



MEMORANDUM

**Boulder Library Commission/Landmarks Board Joint Meeting
November 17th, 2016**

TO: The Boulder Library Commission & Landmarks Board

FROM: David Farnan, Library/Arts Director
James Hewat, Senior Historic Preservation Planner

SUBJECT: Discussion of Results of the historic resource re-survey of the North Wing of the Boulder Public Library.

I. PURPOSE

To provide the Library Commission and Landmarks Board the opportunity to discuss the results of the historic resource survey of the North Wing of the Boulder Public Library.

II. QUESTIONS

A. Re-survey of the north wing of the Boulder Public Library:

Does the Planning Commission/Landmarks Board have questions or comments on:

1. The information included in the re-survey?
2. The recommendations of the re-survey?
3. Other questions?

B. Boulder Public Library's Master Planning Process:

1. The November 17th Library Commission talking points?
2. Other questions?

C. Civic Area West Bookend Planning Process

1. The West Bookend Planning Process?
2. Other questions?

III. HISTORIC SURVEY OF THE NORTH WING OF THE BOULDER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Background:

Historic and architectural surveys and historic contexts are the foundation for identifying, understanding, and preserving cultural and historic resources. Surveys inform a community about the historic resources it has and why they may be important. Since Boulder implemented a survey program in 1977, a total of 16 survey projects have been completed, resulting in the documentation of nearly all of the city's historic buildings built prior to the 1960s. Boulder is recognized as having one of the most comprehensive historic building survey records in the state, but updating historic survey information in the city remains a priority to ensure information is accurate and up to date.

North Wing of the Boulder Public Library

A historic building inventory form was completed for the north Wing of the Boulder Public Library in 1995 (see Attachment A) which found the 1961 Modernist building, designed by local architect James Hunter, to be eligible for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In the spring of 2016 the Civic Area and Historic Preservation staff contracted with Katherine Corbett to re-survey the building as the initial survey was cursory in nature and over twenty years had elapsed since it was completed.

Corbett's resurvey of the North Wing (see Attachment B), provides considerable documentary information about the history of the library, including the choice for its location, its architectural features, its 1961 construction, alterations, including additions by Gaston & Associates in 1974. The survey recommends that the 1961 North Wing of the library is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A (association with events that have made a contribution to broad patterns of history) & criterion C (as a characteristic type and period of architecture associated with renowned local architect James Hunter). Corbett also recommends that the 1974 addition by Gaston and Associates is eligible for listing in the National Register under criteria A & C (per criterion G for buildings less than 50 years in age). The survey does not find the 1992 South Wing, designed by local architects Midyette & Seiroe Associates, to be eligible for listing in the National Register.

IV. THE CIVIC AREA PLANNING PROCESS

In the next few days, the Civic Area Phase I construction of the park implementation will begin and continue through 2017. Phase I improvements will only occur west of Broadway. Improvements for the park east of Broadway will be incorporated into the

East Bookend planning, which will occur over the next 12 to 16 months. Current staff work focuses on assembling and evaluating the many prior planning and analytical studies pertinent to the East Bookend, and assembling them into a cohesive “Opportunities and Constraints Report.” This report (anticipated to be completed in late 2016) will be used as a tool for additional planning and community engagement efforts, which will ultimately produce a recommended building program, conceptual site design and urban design guidelines. These recommendations will be presented to council for consideration in late 2017. Through a similar process, more focused planning related to the West Bookend will commence upon completion of the Library Master Plan update and the Human Services Strategy at the end of 2017/ beginning of 2018.

V. THE BOULDER PUBLIC LIBRARY’S MASTER PLANNING PROCESS

The Boulder Public Library is in the early stages of a master planning process (see Attachment C), intended to provide a firm foundation for the library’s continuing evolution to meet community needs. We are conducting broad community outreach, using “People, Place and Platform” as the organizing context. To develop an effective master plan, we need to understand community needs and aspirations for library programs and services; map them to the “3Ps” to identify delivery models; and establish priorities in the master plan.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment A:** 1995 Historic Building Inventory form for the North Wing of the Boulder Public Library
- Attachment B:** 2016 Historic Building Architectural Inventory Form for the North Wing of the Boulder Public Library
- Attachment C:** Library Commission Talking Points for November 17th, 2016 Joint Meeting
- Attachment D:** September 30th, 2016 Memo to the Planning Commission about the Resurvey the North Wing
- Attachment E:** 2011 Federal Emergency Management Agency Press Release addressing historically designated buildings

Attachment A: 1995 Historic Building Inventory form for the North Wing of the Boulder Public Library

COLORADO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
1300 Broadway, Denver, Colorado 80203

HISTORIC BUILDING INVENTORY RECORD

NOT FOR FIELD USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eligible	<input type="checkbox"/> Nominated
<input type="checkbox"/> Det. Not Eligible	<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Rehab.
Date _____	

PROJECT NAME: Boulder Survey of Historic Places-Scattered Resources, 1995		COUNTY: Boulder	CITY: Boulder	STATE ID NO.: 5BL6065
		TEMPORARY NO.: N/A		
CURRENT BUILDING NAME: Boulder Public Library		OWNER: CITY OF BOULDER		
ADDRESS: 1000 CANYON BL BOULDER, CO 80302		1777 BROADWAY BOULDER CO 80306		
		TOWNSHIP 1N	RANGE 71W	SECTION 25 SE 1/4 SE 1/4
HISTORIC NAME: Boulder Library & Comm. Center		U.S.G.S. QUAD NAME: Boulder		
		YEAR: 1966 (PR1979) X 7.5' 15'		
DISTRICT NAME:		BLOCK: ADDITION: N/A	LOT(S):	YR. OF ADDITION: N/A
FILM ROLL NO.: 95B-39 BY: T.H. Simmons	NEGATIVE NO.: 19	LOCATION OF NEGATIVES: Boulder City Plng.		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: ESTIMATE: ACTUAL: 1961 SOURCE: Library
ATTACH PHOTOGRAPH HERE				USE: PRESENT: Library HISTORIC: Library
				CONDITION: X EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR DETERIORATING
				EXTENT OF ALTERATIONS: MINOR MODERATE X MAJOR DESCRIBE: Large additions in 1974 and 1992 to the original building.
				CONTINUED YES X NO
STYLE: Modern (Formalist)		STORIES: 2	ORIGINAL SITE X MOVED DATE(S) OF MOVE:	
MATERIALS: Concrete, Stone, Glass, Metal		SQ. FOOTAGE: N/A	NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY	
		INDIVIDUAL: YES X NO		
		CONTRIBUTING TO DISTRICT: YES NO		
		LOCAL LANDMARK DESIGNATION: No		
		NAME: DATE:		
		ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS? YES X NO TYPE:		
		IF INVENTORIED, LIST ID NOS.:		
ADDITIONAL PAGES: YES X NO				

PLAN SHAPE: 	ARCHITECT: James M. Hunter	STATE ID NO.: 5BL6065		
	SOURCE: 20 January 1960	ORIGINAL OWNER: City of Boulder		
	BUILDER/CONTRACTOR: Mike Campbell Construction Co.	SOURCE:		
	SOURCE: Boulder Daily Camera, 11-11-61	THEME(S): Urban Residential Neighborhoods, 1858-Present		
CONSTRUCTION HISTORY (DESCRIPTION, NAMES, DATES, ETC., RELATING TO MAJOR ALTERATIONS TO ORIGINAL STRUCTURE): <p style="text-align: right;">CONTINUED YES X NO</p>				
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (DISCUSS IMPORTANT PERSONS AND EVENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS STRUCTURE): The Boulder Public Library, located at the west end of Boulder's Civic Center Mall, beside Boulder Creek, replaced the city's 1907 Carnegie Library at 1125 Pine. The design of the building was based on the 18th century athenaeum, a combination library and cultural center derived from Greece and found in many town squares in New England. The building contained an auditorium that could double as an art gallery, two meeting rooms, a children's garden with an amphitheater for skits, and provision for a music room, as well as large library rooms. The architect attempted to make the building both a library and cultural center. Voters had approved a \$450,000 bond issue for the library in November 1959. General contractor for the building was Mike Campbell Construction Co. of Denver and the electrical contractor was the Holt Electric Co. of Boulder. In 1974, a concrete addition was designed by Easton & Associates. In 1987, Boulder voters approved a bond issue for construction of a 53,000 square foot addition to be designed by the Boulder architectural firm of Midyette/Seieroe & Associates in conjunction with Eugene Aubry of Sarasota, Florida. The 1992 addition linked the two older portions of the building with a new up-to-date addition in a \$15 million project. The 1961 portion was renovated into a 225-seat auditorium and a bridge over the creek was created.				
<p style="text-align: right;">CONTINUED YES X NO</p>				
SIGNIFICANCE (CHECK APPROPRIATE CATEGORIES AND BRIEFLY JUSTIFY BELOW): <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER <input type="checkbox"/> POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REPRESENTS A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: <input type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATED WITH SIGNIFICANT PERSONS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATED WITH SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OR PATTERNS <input type="checkbox"/> CONTRIBUTES TO AN HISTORIC DISTRICT </td> </tr> </table>			ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER <input type="checkbox"/> POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REPRESENTS A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION	HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: <input type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATED WITH SIGNIFICANT PERSONS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATED WITH SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OR PATTERNS <input type="checkbox"/> CONTRIBUTES TO AN HISTORIC DISTRICT
ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER <input type="checkbox"/> POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REPRESENTS A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION	HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: <input type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATED WITH SIGNIFICANT PERSONS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ASSOCIATED WITH SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OR PATTERNS <input type="checkbox"/> CONTRIBUTES TO AN HISTORIC DISTRICT			
TIER EVALUATION:				
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: The Boulder Public Library is significant as representative of the work of Boulder architect James M. Hunter, who also designed the Municipal Building which it faces. The building is associated with the history of libraries in Boulder, having been the successor to the city's 1907 Carnegie Library. The building is representative of the Modern (Formalist) style, as evidenced in the building's symmetry, flat roof, the colonnade motif of the tapered piers supporting the overhang along the facade, and the screens enclosing courtyards.				
<p style="text-align: right;">CONTINUED YES X NO</p>				
REFERENCES (BE SPECIFIC): Boulder Daily Camera, 10-16-51, 1-20-60, 7-19-61, 11-11-61; Daily Camera Focus, 3-2-80; Daily Camera files; Denver Post, 8-25-61; Denver Post, 11-7-61; Rocky Mountain News, 6-21-92.				
<p style="text-align: right;">CONTINUED YES X NO</p>				
SURVEYED BY: R.L. Simmons/T.H. Simmons	AFFILIATION: Front Range Research Associates, Inc.	DATE: November 1995		



Attachment B: 2016 Historic Building Architectural Inventory Form for the North Wing of the Boulder Public Library

Attachment C: Library Commission Talking Points for November 17th, 2016 Joint Meeting

**Library Commission/Landmarks Board Joint Study Session
November 17, 2016
Talking Points**

Why did we ask to meet with you?

BPL is in the early stages of a master planning process, intended to provide a firm foundation for the library's continuing evolution to meet community needs. We are conducting broad community outreach, using "People, Place and Platform" (see below) as the organizing context. To develop an effective master plan, we need to understand community needs and aspirations for library programs and services; map them to the "3Ps" to identify delivery models; and establish priorities in the master plan.

Facility planning (both capital planning and long term maintenance) is an essential element in any master planning process. The Main Library's north building will be a major focus in our master plan; it is also a key component in planning for the Civic Area as part of the "West Bookend."

There are three pieces of the Main library that are part of last summer's historical survey study, the 1970's Block (now integral to the south side functions), the Bridge, and the North Building. The north building currently houses a number of core library programs and services, while also providing platforms for a variety of community uses. (See slides 1-3 for a locational overview of current functions and programs in the Main library.)

The North Building has functional deficiencies and is in need of upgrades in critical areas including mechanical, electrical, and energy systems. When thinking about renovation and/or redevelopment, the north building and its site present a variety of factors, including:

- flood requirements (both high hazard and floodplain);
- height restrictions (compounded by the low elevation of adjacent Boulder Creek);
- bringing the building up to modern green building standards; and
- historic value.

As part of the master planning process, the Library Commission would like to identify realistic options to renovate and/or redevelop the north building and attached bridge. The historic values identified in the

recent survey present some threshold questions, which we would like to discuss and ultimately work with the Landmarks Board.

Background and Context: Welcome to Library-land!

Libraries have always been about knowledge. As methods and processes change for learning and knowledge exchange, libraries must change with them to stay relevant and serve their communities. Libraries are no longer huge archives for books and periodicals. The community of today now uses the library as community space for informal learning, collaboration, human connection, social interactions (in the physical space and virtually), access to technology and Internet, job searching and creating. They come to the library to write a business plan, attend a storytime or learn how to use a 3D printer.

The role of the 21st-century library in the digital era is built on its three key assets: people, place and platform.

People

The library as people reflects the shift away from building collections to building human capital, relationships and knowledge networks in the community. People are at the center of the library's mission to inspire and cultivate learning, advance knowledge and nurture and strengthen communities. While there are thousands of stories in the public library, the ones that matter most come with the people who use the library.

Place

The physical library must undergo a transition that embraces the openness and flexibility needed to thrive in a world of constant change. Central to this flexibility is creating spaces that can adapt to the changing operational models of libraries.

Platform

A great library platform is a "third place"— an interactive entity that can facilitate many people operating individually or in groups. The library platform supports the learning needs and goals of the community. To accomplish this, libraries embody the disposition of the entrepreneurial learner: seizing opportunities wherever they may exist, engaging others in the process. The library can then curate and archive the solutions created for sharing and future use. As a platform, the library promotes development in the community and society by identifying and filling gaps in community services including early-childhood education, lifelong learning, technology literacy and e-government. The library as platform makes the library a participatory enterprise.

Boulder's Library: "Re-inventing the Place to Be"

This slogan was adopted by BPL staff ~ 3 years ago as Main Library's south-side renovation neared completion. And what a fabulous reinvention it has been! Re-invention highlights include:

- Library visits are up nearly 7%, topping 930,000 visitors system-wide in 2015 and on track for a million visitors in 2016. (For comparison, the combined Recreation Centers had about 465,000 visitors in 2015, and Pearl Street Mall sees about 1 million visitors annually.)
- New card holders are up 16.5%, with juvenile card holders increasing by 7%. E-book circulation is up 29%, with overall circulation of all materials up by 3.5% in 2015.
- Program and event attendance topped 100,000 participants in 2015 - a greater than 100% increase over the previous year. Children's programming reached nearly 60,000 participants, with over 12,860 of those participating in the Library's brand-new STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math) activities. Story Time attendance increased 30%. The 2015 Summer Reading Program has

seen record-breaking participation the last two years: an 88% increase in 2015 (over 2014) and a 33% increase (over 2015) in 2016. Altogether, major community events, increased Storytimes and STEAM programming resulted in a more than 140% increase in attendance at Library programs and events in 2015. Concert and film series are among the Library's most long-running programs, attracting people of all ages to the Canyon Theater.

- The Boulder Small Business Development Center (SBDC) moved in to the Main Library in 2015. The result? Greater visibility for SBDC, with 58 workshops and 3,420 hours of free, one-on-one consulting made available to business-minded library patrons in SBDC's first year.
- BPL regularly partners with Intercambio, a non-profit dedicated to improving the lives of immigrants, to connect more people with Boulder Reads, our adult literacy program. A stepping stone to dignity, better jobs, and citizenship, in 2015 Boulder Reads experienced a 10% increase in program attendance, total number of volunteers and total number of volunteers hours donated.
- Boulder attained international prominence on the cultural scene by hosting the Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF) on the Main library campus in September 2015 and 2016. This American adjunct to the world's largest free literature festival in Jaipur, India brought an estimated 10,000-15,000 people to the Library for a full weekend of events - with a remarkable array of local, national, and international authors and musicians. BPL is working closely with Festival organizers to establish Boulder as JLF's American home.
- BLDG 61 (BPL's Maker Space) is an amazing community success story. Our goal is to inspire and grow learners who want to build, create, enhance and change the environment they live in. The library converted an unused storage and old facility workshop into a state of the art makerspace that is free and open to the community. In our first 8 months we have provided more than 250 programs & workshops, more than 20 outreach events and reached more than 16,000 participants. BLDG 61 has the potential to be an incubator for transforming the way our community experiences the library. Instead of coming in to simply check out books, they are coming together to learn a 21st century skill, advance a hobby, develop a new product all in collaboration with library staff and fellow community members.
- The library's fabulous success with STEAM programs and BLDG 61's "Making" is grounded in the strength of our community programming partners: CU Science Discovery, the Fringe Festival, CoderDojo, SparkFun, Play-Well Teknologies, Sphero, the Boulder Valley School District Millennium Lab, Schact Spindle Company, and more.
- BPL is garnering recognition from peers for this outstanding work: BLDG 61 staff were invited to the Capitol Hill MakerFaire in 2016, and the Colorado Association of Libraries named BPL as Colorado's "Library of the Year" for 2016.

Attachment D: September 30th, 2016 Memo to the Planning Commission about the Resurvey the North Wing

Attachment E: 2011 Federal Emergency Management Agency Press Release addressing historically designated buildings