

# **Montana State Historic Preservation Review Board Meeting Minutes**

**May 14, 2021**

**The Conference Room at the Montana State Historic Preservation Office**

**(also via Zoom)**

**Helena, Montana**

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

**State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Staff:** Peter Brown, John Boughton, Kate Hampton, Kyler Mozell

**Guests (all via Zoom):** Kevin Kooistra, Lora Mattox, Pam Attardo, Paul Putz, Dolly McMaster, Dr. Ellen Baumler, Dan Sidor, Shannon Gilbert, Irene Noyes, Carrie Kiely, Corey Meier, Amanda James

**Call to Order-9:00 a.m.:** Marcella Walter (Board Chair) called the meeting to order and read the State Historic Preservation Review Board mission statement.

**Welcome/Introductions-9:00 a.m.:** Ms. Walter requested that the Review Board, SHPO personnel, and guests introduce themselves.

**SHPO Preservation News-9:04 a.m.:** John Boughton briefed the Board about several subjects including:

**Local Preservation/Certified Local Government (CLG):** The Lewistown CLG remains on probation and did not receive funding from the SHPO office.

Carbon County filled their vacant HPO position with the hiring of Deb Hronek, who held the position several years ago. Ms. Hronek also recently served on the Historic Preservation Review Board.

The Missoula CLG position was filled with the hiring of Elizabeth Johnson as the Historic Preservation Officer. Dr. Johnson recently received her PhD in Public and Applied history from Middle Tennessee State.

**Grants: Documenting and Sharing Montana's African American Heritage project:** Ms. Hampton continues to work on the African American Heritage Project with plans that include a documentary production and original creative content about historic African American experiences in Montana. The preparation of a statewide African American MPD, and National Register nomination is currently being prepared by Dr. Delia Hagen.

**Grants: Revitalizing Montana's Rural Heritage Project:** The eight projects funded by the Revitalizing Montana's Rural Heritage (RMRH) grant continue on schedule and are managed by Eric Newcome, the SHPO Historic Architectural Specialist. Grantees have submitted two quarterly reports updating SHPO on

their progress, beneficial developments, and challenges. Several projects, including the Montana Hotel and WaterWorks Art Museum, have made significant progress. Others have faced some delays due to COVID related issues.

Due to a small windfall of money identified in the Fall, SHPO continues to pursue a ninth project at the Officer's Amusement Hall at Fort Assinniboine in conjunction with the Fort Assinniboine Preservation Association.

### **Digitizing and Data Cleanup of Cultural Record Files**

Damon Murdo, SHPO Cultural Records Manager, and his new cultural records assistant, Kyler Mozell, continue the data cleanup of the GIS database. Mr. Mozell also continues with work on the interactive National Register map for Montana, a project started by his predecessor, Jolene Keen.

### **Five-year Preservation Plan**

The Department of the Interior's National Park Service (NPS), which funds SHPO operations, requires SHPOs to update their plan cyclically. NPS recommends 12 to 18 months for outreach, writing, and incorporating NPS comment throughout the process. Montana SHPO's finalized plan is due December 2022.

### **SHPO's Beavertown Field Work**

In 2019, State Archaeologist Jessica Bush was approached by Allen Tompkins of Helena to look at some artifacts from his family property south of Jefferson City. This conversation led to an invitation by Mr. Tompkins to SHPO to visit his property, which includes a precontact site, the remains Mr. Tompkins family homestead, and Beavertown, a former stagecoach stop between Boulder and Helena. Initial fieldwork, including an archaeological assessment of the property and recordation of all standing structures was completed April 23, 2021. The MT SHPO plans to continue working with Mr. Tompkins to record archaeological features and provide him with historical documentation on his property.

### **Outcomes of the 67<sup>th</sup> Legislature to the Montana Historical Society (MHS) and SHPO include:**

- A \$4 million increase in the construction budget for the Montana Heritage Center;
- An increase in the MHS general fund appropriation;
- An exemption from a 1% increase to vacancy savings;
- Funding from the Cultural & Aesthetics Grants for art conservation and digitization of the Haynes photograph collection;
- The first ever round of grants for the Montana Historic Preservation Grant Program that will provide millions of dollars of support for historic preservation projects around the State;
- Retention of the historic preservation tax credit after efforts to abolish it were turned back, in large part to the efforts of Eric Newcombe of SHPO and Denise King of MHS.

**Office Changes:** Kyler Mozell began his new role as cultural records assistant early in winter. Mr. received his Bachelor's degree in Anthropology and certificates in GIS and Historic Preservation from the University of Montana in 2020.

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

McKinley Elementary School, Billings  
The Symmes Park Missile, Lewistown  
The Paradise School, Paradise  
The Spokane Hill Airway Beacon, Broadwater County  
The F.M. Mack General Store, Augusta  
Pioneer Park, Billings

### **Potential Upcoming Nominations**

St. Regis Airway Beacon, Mineral County  
The Lazy-T, north Boulder Valley  
African American state-wide MPD and nomination—Drivers Saloon, Anaconda  
The Billy Kruse Cabin, Flathead County  
The Dell Airstrip, near Dell

### **Consideration of National Register nominations-9:10 a.m.**

#### **Shaw's Best Factory (Helena)**

Dr. Ellen Baumler, historian, and Dan Sidor, one of the property's owners, 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:*

- Reemphasize that the Shaw's Best Factory was the only home industry known to exist in Helena, and maybe Montana at the time.
- If possible, please discuss Eliza Shaw's role in the operation of the business. Her part-ownership suggests importance beyond the day-to-day operations. [Although nothing definitive was discovered during the research of the nomination, George Shaw's forays into a variety of ventures may have caused business problems. Placing Eliza on the deed might have served to subvert potential future legal issues, if any arose.]
- How did all the merchandise and equipment survive over the years? [Survival likely occurred more through accident than planned intent.]
- Did other home industries exist in the West End or in Helena? [None were identified.]
- Was the mixing box manufactured or made on site? [The box itself was manufactured but modified to the task of the factory.]

Ms. Walter asked for any public comment on the property. No additional comment 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.

### **McMaster Ranch Historic District (Broadwater County)**

Paul Putz, historian and 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:*

- Why include the railroad track? [A siting used by the McMaster Ranch sat 1/2 mile away and although the siting sits outside the National Register boundary for the ranch, the track itself, which crosses through the boundary, was used by the ranch to move goods. In addition, all rail lines in Montana have been determined eligible by the Montana SHPO.]
- Please incorporate some of the historic photos in the nomination used during the nomination's presentation.
- Add a short Native American discussion at the start Section 8 of the nomination.
- The dates in the information box and the text for Resource #24 (page 31) do not agree ("late 1940s vs. "dating from 1940 or slightly before...").
- Uncapitalize "Stone Cooler" on page 50 (paragraph 2).
- It is great that these types of properties are recognized.
- Page 52 (paragraph 3), change "Oliver" to "Olive."
- Thank you to the Bureau of Land Management for pursuing the listing of this property.

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.

### **Billings Mausoleum (Billings)**

Kevin Kooistra of the Western Heritage Center presented the nomination. The property was presented as significant under criteria A and C.

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

- Is the mausoleum filled? [Not yet, but all spaces are claimed for future use.]
- The construction of these mausoleums was an interesting phenomena. [The construction of mausoleums came to be viewed as one way to gauge how a city treated its population.]
- Page 17, change the reference to the internment of the "first white women" to "prominent homesteader."

Ms. Walter asked for any public comment on the property. None was given. Ms. Bronson moved and Dr. Auge seconded that the nomination with

discussed edits be forwarded to the Keeper. The Review Board unanimously concurred.

**Break-10:25 a.m.**

**Resumption of meeting-10:45 a.m.**

**Everson Creek Archeological District (Beaverhead County)**

Dr. Tim Urbaniak, the nomination's author, presented the nomination to the review board. The property was presented as significant under criteria A and D.

*Questions and Comments from the Review Board:*

- No private land is included in the nomination? [Private land was excluded.]
- Check date associated with "Jerry Clark" footnotes (footnotes 83-85). Is the date "1978" or "1988?"
- What are the plans for the area? [The area has been designated an area of critical environmental concern (ACEC), which provides a layer of protection.]
- How is the area presently used? [Grazing and hunting primarily.]
- How old are the artifacts found below the ash lens? [No datable material occurred below the ash lens so determining a precise date is not possible, though the fact the artifacts were recovered below the lens indicates greater age.]
- Define the "cultural landscape" for the property.
- Any materials from other areas found at the property? [Great Basin, Oregon, and Washington materials identified at the property.]
- Very good research emanated from previous work at this district.
- Thank you to the Bureau of Land Management for pursuing the listing of this property.

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

**Public Comment-11:15 a.m.**

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

**New Business-11:15 a.m.**

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

**Approval of January 2021 minutes:** Ms. Walter called for the approval of the January 2021 review Board meeting minutes. Dr. Auge moved and Ms. Bronson seconded to approve the minutes. The Board unanimously concurred.

**2021 Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony and Montana Antiquities Act presentations:** The Chair thanked SHPO for their efforts toward the Historic Preservation Awards presentation and the Montana Antiquities Act presentation, both which are now posted on the SHPO webpage.

**Increase in Compliance Workload:** Pete Brown, SHPO, discussed the increased number of Section 106 projects submitted to the office. Over the course of a year, submissions increased over 30 percent, a trend that will continue in the coming years for several reasons including Congress' consideration of funding overdue infrastructure projects, the establishment of the Great American Outdoors Act, and the Department of the Interior's plans for large scale fuels reduction projects. To help alleviate this issue, SHPO hopes to hire another person to assist with the Section 106 office obligations.

**SHPO Preservation Plan and Public Survey:** Mr. Brown briefly discussed the Five-Year Preservation Plan required by the National Park Service due December 2022. SHPO anticipates disseminating a survey to gather feedback from the historic preservation community to include in the plan.

**Selection of time and place of September 2021 Review Board meeting:** The next Review Board meeting was set for September 16. The meeting location is tentatively planned either near Glacier National Park or Seeley Lake. The review board left the final decision to the SHPO.

**Lewistown CLG:** A review board member from Lewistown related that the community still seeks to fill the open Historic Preservation Officer position.

**University of Montana Collections Position:** The University is not renewing the position of Collections Curator for the Anthropological Collections Facility, leaving the future of the collections and their availability uncertain.

#### **Adjourn-11:45 a.m.**

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