



WYOMING STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE NEWS

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A Preservation Plan Built by Wyoming's Communities

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Staff members from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) traveled throughout the state in April and May to host town meetings to get public opinion on the State's Historic Preservation Plan.

Judy Wolf, Kristi Hamilton, and Audrey York held meetings in 13 communities. Under the National Historic Preservation Act, the State Historic Preservation Office is charged with the responsibility to foster productive harmony between modern society and the State's historic resources. The information

gathered will be used to revise the plan and to seek ways to provide better services to local communities. According to Wolf, what they learned on the road is that the public wants SHPO staff to provide more technical assistance and training in communities around the state and to strengthen education efforts and programs. In particular, training on how to apply the National Register criteria and how to list a property in the National Register was repeatedly requested. Respondents also indicated they want to see state grants and tax credits for historic preservation projects provided, heritage tourism efforts at state and local levels enhanced, historic contexts developed, and funding for SHPO increased to support these programs.

the office provides.

"Although some individuals were just learning about how the SHPO can help their community, the majority of the people who attended our meetings were very positive about making changes in their communities," Hamilton said. "Our office has the expertise needed by these people in most instances, and I think that was somewhat surprising to folks. What we are unable to

Continued on reverse...



Community discussion with Casper participants at the May 17, 2007 SHPO meeting. Photo by Kristi Hamilton.

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Every community in Wyoming is different and has varying needs when it comes to preservation and the level of assistance they need from the SHPO. SHPO faces an interesting problem in that often citizens do not know what services

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Participants of the SHPO meeting held in Worland on May 15, 2007.
Photo by Kristi Hamilton.

provide, we are more than happy to find someone who can.”

One source of frustration that was discussed in the town meetings is the fact that Cheyenne is quite a distance from most of the places visited. “This is something we have been addressing over the past year or so, and we have more freedom to travel

dollars to stabilize their buildings or put on a new roof. Other than the grants awarded through the CLG program and the federal tax credits available through historic rehabilitation, our office has no other means of providing a financial incentive for preservation.”

All of the SHPO representatives

and aid these communities,” Hamilton said. “As well, the other thing is the fact that we have limited funds for preservation work. Many people are simply in need of a few thousand

said they felt that traveling to all of the various communities was truly valuable. “Not only did it put a face to our office, but it also allowed us to better understand what is happening in our communities. This is only the beginning of a more visible, pro-active SHPO. We will be returning to several of these communities to provide training and various educational sessions about preservation.”

Cheyenne Meeting:

Tuesday, September 11th from 6:00 to 8:00pm in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Barrett Building

Laramie Meeting:

Wednesday, September 12th from 5:30 to 7:00pm in the Flaming Gorge Room 002 at the Union