

# The Camera & Clipboard

## Historical & Architectural Survey Newsletter



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

April 2007 ✦ Number 15



### CPI SESSION RECAP

Members of the Best Practice Committee hosted a successful box lunch session at the Colorado Preservation, Inc. annual Saving Places Conference on Wednesday, February 7, 2007. Approximately 40 individuals representing the various members of the survey community attended.

The session started with Historical & Architectural Survey Coordinator Mary Therese Anstey explaining the session was organized for three major reasons. First, the Best Practice Committee wanted to provide an opportunity for networking within the busy schedule of the CPI Conference which usually only allows for passing 'hellos' instead. Second, CPI seemed the perfect place to gather individuals who, although all involved in the survey process, may not routinely meet to discuss issues of mutual interest. And, third, the Committee wanted to gauge the level of interest in establishing a professional organization for members of the historical & architectural survey community.

Committee members scattered themselves around the room to engage in small group discussions with attendees. Then the group reconvened to share the substance of the conversations around the room.

Survey consultants Dawn Bunyak, Carl McWilliams, and Laurie Simmons mostly chatted with fellow contractors. Their wide-ranging discussion touched on topics such as the OAHPLexicon, survey standards, and need for consistency among various staff members working

with different types of historical & architectural survey projects. Of all of the small groups, the consultants in attendance seemed to express the highest level of interest in the development of a professional organization.

Planner Ryan Kragerud from the City of Longmont, a CLG that has conducted numerous historical & architectural surveys funded by CLG grants, shared his experience planning and managing these projects. He reported to the larger group the discussion among local government staff attendees concentrated on the Three P's: survey as the first step toward *preservation*, *promotion* of survey results by posting the completed forms on the City's website, and ways to assure *privacy* when posting forms.

Archaeologist Jeff Overturf with the Lakewood office of the U.S. Forest Service wowed his small group of mostly consultants and other agency employees with gadgets and the way his agency has incorporated handheld PDAs into the fieldwork and form-creation process for survey projects. And the two OAHPL employee members of the Committee, Anstey and Cultural Resource Historian/ GIS Specialist Heather Peterson, fielded questions regarding qualifications for completing historical & architectural survey projects, availability of historic context documents, and the department's very preliminary discussions about developing electronic survey forms.

The Best Practice Committee wishes to thank everyone who attended the informative CPI session.

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.

## NEW TERMS ADDED TO LEXICON

### Simulated Log Siding

Usually articles in *The Camera & Clipboard* about additions to the Lexicon detail new architectural styles or building types (see Oblong Box Gas Station beginning on the following page). However, this piece is devoted to a new External Wall Material: Simulated Log Siding. This term is a separate subcategory of the Wood category in Table 2 of the Lexicon and is meant for use in Field 17 of the Architectural Inventory Form. OAHF staff added this term in response to the surveyed resources from recently reviewed historical & architectural survey projects. In the absence of this term, form preparers were using other Lexicon terms within the Wood category which, unfortunately, did not appropriately express the construction material and appearance of the buildings.

The text below compares the new term Simulated Log Siding with the existing Lexicon term Log, offering clues on the building types or styles which may feature each type of external material.

#### SIMULATED LOG SIDING

Simulated Log Siding is a manufactured product designed to have the appearance of milled logs, but it usually looks more uniform and smoother (akin to Lincoln Logs). Simulated Log Siding is lighter weight than log, making it a popular re-siding option. Simulated Log Siding is made in ½ log and ¼ widths and is often stained or painted. This external material is used for 'neo-Rustic' buildings and resort/ seasonal mountain properties (ca. 1950s-present).

#### LOG

Log is an external material used for Pioneer Log type (late 1850s-1930s) and Rustic style (early to mid-1900s) buildings. For Pioneer Log build-



ings these logs can be round, hewn or rough milled and such dwellings and outbuildings often feature various types of corner notching. Rustic style properties

usually employ hewn or rough milled logs (plus stone), surfaces designed to blend with the natural environment.

## BEST PRACTICE SUCCESSION PLAN

At their March meeting, Best Practice Committee (BPC) members discussed the future of the volunteer advisory group. When the BPC was established in March 2005, staff had no idea how beneficial members would prove in exploring both practical and philosophical issues related to historical & architectural surveys. Since this group is such an asset, the BPC made the following decisions to regularize the Committee:

- BPC will schedule quarterly (instead of semi-annual) meetings.
- Two new members—Amy Pallante (OAHF) and a second CLG/ local government representative (filled for June 2007 meeting)—will now serve on the BPC.
- OAHF staff members—Mary Therese Anstey, Amy Pallante, and Heather Peterson—represent permanent members of the BPC.
- Staggered terms will assure a mix of experience and 'new blood' within the group at all times. There will be vacancies: in December 2007- for State agency rep Lisa Schoch and survey consultant Laurie Simmons, in June 2008- for CLG rep Ryan Kragerud and survey consultant Carl McWilliams, and in December 2008- for survey consultant Dawn Bunyak and Federal agency rep Jeff Overturf.
- From this point forward all BPC terms of service will be for three years plus one meeting.
- Replacement members will be chosen by consensus of the BPC from an applicant pool; individuals can either send a short statement of interest to Mary Therese Anstey or be nominated by a current BPC member.

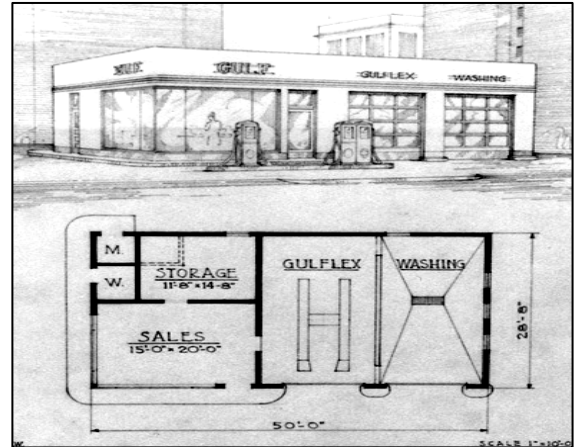


# NEW ARCHITECTURAL STYLES/ TYPES ADDED TO LEXICON

By Dale Heckendorn

## Oblong Box Gas Station

The operational shift from “gas station” to “service station” marks an important corporate, consumer, and architectural milestone in the marketing of gasoline. In its first decade of operation, the gas station was a roadside facility dispensing gasoline, other petroleum products, and a limited line of automobile parts and accessories. As growing numbers of automobile owners sought the services of someone skilled in mechanical maintenance and repair, the gas station increasingly assumed the role. Early repairs and maintenance were often accomplished in an open area beside the station. A subterranean service pit or short ramp or lift gave the mechanic easier access to the underside of autos. Rain, snow, and intense sunshine often made these outdoor service areas unusable. Owners of early house-with-canopy or cottage-type gas stations sometimes built detached and later attached garages to accommodate year-round automobile service and repair. Thus was born the gasoline service station.



In the mid-1930s petroleum corporation executives, with their architects and industrial designers, began rethinking the function and organization of the service station. This was the period when modern architectural styles such as Art Deco and Moderne (sometimes referred to as Streamline Moderne) surged to popularity. The minimalist concepts of the International style also began to permeate the offices of American architects. These architectural movements corresponded with the rise of “industrial design,” improving the aesthetics and usability of products through such considerations as overall shape, location of details, colors, texture, sounds, and product ergonomics. This field also was concerned with the production process, choice of materials, and consumer point of sale presentation. All these design and architectural philosophies influenced the reshaping of the service station and yielded what is most often known as the oblong box-type station. Walter Teague produced a series of designs for Texaco that inspired similar designs throughout the industry. The above 1940 architectural plan and rendering of a Gulf service station epitomize the defining design characteristics of this building type.

All the functions of the station, except the actual pumping of gas, are accommodated in a simple rectangular plan building. The office/sales area occupies the prominent corner, facing the adjacent road intersection in street corner stations. Attached to the office are the service bays with roll-down glazed doors. Two-bay models predominate. Occasional single-bay versions may be found in small communities. Stations with three or more bays appear at busy roadside locations that emphasized auto service. Sometimes an original two-bay oblong box expanded to accommodate growing business by the construction of additional service bays.

### Common elements:

1. rectangular plan
2. flat roof
3. lack of ornamentation
4. corner office
5. two service bays
6. flat hard surface landscape

Each bay of the two-bay station serves a specific purpose. One bay contains a hydraulic lift to raise cars for the servicing of tires, lubrication, and underside parts. A central in-floor drain to catch water runoff during car washes characterizes the second bay. A small storage area behind the office and adjacent to the first bay holds equipment and parts. Each station also contains a men’s and women’s restroom. The restrooms are usually accessed by exterior doors on the station’s side or rear elevations. In some stations, the women’s area opens from the station interior instead for the added protection of its users.

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## Oblong Box Gas Station

Oblong Box-Type Stations generally employ flat roofs, but occasional butterfly (V-shaped), shed, front gable, and neo-mansard examples may be found. Early Art Deco and Moderne styles sometimes included a rooftop pylon, prominently lighted at night, to attract the attention of passing motorists.

Art Deco/Moderne stations might include rounded corners, narrow cantilevered projections below the parapet, and porthole windows. International style stations featured almost no ornamentation other than narrow bands of color or slightly protruding belt courses wrapping the building above the door and window lintels.

Station designers of the period often took advantage of a new external material, porcelain enameled steel, for Oblong Box-Type Stations. Produced in panels, the material was bolted either to an underlying wood or metal frame or to a concrete block structure. The smooth shiny surface was low maintenance and generally durable. The reflective qualities of the surface allowed the buildings to glow at night for increased visibility. Oblong Box Stations were also made of painted concrete block or occasionally of brick.

Canopies extending over the pump islands were much more common on Art Deco/Moderne stations than the International style versions. Some stations, a prominent example being the Phillips 66 standard design of the 1960s, used inclined wedge-shaped or delta winged canopies each supported by a steel frame pylon rising above the roof to hold the prominent corporate sign.



Variations of the rectangular plan are common, most often with the office area projecting or being setback from the service bays. In some corner facing stations, service bays positioned along each side of the station intersect at the rear corner forming a square building plan.

Due to the nature of its heavy automobile traffic, landscaping generally consists of little more than a surrounding surface of concrete or asphalt paving. Lighting is most often accomplished by the use of tall pole lights at the property corners.

Oblong Box Stations continued to be built into the early 1970s, and they remain common along streets and highways, though most now serve non-automotive functions. As petroleum companies gradually surrendered automobile service to dealers and specialty service providers, the need for service bays diminished. The gas station-convenience store type currently dominates the industry. Retired Oblong Box Stations, minus gas pumps, now function as automobile service centers, florists, barber shops, travel agencies, coffee shops, and restaurants. The Quizno's sandwich chain opened and continues to operate its first outlet in a former two-bay Oblong Box Station in Denver.



*The photos on this page show examples of Oblong Box Gas Stations, one (above) still in its original use and a second (below) converted into an espresso stand.*

*Photos by Dale Heckendorn*



# COMPLIANCE CORNER

Up until this point most of the issues of *The Camera & Clipboard* newsletter have dealt either with generic historical & architectural survey issues or items directly related to grant-funded projects. However, the newsletter readership includes a number of consultants and professionals involved in the 'other side' of historical & architectural survey—surveys mandated to document resources before a project using Federal funds is initiated. These types of historical & architectural surveys are commonly referred to as compliance projects. *The Camera & Clipboard* will now feature the 'Compliance Corner' with articles written specifically for individuals working on historical & architectural compliance projects. We hope these pieces, however, will be informative and of interest to the wider survey community as well. Starting with the basics, the article below details Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

## SECTION 106: AN INTRODUCTION

by Amy Pallante, Compliance Coordinator

Welcome to this new column. The purpose of this column is to provide information and to discuss topics related to environmental compliance and cultural resources. The focus of the column will usually be on the application of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), especially Section 106 of that Act.

During the 1960s, destruction of the built environment became more common. In 1965, the U.S. Conference of Mayors issued a report titled, *With Heritage So Rich*, that addressed the loss of the historic built environment in major American cities due to urban renewal, public works, and highway construction projects. Historic neighborhoods and important community landmark buildings were being demolished with little or no review. The protests against and the eventual demolition of Penn Station in New York City in 1965 provided a tremendous catalyst to the nascent preservation movement. Using *With Heritage So Rich* as a foundation, Congress passed the NHPA and President Lyndon Johnson signed it into law on October 15, 1966.

Some of the major provisions of the NHPA included the creation of State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO) to administer the national preservation program at the state level; the National Register of Historic Places to designate the nation's significant historic, architectural, and archaeological resources; and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), an independent Federal agency, to advise the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy. The NHPA also created a process by which Federal agencies must take into account the effect of their projects upon cultural resources. This process is found in Section 106 of the NHPA. The Section 106 process is started at the earliest planning stages of a project and represents a separate set of procedures from those required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The Section 106 process features four steps:

- 1) Initiate Section 106 Process,
- 2) Identify Historic Properties,
- 3) Assess Adverse Effect, and
- 4) Resolve Adverse Effects.

Later 'Compliance Corner' columns will address specifically each one of these steps within the Section 106 process as well as common problems consultants and other professionals involved in compliance survey work tend to encounter.

If you have any questions regarding this article or any other aspect of the National Historic Preservation Act, please contact Amy Pallante at [amy.pallante@chs.state.co.us](mailto:amy.pallante@chs.state.co.us) or 303-866-4678.





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

**Dear Les,**  
In researching the Historical Background (Field 35) for a survey project I found some details about various previous owners which, while interesting, may be interpreted by some readers as salacious. So as not potentially to offend readers and users of the forms, should I remove these tidbits before submitting the survey forms?

**-- Undecided in Uravan**

**Dear Undecided:**

I think whether users of the forms are offended depends very much on both them and the manner in which the information is presented. Of course, we have no way of knowing to which issues readers of the forms (especially if they happen to be related to the person described) might be particularly sensitive. I would suggest you chat with your client and other local folks in the community where you are surveying. Such individuals usually are more aware of sensitivities, especially in smaller towns.

As far as the manner of presentation, you should always strive to make the narratives factual. I would be concerned if you were really attempting, in the way you wrote the material, to emphasize the lurid side. For example, it seems acceptable to state Suzy Queue was convicted of murder but not to write Suzy Queue was a raving loony who axed her good-for-nothing parents. Like most things historical, interpretation (and reinterpretation) is important. But researchers, scholars, and others must have the facts first in order to analyze them. So, providing factual accounts on the survey forms seems to me to be perfectly acceptable and very welcome.

As historians we need to realize all history is not 'pretty', but that does not mean we should not mention it. For example, where would the profession and society, for that matter, be if no one had ever written books about the realities of slavery, poor treatment of Native Americans or even the Holocaust?

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