



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION
12795 West Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H3417 (IMDE-ONR) NHL

APR 08 2011

Ms. Susan Connelly
Executive Director
Colorado Chautauqua Association
900 Baseline Road
Boulder, CO 80302

Dear Ms. Connelly:

Thank you providing information about your strategic vision for the Colorado Chautauqua National Historic Landmark (NHL). In addition, thank you for your request for our opinion about the proposed new construction and the proposal for moving the picnic shelter within the Colorado Chautauqua NHL.

First we want to clarify our role in this situation. As you know, the proposed activities within the Colorado Chautauqua NHL do not have federal funding and do not require federal permits or licenses. Therefore you are not required to ask our opinion, nor are you required to obtain our approval. The National Park Service may recommend preservation actions and alternatives, but you are not obligated to carry out these recommendations. Since there is no federal involvement, neither Federal law nor regulations prohibits any actions taken by the property owner with respect to the Colorado Chautauqua NHL.

Concerning possibly moving the picnic shelter, our first question centered on verifying that the structure was historic. As you know, the period of significance for the Colorado Chautauqua NHL is 1898 to 1930. However, the Cultural Landscape Assessment that was prepared for Chautauqua states that the original shelter structure had been replaced between 1919 and 1940, and that "the second structure was renovated or replaced sometime in the 1960s." Therefore, we sought to determine whether the current structure truly retained its historic physical integrity. At our request, you kindly conducted some additional research and learned that the City of Boulder was responsible for maintenance of the structure prior to 1998, but that no records of construction, maintenance or rehabilitation of the picnic shelter could be located.

Tom Keohan, historical architect of my staff, then made a site visit to inspect the picnic shelter on March 31, and met with you, Steve Watkins from the Colorado Chautauqua Association and Glenn Magee from the City of Boulder. After a close inspection of the structure and in reviewing historic photos provided by Steve Watkins, Tom concluded that the shelter does, indeed, date to the period of significance and has survived in its historic configuration with the exception of minor additions, including an attached wood lattice, a hand rail, and minor structural supports to the columns and roof trusses. While there, Tom was also shown two potential future sites for the picnic shelter near the existing tennis court, should it be determined that the shelter must be moved.

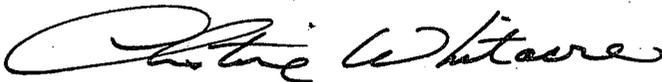
The National Park Service does not recommend moving historic buildings. In fact, moving a historic structure into or within a historic district may jeopardize its ability to contribute to the significance of the district and has a negative effect on the historic integrity of the district. When a historic building has been moved, it loses its integrity of setting and its "sense of place and time"—important aspects of the historic character of a building and its environment.

While moving historic structures is not recommended, the National Park Service understands that moving a historic building or structure is sometimes the only way to save it from demolition, but such an action should be undertaken only as a last resort when all other preservation options have been exhausted. When there are no reasonable alternatives except relocation, there is technical guidance available for moving buildings and National Register of Historic Places guidance for applying National Register criteria for determining the historic integrity of a moved structure. If the decision is made to move the building, we can provide you with this guidance.

The strategic vision for the Colorado Chautauqua NHL also included possible new construction. Although we have not reviewed or discussed these plans in any detail, the National Park Service does not recommend new construction within NHLs. New construction will add non-contributing elements to the district, and will have a negative effect on the historic integrity of the NHL. We recommend that existing buildings within NHLs be used to provide new or additional services, rather than construct new structures for these purposes. However, if a decision is made to construct a new building, we recommend that you follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Properties. More information about them may be obtained at http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/standards_guidelines.htm.

We look forward to continuing to work with you, and we appreciate your commitment to the preservation of this nationally significant resource. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at christine_whitacre@nps.gov or at (303)969-2882.

Sincerely,



Christine Whitacre
Program Manager, Heritage Partnerships Program

cc:

James M. Hewat, Historic Preservation Planner, Community Planning & Sustainability, City of Boulder,
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