

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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BEST PRACTICE COMMITTEE CONVENES

The inaugural meeting of the Best Practice Committee was held on Thursday, March 10. This new advisory group has been formed to offer practical advice to improve the quality of the survey process and implement policy changes as needed.

The committee members represent a diverse group involved with different aspects of historical & architectural survey practice. The committee has three survey consultants: Dawn Bunyak, Carl McWilliams and Laurie Simmons. Ryan Kragerud is from the City of Longmont, a CLG with an active survey program. Two state entities, CDOT and OAHP, are represented on the committee. Lisa Schoch, Staff Historian for CDOT, deals with a large number of compliance-related survey projects. Heather Peterson from the OAHP Information Management department is responsible for encoding historical & architectural survey information into the Site.Files database. Finally, Jeff Overturf from the Forest Service will provide input from a Federal agency perspective.

The first meeting tackled two major topics. Members were invited to consider several proposed approaches to future historical & architectural survey training. The members were also asked to consider the format and content of the *Camera & Clipboard* newsletter. The committee members offered many opinions. Now it is your turn. We are asking all readers to

take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire on page 3. You may respond either via email or traditional post. Email responses should include your answers and any additional comments in the body of a message to Mary Therese Anstey at marytherese.anstey@chs.state.co.us. For postal returns print a copy of the questionnaire, fill in your answers and mail completed forms to Mary Therese Anstey at 225 E. 16th Avenue, Suite 950 Denver, CO 80203. The questionnaire asks a lot of questions on a single page, but feel free to include more expansive answers. All responses should be sent by **Friday, April 29th**. The questionnaire results will be presented in the July issue of *Camera & Clipboard*.

Thank you in advance for your opinions as expressed on the questionnaire. Thank you also to the members of the Best Practice Committee for agreeing to give of their time, to share their insights and to attend the meetings. Establishing a Best Practice Committee represents a first step in what is likely to be a long, evolutionary process toward changes in historical & architectural survey practice and policy. All readers should watch this space for updates on committee activities and any proposed changes to the historical & architectural survey process.

The second meeting of the Best Practice Committee will be held in September. We have already placed some topics on the agenda, but if you have suggestions please do not hesitate to let us know.

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.

NAME THAT SURVEY TYPE

When planning a survey you must consider both inclusiveness and intensity. Inclusiveness refers to the percentage of resources to be recorded within the survey area. Intensity refers to the amount of information which will be collected for surveyed resources.

There are two categories of inclusiveness: selective and comprehensive. Selective surveys record selected resources meeting pre-determined criteria. Comprehensive surveys document all resources within the survey area regardless of age or other factors. There are also two categories of intensity: reconnaissance and intensive. Reconnaissance surveys are visual, predictive surveys which identify the general distribution, location and characteristics of resources within a given area. While reconnaissance surveys do not require individual survey forms, a survey report must be submitted. Intensive surveys fully record the architectural and historical background for each resource. For intensive surveys both forms (usually #1403) with the required photographs, USGS and sketch maps and a survey report must be submitted.

The two categories of inclusiveness and intensity can be combined to describe the survey methodology. Therefore, you can have a selective reconnaissance, comprehensive reconnaissance, selective intensive or comprehensive intensive survey.

Test your knowledge of survey inclusiveness and intensity.

Choose the answer-- **a.** selective reconnaissance, **b.** comprehensive reconnaissance, **c.** selective intensive or **d.** comprehensive intensive-- which best fills in the blank for each survey scenario below.

Survey Scenarios:

1. No surveys have ever been completed in your county so you commission a _____ survey to obtain an overview of what types of resources and architectural styles are present throughout the county.
2. The Mayor wants to know how many bungalows are located within the City limits. The results of a _____ survey would answer her question.
3. Does the city contain resources which may be individually eligible as local landmarks associated with the social history of the town as a tourist destination? A _____ survey would help you find out.
4. You want a survey which gives the precise locational information (but not necessarily a lot of historical background) about a number of ranch properties so that local developers can utilize this information when planning new subdivisions. You ask the Historic Preservation Commission to help the hired survey consultants to complete a _____ survey.
5. You think you may have a National Register-eligible district in your commercial downtown. To determine the appropriate boundaries and contributing/non-contributing resources within the potential district you apply for a State Historical Fund grant to complete a _____ survey.
6. The local historical society wants to sponsor a walking tour to mark the 120th anniversary of the town's founding. They would like to feature extant homes built prior to 1886, sharing with the public information about all of the former occupants and how changes over time to these properties reflect patterns of growth within the community as a whole. The results of a _____ survey would aid in preparing the tour.

-- See page 4 for the correct answers --



QUESTIONNAIRE: Please return responses by **Friday, April 29, 2005.**

ABOUT YOU:

- Are you: a survey consultant CLG staff State/Federal agency staff
 Historic Preservation Commission member student
 Other: _____ (please specify)

SURVEY TRAINING

1. The Best Practice Committee suggested the establishment of a certification program for practicing historical & architectural survey consultants. Given the particular meaning and defined implications of the term certification within State of Colorado government, it is unlikely we will pursue that exact approach. However, developing a qualification program may be feasible. If such a program were established, what types of classes should be offered? Check all that apply.
 Maps and locational information Colorado architectural styles
 Lexicon terms/ tables Colorado history themes/ events
 Significance/Determinations of eligibility Photography tips
 Other (Please specify): _____
2. Who should be required to complete certification training: Experienced consultants First-time consultants Any individual completing survey forms
3. The Best Practice Committee also suggested some type of apprenticeship program for recent graduates of university programs in public history/ historic preservation.
 Do you think this is a good idea? Yes No
 Why or why not?: _____

CAMERA & CLIPBOARD

4. I read: Every issue in its entirety Most articles in most issues Some articles if I have time
5. Rank the current newsletter content in terms of usefulness. (One for most useful, five for least useful)
- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Event/ policy updates | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Handy Websites | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Architectural Styles/ Types Added to Lexicon | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Architect Biographies | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Ask the Staff | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
6. List topics for or types of articles which should be included: _____
7. Are you willing to write an article for an upcoming issue? Yes No
 If you answered yes, list some possible topics: _____

SURVEY PRIORITIES AND STATEWIDE CONTEXTS

8. Staff are considering the development of context documents to aid in the completion of surveys and NR-SR nominations. Check all resources you would be likely to use: Revised Circa 1984 Statewide contexts New Statewide context on women's history New Statewide context on sugar beet industry Other (please specify): _____
9. Name the geographic areas and resource types in most need of urgent survey: _____

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

ANSWERS TO NAME THAT SURVEY TYPE

1. **B – Comprehensive reconnaissance:** The survey is comprehensive because it will record all resources in the county. Reconnaissance surveys, often referred to a 'windshield surveys', are helpful as a starting point for determining which areas warrant further study. The survey report associated with this countywide survey should set priorities for future intensive survey.
2. **A - Selective Reconnaissance:** The survey is selective because it will only document a certain type of resources, namely bungalows. The Mayor is asking for information which can easily be ascertained with just a visual reconnaissance of the town.
3. **D – Comprehensive Intensive:** Making citywide determinations of eligibility requires comparing resources, taking a comprehensive look at all resources. For factors of eligibility other than architectural significance, such as social history, a more intensive level of documentation is needed. Depending upon the history and character of the city, it is likely several social history themes will be presented in the survey report and a wide variety of local landmark nominations could be prepared with not only social history but also agriculture, commerce, education, ethnic heritage or many other choices as the area of significance.
4. **A – Selective Reconnaissance:** The survey is selective because it is looking at one type of resource (ranches). The locational information from reconnaissance surveys can be entered into a searchable database. Members of historic preservation commissions and other volunteers often get involved with taking digital photographs for reconnaissance surveys.
5. **D – Comprehensive Intensive:** This one is tricky. You might be tempted to say selective because you are documenting only the commercial downtown. However, documenting all resources in the downtown area, completing a comprehensive survey, is necessary to make determinations about dis-

tricts. A selective survey (properties normally geographically scattered) can only determine eligibility of individual resources, not districts. When preparing an SHF application for a survey project, be sure to state the survey's level of inclusiveness and intensity, how many resources will be recorded and your intention to use OAHF manuals and forms.

6. **C – Selective Intensive:** The survey is selective because it records only those existing homes built prior to 1886. An intensive survey collects the type of detailed information the local historical society needs to prepare their tour. Survey results can form the basis for many types of interpretation, including brochures, books, documentaries, educational programs, exhibits and walking tours.

HANDY WEBSITES

If you are working on historical and architectural surveys within the City of Denver, this very long website address--
<http://www.denvergov.org/denvermaps/report.asp?rpt=rprop&cat=cprop&me=3106976%2C1644364%2C3255209%2C1761837> may very well be of use to you. This link provides access to the City of Denver Assessor's Office. The user-friendly site gives you the option of searching by either address or parcel number to locate downloadable maps. Navigating the site you can also find the neighborhood name, historic district name (if applicable), subdivision name with year for your chosen property, date of construction, legal boundary description, owner name, total square footage, lot size and many other interesting tidbits.

Many other Colorado counties have also placed their Assessor's records online. Go to www.colorado.gov, click on 'government' along the top and then 'Local and Federal Government' in the left-hand column. You will get a list of all Colorado counties. Websites for the individual counties are arranged differently, but most have a link to the Assessor's Office and some reference to Property Record searches

ARCHITECT BIOGRAPHIES

by Diane Wray

WILLIAM C. MUCHOW (1922 – 1991)

William Muchow was born in Denver, Colorado, in 1922 and graduated from North Denver High School. He attended Columbia University and the University of Notre Dame prior to entering the Navy in 1942, where he achieved the rank of captain and commanded the navy destroyer USS Lovelace. Upon his return, he received a BS in Architecture from the University of Illinois in 1946. He then attended the Cranbrook Academy of Art, where he studied under the internationally acclaimed architect Eliel Saarinen, and was awarded the prestigious Plymm Fellowship. Muchow graduated from Cranbrook in 1948 with a Master of Architecture and Urban Planning degree. In 1949 he was awarded the Rome prize.



*The information in this biography comes from a National Register of Historic Places nomination prepared for the pictured **First Federal Savings and Loan** located at 4301 South Broadway in Englewood. The National Review Board deemed the property eligible for listing under Criterion C (Architecture), however, the nomination was not forwarded to the Keeper because the owner has demolished the building.*

For more information on Muchow and other Colorado architects see:
www.coloradohistoryoahp.org/guides/architects/architetindex.htm

Upon his return to Denver in 1949, Muchow worked briefly for Fisher and Fisher, perhaps the single most important Denver architectural firm of the 20th century. In 1950, Muchow formed his own firm -- Muchow Associates Architects. Though Muchow was licensed in Arizona, California, Kansas, Nebraska, and Wyoming, his projects were primarily in the Denver metro area. From 1950 to 1991, his firm designed eight hundred and thirty-three projects and won national awards for more than forty of his architectural designs. He was elected a Fellow of the AIA in 1968. In addition to his architectural work, Muchow won distinction for service to the local, state, national and international architectural community through his work with the AIA, the Colorado State Board of Examiners, and the National Council of Architectural Registration. He served on more than twenty-five award juries nationally and lectured widely at colleges, conferences and seminars throughout the US and abroad.

A quote from the *Daily Journal* of December 1982 summarizes his influence on the region: "Muchow is probably the most widely known architect in the region, his name synonymous with consistent design excellence. His office has spawned numerous individuals who are in turn practicing architects and leaders in the profession." Today those individuals rank among Denver's most successful local architects. George Hoover, Michael Jacoby, Herbert Jenson, Karl Berg, Dayl Larsen, G. Cabell Childress, Paul Hutton, William Dilatush and Peter Dominick, Jr., all originally worked at Muchow's office. These architects and a variety of important independent engineering firms all made important contributions to the work of Muchow's firm. Muchow died in 1991.

Muchow is featured in the 1994 edition of *Contemporary Architects*, a worldwide survey edited by Muriel Emanuel. Two pages provide biographical and critical sketches of Muchow's work along with listings of awards, exhibitions and publications. There is also an extensive building list from 1951 to 1984 which includes ninety-one of his most significant buildings. A few of his notable projects in Denver are the 1956 Texaco Building at 1570 Grant St., the 1968 Federal Reserve Branch Bank at 1020 16th St., the 1969 Currigan Exhibition Hall at 1324 Champa St. (demolished), the 1974 Park Central at 1111 15th St. and 1110 16th St., and the 1974 Blue Cross/Blue Shield Office Building at Speer between Lincoln and Broadway. Also notable is his 1965 Engineering Sciences Center at the University of Colorado in Boulder.





**ASK THE
STAFF
by Les S.
Moore**

Dear Les: I have determined individual buildings eligible to the National Register, but now I am working on a residential survey and I think a three block subdivision developed by I.M. Utley in 1892 may be a NR-eligible historic district. How do determinations of eligibility differ for historic districts? How do I determine which resources

are contributing and non-contributing?

- Unsure in Utleyville

Dear Unsure:

Districts need not be confusing. First you need to **decide why your district is significant**. This step does not differ from what you do for individual eligibility. You need to determine the applicable NR criteria (A-D), Period of Significance and Area of Significance. It sounds like your district is significant for its association with the development and construction activities of I.M. Utley. Developing a strong statement of significance will also help you to determine the maximum boundary for your district. Because the district is important for links to I.M. Utley, the maximum boundary is the three block area of the subdivision he developed.

Once you know the geographic area for your district you can **determine contributing and non-contributing resources**. In this step you will need to consider both significance and integrity. Contributing resources will match the district statement of significance and possess sufficient integrity to convey that significance. For example, a ranch house built in 1962 within the district is non-contributing because it is not associated with the development and construction activities of I.M. Utley. An Utley-designed, 1892 home meets the significance test but numerous alterations and additions would make it non-contributing because it has changed too much to show its association with the work of I.M. Utley.

Often determinations of contributing and non-contributing status indicate a needed change in district boundaries. So, **consider density and distribution of resources**. Districts should have a majority of contributing resources, but think about more than percentages. The con-

tributing resources should be the largest buildings within the district. Contributing resources should also be concentrated near one another and in prominent locations. Drawing district boundaries based upon a consideration of distribution and density of contributing resources gives an historic district a much stronger visual presence. You should be able to stand in the middle of the Utley Historic District and see mostly contributing, significant resources with high levels of integrity instead of a concentration of large, prominent examples of altered or infill construction.

For more information consult NR Bulletin #15 – “How to Apply National Register Criteria for Evaluation” at www.cr.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins.htm

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