

# Montana State Historic Preservation Review Board Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2024

The Calvert Hotel (216 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. South, Lewistown, MT) and via Zoom

## May 1, 2024

**Review Board (Board) Members:** Patti Casne, Marv Keller, Dr. Delia Hagen, Chris Averill, Marcella Walter (via Zoom), KellyAnne Terry, Jeff Shelden

**State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Staff:** John Boughton, Melissa Munson

**Guests:** Jon Axline, Josh Chase, Connie Constan, Scott Carpenter, Otto Braided Hair, Conrad Fisher, Chere Jiusto, Sarah Rosenberg, Pam Attardo

**Call to Order-1:36 p.m.** Chris Averill (Chair) called the meeting to order. Mr. Averill read the State Historic Preservation Review Board mission statement.

**Welcome/Introductions-1:40 p.m.** Mr. Averill requested that the Review Board, SHPO personnel, and guests introduce themselves.

**SHPO Preservation News-1:42.p.m.** John Boughton briefed the Review Board about several subjects including:

### **Local Preservation/Certified Local Government (CLG)**

Historic Preservation Offices began the application process for next year. Kate Hampton has received several applications which encompass the period from April 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025. No increase for the individual CLG annual grants will occur.

Lewistown appointed a new planner/Historic Preservation Officer, Doug Osterman.

Miles City continues along a fine line of noncompliance. However, some hope of the appointment of a Historic Preservation Office remains, which would prove a great positive.

### **Montana's Chinese American MPD**

Dr. Hagen continues work on the Chinese History Multiple Property Document and associated nomination. The funding for the effort derives from the National Park Service Underrepresented Community grant and also from a Cultural and Aesthetic grant.

### **Resource Survey Manual**

Dr. Hagen also continues work on the "Montana Cultural Resource Survey Manual," that will provide guidelines for the identification and documentation of the history, architecture, and historic landscapes in Montana. This will provide contractor thresholds for information submitted to our office for the database and NR program.

## **2023 Annual Report**

As noted in January, the 2023 annual report was submitted to the National Park Service and the Governor's Office. The plan details SHPO's work under the 2023-2027 state preservation plan, *Past, Present, and Future*, and in SHPO's core programs: the National Register, Section 106 project review, historic tax credits, survey and inventory of cultural properties, certified local government program, planning and outreach.

### **Tax Credit News:**

Current tax credit projects include:

- Florence Crittenton Cooney Home in Helena (Part 1)
- Milligan Building in Miles City (Part 2)
- KPRK Radio in Livingston (Part 2)
- Petroleum County Courthouse in Winnett (Part 2)
- Milligan Building in Miles City (Part 2)
- T Baatz Block in Great Falls (Part 2)
- Thornton Apartments in Missoula (certified 2023)

### **New Personnel**

SHPO remains down a grants manager. The Review and Compliance officer SHPO hired several months earlier and held the position for retracted their acceptance. The position is reposted.

### **Properties listed since the September 2023 Historic Preservation Review Board meeting**

- The Baatz Block in Great Falls
- 308-310 West Silver, Butte
- Northern Montana College Girls Residence Hall, Havre
- Harding Way Historic District, Silver Bow County
- Crystal Ice & Fuel Company, Billings

### **Potential Upcoming nominations**

- Manley's General Store (Garneil)
- Chinese-American Multiple Property Document (MPD) [statewide]
- Chinese-American MPD associated nomination (Butte)
- Riverfront Park (Laurel)
- Regis Café, (Red Lodge)

### **Other News**

Dr. Ellen Baumler's service will occur July 13.

Thank you to all the Review Board members who continue to serve while reappointments await.

The Montana Archaeological Society Meetings begin May 3 in Helena.

## Consideration of National Register nominations-2:00 p.m.

### **Lewis and Clark County Hospital Historic District Addendum and Boundary Increase (Helena)**

Jon Axline, author, presented the addendum and boundary increase. The Lewis and Clark County Hospital was listed in the National Register in November of 2002. The boundary increase area that consists of the cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register under criterion A.

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

- Do plans exist to make recreational fields, such as a soccer field, above the cemetery [No.]
- Could the cemetery be listed individually? [Likely no, but it retains sufficient integrity to be listed as a contributing resource to the larger already-listed district.]
- Three hundred seventy-seven burials are documented at the cemetery? [Yes, a list was compiled several years ago regarding the internments.] One board member requested a copy of the list.
- The county ceased use of the cemetery by 1916, correct? [Yes, the county was offered a better location further north in the valley.]
- Is any interpretation planned for the cemetery? [Yes, a National Register sign for sure.]

Mr. Averill asked for any public comment on the property. Pam Attardo, the Heritage Preservation Officer for Lewis and Clark County, stated the importance of listing the cemetery to bring awareness to the locals who have little knowledge it even existed. Mr. Keller moved and Ms. Casne seconded that the addendum/boundary increase move forward to the Keeper. The Review Board unanimously concurred.

### **Zortman Ranger Station (Zortman)**

Jon Axline, co-author, presented the nomination. The property is significant under criteria A and C at a local level of significance.

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

- The Little Rocky Mountains is eligible as a TCP to the Tribes. Please include a tribal association discussion.
- Add a discussion of the Grinnell Agreement and how the land where Zortman sits was cut out from the reservation for the townsite.
- Discuss the spiritual aspects of the area to the Tribes.
- Kid Curry and Pike Landusky roamed the area, with the eventual demise of Landusky by Kid Curry.

Mr. Averill asked for any public comment on the property. Josh Chase of the Bureau of Land Management noted the book *Pioneer Cattleman of Montana* as a good source of information of the Little Rocky Mountains area. Ms. Terry moved and Dr. Hagen seconded that the nomination with discussed edits be forwarded to the Keeper. The Review Board unanimously supported the nomination.

Prior to the presentation of the next nomination, the Review Board was briefed on the stagnation of progress of the Fire Tower stabilization project in Helena. Issues with the contractor preclude the project's start.

### **Westgate Village Shopping Center (Great Falls)**

Scott Carpenter, primary author, presented the nomination via Zoom to the Review Board. The property was presented as significant under criteria A and C at a local level of significance.

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

- The nomination is well documented.
- Some board members felt the property was not eligible to list due to too many changes over time that detract from its integrity and its extremely simple rectangular presentation and lack of character.
- Midcentury modern buildings by definition tend to present stripped appearances.
- This is a strong example of the period of construction of the building that exemplified doing more with less.
- Fewer and fewer of these Midcentury strip malls remain, making the recognition of their contribution to local commerce and evolving styles of architecture all the more important.
- The nomination states this building served as a template for other similar buildings across the state. Either note where this information came from or reword.
- A former board member in attendance stated that as part of their current position of identifying National Register eligibility properties, this building would be considered eligible to list.
- The design of the overall building and site follow midcentury protocols for midcentury strip malls.
- Another board member stated their comfort with moving the nomination forward to list in the National Register.

Mr. Averill asked for any public comment on the property. The property's owner (via Zoom) felt the building is important to the community, a local landmark, and listing it in the National Register is one step to pursue its preservation. Sarah Rosenberg, the Historic Preservation Officer for Bozeman, noted support of the city to list the building and the loss of this type of building across the state and in Bozeman. She discussed the number of

local regulatory hurdles the owner of the property cleared to achieve what work has been conducted to this point and for future efforts of preservation for building. The City of Bozeman is pleased to support and recognize the importance of the building.

Ms. Walter moved and Dr. Hagen seconded that the nomination with any edits be forwarded to the Keeper. Six Review Board members concurred and one voted not to forward.

**Break-3:32 p.m.**

**Resumption of meeting-3:47 p.m.**

**Main Boulder Ranger Station [Park County]**

Connie Constan of the Custer Gallatin National Forest presented the nomination. The property is significant under criteria A and C at local level of significance.

*Questions and Comments from the Review Board:*

- Very nice nomination.
- Page numbering between sections needs to be corrected.
- Add contributing and noncontributing indicators to the map.

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

**Head Chief-Young Mule Charge [Lame Deer]**

Chere Jiusto, Otto Braided Hair, and Conrad Fisher presented the nomination. The property is significant under Criterion A at a state level of significance.

*Questions and Comments from the Review Board:*

- The boundary is quite winding. [Yes, it is. Much development has occurred in the area, hence, the boundary is drawn to exclude noncontributing resources.]
- What is in the location where Head-Chief fell? [A housing complex stands in the area. A yard now occupies the actual spot he fell.]
- Are Head Chief and Young Mule buried in the nearby cemetery excluded from the National Register boundary? [No.]
- The Northern Cheyenne oral history of the event is very important and it is tremendous it is included in the nomination.

Mr. Averill asked for any public comment on the property. None was given. Mr. Keller moved and Dr. Hagen seconded that the nomination with discussed edits be forwarded to the Keeper. The Review Board unanimously concurred. The nomination will be sent to the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for forwarding to the Keeper of the National Register.

**Public Comment-4:48 p.m.**

Mr. Averill asked for any additional public comment. None given.

**New Business-4:50 p.m.**

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

**Approval of January 2024 Review Board meeting minutes:** Mr. Keller moved and Mr. Sheldon seconded to approve the minutes. The Board unanimously concurred.

**Selection of time and place of September 2024 Review Board meeting:** The September Review Board meeting will occur the week of September 9-14. Fort Benton is the desired location, if the state rate is accepted at the local hotel.

**Adjourn-5:14 p.m.**

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