

Historic Preservation Board Meeting

Minutes – October 5, 1998

Present: David Bailey, Barbara Creasman, Ed Chamberlin, Pat Gormley, Phil Born, Greg Walcher

Not Present: Steve Schulte

Also Present: Kristen Ashbeck, Community Development Department; Jim Raff, Mesa County Facilities and Parks

The meeting was called to order by Chairman David Bailey at 4:10 pm at the C.D. Smith Building.

MINUTES: Pat Gormley made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 4, 1998 meeting. Motion was passed on a second by Greg Walcher (6-0).

REHABILITATION OF THE MESA COUNTY COURTHOUSE: Jim Raff, Mesa County Facilities and Parks, gave an overview of the interests of Mesa County in management of the 50 buildings, 5 parks and trails that the County owns or shares responsibility for maintenance. Mr. Raff also summarized the upcoming Courthouse restoration and remodel project. The County approved funding for an assessment of the building that was completed by Chamberlin Architects. Plans and specifications are being done for the first phase which includes repairs of the cornice area which is leaking and causing deterioration of the walls, evidenced by deteriorating stone and staining. This phase will also include replacement of some of the exterior limestone, tuckpointing, cleaning and sealing. A similar limestone was found in Indiana.

Mr. Raff explained that eventually, when the new Justice Center is complete, the interior of the Courthouse would also be rehabilitated to be reoccupied by many of the County functions currently located elsewhere.

There was a brief discussion of the merits of designation of the County Courthouse on the local, State or National Register. The Board strongly supported the highest designation possible and offered assistance in doing so if needed. Any designation, including local, would qualify the building for possible funding through the Colorado Historical Society State Historical Fund.

Greg Walcher suggested that the Board should convey to the County Commissioners the Board's support of and appreciation for the project. The Board agreed and it was decided that Kristen would draft a letter to the County for David's signature.

UPDATE ON MAIN STREET LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT: Barbara Creasman reported that the petitions were 8 short of the 60 percent needed to support a local district. Kristen and Barbara will double check owners that may have signed for the National register District but may not have signed for the local district. Also, they will look into whether there are some owners of multiple properties (Raso, Golden) that may not have signed for all of their properties.

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COLORADO PRESERVATION INC. – ENDANGERED PLACES LIST: Barbara reported that Colorado Preservation Inc. is interested in more nominations from this part of the state this year. Last year, the Coates Creek School was the only nomination from Mesa County. This year's likely nominations include the Driggs Mansion, the Williams House on the Jarvis property, the Hanging Flume on the Dolores River, and the Grand Valley Roller Dam. Nominations are due in October, a list of the 11 Most Endangered Places will be announced by Colorado Preservation Inc. in February 1999.

There was some discussion as to the role of the historic Preservation Board in and support of the nomination process.

OTHER: David Bailey updated the Board on the progress of the Museum tower. Construction has reached the observation level and the Museum is starting to design the exhibits to be placed around the observation deck. One of the exhibits that will face the downtown area will describe historic downtown and help promote historic preservation. The exhibits committee suggested that the Board sponsor the exhibit and perhaps provide funding (approximately \$300). Kristen reported that the Board had approximately \$500 left in the 1998 budget that could be used for this project. Pat Gormley made a motion to approve funding for the tower exhibit project in the amount not to exceed \$350. The motion passed on a second by Greg Walcher (5-0; bailey abstaining).

David will set up a tour of the tower for the Board's November meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.