

**2019 Montana Historic Preservation Award for
Outstanding Service to Historic Preservation—John N. DeHaas Memorial
Award to
Maire O’Neill Conrad**

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

January 18, 2019

The 2019 award for Outstanding Service to Historic Preservation—the John N. DeHaas Memorial Award - goes to Dr. Maire O’Neill Conrad of Bozeman.

Maire Conrad is a full professor at Montana State University in the School of Architecture in Bozeman where she has taught undergraduate and graduate level design classes since 1990. She completed her own education at the University of California, Berkeley, receiving her Master of Architecture degree in 1985.

Since her arrival in Bozeman, Dr. Conrad has consistently demonstrated her commitment to historic preservation in her teaching, documentation, research, and public advocacy. Through her teaching she instills in her students the importance of understanding historical contexts, socioeconomic influences, and the community-focused plans and goals of architecture. This understanding is reinforced by formally documenting historic architecture using Historic American

Building Survey, also known as HABS, research methods. Using such methods allows one to map the evolution of architecture's role in Montana, and opens the doors for her students to appreciate the ways in which the West has affected architectural decision making. To date, Dr. Conrad's HABS documentation, largely vernacular in focus, includes over 100 Gallatin Valley buildings. In addition, HABS submissions by her students for the Charles E. Peterson Prize, a prestigious national award co-sponsored by the American Institute of Architects, have resulted in recognition every year they have entered.

Dr. Conrad has also developed a course at MSU that focuses on the social, cultural, and economic lives of early rural Montanans by researching the families and businesses that occupied the buildings. This research permits her students to gain a fuller understanding of the relationships between the buildings and those who occupied them.

Her public advocacy includes many public presentations, six exhibits drawn from her research, and numerous publications in regional and national journals, newspapers, and magazines. Maira has served as a board member on the Historic Preservation Board of Gallatin County, the City of Bozeman Historic Preservation Advisory Board, and as Co-Chair of the 2009 Vernacular Architectural Forum

Annual Conference when it came to Butte. She currently serves on the editorial board of the *49th Parallel eJournal*, on the Board of Directors of the Vernacular Architecture Forum, and in her fourth term on the Montana Board of Architects and Landscape Architects, a Governor-appointed position.

Dr. O’Neill Conrad epitomizes the characteristics associated with the John N. DeHaas Memorial Award. As stated here during the award’s establishment in 2013, the John N. DeHaas Memorial Award is to recognize those “individuals and organizations whose service and accomplishments go above and beyond and take us further along the historic preservation trail in Montana that John DeHaas began blazing more than 60 years ago.” Please join me in thanking Dr. Marie O’Neill Conrad with this presentation of the 2019 Montana award for Outstanding Service to Historic Preservation—John N. DeHaas Memorial Award.