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WHAT IS A 'CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT'?

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WHAT IS A 'CLG'?

- ❖ According to the National Park Service (NPS):
“Certified Local Governments (CLG) are municipalities that have demonstrated, through a certification process, a commitment to local preservation and saving the past for future generations.”
- ❖ The CLG program was created in 1980 and is supported by the Historic Preservation Fund
- ❖ The CLG program is administered on a federal level by the NPS and on a state level by State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs)

“The CLG Program is much more than just a funding source. It has helped to institutionalize historic preservation by making it a part of local government.”

- Preserving Your Community's Heritage, 2004



Bridge over Laramie River, Truss Bridge Survey, SHPO Photo Collection



Aspen Ridge Ranch, Teton County, SHPO Photo Collection

WHAT IS HISTORIC PRESERVATION?

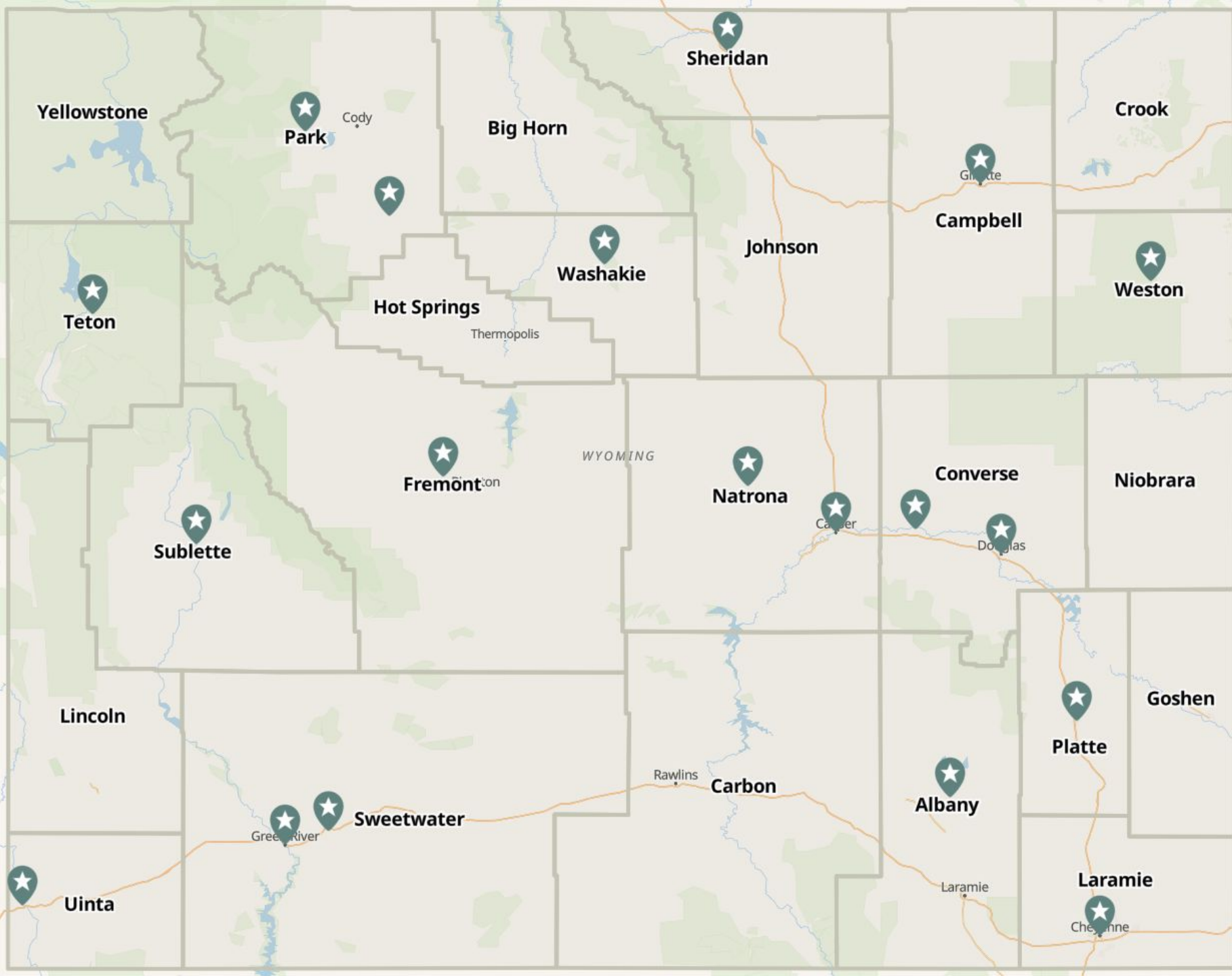
Historic Preservation is defined as the study, documentation, protection, and physical preservation of:

- ❖ Buildings
- ❖ Structures
- ❖ Districts
- ❖ Sites
- ❖ Objects

In 1966 the National Historic Preservation Act was passed, forming the cornerstone of preservation efforts in the United States.

“What we want to conserve, therefore, is the evidence of individual talent and tradition, of liberty and union among successive generations of Americans. We want the signs of where we came from and how we got to where we are, the thoughts we had along the way, and what we did to express the thoughts in action. We want to know the trails that were walked, the battles that were fought, the tools that were made. We want to know the beautiful or useful things that were built and the originality that was shown, the adaptations that were made and the gracenotes to life that were sounded. We want to know the experiments in community living that were tried and the lessons that were taught by a brave failure as well as by a brave success.”

-Sidney Hyman, ‘Empire for Liberty’, With Heritage So Rich, 1999



WYOMING CLGs

17 total CLGs:

- Albany County
- Casper
- Cheyenne
- Douglas
- Evanston
- Fremont County
- Gillette
- Green River
- Natrona County
- Park County
- Rock Springs
- Sheridan County
- Sublette County
- Teton County
- Washakie County
- Weston County
- Wheatland



Downtown Rock Springs Historic District, Sweetwater County, SHPO Photo Collection

BENEFITS OF CLGs

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- ❖ CLG Grants are available annually to help fund local historic preservation projects. SHPO is required to give at least 10% of their funding to CLGs as subgrants. Common projects funded by these grants include: Historic preservation plans, cultural resource surveys, building assessments, NRHP nominations, NRHP site restoration or rehabilitation, and training opportunities

HISTORIC PRESERVATION BENEFITS THE LOCAL ECONOMY

- ❖ There are economic, environmental and social benefits that have been proven to come with historic preservation endeavors.

BENEFITS OF CLGs

COMMITMENT TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION

- ❖ By forming a CLG, the local government is required to make a written, legal commitment to identify and designate a community's local historic resources. This allows for communities to better appreciate and protect their unique history and culture by enshrining historic preservation as an official part of the local government.

TECHNICAL ADVICE

- ❖ Technical advice from the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service regarding a variety of projects from rehabilitating buildings to National Register of Historic Places nominations



Mint Bar, Sheridan, Sheridan County, photo by Richard Collier

HOW TO FORM A CLG

- ❖ Any city, county, township or any other political subdivision of Wyoming may become a CLG
 - ❖ The local government must create an ordinance/resolution forming the commission/board
 - ❖ The local government then must submit the ordinance, resumes of the commission members, and a 'Request for Certified Local Government Status' to SHPO

The CLG must also comply with the following federal requirements:

1. Have an active preservation commission
2. Maintain an inventory of historic resources (in Wyoming the inventory is maintained by SHPO using the WyoTrack database)
3. Follow state and local laws
4. Serve as the public face for historic preservation in their community



Roundhouse, Evanston, Uinta County, photo by author



Colorado-Wyoming Railroad, Albany County, SHPO Photo Collection

CLG PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

There are also a few annual requirements to maintain a certified status:

- 1) Meetings need to be open to the public and minutes from the meeting available for public access
- 2) An annual report needs to be submitted each year
- 3) Ideally, at least one member of each CLG attends a training opportunity each year
- 4) Maintain at least three members and meet regularly throughout the year

Other states may have additional requirements and be stricter about the adherence to these requirements.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PRESERVATION COMMISSION/BOARD AND A HISTORICAL SOCIETY?

Historic Preservation Commission/Board

- ❖ Government entity
- ❖ Funded by local government
- ❖ Appointed by local elected officials
- ❖ Regulatory
- ❖ Document historic sites
- ❖ Protect the built environment
- ❖ Promote historic preservation

Historical Society or Private Museum

- ❖ Non-profit
- ❖ Funded by members and donations
- ❖ Educational
- ❖ Document local history
- ❖ Protect archival materials
- ❖ Research history
- ❖ Promote local history

WHAT DOES A CLG DO?

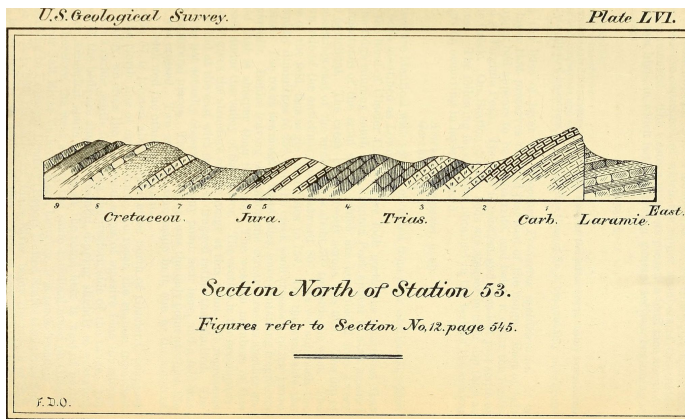
- ❖ Survey
- ❖ Designation
- ❖ Nomination
- ❖ Regulation
- ❖ Review
- ❖ Advocacy and Public Outreach



Cheyenne Airport Fountain, restoration celebration, 2023, photo by author

SURVEY

The documentation of cultural resources (buildings, sites, structures, objects and districts) and is the basis for all other preservation activities.



Types of Surveys:

❖ Reconnaissance

“The primary purpose is to provide a "first cut" of buildings in a given area that appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Reconnaissance survey involves only a visual evaluation of properties, not an assessment of associated historical events or individuals. That information can only be obtained through historical research conducted as part of an "intensive level survey," the next level of survey.”

– Utah SHPO ‘Reconnaissance Level Survey: Guidelines for Architectural Resources’

❖ Intensive

“An intensive survey is the primary tool for identifying historically and architecturally significant properties and districts. The survey report provides an initial evaluation of each property’s eligibility for the National and State Registers of Historic Places by examining them within their historic context. It then provides recommendations of eligibility for the National Register and the State Register and creates a blueprint for leveraging the economic and community-building benefits of historic places. “

– Wisconsin SHPO “Intensive Survey Manual”

DESIGNATION

- ❖ Designation often follows after a Survey is completed
- ❖ There are usually three forms of designation: National, State, and Local
 - ❖ Wyoming does not have a State Register
- ❖ Local designation:
 - ❖ Based on the criteria decided by the local government
 - ❖ Provides the most protections for historic places
 - ❖ Does not need to align with the National Register
- ❖ At present Teton County is the only local government with local registers in Wyoming. The local registers are:
 - ❖ 'The Town of Jackson Historic Register' and the 'List of Historically Significant Properties', see the [map linked on this page](#) for details



E Hansen Log Cabin, Town of Jackson Historic Register, Online Historic Resource Map

DESIGNATION - NRHP

- ❖ The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is overseen by the National Park Service. The Park Service defines the NRHP as:

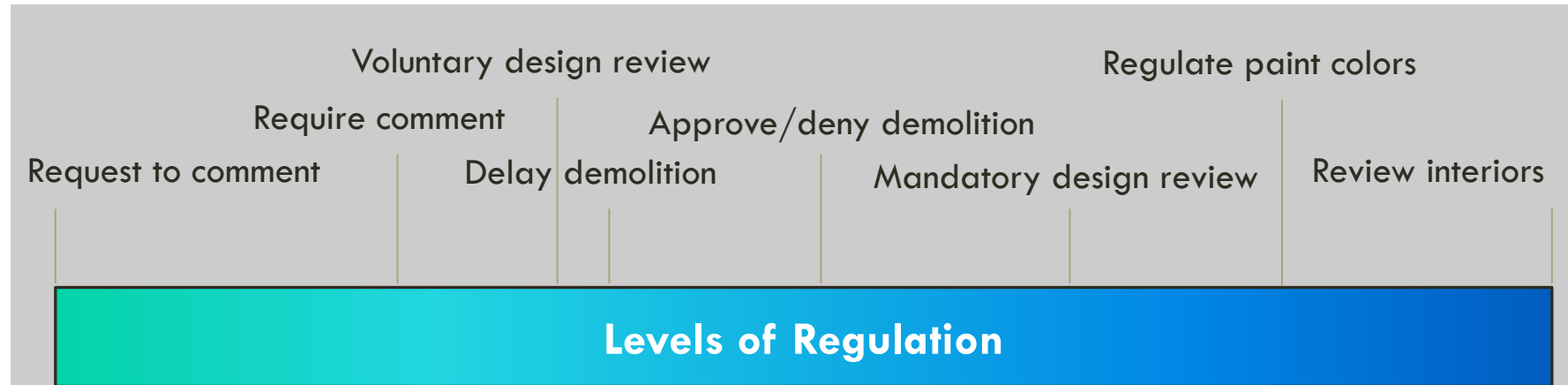
“The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation’s historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service’s National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America’s historic and archeological resources.”



- ❖ Designation on the NRHP can provide benefits such as eligibility for Federal Tax Credits and Grants
- ❖ There are no inherent protections in place for NRHP listed sites unless a state or local government passes an ordinance to create those protections

REGULATION

- ❖ Wyoming has no regulations in place for the protection of NRHP sites
- ❖ Local governments can adopt legislation such as design overlays or demolition by neglect ordinances to protect their historic resources
- ❖ Local or state regulations are common in the majority of CLGs in United States, but not in WY. Examples of those who do have protections in place include:
 - ❖ Cheyenne (Demolition [Ordinance](#))
 - ❖ Douglas (Historic District [Overlays](#))
 - ❖ Teton County (Demolition [Ordinance](#))



REVIEW - NRHP

National Register of Historic Places

1. Before a property within the jurisdiction of a CLG may be nominated to the NRHP, the SHPO will notify the chief elected local official and the CLG within 60 but no more than 120 calendar days prior to State Review Board consideration.
2. Within 60 calendar days of notice from the SHPO, the chief elected local official shall transmit the report of the commission, along with his/her recommendations, to the SHPO.
3. The nomination, along with any commission comments, is scheduled for consideration by the State Review Board. The State Review Board meets 3 times per year to review and comment on nominations to the National Register.
4. After the State Review Board reviews and comments, nominations determined eligible for listing are forwarded to the Keeper of the National Register.

REVIEW - SECTION 106

❖ Section 106

Any project taking place on federal lands, utilizing federal funds or requiring federal permitting must be preceded by a cultural resource inventory and project review in compliance with [Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966](#) (as amended), as well as the Wyoming Antiquities Act of 1935, the Wyoming Environmental Quality Act of 1973, and other federal and state statutes.

-[Review and Consultation \(S106\)](#), WY SHPO

❖ Consulting Party

Individuals or organizations with a demonstrated interest in the project, including a legal or economic interest, or who are concerned with the effects of the project on historic properties, may request to be consulting parties. **Consulting party status entitles the participant to share their views, receive and review pertinent information, offer ideas, and consider possible solutions.**

A representative of a local government with jurisdiction over the area in which a project may affect historic properties is entitled to participate as a consulting party. They may be a county or city manager, the planning director, the local historic preservation planner officer, or other designated government contact. In 1980 the NHPA was amended to include provision for Certified Local Government (CLG) status.

-[Section 106 Tutorial](#), U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration

ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

One of the most important aspects of being a CLG is proactively educating your community about Historic Preservation and involving them in all of your undertakings. See some of the following examples of advocacy:

- ❖ Attending city council meetings
- ❖ Involving yourself with your local planning and zoning office
- ❖ Forming relationships with historic property owners
- ❖ Attending local events and meetings
- ❖ Publicizing all of your projects
- ❖ Hosting outreach events like workshops, tours or talks
- ❖ Finding ways to involve the public as volunteers
- ❖ Keeping an active presence on social media



Douglas Cemetery Ceremony, May 2023, Douglas CLG

2023 CLG ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Gillette Downtown Historic District, Nomination Celebration, 2023, photo by author

- ❖ Gillette nominated their downtown as a Historic District and celebrated the nomination's success in May of 2023.
- ❖ Douglas installed interpretive signage at the Pioneer Cemetery
- ❖ Natrona County funded their 8th interpretive booklet on their county's history. This booklet is about New Deal projects in the county.
- ❖ Evanston held two successful fundraising events in July and October for the restoration of a steam engine and stained glass windows in a church respectively.
- ❖ Cheyenne celebrated the restoration of their historic airport fountain in September. This was a culmination of a 14 year project during which they raised \$130,000 to fund the restoration.
- ❖ Albany County has successfully funded and started their project to nominate the West Side in Laramie as a Historic District.

Additional Resources

- ❖ National Alliance of Preservation Commissions Resources: <https://www.napcommissions.org/resources>
- ❖ National Trust for Historic Preservation Presentations: <https://www.slideshare.net/PreservationNation/presentations>
- ❖ NPS Technical Preservation Services, Publications (including Preservation Briefs): <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1739/tps-publications.htm>
- ❖ Advisory Council on Historic Preservation: <https://www.achp.gov/>
- ❖ Alliance for Historic Wyoming: <https://historicwyoming.org/>
- ❖ Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund: <https://culturaltrust.wyo.gov/>
- ❖ Wyoming Humanities: <https://thinkwy.org/>
- ❖ Wyoming History Encyclopedia: <https://www.wyohistory.org/>



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