

# Montana State Historic Preservation Review Board Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2024

910 Helena Avenue, Helena and via Zoom

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

**State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Staff:** John Boughton, Kate Hampton, Lindsay Tran, Pete Brown

**Guests:** Jon Axline, Jennie Buddenborg, Carol Bronson (via Zoom), Kelsey Doncaster (via Zoom), Kate McCourt (via Zoom), Sherrie Arley (via Zoom), Samantha Long (via Zoom), Liz Stotts (via Zoom), Heather McMilin (via Zoom), Julie Stiteler (via Zoom), Frank Ruffalo (via Zoom), Dr. Tim Urbaniak (via Zoom).

**Call to Order-10:05 a.m.** Marv Keller (Chair) called the meeting to order. Mr. Keller moved to step-down from the Chair position and nominated Chris Averill to assume the role. Both moves passed unanimously. Mr. Averill read the State Historic Preservation Review Board mission statement.

Prior to the meeting, board member Jeff Shelden requested Kate Hampton of SHPO to provide proxy votes on his behalf.

**Welcome/Introductions-10:10 a.m.** Mr. Averill requested that the Review Board, SHPO personnel, and guests introduce themselves.

**SHPO Preservation News-10:15 a.m.** John Boughton briefed the Review Board about several subjects including:

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

All 15 active CLGs filed annual activity and financial reports on spending a combined total of \$102,489 of Federal Historic Preservation Funds that pass through SHPO. Historic Preservation Offices are beginning the application process for next year that will take several months and encompass the period from April 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025. No increase for the individual CLG annual grants is anticipated.

Several Historic Preservation Officer (HPO) position changes have occurred throughout the state. Doug Austermann assumed the Lewistown HPO. In Billings, Lora Mattox moved out of the HPO position and has been replaced with Dave Green. In Havre, Becki Miller stepped down as the HPO and Wade Betz stepped forward to assume the position. Both Ms. Mattox and Ms. Miller will be sorely missed.

The Miles City CLG slowly meanders their way to extinction due to noncompliance.

### **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 as an Underrepresented Community grant and also from a Cultural and Aesthetic grant.

### **Resource Survey Manual**

Delia 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. SHPO file search funds drive the preparation of the manual. The Montana Cultural Resource Survey Manual will provide thresholds of information needed by SHPO from contractors for the SHPO database and the NR program; the manual will supplement the existing Montana Consultation Guide.

### **Northern Cheyenne Reburial**

State Archaeologist Jessica Bush participated in the reburial of human remains on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation at the end of November 2023. Ms. Bush's significant other built a wood internment box for the remains, an act greatly appreciated and acknowledged by the tribe through a very complimentary letter to the SHPO office.

### **2023 Annual Report**

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

### **Revitalizing Montana's Rural Heritage (RMRH) Grants**

Managers of the I.G. Baker House in Fort Benton continue to consult with SHPO for structural work on the house's kitchen. Consultation stems from the I.G. Baker's RMRH-funded work completed in the Summer 2022, subject to SHPO review under the 15-year RMRH-related preservation agreement.

### **Tax Credit News:**

Current tax credit projects include:

- Petroleum County Courthouse in Winnett (Part 2)
- Milligan Building in Miles City (Part 2)
- Cottage #5 at the Boulder School Campus in Boulder (Part 1)
- The Thornton Apartments in Missoula (Part 3)
- The Baatz Block in Great Falls (Part 1)

### **New Personnel**

Jolene Keen, who returned to SHPO during the summer as the Cultural Records Assistant, quit within two months. Steffany Wood, who held the position several

years prior to Ms. Keen, applied for the new posting and was hired with her second SHPO tenure beginning on January 8, 2024.

SHPO remains down a grants manager.

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

- The updated information for the Orange Street Tunnel in Missoula.
- The Ruffatto School in Richland County
- Basin Creek Park Historic District south of Butte (visited by many review board members after the September meeting)

### **Potential Upcoming nominations**

- Main Boulder Creek Ranger Station (Custer Gallatin National Forest)
- Westgate Village Shopping Center (Bozeman)
- Head Chief/Young Mule Charge (Lame Deer)
- Lewis and Clark County Hospital Historic District Boundary Increase (Poor Farm Cemetery) [Helena]
- Zortman Ranger Station (Zortman)

### **Other News**

The Review Board was apprised of the passing of Dr. Ellen Baumler, historian with the Montana Historical Society for several decades, and the wife of former State Historic Preservation Officer Dr. Mark Baumler.

Review Board member Frank LaLiberty stepped down from the board.

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

### **Consideration of National Register nominations-10:28 a.m.**

#### **308-310 West Silver Street (Butte)**

John Boughton, author, presented the addendum to the Butte-Anaconda Historic District that corrects an error in the 2006 revised National Historic Landmark nomination that called out the property as noncontributing based on an inaccurate construction date. The property should have been listed in 2006 as a contributing element under criteria A and C.

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

- The owner of the property mentioned other nearby buildings were also erroneously called out as noncontributing resources in the 2006 documentation based on incorrect dates of construction.

Mr. Averill asked for any public comment on the property. None was given. Mr. Keller moved and Ms. Casne seconded that the addendum/correction move forward to the Keeper. The Review Board unanimously concurred.

### **Harding Way Historic District**

Jon Axline of the Montana Department of Transportation wrote and 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:*

- Nice nomination.
- How does listing impact the Montana Department of Transportation? [The section of highway had already been determined eligible for listing so actual listing won't change any of the consultation process. The property also falls under Department of Transportation Section 4(f) guidelines that results in additional oversight.]
- It seems unusual to call out a natural feature as contributing resource? [Yes, not common but in the case of Harding Way, the feature's draw of the public to drive the road, its promotion as part of the road, and its proximity to the road resulted in calling it out as a contributing resource to the property.]

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

### **Baatz Block (Great Falls)**

Heather McMilin of Homeword presented the nomination and provided background on the future of the building and the use of federal and state tax credits . The property was presented as significant under criteria A and C at a local level of significance.

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

- Is the Baatz Block in a new market tax zone? [New market and housing credits differ.]
- Will interior corridors remain? [Yes.]
- Homeword is to be commended for their hard work and pulling all the disparate pieces together to save the building and follow the organization's mission.
- One of the photographs appears to show a tin ceiling? [Yes, the ceiling is tin.]
- The Part 2 of the Federal tax credit has been submitted. [Lindsay Tran of the SHPO commended Julie Stiteler of Homeword for a job well-done.]
- Ms. McMilin's presentation focused on acquiring funding for Homeword's Baatz Block project. The presentation proved so thorough that Kate Hampton of SHPO asked if Ms. McMilian would repeat her presentation in Great Falls in September for the Montana History Conference.

Mr. Averill asked for any public comment on the property. Ms. Bronson stated how impressed she was with the project. Historic Preservation Officer for Great Falls and Cascade County Samantha Long noted how both the preservation commission and the city voted to support of the project.

Ms. Casne moved and Mr. Keller seconded that the nomination with any edits be forwarded to the Keeper. The Review Board unanimously concurred.

### **Early General Public Comment-11:35 a.m.**

Jennie Buddenborg, Executive Director of Preserve Montana, introduced herself and discussed Preserve Montana's mission and current projects with the review board.

### **Break-11:50 a.m.**

### **Resumption of meeting-12:05 p.m.**

#### **Northern Montana College Girls Residence Hall [Havre]**

Kelsey Doncaster, the author, presented the nomination. The property is significant under criteria A and C at local level of significance.

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

- Is a National Register district possible at Northern Montana College (Montana State University-Northern)? [Yes, many buildings are historic and would contribute to a larger district.]
- Do any other Collegiate Gothic style buildings exist on the campus? [Cowen Hall is close.]

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

#### **Crystal Ice & Fuel Company [Billings]**

Dr. Tim Urbaniak, the author, presented the nomination. The property is significant under criteria A and C at local level of significance.

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

- Part of the tower is planned for conversion to an apartment? [Yes.]
- Do any windows exist in the tower? [Two.]

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

### **Public Comment-12:45 p.m.**

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

### **New Business-12:46 p.m.**

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

**Approval of September 2023 Review Board meeting minutes:** Mr. Keller moved and Mr. Kujawa seconded to approve the minutes. The Board unanimously concurred.

**Selection of time and place of May 2024 Review Board meeting:** The lack of Review Board members present toward the end of the meeting will necessitate the selection of a date and location through future SHPO correspondence.

**Montana State-Owned Heritage Properties:** State Historic Preservation Officer Pete Brown briefed the remaining Review Board members about the Montana State-Owned Heritage Property agency reporting for properties under their jurisdiction. Agency reporting is set to commence in February. The lack of Review Board members present necessitates a future enquiry from the Review Board Chair to the Board regarding who wishes to serve on a subcommittee to assist SHPO with the review responsibilities.

SHPO reviews the reports and then forwards the reports to the Review Board subcommittee. Upon final review, the Review Board subcommittee prepares letters to the individual agencies discussing the reports, offering both praise and areas where improvement can occur. Agency letters are followed by a short presentation to the Education Interim Legislative Committee.

**Adjourn-1:13 p.m.**

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