



# CAMERA & CLIPBOARD



*The Historical & Architectural Survey Newsletter*

HISTORY  Colorado  
OFFICE of ARCHAEOLOGY  
and HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Back to Basics ♦ Summer 2011 ♦ Number 30



## THE SECRETARY'S STANDARDS: NOT JUST FOR REHABILITATION PROJECTS!

Do you or your clients ever wonder what principles guide many of Colorado's historic preservation activities? While we operate as part of a state agency, History Colorado's Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP) is also the federally mandated State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) authorizes SHPOs to be responsible for making decisions about the preservation of historic properties, to serve as focal points for preservation planning, and to act as state-wide repositories of collected information on historic properties. The NHPA also authorizes the National Park Service to develop – in consultation with federal preservation officers, state historic preservation officers, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and other parties – national standards and guidelines for preservation.

After more than a decade of hard work and consultation, the Secretary of the Interior published *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation* in the Federal Register in September 1983. Their explicit purposes are to:

- Organize information gathered about preservation activities.
- Describe results to be achieved when planning for the identification, evaluation, registration, and treatment of historic properties.
- Integrate the diverse efforts of many entities performing historic preservation into a systematic effort to preserve our nation's cultural heritage.

Many preservationists are familiar with the "Secretary's Standards" as they apply to rehabilitation projects, but there are actually several sets of Standards, each accompanied by Guidelines that provide more specific guidance and technical information on a wide range of preservation activities. The full collection, available online at the National Park Service website, [http://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/arch\\_stnds\\_0.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/arch_stnds_0.htm), addresses:

- Preservation Planning
- Identification
- Evaluation
- Registration
- Historical Documentation
- Architectural and Engineering Documentation
- Archaeological Documentation
- Treatment of Historic Properties: Preservation, Rehabilitation, Restoration, and Reconstruction (1995)
- Professional Qualification Standards

These Standards and Guidelines form the basic framework for our office's coordination of historic preservation activities in Colorado, including survey, planning, and designation projects funded through the Certified Local Government and State Historical Fund programs. We strongly encourage all consultants, agencies, and project managers working on preservation issues to review the Secretary's Standards and Guidelines and become more familiar with the approaches they recommend.

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## PRESERVATION PLANNING: HARNESSING THE POWER OF HERITAGE AND PLACE

*Astrid M. B. Liverman, Ph.D.*

*National & State Register Coordinator, Preservation Planning Unit Director*

As part of the mandated responsibilities to administer state historic preservation programs, the NHPA of 1966 directs each SHPO to develop and implement a statewide preservation plan, usually every ten years. OAHP at History Colorado oversees creation of the plan through sustained input from the public and preservation stakeholders.

Between July 2009 and November 2010, OAHP hosted ten listening sessions statewide, issued on-line and direct mail surveys to groups including Certified Local Governments and NAGPRA tribal contacts, presented a segment on Colorado Public Radio's "Colorado Matters," and organized focused working groups for federal and state agencies, non-profit organizations, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, History Colorado staff, the Colorado Historic Preservation Review Board, the Archaeological Institute of America, Colorado Archaeological Society, and Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists. Seventeen hundred organizations and individuals received notice of the draft plan for public review and comment. Finally, a State Plan Advisory Committee, comprised of stakeholders and citizen members from across the state, oversaw development of the draft throughout the planning process.

Two principal sets of guidelines inform the statewide preservation planning process, the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grants manual and the Secretary of the Interior's (SOI) Standards for Preservation Planning, a component of the larger Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation. The HPF manual, which details program activities associated with the major federal source of funding for state historic preservation offices, promotes planning as a proactive opportunity to solidify the efforts of preservation partners statewide. Preservation planning facilitates consensus on priorities, stimulates renewed partnerships, assesses evolving conditions--both in terms of resource identification and analyzing critical needs and challenges--and determines strategies. The manual specifies that the plan have a statewide focus, analyze the current state of preservation efforts, address all types of historic resources, and coordinate with broader planning efforts.

The SOI Standards for Preservation Planning situate all preservation planning processes, whether local, regional, or at the statewide level, in the context of the other SOI Standards, for Identification, Evaluation, Registration, Treatment, and Professional Qualifications. Acting in concert, these Standards provide the theoretical framework for integrated and sensitive decision-making regarding preservation of the breadth of historic and cultural resources. Focused firmly on public involvement and the comprehensive development of historic contexts, the SOI Standards for Preservation Planning are:

- Standard I: Preservation Planning Establishes Historic Contexts
- Standard II: Preservation Planning Uses Historic Contexts to Develop Goals and Priorities for the Identification, Evaluation, Registration and Treatment of Historic Properties
- Standard III: The Results of Preservation Planning Are Made Available for Integration Into Broader Planning Processes

Related to implementation and integration of planning goals, the guidelines associated with the Preservation Planning Standards are:

- Managing the Planning Process
- Developing Historic Contexts
- Developing Goals for a Historic Context
- Integrating Individual Historic Contexts—Creating the Preservation Plan
- Coordinating with Management Frameworks

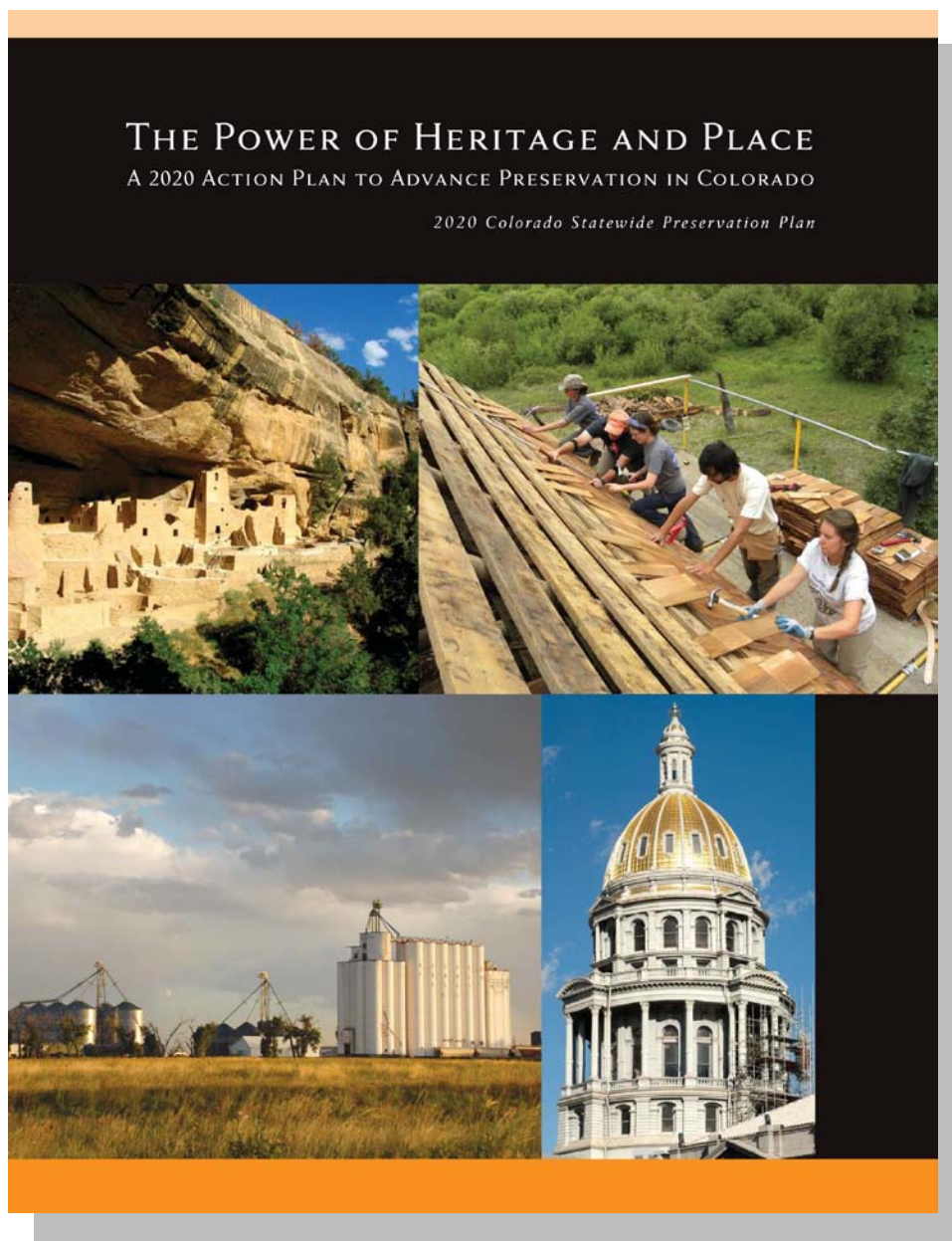
Emphasis is consistently placed on focusing historic context development on the interdisciplinary identification of the breadth of resources and defining the property types associated with each discrete historic context. For more information, visit: [http://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/arch\\_stnds\\_1.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/arch_stnds_1.htm).



The National Park Service approved *The Power of Heritage and Place: A 2020 Action Plan to Advance Preservation in Colorado* in January 2011. Per the state planning cycle, this plan will be updated to report on its progress in 2015-2016 and rewritten in 2020. Its major goals are identified as:

- A: Preserving the Places that Matter
- B: Strengthening and Connecting the Colorado Preservation Network
- C: Shaping the Preservation Message
- D: Publicizing the Benefits of Preservation
- E: Weaving Preservation Throughout Education
- F: Advancing Preservation Practices

For more detailed information regarding these goals, both an executive summary and the full plan are available at: <http://www.historycolorado.org/archaeologists/state-preservation-plan> .



## WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR IN A HISTORIC CONTEXT?

*This article is based on and incorporates wording from "How to Develop Historic Contexts" (an older OAHF document) and the "Developing Historic Contexts" section of the SOI Guidelines for Preservation Planning (at [http://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/arch\\_stnds\\_1.htm#guide](http://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/arch_stnds_1.htm#guide)).*

Most survey projects in Colorado are undertaken as part of a local or project-specific preservation planning effort. Evaluations of historic resources typically occur during the survey process, and key to successful and defensible evaluation recommendations are well-developed Historic Contexts.

A Historic Context is a body of information about historic properties organized by place, time, and theme. A single Historic Context describes one or more important aspects of the historic development of an area, relating to history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. *It is important to remember that a Historic Context is not the same thing as a historical overview; its main purpose is to facilitate preservation planning.*

A Historic Context may be based on:

- one or a series of events or activities;
- patterns of community development;
- associations with the life of a person or group of persons that influenced the destiny and character of a region or a stage of physical development;
- evolution of a building form and architectural style;
- use of a material or method of construction that helped shape the historic identity of a community; or
- research topics or site types that will expand our knowledge and understanding of an area's development, past cultural affiliations, and human activities and interaction where written records are lacking.

Historic Contexts can be created on several levels and for different purposes -- to provide information for a single inventory record, a National Register nomination, a 106 compliance survey of a project area, a countywide or regional survey, or a thematic study.

In some situations brief summaries of available information may be adequate. In other cases, more extensive research and analysis may be appropriate. Regardless of the scope, the approach is the same: to place historic properties within the context of the broader patterns of history that created them, and to place any one example within a larger group of similar properties.

Generally, Historic Contexts should not be constructed so broadly as to include all property types under a single Historic Context, or so narrowly as to contain only one property type per Historic Context. The following procedures should be followed in creating a Historic Context.

### **Identify the geographic area(s) in which the project area or historic property is located.**

The geographic area selected may relate to a pattern of historic development or political division, resource distribution, or the present day division of planning jurisdictions.

### **Identify the time period(s) when the known or predicted historic resource(s) gained significance.**

This information may occur within obvious chronological stages of development or just a specific time period.

### **Identify the relevant theme(s) for your project area or historic property.**

Organize the history of the property or project area by addressing any relevant themes under broader time divisions. Historic themes to consider include, but are not limited to, the following National Register areas of significance:

Agriculture	Architecture	Art
Commerce	Communications	Community Planning & Development
Conservation	Economics	Education
Engineering	Entertainment/Recreation	Ethnic Heritage
Exploration/Settlement	Health/Medicine	Industry
Invention	Landscape Architecture	Law
Literature	Maritime History	Military
Performing Arts	Philosophy	Politics/Government



Religion  
Transportation

Science  
Other

Social History

Once these major aspects of a Historic Context are developed, associated property types should be identified and described.

**Define the property types associated with each applicable historic theme.**

Tangible historic resources are linked to a Historic Context through the concept of *property type*. A property type is a grouping of individual properties based on a set of shared physical or associative characteristics.

- Physical characteristics include structural forms, architectural styles, building materials, or site type.
- Associative characteristics include the nature of associated events or activities, associations with a specific individual or group of individuals, or the category of information about which a property may yield information.

The initial list of property types associated with the historic theme is developed to assist in identifying the historic resource base. The list will include such resources as buildings, sites, structures, objects, and districts

Describe the property types in terms of locational patterns, geographic distribution, and estimated numbers of examples in the geographic area. Use sources such as historic census data, directories, historic maps and atlases, and publications of local history.

Evaluate the current level of knowledge of the property types and themes identified through this process, and determine how the property types relate to the historical background. Consult appropriate OAHF staff for assistance in assessing the completeness of the data base (survey records, Colorado and National Register nominations, etc.).

**An Example**

What follows below is a selection of Historic Context information abstracted from *Commercial Resources of the East Colfax Avenue Corridor*, a Multiple Property Documentation Form completed by Tom and Laurie Simmons of Front Range Research Associates in 2009. The MPDF was one of several products developed for a Colfax Business Improvement District-sponsored project to document the East Colfax corridor, and was funded in part with a 2006-2007 State Historical Fund grant. The full-length document, available online through the History Colorado website at [http://www.historycolorado.org/sites/default/files/files/OAHP/crforms\\_edumat/pdfs/653.pdf](http://www.historycolorado.org/sites/default/files/files/OAHP/crforms_edumat/pdfs/653.pdf) illustrates one successful approach to preparing a Historic Context that meets state and federal guidelines for preservation planning.

**Historic Context: Commercial Development of the East Colfax Avenue Corridor, 1880s-1968**

Geographic Area: East Colfax Avenue (from Grant Street to Colorado Boulevard), Denver

Time Period: 1880s-1968

- Themes:
- The Beginnings: "Open Prairie"  
Community Development
  - The Boom of the 1880s and the Growth of Rapid Transit  
Community Development, Transportation, Health Care/Medicine
  - The Rise of Apartments and Diversification of Building Functions  
Architecture, Commerce, Community Development, Entertainment/Recreation, Transportation
  - Automobility and Construction in the 1920s  
Architecture, Commerce, Community Development, Education, Transportation
  - The Early Post-World War II Years  
Architecture, Commerce, Entertainment/Recreation, Ethnic Heritage, Social, Transportation
  - Transformations in the Late Twentieth Century  
Commerce, Social, Transportation
  - Twenty-first Century Revival  
Community Development, Commerce, Transportation

Associated property types:

- General-use Commercial Building
- Entertainment and Recreation Building
- Hotel/Motel Building
- Transportation-related Building
- House with Commercial Addition



image: Front Range Research Associates

**Associated property type: Transportation-related Building:** The transportation-related subtype embraces resources directly tied to East Colfax Avenue's role as a segment of a transcontinental highway (U.S. 40) and major urban arterial. Such resources as service stations, garages, automobile dealerships, vehicle repair businesses, vehicle part and supply firms, and similar establishments fall into this category. Buildings of this subtype within the corridor are generally one-story in height, have flat roofs, are set back from the street, and often occupy corner locations. Service stations within the subtype tend to be rectangular boxes, having an office area with display windows and a pedestrian entrance at one end attached to a garage area with overhead, sectional garage doors. Fuel pump islands are present a short distance from the front and sides of the building. Few service stations along the corridor display an identifiable architectural style. One of the most notable transportation-related resources along the avenue is the 1949 Black and White Automotive Service (*pictured above*), located at 2424 East Colfax Avenue. The two-story Art Moderne style building is composed of tile block and has curved corners, large display windows, a curving metal canopy, and metal coping. Historic automobile dealerships generally featured a small, one-story office set well back from the thoroughfare, with the large open area in front used for the display of vehicles. Some auto dealership buildings of the later twentieth century tended to be much larger in scale, with two stories, some interior showrooms, and attached service areas.

**Conduct survey to confirm the presence/absence/condition of expected property types.**

Ideally, survey activity (fieldwork) should begin only after the Historic Contexts for the project area are developed and the expected property types are defined. Based upon conditions and new information obtained as a result of survey activities, revise the applicable Historic Contexts and property type definitions as needed.

**Use the Historic Context to facilitate preservation planning efforts.**

One of the principal uses of well-developed Historic Contexts is in guiding additional survey and designation activities. Knowing what time periods, locations, and themes are historically relevant to a community can help establish priorities. For the survey process, the Historic Context can facilitate thematic approaches, may reduce time conducting fieldwork, and will enable greater consistency in the evaluation process. Updating and adding to our collection of Historic Contexts (available online at <http://www.historycolorado.org/archaeologists/historic-prehistoric-contexts>) is an ongoing high-priority activity, with the goal of better recognizing and preserving the full range and diverse nature of Colorado's history and cultural resources.

Multiple Property Documentation Forms (MPDFs), which facilitate designations of historically related properties, include one or more Historic Contexts and documentation on associated property types and minimum integrity requirements for designations. Nominations of properties associated with the Historic Contexts discussed in an MPDF can be submitted concurrently with the MPDF or even years later. This year, for instance Preservation Planning Unit staff prepared nominations for several properties associated with *The Culebra River Villages of Costilla County, Colorado* MPDF, which dates from 2000. To view it and other MPDFs with detailed Historic Contexts, see

<http://www.historycolorado.org/archaeologists/national-register-multiple-property-submissions>.

## EVALUATING RESOURCES: IF IT'S NOT ELIGIBLE, WHY DESCRIBE SIGNIFICANCE?

Leslie A. Giles  
Historical and Architectural Survey Coordinator

Reviewing the many, many forms submitted to OAHPS for grant-funded and compliance surveys gives us the opportunity to find out pretty quickly where there may be misunderstandings regarding our expectations for the completion of survey forms. Our intent when creating or revising forms and their instructions is that those documents guide the surveyor through the identification, documentation, and evaluation processes seamlessly. Sometimes as a result of survey reviews, we learn that we can do more to describe our procedures and clarify our expectations.

One of the issues we commonly encounter has to do with the completion of Section VI (Significance) on the Architectural Inventory Form (#1403). For properties recommended as eligible for the National Register, completing Section VI is a relatively straightforward process for most surveyors.

A problem may arise, however, when the surveyor recommends that a property is *not eligible*. If a property is not eligible, should the surveyor indicate applicable NR criteria, area of significance, period of significance, and level of significance? Does one write a "negative" Statement of Significance? Won't completing those fields confuse the property owner or local board/commission, if the property is determined not eligible upon consultation with OAHPS staff?

Most readers will agree that one of the most important steps in completing a survey record is the evaluation of potential eligibility for that property. OAHPS relies on the professional judgment of qualified consultants during the evaluation process, and takes the surveyor's field assessment into consideration during the official eligibility review; OAHPS staff will either agree or disagree with the field assessment, or indicate that additional information is needed to complete the review.

One often-used approach to quickly conveying eligibility recommendations is inserting a text box on the first page of each computer-generated survey form, as shown below. It can be a ready reference for local planners, particularly where the consultant has also modified the form to include an image of the subject property on the first page.

National Register eligibility field assessment:	<input type="checkbox"/> Previously listed	<input type="checkbox"/> Eligible	<input type="checkbox"/> Not eligible
State Register eligibility field assessment:	<input type="checkbox"/> Previously listed	<input type="checkbox"/> Eligible	<input type="checkbox"/> Not eligible
Local landmark eligibility field assessment:	<input type="checkbox"/> Previously listed	<input type="checkbox"/> Eligible	<input type="checkbox"/> Not eligible

Looking beyond the eligibility recommendations, it is important to understand that the 1403 Form is a preservation planning document that records the surveyor's findings and procedures. Section VI of the form documents the surveyor's evaluation process – *not the evaluation result*.

The *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Evaluation* recommend that assessments of eligibility:

- 1) articulate applicable historic contexts; and
- 2) indicate whether or not the resource is a property type that illustrates or supports that historic context.

Historic Contexts provide the framework within which specific resources are evaluated. Historical themes and periods within a survey area are identified in the Historic Context, and the property types that illustrate those themes and periods are described. If a surveyed resource is old enough (typically 50+ years), it is likely to represent one or more aspects of local, state, or national history, and should be evaluated in the applicable context.

Section VI of the 1403 Form details the assessment factors used during the evaluation process. Field 38, "Applicable National Register Criteria," might be more aptly labeled "National Register criteria *considered*," since its purpose is to document which, if any, NR criteria were considered during the evaluation process. In fields 39-41, the surveyor documents the theme(s), period(s), and geographic area with which the resource is associated. With this information in hand, field 42 may then be completed with a written statement indicating which, if any, historic contexts apply. Field 42 is also currently the best place to indicate the property type of the surveyed resource.

Once these associations are established, the integrity assessment can be undertaken, documenting in field 43 whether or not the resource retains those character-defining features needed to convey significance within the appli-

cable context. Integrity requirements for resource eligibility should generally reflect the significance and potentially the rarity of a property type *in that context*. For very common resources that illustrate an area of local significance, only those properties that have very high integrity are likely to be individually eligible. Conversely, a resource type important at the regional, statewide, or national level, but which is rarely encountered, might be individually eligible even if it retains less-than-ideal integrity.

### A Case in Point

Take the case of a 1921 church with Classical Revival stylistic influences, built by a regionally prolific designer-builder who undertook commercial and residential construction projects from the 1910s through the 1930s. The builder also held a number of civic and business leadership positions in the local community. The church is the second building associated with a congregation established in the 1880s. Home to its founding congregation from 1921 through the present, the building is one of the largest gathering places in the community and has hosted numerous public assemblies, concerts, and educational programs over the decades. The property is essentially unaltered since the 1950s, when the roofing was replaced, the heating plant was updated, and the ground-level fellowship hall was remodeled. The building exhibits some “high style” characteristics, but otherwise has a relatively singular aesthetic approach and does not conform to the national stylistic canon for Classical Revival architecture. A Historic Context study of the community includes Architecture and Social History as two of several locally significant themes; and identifies churches among the property types that best illustrate those particular themes.

*How should it be evaluated?*

Area of Significance	Period of Significance	Level of Significance	Statement of Significance	Applicable NR Criteria
Religion	1921-1961	Local	This well-preserved building is over 50 years old and is associated with the community's oldest active religious congregation.	Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties Not eligible
Architecture	1921	State	This church is a well-preserved example of a building with Classical Revival-influenced form and details, including monumental Ionic columns that support a temple-front portico. Though it retains good integrity to its period of significance, the property lacks many of the distinctive character-defining features associated with the pure Classical Revival style. More important examples of the style exist in other parts of Colorado.	C Not eligible
Architecture	1921	Local	This church is a well-preserved example of the religious and institutional works of a local designer-builder, and reflects his interpretation of the Classical Revival style as adapted to the modest budget and residential neighborhood setting provided by the congregation that commissioned the project. It is the only example of a Classical Revival style church in the community, which has 9 other churches that reflect a wide range of architectural styles and periods.	C Eligible
Social History	1921-1961	Local	This church, which has provided the location and setting for numerous public/ neighborhood-oriented programs since the early 1920s, is significant for its role as a central gathering place for the surrounding community. Though not in entirely original condition, the property retains sufficient integrity to convey its appearance during the period of significance.	A Eligible

As the chart above clarifies, different approaches to evaluation lead to different results and can lead to different assessments of eligibility. This particular resource, though perhaps not significant at the state level, is clearly significant at the local level; assuming it retains sufficient integrity *in that context*, it would be considered eligible.



# COMPLIANCE O R N E R

## KEEPING IT SIMPLE

Amy Pallante  
Section 106 Compliance Manager  
& Flying Monkey Aficionado



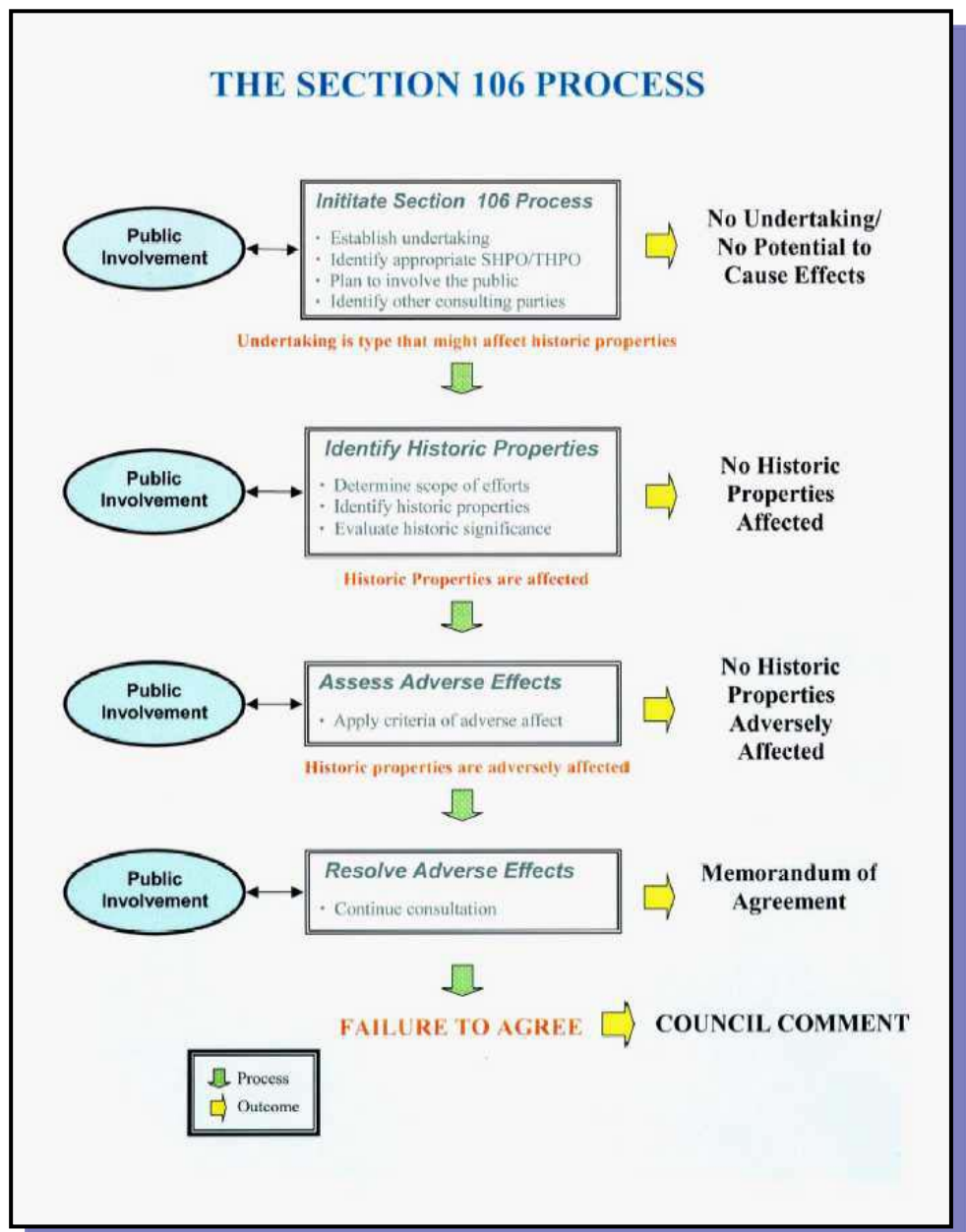
For as much as Section 106 can sometimes seem complicated or confusing, it is important to remember that it is basically a 4-step process. I am often asked how to streamline the Section 106 process and always answer that the best way is to focus on each step and not to jump ahead in the procedural timeline.

In keeping Section 106 simple, it is essential to consider the Section 106 process early in the scoping and planning stages of the project. Because Section 106 is consultative\* in nature, it is important to start the Section 106 conversation early in the process. If a federal agency moves forward with project planning and decision making without starting consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office and other consulting parties, then the Section 106 process starts off hindered and off-track.

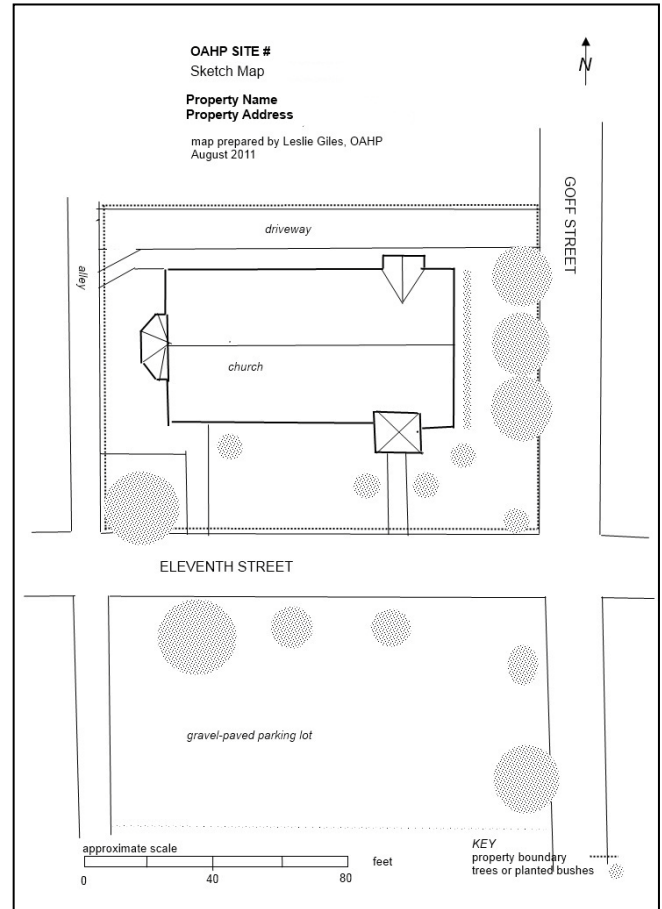
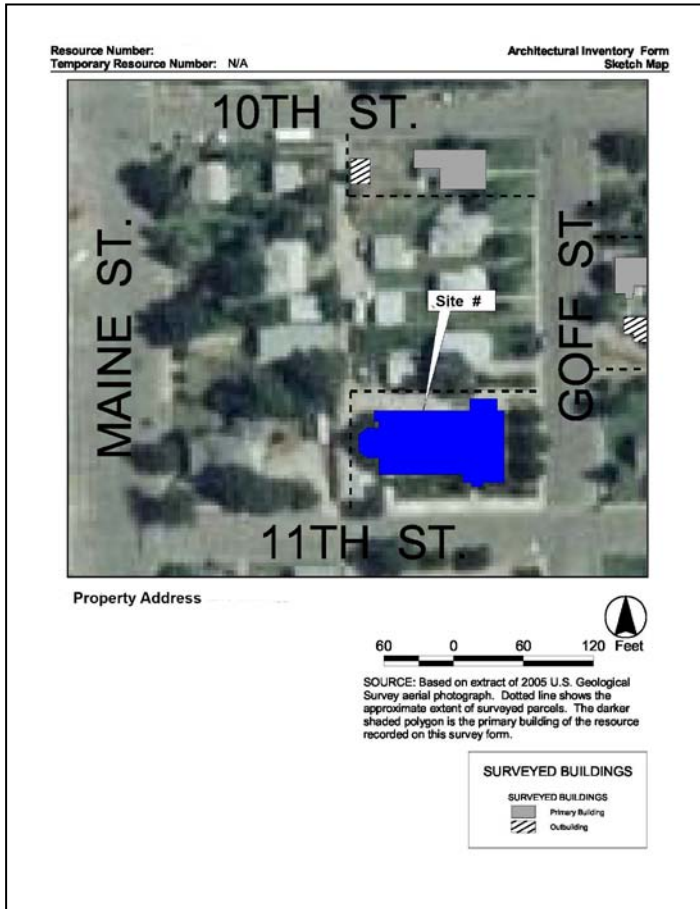
At times, there can be a desire to turn Section 106 into a checklist or clearance process in order to streamline the process. This desire actually does the reverse and always slows down and complicates the process. Because consultation is the basis of Section 106, the idea of checklists or clearances do not fit into the review process. By avoiding or skipping over the consultation parts of Section 106, the process slows down and can possibly stop until the consultations can happen.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (Council), an independent federal agency, provides guidance and technical assistance in regards to Section 106. The Council's website (<http://www.achp.gov>) provides information on the Section 106 process as well as project examples and best practices.

\* 36 CFR 800.16(f): Consultation means the process of seeking, discussing, and considering the views of other participants, and where feasible, seeking agreement with them regarding matters arising in the Section 106 process.



## UPDATE ON MODIFIED AERIAL IMAGES



As promised in the last issue of *Camera & Clipboard*, we've been continuing to examine the potential for modified aerial images to substitute for hand-drawn or computer-generated site maps for historical and architectural surveys.

According to the *Colorado Cultural Resource Survey Manual* (rev. 2007), "The purpose of a site or property map is to graphically depict the resource, the relationship of the natural and cultural components to one another, the location of site features, the boundaries of the resource, and the relative scale of the components. The map may be manually drafted or created through a computerized program."

OAHP expects site maps that accompany the Architectural Inventory Form (1403 Form) to graphically convey the following information:

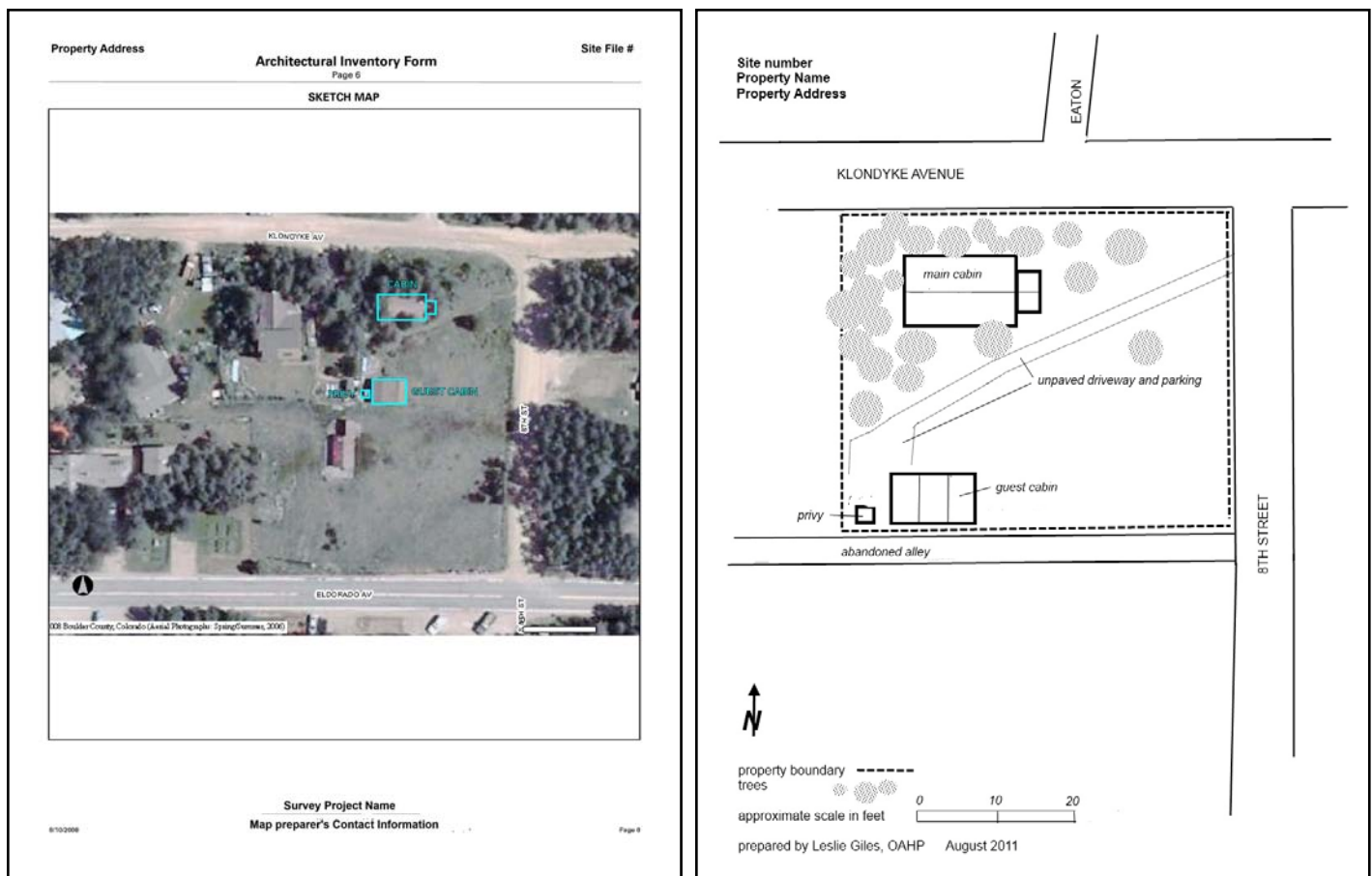
- Resource name and OAHP site number
- Street names and addresses (if known)
- Cultural features (buildings, structures, sites, objects, landscape features)
- Key (include scale, north arrow, symbol codes used, name of mapper, date of map)
- Property and/or site boundary
- Major topographic and natural features within the site and in the vicinity (especially for rural properties)

At top left is a recently submitted site map for an urban property that incorporates an altered aerial image. The consultant's stated intent was to produce something of greater graphic and information value than a traditional sketch map. At top right is an in-house site map of the same property. This sketch took fewer than 15 minutes to produce using a very basic computer software drawing program but could also have been hand-drawn in a short time.

Below are a couple of comparative site maps that similarly document a more rural property. In both urban and rural instances, the diagrammatic maps provide more information with less “background noise,” and can be more readily reproduced at larger or smaller scales without sacrificing detail. For instance, the aerial image-based map below suggests a landscape feature that could be interpreted as a drainage swale; the computer-drawn sketch map clarifies that it is an unpaved driveway and parking area. The sketch map further indicates the approximate location of a platted (but not paved) alley, a historic feature of the site environs that is not visible in the aerial image.

OAHP remains committed to the goal of building a better and more accessible electronic database. While some of our regular survey users and producers are at ease with the latest electronic devices and computer systems, we also must support access to our information across a broad spectrum of users, including individuals, businesses, and localities unfamiliar with or unable to obtain the latest technologies. Our current mapping requirements support such access. At some not-yet-determined point in the future, we may be able to convert all of our survey files to a digital data storage environment. Such an innovation will take time.

Modified aerial images of high quality could fit beautifully into an all-digital system. But within our existing constraints, they are considered supplemental documentation, not substitutes for sketch maps. *They will no longer be accepted* in lieu of hand-drawn or computer-generated site maps for survey files.



**AND SINCE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT OF MAPPING . . .**

Locating a surveyed property on the relevant USGS map can be tricky when the site is less than ten acres or falls within an amorphous pink “urban” area. We’ve seen everything from arrow pointers, stars, and gun sight-like cross-hairs used – with limited success. Our GIS specialists and other OAHP staff who regularly review survey forms recommend that locations be marked on USGS maps using a simple open circle, centered over the property and large enough to encompass the site, and connected by a line to a site number caption box positioned in an “unbusy” map area or margin of the map.



## BEST PRACTICES COMMITTEE RECONVENES

### *BPC members to participate in development of Survey Colorado plan*

On Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, the re-established Best Practices Committee for Historical and Architectural Survey met at the offices of History Colorado for the first time since some of its members developed and led the February 2010 tour, "What Happens in the Field Stays in the Field," for Colorado Preservation Inc.'s Saving Places Conference. Like the original Best Practices Committee (established in 2005), the current members come from the consulting community, local governments, federal agencies, academia, and History Colorado staff. Deputy SHPO Steve Turner and Preservation Planning Unit Director Astrid Liverman welcomed the group, expressed History Colorado's thanks for everyone's participation, and shared a quick overview of the state preservation plan's goals as they relate to the survey program and processes.

OAHP Historical and Architectural Survey Coordinator Leslie Giles kicked off the meeting with an overview of the statewide strategic survey plan, "Survey Colorado," which is currently in development. The committee members jumped right in and identified some initial recommendations for updating and developing statewide, regional, and thematic Historic Contexts; improving the quality and accessibility of our inventory and database; gathering information on underrepresented resources; streamlining identification and documentation procedures; "tweaking" existing survey forms/instructions; and offering "continuing education" survey training to professional and avocational audiences through workshops and conference sessions. We also encourage others in the survey community to share their thoughts on the past, present, and future of historical and architectural survey in Colorado. When the Best Practices Committee meets next (in late October), they'll have the opportunity to critique the initial draft of the plan.

## OAHP STAFF SUPPORT FOR HISTORICAL & ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY

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**NEW ADDRESS EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 26, 2011: History Colorado Center 1200 Broadway Denver, CO 80203**  
Phone numbers will not change; but all email addresses will change to [firstname.lastname@state.co.us](mailto:firstname.lastname@state.co.us)



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