the Review Board:*

- Is there a catalogue of John Stark's work? [not an official catalogue, though his work is well known, and the quality of his work is exceptional.]

- Is the Stark House still occupied? [Yes.]
- Does the house continue to hold the original furniture John Stark made? [Yes, everything remains in place and original.]
- This is an amazing property.

Ms. Walter asked for any public comment on the property. Missoula County Community and Planning Services Officer Chet Crowser thanked the Board for their consideration of the nomination. Mr. Sheldon moved and Ms. Casne seconded that the nomination with discussed edits be forwarded to the Keeper. The Review Board unanimously concurred.

### **6) Howard Lepper Memorial Hall (Petroleum County)**

Betsy Bradley, author of the nomination, briefly discussed the property. The property was presented as significant under criteria A and C.

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

- Difficult to locate this property. [Yes, it is quite remote.]
- The hall is a handsome building.
- The Review Board is happy to see its continued use [It is still used, but not as commonly as in the past.]

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

**Recess until following morning-4:30 p.m.**

### **May 16, 2020**

**Resumption of Meeting: 8:00 a.m.:** Marcella Walter (Board Chair) reconvened the meeting and requested that the Review Board, SHPO personnel, and guests introduce themselves.

**Review Board (Board) Members Present (all via Zoom):** Dr. Riley Auge, Milo McLeod, Carol Bronson, Marcella Walter (Chair), Patti Casne, Jeff Sheldon, KellyAnne Terry

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

**Guests (all via Zoom):** Dr. Tim Urbaniak, Executive Director of the Montana Preservation Alliance Chere Justo, Seonaid Campbell, Audrey Hall, Forest Service Archaeologist Halcyon LaPoint

### **Approval of January 2020 minutes: 8:02 a.m.**

Ms. Walter called for the approval of January 2020 review Board meeting minutes. Ms. Casne moved and Ms. Bronson seconded to approve the minutes. The Board unanimously concurred.

### **Selection of time and place of September 2020 Review Board meeting**

The Board voted to hold the next Board meeting in Seeley Lake on September 15 and 16.

### **Consideration of National Register nominations-8:05 a.m.**

#### **7) Sage Creek Ranger Station (Carbon County)**

Dr. Tim Urbaniak, the nomination's author, provided some background information on the property. The property was presented as significant under criteria A and C.

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

- Is the property used as a cabin rental? [Not at this time, but likely in the future, maybe by next year.]
- On page 55, please add "other" location.
- Are there any plans to add interpretation to the property once it is listed? [Halcyon LaPoint: The Forest Service has some panels it plans to install inside the cabin in the future. Obtaining and mounting a National Register sign will likely occur.]

Ms. Walter asked for any public comment on the property. No additional comment was given aside from that mentioned during the Board's discussion of the nomination. Dr. Auge moved and Ms. Casne seconded that the nomination with discussed edits be forwarded to the Keeper. The Review Board unanimously concurred.

#### **8) Billy Miles & Bros. Grain Elevator (Livingston)**

Chere Jiusto, the author of the nomination discussed the property and its history to date. The property was presented as significant under criteria A and C.

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

- The Board thanks the Teslow Group, LLC. for their efforts toward preserving the elevator.
- Have ideas been discussed for reuse of the structure? [Yes, possibilities include a meeting hub, brewery, climbing wall, and studios for artists. Ms. Campbell: this is a "working building", much different than other buildings as it has no floors.]

Ms. Walter asked for any public comment on the property. None was given other than that provided during the Board's discussion mentioned above. Ms. Casne moved and Mr. Shelden seconded that the nomination with discussed edits be forwarded to the Keeper. The Review Board unanimously concurred.

### **Public Comment-8:39 a.m.**

Ms. Juisto of the Montana Preservation Alliance (MPA) thanked the Review Board for their service. She also wondered how preservationists can bring their skills to the make preservation a driver for the post-Corona recovery. MPA has set up a Corona task force to this end. Ms. Juisto suggested contacting Senator Steve Daines about the allocation of funding toward preservation as an economic driver during this period as Senator Daines sits on several committees related to spending. Ms. Juisto also mentioned the recent passing of John Ellingson, a historian who dedicated much of his life toward documenting the history of Virginia City.

Ms. Walter complemented the interesting and well-prepared nominations.

### **State Agency Stewardship Reporting Discussion-9:00 a.m.**

#### Observations:

Some agencies have improved their reporting through the years while others continue to fall short.

Montana State University and the Department of Administration reports are easy to follow.

Further guidance to the agencies could assist them in submitting improved reports. Such additional guidance would hopefully make them more aware of their responsibility to the properties under their control.

Because the agencies self-report on properties under their purview, a few side-step some of their responsibilities through omission.

Some definition interpretation between agencies also occurs. For example, “maintenance” seems to mean different things to different agencies.

Divide agency reports among Review Board members during the next, 2022, reporting cycle.

#### Initial Suggestions

Initial Review Board suggestions included following the previous reporting format used in 2018, which would entail updating the existing handout provided to the interim legislative committee and incorporating the new storymaps produced by Jolene Keen of SHPO. It was noted that the previous reporting handout was much more accessible than the earlier, larger, pamphlet-style reports; this accessibility was born-out as the interim legislative committee was much more engaged during the Review Board/SHPO presentation. The state map viewed in the 2018 report can be omitted, replaced by links to the storymaps.

#### Items to emphasize at the interim committee meeting:

The appointment of a single in-house individual at every agency to serve as the point-of-contact responsible for the reporting is essential. As preservation is not the mission of many of these agencies, such an appointment might bring better understanding of the intent of the reporting process. This individual should also take Section 106 training to better understand the consultation process. However, the Board acknowledges that such an appointment is complicated by turnover within the agencies year to year. Similarly,

turnover within the legislature every two years also compounds moving the Review Board/SHPO recommendations forward.

Review Board and SHPO Actions:

Every agency should receive a tailored letter from the Review Board outlining the positives and shortcomings of their reporting. The letters should be followed up with a meeting.

A checklist that outlines each step in the process the agencies should follow in the preparation of their reporting might be beneficial. Establishing something akin to Programmatic Agreements, or similar documents, between SHPO and agencies might provide a progress toward improved consultation. Providing a template/model to every agency might provide greater consistency between the reports.

Do on-line consultation training modules exist that the agencies can view for their education? Can the legislative committee recommend such training modules be part of a yearly “certification” for the agencies for their reporting duties to the Review Board and SHPO, thus keeping the process fresh in their minds?

Summary of State Agency Reporting Discussion:

The Review Board will follow the format of the 2018 report, updating it with current information, including links to the new SHPO storymaps.

The report will contain what the Review Board and SHPO can do to foster better agency reporting. This includes the possibility of additional meeting with agencies, providing a revised format for the agency heritage reports to allow for more consistency, and pointing agencies to on-line training to better educate them regarding their responsibilities and the Section 106 process.

A Review Board focus group consisting of Marcella Walter, Riley Auge, Milo McLeod, and possibly, new Board member, Nick Kujawa agreed to work on, among other items, *findings and recommendations* for the report to the interim legislative committee, preparation of the final report to the interim legislative committee, and preparation of letters tailored to the specific agencies. Letters would be sent to the agencies prior to the September 2020 legislative interim committee meeting.

**Public Comment-10:30 a.m.**

A Zoom participant offered that the MT Army National Guard is an agency that falls short in their responsibility to their buildings, stating the buildings are technically owned by the Army Corp of Engineers, not the Guard.

What is the status of the Company Kitchens at Fort Harrison? [A draft MOA has been submitted to SHPO for their demolition.] A letter to the National Guard Bureau in Washington D.C. addressed to General Quinn (adj. General), retired General Duffy (active with Fort Museum), and local preservationist Hal Sterns might help.

Head Ranch was mentioned as another MT National Guard property that received money years ago and now sits.

The Montana Preservation Alliance (MPA) offered their assistance to the Review Board to collaborate on issues and strategies.

**Adjourn-10:45 a.m.** Ms. Terry moved and Dr. Auge seconded for adjournment of the meeting. The Review Board unanimously concurred.