

Montana State Historic Preservation Review Board Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2022

Via Zoom

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

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Staff: Peter Brown, John Boughton, Eric Newcombe, Jessica Bush

Guests: Jon Axline, Joan Brownell, Becky Rogers, Shannon Zier

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

Welcome/Introductions-1:05 p.m.: Mr. Shelden 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:

1) Local Preservation/Certified Local Government (CLG): Kate Hampton (SHPO's Community Preservation Officer) conducted a state-wide CLG training opportunity at the Montana History Conference in September. The well-attended session was quite worthwhile.

Ms. Hampton and Eric Newcombe (SHPO's Historic Architecture Specialist) provided edits and direction for the draft Montana Club and Miles City Depot feasibility studies, both paid for from Historic Preservation Funds passed through the Lewis and Clark and Miles City historic preservation offices, respectively.

2) School House Survey: Preserve Montana continues with the school house survey they began in the spring of 2021. Preserve Montana received a grant from SHPO to assist with this ongoing project. The survey focuses on school houses in seven counties and includes students from Middle Tennessee State.

3) Five-year Preservation Plan: As discussed and was the focus of the second half of September's Historic Preservation Review Board's meeting, the Department of the Interior's National Park Service (NPS) requires SHPOs to update their preservation plan every five years. SHPO will incorporate Historic Preservation Review Board's comments and incorporate them into the five-year plan. Submission of the plan to the NPS is required by December of 2022.

4) Grants, Documenting and Sharing Montana's African American Heritage project: Ms. Hampton continues to work on the African American Heritage Project. At the time of this review board meeting, Ms. Hampton was in Seattle conducting interviews with the production crew for a documentary about historic

African American experiences in Montana. Dr. Delia Hagen continues to work on a statewide African American Multiple Property Document and associated National Register nomination.

5) Grants, Revitalizing Montana’s Rural Heritage Project: The projects under the Revitalizing Montana’s Rural Heritage (RMRH) grant continue to work toward completion with oversight from Eric Newcombe. The Montana Hotel in Anaconda finished its work and SHPO will reimburse over \$54,000, close out the project, and enter into a 15-year preservation agreement. The WaterWorks Museum in Miles City also completed its work and will be reimbursed over \$20,000, close out the project, and enter into a 10-year preservation agreement.

6) New faces: On December 20, 2021, SHPO welcomed Laura Marsh as SHPO’s new part-time compliance officer. Ms. Marsh received both her BA and her MA from Stanford; her BA focused on Archaeology and her MA on Anthropology. Ms. Marsh will work most closely with Laura Evilsizer, SHPO’s full-time compliance officer.

Properties Listed in the National Register Since September 2021

Billy Kruse Cabin, in the north Flathead
St. Regis Airway Beacon
Hall Bungalow
McMaster Ranch Historic District, south of Helena

Potential Upcoming Nominations

Poker Jim Lookout (Custer Gallatin National Forest)
River View Dairy Barn (Cut Bank)
Beavertown Historic District (Jefferson County)
Thompson Falls Hydro-Electric Powerhouse Historic District NR update

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

Edwards & McLellan Block (Malta)

John Boughton, National Register Coordinator, 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:

- Correct spelling of “Edinburgh” on page 14.
- Correct spelling of “where” to “ware” on page 17.
- Correct construction date of the building to 1910.
- A great building and great nomination.

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

Dell Flight Strip (Beaverhead County)

Jon Axline, historian with the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), 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:

- The west half of the airstrip is not maintained? [correct.]
- What prompts the MDT to retain these types of properties? [the airstrip continues to receive use from both in-state and out-of-state users.]
- Is the airstrip still used for emergency situations? [Not much use recently for emergencies but it remains available for such cases should the need arise.]
- This was designed and controlled by MDT? [yes, Montana had a high number of pilots per capita so an airstrip in the area proved worthwhile.]

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

Montana National Bank (Billings)

Joan Brownell, historian and co-author, presented the nomination. The property was presented as significant under criteria A and C.

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- Remove “sandstone” from sentence on page 21.
- Please add image taken of the building diagonally from across the street.
- How many years dedicated by Big Sky Economic Development to this project of refurbishing the building for its new occupancy? [at least four and half years.]
- How will the building operate once the renovations are complete? [the main floor will serve as an “opportunity floor,” the mezzanine will be a training floor, and the top floor will be dedicated to Big Sky Economic Development offices.]

Mr. Sheldon asked for any public comment on the property. None was given. Mr. Keller moved and Ms. Walter 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.

Public Comment-2:25 p.m.

Mr. Sheldon asked for any additional public comment. Ms. Walter of the Historic Preservation Review Board thanked the preparers and the owners of the buildings presented for their nomination at the meeting. No other public comment was offered.

New Business-2:25 p.m.

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

Approval of September 2021 minutes: Mr. Sheldon called for the approval of the September 2021 Review Board meeting minutes. Ms. Casne moved and Dr. Auge seconded to approve the minutes. The Board unanimously concurred.

Lewistown CLG Update: Jeff Sheldon and KellyAnn Terry reported that the Lewistown historic preservation group remains active despite the lack of a historic preservation officer in the community for the last two years. Mr. Sheldon and Ms. Terry met with the Lewistown City manager and after discussions reported that Teri Gilpatrick was recently named as the new historic preservation officer for Lewistown.

Selection of time and place of May 2022 Review Board meeting: The next Review Board meeting was scheduled for May 19 or 20. The Board left the decision for the possibility of an in-person meeting to SHPO, dependent upon the severity of COVID cases in the spring.

The Montana State Historic Preservation Office Internship: Pete Brown, Montana State Historic Preservation Officer, reported on the SHPO's upcoming GIS internship. The internship will involve mostly online work and entail a submission for publication or submission to an oversight instructor. The internship corresponds to a goal presented in the upcoming Preservation Plan.

Mr. Brown discussed SHPO's attempt to diversify its knowledge of different and underrepresented ethnicities. This can include general research and through National Register nominations.

SHPO's outreach for the 5-Year Preservation Plan netted 381 survey responses, 20 interviews with people in the preservation field, and Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) outreach. The comments will be included in the plan.

Like many agencies in the state, SHPO plans to make a push toward digital information gathering and reporting. SHPO is pivoting toward the acceptance of digital-only submissions for Section 106 (E-106). The long-range intent of E-106 includes agencies filling out the appropriate reporting forms online.

Heritage Stewardship Reporting commences in 2023. To that end, a committee that consists of Mr. Sheldon, Ms. Walter, Mr. Keller, and Mr. LaLiberty was formed to review the agency reports that will be submitted to the SHPO Office.

Adjourn-3:06 p.m.

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