Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission

Historic Context Planning & Comprehensive Plan Update

Phase I

A Proposal for Historical Consulting Services

February 5, 2019
Overview

In recent years, several initiatives in Rapid City and across the Black Hills have highlighted the significance of history to the economy and quality of life of various communities and neighborhoods within the city and the region. Recognizing the importance of these conversations, as well as the role historic preservation can play in catalyzing constructive dialogue about the relationship between local history and contemporary challenges, the Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission (RCHPC) seeks to update its core historic planning documents. To assist in the first phase of work related to the revision of RCHPC’s Historic Context Report (1989) and its Comprehensive Plan (1993; revised 2009), Vantage Point Historical Services, Inc. (VPHS) offers this proposal for services.

Phase I Scope of Work

VPHS will review the available secondary literature on the history of Rapid City and the surrounding region and then conduct two community outreach meetings designed to capture the insights and priorities of Rapid City’s residents. VPHS will use the information gleaned from the research and outreach sessions to draft revised main text for the Historic Context Report and Comprehensive Plan. Finally, VPHS will work with the RCHPC and the City of Rapid City’s Long Range Planning Division (RCLRPD) to plan and scope Phase II of this project.

At that time, VPHS will develop a second proposal for work to be conducted during Phase II. That work will include adjustments and revisions to the draft documents based on RCHPC and RCLRPD feedback; adding updated historic inventories to both documents; and editing, formatting, and delivering the final Historic Context Report and Comprehensive Plan. Although VPHS will serve as the principal investigator on both phases of this project, we have engaged Ethnoscience, Inc. of Billings, Montana to review draft documents and support historical surveys and inventories.

A. Research

VPHS will begin its work by identifying and locating the relevant secondary literature on the history of Rapid City and the surrounding region. VPHS will compile scholarly books and articles (including academic theses and dissertations), existing local and regional cultural resource reports, and existing historic context and comprehensive planning documents. Subjects may include, but are not limited to: the early Indigenous history of the Rapid City area; relevant federal treaties with member nations of the Oceti Sakowin (often called the “Great Sioux Nation”); Euro-American settlement in Rapid City and the surrounding area; the founding and development of Hay Camp/Rapid City, the demographic growth of Rapid City; Rapid City’s experience during World War I, the Great Depression, and World War II; the architectural history of Rapid City; the development of the regional tourism economy;
the establishment and expansion of cultural, religious, recreational, and educational institutions in Rapid City; the impact of Ellsworth Air Force Base and major local businesses on Rapid City, its economy, and housing patterns; the 20th century experience of Rapid City’s Native American residents; major urban renewal projects in the 1960s, 1970s, and beyond; the Rapid City Flood of 1972; the development of public art and parks since 1972, and recent historic preservation and planning efforts in and around Rapid City. VPHS will create a bibliography of these materials and include it in the draft and final Historic Context Report and Comprehensive Plan.

B. Community Outreach
VPHS will facilitate two community outreach sessions in Rapid City. The purpose of these meetings will be to articulate the value and utility of a proactive and encompassing approach to historic preservation and to capture the insights, suggestions, and priorities of members of the Rapid City community. These sessions will be held, if possible, on two consecutive evenings in the late winter or early spring of 2019. The sessions will be scheduled and located to reach the widest possible audience of community members.

*VPHS will help plan, prepare for, and conduct these sessions, but will not be responsible for the logistical planning, marketing, or fees associated with these events.

C. Main Text Revision: Historic Context Report and Comprehensive Plan
Using the information gleaned from its secondary research and the community outreach sessions, VPHS will update the main text of the RCHPC’s Historic Context Document (approximately 12,000 words) and Comprehensive Plan (approximately 8,000 words). Draft versions of these reports will constitute the major deliverable for Phase I of this project.

D. Presentation of Revisions and Phase II Planning
After delivering the draft, revised Historic Context Report and Comprehensive Plan, VPHS will hold a presentation and planning session with the RCHPC and the RCLRPD. During this session, VPHS will provide an overview of the updated historic planning documents, solicit feedback from the RCHP Cand RCLRPD, and brainstorm the scope of work and schedule for the revision, survey/inventory, and project completion portions of Phase II.

E. Meetings and Communications
Vantage Point will attend planning meetings and phone/video conference calls as needed.
Summary of Fees

Fees
Vantage Point will invoice RCHPC for content deliverables on the schedule outlined below.

Total fees for the project will not exceed:
1. Completion of Community Outreach Sessions $3,000.00
2. Delivery of revised, draft Historic Context Report and Comprehensive plan; presentation of revisions and completion of Phase II planning meeting. $9,226.00

Expenses:
Along with the final project invoice, Vantage Point will submit an expense invoice for books, copies, and printing not to exceed $250.00.

Proposed Schedule of Deliverables and Payments

3.1.2019 Start of the project.
First payment due on invoice: $2,000.00

5.1.2019 Completion of Community Outreach Sessions
Second payment due on invoice: $3,000.00

Completion of Revisions Presentation and Phase II planning meeting.
Third payment due on invoice: $7,266.00

Project Total: $12,266.00
Terms & Conditions

Payment
Vantage Point will invoice for expenses and fees according to the schedule of deliverables and payments above. All invoices and payments will be made in U.S. dollars. Payment is due net 15 days.

Termination
The Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission may terminate this agreement at any time by providing written notice. In the event of termination, the Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission will pay all fees and expenses up to the time of termination.

The foregoing is accepted and agreed.

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<tr>
<th>Vantage Point Historical Services, Inc.</th>
<th>City of Rapid City Long Range Planning Division</th>
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<td>By:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name: Eric John Abrahamson</td>
<td>Name: Sarah Hanzel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title: President</td>
<td>Title: Long Range Planner III</td>
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The Vantage Point Team

Vantage Point Historical Services, Inc. is an award-winning, full service historical consulting firm that works across the United States and Canada. We have been helping institutions, businesses, families, and communities tell their stories for over thirty years.

At Vantage Point, we put the past to work. Whether you’re a large corporation seeking to understand your company’s history, a small-town museum hoping to attract visitors to your community, or an individual with a good story worth telling, we’re here to harness your history.

Eric John Abrahamson, PhD  
President and Principal Historian

Eric is the founder, president, and principal historian of Vantage Point. Over the last three decades he has written numerous histories of major corporations and cultural institutions in telecommunications, banking, food processing, construction, philanthropy and the arts, as well as several successful biographies. He also spent more than a decade as the contract oral historian for the J. Paul Getty Trust and has conducted hundreds of oral history interviews for a variety of clients over the course of his career.


Eric was the co-winner of the 2016 Excellence in Consulting Award from the National Council on Public History.
Eric Steven Zimmer, PhD  
Senior Historian  

Eric is a senior historian at Vantage Point. He completed his PhD in American History at the University of Iowa in 2016, where he specialized in Native American history (especially as it relates to contemporary federal/tribal and state/tribal relations), the history of U.S. social policy, and public and environmental history. His dissertation, “Red Earth Nation: Environment and Sovereignty in Modern Meskwaki History,” won the 2017 Rachel Carson Prize for Best Dissertation from the American Society for Environmental History.

Zimmer has conducted dozens of oral history interviews for a variety of projects and clients, including his own scholarly work, a digital and oral history project based at the University of Iowa, and in service to Vantage Point projects. He is the author of *The Question is Why?: Stanford M. Adelstein, A Jewish Life in South Dakota* (forthcoming from Vantage Point Press, 2019) and co-author of *Expanding the Energy Horizon: A History of Black Hills Corporation Since 1883* (with Eric Abrahamson; Rapid City, SD: Black Hills Corporation, 2018). His essays and reviews have appeared in a variety of regional and national publications, including *The Great Plains Quarterly*, *Native American and Indigenous Studies*, the *American Indian Quarterly*, the *Public Historian*, *Indian Country Today Media Network*, and the *Annals of Iowa*.

Lois Facer, MA  
Chief Operating Officer, Research Associate, and Editor  

A former academic dean, Lois taught English as a second language at the University of Maryland, San Francisco State University, and National American University. She holds an MA in English with an emphasis in TESOL from San Francisco State University and a BA in English from the University of California, San Diego.

Lois has been providing administrative, research, and editorial assistance on Vantage Point projects for more than a decade. She was the co-winner of the 2016 Excellence in Consulting Award from the National Council on Public History.
Brenna Moloney, MA/MS
Archaeologist (MA Anthropology, MS Geography)

Brenna Moloney is a field director for Ethnoscience who has worked in cultural resource management since 2009. She has extensive experience conducting literature reviews, archival research, curating historical archaeological collections, and assessing resources for NRHP eligibility. Her areas of focus are historical archaeology, architectural history, and historic preservation planning. She has worked on projects in Idaho, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Illinois, Texas, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Colorado, Nebraska, Maryland, Virginia, and the West Indies. Ms. Moloney has researched historic iron mining in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and has identified and recorded historic gold mining features in the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming. This includes placer mines, shafts, prospecting pits, camps, and cabins. She also curated a large archaeological collection associated with late nineteenth century mining in the city of Deadwood, South Dakota, as well as documented miner’s cottages in Deadwood and Lead. She conducted a historical resource survey of the “East of 5th” neighborhoods for the City of Rapid City in 2016-2017. She is knowledgeable in the use of GPS, ArcGIS, and Survey 123.
Previous Vantage Point Clients

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
AirTouch Communications
Ameritrade Holding Corporation
Audubon Society of Connecticut
Black Hills Corporation
Canadian Centre for Architecture
California Department of Parks & Recreation
Countrywide Credit Industries
Deadwood History, Inc.
Fieldstead & Co / Howard F. Ahmanson, Jr.
Franklin Templeton Investments
J. Paul Getty Trust
Homestake Adams Research Center
Hometown Perry, Iowa
IQ Magic
L&H Industrial
Los Angeles County Museum of Art
Margaret Cargill Foundation
MasterCard Foundation
OneLegacy
Ovenwest
Pacific Telesis Group
Reptile Gardens
Rockefeller Foundation
Samuel & Saidye Bronfman Family Foundation
Sitting Bull Crystal Caverns, Inc.
Split Rock Studios
Swinerton, Inc.
Taconic Foundation
Teneo Strategy
Tufts University School of Dental Medicine
University of San Francisco, School of Law