

NATIONAL REGISTER CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION

Dr. Baumler—National Register remarks

This afternoon 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, National Register listing recognizes and honors these properties as significant in our collective history and worthy of our preservation efforts. National Register-listing can also be a building block to other opportunities - including heritage tourism, educational programs, special grant funding (when funding is made available), commercial 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 Montana program that has received national attention. Thanks to assistance from a small portion of the bed tax, all owners of listed properties are eligible to apply for an official interpretive sign by contacting the Montana Historical Society (applications available online).

This afternoon we have 32 newly listed properties to recognize. Taken together they represent over 168 buildings, structures, sites, or objects listed either individually or as contributing resources to a larger district. The properties listed are from 18 different counties in Montana. I am happy to report that the SHPO was able to help underwrite the preparation of two (2) of these nominations: the Dorsey Grocery and Residence, and the Crump-Howard House, two African American associated properties in Helena listed under a larger Multiple Property Document entitled, “African American Heritage Places in Helena, Montana” sponsored by your Montana Historical Society.

But we do not and cannot do this National Register 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 State Parks, the Department of Transportation, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Forest Service, Montana State University and the Montana Preservation Alliance - in addition to local preservation organizations, private citizens, and homeowners. I know that 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!

2016 - 2017 NATIONAL REGISTER CERTIFICATES

Broadwater County

Stone Hill Springs Prehistoric District

Numerous archaeological sites scattered over 2,000 unspoiled acres form the Stone Hill Springs Prehistoric District, a cohesive unit that together illustrate subsistence activities of pre-contact Native people in the Broadwater valley. From the bison cliff jump and extensive processing site to the more than fifty tipi rings, the district affords an opportunity to better understand the lifeway of the first Montanans. In addition to extensive research and writing by owner Bob Haseman, Patrick Rennie DNRC Archaeologist, spent many hours in the field assisting in the recordation of the property.

Carter County

Medicine Rocks State Park District

Since pre-contact times, the sandstone formations of Medicine Rocks State Park have served as a palette upon which visitors and nearby residents have carved messages. Today, these petroglyphs along with other evidence of early occupation represent centuries of human engagement with the place outside of Ekalaka known as "Medicine Rocks."

Fergus County

Draft Horse Barn, Fergus Co. Fairgrounds

The Draft Horse Barn reflects the Fergus County (or Central Montana) Fair’s historical importance to the community. Built in 1917 for use as a year-round auction yard and fair-time exhibition hall, the barn served in this capacity through 2009. A local preservation group has since restored the barn, which reopened for public use in 2013.

Gamble-Robinson Company Warehouse

The Gamble-Robinson Co. Warehouse was significant for its association with the development of Lewistown as a rail-based jobbing center for Montana’s vast “inland empire” during the early twentieth century. Located where the railroad right-of-way intersected with Main Street, the produce and grocery warehouse was built in 1922, even as drought and falling agricultural prices undercut Lewistown’s economy. (The property, although successfully listed in 2017, unfortunately did not survive demolition a year later.)

Lewistown Satellite Airfield Boundary Increase IV

Used for B-17 air-to-ground gunnery training during 1943, the Lewistown Pattern Gunnery Range served a vital role in preparing pilots for combat missions during World War II. .50 caliber shell casings still dot the twelve-square mile practice area, whose remote location and sparse population made it an ideal training ground for the heavy bombardment aircraft.

Gallatin County

Federal Building and U.S. Post Office

The construction of the Federal Building and U.S. Post office in Bozeman was important in providing modern space to accommodate federal government offices in the post-WWII era. The building marked Bozeman’s emerging status as a regional center, which supported the underlying economics and developmental growth of the city. It is notable as a fine example of Modern Architecture in the New Formalism style.

Glacier National Park (Flathead & Glacier Counties)

In the first half of the twentieth century, master Montana boat builder J. W. Swanson constructed carvel planked boats using traditional boat-working techniques and materials.

These boats became a vital part of the tourism infrastructure of Glacier National Park. Today, we are pleased to recognize the DeSmet, Little Chief, and Morning Eagle—three historic boats that still ply the waters of Glacier National Park and help tell the story of the important boating concession’s role in the development of recreation within Glacier National Park.

Granite County

Moose Lake Camp Historic District

Nine buildings, including cabins, a barn, and a combination ice house and woodshed sit on this recreational cabin site in the scenic Pintler Mountains of southwest Montana. First occupied under a Forest Service special use permit issued in 1928, the district represents the evolution of one of the oldest recreational cabin groups in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.

Hill County

Fort Assiniboine (Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation)

Established in 1879 to secure the international border with Canada, Fort Assiniboine was first listed in the National Register in 1989. This boundary increase adds 182 acres and expands the contributing resources from 19 to 29 to include buildings constructed after 1915 as the Northern Agricultural Research Center, administered by Montana State University. It also recognizes the fort’s national strategic importance as a military installation with a revised level of national significance.

Jefferson County

The Grant-Marshall Lime Kiln Historic District

An early pit kiln dating to 1884, a limestone quarry, a staging area, and a later tower kiln built circa 1889 reflect the importance of the lime-burning industry to early Helena’s growth. Builders in Helena and the surrounding area utilized lime produced at this kiln for projects that included construction of Helena High School from 1890 to 1892, and homes in the nearby Lenox Subdivision, established 1890.

Jefferson Canyon Highway Historic District

The Jefferson Canyon Highway Historic District represents the Montana Highway Department's early efforts to provide a modern highway infrastructure. It was one of the first large-scale projects developed by the Montana Highway Department after Montana voters passed a gasoline tax to fund highway projects. Located between Cardwell and Sappington Junction, the 11.8 mile stretch of old Hwy 10 retains excellent integrity.

Lewis And Clark Caverns Historic District

(Now here's one you always thought was listed and now it is!)

The Lewis and Clark Caverns Historic District is associated with the development of these limestone caverns as a National Monument and the creation of Montana's very first state park. Opened to visitors during an era of nationwide park development, Lewis and Clark Caverns also reflects the contributions that public works programs, including the Civilian Conservation Corps, made to communities across the country.

Lewis and Clark County

The first two properties we will recognize in Lewis and Clark County were listed in the National Register under a thematic study entitled: *African American Heritage Places in Helena, MT*. Made possible with funding to SHPO from a National Park Service Underrepresented Community Grant and additional support from the Montana History Foundation, this award-winning multiple property document and two National Register forms were written for SHPO by Delia Hagen of Hagen Historical Consulting in Missoula. The first of the two Helena African-American historical properties listed in 2017 is:

The Crump-Howard House, Helena

Built in 1889 by two of Montana's earliest and most prominent African American residents—James and Clarissa Powell Crump—this Queen Anne style residence became home to three generations of Crump descendants. Associated with the family for over 100 years, the home's history reflects both the heyday of Helena's African American community, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and the community's decline but endurance after 1910.

The second Helena African-American historical property listed is:

The Dorsey Grocery and Residence

Constructed in 1904 and closed in 1932, the Dorsey Grocery and Residence was owned by one of Helena's early twentieth century African American families—that of Walter and Almira Dorsey—and it remained in the family for several generations. As the most visible and substantial black-owned business in town, the store also functioned as a focal point of the local black community, and was an exemplar of African American achievement.

We now move on to three more Lewis and Clark County properties listed in the National Register but not associated with African American history.

The Gehring Ranch on Lincoln Road, west of Helena

Twenty-two log, stone, and frame buildings trace the Gehring Ranch's growth over four generations. The earliest log buildings date to the 1870s, when Batholomew and Jane Gehring developed their mixed farming operation along the Helena-Fort Benton Road. Their son David mechanized and expanded the farm, particularly the hog and dairy operations, and grandson Jack added bison to the mix. Today great-grandson Bill continues the family operation under a conservation easement with the Prickly Pear Land Trust.

Montana Aeronautics Commission Operations Historic District

The Helena architectural firm of Ostheimer & Campeau designed both the Modernist office building, constructed in 1958 and expanded in 1965, and the adjacent Modernist garage, also built in 1965. The first and only structures to house the commission's operations, the district reflects the maturing of Montana's aeronautical and aviation industries after World War II.

Western Clay Manufacturing Company (Additional Documentation)

First listed in 1985, the Western Clay Manufacturing Company is now being recognized not only for its local significance as an important historical brick manufacturer, but also

for its national significance in the development of the field of Ceramic Arts. Founded in 1951, the Archie Bray Foundation pottery works has served as an incubator for young artists exploring clay as a medium and is widely recognized today as the birthplace of modern studio ceramics.

Park County

Livingston Memorial Hospital

A local example of Mid-Century Modern architecture, the Livingston Memorial Hospital opened its doors to patients on February 28, 1955, serving the community for the next sixty years. The hospital represents the first significant community investment in healthcare infrastructure and the impact of the landmark federal Hill-Burton Act of 1946, which transformed the American healthcare system after World War II. Today the building is being re-purposed as affordable senior housing to continue to serve Livingston well.

Phillips County

Lookout Cave

Located in the Little Rocky Mountains, Lookout Cave contains the largest known assemblage of pictographs in north central Montana, as well as projectile points and normally perishable items made of wood, feather, shell, and sinew. The quantity and quality of the preserved art and artifacts makes this site of tremendous value for understanding and appreciating the early cultures of the Northern Plains.

Silver Bow County

Shaffer's Chapel African American Methodist Episcopal Church

First listed in the National Register as a contributing building within the Butte-Anaconda National Historic Landmark District, Shaffer's Chapel AME Church is now being recognized individually for its important association with African American history. The building is the only remaining church in Butte that once hosted an all-black congregation, and was one of the only public centers of the African American community here during the twentieth century. The story of the AME Church is integral to African American history in Montana and to the early history of Civil Rights in the United States.

Stillwater County

Charles And Gladys Pelton House

Successful sheep ranchers Charles and Gladys Pelton included all modern conveniences—electric lights, waterworks and a fine fireplace—in the two-story stone home they had built for themselves south of Fishtail in SE Montana. Finished in 1928, the house stands as an uncommon and fine interpretation of a cobblestone American Foursquare House in a rural setting constructed by a skilled local craftsman, while also displaying the personal preferences of Gladys and Charles Pelton.

Yellowstone County

Huntley Project Office

In 1905, the U.S. Reclamation Service received approval to construct the Huntley Project, a major irrigation project to allow agricultural development of an estimated 35,000 acres east of Billings, Montana. By June 1909, 300 farmers had filed for irrigated land on the project. Built in 1918 after a flood destroyed the first Project Office, this simple utilitarian office building still serves as the central hub for project management.

L-4 Lookouts in the USFS Northern Region (Region 1), 1932-1967

We end our certificate presentation by recognizing another thematic study that was responsible for the listing of eight Montana fire lookouts in western Montana. This study was undertaken by the United States Forest Service Northern Region, or Region 1, and was based on an earlier 1984 project to record and obtain determinations of eligibility for lookouts on the Lolo and Bitterroot National Forests. The current multiple property document - entitled *L-4 Fire Lookouts in the USFS Northern Region (Region 1), 1932-1967* - focused on a specific lookout property type, the L-4 style, and was written and prepared under contract by architectural historian Janene Caywood of Missoula.

Doubling as work and living spaces for seasonal fire spotters, fixed fire lookouts were essential components in the Forest Service's program to prevent forest fires. In 1928, forest service employee Clyde Fickes created a standardized lookout plan (the L-4) and

by 1931 the Forest Service began producing readi-cut kits that even untrained carpenters could assemble on site.

Under the multiple property document, four Lolo National Forest lookouts were listed in the National Register for Missoula and Sanders counties, and four lookouts were listed in the Bitterroot National Forest for Ravalli County.

LOLO NATIONAL FOREST

Missoula County

Double Arrow Lookout
Mineral Peak Lookout
West Fork Butte Lookout

Sanders County

Cougar Peak Lookout

BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST

Ravalli County

Boulder Point Lookout
Gird Point Lookout
Medicine Point Lookout
St. Mary's Lookout

BAUMLER:

Thanks to everyone for the efforts that you made in telling the history of these properties for the benefit of all Montanans. Please join me in a round of applause for all of our National Register certificate awardees.