Administration
State Historic Preservation Office
Museum
Outreach & Interpretation
Publications
Library & Archives

Timeline

1865   Created in Bannack by Montana's First Territorial Legislature, making it one of the oldest institutions of its kind west of the Mississippi.

1874   Moved to Helena.

1891   Made a state agency by the state legislature.

1902   Moved into the basement of the newly constructed State Capitol Building.

1949   Board of Trustees expanded; agency redefined by the legislature to current format with most current duties; plans for Veterans and Pioneers Memorial Building to serve as home for MTHS began.

1951   K. Ross Toole hired as first official MTHS director.

1953   Veterans and Pioneers Memorial Building dedicated.

1963   Fine arts responsibilities added to the MTHS mandate by the legislature.

1973   MTHS receives initial accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums.

1977   Historic Preservation Office transferred to MTHS from Fish and Game Department.

1981   MTHS assumes administrative responsibility for the Original Governor's Mansion.

1985   Given oversight of the Moss Mansion in Billings by the legislature.

1995   After it led the charge to save historic Virginia City and Nevada City, MTHS is given oversight of Montana Heritage Commission and Virginia City and Nevada City assets by the legislature.

1996   Given oversight of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission by the legislature.

2003   Oversight of Montana Heritage Commission and Virginia & Nevada City assets transferred from MTHS to the Department of Commerce by the legislature.

2007   MTHS becomes a Smithsonian Affiliate; Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission sunsets.

2015   150th anniversary of the Montana Historical Society.

2019   Legislature passes bipartisan bill funding Montana Heritage Center.

2020   Ground blessing for Montana Heritage Center. Construction begins.