

**DATE:** February 3, 2016  
**TO:** Landmarks Board  
**FROM:** James Hewat, Marcy Cameron  
**SUBJECT:** Update Memo

#### **Landmarks Board Retreat Follow-up**

Heidi Brinkman will be contacting Board members to conduct short interviews. Staff will be looking at alternate times for Ldrc meeting and scoping ways to provide for more administrative reviews. Next retreat will be held in April when new board member(s) appointed.

#### **Glen Huntington Band Shell**

On January 19, 2016 the City Manager gave an update to the City Council on the Band Shell. The city will not move forward at this time with the conditionally approved Landmark Alteration Certificate to remove the seats and modify the landscaping. The city plans to move forward with other initiatives in the surrounding area, including the Complete Streets planning project and the Market Hall Feasibility Study. In 2016, the Band Shell will continue to be programmed and the fee structure will be reevaluated. If changes are proposed within the band shell landmark boundary, they will be submitted for review in a separate landmark alteration certificate application.

On January 19, Historic Preservation staff received a letter from Barbara Wyatt, National Register of Historic Places Reviewer (attached). Update at meeting.

#### **University Hill Commercial District – National Register Nomination**

On Dec. 8, the City Council reviewed the [University Hill Reinvestment Strategy Update](#) (click for memo). As part of the strategy, the city is pursuing National Register designation for the commercial district. In October, History Colorado determined that the University Hill Commercial District is eligible for National Register designation. The city will be issuing an RFP to hire a consultant to prepare and submit the nomination in 2016. Update at meeting.

#### **Certified Local Government Grant – Historic Resource Survey Plan**

The city has issued an RFP for a consultant to assist in the preparation of a Historic resource Survey Plan. Update at meeting.

#### **Colorado Preservation Inc. *Saving Places* Conference**

The Saving Places Conference will be held in Denver on February 3-6. The conference schedule is available to view online: [2016 Saving Places Conference Agenda](#)

#### **Comprehensive Planning and Sustainability Calendar**

See attached.

#### **Land Use Review Comments**

None

January 6, 2016

Heather Peterson  
History Colorado  
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
1200 Broadway  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Heather:

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to comment on the Boulder bandshell. I'm sorry for the delay in responding, but between work and personal travel I was gone much of December.

My understanding is that you want an opinion from the National Register on the potential eligibility of the bandshell and surrounding landscape. The opinion you are requesting is not related to a nomination or compliance-related activity at this time. Please let me know if this is not correct, so I can present this opinion in a different format, if necessary.

The bandshell is a wonderful historic resource and the City of Boulder is fortunate to have it. The property appears to be eligible under Criterion A, for its local significance in the area of entertainment/ recreation, and under Criterion C for the architectural significance described in your letter to James Hewit dated November 19, 2015. The architectural significance may be statewide.

I do not have enough information about DeBour's work to evaluate significance in landscape architecture, but the drawings and early images present a sensitive design with plantings that direct views and provide screening and shelter, and walks that reflect the curves of the bandshell. If the property is also eligible under landscape architecture, however, I believe the beginning date should relate to actual construction or planting, rather than the date of DeBour's drawings (1937). On page 12 of the Simmons' report, it is stated, "Landscaping around the shell was completed in 1939," which suggests that would be an appropriate beginning date. Regardless of the landscape architectural significance, the landscape provides an essential setting, and preservation of the landscape over time contributes to its evident integrity. The eligible site appears to be the extent of DeBour's design, although that is difficult for me to establish. In any case, the boundary should be generous enough to provide an adequate setting and capture the designed landscape.

These opinions about eligibility are based on the intact integrity exhibited in the current photos you sent. Removal of the seating would be a critical loss of integrity, as would moving the bandshell. If either of these situations took place, I would need to re-evaluate the eligibility of the property based on a review of new information.

I have additional thoughts about the seating, which I consider to be an important historic element. It is not clear to me if the seating is considered part of the architecture or a landscape feature. In the materials you sent, I could not find copies of Huntington's architectural drawings (nor could I find them online). I suspect he included the seating in his original design, but you may have specific information about this. Although the notes from the Eligibility Committee Meeting (10-28-15) state, "the original construction did not include seating" (p. 8), the same report states, "the entire plans for the shell, which will be erected solely by the Lions club, have been drawn up by Huntington" (p. 8, quoting the *Boulder Daily Camera*—underscore added). It seems that the entire plans would have included seating.

I suspect both Huntington and DeBoer would have considered seating to be important, whether or not the city could afford it at the time of original construction. In fact, many bandshells designed in this period considered seating an essential component. Audiences in many places expected a place to sit, even a bench, so they would not be forced to sit on the ground or haul in lawn chairs. Exceptions may include those that faced water. The images in Attachment B focus on the bandshell, so in most cases the seating is not visible. Often seating was an important design element that reflected the bandshell design. For example, the architectural rendering of the Ames, Iowa, bandshell (1935), by the architectural engineer Owen Baty shows the seating as a component of the design (<http://www.ameshistory.org/exhibits/civic/bandshell.htm>). The Oleson Park bandshell in Fort Dodge, Iowa, (1938) also included seating in the original design. See an image on this website, which also shows several other examples from the period: <https://livingnewdeal.org/projects/oleson-park-bandshell-fort-dodge-ia/>

Removal of the seating would, potentially, be lopping off an important architectural component of the bandshell that may have been part of the original design. Even if it was not included in Huntington's original design, the need for seating was evident early. The documentation quotes newspaper articles at the time of the bandshell's dedication that express an expectation that seating would be provided. When seating was eventually installed, it was a sturdy, permanent solution that worked well with the design of the shell.

I would be happy to discuss these comments. Feel free to call me at [REDACTED] or send an email to [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

/s/

Barbara Wyatt, ASLA  
National Register of Historic Places