

**2019 Montana Historic Preservation Award
for Outstanding Achievement in Historic Preservation to
Kristi Hager**

**Mark Baumler
State Historic Preservation Officer
2019 Preservation Award Ceremony
Myrna Loy Center, Helena**

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The 2019 award for Outstanding Achievement in Historic Preservation goes to Kristi Hager of Missoula.

Kristi, the owner of Lightroom Photography, is a professional in all aspects of the word. She received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Pennsylvania, her Master of Arts from the University of Delaware, and her Master of Fine Arts from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her background includes work as a draftsman, and assistant professor and instructor with stops in Wisconsin, Florida, California, and Montana.

While Kristi's passion for photography in the fine arts and documentary forms has always played a central role in her life, she is best known in historic preservation circles for her large format and digital photography of cultural resources. For over 25 years Kristi has been the person to call for photo-documentation of historic sites by innumerable cultural resource firms and governmental agencies. Her ability and work ethic to capture the subject in the best possible light has garnered her a well-deserved reputation and this recognition.

Often using a large format 4 x 5 view camera, much of Kristi's work includes Historic American Building Survey and Historic American Engineering Records recording, known also as HABS/HAER documentation. Kristi's attention to detail and ability to convey the nuances of the properties she documents has resulted in the Library of Congress archiving over 500 of her photographs from over 70 HABS/HAER projects. The love for her work, her medium, and the resource is obvious in every photograph she takes.

Kristi has served on the Montana's Speakers Bureau since 1996, lecturing throughout Montana on regional photographers and historic preservation photography. Her travelling exhibition of photographs, *Montana's Historic Highway Bridges*, highlighted the engineering and beauty of these engineering structures. Kristi also has her own favorite historical photographers and authored the book: *Evelyn Cameron: Montana's Frontier Photographer*.

As succinctly stated in a letter of support our office received for Kristi's nomination from well-known Montana highway department historian Jon Axline: "Kristi may not be doing the bricks-and-mortar historic preservation, but she has certainly contributed heavily to the field through her detailed photographs, which document in many cases, resources that are now gone, but thanks to Kristi, will not be forgotten."

For all these reasons, we are honored today to recognize Kristi Hager with a 2019 Award for Outstanding Achievement in Historic Preservation.