

2015 Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony and Reception

Myrna Loy Center

Helena

January 23, 2015

2:30-3:30 pm

I. INTRODUCTION (Bruce Whittenberg) approximately 5 min

Summary: Society Director Bruce Whittenberg welcomes guests to the occasion and recognizes those in attendance.

Whittenberg remarks:

- ▶ Welcome everyone to the 2015 Biennial Historic Preservation Awards. I'm Bruce Whittenberg, Director of the Montana Historical Society.

- ▶ Every two years, the Society's State Historic Preservation Office, and the Governor's office, honors persons and/or projects that have contributed to the preservation of Montana's historic resources in a significant way.

- ▶ Tonight, certificates of registration will be given to the properties that have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places within the past two years. The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation.

- ▶ We will also recognize outgoing members of the State Preservation Review Board which approves nominations to the National Register.

- ▶ And finally, we will present four Preservation Awards to honor four special people or groups who have inspired us with their dedication and hard work.

▶ Allow me to begin by making some introductions: when I call out your name, please stand and continue to stand.

▶ First I want to recognize any members of the **Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees** who may be here and ask them to stand. Thank you!
(applause, keep standing....)

▶ Next, we have the privilege of having some present and past members of the **State Historic Preservation Review Board** here with us tonight. Will you please stand?

▶ I understand we also have a fair number of Montana's **local historic preservation officers** in attendance. Will the local preservation officers please stand? Thank you!

▶ The SHPO staff has also informed me that several **Montana Legislators** may be attending. If you are here, would you please stand?

▶ Next would the **Owners** of historic properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places please stand and be recognized.

▶ Now I would like to introduce the **staff of the State Historic Preservation Office** beginning with Mark Baumler, the State Historic Preservation Officer, and John Boughton, our National Register Coordinator who are here with me on stage tonight. Other staff of the Montana Historical Society's Preservation program include Kate Hampton, Damon Murdo, Pete Brown, Jennifer Peterson, Steffany Meredyk, Stan Wilmoth,

Robb McCracken, and former SHPO compliance officer, Kathryn Ore.
Please stand and be recognized as well. Thank you!

► Finally, will everyone interested in historic preservation who was not previously asked to stand, please join the rest and everyone please give yourselves a round of applause.

► Finally, we are very honored and it is my great pleasure to welcome Lt. Governor Angela McLean to the 2015 Preservation Awards Ceremony.

Prior to her appointment as Lt. Governor, Angela McLean taught American History, a subject we at the Historical Society are very fond of, and Government at Anaconda High School. She also served as an adjunct professor at Montana Tech in Butte, Chair of the Montana Board of Regents, and previously served on the Montana Board of Public Education.

Since her appointment, Lt. Governor McLean has visited all seven of Montana's Indian Reservations to engage in dialogue about how to foster economic opportunities in Indian Country. She has developed Montana SMART Schools, an initiative of the Lieutenant Governor's office, with the goal of reducing energy usage in schools and saving schools money, and she chairs the Montana Governor's Drought and Water Supply Advisory Committee, and the Labor-Management Advisory Council.

Please join me in extending a warm welcome to Lt. Governor McLean.

Lt. Governor McLean moves to the podium and speaks for ca. 5 minutes. (Opening Remarks).

Lt. Governor McLean Biennial Preservation Awards
Myrna Loy, Helena, MT
Friday, January 23, 2015

Thank you so very much for the opportunity to be with you this afternoon. Thank you to Mr. Whittenberg for the wonderful introduction. It is indeed an honor and a privilege to recognize those who preserve our history, a history that tells the story of our great state of Montana. Let's give up a big round of applause to all of you for your wonderful work!!

This important history is found in historic courthouses, hotels, banks, homes, ranger stations and roads. By identifying and recognizing these properties, we are making an effort to ensure these extraordinary places never pass into obscurity.

The history and architecture found in our towns and countryside represents the story of Montana and all of its inhabitants. It is so very important that we recognize that these locations are open to the public and each provides a unique window to a slice of Montana that in some cases is never known.

Some properties require little effort to understand why they are significant and listed in the National Register. Properties such as the Babcock Theatre Building in Billings, the Montana State University Historic District in Bozeman, and the Glacier County Courthouse in Cutbank, require little imagination as to their National Register-worthiness.

Other properties such as Old U.S. Highway 91 between Helena and Great Falls, or the Haight-Bridgwater House (pronounced "HATE-BRIDGEWATER") in Helena may not present their significance to Montana history, instead, their importance lies buried beneath years of history. It is only when one peels back the layers that their story is told and their importance to Montana history understood.

Of course, the passage of time often diminishes and in some cases, completely erases past traces of history from the landscape. Often times, we can only understand their importance to Montana through archaeology, or in one case this afternoon, paleontology. Whether architecture or paleontology, these resources provide a mirror to our past and the reasons for their significance often vary from person to person, but all should agree as to their value.

Little doubt exists about what compels many of those we recognize today. A review of our list of award recipients and their accomplishments, reminds us of what preservation means. It is not easy and sometimes it entails a lifetime of work. Not all battles are won. Many times, effective preservation relies on ingenuity, persistence and fiscal assets.

Today we honor your commitment to preserve our history and tell the story of our collective past. Thank you for the important work you do each and every day to preserve the great state that we all call home.

Whittenberg: During/after the applause following Lt. Governor McLean's speech, Bruce will move to the podium and thank the Lt. Governor and invite her to stick by (move to her seat) while Bruce next asks the State Historic Preservation Officer, Mark Baumler to take the podium to begin the presentation of the Certificates of Registration with the Governor's help.

Whittenberg:

▶ Thank you Lt. Governor for your remarks. Please take your seat close-by as we will be calling on you to help with our presentations.

▶ I would like to now invite Mark Baumler to the podium to begin the awarding of the National Register certificates.

III. NATIONAL REGISTER CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION

Approximately 25 minutes

Summary: SHPO Mark Baumler will take the podium and offer brief remarks regarding what it means to list a property on the National Register of Historic Places. He will then explain the process of reading the names of individuals and properties being recognized. Individuals in the audience will come forward to the stage when their name/property is called. John Boughton, SHPO National Register Program Coordinator, will hand the certificates to the Lt. Governor in proper order as Mark Baumler reads the names. The Lt. Governor will move to the left side of the stage facing audience to shake hands with the recipients and give them the certificates. The Lt. Governor and the recipient pause briefly on stage for **two photographs to be taken. The individual exits back stage.**

BAUMLER'S remarks (NR Certificates):

Thank you Bruce and thank you Lt. Governor McLean for joining us today with your words of support and encouragement for historic preservation.

Tonight I have the honor and the pleasure, with the **Lt. Governor's** help and the assistance of staff of the State Historic Preservation Office, to present Certificates of Registration to owners of historic Montana properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places during the last two years.

The National Register is a nationwide list of properties that have been deemed historically important to a community, a region, a state, or the country. Above anything else, Register listing honors these properties as

significant in our collective history and worthy of our preservation efforts. National Register-listing can be a building block to other opportunities - including grants, heritage tourism, educational programs, tax credits for rehabilitation, and other Mainstreet economic investments. As owners of newly listed properties, I draw your attention especially to one such benefit: the Montana National Register Interpretive Sign Program – a one-of-a-kind program that has received national attention. Thanks to assistance from a small portion of the accommodations tax, owners of listed properties are invited to apply for an official interpretive sign by contacting the Montana Historical Society (applications available online).

Tonight we have 24 newly listed properties to recognize. Together they represent over 160 contributing buildings, sites, structures, or objects from 15 different counties in Montana. I am proud to say that the SHPO was able to play a large part in the preparation of five (5) of these nominations, including the Montana State University Historic District, done jointly with the University System.

But SHPO does not and cannot do this work alone. Many of you here are the owners or authors or otherwise supporters of the listing of these properties in the National Register. Some of the agencies and organizations responsible for the listing of properties here today include our friends at the Montana Preservation Alliance, the Montana Department of Transportation, the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service and the National Park Service, in addition to private citizens and homeowners. Each of you in the audience in some way or another has helped in this recognition of Montana's significant historic places. And for that I thank you all very much!

I will now be asking our newest National Register property owners, or those accepting the certificate in their stead, to come on stage when I identify your property and your name. While I describe your property, Lt. **Governor McLean** will present you with your certificate and you will then have **two** pictures taken with her by our very own Montana Historical Society award-winning photographer Tom Ferris. A copy of this picture will be made available to you to download on our website.

As always, applause throughout is welcomed!

Okay. **Lt. Governor McLean**, are you ready?

Lt. Governor McLean moves forward next to **John Boughton** to receive and present the certificates given to her.

BAUMLER: proceeds with the presentation of certificates using the property list: (next page)

2013 - 2014 NATIONAL REGISTER CERTIFICATES

Carbon County

Kose Hall, Belfry (*accepting will be Jon Axline, author*)

Constructed on the main street in the railroad and coal town of Belfry in 1907, Kose Hall has served as a community meeting place throughout its history. Its rough-hewn stone walls have housed a restaurant, dance hall, mercantile, and a general store. It remains an historic focal point of the community and home to a community business.

Cooke City Approach Road Historic District (*accepting the certificate will be Elaine Hale, Yellowstone National Park archaeologist*)

The Red Lodge-Cooke City Approach Road Historic District, commonly known as the Beartooth Highway, runs 60 miles between Yellowstone National Park and the Rock Creek drainage south of Red Lodge. Even with changes that inevitably come with the necessary maintenance of a modern road, the Beartooth Highway retains much of its original 1938 character evoking the early days of automobile travel in the West.

Yodeler Motel, Red Lodge (*accepting the certificate will be Deb Hronek, of the Montana Historic Preservation Review Board*)

Built in 1909, the Yodeler Motel began as housing for the city's coal miners. In the 1960s, it was converted into a motel, reflecting Red Lodge's new

identity as a resort destination. Today, the Yodeler's chalet style design and charming decor showcases the thoughtful architecture that appeared during the golden age of the automobile, family travel, and dreams of faraway destinations.

Cascade County

Great Falls High School Historic District, Great Falls (*accepting the certificate will be Tom Moore, Assistant Superintendent of the Great Falls Public School District*)

Although not the first high school built in the city, the Great Fall High School complex symbolizes the development and growth of Great Falls as a modern and desirable place to live. Its collegiate Gothic revival style perfectly represents the city's educational aspirations during the first half of the 20th century, and is the only example of Gothic revival architecture remaining in Great Falls.

Chouteau County

Square Butte School, Square Butte (*accepting the certificate on behalf of the owner will be Zane Fulbright, Montana Historic Preservation Review Board chair*)

Square Butte School stands as a testament to the community's dedication to the future of its children. Soon after the construction of a sturdy brick one-room school in 1917, arson tragically claimed that building. In a gritty show of determination, the town rallied and constructed the new Square Butte

School less than a year after the fire. The school served the community until 1967 when it closed and has since been converted to a residence.

Fallon County

Cottonwood Creek Bridge, near Ismay (*accepting the certificate will be Jon Axline, MDT Historian*)

The Cottonwood Creek Bridge is emblematic of the standard timber stringer bridges in use between 1915 and 1960. Built in 1934 during the peak years of timber stringer bridge construction, it was one of more than a thousand such bridges constructed in Montana. Today, the Cottonwood Creek Bridge remains one of only a very few examples of this style in Montana that survive intact.

Fergus County

Judith Landing Historic District (Boundary Increase), Fergus County (*accepting the certificate will be Zane Fulbright, representing the Bureau of Land Management*)

In 1855, Ferdinand Hayden uncovered and collected the first scientifically identified dinosaur fossils in the entire Western Hemisphere. The discovery site on BLM land in the Upper Missouri Breaks is included in this boundary increase to the original 1975 Judith Landing Historic District. The Hayden Site is not only important for the fossil discoveries made there, but also for its role in the development of the field of paleontology.

St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, Danvers (*accepting the certificate will be Peggy Barta of the Friends of St. Wenceslaus*)

Constructed in 1916, St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church became the social center of the small, central Montana community of Danvers. Named for the patron saint of Czechoslovakia, in honor of the area's Czech immigrants, the construction of the church nonetheless mobilized the entire town with help drawn also from those of non-Czech descent and non-Catholics.

Flathead County

Camas Creek Cutoff Road, Glacier Nat'l Park & Flathead NF
(*accepting the certificate will be Jeff Mow, Superintendent of Glacier National Park, Gary Danczyk, Forest Staff Officer, and Tim Light, Flathead National Forest Archaeologist and Heritage Program Manager*)

Completed in 1967, the Camas Creek Cutoff Road is a product of several historic federal programs including Mission 66, whose aim was to develop the transportation systems of the National Park Service. The paved road winds northwest from Lake McDonald about 12 miles through Glacier National Park and Flathead National Forest. Today, the Camas Road remains a well-built, if lightly used connector route to lands largely free of pavement.

Big Creek Ranger Station Historic District, Flathead NF
(*accepting the certificate will be Rob Davies, Glacier View/Hungry*)

Horse District Ranger, Gary Danczyk, Forest Staff Officer, Joyce Baltz, Glacier Institute, and Tim Light, Flathead National Forest Archaeologist and Heritage Program Manager)

Established in 1908, the Big Creek Ranger Station Historic District reflects the history of the Flathead National Forest and the early 20th century development of administrative and firefighting facilities in the remote North Fork of the Flathead River valley. Architecturally, the ranger station reflects Craftsman influences combined with a rustic aesthetic, a typical format for USDA Forest Service buildings in the west and particularly Northern Region One.

Flathead National Forest Backcountry Administrative Facilities, Flathead National Forest (*accepting the certificate will be Gary Danczyk, Forest Staff Officer, and Tim Light, Flathead National Forest Archaeologist and Heritage Program Manager*)

The Flathead National Forest's system of administrative sites in the backcountry of the Middle and South forks of the Flathead River is representative of USDA Forest Service management policies and of the aesthetics that guided the agency's permanent improvements program. The facilities include ranger district headquarters, guard stations, and the trail and communication systems that connect them. Unlike the Forest Service's front-country facilities, these physically isolated resources reflect the principals of limited development as it applied first to designated primitive areas, established in 1931, and, in 1940, to the service's own wilderness area

policy. Passage of the federal Wilderness Act in 1964 ensured the backcountry infrastructure is maintained in a manner consistent with the wilderness principles first espoused by the Forest Service in the early 1920s.

Gallatin County

Montana State University Historic District, Bozeman (*accepting the certificate will be Victoria Drummond, Associate University Planner, Montana State University*)

After a failed bid to become the state capitol, Bozeman's hopeful Capitol Hill became the site of the state's Agricultural College in 1893. As it continuously added new facilities, the humble Agricultural College grew over time into one of the finest institutions of higher learning in the West. Today, the campus's diversified and well-preserved architecture, representing styles from 1894 through 1967, articulates the story of the development of Montana State University. (Go Bobcats!)

Glacier County

Glacier County Courthouse, Cut Bank (*Accepting the certificate on behalf of the County will be Kate Hampton of SHPO and author*)

During the late 1930s as Montana struggled out of the depression, Cut Bank enjoyed its most prosperous oil boom, raising hopes that the little town would become "The Oil Capital of the World." The forward-thinking design

of the Glacier County Courthouse, built in 1939, embodies this spirit. Today, it continues to represent Cut Bank's political and economic importance in Glacier County.

Jefferson County

Montana State Training School Historic District (*accepting the certificate will be Leonard Wortman, Chair of the Jefferson County Commission*)

The Montana State Training School Historic District symbolizes the evolution of both national and state attitudes toward the disabled, particularly those with cognitive impairments. Beginning largely as an educational venture in the late nineteenth century, the State Training School soon actively participated in national trends of mass institutionalization and sterilization through the 1960s, followed by rapid deinstitutionalization beginning in 1970. The district is also noteworthy for the mid-century efforts of Dr. Philip Pallister, the school's Clinical Director at the time, who established the institution as a leader in genetic research. Today, Jefferson County owns and is seeking new uses for the historic campus buildings.

Lewis & Clark County

Haight-Bridgewater House, Helena (*accepting the certificate will be Richard Harrell, great-great nephew of Octavia Bridgewater and great-great grandson of "May-mee" Bridgewater*)

The humble exterior of this wood-frame home near Carroll College belies its significance as an avenue to understanding both Helena's women's and African-American history. In the late 1800s, the widow Hattie Haight used the income derived from renting this house to assure custody of her small children. Later, the extraordinary African-American Bridgwater women, "May-mee" and her daughter Octavia - lived here for most of the 20th century. Their lives and accomplishments speak to the struggle for racial equality and the strength of Helena's black community.

Central School & 7th St. Gymnasium (Helena HD Add Doc.)

(accepting the certificate will be Libby Goldes, Chair of the Helena School Board of Trustees)

Recently confirmed as contributing resources of the Helena Historic District, Central School and the Seventh Avenue Gymnasium symbolize the importance of education to Montana's capital city. Designed by well-known Montana architect George Carsley, the Collegiate Gothic style Central School was built in two phases, in 1915 and 1921. The 1908 Italian Renaissance style gymnasium, on the other hand, was designed by the prominent architectural firm of Link and Haire and long served the local high school. Together, these two iconic buildings represent an important facet of the educational history of the Helena and are significant to the neighborhood in which they are located.

Lewis & Clark and Cascade Counties

Old U.S. Highway 91 Historic District (*accepting the certificate will be Ellen Sievert, Historic Preservation Office for Great Falls and Cascade County, and the author, Jon Axline of MDT*)

Highway 91 follows a route through the Prickly Pear Canyon traversed by humans for thousands of years. It winds along the same Missouri River course Lewis and Clark traveled through this part of Montana. Completed in 1933, Highway 91 served as the most direct route between Helena and Great Falls during the golden age of automobile travel. Today, while essentially a frontage road to the interstate, old U.S. Highway 91 continues to afford a glimpse of how Montanans in the mid-1900s travelled between Helena and Great Falls.

Meagher County

Stockmen's Bank of Martinsdale, Martinsdale (*accepting the certificate will be Peter Tolivasia, owner of the building*)

In 1919, the small ranching community of Martinsdale built a one-story, commercial building on the corner of Main and Grant Avenue. The town's first modern brick commercial building, the new bank featured neo-classical details. Although it closed briefly during the agricultural depression in the 1920s, the bank continued to serve Martinsdale until 1949.

Missoula County

Double Arrow Lodge, Seeley Lake (*accepting the certificate are Patt and Tom Donich, owners*)

Located immediately south of the town of Seeley Lake, the Double Arrow Lodge traces its beginning back to the origins of the Dude Ranching industry in Western Montana. The Rustic-style lodge building, completed in 1930, represents the first dude ranch to open in the area and the only one to serve the area throughout the 1930s. Today, the lodge with restaurant continues to operate in its historic capacity, enticing visitors with its charm, setting and outdoor opportunities.

Milwaukee Road Railroad Substation No. 10, Missoula

(accepting the certificate is Erin Helm, owner)

The Milwaukee Road Substation No. 10, ten miles west of Missoula, survives as one of only four that still stand in Montana. Twenty-two such stations originally served the line. Built in 1915, Substation No. 10 provided electricity to the line until the Milwaukee Road closed in 1974. The industrial style building recalls the railroad's importance to Montana, well into the 20th century and continuing today.

Petroleum County

Cat Creek Oil Field Sign, west of Mosby *(accepting the sign is*

Amy Dixon, author of the nomination)

Located five miles west of the town of Mosby on Highway 200, the Cat Creek Oil Field sign stands an isolated and lonely reminder of the once booming oil industry presence in central Montana during the infancy of commercial oil development. Though the buildings and structures

constructed at nearby Cat Creek, during the initial boom between 1920 through 1925, and secondary boom in the 1940s, retain poor integrity, the stout construction of the Cat Creek Oil Field sign endures to point passer byers in the correct direction of the town, likely long after what little remains of the oil fields passes completely into history.

Powell County

McDonald Pass Airway Beacon (*accepting the certificate is Mike Rogan and Jon Axline of MDT, and Kate Hampton of SHPO*)

The 1935 McDonald Pass Airway Beacon originally functioned as one of 18 beacons stretching east to west across Montana along the Northern Transcontinental Airway. The beacons served as a critical navigational aid whose lights marked the air corridor from Minneapolis to Seattle. The MacDonal Pass Airway Beacon, maintained by the Montana Department of Transportation, stands as one of the few that continues to function, not only in Montana, but the United States.

Yellowstone County

Babcock Theater Building, Billings (*accepting the certificate on behalf of the owners is Chere Jiusto of the Montana Preservation Alliance*)

Constructed in 1907, the Babcock, in the heart of downtown, is Billings' oldest surviving entertainment venue. Renowned theater architect Edwin Houghton designed the two-story building, which originally housed the

theatre, as well as retail, residential, and office space. As later remodeled, the Babcock became an excellent example of the Skouras-Style theatre design. Its recent renovation was awarded a state historic preservation award in 2013.

Northern Hotel, Billings (*accepting the certificate is Joan Brownell, co-author of the nomination*)

A catastrophic fire claimed the original 1904 Northern Hotel in the heart of downtown Billings in 1940. Plans began immediately to rebuild the city's only first-class hotel. Largely unchanged since its grand re-opening in 1942, the ten-story building was the first to incorporate seismic reinforcement and at the time, stood as Montana's tallest building. Recently renovated and upgraded, it continues to serve in its original function as a center of modern Montana hospitality in Billings.

END =

BAUMLER:

Thanks to each and every one of you for the efforts that you made in researching and telling the history of your property for the benefit of all Montanans. Please join me in a round of applause for all of our National Register certificate awardees.

After the certificates are presented, and applause, Lt. Governor McLean and Dr. Baumler return to their seats.

IV. RECOGNITION OF RETIRED REVIEW BOARD MEMBERS (B. Whittenberg) 5 min

Summary: Following Mark's presentations of the National Register certificates, Bruce Whittenberg will briefly describe the Preservation Review Board and identify members who finished their service in the last two years. If any retired members are present they will be invited to receive a plaque from the Lt. Governor

Whittenberg remarks:

► I want to join Mark in congratulating all of the owners of newly listed National Register properties.

► I next want to acknowledge the work of the Montana State Preservation Review Board, by recognizing two recently retired board members.

Don Matlock of Hamilton, served on the Review Board from 2005 to 2013. Educated at Chico State, St. Mary's College, and the University of San Francisco, Don's background includes years of environmental and construction experience, with procurement and contract negotiations often playing a central role. Very organized and direct, Don served two years as the review board chair. Don's greatest lament during his time on the board was that not every National Register nomination the board reviewed was a railroad property. Don will you please come forward to receive your service plaque?

(applause)

Rosalyn LaPier of Missoula, served on the Review Board from 2007 to 2014. Rosalyn, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Montana, received her Master's Degree from DePaul University and her Bachelor's from Colorado College. Rosalyn is an environmental historian, and Native language advocate. She spent over a dozen years working with elders documenting the Blackfeet language. Rosalyn's background researching and writing about American Indian Activism and Traditional Environmental knowledge and her Traditional knowledge in general greatly benefited the review board. Her participation on the board often provided insight from a different perspective, improving the quality of the National Register nominations. Please join us in thanking Rosalyn for her tenure on the board.

(applause/pause)

Please join me in showing our appreciation to Don Matlock and Rosalyn LaPier.

V. PRESENTATION OF PRESERVATION AWARDS (Mark

Baumler 20 min

Summary: Whittenberg will next introduce the last part of the program – the presentation of Historic Preservation Awards by Mark Baumler. The Lt. Governor will read the last award, the Governors Award.

Whittenberg Remarks:

▶ Every two years, the Historical Society and the SHPO solicit recommendations from across the state for individuals, civic groups, and projects that are outstanding examples of dedication and perseverance in historic preservation.

▶ This year, we are honored to present four such awards.

▶ I ask Mark Baumler to return to the podium to announce this year's winners.

Mark will then return to the podium to announce the Preservation Award winners, one at a time. He will invite the recipients to come forward after he reads a text regarding their award. The Lt. Governor will be on stage to hand the Preservation Awards to the recipients and take photographs. The Lt. Governor may read the presentation for the last award (Governor's Award). The recipient may give a brief word of acknowledgement.

MARK's presentations of awards.

2015 Preservation Awards

- 1) Havre Historic Post Office, Havre - 2015 Award for Outstanding Preservation Rehabilitation Project (Baumler)
- 2) Montana Project Archaeology - 2015 Award for Outstanding Preservation Education and Outreach (Baumler)
- 3) Montana History Foundation – 2015 Award for Outstanding Preservation Advocacy (Baumler)
- 4) Borden Hotel Rehabilitation Project, the 2015 **Governor's Special Award**, for Outstanding Local Preservation Project (Lt. Governor McLean)

**2015 Preservation Award for Outstanding Preservation
Rehabilitation Project**

Havre Historic Post Office

By Mark Baumler, State Historic Preservation Officer

Myrna Loy Center, Helena

January 23, 2015

In 2011, when eye doctors Marc Whitacre and Erica Farmer moved to Havre with their three children, they could have bought a conventional house. But to Marc and Erica, two experienced preservationists, the conventional approach didn't appeal to their sense of history and adventure. They became aware of the Havre Historic Post Office, unoccupied for the better part of two years. The more they learned about the 35,000 square foot building, the more the challenge of saving one of Havre's most important and threatened buildings interested them.

Built in 1932, the Havre Historic Post Office, which originally also served as the federal court house, is a three-story building of reinforced concrete and structural steel sheathed in red brick and limestone in a Beaux Arts Style. Imposing Neo-classical Corinthian columns support the prominent portico entry.

When Marc and Erica assumed ownership of the post office in late 2011, the building had suffered extreme water and ice damage, resulting in failure of both the steam heating and plumbing systems. Ceiling and wall finishes had also become detached, and the floor finishes were badly buckled.

Fortunately, due to the robust construction of the building by the Federal government, these many failures did not threaten the building's underlying "bones" and structural integrity.

Thanks to a National Park Service Save-America's -Treasures grant obtained in partnership with Opportunity Link, along with significant personal investment and sweat equity, Marc and Erica committed to rehabbing this Havre landmark once again. They re-plumbed the building and restored the failed finishes from floor to ceiling. They purchased a bucket truck to assist in their restoration. They learned about the inner workings of steam boiler systems and elevators to make necessary repairs to them. They tracked down and re-acquired the building's scavenged architectural features. And when they were done they re-opened the Havre Historic Post Office as commercial office space, a banquet facility, and as their own remarkable home residence.

While all of us here today love historic architecture, the fortunate among us won't ever have that love tested by embracing such a monumental, multi-

year, largely do-it-yourself project. Fortunately however, for the Havre Historic Post Office and Havre's downtown, Marc and Erica have not only shown an appreciation for the building's splendid architecture, but also an unconditional love for the building and its historical significance.

For these reasons, I ask you to join me in recognizing Marc Whitacre and Erica Farmer with the 2015 State Historic Preservation Award for Outstanding Preservation Rehabilitation Project.

**2015 Preservation Award for Outstanding Preservation Education and
Outreach**

Montana Project Archaeology

**By Mark Baumler, State Historic Preservation Officer
Myrna Loy Center, Helena**

January 23, 2015

The Montana Project Archaeology (MPA) program was launched in 2003 within the Sociology and Anthropology Department at Montana State University. The Montana Project Archaeology program hosts a variety of professional development courses, institutes and workshops for teachers in Montana – and also sometimes educators from Wyoming, South Dakota, and Idaho – to teach archaeology in K-12 classrooms and promote a preservation ethic. The program also works with Montana teachers to provide hands-on archaeological experiences for elementary students throughout the state.

Montana Project Archaeology is part of the national Project Archaeology program sponsored by the Bureau of Land Management in large part as a response to widespread looting and vandalism of archaeological sites. This national heritage education program uses archaeological inquiry to foster understanding of past and present cultures; improve social studies, science, and literacy education; and enhance citizenship education to help preserve our archaeological legacy. The national program, which also happens to be

based at MSU in Bozeman, is currently celebrating its 25th anniversary.

Since its inception, more than 7,000 educators have participated nationwide in Project Archaeology workshops. These educators use Project Archaeology materials to instruct an estimated 180,000 students of all ages annually.

In Montana, the Montana Project Archaeology program has developed archaeological curricula for teachers specifically about our state such as their most recent publication about the Anzick archaeological site, entitled *Investigating the First Peoples: The Clovis Child Burial*. Another recent project centers on the archaeology of historic mining in Montana and is called *Investigating Garnet, a Historic Mining Town*. All of the curriculum they develop and the workshops and courses they host have a place-based focus, bringing educators and students out to the places where history has happened and archaeology is preserved - including Virginia City and also Fort Parker near Livingston, the home of the first Crow Agency.

Most recently, in 2006, Montana Project Archaeology, Montana State University, and the Bureau of Land Management partnered again to develop the Montana Site Stewardship Program. This program promotes public awareness and protection of both pre-contact and historic era sites in

Montana. Trained program volunteers, overseen by public land managers, monitor archaeological and historical sites throughout Montana. The unpaid volunteers are committed to cultural resource protection and preservation activities that will reduce damage to archaeological sites due to human, animal, and environmental impacts. To date there are 100 trained site stewards, 70% of whom are actively protecting sites throughout Montana.

The professionalism and expertise exhibited by the Montana Project Archaeology team is matched only by their energy and enthusiasm. For their tireless efforts to engage with teachers, students and volunteers and to promote heritage stewardship and cultural understanding, we are honored today to convey the 2015 Historic Preservation Award for Outstanding Preservation Education and Outreach to Montana Project Archaeology. Here to receive the award is Crystal Alegria, Montana Project Archaeology Coordinator.

2015 Preservation Award for Outstanding Preservation Advocacy

Montana History Foundation

By Mark Baumler, State Historic Preservation Officer

Myrna Loy Center, Helena

January 23, 2015

Originally established in 1985 as the Montana Historical Society Foundation, the mission of the Montana History Foundation from the beginning has been to support the preservation of the rich legacy of Montana's past – “one story, one community, one project at a time.” Dr. Michael Malone of MSU-Bozeman served as the Foundation's first president. In its first decade of existence, the Foundation established itself as an active and successful partner to the Montana Historical Society. Its efforts were many and varied, including raising and providing funds for the Society's press publications, museum acquisitions and exhibits, library programs, and public education and outreach.

During the late 1990s, the Montana Historical Society Foundation expanded its focus to include working with other historic properties and entities in Montana. The Foundation proved instrumental in advocating for the

purchase of Virginia City and Nevada City from the Ford Bovey Trust in 1999 and it continues to support the ongoing preservation and interpretation efforts in these two most-historic places.

To avoid confusion with the Montana Historical Society, a state agency, and to reflect its expanding role of support for other Montana historic assets, the organization changed its name to the Montana History Foundation in 2001.

Today, the Montana History Foundation serves history organizations across the state of Montana. In addition to the Montana Historical Society and the Montana Heritage and Development Commission that oversees Virginia City, MHF is actively involved with the Original Governor's Mansion Restoration Society, the Museums Association of Montana, and the Montana Preservation Alliance.

Most recently, in 2012 the Montana History Foundation established the Preserve Montana Fund, a grant program supported largely through donations to assist in the preservation of Montana's history and historical places. Project categories included oral histories, collections and artifacts, training and education, and, of course, buildings and structures - including one-room schoolhouses. *Visions and Voices – Montana's One Room*

Schoolhouses author Charlotte Caldwell works with the Foundation to distribute all revenues from her popular book to efforts to stabilize and restore one-room schools across Montana.

Over three granting periods, the Montana History Foundation has helped 57 preservation projects with \$233,305 in grant funds. Their support has touched 71 towns in 36 counties.

The commitment of the Montana History Foundation to the Montana Historical Society, to Virginia and Nevada Cities, and to small communities and organizations across the state through the Preserve Montana Fund, has literally changed the landscape of historic community preservation in Montana. As they celebrate thirty years of protecting our state's history, we take this opportunity to say thank you, and recognize the Montana History Foundation with a 2015 State Historic Preservation Award for Outstanding Preservation Advocacy. We welcome Board of Trustee Chair Chris Warden and Acting Director Emily Hibbard to accept the award.

2015 Preservation Award for Outstanding Local Preservation Project

Governor's Award

Borden Hotel in Whitehall

**Presented by Lt. Governor Angela McLean
Myrna Loy Center, Helena**

January 23, 2015

This year, it is the Governor's, and my, great honor to bestow the special Governor's Award for Historic Preservation to the Borden Hotel Rehabilitation Project in Whitehall as the 2015 Outstanding Local Preservation Project.

Built in 1913 by Lot and Hilda Borden at the busy corner of Legion and Main Streets, the Borden Hotel building housed a hotel, tavern, dance hall and restaurant. Over the years, it flourished and grew as a hub for travelers and a social center for the community. Proprietor Hilda Borden was famous for her generosity, and known as a shrewd businesswoman. After her death in 1971 and the discontinuation of railroad passenger traffic, subsequent owners struggled to keep the business, and building, afloat. Despite their best efforts, the demands of updating and maintaining proved overwhelming,

and by the turn of the 21st century, the building stood shuttered, leaking rain through the roof like sieve.

On March 6, 2009, Whitehall's small commercial district suffered another loss: a devastating fire destroyed five storefront buildings in the block adjacent to Borden's. The community soon rallied and committed to revitalizing their downtown. They quickly recognized that their remaining landmark buildings should serve as a catalyst for redevelopment. Jefferson Local Development Corporation took the lead by working with local partners to purchase and restore the Borden Hotel.

The State Historic Preservation Office awarded JLDC funding to conduct a feasibility study and list the building in the National Register. A public/private partnership between Rocky Mountain Bank of Whitehall, Barrick Golden Sunlight Mine, and the Jefferson Local Development Corporation made the building's purchase, immediate roof repair, and eventual rehabilitation possible. Working with High Plains Architects and Martel Construction, the meticulous repair and restoration process began less than one year ago. The work qualified for Federal and State Historic Rehabilitation Income Tax Credits. Now the Borden is officially open for business, with retail and office space at the street level and nine apartments

at the second story. The project's public/private partnership has enhanced property values, generated local, state, and federal tax revenues, and created jobs. And it has encouraged other community revitalization efforts, including the rehabilitation of Roper's building next door.

This herculean effort will serve as inspiration for other Montana communities and mainstreets across the state for many years to come. It is through such local public and private cooperation that the remarkable history of Montana is often preserved. Please join me in recognizing the Borden Hotel Rehabilitation Project as not only the Outstanding Local Preservation Project, but also this year's special Governor's Award winner. Accepting the award are Tara Mastel of the Jefferson Local Development Corporation, Chris Rehor, President of the JLDC Board of Directors, Roy McBride, President of the Whithall Branch of Rocky Mountain Bank, Dan Banghart, General Manager Barrick Golden Sunlight, and (either) Tony or Jason Martel of Martel Construction.

VI. (Bruce Whittenberg) CLOSING (1 min)

Bruce will then return to the podium to thank everyone for coming and ask them to please join us for the Reception in the Myrna Loy Center lobby for food, drink, and camaraderie.