

Montana State Historic Preservation Review Board Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2023

The Conference Room in Reeder's Alley and via Zoom

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Review Board (Board) Members: Frank LaLiberty, Patti Casne, Marv Keller, Dr. Delia Hagen, Jeff Shelden (chair), Chris Averill (via Zoom), Nick Kujawa (via Zoom)

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Staff: John Boughton, Kate Hampton, Laura Evilsizer

Guests: Dr. Tim Urbaniak, Janene Caywood, Nicole Hanson, Allen Grammens, Jenny Buddenborg, Cindy Urbaniak, Emily Swett, Matthew Werle, Liz Dolinar

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

Welcome/Introductions-9:05 a.m.: Mr. Shelden requested that the Review Board, SHPO personnel, and guests introduce themselves.

SHPO Preservation News-9:10 a.m.: John Boughton briefed the Review Board about several subjects including:

Local Preservation/Certified Local Government (CLG): SHPO notified Miles City and Lewistown that their respective cities' inactivity will result in probation. Lewistown responded stating an historic preservation officer will soon be installed. No response from Miles City.

At the request of Missoula City-County Historic Preservation Office, SHPO submitted comments to the City regarding proposed mixed use development of Fort Missoula. At this point, SHPO has only an advisory role in local decision making.

Montana's African American Heritage project.

Dr. Delia Hagen and SHPO Community Preservation Coordinator Kate Hampton attended the National Council on Public History in Atlanta the weekend of April 15 and 16 to accept the 2023 Individual Consulting Award for the Multiple Property Document, *Black Montana's Heritage Places*.

Tribal Historic Preservation Office Summit

State Archaeologist Jessica Bush is serving as lead for a Tribal Historic Preservation Office summit to be held the middle of May in Helena. The summit is designed to have all the different groups attend to discuss topics important to them.

Preservation Plan Accepted

The National Park Service formally accepted Montana's Historic Preservation Plan, *Past, Present, and Future*, as complete. SHPO revised the five-year plan for all Montana's sectors of preservation to consider and adopt in carrying out their preservation work.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)/SHPO Conference

SHPO staff met with BLM personnel from the different state offices the end of March to discuss SHPO-BLM protocol agreements, data sharing, NR, and shared interests going forward.

SHPO Moved

SHPO moved to their temporary new location at 910 Helena Avenue the week of March 6.

New Personnel

Cultural Records Assistant Kyler Mozell resigned the end of March to begin a new position with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. SHPO currently seeks a new cultural records assistant.

Although the historic architecture specialist position at SHPO remains open, Lindsay Tran will fill the position by the end of June. Until Ms. Tran's arrival, SHPO Pete Brown continues filling the role.

Properties Listed in the National Register Since January 2022

Monture Guard Station—Lolo NF
James F. Battin Building—Billings
Driver's Saloon and Café—Anaconda
Hillcrest Cemetery—Deer Lodge
Meyers Creek Works Center—Custer Gallatin National Forest
Sacajawea/Miles Park Historic District—Livingston

Potential Upcoming Nominations

Gladstone Hotel in Circle (additional information)
Donaldson Hall, MSU-Northern in Havre
Care Taker's Cabin in Butte

Consideration of National Register nominations-9:20 a.m.

Wise River Ranger Station Historic District (Livingston)

Dan Hall, co-author, presented the nomination to the review board. The property was presented as significant under Criterion A at a local level of significance.

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- Good job of compiling the inventory of the resources. However, have too many changes occurred for the property to be eligible? [The author responded that the changes display the evolution of the ranger station. The SHPO further elaborated that all of the changes to the exterior of the primary buildings on the property occurred within the period of significance and took place to provide uniformity of appearance. Additionally, the ranger station is being considered for listing under Criterion A, not Criterion C.]

- An experience National Register author attending the board meeting to present another nomination noted it is important to not overly emphasize integrity of materials and design for properties such as ranger stations where setting, location, feeling, and association bear strongly on the integrity of such properties.
- Should the propane tanks be considered a contributing resource? [Yes, if they date to more than 50 years old, which they apparently do, then they are counted as contributing.]
- Should the circulation pattern be called out as a contributing resource? [Yes, if the circulation patterns reflect the historic pattern of access across and through a property, it is important to count it as a contributing structure.]
- SHPO discussed that the status of the modern ranger station building constructed in 1980 can be changed from noncontributing to contributing based on review of the National Register Guidance in Bulletin 15.

Mr. Sheldon 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.

Lavina School Historic District (Lavina)

The nomination's author, Dr. Tim Urbaniak, presented the nomination 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 additions to the historic building serve as a gym and additional classroom space? [Yes.]
- Check the dimensions of the building in the nomination.

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

Break-10:00 a.m.

Resumption of meeting-10:15 a.m.

West Fork Ranger Station (Stillwater County)

Emily Swett of the Bitterroot National Forest presented the nomination. The property was presented as significant under criteria A and C at a statewide and local level of significance.

Questions and Comments from the Review Board:

- Criterion B is marked in one location of the nomination and not another [The information for Criterion B can be encompassed by Criterion C so the Criterion B call-out will be deleted.].
- Change “stiles” to “balustrades” in Section 7 description.
- Although use of wood for the balustrades would have been preferred, the metal replacements work well. [Metal was used along with a narrow gap for safety reasons, especially to preclude children from sticking their heads between the balustrades.]
- Could the review board receive a copy of Clyde Fickes’ “handbook?” [Yes.]
- Should the period of significance be extended to the 50-year before present date? [The nomination focuses on the early and most important years of the use of the three buildings and presents firm justification for the end date used in the nomination.]
- Remove the numbers of the noncontributing resources from the lidar image.

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

Robworth Apartments (Deer Lodge)

Janene Caywood, historian and nomination’s author, presented the nomination. 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 name “Tate” is mentioned in Section 8, page 16. Is he mentioned earlier in the nomination? [Yes, mentioned on the page previous page.]
- Is the estimate of Robertson’s worth of \$6000 at the time of his passing accurate? [Yes, the amount was printed in an article from the time.]
- Footnote 19, change date to 1931.

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

Public Comment-11:00 a.m.

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

New Business-11:06 a.m.

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

Approval of January 2023 Review Board meeting minutes. Ms. Casne moved and Mr. Averill seconded to approve the minutes. The Board unanimously concurred.

Update on Sacajawea/Miles Park Historic District: Any additional information regarding the 4 Ranges Recreational Foundation and their interest in the listing and the armory in the Sacajawea/Miles Park Historic District? [The group was sent an e-mail the same afternoon the January 19 review board meeting ended offering a follow-up discussion with SHPO to clarify what listing a property in the National Register means. The foundation never responded to SHPO's e-mail.

Selection of time and place of September 2023 Review Board meeting: The next Review Board meeting is scheduled for September 7, 8, or 9, 2023. Mr. Boughton will contact the Double Arrow Lodge in Seeley Lake to see about lodging for that time. The meeting will occur in-person with no Zoom aspect offered.

Adjourn-11:30 a.m.

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