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Park County
Office of Historic Preservation
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ADMINISTRATIVE CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

Date: November 5, 2013
Designated Historic Property: Shawnee Cemetery
Schedule Number: 9169
Address: Highway 285, Shawnee, CO 80475
Applicant: Zebulon Sanders, Commander, VFW Post 8661
Phone: 303-838-7242
Email Address: snwmtskier@gmail.com
Owner: Park County

Proposed Work:

Erect a new flagpole at the Shawnee Cemetery. The new flagpole will be placed in the exact location where the remnants of a previously existing flagpole stand today (see photo). The flagpole will be approximately 12 feet tall with a 3x5 or 4x6 flag. The flag will be illuminated at night by a solar powered light at the top of the flagpole. Chuck Bruckman of the Park County Cemetery Board has recommended approval of the new flagpole.

Findings:

The Shawnee Cemetery, a small community cemetery located adjacent to Highway 285, was officially designated as a contributing property to the Shawnee National Register Historic District in 2010. The earliest of the known burials in the cemetery dates to the early 1890s. The cemetery began as the Price family cemetery and became the town cemetery after 1900. Several members of the Price and Tyler families—two families that played a highly significant role in the historical development of the Shawnee area—are buried in the cemetery, including James Price and Ben Tyler. The cemetery is no longer active and is owned by Park County, with oversight provided by the Park County Cemetery Board, a county-appointed citizen advisory board. Members of the VFW Post 8661 have generously donated their time in the past to help maintain the site.

The cemetery is surrounded by a wire and t-post fence, with the remnants of a flagpole located in the northeast corner of the fenced area. All that remains of the existing flagpole is a vertical pole, which appears to be sunk directly into the ground, with no base, hardware, or finial. The existing flagpole is not noted in the National Register nomination.

Given its poor condition and lack of integrity, staff finds that the existing flagpole does not contribute to the historic significance of the cemetery. The new flagpole will be placed in the same location as the existing non-contributing flagpole, is compatible in scale, can be removed at a later date without damaging the integrity of the site, and will not adversely affect the historic character of the cemetery. Therefore, staff recommends approval with the following stipulations:

1. Per Park County Development Services the flagpole must be installed on County property. All other applicable County planning, zoning, and CDOT requirements have been met and no permits are required.

2. Any digging that is done during the installation process must be carefully monitored. If artifacts are uncovered during installation, the Park County Office of Historic Preservation should be notified immediately so the artifacts may be documented and evaluated.

Additionally, staff highly recommends that the VFW discuss installation of the flagpole with the Shawnee Historical Society to ensure that any concerns the community may have are addressed prior to installation.

Relevant Standards:

Park County Resolution 2012-30 - Section 8a.

Archeological resources shall be protected and preserved in place or, where this is not possible, mitigation measures shall be undertaken.

Park County Resolution 2012-30 - Section 8b.

Alterations: PCHPAC shall acknowledge the need to alter or add to a historic property to meet continuing or changing uses while retaining the property's historic character.

Section 8b - Standard 2

The historic character of the property shall be retained by avoiding the removal of, or alteration of, features and spaces important to the character.

Section 8b - Standard 5

New additions and constructions shall also be undertaken in such a manner that their removal in the future would not destroy the form or integrity of the original property. Designs that attempt to portray new construction as historic, and that were never executed historically at the property in question, shall not be allowed. The addition of conjectural features or elements from other historic properties shall be discouraged.



Amy Unger
Preservation Planner, Office of Historic Preservation



Linda Balough
Director, Office of Historic Preservation

