

THE CAMERA & CLIPBOARD

Historical & Architectural Survey Newsletter



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



January 2004 ⊕ Number 4



IT'S ABOUT TIME: HISTORICAL & ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY WORKSHOP

Mark your calendars for the first ever *Historical & Architectural Survey Workshop*. The day-long workshop, entitled **Cameras & Clipboards** (we worked a long time to come up with that name) will be held on February 5th in conjunction with the Colorado Preservation, Inc., statewide preservation conference, *Saving Places 2004: The Business of Preservation*. The registration fee is \$25 and registration may be made as part of the general conference. The workshop will be held at the Colorado History Museum in Denver.



Source: Denver Public Library

The subtitle for the workshop is *Challenges & Opportunities*. The practice of historical & architectural survey has changed significantly over the last decade with the development of new technologies, increasing interest in historic preservation, and the growth of survey funding sources. The workshop is designed to examine those areas of the survey process and products that present the greatest challenges or that offer us the biggest opportunities for improvement.

The workshop format will encourage all attendees to participate so that a variety of viewpoints and experiences may be shared. We welcome the participation of private survey consultants, historic preservation commission members, local planning staff, and other individuals interested in the generation, storage and use of historical & architectural survey information.

There is no limit to the number who may attend or the fun we will have! So if you haven't registered already, what's holding you back? If you're already registered, consider registering again. We can always use the extra funds.

REVISIONS TO THE SURVEY MANUAL

A draft of a new edition of the OAHP *Survey Manual* will be available by the end of the January. The draft document will be posted on the OAHP Website for comments. The manual will also be distributed at the *Cameras & Clipboards* survey workshop.

The activity that is the subject of this material has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Historic Preservation Act, administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute an endorsement or recommendations by the Department of the Interior or the Society. Regulations of the U.S. Department of the Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination in departmental Federally-assisted programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility operated by a recipient of Federal assistance should write to: Director, Equal Opportunity Program. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, Washington, D.C. 20240.

These activities are also partially funded by the State Historical Fund, a program of the Colorado Historical Society.

DATE IMPRINTED PHOTOGRAPHS: TURNING BACK THE CLOCK

by Thaddeus Gearhart

Many cameras automatically imprint the date on the face of each photograph. This is a good way to permanently record the date as an integral part of the image. Unfortunately, we have recently received a significant number of photos with incorrect dates, some off by as much as six years. **Please, be certain that the date is correct.** Incorrect date-imprints provide a confusing historical record.

PHOTOGRAPHY CHANGES FOR THE NATIONAL AND STATE REGISTERS

by Dale Heckendorn

As many consultants prepare nominations as well as perform surveys, we want to take this opportunity to announce two changes in our photography policy for the National Register and State Register programs.

First, photographs with date imprints which do not correspond to the actual date the photographs were taken will not be accepted for nomination purposes.

Second, we now use PowerPoint rather than slides to introduce properties at the Review Board meetings. We ask that each nomination include 3 to 6 color prints, 3"x 5" or larger (which we will scan) or an equal number of clear digital images.

FROM THE "OH, PLEASE!" DEPARTMENT: PROPERTY NAMING CONVENTIONS

by O. Pleeze

The Society of Architectural Historians listserv recently included the following posting:

I have been asked by a staff member at the Washington State Archives, Puget Sound Branch, about naming conventions for residential properties. Traditionally, I believe, residential properties done by an architect for a specific client who commissions the design, are named after the client; thus, for example:[Frank Lloyd Wright's] "Robie House." Some prefer the term "residence" instead of house where the client commissions and then resides in the house, but this has not caught

on; for example, we hardly ever hear this: [Frank Lloyd Wright's] "Robie residence"?

In recent years, there has been an attempt to eliminate gender bias in naming conventions. Where once it was typically :[H.H. Richardson's] "William Watts Sherman house" I now believe the preferred name is: [H.H. Richardson's] "William and Annie Sherman house" or simply: [H.H. Richardson's] "Sherman house."

But, what about houses that are designed on a speculative basis--the vast majority of residential properties? There are many different contractual relationships:

- 1) Houses designed by an architect for a developer; the project is then sold to an owner, but it seems as if the house ought to be labeled by the developer, since the developer paid the fee and directed the design decisions; for example, "speculative house for Tacoma Bank & Trust" or: "house for Tacoma Building Company" or: "Eichler house #1," etc., etc.*
- 2) Houses designed by a building contractor "in house" (a designer/builder?) for single lots that may have been platted and developed by someone else? These may be produced singly or in multiples (or in multiples with minor variations).*
- 3) Houses designed as part of large tract developments (such as Levittown, etc.)*
- 4) Houses built from "stock plans."*
- 5) "Kit built" or similar pre-designed houses.*

There are lots of other cases -- the building industry has so many ways of dividing up design, construction, finance, ownership, etc. Is there a standardized way of attaching identifiers to residential properties? Has someone worked this all out?

Our reaction? **Oh, please!** Just use common sense when it comes to naming properties. If a property does or should have more than one historic name, record them all. Every current and historic name entered on a survey form is entered into the OAHF sites database. We never know how a future researcher may search the name field, so it is best to error on the side of inclusiveness.



**LOCATIONAL INFORMATION:
SO MANY WAYS TO SAY, "YOU ARE HERE"**
by Chris Geddes

Location. Location. Location. The three words that are so important in real estate also mean a lot to the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP), especially when it comes to surveys. Over time, Colorado has been surveyed, platted, and divided many times, depending upon whom was in control at the time. Native Americans recognized tribal affiliations with certain lands and did not have grids and plats like we do now. They knew where the boundaries were without drawing lines. When the Spanish came into the southwestern United States from Mexico, they attempted to carve out the area by using cultural and geographic landmarks- from the river to the flat top mountain, for example. The 1870 Hayden Expedition placed yet another layer of land divisions for us to take into account. And then the Federal Land and Survey System (FLSS) divided the land by Township, Section, and Range. Due to all of these various occupations, we need to take into consideration the many ways in which people viewed the land around them, particularly when doing surveys and the accompanying historical research.

The Architectural Inventory Form (#1403) contains several places for the different types of locational information- UTM's, address, lot and block, and the Federal (or Public) Land Survey System (FLSS/PLSS). We require that all of these areas be filled out when completing a survey form. Why do we ask for such comprehensive locational information? The answer is quite simple- people search for information by any of these various search criteria. One person will want a list of every building on a specific block in downtown Littleton. Another will be interested in every historic resource in all of Otero County. Yet a third person will be concerned with all cultural re-

sources along a proposed pipeline that will run through the northwest corner of the state, encompassing multiple counties. The search criteria depend upon the nature of the project and the types of resources in the area. While urban resources typically have an address along with a lot and block, rural resources tend not to have addresses and are locatable only by Township, Section, Range and/or UTM's. Not every consultant, researcher or owner will want the same information, and so we must have different ways to search for the data they need.



Hayden Survey in 1870

Source: Denver Public Library

In addition, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is quickly becoming an important component in the survey field. At this time, we use the NAD 27 (North American Datum 1927), not the NAD 83. We prefer to receive information in the NAD 27 format, as this is how our system is configured. Though our survey forms will be updated with slots to indicate which datum has been used, please keep in mind that we will have to reformat anything submitted in NAD 83. There is great potential with this system for all that use it, from surveyors to city planners and government organizations. The things that can be done with overlays and historic maps are amazing. OAHP is currently in the process of doing the "big data dump" into the GIS. Stay tuned as this exciting change takes places in the upcoming months!



NEW ARCHITECTURAL STYLES / TYPES ADDED TO LEXICON

by Holly Wilson

Split-Level



Denver

Often referred to as a tri-level, a split-level is more of a building type than a style. Developed in the 1930s, it emerged in the 1950s as a multi-story counterpart to the dominant one-story Ranch house. Retaining the low pitched roof, overhanging eaves and horizontal lines of the Ranch, these homes added a two-story unit connected at mid-height to a one story section creating three staggered floor levels. This bifurcated floor layout reflected an interior planning theory that determined families needed three types of interior space: a noisy living and service area on the partially below grade level (represented by a family room and often a garage); the mid-level quiet living area (containing the living room, dining room and kitchen); and the upper level with the bedrooms.

A variety of wall cladding is used, such as brick and clapboard, and is often mixed with the brick relegated to the lower level. Attached garages, often partially below grade, are more characteristic of later construction. Windows typically include a picture window. There may be some traditional detailing, such as decorative shutters, but their unusual form clearly identifies them as modern houses. This postwar suburban house type remained popular through the 1970s. Although its heyday lasted about 25 years, new examples of split levels can be found today, attesting to the durable appeal of the design.

Common elements:

1. two-story section connected at mid-height to one-story "wing"
2. low-pitched roof
3. overhanging eaves
4. horizontal lines
5. attached garages on the lowest level and often below grade



Denver





ASK THE STAFF

by Les S. Moore

Dear Les: I recently searched **COMPASS** for historic sites in Logan County. The resulting list was incomplete. Properties that I recorded myself a few years ago did not appear. Why are some sites missing? *Puzzled — Peetz, Colorado*

Dear Puzzled in Peetz:

Certain resource types need a high level of protection due to the nature of the associated features and the physical accessibility of the sites. To provide this protection, certain site types will be classified in Site.Files and **COMPASS** as *Historical Archaeology*, not because of who or how they were recorded but due to the fragile nature of the resources. These site types include:

- historic sites with artifacts
- sites with very simple or deteriorated structures
- historic sites with probable subsurface remains
- mining sites
- homestead sites

The only exceptions to the above are sites also containing prehistoric or paleontological remains, in which case they are also coded for those resource types. Physically protected sites form the

other excepted class (e.g. Molly Brown House, Rocky Flats or Bloom – Baca House). These are overwhelmingly *Historic* sites with very limited archaeological deposits with a low likelihood of looting. Most of these are in urban areas.

If your access to **COMPASS** is restricted to “architectural sites” and you need to access protected sites for a project, contact the office at compass@chs.state.co.us.

Just for the record, the following linear resources are double-coded as both *Historical Archaeology* and *Historic*:

- Ditches and canals
- Transmission lines
- Railroad grades
- Fences
- Trails, roads and highways

—Les



Source: Denver Public Library

OAHP Historical & Architectural Survey Staff Support

All telephone numbers are area code 303 and prefix 866

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