

# Montana State Historic Preservation Review Board Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2025

The Conference Room in Reeder's Alley and via Zoom

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**Review Board (Board) Members:** Marv Keller (via Zoom), Dr. Delia Hagen (via Zoom), KellyAnne Terry (via Zoom), Chris Averill, Laura Evilsizer, Phillipe Gonzalez, Rose Krieg, Mary Horstman Williams

**State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Staff:** Pete Brown, Melissa Munson, R.J. Hillman, Lindsay Tran, John Boughton

**Guests:** Jon Axline, Diane Tipton, Dena Sanford, Kristie Eggebroten, Sharon Martin

**Call to Order-8:31 a.m.** Chris Averill (Chair) called the meeting to order and read the State Historic Preservation Review Board mission statement.

**Welcome/Introductions-8: 40 a.m.** Mr. Averill requested the Review Board, SHPO personnel, and guests introduce themselves.

**SHPO/Review Board/National Register Overview and SHPO Preservation News- 8:45 a.m.** Because four newly appointed Historic Preservation Review Board members attended the meeting for their first time, John Boughton provided an overview of the role and programs associated with the SHPO, review board duties, and a short discussion of the National Register. Pete Brown and John Boughton then briefed the Review Board about several subjects including:

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

The search is ongoing for a new HPO for Big Horn County/Hardin to replace Mary Slattery who stepped down last summer.

No new information regarding the possibility of Gallatin County becoming a CLG.

### **SHPO Annual Report**

Pete Brown discussed the Montana SHPO Federal Fiscal Year 2024 Activities Report for the Federal fiscal year ending September 30, 2024.

### **SHPO Grant**

Mr. Brown discussed the new SHPO grant released in November with applications due by February 10. To qualify, a property must be listed in the National Register (or listed by the end of the grant). Grantees need agree to a five- to ten-year preservation agreement based on the grant award amount.

### **Big Timber Survey**

SHPO is funding a survey of much of downtown Big Timber with the goal to list approximately 37 properties in the National Register. John Boughton and Kate Hampton held an informational Zoom meeting on January 7 with property owners within the proposed district. The nomination's completion date is spring of 2026.

### **SHPO Fellowship offered to UM**

Melissa Munson discussed a semester-long fellowship offered to graduate students enrolled at the University of Montana or Montana State University. The fellowship includes \$3000 and waived tuition for credits directly associated with the fellowship for the student and \$1000 incentive paid to the supervising faculty member. The fellow will use SHPO's online cultural records and GIS files as part of their research under the supervision of a faculty mentor.

### **Tax Credit News:**

*Tax credit projects currently in the works include:*

- Grand Hotel in Kalispell, Part 2
- Thompson Block in Livingston, Part 2
- Billings Hardware, Part 2
- Dion Block in Glendive, Part 3
- Firestone Garage in Billings; preliminary review (will need to be nominated)

*Tax credit applications recently approved:*

- Grand Hotel in Kalispell, Part 1
- KPRK Radio in Livingston, Part 2 and Amendment
- Broadway Apartments in Lewistown, Part 2
- Franklin School in Great Falls, Part 1 (pending nomination)

### **Properties listed since last meeting:**

- Manley's General Store, Garneill
- Riverside Park, Laurel
- Regis Grocery, Red Lodge
- Zortman Ranger Station was submitted to the Bureau of Land Management Federal Preservation Officer but no word on its movement since.
- Castle Rock Lodge south of Butte submitted to Keeper of the National Register.
- Gardiner Bridge submitted to Keeper of the National Register..

### **Potential Upcoming nominations**

- Herbert Cabin in Park County
- Chinese American MPD and Mai Wah Building, Butte
- The Bridges of Poindexter Slough Historic District, Beaverhead County
- Franklin School, Great Falls
- Pathways to the Bible, Joliet area (possibly)
- Powell House, Valier (possibly)

### **Consideration of National Register nominations-9:25 a.m.**

#### **Fortin Ranch House (Lincoln County)**

John Boughton, co-author, presented the nomination. The property is eligible for listing in the National Register under criteria A and C.

*Questions and Comments from the Review Board:*

- Page 43, interior photo of root cellar and summer kitchen has an embedded title within the image. Please remove.
- Impressed with the detailed Criterion A argument.

Mr. Averill asked for any public comment on the property. None given. Mr. Keller moved and Ms. Horstman Williams seconded the nomination move forward to the Keeper. The Review Board unanimously concurred.

#### **Wetzstein/Tipton Ranch (Lewis and Clark County)**

John Boughton, co-author, presented the nomination. The property is eligible for listing in the National Register under criteria A and C.

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

- Please add a “C” for “contributing” or “NC” for “noncontributing” to the feature map.
- Is the color scheme on the log buildings historic? [the owner who attended the meeting replied yes.]
- Why are the pilings counted as noncontributing? [the pilings are associated with the historic railroad bed, and never used in any manner by either the Wetzsteins or the Tiptons.]

Mr. Averill asked for any public comment on the property. None given. Ms. Evilsizer moved and Ms. Horstman Williams seconded the nomination move forward to the Keeper. The Review Board unanimously concurred.

**Break: 10:00 a.m.**

**Resumption of meeting-10:22 a.m.**

#### **Farmer Trading Company (Bridger)**

Jon Axline, 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:*

- Was the building originally recorded as part of a highway project? [yes.]
- The nomination states the Farmers Trading Company stands as one of two sandstone buildings in the town; however, another location notes it as the “only” sandstone building. Please correct.
- Change “Welty” to “Kelty” where misspelled.
- Will an attempt be made to restore the windows [the author didn’t know.]
- Why is there a streetlight mounted on the sidewalk next to the building? [the author didn’t know.]
- Purpose of the vaults in the sidewalks? [potentially used either as a coal chute or for storage.]

Mr. Averill asked for any public comment on the property. Ms. Terry moved and Mr. Keller seconded that the nomination with any edits be forwarded to the Keeper.

**Fort Union Trading Post NHS (Updated Documentation and Boundary Increase)**

Dena Sanford, Architectural Historian with the National Park Service, presented the nomination. The property was presented as significant under criteria A, B, and D at a national level of significance with a Criterion E Consideration for several reconstructed fur-trade era buildings and structures. The district is also significant at a regional/state level under criteria A and D for its association with the Garden Coulee/Crow Flies High Village Site.

*Questions and Comments from the Review Board:*

- Please label on the map if resource contribute or do not contribute to the district. [some resources are of a sensitive nature so will be redacted for the public document.]
- What constitutes the landscape? [the riparian, uplands, and all the area that surrounds the fort.]
- Were all the historic buildings and structures associated with the fort reconstructed when work occurred from 1985 to 1991? [no, several storage buildings were not and their locations are presently marked by logs on the ground.]
- No Figure 2 appears in the nomination. [Figure 2 will not be included in the publicly released nomination due to sensitive information.]
- Please add the date of construction to the callouts for noncontributing resources.
- When does North Dakota review the draft? [the end of January 2025.]

Mr. Averill asked for any public comment on the property. None given. Ms. Evilsizer moved and Mr. Gonzalas seconded to support the nomination with any edits be forwarded to the Keeper. The Review Board unanimously concurred.

**Public Comment-11:06 a.m.**

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

A Zoom attendee asked how one can convince people that a property listed in the National Register may be changed or modified (assuming its private property, no Federal funds have been used for any projects related to it, and no local ordinances apply)? The review board noted this is often difficult even when the information refuting such a belief is readily available in literature and on both the Montana SHPO and National Park Service NR webpages. Consulting a local or county attorney may provide mixed results depending on the attorney's understanding of the National Register.

**New Business-11:18 a.m.**

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

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

**Selection of time and place of May 2025 Review Board meeting:** The May 2025 Review Board meeting will occur May 16 in Helena. The meeting, scheduled for the morning, will be followed by the biennial Montana Preservation Awards Ceremony.

**Adjourn-11:28 a.m.**

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