

**Montana Historical Society
Biennial Report on
State-Owned Heritage Properties
to the
Preservation Review Board
Pursuant to MCA 22-3-424 (4)**

Introduction

The Montana Historical Society presents the first biennial report to the Montana Preservation Review Board as required by Montana Codes Annotated (MCA) 22-3-424 (4): “an act requiring state agencies and the Montana University System to biennially report to the Preservation Review Board on the status and maintenance needs of agency heritage properties.”

MCA 22-3-424 (4) outlines five reporting requirements state agencies must include in their report to the Preservation Board. The statute requires the following:

- A. A list of heritage properties managed by the agencies as those properties have been identified pursuant to this section
- B. The status and condition of each heritage property
- C. The stewardship efforts in which the agencies have engaged to maintain each heritage property and the cost of those activities
- D. A prioritized list of the maintenance needs for the properties
- E. A Record of the agencies’ compliance with subsections MCA 22-3-424 (1) and (2)

A. A list of the heritage properties managed by the agencies as those properties have been identified pursuant to this section

The Montana Historical Society identified two historic houses and one bridge that meet the reporting criteria.

- Original Governors’ Mansion and Carriage House (24LC088), 304 North Ewing, Helena Montana
- Moss Mansion (24YL0263), 914 Division Street, Billings, Montana
- Wolf Point Bridge (aka Lewis and Clark Bridge) (24MC0438), Montana Route 13, McCone County

B. The status and condition of each heritage property

1. 304 North Ewing, the Original Governor’s Mansion, was built in 1888. The property is listed on the National Register of Historical Places. The status of the building is satisfactory and the condition/integrity is excellent. The Original Governors’ Mansion and carriage house are a unique property in that both the Department of Administration and the Montana Historical Society work together on heritage preservation of the property. The Montana Historical Society is responsible for the finishings and furnishings for the interior of the Original Governors’ Mansion and carriage house. The care of the structure of the OGM and carriage house are under the

management of the Department of Administration. The Montana Historical Society administers the Original Governors' Mansion as an historic house museum by providing public tours, historical interpretation, conducting historical research, maintaining historically appropriate interior furnishings. Staff conduct regular maintenance and monitoring of the interior furnishings and exhibits.

MHS ranks the property a 1 on the preservation priority scale.

2. 914 Division Street, Billings, Montana, the Moss Mansion building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It is owned by the City of Billings and the Montana Historical Society. The Billings Preservation Society 501(c) (3) has a contractual agreement covered under MCA 22-3-603. "Management of historic sites and buildings -- contracts" that states that the Billings Preservation Society administers, operates, maintains, and restores the Moss Mansion Historic House Museum. As part of this agreement a representative from the Montana Historical Society performs a walk-through of the facility once every biennium. The purpose of the Moss Mansion Museum is to preserve, collect, describe, interpret and exhibit artifacts and documents relating to the 83-year occupancy of the Preston B. Moss family.

The Billings Preservation Society is responsible for the care of this building. Therefore we rate this property as a 3 on MHS's preservation priority scale.

3. The Wolf Point Bridge is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Wolf Point Bridge is a five-span truss bridge, and includes the longest through truss span in the state, was completed in 1930.

The Wolf Point Bridge MHS ranks the property a 5 on the preservation priority scale.

C. The stewardship efforts in which the agencies have engaged to maintain each heritage property and the cost of those activities

The Montana Historical Society administers the Original Governors' Mansion as a historic house museum by providing public tours, historical interpretation, conducting historical research, maintaining historically appropriate interior furnishings. Staff conduct regular maintenance and monitoring of the interior furnishings and exhibits. The cost for Heritage Interpretation, Education, and Awareness project activity conducted at the OGM for the biennium was \$7722, and cost for monitoring was \$2912.57

The Billings Preservation Society administers the Moss Mansion as an historic house museum by providing public tours, and historical interpretation. They are responsible for all maintenance and restoration projects for the building. In 2008 the Billings Preservation Society undertook a building analysis from which they determined preservation priorities for the Moss Mansion.

Montana Historical Society has not conducted a physical condition report of the Wolf Point Bridge. The condition and integrity is unknown.

D. A prioritized list of the maintenance needs for the properties

- 304 North Ewing – the Original Governor’s Mansion. The Montana Historical Society works with the DOA to insure the preservation of the historical integrity of the OGM and carriage house are maintained. List of prioritized maintenance needs projects include
 - conduct Historic Structure Report to determine preservation needs
 - external paint
 - repointing the brick and stone work
 - repairing the balcony box beams
 - stabilizing porch decking
 - repairing cracks in the 3rd floor west bedroom
 - repair and paint the basement rug room wall

- 914 Division Street, Billings – the Moss Mansion, administered by the Billings Preservation Society – a non-state agency has determined the following maintenance priorities
 - develop plan for ongoing maintenance and partial or full replacement and/or removal and reinstallation of South Patio trellis
 - develop short and long term landscaping goals to include a specific plan and investigate/correct irrigation coverages.
 - develop plan to correct settlement, cracking, minor maintenance issues on an ongoing basis
 - develop plan to reset brick pavers and possible long term replacement of some concrete.
 - replace membrane roof completely.
 - prepare, prime, and repaint all windows and doors, and areas of wood near porches, preserving the existing finishes where possible.
 - monitor minor plaster, glass and tile cracking.

- Wolf Point Bridge
 - inspection of bridge to identify maintenance needs

E. A record of the agencies’ compliance with subsections MCA 22-3-424 (1) and (2)

The Montana Historical Society complies fully with MCA 22-3-424 sections 1 and 2 regarding the maintenance and repair of the agency’s heritage and non-heritage properties. The Department confers with the Montana Historical Society State Historic Preservation staff during maintenance, repair, and construction projects.