

THE CAMERA & CLIPBOARD

Historical & Architectural Survey Newsletter



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



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TWO HALF-DAY WORKSHOPS

After the positive response to our *Historical & Architectural Survey Workshop*, we have developed two new half-day workshops. These courses will be held on Wednesday, February 2, 2005 in conjunction with the Colorado Preservation, Inc. statewide preservation conference, *Saving Places 2005: Bringing Preservation Home*.

One workshop will explore *Listing Properties in the National and State Registers: Challenging Issues and New Property Types*. This will be an ideal forum for individuals experienced in the preparation of National and State Register nominations to examine a number of specialized topics related to identifying, evaluating and nominating historic properties.

The second workshop will cover *Identifying, Recording and Evaluating Vernacular Architecture*. This offering will investigate the definition of vernacular architecture and examine variations in Colorado across time, place and culture. The class is intended for private survey consultants, historic preservation commission members and other individuals interested in the topic of vernacular architecture.

The workshops are limited to 35 people each. Participants are encouraged to attend both as this will offer opportunities to continue discussions of inter-related topics throughout the day. The cost is \$25 per person per workshop. More details to follow in the January issue of *The Camera & Clipboard*.

HANDY WEBSITES

Survey work often involves a lot of leg-work. For most projects you will need to carry out extensive on-site observations, visit several different libraries or archives and arrange interviews with a variety of individuals in order to gather all the data needed to complete the required survey forms. While not being chained to a desk is one of the rewarding aspects of engaging in a survey, everyone likes to have a few simple resources which are easily accessible and truly useful. Thank goodness for the World Wide Web.

The following websites can be of particular assistance for architectural survey work:

- TopoZone - <http://www.topozone.com> – allows for computing UTM's online, downloading/printing topo maps in various scales; very user-friendly
- Sanborn maps for communities throughout Colorado at Denver Public Library–<http://www.denver.lib.co.us/> –accesses the Library homepage; Open “Research Resources” from the list on the left, then click on “Databases A-Z”. Choose “S” and then the entry for Sanborn maps. The site will ask for your Library card number and name. Don't have a DPL card? Any Colorado resident may apply for a card. There is an “Online library card application” at <http://www.denver.lib.co.us/card/policies.html>

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

NEW ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY COORDINATOR NOW ON STAFF

by Mary Therese Anstey

The last issue of *The Camera & Clipboard* advertised an opening for an Architectural Survey Coordinator within the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. A new employee has been hired to fill this role-- it's me.

My name is Mary Therese Anstey and I have come to the Society via a somewhat circuitous route. Having left Colorado over six years ago, I have since lived in both Glasgow, Scotland and Melbourne, Australia. While living in Scotland I earned a Ph.D. in European Urban Conservation. My dissertation compared and contrasted home restoration efforts in the United States and Scotland, exploring what factors make some owners of historic homes 'ideal' while others are considerably less conscientious.

In addition to my Scottish degree, I have academic and professional links to Colorado. I graduated from The Colorado College with a degree in American History and earned a Masters from the Public History and Historic Preservation program at Colorado State University. Before I started jet-setting all over the globe, I worked in the City of Aurora Historic Sites Division and briefly at the Colorado Historical Society. So, in many ways, accepting this position feels like coming home.

In this new position, one of my major duties will be editing *The Camera & Clipboard*. I am fortunate to inherit a well-written and informative publication, an informal forum between the State and folks in the field. It is my goal to make this newsletter as responsive as possible to you, the readers. Feel free to submit articles or topics for forthcoming issues, contact me with specific survey questions or provide feedback on the quality and content of this publication.

I look forward to hearing from you and, hopefully, getting a chance to meet many of you face to face in my travels across the state of Colorado.

KEEPING THINGS IN CONTEXT... AN UPDATE ON HISTORIC CONTEXTS

by Mary Therese Anstey

The June issue of *The Camera & Clipboard* included an article about several major context projects. Since that time, one study has been completed and another is progressing rapidly.

Downtown Denver: Front Range Research Associates, Inc. has completed this study for Historic Denver. The publication is of particular interest to individuals completing surveys of commercial structures in downtown Denver or those planning to create a similar historic context study for another Colorado city. The document also contains a wealth of information for those simply interested in knowing more about the history and architecture of downtown Denver.

New Deal – Eastern Plains: Consultant Deon Wolfenbarger has nearly completed the field work in Sedgwick, Kit Carson, Prowers and Baca Counties. She has discovered the WPA was the most pervasive agency in terms of leaving built resources, with the majority of WPA projects constructed in Baca and Prowers Counties. Baca County was consistently in the heart of the dustbowl and, therefore, had the greatest need for jobs. This situation differed from Sedgwick County where the Great Western Sugar Company remained operational throughout the Great Depression and one major WPA project, the County Courthouse in Julesburg, provided local employment.

Wolfenbarger expects to have a draft of the context study prepared in January. A presentation highlighting the potential of WPA buildings on the Eastern Plains will also be offered at the CPI conference in February.

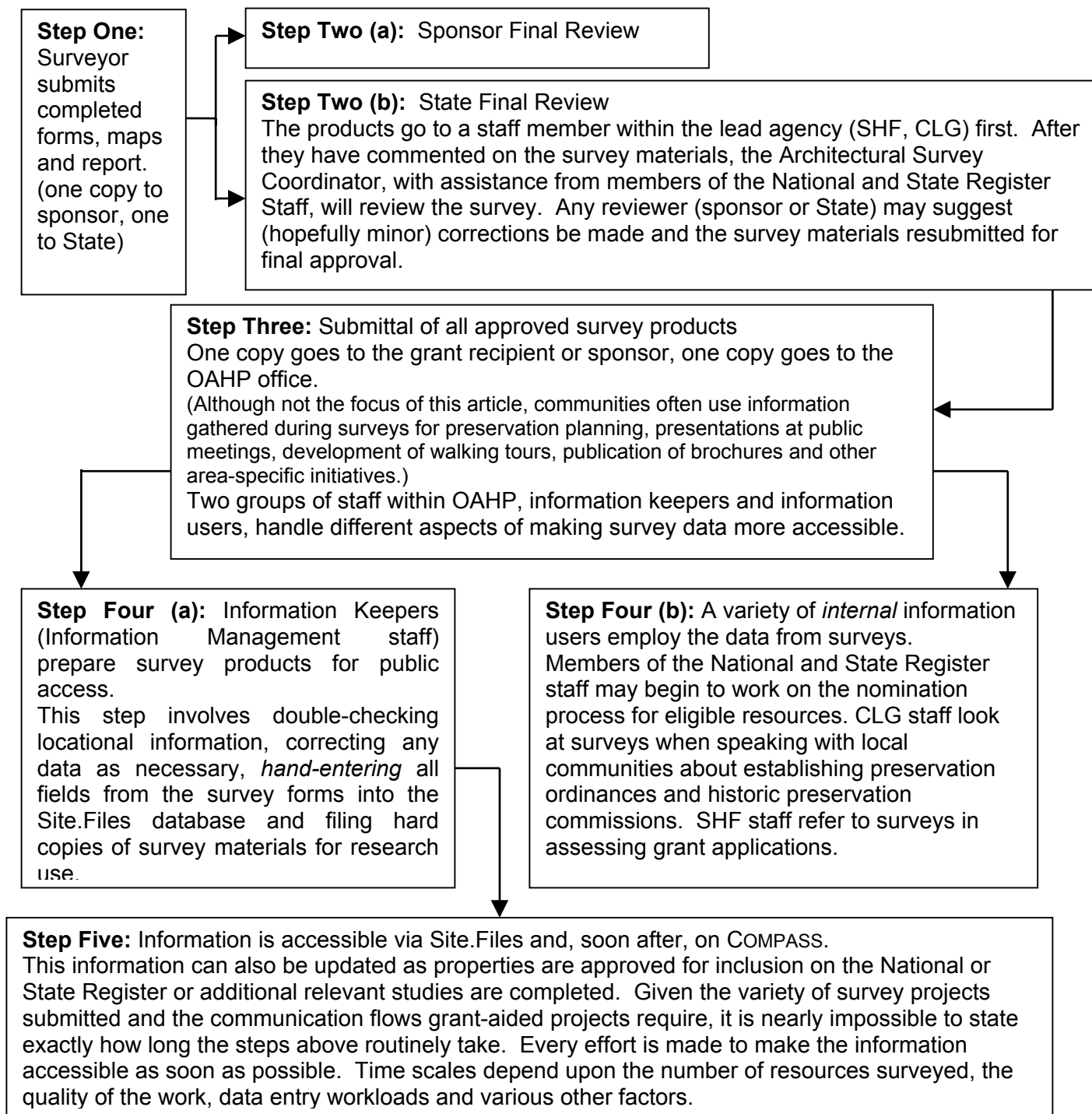
Both of these activities were partially funded by grants from the State Historical Fund (SHF). Please feel free to contact OAHF, SHF or any of the named individuals for more information regarding these documents.



STEPPING UP TO MAKE SURVEY INFORMATION ACCESSIBLE

by Mary Therese Anstey

Have you ever wondered exactly what happens to completed survey forms, reports and maps once they are submitted? You know the information is ultimately entered into the database and you may have even anxiously checked COMPASS in order to see the fruits of your labor in all their 'www-glory'. But, do you really know about all the work that happens behind the scenes? The flowchart below traces the path completed *grant-funded* survey products take from submittal to availability for a wider audience.



ARCHITECT BIOGRAPHIES

by Dale Heckendorn

WILLIAM N. BOWMAN (1868 – 1944)

William N. Bowman and his wife, Alice May Kniffin, a newspaperwoman from Grand Rapids, Michigan, settled in Denver in 1910. The couple built a large eclectic style home named *Yamecila* that Bowman designed in Barnum at 325 King Street. That same year he opened his Denver architectural office.

Bowman was raised in Carthage, New York, where his father suffered a serious injury in a sawmill accident. The oldest of five children, William quit school at age eleven to support his family by working in a woolen mill. He went to a teacher's home three nights a week to study mathematics and drawing in order to qualify for employment in an architect's office in Jackson, Michigan. Col. Elijah E. Myers, a prominent Detroit architect who designed the Colorado State Capitol, suggested Bowman become a carpenter's apprentice to learn the basics of building. After his successful apprenticeship, he worked for Mortimer L. Smith & Son in Detroit and Thurtle & Fleming in Indianapolis and then became a member of the firm Rush, Bowman & Rush, a construction company.

Among the many buildings Bowman designed through his architectural practice, the following are some of his preeminent structures receiving historical designation:

- Jackson County Courthouse, Neoclassical style, Walden, 1913 (State Register)
- Weld County Courthouse, Colonial Revival style, Greeley, 1917 (National Register)
- State Office Building, Beaux-Arts style, Denver, 1921 (National Register historic district)
- Byers Junior High School, Gothic Revival style, Denver, 1921 (Denver Landmark)
- Denver Public Schools Administration Building, Classical Revival style, Denver 1923 (Denver Landmark)
- Montrose County Courthouse, Neoclassical style, Montrose, 1923 (National Register)
- Norman Apartments, Spanish Colonial Revival style, Denver, 1924 (National Register)
- Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Building, Deco Gothic style, Denver, 1929 (Denver Landmark district).

Bowman also was one of the thirty-nine architects who banded together to design the Denver City and County Building.

In 1927, Governor Alva Adams appointed him to a four-year term on the State Board of Architectural Examiners. He previously served as president of the state's chapter of the American Institute of Architects from 1917 to 1919. Bowman was a member of the Chamber of Commerce, the Masonic Lodge, the El Jebel Shrine, the Knights Templar, and the Motor Club of Colorado, whose clubhouse he designed. His status as a Mason may have figured heavily in his securing the design commission for the Greeley Masonic Lodge. The quality of his work was far from unknown in Greeley as he was responsible for the 1917 Weld County Courthouse, just a block southeast of the lodge site across Lincoln Park.

After the death of his wife, Bowman moved into the Norman Apartments. He died there on August 28, 1944, and was buried in Fairmount Cemetery.



The Cosmopolitan Hotel in 1926, located at 1760 Broadway, Denver; demolished - 1926; Photographer: Louis McClure; Source: DPL online photography collection





ASK THE STAFF
by Les S. Moore

Dear Les: I am confused about a property I am surveying. It does not meet any of Applicable National Register Criteria (A, B, C, D) in Field 38, so how do I complete Field 42 where it asks for a Statement of Significance?

Flustered – Florissant, Colorado

Dear Flustered in Florissant: The important thing to remember is every field on the Architectural Inventory Form has a distinct purpose. In your case, you should mark “Does not meet any of the above National Register criteria” in Field 38. Because the property does not meet any of the criteria, there is no information to enter into Field 42. However, it is best not to just to leave any field on the form blank. In Field 42 you could enter N/A (not applicable). Keep in mind that a property which does not meet National Register criteria might still meet State Register or local landmarking criteria. Therefore, it is acceptable in Field 42 to note associations with historical events, general themes (town development, commerce, education, etc.) or significant individuals.

Dear Les: I know one of the first things to do when preparing for the field work on a survey project is to complete a file search. I have access to COMPASS. Can I just do it myself?

Self-sufficient – Sedgwick, CO

Dear Self-sufficient in Sedgwick: COMPASS, the online version of our database, is a helpful resource, but it is important to remember it is not current. Due to quality control and encoding issues, it will always be at least three months behind. For this reason, a file search still needs to be done. You can send an email to file.search@chs.state.co.us in order to request a file search. By obtaining a file search, you are assured to receive the most current information available in the database.

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