

# THE CAMERA & CLIPBOARD

## Historic Architectural Survey Newsletter

National and State Register Programs  
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
Colorado Historical Society

January 2003 Number 2



### POSITIVE INITIAL REACTION TO NEWSLETTER

Comments on the inaugural issue of *The Camera & Clipboard* are flooding in to OAHP. More than six letters are stacked high on the editor's desk. Here is just a sample of the positive comments received to date.

- ✓ Arthur "Art" Deco, prominent architectural historian, wrote, "...this is the best newsletter I've read titled *The Camera & Clipboard!*"
- ✓ Norvel Ningbocker from North Niwot noted, "...nice...."
- ✓ Winona Grits, historian and part-time diner waitress, exclaimed, "Honey, it just don't get any better'n this."
- ✓ And finally, Peter-Paul N. Merry sang praises to the newsletter. "I read several fantastic newsletter articles before, puff, it just vanished. Now it's blowin' in the wind. Send me another copy soon as I'm leaving on a jet plane."

How do you like the newsletter? Please let us know. Send your comments, suggestions and questions to:

#### ***The Camera and Clipboard***

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
Colorado Historical Society  
1300 Broadway  
Denver, CO 80203

Or, call us at 303-866-4681.

Or, fax us at 303-866-2711.

Or, send us an e-mail at  
[oahp@chs.state.co.us](mailto:oahp@chs.state.co.us).

Or, just stand in your front yard and stomp.  
We always keep an ear to the ground.

### NEWSLETTERS ON-LINE

The current issue of *The Camera and Clipboard* was mailed to all interested individuals, organizations, agencies, and local governments. This issue, as well as all back issues, are posted on the OAHP website at [colorado-history-oahp.org/programareas/infoman/infoman.htm](http://colorado-history-oahp.org/programareas/infoman/infoman.htm). We will continue to mail hard copy newsletters to anyone without e-mail access or to anyone who requests the hard copy version. For those with e-mail addresses, we will notify you each time a new issue is published and posted on our website (approximately every two months).

Feel free to forward the newsletter to anyone with an interest in architectural survey. We will gladly add new US mail or e-mail addresses to our distribution list. We also can supply additional hard copy newsletters for use at meetings or workshops.



## LOCAL AND STATE REGISTER EVALUATION CRITERIA

by Dale Heckendorn

The Architectural Survey Form (#1403) contains a section devoted to National Register of Historic Places eligibility, but it does not contain a place to assess and record State Register or local landmark eligibility. "Why?" you may ask.

It is very important to assess properties for local landmarking eligibility when surveying within one of Colorado's 77 municipalities and 13 counties with landmarking programs. However, because each of these communities has slightly different criteria and assessment considerations, one form truly will not accommodate everyone.

We encourage surveyors to add a section to the Architectural Survey Form to evaluate local landmark eligibility. Form 1403 may be modified to contain additional fields so long as the field order and basic organizational scheme of the form is left intact. For example, in the partial form below a new Section VIII is devoted to applying the local landmark criteria for Metropolis, Colorado. The individual fields continue to be numbered consecutively through Section X where the form returns to the standard form fields.

As for the State Register, so few surveyors are familiar with the application of the State Register criteria that field assessments are not required. OAHF staff will review forms for possible State Register eligibility. Surveyors are welcome to discuss with OAHF staff the possible State Register eligibility of individual properties.

### SECTION OF MODIFIED FORM 1403

#### VIII. LOCAL LANDMARK SIGNIFICANCE

47. Applicable Metropolis Landmark Criteria:

- A. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history;
- B. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.
- Does not meet any of the above Metropolis Landmark Criteria

48. Statement of significance:

49. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance:

#### IX. METROPOLIS LANDMARK ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

50. Metropolis Landmark eligibility field assessment:

Eligible  Not Eligible  Need Data

#### X. RECORDING INFORMATION

51. Photograph numbers:

Negatives filed at:  
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## RECONNAISSANCE SURVEYS MORE THAN JUST HORSE'N AROUND

by Thaddeus Gearhart

Architectural surveys fall into three broad classifications: **intensive**, **selective** and **reconnaissance**. Each type has its place, depending on the amount of information to be collected, the time and budget available, and the geographic dispersion of the resources,

In the last few years we have seen many State Historical Fund and Certified Local Government grant applications for reconnaissance surveys. Occasionally, the applicants or later users of the survey materials express disappointment regarding the amount of site information obtained and its accessibility. Let's take a minute to consider the nature of a reconnaissance survey.

Reconnaissance surveys are visual or predictive surveys which identify the general distribution, location and nature of cultural resources within a given area. A reconnaissance survey of the built environment generally entails the field identification of resources which appear to meet broad survey requirements. Documentation at this level rarely exceeds property address, observational information on architectural style and features, and photographic information. Reconnaissance surveys are often conducted to establish the boundaries for intensive surveys to follow.

A reconnaissance survey should document:

- ✓ The kinds of properties identified
- ✓ The boundaries of the area surveyed
- ✓ The survey methodology, including the extent of survey coverage
- ✓ Specific properties that were identified and the categories of information collected
- ✓ Recommendations for additional survey activity

Reconnaissance surveys are sometimes called "windshield surveys" (though they can be done without benefit of a windshield on foot, horseback or even skateboard). They literally consist of driving around a community and noting the general distribution of buildings, structures, and neighborhoods representing different architectural styles, periods and modes of construction.

There are no standard forms to be used in a reconnaissance survey. Examples of forms used in past surveys may be obtained from OAHP.

Because reconnaissance surveys record only observable information, they do not provide sufficient information on which to make determinations of eligibility. There is no way to establish if a building is historic just by looking (oh, if it were only that easy). And because reconnaissance surveys generally do not include full locational information (address; township, range and quarter sections; and UTM coordinates), the sites are not assigned official site numbers nor are they entered into OAHP's Site File database or into COMPASS. Individual site forms are bound with the associated survey report and added to the OAHP report library. The existence of the survey and the report will be noted in COMPASS when searches are performed by geographic location.

Reconnaissance surveys are useful in establishing areas for future intensive level surveying. However, they also consume valuable time and financial resources. If a community has already decided to launch a phased survey of its downtown commercial district and the adjacent residential neighborhoods, then it would be best to skip reconnaissance survey and apply the financial resources to the intensive level survey. Reconnaissance surveys shouldn't be undertaken if we're just horse'n around.



## SO YOU THINK YOUR BUILDING IS ELIGIBLE...

By Chris Geddes

"But the form says my building is eligible for the National Register!" This is something the National and State Register historians hear on a regular basis, not just from homeowners but from city and county officials as well. There is a difference between an official determination of eligibility and a field assessment.

A field assessment is just that- an assessment made by the surveyor while out in the field. This assessment should not be confused with an official determination of eligibility by the National and State Register staff. There are often times when the staff does not concur with the assessment- eligible or not eligible- made by the surveyor. The staff must ascertain whether or not the resource meets the criteria for listing on the National Register. Things we take into consideration include the significance and integrity of the resource, the historic background, and property type.

For example, a survey form for a 1905 farmhouse and chicken coop is received the office with "Field Assessment- Eligible" checked under the National Register Eligibility section of the form. The surveyor indicates that the building is a good example of Queen Anne architecture applied to farmhouses on agricultural complexes. After reading through the historical background and looking at the attached photographs, the staff notices a few things. First, there have been multiple alterations to the house. The windows and siding have been replaced, and an addition that wraps around the rear and side of the house appears to be fairly recent. Even though the original spindled porch supports are visible, the porch has been enclosed with siding and aluminum windows and the spindlework removed. Second, the historical background section notes that at one time, there were multiple outbuildings including a barn, loafing sheds, chicken coop, garage, and granary. All that currently remains of this collection of outbuildings is the chicken coop. They were demolished sometime in the 1980s. Finally, a search of the office database reveals five intact agricultural complexes in the

area with Queen Anne farmhouses and extant outbuildings. Based upon this collection of information, the staff would make a determination of "Officially Not Eligible," disagreeing with the field assessment of the surveyor.

In addition, there are times when the staff requires more information than what is provided, and we do not make a determination at all. In this situation, we would mark "Officially Needs Data," which means that until more or better information is brought to our attention, we are not in a position to make a determination one way or the other.

In conclusion, field assessments and official determinations of eligibility are two separate things. The staff makes a determination of eligibility based upon information provided at the time of review. The National and State Register staff are always willing to discuss issues of eligibility at any time during the survey process.

### Here are all the property assessment terms that are shown in COMPASS:

- ✓ Centennial Farm
- ✓ Delisted
- ✓ Easement
- ✓ Eligible – Field
- ✓ Eligible – Officially
- ✓ Listed – National Register
- ✓ Listed – State Register
- ✓ Local Landmark
- ✓ National Historic Landmark
- ✓ Needs Data – Field
- ✓ Needs Data – Officially
- ✓ Not Eligible – Field
- ✓ Not Eligible – Officially
- ✓ Within Existing District – Contributing
- ✓ Within Existing District – Noncontributing
- ✓ Within Existing District – Status Unknown
- ✓ Within Potential District



## NEW ARCHITECTURAL STYLES / TYPES ADDED TO LEXICON

by Holly Wilson

### Basement House



#### Defining characteristics:

1. Majority of building below grade
2. Flat or gently pitched gable roof
3. Concrete construction
4. At-grade entry to stairwell

The basement or half-house dates predominantly from the period immediately after World War II. The residences were promoted as affordable housing for returning veterans. The roof supports were designed as sub-floors so that a second or main level could be built as funds permitted. Most basement houses were later finished as one or two-story houses, or were demolished to permit the construction of a more conventional house. Unaltered surviving examples are very rare.

Basement houses are characterized by their raised basement configuration, rectangular plan, at-grade stairway entrance, and flat or gently pitched gable roof. Most basement houses were constructed of concrete although some were built using concrete blocks below grade and stucco, brick or even wood siding above grade.

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### House with Canopy Gas Station



#### Defining characteristics:

1. Small square or rectangular plan office.
2. Office roof extends over automobile driveway.
3. Roof supported by paired corner or single center post.
4. Building fronts street or street intersection.

The house with canopy became the most prevalent form of gas station in the 1910s and 1920s. The small square or rectangular plan office building is topped by a hipped or front gable roof that extends over the automobile driveway. The roof is supported by a single centered column, or more commonly, by a pair of corner posts. The house, or office, may be brick, stucco or wood sided. In some cases, the office and canopy may be flat-roofed with a parapet on all but the rear elevation. In the case of corner stations, the building often sits diagonally on its lot fronting the street intersection. Some corner gas stations have two canopies, extending in an L-plan over two intersecting driveways.



## ASK THE STAFF

by Les S. Moore

**Dear Les:** There are all kinds of survey forms available from OAHP. How do I know which one to use? Is there more than one form for architectural surveys? *Formless, Karval, Colorado*

**Dear Formless in Karval:** OAHP currently distributes 12 different survey forms (the so-called dirty dozen). We feel your pain. Many of the forms are part of the archaeology survey suite. The main form is the Management Data Form (#1400). To this may be attached various component forms corresponding to the type of resources found on the site. These include the Historic Archaeological Component Form (#1402), the Rock Art Component Form (#1407), and the Paleontological Component Form (#1409). One of the component forms is designed specifically for architectural resources—the Historic Architectural Component Form (#1404). Architectural surveyors are free to use the archaeological suite if they desire.

The form designed specially for architectural survey is the Architectural Survey Form (#1403). The form contains just the information needed to record architectural sites without some of the more archaeologically oriented information on the Management Data Form. Form 1403 is used without the Management Data Form.

If previously recorded architectural sites are being resurveyed, the Cultural Resource Revaluation Form (#1405) may be used in place of form 1403.

Finally, if a linear resource is being surveyed, the Management Data Form along with the Linear Component Form (#1418) should be used. Linear resources are treated as historic archaeological sites regardless of the individual or firm completing the survey.



## COMPASS ENHANCEMENTS

Some improvements were recently made to COMPASS, the OAHP on-line cultural resource database. In the original version, nomination and site form documents had to be opened one page at a time. The new version includes "VCR" buttons, allowing a user to page forward and backward through a nomination or site document without opening and closing individual pages. This significantly speeds up and simplifies the process of scrolling through the materials. Printing a document is also quicker, though admittedly, still a page-by-page operation.



Additional improvements will be added in a few weeks. Watch for the details.

### OAHP Architectural Survey Staff Support

All telephone numbers are area code 303 and prefix 866

E-mail addresses are [firstname.lastname@chs.state.co.us](mailto:firstname.lastname@chs.state.co.us)



#### — National and State Register Staff —

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Dale Heckendorn	National and State Register Coordinator	4681
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Holly Wilson	National and State Register Historian	4684

#### — Information Management Staff —

Lovella Learned Kennedy	Archaeological Information Specialist (source for new site numbers)	5216
File search requests	<a href="mailto:file.search@chs.state.co.us">file.search@chs.state.co.us</a>	



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