

APPROVED
BOARD OF STATE HISTORY MEETING

February 11, 2010
Rio Grande Depot Board Room
1:00 – 3:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE:

Michael Homer, chair
Martha Bradley, vice chair
Max Smith
Deanne Matheny
Bob McPherson
Chere Romney
Scott Christensen
Michael Winder

Others in Attendance:

Betty Eatchel, Liberty Wells Community Council

EXCUSED

Ron Coleman
Maria Garcia
Greg Thompson

STAFF:

Palmer DePaulis, Executive Director, Department of Community and Culture
Thom Roberts, Attorney General's Office
Phil Notarianni
Wilson Martin
Cory Jensen
Doug Misner
Alycia Aldrich
Heidi Orchard
Greg Walz
Melissa Ferguson
Michele Elnicky
Kevin Jones

WELCOME

Michael Homer welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 19 BOARD MEETING

Max Smith made a motion to approve the November 19, 2009 Board meeting minutes. Bob McPherson seconded the motion and it passed with unanimous vote.

NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATIONS

Please refer to the following criteria:

- A) Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B) Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C) Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

Wells Historic District, presented by Cory Jensen.

The Wells Historic District is locally significant under Criteria A and C for two primary reasons: 1) its key association with streetcar development in Salt Lake City; and 2) its well-preserved collection of Early 20th Century American housing stock.

Under Criterion A, the district is significant for its association with suburban (streetcar) development in Salt Lake City. The Wells area itself is a major contributing resource in the overall history of streetcar subdivisions in the city. The incorporation of the interurban street car system as a necessary and integral component of the subdivision paved the way for future development of streetcar suburbs in the surrounding area (e.g., the many subdivisions of the West Sugar House area: Sixth East, Wilmington, Country Club Place, Adamson, Fairmont Springs Addition, Forest Dale, etc.), thereby establishing a distinctive pattern of community expansion for the southeastern portion of Salt Lake City.

The Wells Historic District contains an impressive collection of early 20th-century American residences that render the district significant under Criterion C. Further, the building stock represents the work of numerous architects and designers, including both locally trained draftsmen and nationally practiced architects, such as John Haedlund. The residences of the neighborhood, the vast majority of which are considered contributing resources within the district, are among the most well-preserved collection of early 20th century residential architecture in the Salt Lake Valley, lending visual cohesiveness to the district and distinguishing it from the surrounding neighborhoods. The patterning of architectural types and styles on the landscape within the district clearly demonstrates how the Wells area was developed over time. A few residences in the district are individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places for their architecture as well as their associations with the Woodruff Family, who played an important role in local history.

As representative of the early 20th-century American movement in architecture, the Wells Historic District contains an impressive collection of well preserved bungalow, period cottage, and clipped gable cottage residences. Collectively, buildings of these types represent approximately 1,065 (56 percent) of the 1,916 contributing properties in the district. The housing stock in Wells exhibits several different variations of these architectural forms and the application of myriad styles to them, illustrating how they were adapted to evolving residential needs and concepts of acceptable space, functional utility, and aesthetic appeal.

The period of significance for the Wells Historic District extends from 1871 to 1957. This time frame, and its relevance to the district, is best understood when divided into contextual eras based upon significant events and trends within the area's history. Four specific periods of significance apply to the Wells Historic District, and they begin in 1871; however, the period prior to that, 1847 to 1870, is also discussed in this nomination in order to provide a context for the initial development of the area. Thus, for the purpose of this statement of significance, the following eras are discussed: Farms and Fields (1847 to 1870); Initial Settlement (1871 to 1899); Streetcar Suburbs (1900 to 1929); The Era of Infilling (1930 to 1945); and the Post War Period (1946 to 1957).

The four primary contextual eras—Initial Settlement, Streetcar Suburbs, The Era of Infilling, and the Post War Period—are marked by key milestones in the history of the district. The platting of the Big Field area encompassing Wells began in the 1880s during the Initial Settlement era but was initiated by the establishment of the streetcar system in Salt Lake City in the early 1870s. The Streetcar Suburbs era encompasses the expansion of multiple streetcar lines into the Wells area, while the Era of Infilling is highlighted by the Great Depression, the associated steep decline in development, and the wartime recovery. The Era of Infilling, the third period of significance, represents the first focus on

developing previously undeveloped lots in subdivisions that had been platted during the earlier periods. The fourth period, the Post War Period, marks the final phase of historical development in the Wells area, when most of the platted lots had been developed and only occasional individual parcels or small sections of contiguous parcels were available for construction of the distinctive housing stock of the period.

Max Smith made a motion to accept the Wells Historic District for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Scott Christensen seconded the motion and it passed with unanimous vote.

Review of American Fork Hospital nomination.

The American Fork Hospital nomination was reviewed and approved in October 2009. The owner did not contact the Division about objecting until they were notified that the Board of State History had approved the nomination. They had questions about the nomination and after a few discussions with preservation staff; they decided they did not want to have the building forwarded to the Keeper. The owner sent a formal objection letter after the Board meeting. Staff is reviewing with the objection in mind. An individual property cannot be listed without the owner's consent. State History has had a handful of owner objections in the last twenty five years. What the Board has done in the past is to table the nomination and give the Division an opportunity to meet with the owner and discuss some of the misunderstandings.

Bob McPherson made the motion to resend the vote to recommend for nomination and table the nomination. Max Smith seconded the motion and it passed with unanimous vote.

Michael Homer suggested that the preservation staff provide the Board a copy of the form letter that explains the National Register nomination process. Wilson agreed to provide a form letter for the next board meeting, June 17.

SALT LAKE CITY'S DEMOTION ORDINANCE

Wilson handed out a letter addressed to the Salt Lake City Council from him on November 10, 2009 regarding the proposed amendments to Salt Lake City's current demolition regulations. The letter was sent because Salt Lake City is currently proposing an ordinance that would automatically place the action of the Board of State History and Keeper under the control of the City ordinance protection. In the letter, Wilson states, "the National Register is promoted as an honorific and incentive-based program, encouraging individuals to list and preserve their properties. Therefore, enacting new controls at the local level on such properties, without a separate local process undermines the spirit of the National Register program and raises the question of procedural due process." Wilson would like to request that the Board send a letter under the signature of Michael Homer to Salt Lake City expressing their concern. Thom Roberts was also asked by staff to provide a letter.

Under the advice of Thom Roberts, the Board determined that time is of the essence in regard to this matter and this may be an emergency item that the Board can undertake as an action item and make a motion to approve.

Michael Winder made a motion to authorize the chair to send a letter similar in content to Wilson Martin's letter to the Salt Lake City Council. Chere Romney seconded the motion and it passed with unanimous vote.

Michael reported to the Board that he sent a letter to Ally Isom, former Deputy of the Department of Community and Culture, expressing the Board's gratitude for her dedication to State History and congratulating her on her new position. She was very appreciative of the Board's support.

Michael Winder would like to stay as a member of the Best Article Committee. Chere Romney will chair the Best Article Committee and will be removed from the Best Book Committee. Kent Powell will assist in researching articles of interest.

DIVISION UPDATE

Phil gave an update on the Legislative session. State History has attended the Economic Development and Revenue Joint Appropriation Subcommittee meetings. The Subcommittee was also invited to an open house in the Zephyr room where the Division had an opportunity to share information about the Division's diverse programs.

The issue about the Utah State Historical Society having non lapsing authority is resolved for this year only. We will continue to work on this issue.

Phil encouraged the Board to look at the balanced scorecard to see what the Division is accomplishing. Wilson noted that the balanced scorecard reports on current issues.

The 2007 issue of Utah Archaeology Journal is completed. This journal is a joint publication with Utah Statewide Archaeological Society, Utah Professional Archaeological Council and the Utah Division of State History, Antiquities Section.

Palmer DePaulis reported that the Legislature has asked Departments to present a 5% reduction scenario from the base budget for the 2011 fiscal year. The Governor's budget proposal did not include a reduction of the base budget. The final outcome of the base budget will depend on the revenues and those figures will be available on February 16.

Phil thanked the Board for understanding that there were no lunches provided. The Governor sent an Executive Order that outlines specific items that should be cut back and refreshments for meetings was one of them. The refreshments were provided by staff. The Executive Order is in effect until June 30, 2010. It is also official that the State Government is on the four ten work week.

LEGISLATIVE PRESENTATION

Alycia Aldrich provided to the Board the Division's presentation given to the Economic Development and Revenue Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Monday, February 1, 2010. The presentation provides clear vision to the Legislature, helping them understand State History's contribution to a better Utah. Phil mentioned that in the past, the Division has selected photos from the state collection that reflect images from the districts each legislator represents and presented them with a copy. This year the Division provided a special link to each legislator where they could look at photos online from areas they represent.

RESEARCH CENTER

Doug Misner, Librarian from the Research Center introduced his staff to the Board: Greg Walz, Heidi Orchard, Melissa Ferguson and Michele Elnicky. He reported that total patrons in the Research Center in 2008 was 13,700, and in 2009 was 11,318. He believes the reason for the decline may be new state hours. The Center has not noticed patrons taking advantage of extended hours. Another reason may be that there is more information online. State Archives has also added more information online. Patrons that would normally come to do research can now go online and do basic research and find answers to their questions. The economy has had an impact also. The numbers are still higher than years before and are certainly higher than we expected when State History joined with State Archives to create a joint research center.

There is a currently a big emphasis on digitization because of the allocation of money given to the Department for digitization projects. The first collection that has been digitized is the classified collection, a general browsing collection for researching. The scanning was completed by the University of Utah. There are over 20,000 images from this collection. Two main partners are the University of Utah and Utah State University. Another collection recently completed by Utah State University is the Bray collection. The photos were taken by Clifford Bray from 1932 to 1938 while working for the Shiplers. This collection consists of 3100 negatives and they are scenes of daily life in Utah. The collection reflects of the era in the 1930's in Utah. Doug passed out copies of some of the photos. Another collection just beginning to be digitized is the O. Blaine Larsen collection, about 17,000 negatives, mostly portraits of citizens from Utah County during the 1940s and a few scenery shots as well. With these collections we have a conservation issue. Staff has identified all the boxes with negatives that are in advance stages of deterioration and has separated them, putting the negatives in freezer zip lock bags in boxes and storing in freezers that are on site. Bringing the temperature down will slow the deterioration process. By scanning them we will continue to make them available and accessible to the public. The staff has identified some of the Shipler collection as a high priority for digitization because of conservation issues. Staff has identified about 6500 negatives. These negatives are nitrate film and were taken in the 1920s. The Shiplers were moving from glass plate negatives into this early nitrate film. The boxes with deteriorating negatives will be pulled from the shelves, scanned by interns from the University of Utah, bar coded and added to the freezer boxes. Maps and artifacts slides are being scanned also. Staff is in the process of developing a conservation plan.

The Access database is now being converted to Past Perfect and everything will be digitized together, slides and metadata. Michele attended inventory training from the Northern States Conservation Center using the award money provided by William P. MacKinnon. She is now in the process of training staff on the physical inventory process.

Staff is also working on the new online catalog. A total of over 5,000 corrections have been completed in the catalog information. Much training on the new catalog system has taken place. Currently over 62,000 items in the catalog are available to the public. An acquisition team has been developed to determine a process for accepting collections.

Doug is thankful that he has a team that has the energy and determination to move forward on all the projects and plans for the Research and Collections program.

The 58th Annual State History Conference – September 9-11, 2010.

The 58th Annual State History Conference September 9 – 11, 2010. A planning meeting is scheduled this afternoon directly following the Board meeting.

ADJOURN

Max Smith made the motion to adjourn. Deanne Matheny seconded the motion and it passed with unanimous vote. Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: June 17, 2010, meeting begins at 1:00 in the Rio Grande Depot Board Room (no lunch provided).