

HB 19-1078 – FACT SHEET

Multiple Property Documentation Form – Signature Requirement

The purpose of HB 19-1078 is to protect the integrity of the historic listings program by ensuring that private information is obtained honestly and transparently.

1. What is a Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF)? A MPDF documents multiple properties that historically relate to one another, and is used as additional context for proposed listings of individual sites on the National Register of Historic Places. A separate form is used for the proposed listings of an individual site on the National Register, which is not affected by HB 19-1078. The Colorado Historic Preservation Review Board considers and acts on MPDFs before they are sent to the Keeper of the National Register.

2. Why does Colorado need a signature requirement for MPDFs? While federal law requires applicants to obtain the landowner's signature before approving an individual site for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, there is no signature requirement for a MPDF. In some cases, the historical information included in a MPDF may not be publicly available but is obtained from landowners disclosing such information or granting access to their property. The State Historic Preservation Review Board should not assume that the private information included in MPDFs was obtained legally. The signature requirement in HB 19-1078 would protect the integrity of the historic listings program and incentivize property owners to allow historians, archaeologists, and others on their property.
 - a. *Example:* Fifty-two landowners in Otero and Las Animas counties agreed to participate in a historical resources study under false pretenses, including under the promise that the information would not be made public. During that study, a total of 454 historic sites were recorded (and photographed), which would never have been possible without the landowners guiding the survey team to points of interest. In 2015, the landowners learned that the information and pictures were available on a public website and were included in a MPDF that had already been approved by the State Historic Preservation Review Board and sent to the Keeper of the National Register.

 - b. Importantly, this historical study in southeast Colorado was primarily funded by a \$150,000.00 grant by the Colorado Historical Society's State Historic Fund, and a \$50,000.00 grant by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs.

3. What does History Colorado (a.k.a. the State Historic Preservation Office) think? Rep. Lewis worked with History Colorado on the amendment to HB 19-1078, which was adopted by the House. History Colorado is neutral on the bill.