



# PRESERVATION MONTANA

THE MONTANA HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN, 2018 – 2022

Cover Photo: Cascade County Courthouse, Steve Wolff, 2017.

The Statue of Justice looks out across the city of Great Falls, atop the Cascade County Courthouse's newly repaired and resurfaced copper roof and dome. The two-year, \$4 million project began in 2016.

Photographer Steve Wolff generously donated the use of his photo for this report.

See more at: <http://www.stevewolffphoto.com/cascade-county-courthouse-restoral-.html>









**Prepared in consultation with Montana by the:**

**State Historic Preservation Office**

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**National Park Service  
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Washington, D.C.**

**Available on-line at:**

<http://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo>

December 2017

**Big Sky. Big Land. Big History.**

**Montana  
Historical Society**

State Historic Preservation Office



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MONTANA

Steve Bullock  
GOVERNOR



Mike Cooney  
LT. GOVERNOR

July 26, 2016

Dear Montana Historical Society, Montana Preservationists, and all Montana Citizens:

I am pleased to recognize 2016 as the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Under the National Historic Preservation Act, the federal government created an enduring partnership with state and local governments, and later sovereign tribal nations, to identify and maintain our historic places—safeguarding them from unnecessary harm. Through State Historic Preservation Office programs important national initiatives like the National Register of Historic Places, the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit, and the Certified Local Government community preservation program are administered at the state level for the benefit of all Montanans.

I firmly believe that the preservation of our historic places, sites, and landscapes makes sense—culturally, educationally, and economically. The past fifty years have consistently demonstrated the value and importance of historic preservation in Montana, and the next fifty years hold the promise of even greater stewardship of our Montana heritage for future generations of Montanans to enjoy.

As Governor of Montana, I am honored to support the National Historic Preservation Act and would like to thank the Montana Historical Society for their continued efforts recognizing and preserving Montana's significant historic, archaeological and traditional cultural places. Here's to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of National Historic Preservation Act and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JB", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

STEVE BULLOCK  
Governor

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## PUBLIC SUMMARY

- Historic preservation is about keeping our important heritage places. Preservation benefits Montana – culturally, educationally, functionally, and economically. State Preservation Plans, prepared for Montana by the State Historic Preservation Office, serve as a guide for state and local preservation efforts by everyone.
- This Plan *PRESERVATION MONTANA: The Montana Historic Preservation Plan 2018-2022*, is a continuation and update of previous state plans. It was developed from feedback, study reviews, and input from interested parties and stakeholders, including the public, history buffs, historic preservation professionals, government officials, tribal representatives, state and local preservation organizations, avocationalists, and educational specialists.
- Montana has a rich and varied set of heritage properties that represent different themes in Montana history. Over 59,000 historic and precontact sites, buildings, structures, and districts have been identified and recorded in the state, and 1,170 of these have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Many more places are known or expected to exist as only about 6.0% of Montana has been inventoried for heritage properties to date. The landscape of historic preservation in Montana is also made of various federal, state, tribal and local preservation organizations. While there has been considerable success in preserving Montana's important heritage places, a significant number of Montana's heritage properties are at risk due to such factors as commercial and resource development, urban sprawl, neglect, mismanagement, changing population needs, lack of understanding, and limited financial resources for preservation.
- Old and new issues and challenges face Montana preservation over the next five years. These reflect national, state and local trends and perspectives. Feedback from 500 responses to a preservation questionnaire and a series of Montana preservation stakeholder interviews suggest common themes: lack of public understanding and awareness; limited survey and recording; need to assess property significance and integrity; need for base funding, legal protections and political support; importance of working together; and necessity to work outside the immediate preservation community. Highlight issues in Montana include finding ways to address the availability of necessary financial resources, dealing with our state's demographics, and influencing opinions about historic vs. new.
- The ongoing vision for historic preservation in our state is that ***Montana is a place that knows, respects, and celebrates its heritage, openly encouraging and supporting the preservation of its significant historic, precontact, and traditional cultural properties.*** Seven goals or steps to guide preservation over the next five years in achieving this vision are to: I. *EDUCATE: Build a foundation for historic preservation through knowledge, information and training;* II. *CELEBRATE: Market preservation through outreach, recognition, praise and acknowledgement;* III. *LOCATE: Identify and document Montana's historic, precontact, and traditional cultural places;* IV. *EVALUATE: Assess the significance and integrity of Montana's heritage places;* V. *ADVOCATE: Seek and secure support of preservation through funding, incentives, and legal protection;* VI. *COLLABORATE: Work together with preservation partners to preserve Montana's historic, precontact, and traditional cultural properties;* and VII. *INTEGRATE: Incorporate historic preservation into other programs, projects, and policies that have the potential to benefit or affect heritage properties.*



## I. INTRODUCTION

### WHAT IS HISTORIC PRESERVATION?

Historic preservation has multiple meanings. It has changed over time. One of America's first forays into historic preservation was in 1813 when Philadelphia citizens spoke out against demolition and redevelopment plans for the Old Statehouse, better known today as Independence Hall. In 1858, the Mount Vernon Ladies Association formed to purchase, manage, and protect the first American president's house. This earliest phase of preservation – saving individual buildings and creating “house museums” – has a strong tradition and continues today. But the scope of historic preservation has also matured, broadened and deepened considerably to include many more people and many more things.

Quite simply: historic preservation is about keeping our important heritage places. Each word has meaning:

<b>Preservation</b>	<b>Is About Keeping</b>	<b>Our</b>	<b>Important</b>	<b>Heritage</b>	<b>Places</b>
<b>Restoration</b>	<b>Identifying</b>	<b>Tribal</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Historic</b>	<b>Buildings</b>
<b>Conservation</b>	<b>Documenting</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>Events</b>	<b>Precontact</b>	<b>Structures</b>
<b>Consideration</b>	<b>Nominating</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>People</b>	<b>Traditional</b>	<b>Districts</b>
<b>Rehabilitation</b>	<b>Treating</b>	<b>National</b>	<b>Masterworks</b>	<b>Archaeological</b>	<b>Sites</b>
<b>Adaptive Use</b>	<b>Protecting</b>	<b>Public</b>	<b>Informational</b>	<b>Cultural</b>	<b>Objects</b>
<b>Reconstruction</b>	<b>Sustaining</b>	<b>Private</b>	<b>Unique</b>	<b>Social</b>	<b>Landscapes</b>
<b>Replication</b>	<b>Regulating</b>	<b>Non-profit</b>	<b>Representative</b>	<b>Political</b>	
<b>Maintenance</b>	<b>Incentivizing</b>		<b>Last</b>	<b>Ethnic</b>	
<b>Stabilization</b>	<b>Saving</b>		<b>Significance</b>		
<b>Repair</b>			<b>Integrity</b>		

Historic preservation has made many meaningful strides in governmental and public policy, in technology, in public and private organizations, as well as in individual lives - particularly since the days of urban renewal in the Sixties and the wholesale demolition of American historic neighborhoods and downtowns. When the federal government passed the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, it took a leadership role in recognizing and avoiding unnecessary harm to the nation's significant historic and precontact properties. Under the Act, federal agencies are required to take historic properties into consideration during project planning, and the State Historic Preservation Office system was established to help them. Each State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) became the repository for documented cultural resources, the source of technical preservation assistance, and at times, also serves as a pass-through for preservation funding to better manage historic and precontact properties at the state and local level. The National Register of Historic Places was created by NHPA to include properties significant at the local and state, as well as national level of significance. The National Park Service and national Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (advisors to the President) provide consistent standards, guidelines and regulations.

Local preservation has evolved from the days of saving the Old Statehouse in Philadelphia, and in 1980, the federal law was amended to formalize and provide some funding for local preservation through the Certified Local Government (CLG) program. Since then, other preservation strides have included the National Main Street program (1980), National Heritage Areas (1984), the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act



WESTERN CLAY MANUFACTURING AND  
ARCHIE BRAY FOUNDATION HD  
(PHOTO BY CCSAINTEAWG)

(1991), National Scenic Highways and Byways Program (1992), Tribal Historic Preservation Officer program (1992), Save America's Treasures brick-and-mortar funding program (1999), and the Preserve America community designation and funding program (2003), among others.

A Google search of "what is historic preservation in Montana?" results in a diversity of "hits" that reflect some of the scope and range of historic preservation in Montana today. Included in the top 30 listings are: the State Historic Preservation Office of the Montana Historical Society (SHPO), the Montana Preservation Alliance (*statewide non-profit and advocacy*), city

preservation offices (*CLG program*), the Montana Main Street program (*Department of Commerce*), the Montana History Foundation (*donations and grants*), Montana Tech (*Associate of Applied Science in Historic Preservation*), the University of Montana and Montana State University (*academic and facility programs*), the Montana Conservation Corps (*volunteers*), the Daly Mansion Preservation Trust (*house museum*), the National Trust for Historic Preservation (*Endangered schoolhouses in Montana*); the USDA Forest Service Historic Preservation Team (*log building rehabilitation*), as well as a variety of newspaper articles on historic preservation projects around the state.

As it matures, historic preservation continues to face old and new challenges: persistent lack of funding, rural economic and population decline, urban decay with suburban sprawl, natural resource development, and more recently climate change, are just a few recurring issues. Public perceptions can also be challenging: that preservation is for the elite, that progress lies in new construction, that if it is not in your backyard it is not important - or conversely: "not that in my backyard!" Newer threats to preservation include the increasing intensity and scope of natural disasters, vanity housing, the accelerating decay of abandoned wooden structures, and lack of appreciation for less understood buildings of the recent past.

As we look ahead, we can expect preservation to become more important and mainstream as a quality of life issue with economic benefits, in addition to a contribution to environmental conservation and sustainability. With landfills containing upwards of 40% construction waste, "the greenest building is one that is already built." In Montana, we look forward to incentives for citizen historic homeowners, refining LEED certification and other energy efficiency standards with maintaining historic integrity in mind, experiencing and celebrating more national, regional, and local heritage tourism areas, and living in a time when historic preservation is never in the way, but the way we do things here.

## WHY PRESERVE? THE BENEFITS OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

*It has been said that, at its best, preservation engages the past in a conversation with the present over a mutual concern for the future.*

- William J. Murtagh, *Keeping Time*, 1988

*Communities should be shaped by choice, not chance . . . The historic preservationist advocates the retention of places that unify and give meaning to a community.*

- Constance E. Beaumont, *Smart States, Better Communities*, 1996

*This place matters!*

- National Trust for Historic Preservation



*HOMESTEAD HOUSE IN THE BEARPAWS (PHOTO BY TODDKLASSY)*

The History Relevance Campaign of the National Council on Public History (NCPH) identifies seven ways in which history is an essential value:

### The Value of History

- To Ourselves
  - Identity: History nurtures personal identity in an intercultural world
  - Critical Skills: History teaches critical 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and independent thinking
- To Our Communities
  - Vital Places to Live and Work: History lays the groundwork for strong, resilient communities
  - Economic Development: History is a catalyst for economic growth
- To Our Future
  - Engaged Citizens: History helps people craft better solutions
  - Leadership: History inspires local and global leaders
  - Legacy: History, saved and preserved, is the foundation for future generations



Historic Preservation is about preserving our history by keeping our important heritage places. Heritage places build an identity for us as Montanans and educate us to that identity. The past brings meaning to our lives and helps guide our future. Our historic, precontact, and traditional cultural places are tangible links to who we are as a community and a state and what we are becoming. Historic places enhance economies and contribute to ways of life. Numerous studies show that historic preservation adds value to communities and brings economic benefits and opportunities for local people.

Consider the case for rehabilitation of historic buildings:

(derived largely from *The Economics of Preservation: A Community Leader's Guide*, Donovan D. Rypkema, 2005)

- ✓ Rehabilitation creates new jobs during construction and later in new offices, shops, restaurants, and tourism activities. Studies show that a million-dollar rehabilitation project creates five to nine more construction jobs than a million-dollar new construction project.
- ✓ Revitalized buildings and historic districts attract new businesses, tourists, and visitors, stimulating retail sales and increasing sales tax revenue.
- ✓ Historic buildings often reflect the image of high-quality goods and services, small-town intimacy, reliability, stability, and personal attention.
- ✓ Historic buildings create a sense of place and community, a recognized ingredient in a high quality of life.
- ✓ Rehabilitation is environmentally responsible; it conserves more than it consumes or tosses in the landfill and requires far less energy than demolition and new construction. Reusing old buildings saves demolition costs.
- ✓ Rehabilitation is labor intensive and is not as influenced by rising costs of materials as new construction.
- ✓ Rehabilitation often uses local labor, keeping salary dollars in the community. A million-dollar rehabilitation project will keep \$120,000 more in a community than an equivalent new construction project.
- ✓ Rehabilitation can take place in stages.
- ✓ Rehabilitation returns buildings to the tax rolls and raises property tax revenues.
- ✓ Tax dollars are further saved through reuse of buildings served by in-place public utilities, transportation, and other public services.
- ✓ Historic district designation often increases property values and rehabilitated buildings command higher rental and sales prices because of their prestige value.
- ✓ Retaining an existing building saves the need to purchase high-cost urban land.
- ✓ Historic building stock is the key to historic Main Street efforts and downtown revitalization. Studies show that heritage tourism is the fastest growing sector (80%) and that restored downtown shopping areas are preferred (49%) over malls and department stores.

Tourism, a top driver in the state's economy, includes heritage tourism. Recently, the Montana Office of Tourism & Business Development recognized the importance of history and historic places to the state's tourism economy in its 2016 *Report of Findings on the Montana Destination Brand Research Study*. "History

Bufs,” it concludes, “account for over one-third, 34.7 percent, of the overall population of the state’s key target markets.” International travelers, according to the study, rate *visiting historical sites* in the top five desired experiences, with 35.7% saying it is important and 24.3% very important. Moreover, 48.3% of high potential Montana visitors (domestic and international) identified visiting Lewis & Clark-related historical sites on their wish lists, 47.3% exploring small towns and villages, and 46.5% visiting Native American history or cultural sites – all just below day-hiking, visits to national parks, driving and dining out.

Montana residents also value their heritage places. In a 2016 nationwide profile of arts participation patterns by state, the National Endowment for the Arts rated Montana significantly greater than the U.S. average in the activity of Touring or Visiting Buildings, Neighborhoods, Parks and other Sites for their Historic or Design Value (NEH Office of Research & Analysis, *Survey of Public Participation in the Arts*, 2016). In 2015, according to this research, 27.4% of all U.S. adults toured or visited at least one site for its historic or design value. In Montana, however, 39.6% undertook these visits, second only to Washington, D.C.

Historic buildings, archaeological sites, landscapes and other places are the fabric of our state’s existence. Their preservation makes sense – culturally, educationally, functionally, and economically. By caring for its heritage places, Montana is caring for its citizens.

## THE MONTANA HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, calls upon each State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to "prepare and implement a comprehensive statewide historic preservation plan." This plan is to serve as an important tool in setting priorities for the investment of human and financial resources in the preservation of significant historic and cultural resources. While providing a framework for priorities and activities of the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, the State Plan is not to be simply the SHPO office’s management plan. Rather it should be a plan for Montana, prepared by SHPO, which is written in a way that any number of organizations, individuals, agencies, and governments can adopt and implement the goals and objectives laid out in the Plan. Specifically, the State Plan is designed "to be used by the State Historic Preservation Office and others throughout the state for guiding effective decision-making on a general level, for coordinating statewide preservation activities, and for communicating statewide preservation policy, goals, and values to the preservation constituency, decision-makers, and interested and affected parties across the state."

### Why do we preserve historic buildings, structures, and sites?

- Historic Places Give Us Roots
- Historic Places Encourage Travel and Tourism
- Historic Places Enhance Community Pride
- Historic Places Teach and Inspire
- Historic Places Make Communities and the Countryside More Attractive
- Historic Places are Assets for Downtown Revitalization and Economic Development
- Preserving Historic Places is Good for the Environment

- *The National Register of Historic Places at 50: Looking Back - Looking Forward*  
Paul Lusignan, NPS Historian, 2016

As stipulated in guidelines provided by the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, this 2018-2022 Montana Historic Preservation Plan is a concise, summary document, containing the following sections:

- A summary of how the Plan was developed or revised, including sources of information and ideas;
- A summary assessment of the full range of historic and cultural resources in Montana and the current state of knowledge about these resources;
- An outline and discussion of important issues which must be addressed in preserving these resources;
- A vision, articulated as goals and objectives, for historic preservation in Montana as a whole and for use as direction in the Montana State Historic Preservation Office;
- A statement of the Plan's time frame or planning cycle; and
- A bibliography of special studies and other supporting documents which were used in preparing the Plan and will assist in its implementation.



## II. DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2018-2022 MONTANA HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN

This plan is an update of *PRESERVING MONTANA: The Montana Historic Preservation Plan 2013-2017*. Recognizing that improvements have been made in Montana historic preservation over the past five years, but that the vision of Montana preservation is not yet fully achieved – this plan carries forward much of the background and many of the same goals and objectives previously identified for our state while updating current information, feedback, and specific recommended activities for the next five years. Input from stakeholders and the public tells us that we are on the right path in Montana, but that we have more work to do.

### A Vision for Historic Preservation in Montana

*Montana is a place that knows, respects and celebrates its heritage, openly encouraging and supporting the preservation of its significant historic, precontact, and traditional cultural properties.*

In updating this plan, the Montana State Historic Preservation Office endeavored to look comprehensively at the state of historic preservation in Montana. We identify major historical themes and their associated resources; we evaluate the state of our knowledge of heritage properties, including their type and status; and we describe the landscape of historic preservation programs in the state and highlight some of the recent successes that have been achieved that may serve as models for future opportunities. For participation and input into the planning process, SHPO looked nationally as well as locally to identify issues, challenges, and potential directions for preservation in the next five years. Retrospective studies in celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 are particularly timely. Our statewide preservation questionnaire garnered 500 individual responses from the public, history buffs, and preservation professionals (Appendix). SHPO staff embellished this information and feedback with one-on-one interviews with a variety of preservation stakeholders, including agencies, tribes, boards, non-profits, academia, and professional consultants. They told us not only what they are doing, but what others (including SHPO) should be doing to improve historic preservation in Montana. (See below Section IV. Spoiler alert: local education and support and marketing success stories are key to building the base for historic preservation in Montana). Together, these efforts help identify the goals, objectives and priorities that can further Montana in reaching its vision for historic preservation.



RAINBOW DAM POWERHOUSE (PHOTO BY THAT\_IS\_SO\_MONTANA)



### III. MONTANA HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND HERITAGE PROPERTIES: AN OVERVIEW AND ASSESSMENT

#### MONTANA HERITAGE THEMES & ASSOCIATED RESOURCES

Dissecting the breadth of Montana's past into distinct subjects and the tangible properties that reflect them remains challenging, as contexts overlap and resources may represent many stories of our past. The following thematic overviews provide a baseline of information from which we can begin to document, interpret, and celebrate the state's cultural heritage. As with prior state preservation plans, these heritage themes and associated resource types include previously prepared contexts, many with revised text and additions. MT SHPO recognizes that these themes are not comprehensive, and that additional contexts are continually recognized, researched, and documented. To include all of these is, of course, time, cost, and space prohibitive. Instead, the themes referenced here serve to briefly illustrate the range of properties in Montana and their historical significance.

**THE LAND** ~ Measuring 147, 040 square miles, Montana is the fourth largest state in the Union, and boasts a diverse and dramatic landscape, shaped by eons of mountain building and erosion, and sculpted by glaciers, wind, and rivers. It hosts the headwaters for the Missouri and Columbia river drainages, and bears hard rock minerals, timber, grass lands, wildlife, as well as fossil fuels. For thousands of years, human residents and visitors have impacted the physical environment as well. Though never densely populated, the state reflects both striking and subtle cultural environments associated with the history of human habitation and interaction with the landscape.



*SUNSET AT MEDICINE ROCKS HD  
(PHOTO BY TIM URBANIAK)*

**Associated resources.** Montana boasts a variety of rural and urban cultural landscapes. Some are large scale resources, such as those associated with Indian sacred areas, including the Sweet Grass Hills in north-central Montana; the mining landscape, manifested in Butte and Anaconda; agricultural landscapes such as the Big Hole in Beaverhead County, the Tongue River Valley, and along the Hi-Line; and battlefield landscapes associated with the Indian Wars. Others are more narrowly contained by natural landforms or historical association, or both, such as the Finnish Homesteads of the Korpivaara settlement, or the Morgan-Case Homestead in Granite County. Remarkable population centers dot the region, from Billings' bustling downtown and historic neighborhoods, to Thompson Falls' industrial and Main Street resources. They also include specific geological formations such as the recently designated Deer Medicine Rocks National Historic Landmark, a sacred sandstone formation in Eastern Montana that offers a wholly Native American historical interpretation of the Battle of the Little Big Horn.

**FIRST PEOPLES** ~ Archaeological evidence in the region indicates First Peoples have been in Montana for at least 12,000 years. Present scientific theories, constantly being revised with new evidence, place Montana directly in the path of one or more of the earliest migrations of humans into the New World from Eurasia.

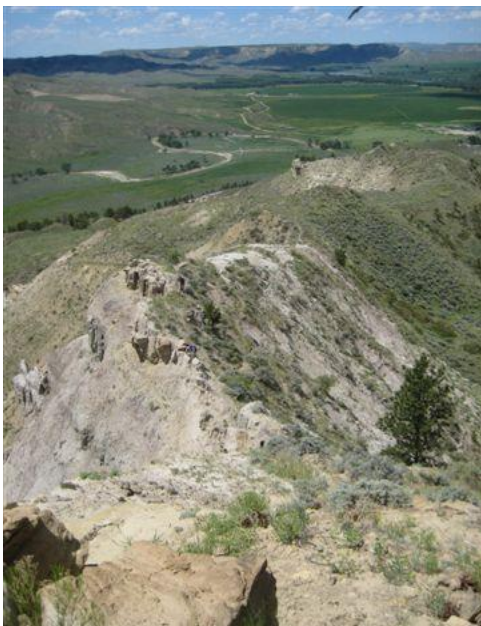


These earliest peoples and those that followed came to and lived in Montana, in search of and sustained by its rich wildlife, plant life and mineral resources. As hunter gatherers, they followed the natural seasons and rhythms of life with shifting seasonal resource use and habitation or settlement patterns.

Based upon archaeology, social and behavioral changes were marked in centuries or even millennia with many cultural elements persisting over generations. These include the hunting of buffalo, the gathering of wild plants, the manufacture of stone and bone implements, and a settlement pattern based upon regular movement within a very familiar home territory. Unlike most regions of North America, domesticated agriculture did not replace hunting and gathering as a way of life for Montana's precontact inhabitants. But there are two sites in the state where at least experimental agriculture is indicated: Nollmeyer and Hagen.

Various cultures existed across Montana in all environments over these millennia, some persisting and contributing more than others to the Indian tribes that existed here at the time of contact with Euro-Americans. Nor were the people here isolated. Trade routes and goods such as marine shell connected First Peoples here with the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Northwest.

*Associated resources.* These include precontact archaeological sites (12,000 B.P. to 200 B.P.) of all types, including stone circle sites (tipi rings) located in many regions of the State, but especially in the northern glaciated prairie-plains of the Hi-Line; open campsites with assemblages of stone and bone tools; rock art (pictographs and petroglyphs) such as those at Pictograph Cave east of Billings; numerous buffalo jumps and other kill sites like the Madison Buffalo Jump south of Three Forks, Wahkpa Chu'gn in Havre and Ulm Pishkun (now First Peoples State Park) outside Great Falls; rock cairns and alignments; travel corridors such as the Cokahlarishkit Trail; and chert and other toolstone quarries where stone tools were made. The Anzick Site in southwestern Montana dates to 11,500 B.P., one of the earliest carbon-14 dated sites in North America and of National or international significance basis on completed DNA work. With only 6% of our land area surveyed there are more than 30,000 recorded archaeological sites. Numerous sites have also been recognized as having traditional cultural significance to Native Peoples such as The Badger Two Medicine TCP District.



JUDITH LANDING HD  
(PHOTO BY ZANE FULBRIGHT)

**WESTERN AMERICAN EXPANSION ~** While non-Indian settlement and trade on both coasts impacted tribal nations throughout the continent for many centuries, purchase of the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803 accelerated the United States' expansionist policy in the American West. This policy, reflected in the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery expedition between 1804-1806, resulted in the ultimate clash with Native cultures that irrevocably changed the way in which people lived and interacted with Montana's landscape.

A series of Euro-American expeditions surveyed the people, resources, and travel routes in the "new" land. Steamboat travel, the fur trade, missionaries like Pierre-Jean DeSmet, and the earliest ranching and gold mining discoveries characterize this period of Montana history.

*Associated resources.* Resources, some known and some yet discovered and documented, include sites and portages along the

routes of various expeditions beginning with the Corps of Discovery, and continuing with fur traders David Thompson and Manuel Lisa, through the mid-nineteenth century with Ferdinand Hayden's forays into the Territory, and John Mullan's military road across the Rockies. From the south, the first land-based inroads to the territory were connections made to and from the Oregon Trail, and often took advantage of existing Indian trails.

Western American Expansion resources also include those associated with historic archaeological sites of fur trapping and trading activity such as Fort McKenzie, Fort Connah, Fort Manuel Lisa, Salish House, and early Fort Benton; Jesuit missions like St. Mary's and St. Ignatius; early cattle operations such as Grant-Kohrs Ranch in Deer Lodge; and the first reported gold discovery made at Gold Creek.

**MONTANA TERRITORY** ~ Following 60 years of Euro-American exploration and immigration, Congress declared Montana a United States territory on May 26, 1864. The majority of the non-Indian settlement in Montana at this time occurred in the southwestern part of the state, precipitated by discoveries of great mineral wealth - first gold, then silver and copper - in the region. The First Territorial Legislature established nine counties, including four in the southwest.



VIRGINIA CITY NHL  
(PHOTO BY TRAVEL MONTANA)

Montanans built their first schools in 1863 in Bannack and Virginia City, towns that also served as the Territory's first and second capitals, respectively. In 1878, eleven years prior to Montana's statehood, the Montana Collegiate Institute opened in Deer Lodge.

Helena and Butte/Anaconda rose as major mining communities and rivals into the 1880s. Mining magnates William A. Clark and Marcus Daly dominated politics leading up to statehood in 1889. Steamboat travel on the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers, overland wagon trains, and stagecoach roads supplied the territory with goods and people. Open-range stockmen – with sheep or cattle - claimed vast swaths of the non-urban landscape. The railroads' arrival in the 1880s fostered widespread non-Indian settlement of the region. Nonetheless, southwest Montana continued to maintain the largest segment of the territory's population and served as the center of political influence well into the twentieth century.

*Associated resources.* The territorial capitals, Bannack and Virginia City, are National Historic Landmarks, designated for their nationally significant associations with western settlement. The early gold town of Helena preserves territorial period architecture, including Reeder's Alley and other structures on Last Chance Gulch. Abandoned mining camps and support facilities such as mills, logging camps, charcoal and lime kilns attest to the importance of mining in the territorial period, while the college buildings and territorial prison in Deer Lodge speak to the establishment of social institutions in the nascent communities. Other resources include the Bozeman Trail; Fort Owen, Fort Benton and other steamboat landings; early roads and stagecoach stops; the Utah and Northern Union Pacific Railroad, the Northern Pacific Railway, and historic archaeological sites from the period.

**AMERICAN INDIAN CULTURE AFTER 1800** ~ After millennia of evolving cultural tradition, the life of American Indian people in Montana changed quickly and dramatically with Euro-Americans' arrival at the dawn of the nineteenth century. Change began well before, with the acquisition of horses and guns through trade, and warfare with neighboring tribes who had already encountered the new European culture.

At the time of contact, Montana exhibited a wealth of diverse Indian culture, where semi-migratory tribes occupied expansive home territories, meeting and sharing traditions and innovations, all the while creating changing rivalries and alliances with other tribes. Through the actions of the newest arrivals to Montana, and the government that represented them, this thriving Indian population was rapidly reduced through war, disease, forced relocation, and the decimation of the bison on the Great Plains.



*CHIEF PLENTY COUPS HOME  
NHL (PHOTO BY JESSICA BUSH)*

A series of treaties beginning in 1855 and continuing through the nineteenth century established reservations for Montana's tribes. The Great Sioux Wars of 1876-77 on the eastern plains and the Nez Perce retreat through western and central Montana in 1877 symbolize the fate of Indian resistance to the reservation policy.

Most of the reservations themselves, subject to allotments under the Dawes Act of 1887, are now checkerboards of land owned by the tribes, individual Indians, non-Indians, and state and federal agencies. The federal government used allotment as a tool to open reservation lands to non-Indian ownership and development, but also to "assimilate" the tribes. Boarding schools were another method by which the U.S. encouraged the sublimation of tribal cultures. These efforts to eradicate traditional lifeways continued through the twentieth century.

The Wheeler-Howard Act of 1934 resulted in an "Indian New Deal" under which the U.S. returned some lands to the tribes

and built infrastructure. To take part in the "Deal", tribes were required to establish governments whose organization often ran contrary to traditional forms of governance and created internal tensions.

Nationally, by the early 1950s, termination and relocation policies, together with legislation, reversed many provisions under the Wheeler-Howard Act. In 1953, Congress enacted Public Law 280, which allowed federal legal jurisdictions on reservations to be assigned to some states, including Montana, creating additional tension between authoritative entities. After 1961, federal direction regarding termination began to change, and after intense demands for Indian rights through the 1960s and early 1970s, the U.S. adopted "self-determination" as its official protocol.

Today, Montana's Indian communities (Assiniboiné, Blackfeet, Crow, Chippewa-Cree, Northern Cheyenne, Kootenai, Salish, Sioux and others) live on seven reservations in the northwest, northern plains and southeastern regions of the state. All seven reservations maintain Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs). About 40% of Montana's Indian residents live in off-reservation settings in a variety of Montana's cities and towns. Historically, the loss of traditional economic resources and institutions coupled with misguided federal policy has limited tribal reservation development; poverty continues to plague most Indian communities.



*Associated resources.* These include: traditional cultural and spiritual sites, including vision quest sites; scarred (cambium-peeled) trees in western Montana; historic Indian trails; as well as wickiups and cribbed-log structures. St. Mary's and St. Ignatius missions are examples of the early missionary influence on the tribes.

Treaty localities such as Council Grove near Missoula and Council Island at the confluence of the Missouri and Judith Rivers date to the treaties of 1855. Battlefields at the Big Hole, the Bear's Paw, and the Little Bighorn, the Nez Perce National Historic Trail, and Fort Assiniboine tell the story of nineteenth-century Indian struggle to retain their lifeways.

Resources including current and former Indian Agency locations such as the Blackfoot "Old Agency" north of Choteau, Chief Plenty Coups State Park, Indian boarding schools, and allotment homesteads convey the history of the assimilation period. Excavations at the First Crow Agency near Absarokee offer significant insights to Crow lifeways and the impact of federal presence and policy on that nation.

The log round halls at Lodgepole and Heart Butte were constructed during the "Indian New Deal" period, and the Moncure Tipi at Busby is another example of 1930s Indian architecture in the round. Other historic places, like Hill 57 in Great Falls, spotlight the effects of termination, relocation, and tribal recognition in the state.

**AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE** ~ African Americans played a significant role in the American West's historical legacy. In Montana, an enslaved African American man named York served as an important member of the Corps of Discovery. Later in the nineteenth century, a few black mountain men, including Jim Beckwourth, gained recognition and fame working in Montana's fur trade.



*CRUMP-HOWARD HOUSE (MHS PAC 79-53.1)*

Not surprisingly, the post- Civil War period witnessed a substantial increase in the American West's black population though numerically small compared to European Americans. The lure of economic opportunity, and a chance to escape the violence of the Reconstruction and later the Jim Crow South inspired many to migrate. Intent on living their lives on their own terms to the extent possible, black people, unlike most immigrants to the West, settled primarily in cities and towns. There, where numbers provided relative security, they lived and worked in many of the same professions as their counterparts. Throughout the West, they were community builders and public officials, and were successful entrepreneurs and professionals. Predominantly, though, African Americans found employment in service industries – particularly as porters, waiters, and housekeepers.

Despite their relatively small numbers, Montana's black population established important and influential institutions that served to inform, support, and provide leadership within the community. These included newspapers, such as *The Colored Citizen* established in 1894, fraternal organizations, and religious institutions, including the African Methodist Episcopal Church which had congregations in Great Falls, Missoula, Helena, Billings, and Bozeman. The Montana Federation of Colored Women's Clubs promoted

racial self-help and was dedicated to raising the standards of women in the black community. These organizations mirrored those of the dominant society, but with the additional purpose of providing support and means to help navigate the pervasive structural racism – including issues of suffrage, segregation, miscegenation, and violence – ingrained during Montana’s Territorial Period and beyond.

Through the efforts of individual historians, collectors, and MT SHPO, specific stories of Montana’s African American places, families, military units, churches, and political clubs have been documented. Recent surveys supported by a NPS Underrepresented Resources grant and the Montana History Foundation facilitated the documentation of fifty properties statewide associated with Montana’s African American experience. The project resulted in an updated and expanded [website](#), two National Register listings, and a Multiple Properties Documentation form. This nationally-recognized project is an important step toward recognizing the significant impact that the African American community had on Montana History.

*Associated Resources.* Despite the general scarcity of contexts and documentation of the African American experience in the state, there are numerous resources associated with this important theme. At the Morgan-Case Homestead in Granite County, Annie Morgan worked with her common-law husband on their subsistence farm. Sarah Bickford was the first black utility owner in the nation, and operated her Virginia City Water Company from the Hangman’s Building. The Belt Historic District and the Union Bethel AME Church in Great Falls represent the entrepreneurial and social influence of the black community in Cascade County, while Bozeman’s Samuel Lewis House represents the influence of that local businessman. Helena boasted a relatively large and thriving African American population through the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, exemplified by the Crump-Howard House and the Dorsey Grocery and Residence.

**"ORO Y PLATA" HARD ROCK MINING IN MONTANA ~** The first recorded gold strike in Montana occurred in 1852 on Gold Creek (formerly Benetsee Creek) in the northeast corner of what would become Granite County. Subsequent larger strikes at Bannack and Virginia City proved highly productive, but, like many "boom and bust" scenarios that followed, generally transitory. They were, however, extremely significant in that they opened the territory, especially the western half, to further exploration and settlement by non-Indian people.



*PHILIPSBURG HD (PHOTO BY KATE HAMPTON)*

Discoveries of gold and later silver established the town of Helena, which won the fight to become the state capital in 1889. As the gold and silver mines played out through the end of the nineteenth century, the copper mines at Butte increased in size and influence, becoming the largest copper provider in the U.S. by 1887. Many ancillary facilities contributed to the mining industry, including smelting and refining facilities constructed in Anaconda, East Helena and Great Falls to process ore.

Hard rock mining activity, particularly in the larger urban industrial centers, also provided an important catalyst for calling attention to the plight of American workers. The role that labor organizations played in the mining industry in Montana is nationally significant, and recognized in the expansion of the Butte-Anaconda National Historic Landmark District in 2006.

Through the first half of the 20th century, the Anaconda Mining Company, its subsidiaries and partners, including the Montana Power Company, dominated the state's mining economy and in doing so, much of its politics. At the same time, operations associated with other mining districts across much of the Western Montana historically played an important role in the extraction of a variety of metals for industrial, commercial and military (strategic) uses.

By the mid-20th century, several mining operations in Montana shifted from the adits and tunnels of conventional mines to strip mining. Butte's Berkeley Pit is the most spectacular of these mines. Hard rock mining activities continue to be an important, if cyclical, part of the Montana economy to the present day.

*Associated resources.* There are literally thousands of sites in the west half of Montana associated with historic hard rock mining activity, ranging from smaller, family-run subsistence mining to highly industrialized urban properties. These not only include the mines and mills themselves, but the communities that housed the miners and a myriad of support services, including cultural and social institutions. Virginia City, arguably the best-preserved Gold Rush town in the West, and Bannack, a ghost town managed by Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, are both designated as National Historic Landmarks. Butte-Anaconda also boasts being the largest National Historic Landmark in the nation, with themes of both mining and, more recently, labor history.

Other properties include a variety of abandoned (i.e. historic archaeological) mining sites and districts in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge, Helena, and Custer-Gallatin National Forests, mining towns such as Philipsburg and Anaconda, and numerous buildings associated with Montana's mining magnates, including the Montana Club in Helena, Butte's Copper King Mansion, and Riverside, the Marcus Daly Mansion in Hamilton.

**TIMBER** ~ Of the state's 93 million land acres, forests cover more than 22 million. In 1899 alone, Montanans harvested 255 million feet of lumber. In the late 19th century, the growing mining industry drove a majority of timber related activity. Montana's first recorded commercial sawmill was erected at Bannack in July of 1862. "Woodhawks" cut the timber that fueled the steamboats along the Missouri River through the early trade era. Following the early mining rush and the waning of the fur trade, though, the timber industry waned for some time.



MINERAL PEAK LOOKOUT  
(PHOTO BY JANENE CAYWOOD)



The discovery of copper and the coming of the railroads revived the industry. The copper smelting process required massive amounts of lumber for fuel. The demand for railroad ties was enormous as well, not only for railroad construction but for the miles of mining rail systems underground. By 1910, the Anaconda Copper Mining Company controlled over a million acres of timberland.

As Montana's communities grew nationwide in the late 19th Century and early 20th Century, the demand for construction timber also increased. Except for large timber resources in the far western and northwest regions of the state, however, most timber harvested elsewhere in Montana was primarily for local use. After waning in the 1930s Depression, a second timber "boom" occurred during and especially after World War II, with the renewed nationwide demand for construction materials. The late 1960s witnessed a lull in the building industry, as did the late 1970s. Since the 1980s, the trends in the logging industry gravitated away from the rapidly disappearing old growth to processing smaller trees in automated mills. And while production remained high through the 1990s and 2000s, unemployment increased substantially. More recently, 2008's Great Recession depressed the building industry, and the demand for wood products tumbled even further.

Historically, the forest products industry has been a vital, if sometimes environmentally controversial, part of the Montana economy. The role of the Forest Reserves and later the U.S.D.A. Forest Service in managing public forest land has been especially important.

*Associated resources.* These range from company mill towns such as Bonner and Libby to timber management and research sites such as that in the Forestry school at the University of Montana, to the tribal timber management infrastructure of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. Specific site types reflecting the timber industry are historic sawmills, lumber yards, teepee burners, and retail wood supply outlets.



*GRANT-KOHR'S RANCH HD  
(PHOTO BY ELLEN BAUMLER)*

Many historic timber-extraction and management resources exist on public forest land including historic trails, logging camps, logging railroads, lookouts, cabins and other Forest Service facilities. The Alta Guard Station near Hamilton is the oldest building in Montana constructed by a federal land managing agency (Forest Reserves), dating to 1899.

**AGRICULTURE & HOMESTEADING ~** By the end of the 1870s, ranching outfits had driven thousands of head of cattle and sheep into Montana. Overstocking the rangelands, exacerbated by a drought in the 1880s and a particularly bad winter in 1886-87, devastated many ranching operations. These events led

to the end of the "open range" in most western and southwestern regions as ranchers began to build fences and provide hay to the animals in the winter. Larger cattle companies shifted to central and eastern Montana where expansive open ranges remained. In addition, ranchers increasingly made use of rail



transportation to ship cattle to markets. The state produced more than \$4 million worth of wool in 1900 and by 1910 there were more than 490 thousand beef cattle on Montana ranges worth more than \$27 million.

The Homestead Acts of 1862 and 1909 and the Desert Land Act of 1877 provided land to settlers. Applicants received patents for a nominal fee and proof of residence and cultivation for five years. However, the arid and harsh climate, together with overspeculation, doomed many of these small homesteads to failure, especially east of the Rockies. Those able to weather the difficult times generally acquired larger tracts of land to make their farms more profitable. Many others left the state and their homesteads behind, especially during the droughts of the late 1910s and 1920s.

Those who remained turned to subsistence and diversified farming, even to dude ranching, through the Great Depression of the 1930s, and were rewarded when the rains and relative prosperity returned in the 1940s. Demand for foodstuffs during World War II resulted in higher prices for farm products, which together with a vital national economy and higher precipitation fed a general optimism in Montana. Though prices dropped again after the war, the general agricultural upswing lasted through the early 1960s.

*Associated resources.* In total, agriculture is Montana's number one industry today and sites depicting its history are critical to understanding this mainstay of Montana's economy. The agricultural landscape is perhaps the most dominant feature in Montana. Montana's ranches and farms often host structures from earlier eras, and they can be publicly visited at the Grant Kohrs Ranch NHS in Deer Lodge or by appointment at the Kleffner Ranch near Helena.

Today, cowboy and ranching lore are commemorated at such events as the bucking horse sale in Miles City, annual cattle drive near Roundup and Billings, and Reedpoint's yearly "Great Montana Sheep Drive" through town. Coarse-laid stone sheepherder monuments grace on hilltops in open valleys. Grain elevators, barns, and homesteads (both abandoned and still in use) across eastern and central Montana stand as dramatic reminders of the homesteader families who settled there. Towns like Shelby, Chester, Geraldine, and Joliet continue to serve as centers for service and commerce on the rural farming landscape. Beaver slides, developed by ranchers in the Big Hole Valley to stack hay, are still in sporadic use in large areas of Southwest Montana, and are uniquely characteristic of the agricultural landscape in that region of the state.

**COAL & OIL/GAS DEVELOPMENT** ~ Widely scattered across central and eastern Montana, coal-bearing lands occupy approximately 35% of the state's total area. Early coal mining began during the 1860s gold rushes, but significant development came with the railroads. Coal was needed to operate the steam powered locomotives, for residential heating, and later to generate electricity at large coal fire facilities.

Underground coal mining dominated the Red Lodge-Bearcreek area, while at Colstrip, the Northern Pacific Railroad strip mined the Fort Union Formation's 28-foot wide Rosebud coal seam in the early 1920s. The coal industry slumped in the 1930s but revived during WWII. By the 1960s there were an estimated 222 billion tons of minable coal in Montana, leading all states in coal reserves.



CAT CREEK OIL FIELD SIGN  
(PHOTO BY ZANE FULBRIGHT)

The first significant oil field opened in 1915 at Elk Basin in Carbon County. A 1919 strike at Devil's Basin in Central Montana led to the development of Cat Creek near Winnett. By 1922, the industry's epicenter shifted west to the Kevin-Sunburst fields located along the Rocky Mountain Front. New technologies developed in the late 1940s enabled deeper drilling, opening other locations across the state, especially the Williston Basin in northeast Montana. This second oil and gas boom established Billings as the center of Montana's petroleum industry and its emerging status as the state's major concentration of population.

Though the oil industry witnessed a lull in production during the early 1960s, new fields opened in eastern Montana by the early 1970s leading to a period of boom and bust over the next decades, as prices rose and fell according to national trends. As interest in natural resource development rose, reaction from environmental concerns increased as well. The boom cycle began again in earnest through the late 2000s with a new wave of drilling in the Williston Basin, and communities in the northeastern part of the state including Sidney witnessed a major surge in population and production.

The natural gas industry in Montana largely paralleled the oil industry through the state's history, and increased interest in coalbed methane, especially in southeast Montana, continues to raise concerns regarding development's impacts to cultural resources.

*Associated resources.* Colstrip, Red Lodge, Roundup, Forsyth, Miles City, and other communities in Carbon, Rosebud, Big Horn, Powder River, Mussellshell, Treasure, and Yellowstone Counties provide cultural resources associated with coal mining, ranging from physical extraction to community development. For example, the American Federation of Miners cemetery near Roundup demonstrates the ethnic diversity of the people who came to work in the coal mines of eastern Montana. The state's worst coal mining disaster happened at the Smith Mine near Bearcreek in 1943, when 75 miners lost their lives.

Among the resources that depict the oil industry in the first half of the 20th Century are the oil derricks scattered along Devil's Basin and Cat Creek, and sites east of the Rocky Mountain Front including areas around Sunburst, Oilmont, Shelby, Choteau and Cut Bank. Eastern Montana communities such as Glendive, Sidney, Wibaux, and Billings host oil-related properties representative of the industry after 1950.

**FEDERAL AGENCIES IN MONTANA ~** The Federal Government's involvement in Montana history has been extremely significant, beginning in the most tangible way with the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The U.S. military continued to play a pivotal role in the American non-Indian settlement of Montana with the control and removal of tribes to reservations in the nineteenth century, the erection of forts throughout the state, and with developments in the 20th century in conjunction with the World Wars and the Cold War.



*HUNTLEY PROJECT OFFICE, C. 1919 (LEFT)*

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA, originally the Office of Indian Affairs, renamed in 1947) established itself in Montana with the treaties of 1885, and enforced federal policies toward tribal nations through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Until 1908, the Commissioners of Indian Affairs appointed Indian Agents to each reservation charged with enacting those policies, when clergy or educators took over the role. The responsibilities of the BIA evolved as federal strategy changed in various ways through the 1900s, and the agency maintains offices at each of Montana's reservations, as well as regional headquarters. The Indian Health Service and the Bureau of Indian Education have remained active in the state since their inception during the mid-twentieth century.

Federal involvement in the management of Montana land is pervasive. Riding a wave of conservation, Yellowstone became the first National Park in 1872, and in 1890, President Benjamin Harrison organized a commission to investigate the need for the protection of public lands. This led to a series of acts over the next century which set aside large sections of land for public use and enjoyment and for the protection of watershed and animal habitat. Today, almost 30% of Montana's lands are in federal ownership. In many counties, public land holdings amount to 70% of their total land mass. Together, the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management manage 90% of the federal lands in the state.

In addition to public land management, the Federal government initiated a number of historic large-scale projects that have had a lasting effect on Montana. Between 1904 and 1906, the Bureau of Reclamation began construction on several regional irrigation projects, including the Huntley Project east of Billings and the Milk River Project in northern Montana. In 1933, President Franklin Roosevelt established the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) as part of his New Deal. Directed by the Forest Service and the U.S. Army, the CCC employed 25,000 young men in Montana. The Public Works Administration and Army Engineers oversaw one of the largest of the Depression-era public works programs: the construction of the Fort Peck Dam on the Missouri River during the mid-1930s.

Under the 1914 Smith Lever Act, the U.S. Department of Agriculture established the cooperative extension program through Montana State College (Montana State University, Bozeman). The Agricultural Experiment Stations Act of 1955 authorized the appropriation of federal funds to support the development of those stations across the state - many of which remain active today though their historic buildings are at risk under a policy of replacement rather than rehabilitation.

*Associated resources.* Properties associated with the federal influence in Montana are wide-ranging. These include: numerous 19th century frontier military forts, posts and battlefields, also the state's 20th century bases, airfields, and other national defense facilities. U.S. Forest Service resources include places like the first forest ranger cabin in the U.S., located at Alta in the Bitterroot National Forest. Bureau of Reclamation irrigation projects at Huntley, Lower Yellowstone, Milk River and Sun River, together with dam sites, had a significant impact on the presence of the federal government in the state and the upswing of agricultural production by the 1940s. CCC constructed roads, bridges and buildings are present, as are various agriculture extension stations, most now managed by Montana State University. Properties that reflect the BIA's presence include log cabins at Agency Square in Browning, as well as early twentieth century institutional buildings at Fort Peck Agency. U.S. Postal Service offices, federal courthouses, and other federal institutions were built during the second half of the 19th and first half of the 20th centuries, including the Old Territorial Prison at Deer Lodge and the Rocky Mountain Laboratory in Hamilton.



UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA HD  
(PHOTO BY DAMON MURDO)

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** ~ On November 8, 1889, President Harrison formally proclaimed Montana the 41st state of the Union, ending twenty-five years as a Territory. In a still-disputed vote led by mining interests, Helena was established as the state capital, with construction of the Capitol building beginning in the late 1890s. Other early primary state institutions were equally vied for and distributed along political lines, including the state's university (Missoula), agricultural college (Bozeman), and normal school (Dillon), as well as the school for the deaf (Boulder), the state children's home (Twin Bridges), and mental hospital (Warm Springs).

In the years that followed statehood, the state contributed greatly to the built environment across Montana in the form of state institutions, parks, fish hatcheries, and other facilities. The New Deal Era of the 1930s saw not only the influx of federal projects but also the support of and ballooning of the state's bureaucracy and infrastructure investment.

In the early years of statehood, Montana was made up of a couple dozen counties, including several very large counties in the eastern part of the state. "County-splitting" fever during the boom years of homesteading between 1910-1925 resulted in a doubling of that number, leading ultimately to the present total of 56. Establishment of county seats in each of these local governments resulted in significant public constructions in these towns, notably courthouses, some of which date back to the Territorial Period. While Montana is not characterized by especially dense concentrations of populations, city governments and public works have greatly influenced the look of Montana's urban communities.

*Associated Resources.* Various property types represent the theme of government in Montana's history, including the State Capitol Complex in Helena; state universities and colleges including those in Missoula, Bozeman, Butte, Dillon, Billings and Havre; other state institutions; fish hatcheries; state park visitor facilities; and wildlife management areas. Local resources consist of county courthouses; city/county buildings, jails; fire-stations; schools, libraries; hospitals, and more.

**TRANSPORTATION** ~ The earliest non-Indian visitors to Montana - the fur trappers, missionaries, and explorers - made use of existing Indian trails. Freight transportation routes focused on waterways, dominated by steamboat travel up the Missouri River to Fort Benton. However, at the time of the gold rush, immigration to Montana increased, overland travel and later railroads dealt fatal blows to the river transportation industry.

The need for better wagon roads from the United States to Montana Territory also increased as more immigrants moved westward. At first the settlers traveled by pack trains, then switched to wagon trains, each wagon capable of carrying from five to sixteen thousand pounds. After Montana's first gold discovery, settlers from the south left the Oregon Trail and turned north to Montana, ultimately establishing the Bozeman and Bridger Trails leading to Virginia City and Bannack.



Lt. John Mullan established the first truly improved road over the Rocky Mountains in 1858-1860. From Minnesota, Captain James Fisk conducted expeditions to develop travel routes through Fort Benton to Bannack by way of Johnny Grant's ranch in the Deer Lodge Valley.

Beginning with the Utah and Northern, and soon followed by the Northern Pacific, railroads dominated the travel industry by the mid-1880s. The celebrated completion of the Northern Pacific railroad at Gold Creek in 1883 and the Great Northern Railway's entry into Great Falls in 1887, marked the end of extensive river transportation. Efforts to discover inland waterways to link America were abandoned in favor of survey efforts directed to the building of roads and rail beds to connect local communities to each other and to the rest of the nation. The Great Northern and the Milwaukee railroads later provided transcontinental service as well. Spurs and smaller railroad companies linked to specific communities and commodities.

Automobile travel in the first half of the 20th century revolutionized road and bridge building, establishing the historic network of routes and transportation structures that still exist today. The interstate highway system, and marked improvements to Montana's highways are associated with the continued popularity of the automobile, particularly after World War II. The increase in private transportation gave impetus to the trucking industry in the 1950s, and dependence on the railroads began to wane. By the 1970s, jobs and towns dwindled as the railroads consolidated and lost capital. The Great Northern and Northern Pacific lines merged as part of the Burlington Northern in 1970. The Milwaukee shut down in 1986. In 1987, Washington Companies purchased the Northern Pacific's former southern route in Montana, through Sand Point, Idaho, reviving the railroad freight industry. Amtrak continues to provide passenger service across the Hi-Line.

Beginning with balloon and kite spectacles at county fairgrounds, Montanans' fascination with flight began in the late 1800s, and accelerated with the introduction of the airplane exhibitions in the early 1910s. Between 1917 and 1918, at least 80 young Montana men signed up for the Army Air Service. Many of those who returned, together with other veteran pilots, initiated the state's aviation industry. During the late 1920s and through the early 1940s, the U.S. Department of Commerce established transcontinental airways and a corresponding lighted beacon system. Also during that period, communities across Montana established their first municipal airports. The World War II era witnessed the construction of Army Air Corps training bases at Great Falls, Cut Bank, Lewistown, and Glasgow. The Montana Aeronautics Commission formed in 1945 to police the industry and enforce state and federal laws. Air Force facilities in Great Falls and Glasgow continued to serve through the Cold War, and Great Falls' Malmstrom AFB remains active.

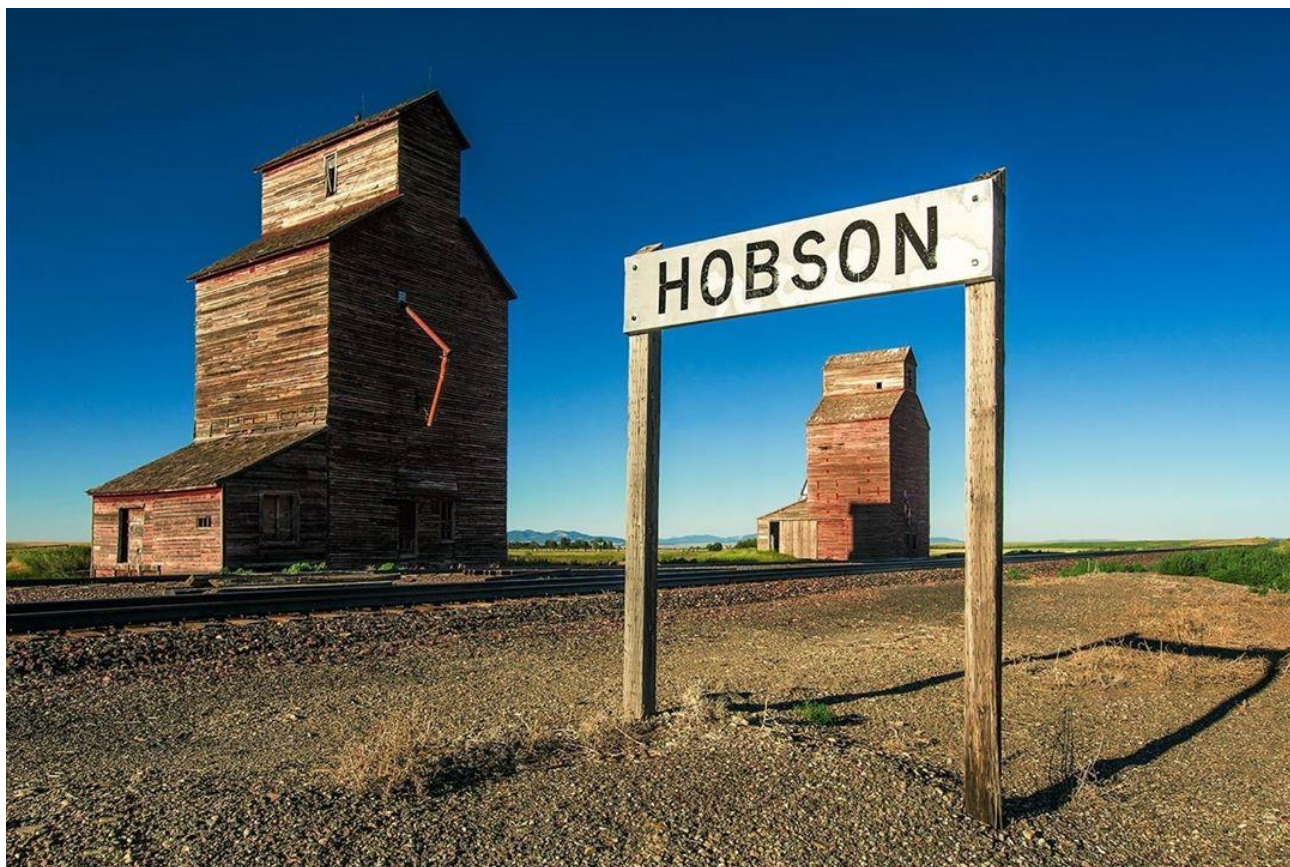
*Associated Resources.* The Montana Department of Transportation has taken the lead in identifying hundreds of historic transportation-related sites including bridges, roads, railroads and associated facilities throughout the State. Resources include: train depots; substations; abandoned and active railroad corridors and grades. Livingston, Laurel, Harlowton, Havre, and Whitefish are examples of communities which were supported by large scale railroad repair and switching facilities.



MACDONALD PASS  
AIRWAY BEACON  
(PHOTO BY KATE HAMPTON)

The Bozeman Trail and various sites along the Mullan Road are evocative of the earliest overland travel and exploration. Ferry crossings, stage stations, and historic automobile highways such as Highway 2 and the Going to the Sun Road NHL all speak to the importance of roads and accommodations in this large and remote state.

Aviation resources range from early landing fields at fairgrounds and golf courses to mid-century radar stations. Hangars and terminals, including those at the Lewistown, Hamilton, and Great Falls airports, represent the commercialization of the industry during the 1930s and 40s. The Montana Aeronautics building stands as a testament to the state's commitment to safety and infrastructure, while Montana's historic airway beacon system, the only remaining functioning system in the nation, represents a significant aid to navigation.



*HOBSON GRAIN ELEVATOR (PHOTO BY TODDKLASSY)*

**COMMUNITY BUILDING ~** The cultures and traditions of the immigrants who came to Montana in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries manifested in the communities they created. Major communities developed in association with resource extraction - timber, mining and agriculture - and at access points to transportation systems. Many of these communities, especially those associated with the mining, started and failed, becoming ghost towns, while others matured into stable service centers.

Typically, permanent settlement occurred along the rivers and valley bottoms. These same sites often coincided with transportation corridors -- trails, freight roads, and railroads -- to permit the easy transport of goods and people. Small town Montana Main Streets were often located along or perpendicular to rail lines and boast large grain elevators adjacent to rail stations.



Buildings, first constructed hastily in wood and then later replaced by brick and stone, housed a variety of fraternal organizations, women's protective societies, churches, banks, stores and other services. Successful entrepreneurs soon built extravagant homes while workers lived in more modest dwellings, some of which were constructed by the companies that employed them. Successful retail establishments, located in commercial districts, served a variety of workers and their families who lived in town. They also supported area ranchers and farmers who came to town to purchase supplies and ship their goods. Evolved communities added cultural amenities including libraries, music halls, and theatres.

*Associated Resources.* Many of Montana's Main Streets, neighborhoods, and industrial areas still appear as they have throughout the 20th Century. Lewistown, Helena, Livingston, Red Lodge, Glendive, Missoula, Hamilton, Bozeman and other Montana communities host intact, thriving urban historic districts. Butte features a mixture of industrial, residential, and commercial buildings, including remnants of its notorious red-light district, in close proximity to each other, reflecting the mining town's distinct pattern of development over a period of 100 years.

Masonic Temples, magnificent religious buildings including synagogue buildings in Butte and Helena, the Helena Cathedral and the St. Wenceslaus Church in Danvers, and Hutterite colonies in north-central Montana commemorate the state's cultural diversity reflected in community architecture. The Moss, Conrad, Daly, and Clark Mansions, together with the "Castle" at White Sulphur Springs provide good examples of the wealth displayed in residential building.

**TOURISM AND RECREATION ~** Montana's modern tourism industry dates primarily from the creation of Yellowstone Park in 1872. Although the majority of that park is in Wyoming, historically, visitors entered via the Montana entrances, creating growth in the railroad hubs of Livingston and West Yellowstone. Glacier Park's establishment in 1910 added to Montana's attractiveness to travelers.



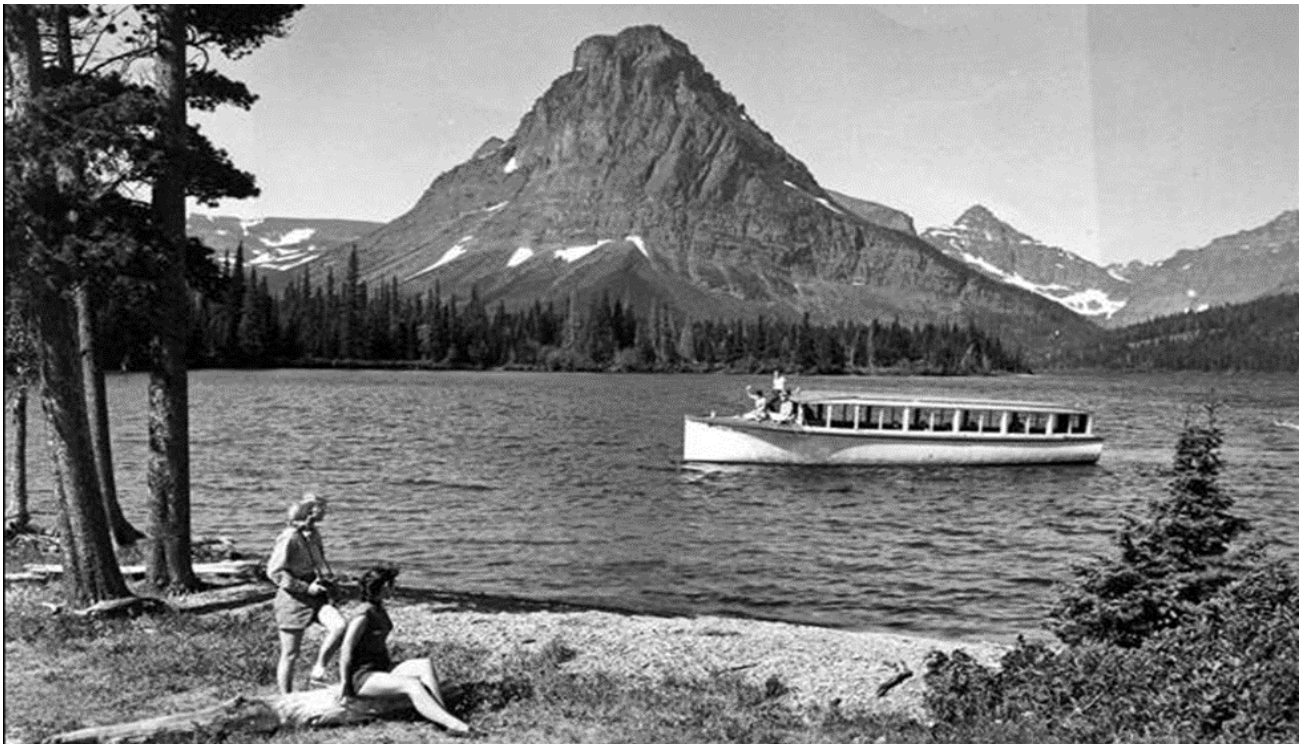
*GRAVES HOTEL, HARLOWTON (PHOTO BY KATE HAMPTON)*

The railroads played a key role in the development of Montana's tourism industry. Both the Northern Pacific and the Milwaukee Road promoted Yellowstone Park and other Montana destinations to their passengers. The railroads built elaborate hotels and lodging facilities in the National Parks, along rail lines near the entrances to the Parks and in gateway communities. Turn-of-the-century resorts and spas developed at hot springs in southwestern Montana, including those at Boulder, Hot Springs, and Emigrant.

From 1900 to 1910, tourists spent an average of \$500,000 a year in Montana. Beginning in 1910, tourism took another turn with the advent of the automobile. Roadside motels, campgrounds and restaurants accommodated the new motorized public, and the old downtown hotels and railroad resorts began to suffer. By 1915 Yellowstone permitted personal automobiles. Dude ranches also flourished in this period with over a hundred in operation by 1930. The Depression and World War II notwithstanding, the tourism "industry" gained steadily in Montana, catering to hunters, fishermen, hikers, skiers and sightseers – including heritage tourists – alike. Presently, over 10 million visitors come to Montana every year, making tourism the state's second largest industry.

*Associated Resources.* These include: grand stylized lodges built by the railroad in association with National Parks, and Glacier National Park's unique system of back country chalets.

Hot springs resorts such as Chico Hot Springs at Emigrant were especially appealing to travelers. Scenic roads and their associated landscapes; early motor courts, gas stations, and drive-in businesses stand as testament to the popularity of auto travel through the mid-twentieth century. Facilities associated with sites and attractions such as Lewis and Clark Caverns; dude ranches like Bones Brothers Ranch near Birney and the OTO north of Yellowstone Park; hunting and fishing lodges; local arts and crafts businesses testify to the popularity of Western themes. Historic hotels such as the Grand Union in Fort Benton, the Graves Hotel in Harlowton, and the Finlen in Butte offered grand accommodations to travelers in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries.



*RIISING WOLF, ST. MARY'S LAKE, GLACIER NATIONAL PARK, C. 1950S*



**MONTANA AFTER WWII** ~ In the years following WWII, Montana prospered as did most of the nation. Montana wheat and beef were in high demand and at generally high prices in these post-war boom years, supporting the economies of large Montana farms and ranches. Beginning in the early 1950s, the Anaconda Mining Company's switch to open-pit mining at the Berkeley Pit began to transform Butte – physically, politically, and psychologically. At the same time in western Montana, the lumber industry grew dramatically in response to nationwide construction.



*FIELDS-VAN DORN HOUSE  
(PHOTO BY TERRY GREENE)*

Access to the deep oil field in northeastern Montana's Williston Basin launched the state's second oil and gas boom and the rise of Billings as a petroleum and population center. Montana Power Company developed hydroelectric facilities, coal mines, and transmission lines. Federal and state government also contributed to Montana's growth after WWII in the areas of public lands, institutions, and national defense.

Not all Montanans benefited from this period of prosperity. Montana's Indian population, for example, continued to be subjected to poverty and questionable policy decisions. All told, however, it was a period of growth and building during which the state's population increased 10% and in 1950 its per capita income stood 8% above the national average.

Montana's economy, especially agricultural and resource extraction, witnessed cycles of growth and decline through the 1980s. Tourism and service industries began to replace the traditional markets.

Over the past two decades, Montana's cities, particularly the university centers of Missoula and Bozeman, have grown considerably, in size, infrastructure, and population. Meanwhile, the smaller towns, especially in eastern Montana, continue to empty.

*Associated Resources.* Resources include buildings, structures, sites, districts and objects associated with the industrial, business and residential growth following WWII. These diverse resources range from the "Mission 66" facilities in Yellowstone and Glacier National Park to Cold War military nuclear deterrents such as the still active defense system surrounding Great Falls that figured prominently in the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Modernist architecture took root after World War II, fueled by demand for new building stock. Montana State College's (MSC) School of Architecture was a leader in establishing Montana's modern architecture ethic. Several buildings and complexes represent Montana's version of innovative forms and expressions, including the Walt Sullivan Department of Labor & Industry Building in Helena, the Kennedy School in Butte by John G. Link & Co, and Page & Werner's design for University of Great Falls campus. These resources frequently constitute a majority of the built environment, particularly in Montana's larger communities.

Although the merits of these resources have been a topic of discussion at the national level, much of Montana is still in the process of embracing the buildings and sites associated with the recent past as historic and worthy of preservation. This lack of evaluation and appreciation has resulted in the tear-off of now-historic materials, unsympathetic alterations, and demolition.

## STATE OF THE STATE INVENTORY

As of September 2017, there are 59,186 recorded cultural resource properties in Montana, according to the State Antiquities Database kept by the State Historic Preservation Office. This is an increase of 4,630 (8%) documented properties from five years ago. The majority (53%) of these recorded properties are precontact (pre-1800) archaeological sites, reflecting in part the origins of the official Montana state inventory and database in the Smithsonian Institution River Basin archaeological surveys of the 1950s. Each year over the past 10 years, approximately 1,000 to 1,200 new properties are added to the state inventory, with the number of newly recorded historic sites (generally > 50yrs old and including historic archaeological sites) now exceeding that of the precontact period. It is predicted that five years from now the number of documented historic and precontact properties will be about the same.



*BOZEMAN TRAIL (PHOTO BY JON AXLINE)*

Each recorded property represents an individual structure, building, site, object, or possibly even a district comprised of many individual buildings, such as community historic residential districts with up to 500 or more houses. Because of districts, the total number of individual recorded resources is actually greater on order of perhaps 25% or more, i.e. approximately 74,000 total documented cultural resources statewide. Nonetheless, many known historic, precontact, and traditional cultural properties are still not included in this total – including some very famous places – simply because an inventory form has never been completed and registered in the system.

Among the recorded precontact site types in Montana, archaeological “lithic scatters” predominate (15,422), followed by stone circle/tipi ring sites (6,869) and rock cairns (3,780). Lithic scatters are a generic archaeological site type referring to a concentration of intentionally chipped stone pieces, mostly detritus produced from the process of manufacturing, using and maintaining prehistoric stone tools. Other artifacts may also occur in lithic scatters, such as bone or fire-cracked rock. Ubiquitous to Montana, most lithic scatters require professional archaeological analysis and sometimes subsurface testing or excavation to determine their age (if possible) and whether they represent former habitations, places where raw materials were acquired, or some other form of special use locality. The age and function of many lithic scatters, nonetheless, remains indeterminable using current scientific techniques.

Tipi rings are most common east of the Continental Divide and are especially prevalent on the glaciated prairie-plains of northern Montana (including the “Hi-Line”). They represent former habitation locations. While some may be as old as 3,000 or even 4,000 years, most are thought to be less than 2,000 years old. Much has been written about the research significance of these stone circle sites and, while they continue to be a lively source of professional debate, they also represent the most widely recognized precontact site by the general public.

Cairns, some simple piles of rocks and others careful constructions, are also common across Montana. Their age and meaning are very difficult to determine in most cases. Possible functions of precontact cairns include event, location and trail markers, caches, and traps; a very few cairns have been associated with burials.

Among other well-known types of precontact or possibly early historic Indian sites in Montana, there are 326 rock shelters or caves, 268 scarred tree sites, 239 buffalo jumps and 714 rock art localities currently recorded in the statewide inventory. Rare precontact site types in Montana include pithouses, sites that can be definitively associated with fishing, conical timbered lodges (“wickiups”), and medicine wheels. Also relatively rare, only a hundred or so recorded precontact sites have been associated with the earliest period of human occupation in the state, the “Paleoindian” period between 12,000 – 7,500 years ago.

Given their relative recentness and familiarity, historic period properties in the state inventory are more readily recognized as to age and purpose than precontact sites. Recorded historic properties range from railroads to ferry landings, historic mining remnants, houses, schools and grain elevators. They include standing in-use buildings and structures as well as historic archaeological sites, and some properties that are both. Excluding houses, the three most common recorded historic property types in Montana are: mining sites, many of which are abandoned, i.e. historical archaeological sites (4,094); railroad, roads and other ground transportation-related properties, including bridges (3,474); and rural homesteads/farmsteads (2,390), many of which are “reclaimed” and also exist now only as historic archaeological sites.

Records also exist for at least 294 historic districts and approximately 3,216 individually documented historic residences. Most historic-age properties in the state inventory are associated with multiple decades if not centuries of use; only 67 have been identified as predominantly pre-1860 and a little over three hundred (319) are associated directly with Montana's Territorial Period (1860-1889). The large majority of recorded historic sites were constructed after Montana achieved statehood in 1889.

Representing a subset of the state inventory, as of September 2017 there are 1,170 Montana properties listed in the **National Register of Historic Places**, including 28 recognized as National Historic Landmarks (NHLs). About 200 of these nationally recognized properties are historic districts, each comprised of anywhere from ten to hundreds of contributing buildings and structures. The largest historic district in Montana, the Butte-Anaconda Historic District NHL, is comprised alone of 6,015 contributing resources - making it the largest National Register-listed historic district (in numbers) west of the Mississippi. Counting by contributing buildings and structures, there are in fact over 18,400 individual Montana cultural resources listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



*CONTROLLED BURN REVEALS  
STONE FEATURES  
(PHOTO BY JESSICA BUSH)*





ENHANCED PHOTO OF PICTOGRAPH CAVE NHL  
(PHOTO BY KATE HAMPTON)

Only a handful of these National Register listed properties are precontact sites, but include four National Historic Landmarks: First Peoples Buffalo Jump near Ulm; Deer Medicine Rocks, a precontact and historic native rock art site in Rosebud County; the Hagan Site, a rare earth lodge village in Dawson County; and Pictograph Cave outside Billings, arguably the first scientifically excavated precontact archaeological site in Montana. This is not a statement about the significance of precontact sites; rather it probably reflects the lack of tangible benefits afforded the listing of archaeological sites

(especially precontact, but also historic period) and concerns for their safety in anonymity. Two Montana properties that have been listed as traditional cultural places important to Indian communities are Annashisee Iisaxpuatahcheeaashisee (Bighorn River Medicine Wheel) in Big Horn County and Sleeping Buffalo Rock in Phillips County.

The vast majority of Montana's National Register listed properties are historic period, primarily Euro-American sites. Ranging from the Eureka Community Hall in Lincoln County to the First National Bank of Ekalaka and Rickard Hardware Store Building in Carter County, these listed historic properties span the state, its history, and the various heritage themes described above. The listing of the Ekalaka bank property in 2015 ensured that every one of Montana's 56 counties has at least one property listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Currently, Flathead County has the most NR-listed properties (156), followed by Gallatin County (104), and Missoula (87) and Ravalli Counties (86) next.

Beyond those places officially nominated and accepted for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, an additional 597 properties in the Montana state inventory have been formally determined to be eligible (aka DOE: *Determination of Eligibility*) for listing by the Keeper of the Register of the National Park Service and another 6,116 determined eligible through consensus (aka CD: *consensus determination*) between the State Historic Preservation Office and a federal or state agency as part of the Section 106 compliance review process. Although lacking for the most part the level of documentation required of nominated properties, these eligible sites (aka *state heritage properties*) are treated as if they were listed in the National Register for the purposes of compliance with federal and state preservation laws. Also, unlike those actually listed in the Register, these properties only found eligible include many precontact sites in addition to historic and traditional cultural places. Taken together, the approximately 7,882 properties listed or found eligible to be listed in the National Register constitute 13% of the state inventory and represent an excellent cross-section and characterization of what constitute Montana's significant precontact, historic, historic archaeological, and traditional cultural places.

It is difficult to say how many other historic and precontact properties – both known and unknown – remain to be added to the statewide inventory. However, to the extent that this is reflected by the amount of survey (i.e., intensive land reconnaissance) to identify properties that has occurred, the answer is: probably a lot. Survey records housed at the State Historic Preservation Office document over 5.5 million (5,639,134)



acres of intensive inventory – a big number to be sure, but just scratching the surface when measured against the 92,983,695 acres of land in Montana. Of course, much of this un-inventoried land surface may have a low probability of containing any cultural resources. Yet the fact remains that relatively little (6%) of the state can be said to have been looked at with an eye towards identifying and recording the state's heritage properties.

Moreover, at the current rate of survey, it will be a long time before many properties are discovered and recorded. According to SHPO files, between 70,000 and 120,000 acres of new survey have occurred in each of the last five years since 2012. As previously recognized, most of this survey continues to be undertaken in response to regulatory requirements associated with actions that are permitted or required by federal and state agencies - like timber management, land exchanges, and oil & gas development (e.g., Section 106 compliance).

The U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, two large federal land managing agencies in Montana, easily account for the most survey reconnaissance in the state, both in the number of inventories and total acreage. Each of these agencies has conducted over 1.8 million total acres of documented survey in Montana – or roughly 67% (two-thirds) of all the recorded inventory acreage statewide. Thus, reaction to projects rather than a conscious initiative to discover and record cultural resource properties continues to be the norm in Montana. This results in many known properties or known areas of high probability for properties remaining undocumented, especially on private and undeveloped land.

Counteracting this trend in recent years have been a certain number of proactive inventories by state and federal agencies made possible in part because of programmatic agreements that "streamline" review and compliance procedures to free up limited time and dollars. Included among these is the

*Montana Historic Roads and Bridges Programmatic Agreement* among the Federal Highway Administration, the Montana Department of Transportation, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the State Historic Preservation Office that provides for the preparation by MDT of Multiple Property Documents and National Register nominations of different historic bridge types as well as segments of historic roadways in Montana. The Bureau of Land Management, particularly the Lewistown Field Office, has commissioned several large proactive surveys of study areas to record historic and archaeological sites. Similarly, the USDA Forest

Service has undertaken recording and National Register nominations of various historic properties on forest lands, including ranger stations, lookouts and back-country facilities. Finally, community surveys, including National Register district nominations, have been undertaken within the past five years in Bozeman, Billings and Helena – including the successful survey and National Register listing of the Montana State Capitol Campus Historic District in 2016, sponsored by the State Historic Preservation Office and the Montana Department of Administration.



*HARDY CREEK BRIDGE  
(PHOTO BY FIRSTCASTFLYWEAR)*



*SHPO STAFF MEMBERS DAMON MURDO AND MICHELLE PHAIR  
CELEBRATE THE ANTIQUITIES DATABASE UPGRADE*

Montana State Antiquities Database Upgrade. Between 2015 and 2017, the State Historic Preservation Office successfully transformed its 15-year old Oracle-based tabular State Antiquities Database to a Microsoft SQL database with fully integrated ESRI ArcGIS web application intended to be more user-friendly, informative, and ultimately accessible. Budgeted at just over \$125,000, this programming and platform upgrade was undertaken through the Montana State Information Technology Services Division (SITSD) with funding from a combination of SHPO federal funds (NPS Historic Preservation Fund) and file-search revenue, a Bureau of Land Management data-sharing cooperative agreement, and a special \$40,000 grant received in 2016 from the national MICA/Cultural Resource Fund for SHPOs and THPOs.

The State Antiquities Database contains information and locations on the nearly 60,000 recorded historic, precontact and traditional cultural properties and 38,000 written cultural resource reports and surveys in Montana. It is the primary tool used in organizing and retrieving cultural resource data statewide for research, education, management, and compliance purposes in historic preservation. Owing to the sensitivity of some of the information, data sharing is mediated through the State Historic Preservation Office with direct access limited to the Bureau of Land Management heritage staff and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs) in Montana through data sharing and use agreements. At present, coded information and scanned records with photographs exist for nearly all properties and reports in the state inventory, while the locations of approximately 63% of sites and 42% of surveys have also been digitized within the computerized Geographic Information System mapping function.

## MONTANA HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAMS

Montana boasts an array of organizations and agencies that work to record and safeguard the state's cultural resources. To be successful, communication, and cooperation are essential. These diverse, heritage-minded groups and programs work independently and in collaboration with each other at the state, tribal, federal, and local level. An understanding of historic preservation in Montana begins with an awareness of this infrastructure.

### State Programs

#### Montana State Historic Preservation Office

([www.mhs.mt.gov/shpo](http://www.mhs.mt.gov/shpo)): The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), a program of the Montana Historical Society, works together with all Montanans to promote and facilitate the preservation of our state's historic, precontact, and traditional cultural places. SHPO's staff of historians, architectural historians, historical architecture specialists, and archaeologists help people across the state to identify, document, recognize, preserve, and consider the private and public heritage properties of Montana. A clearinghouse of place-based information and heritage property expertise, SHPO maintains the *State Antiquities Database* and the *National Register of Historic Places* for Montana, assists owners in obtaining commercial historic building rehabilitation tax credits, reviews state and federal projects to help seek ways to lessen their potential impacts on heritage properties, conducts preservation planning including preparation of the state historic preservation plan, supports a network of local preservation offices in sixteen communities across the state (see below, Certified Local Government (CLG) program), and participates in a wide range of preservation education and outreach activities. State Historic Preservation Offices exist in every state and receive an annual federal funding allocation from the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) through the National Park Service under the National Historic Preservation Act. This federal funding must be matched 40%:60% at the state level through cash or in-kind match of allowable activities. In Montana, less than 3% cash match is provided by the state to support the SHPO program; most of Montana's match is made up of over-match by the CLG programs.

#### Montana SHPO Program Areas

- [National Register](#)
- [National Register Signs](#)
- [Review and Compliance](#)
- [Survey and Inventory](#)
- [State Antiquities Database](#)
- [Archaeology](#)
- [Certified Local Government](#)
- [Tax Incentives](#)

**Montana Main Street Program** (<http://comdev.mt.gov/Programs/MainStreet>): The Montana Main Street Program, established in 2005 and currently serving twenty-seven communities across the state, is administered by the Community Development Division of the Montana Department of Commerce. Montana Main Street emphasizes a comprehensive approach to downtown revitalization that includes long-range community planning, economic development, historic preservation, and tourism development, as vital components of local vision and community building. Montana Main Street provides services and assistance to communities striving to enhance economic and business vitality while maintaining local historic integrity, quality of life, and sense of place. Such goals are best met by uniting larger community ideas and efforts with program organization, coordination, and resources. The Montana Main Street program offers technical assistance and expertise to communities and awards competitive grant funding to community downtown revitalization projects.

**Montana Heritage Commission** ([www.montanaheritagecommission.mt.gov](http://www.montanaheritagecommission.mt.gov)): In 1997, the Legislature established the Montana Heritage Preservation and Development Commission (aka Montana Heritage Commission or MHC) to manage the state-acquired heritage properties at Virginia City and Nevada City in Madison County, arguably the nation's best-preserved examples of gold rush era architecture and history, and potentially other properties that may be acquired in the future. Under this mandate, in 2006, MHC also acquired Reeder's Alley in Helena, which includes the city's oldest standing building (the "Pioneer's Cabin") as well as a complex of rare Territorial-Era brick miner's. Oversight for the Commission transferred from the Montana Historical Society to the Department of Commerce in 2003. Though no longer directly connected to MHS, the Commission consults regularly with the Society, and together with the local community and the Virginia City Preservation Alliance, continues to make strides in the preservation and interpretation of these unique properties for the benefit of heritage tourists and all Montanans.

**Montana State Parks** ([www.stateparks.mt.gov](http://www.stateparks.mt.gov)): Montana State Parks, a division of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, manages 54 state parks, including fifteen that may be considered historic or cultural parks.

Among these are eight National Historic Landmarks (NHLs): Travelers Rest, Bannack, First Nations Buffalo



TRAVELERS REST NHL  
(PHOTO BY MOLLY STOCKDALE)

Jump, Missouri Headwaters, Giant Springs, Pictograph Cave, Chief Plenty Coups House, and Rosebud Battlefield. Heritage stewardship by Montana State Parks includes survey, research and interpretation, stabilization projects, and consultation with SHPO and the tribes, as appropriate.

**Other State Agencies** Collectively, ten state agencies and the University System are responsible for the management and stewardship of 371 known state-owned heritage properties and districts, as of data collected in 2016 as part of *Montana's Shared*

*Heritage: Third Biennial Report on the Status, Condition, and Stewardship of Montana's State-owned Heritage Properties* to the Montana Governor and State Legislature, pursuant to state law

(<http://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo/ReviewComp/StateHeritageProperties>). Many more unknown or unevaluated historic and archaeological properties also exist on state lands. The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), who manages state trust land, owns 167 known state heritage properties, almost half of the total. Each of these state agencies is responsible under the Montana State Antiquities Act to avoid, whenever feasible, state actions that substantially alter heritage properties and to provide protection of heritage properties on lands owned by the state by giving appropriate consideration in state agency decision-making, in consultation with the SHPO (MCA 22-3-424). Some state agencies, for example the Montana Department of Transportation, also consult regularly with SHPO for federally-funded or permitted undertakings on or off state-owned lands, pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act.

**Montana Burial Preservation Board** ([www.burial.mt.gov](http://www.burial.mt.gov)): The Burial Preservation Board protects human skeletal remains found throughout the state from disturbance, and seeks the repatriation of remains and funerary objects improperly taken from unprotected burial sites. The Burial Board, established in 1991 by state statute and housed within the Montana Department of Administration, works cooperatively with the



SHPO to maintain a registry of unmarked burial sites located in the state; conduct field reviews upon notification of the discovery of human skeletal remains, a burial site, or burial materials; and arranges for final treatment and disposition of human skeletal remains and burial material with dignity and respect. Since its origin, the Board has overseen an average of 3-5 discoveries and/or re-burials of human remains each year, bringing both process and sensitivity to the treatment of human remains.

**Montana Historic Preservation Review Board** (<http://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo/NationalReg/RBagenda>): The Governor-appointed, nine-member Historic Preservation Review Board consists of recognized professional and interested public individuals who approve all state nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. The board is attached to the Montana Historical Society and staffed by the State Historic Preservation Office. In addition to review of National Register nominations, the Preservation Review Board also acts in an advisory capacity to SHPO and state agencies in preservation planning and other matters. Since 2011, the Historic Preservation Review Board has been tasked with SHPO to produce biennial reports to the Montana Governor and Legislature on the stewardship of state-owned heritage properties by state agencies.



STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD  
(PHOTO BY KATE HAMPTON)

**State preservation grant and funding programs** (see SHPO website: *Dollars for Preservation*): Several state agencies administer regular grant programs that may support historic preservation in Montana, including planning, education, interpretation, and in some cases, brick-and-mortar projects. These include the Montana Arts Council (<http://art.mt.gov/default.asp>), the Montana Main Street Program ([www.mtmainstreet.mt.gov](http://www.mtmainstreet.mt.gov)), the Department of Commerce Tourism Grant Program (<http://marketmt.com/Grants>), and the Montana Department of Transportation Community Transportation Enhancement Program (CTEP: <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/business/ctep/>). The State Historic Preservation Office may also sub-grant funds, when funding is available.

### ***Tribal Programs***

**Tribal Historic Preservation Offices** (<http://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo/PreservationHelp#Tribal>): As of 2012, the tribes on all seven of Montana's Indian reservations have formed Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), certified by the National Park Service to assume all or some of the roles and responsibilities of the SHPO on lands within the boundaries of the reservation. In addition, THPO programs often perform other culturally meaningful activities. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes established the first THPO in 1996, and have since created programs, databases, and oral history projects that serve as a model for tribal heritage preservation nationwide. SHPO works collaboratively with THPOs statewide to ensure that cultural resources on tribal lands are surveyed and evaluated under appropriate procedures, so that both tribal and non-Indian significant resources can be preserved. To this end, some THPOs and SHPO have data sharing and use agreements and other methods in place to continue the exchange of knowledge of significant places and ideas.

## **Federal Programs**

**Federal Land-managing Agencies** Nearly thirty percent (29.1%) of Montana is federally-owned. The two largest federal land-managing agencies are the USDA Forest Service (USFS Region 1) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Others include the National Park Service, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and more. Under the National Historic Preservation Act and other federal preservation laws, each of these federal land-managing agencies incorporates historic preservation and stewardship into their missions, policies, and procedures. Each also includes professional heritage staff at the state or regional level to oversee the management of cultural resource properties.

**Other Federal Agencies** All federal agencies are directed by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act to take into account the potential impact of their undertakings on heritage properties and to afford the national Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), SHPO, tribes, and other interested parties an opportunity to comment on such consideration. An undertaking is “a project, activity, or program funded in whole or in part under the direct or indirect jurisdiction of a federal agency, including those carried out by or on behalf of a federal agency; those carried out with federal financial assistance; and those requiring a federal permit, license or approval.” (36CFR800.16(y)). Hundreds of federal undertakings occur in Montana each year both on and off federal land, including road construction projects, mining, timber sales, land exchanges, and a host of smaller activities. Many new historic and archaeological sites are identified, evaluated, and treated as a result of the Section 106 consideration and consultation process.

**Advisory Council on Historic Preservation** ([www.achp.gov](http://www.achp.gov)): An autonomous federal agency, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) promotes the preservation, enhancement, and productive use of our nation's historic resources, and advises the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy. The ACHP is the federal entity with the legal responsibility under the National Historic Preservation Act to encourage federal agencies to factor historic preservation into federal project requirements, including promulgation of the implementing regulations (36CFR800) for Section 106 consultation that guides federal agency consultation with SHPO, tribes, and other interested parties in Montana. As directed by NHPA, the ACHP also serves as the primary federal policy advisor to the President and Congress; recommends administrative and legislative improvements for protecting our nation's heritage; advocates full consideration of historic values in federal decision-making; and reviews federal programs and policies to promote effectiveness, coordination, and consistency with national preservation policies.

**National Park Service** (<http://www.nps.gov/history/preservation.htm>): In addition to managing national parks, historic sites, and monuments in Montana, the National Park Service (NPS) also plays an important role in implementing the national historic preservation program at the state level. NPS oversees the allocation of federal funding (Historic Preservation Fund) to the states through the State Historic Preservation Office, and the use of these funds by SHPO in administering national programs in Montana such as the National Register of Historic Places, the federal historic rehabilitation tax credit, and the Certified Local Government (CLG) program. The National Park Service further defines in regulation and guidance the standards, policies, and procedures by which others, including SHPO, evaluate significant heritage properties and treat these in a manner that preserves their integrity. NPS certifies Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) programs and approves state historic preservation plans, as well as providing technical support to Montana's 28 National Historic Landmarks and financial support to the same through grant programs like the national Save America's Treasures program, when funding is available. Other NPS programs, such as the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), have worked with Montana communities, landowners, and interest groups to help preserve important properties and landscapes.

## Local Government Programs



MILES CITY COMMERCIAL HD  
(PHOTO BY PETE BROWN)

### Montana Certified Local Governments

(<http://mhs.mt.gov/shpo/communitypres.asp>). Montana's sixteen Certified Local Government (CLG) preservation programs are responsible for many achievements in historic preservation at the local level. Certified by the National Park Service and administered through the State Historic Preservation Office, Montana's CLG program establishes a historic preservation commission and officer in each participating community (city and/or county), as well as a local ordinance and plan to guide local historic preservation efforts. Federal law requires SHPO pass-through at least 10% of its federal funding (Historic Preservation Fund) to the state CLG programs, which is matched (and often "over-matched") to help provide the state's share to the 40:60 federal funding equation. SHPO provides technical expertise and support to CLGs and annually organizes a statewide gathering to discuss historic preservation topics and issues. The Montana's current CLGs: Anaconda-Deer Lodge County, Billings-Yellowstone County, Bozeman, Columbus-Stillwater County, Carbon County, Deer Lodge, Great Falls-Cascade County, Hardin-Big Horn County, Havre-Hill County, Lewis & Clark County, Lewistown, Livingston, Miles City, Missoula and Virginia City.

**Montana Preserve America Communities** (<http://www.preserveamerica.gov/>): Montana embraced the national Preserve America program when it began in 2003. As of 2017, the state boasts 23 designated Preserve America communities, dedicated to protecting and celebrating their heritage; using their historic assets for economic development and community revitalization; and encouraging people to experience and appreciate local historic resources through education and heritage tourism programs. Although no grant funding has been appropriated for the program since 2010, these communities remain hopeful that the Preserve America program may again provide grants to designated communities for preservation education, training, and planning, as well as research and documentation. From 2006-2010, SHPO applied for and received four statewide Preserve America grants, and sub-granted over \$500,000 to Montana's Preserve America communities in support of preservation initiatives. The current Montana Preserve America communities are: Anaconda-Deer Lodge County, Bozeman, Big Horn County, Billings, Butte-Silver Bow County, Crow Tribe, Fort Benton, Great Falls, Havre, Helena, Hill County, Jefferson County, Kalispell, Lewis and Clark County, Lewistown, Livingston, Miles City, Missoula, Missoula County, Red Lodge, Stevensville, Terry and Virginia City.



## Non-profit Organizations



*MPA'S PRESERVATION ROADSHOW, 2016 (PHOTO BY KATE HAMPTON)*

**Montana Preservation Alliance** ([www.preservemontana.org](http://www.preservemontana.org)): Celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2017, the Montana Preservation Alliance (MPA) is the only statewide, not-for-profit organization dedicated to saving and protecting Montana's historic places, traditional landscapes, and cultural heritage. Formerly an ad-hoc volunteer group assisting and assisted by SHPO, MPA hired an Executive Director and staff in 2002, and dramatically increased the breadth and scope of its activities around the state to help Montana citizens achieve a diverse array of preservation initiatives ranging from roof repair and building stabilization to school education programs and cultural landscape documentation. Through workshops, grants, lobbying efforts, its Preservation Excellence Awards, and its biennial Montana Preservation Road Show, MPA through its staff, board, and membership provides Montana individuals and communities with leadership and knowledge in historic preservation.

**Local Preservation Advocacy Groups** It has been said that “all historic preservation is local.” Local non-profit preservation advocacy groups have formed in several communities in Montana, in response to individual historic preservation threats or as general vehicles to educate the public and support local historic preservation planning and initiatives. These include Preservation Cascade, Inc. ([www.montanas-archbridge.org](http://www.montanas-archbridge.org)), Butte Citizens for Preservation and Revitalization (Butte CPR: [www.buttecpr.org](http://www.buttecpr.org)), Friends of Bozeman Historic Preservation (<https://www.facebook.com/PreserveBozeman/>), the Billings Preservation Society ([www.mossmansion.com](http://www.mossmansion.com)), and Preserve Historic Missoula ([www.preservehistoricmissoula.org](http://www.preservehistoricmissoula.org)), among others.





*PLAINS LOG SCHOOL ROOF REPAIR PROJECT, 2017  
(MONTANA HISTORY FOUNDATION PHOTO)*

**Montana History Foundation**  
(<https://www.mthistory.org/>):

Established in 1985, the Montana History Foundation (MHF) is an independent, non-profit corporation that seeks to preserve the legacy of Montana's past. The Foundation's central goal is to generate public support and donations to save the rich cultural heritage and historic resources of Montana. Initially focused on fund-raising for the Montana Historical Society and later the Montana Heritage Commission, the Montana History Foundation more recently has sponsored a wide-ranging heritage grant program to support a broad range of small Montana history and

preservation projects around the state. In 2017, MHF awarded over \$121,000 to 30 projects. Most recently, they have added a *History Emergencies!* grant fund to help preserve historic properties in imminent danger.

**Humanities Montana** ([www.humanitiesmontana.org](http://www.humanitiesmontana.org)): Humanities Montana is Montana's independent, nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), founded in 1972 in response to Congress' National Arts and Humanities Act of 1965. Since that time, Humanities Montana has benefited hundreds of Montana organizations and thousands of its citizens, providing support for public programs in the humanities throughout the state. Humanities Montana's educational and cultural programs often incorporate Montana history, including support for community workshops and heritage development.

**Museums Association of Montana** ([www.montanamuseums.org](http://www.montanamuseums.org)): The Museums Association of Montana (MAM) organizes and promotes museums across the state in shared endeavors and common issues of conserving and interpreting Montana history. As of 2017, the organization represents 143 museums out of approximately 200 statewide. Many of these museums incorporate historic sites, buildings and structures, creating a nexus with the historic preservation community. Local museums and historical societies often provide knowledge of historic resources in areas of project development for evaluating potential impacts.

**Montana Archaeological Society** ([www.mtarchaeologicalsociety.org](http://www.mtarchaeologicalsociety.org)): Organized in 1958, the Montana Archaeological Society's (MAS) professional and avocational membership promotes responsible archaeological research and the conservation of Montana's precontact and historic archaeological properties. In addition to public education (Montana Archaeology Month), the MAS sponsors archaeological preservation projects and volunteer opportunities, as well as an annual meeting and journal for sharing knowledge with the public about Montana's archaeological past.



MONTANA IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER PLAYING CARDS (PHOTO BY TOM FERRIS)

## SUCCESS STORIES

Numerous successful projects and programs have occurred recently in Montana and continue to support the preservation of Montana's heritage properties statewide. Following are just a few of these stories that serve as foundations for preservation planning and models for future successes.

### MONTANA P50: 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

Montana celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) by shedding light on its important role in establishing many of the ongoing programs and policies for the preservation of significant historic places at the national, state and local level. Outreach and education activities included a public letter from Montana Governor Steve Bullock in support of historic preservation. The Montana Archaeological Society organized the production of a 10-minute video about the Act's contributions, and specifically Section 106, in preserving and better understanding Montana's archaeology under the 2016 *Making Archaeology Public Project* (MAPP) initiative (<http://preservation50.org/mapp/>). Agencies, including the US Forest Service, organized preservation ceremonies, recognizing people and the properties preserved under the Act's programs. SHPO organized a National Register workshop and public presentations in Helena and Billings by NPS Historian Paul Lusignan. From the beginning, SHPO also wanted to create something both fun and educational and did so in the form of the *Montana in the National Register* playing cards. These decks of real playing cards, created and printed by SHPO through the United States Playing Card Company, feature pictures of National Register listed properties from each of Montana's 56 counties. Over two thousand decks were given away at preservation venues and on request. Accompanied by the 2016 Montana Historic Preservation poster, *Playing for Keeps*, and a special website (<https://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo/NationalReg/PlayingCards>) with information about the cards and a story-map about the featured historic places, the *Montana in the National Register* playing cards were a popular and



meaningful success, with people from counties across Montana expressing both surprise and pride in their National Register property listings. (2013-2017 Goal I/Objective 2: *EDUCATE - Instill awareness and appreciation for Montana's heritage and heritage properties*; Goal II/Objective 1: *CELEBRATE – Use multi-media to convey historic preservation successes and opportunities*)

**MONTANA PRESERVATION ROAD SHOW** Every other year since 2012, the Montana Preservation Alliance (MPA) partners with local preservation groups, agencies, SHPO and others to immerse about 100 participants in the history and cultural heritage of one of Montana's many fabulous regions. For three days, historians, preservationists, archaeologists, tribal experts, and authors hop on buses to visit and learn about everything from ancient rock art and archaeological sites to depots, barns, mining ruins, churches, homesteads and more. Representing a unique cross-section of historic preservation people and programs, it has become an excellent networking opportunity to which the public is also encouraged and invited. The unique “traveling conference” format provides participants with hands-on, onsite experiences at real preservation projects and challenges across Montana. A revival with a twist on previous statewide preservation conferences and workshops, the biennial preservation road show has to date highlighted Central Montana (Lewistown), Carbon and Stillwater Counties (Red Lodge), and Southwest Montana (Dillon). The 2018 Roadshow, to be based in Columbia Falls, will explore Northwest Montana's cultural treasures, and provide continuing opportunities for preservation planning and collaboration. (2013-2017 Goal II/Objective 3: *CELEBRATE – Increase public recognition of heritage properties through events and programs*; Goal VI/Objective 2: *COLLABORATE – Sponsor or participate in forums to share ideas, experience, and information*)



*NAYLOR BROTHERS BARN, TOUR STOP DURING MPA'S PRESERVATION ROADSHOW 2014  
(PHOTO BY KATE HAMPTON)*

**STATE ANTIQUITIES DATABASE UPGRADE** SHPO completed the two-year process of transforming the antiquated statewide heritage property inventory and database to a modern web-based mapping application (Geographic Information System: GIS) in 2016. The newly upgraded database features a searchable GIS map platform with information accessible on over 59,000 recorded historic and archaeological sites as well as 37,500 reports of surveys and other place-based cultural resource studies in Montana. It is used extensively by SHPO for managing and sharing cultural resource information, particularly in consultations with agencies and applicants seeking to avoid unnecessary impacts from development projects under state and federal preservation laws. In addition to improved accuracy and functionality, the



new system reduces information management costs by approximately \$10,000 per year. Along with SHPO funding and revenue, much of the upgrade was made possible by an ongoing data and cost sharing agreement with the Montana Bureau of Land Management and a grant from the Tides Foundation/MICA Group's Cultural Resource Fund. For their role in the upgrade, SHPO Cultural Records Manager Damon Murdo and Michele Phair, Cultural Records Assistant, were recognized by Montana Chief Information Officer Ron Baldwin of the State Information Technology Services Division (SITSD) for *Excellence in Connecting Information with People*. (2013-2017 Goal III/Objective 3: LOCATE – Enhance the management of and access to cultural resource property information)



*DORSEY GROCERY AND RESIDENCE, C. 1904  
(MHS PAC 74-104.266GP)*

#### **IDENTIFYING MONTANA'S AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE PLACES**

Between 2005 and 2007, historians, staff, and volunteers combed the Montana Historical Society collections for manuscripts, oral histories, newspaper articles, artifacts, census records, and photographs that told the stories of the state's African American residents. From there, researchers compiled and annotated primary- and secondary-sources and made the information available on MHS' Montana's African American Heritage Resources website.

Beginning in 2014, a second phase of the project sought to identify extant

properties significantly associated with Helena's African American history. Funded by a National Park Service *Underrepresented Community Grant* and the Montana History Foundation, MT SHPO initiated the "Identifying Montana African American Heritage Places Project." Staff, interns, and local volunteers statewide compiled 25 historic property inventories statewide. The project also hired Architectural Historian Delia Hagen, Ph.D., to complete an additional 26 property records for Helena, a new Multiple Properties Documentation form titled "[African American Heritage Places in Helena, MT,](#)" and two National Register of Historic Places nominations. As part of the project, SHPO augmented and updated the Montana's African American Heritage Resources website (<http://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo/AfricanAmericans>). Six new oral histories with longtime members of the state's African American community were recorded, new scholarly essays and lesson plans were written, and the amount of digitally accessible records was expanded. The historic property records are also available on the [Montana Memory Project](#) website in a new collection titled "Montana's African American Heritage Places." (2013-2017 Goal III/Objective 1: LOCATE – Survey or support the systematic survey of un-inventoried properties throughout the state; Goal IV/Objective 1 – EVALUATE – Guide the development and use of historical contexts for evaluating the significance and integrity of Montana's precontract, historic and traditional cultural sites)

**TRIBAL INVOLVEMENT** All seven Montana reservations have Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs). The Salish-Kootenai and Blackfeet THPOs are particularly well supported by tribal government with stable support for program development, including both field work and NHPA Section 106 compliance reviews. Most THPOs now also have access to tribal staff with graduate level education in anthropology, archaeology or historic preservation. The Blackfeet are conducting several field projects involving surface stone feature sites, and have also been working on excavations of two buried sites with the University of Arizona. The Salish-Kootenai continue their focus on identifying trails and plant resources as organizing principals in their cultural traditions. Other THPOs have experienced lack of funding and turn over, but continue to actively participate in reviews of federal undertakings. Currently pipelines, including the Keystone XL pipeline, appear to be the largest development concern for THPOs. In the tradition of earlier efforts sponsored by SHPO and the BLM, the Bureau of Indian Affairs has attempted in recent years to organize a Tribal Summit without success due to funding shortages. Meanwhile, the Montana Burial Board meets regularly under the support of the Montana Department of Administration, typically resolving a dozen cases of unmarked burials and human remain discoveries each year. A major Burial Board issue has been renewed interest in educating local law enforcement/coroners to better reflect the Board's mission in burial avoidance or recovery. SHPO continues as a primary point of contact with law enforcement and coroners for the Board, acting as support staff and a safe holding area for recovered remains await disposition. *(2013-2017 Goal VI/Objective 4: COLLABORATE – Meet regularly with tribal cultural representatives to facilitate consideration of tribal perspectives in historic preservation)*



*METIS AND BLACKFEET HISTORIC SITES ALONG  
THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT  
(PHOTO BY MSKOHL)*

**MONTANA HISTORY FOUNDATION GRANTS PROGRAM** Support for historic preservation through small grants statewide has become a hallmark program of the Montana History Foundation's mission to preserve Montana history. Since 2012 the non-profit organization has awarded \$575,000 to 148 projects for 68 communities in 40 Montana counties. In addition to the preservation of historic buildings, structures, cemeteries and sacred sites, grants are also made available for museum collection conservation, oral history, education, and outreach. Addressing an important need in the state, funding for the Montana History Foundation Grants Program comes from a variety of private sources including a grant from the Fortin Foundation of Florida and from generous and dedicated donors. Most recently the History Foundation has added a companion *History Emergencies!* matching grant program available at any time of the year to help historic properties in imminent danger. *(2013-2017 Goal V/Objective 4: ADVOCATE -Seek and obtain additional financial resources to supplement funding for historic preservation)*

**THE ARVON BLOCK REHABILITATION** The Arvon Block in Great Falls was built in 1890 as a combination hotel and livery stable serving rail travelers and freighters. Following the homestead era, the Arvon's economic viability fell; a decline made worse with a shift away from rail travel and horse-drawn transport through the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Over 100 years, the Arvon saw everchanging ownership and occupants. In 2010, the building's neighbor publicized his plans for the purchase and demolition of the Arvon, but preservationists rallied. Using a portion of a \$21,500 *Preserve America* grant, the City of Great Falls (a Certified Local Government) in collaboration with the state and local Main Street programs and the SHPO funded a preservation plan and feasibility study for the Arvon, paving the way for local developer Peter Jennings and his family to invest \$7.5 million into rehabilitating the 21,000-square foot building. Federal Historic Tax Credits made the daunting project more feasible. Today the 33-room Hotel Arvon and Celtic Cowboy Pub is a destination that has revitalized downtown, created 40 new jobs, and contributes over \$2 million annually to the local tax base. The project, widely recognized in Great Falls, received a Montana Historic Preservation Award for Outstanding Historic Preservation Rehabilitation Project in 2017. (2013-2017 Goal II/Objective 2: *CELEBRATE – Create forums to acknowledge and reward outstanding achievements and efforts in historic preservation*; Goal VI/Objective 3: *COLLABORATE – Solidify existing partnerships and form new consensus for the benefit of historic preservation*)



CATHY BICKENHEUSER  
USFS REGION 1 HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION TEAM  
(PHOTO BY MONTANA  
PRESERVATION ALLIANCE)

#### US FOREST SERVICE REGION 1 HISTORIC PRESERVATION TEAM

(excerpted from *106 Success Story: Forest Service Approach to Preservation Yields Results, Public Benefit*, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation/ACHP, 2017 [http://www.achp.gov/sec106\\_successes.html](http://www.achp.gov/sec106_successes.html)) Under the purview of a Programmatic Agreement (PA) revised and updated in 2015 with the ACHP and SHPO for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the USDA Forest Service Region 1 Historic Preservation Team (HPT) “has completed preservation work on more than 300 historic buildings and structures since 1992. Historic buildings that might have otherwise fallen into disrepair or neglect have been maintained for interpretation and public use. Additionally, a wide variety of properties have been rehabilitated for agency operations and use. The HPT has also assisted other federal and state agencies in similar building preservation work across Region 1. The PA has resulted in substantial cost savings by reducing the need for outside contractors, detailed project specifications and contracts,

and contract management. The HPT has also contributed to public outreach through the USFS *Passport in Time* program, which offers opportunities for the public to learn hands-on preservation skills and provides volunteer labor on maintenance and rehabilitation projects. Volunteers have logged more than 10,000 hours on these projects since the early 1990s. Perhaps the most valuable contribution of the Region 1 program has been the direct and enthusiastic engagement of the American public, who ultimately are the beneficiaries and advocates for historic preservation on the nation's public lands.” (2013-2017 Goal I/Objective 2: *EDUCATE – Instill awareness and appreciation for Montana's heritage and heritage properties*; Goal V/Objective 3 – *ADVOCATE – Implement existing preservation legislation and encourage new laws and incentives to protect heritage properties*; Goal VII/Objective 1: *INTEGRATE – Integrate historic preservation in public planning and policy-making at all levels*)



## ACHIEVEMENTS: 2013-2017 PRIORITIES AND RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES

In addition to these highlighted success stories, many groups and organizations undertook activities in the past five years that address the Goals, Objectives and Priorities/Recommended Activities identified in *Preserving Montana: The Montana Historic Preservation Plan, 2013 – 2017*. Examples of these successful efforts include but are not limited to:

### 2013-2017 GOAL I: EDUCATE – Build a Foundation for Historic Preservation through Knowledge and Understanding

- Student internships (UM, SHPO, MPA, BLM, USFS)
- University of Montana Historic Preservation class, Prof. Mike Monsos (UM, SHPO, Others)
- Facebook and other social media presence (MHS, SHPO, MPA, MHF, Heritage Commission)
- *Consulting with Montana SHPO* guidance update (SHPO)
- Montana Archaeology Month – poster and events (MAS, BLM, SHPO, UM, MSU)
- New and updated walking tours (CLG)
- Montana Project Archaeology: 2015 Montana State Historic Preservation Award for Outstanding Preservation Education and Outreach (MSU, BLM)

### 2013-2017 GOAL II: CELEBRATE – Promote Preservation with Recognition, Praise, and Acknowledgement

- Local and state preservation award ceremonies (SHPO, MPA, CLG, USFS)
- Newspaper and television coverage, including KTVH *Big Sky Chronicles* (All)
- PR: 2017 Montana Federal Tax Credit milestone - \$75 million investment (SHPO)
- *Making Archaeology Public Project (MAPP)*: Montana video (MAS, BLM, SHPO)
- Montana National Register sign program (MHS)
- Billings Public Schools Rehabilitation of McKinley and Broadwater Elementary Schools: 2017 Montana State Historic Preservation Governor’s Award for Outstanding Historic Preservation Stewardship (Local)
- “Big Sky Schoolhouse Statewide Preservation Project,” 2017 Vernacular Architecture Forum Award for Advocacy (MPA, MHF, and Charlotte Caldwell, author)

### 2013-2017 GOAL III: LOCATE – Identify and document Montana’s Historic, Precontact, and Traditional Cultural Places

- North Elevation Historic District survey, Billings (Western Heritage Center, CLG, SHPO)
- Bozeman historic district survey “blitz” 2015-2017 (MSU-Architecture, SHPO)
- Tribal Data Sharing and Use Agreements (THPO, SHPO)
- Cultural Resource Data Sharing Partnership (BLM, SHPO)
- Livingston Commercial Historic District inventory update (CLG-Livingston)
- Montana State Capitol Campus Historic District survey (State of Montana, SHPO)
- Montana State University-Bozeman Campus Historic District survey (MSU, SHPO)
- Big Sky schoolhouse survey (MPA)
- State-owned heritage properties inventory updated (State of Montana, SHPO)
- 4,630 newly recorded historic and archaeological properties and 480, 481 acres of documented new survey 2013-2017 (All)

#### 2013-2017 GOAL IV: EVALUATE – Assess the Significance and Integrity of Montana’s Heritage Places Worthy of Preservation

- Fifty-eight (58) new properties listed in the National Register 2013-2017 (SHPO, MT Review Board, USFS, BLM, NPS, MSU, State of Montana, MDT, Private)
- Ekalaka Bank, first listing in the National Register for Carter County (SHPO, Town of Ekalaka)
- Stone Hill Springs Prehistoric District, privately owned archaeological district (Private landowner, SHPO, MT Review Board)
- L-4 Fire Lookouts in the USFS Northern Region (Region 1), 1932-1967 Multiple Property Documentation and historic context (USFS)
- American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) grants: “What Have We Overlooked?: Spiritual Landscapes as Battlefield Strategy.” [Rosebud Battlefield] (University of Montana, 2017) and “Battle of Powder River, 1876.” (Our Montana, Inc., 2015) (NPS)

#### 2013-2017 GOAL V: ADVOCATE – Seek Support of Historic Preservation through Funding, Incentives, and Protection

- *Montana: Creating Jobs, Building Communities, Preserving Heritage*, report on the History and Success of the Federal Historic Tax Credit in Montana, (MPA, NTHP)
- Preservation grant-writing skills workshops (MHF)
- 2015 Legislature *Best Place First* state heritage preservation funding campaign effort (MPA)
- Biennial reports on the stewardship of state-owned heritage properties 2014 and 2016 (State agencies, MT Review Board, SHPO)
- SHPO-CLG email network (SHPO, CLG)
- Historic Building Redevelopment Revolving Fund Program feasibility study (MPA, MBAC)
- Teslow Grain Elevator Preservation Group, LLC, Livingston: 2017 Montana State Historic Preservation Award for Outstanding Historic Preservation Advocacy (Local)
- Montana Preservation Alliance Action Alerts (MPA)
- National grants for Montana preservation (SHPO, MPA, MHF, BLM, MSP)

#### 2013-2017 GOAL VI: COLLABORATE – Work Together with Preservation Partners to Preserve Montana’s Historic, Precontact, and Traditional Cultural Properties

- THPO Summit 2014, Helena (THPO, SHPO, BLM, BIA, State and Federal agencies)
- Annual Certified Local Government meeting and workshop (CLG, SHPO)
- Upper Missouri River Heritage Area Planning Corporation (Local, CLG)
- Billings Preservation Roundtable (CLG, Western Heritage Center, SHPO, Others)
- Crow Agency II interpretation (CLG-Columbus, Crow)
- UM Ethnographic Collections summit 2015 & 2016, Missoula (UM, THPO, NPS, BIA, MHS)

#### 2013-2017 GOAL VII: INTEGRATE: Incorporate Historic Preservation into Programs, Projects, and Policies that have the Potential to Affect Significant Heritage Properties

- [A Citizen's Guide to Montana Historic Preservation Law: Finding Your Voice](#) You Tube video (SHPO)
- 7,990 written consultations on projects and undertakings 2013-2017 (SHPO)
- *Montana State Parks Heritage Resources Strategic Plan 2017-2024*, Montana State Parks, 2017 [www.stateparks.mt.gov/fwpDoc.html?id=79746](http://www.stateparks.mt.gov/fwpDoc.html?id=79746) (MSP)
- Local preservation ordinance revisions: Butte, Missoula, Anaconda/Deer Lodge County, City of Deer Lodge, Bozeman (CLG, SHPO)
- “Harnessing Pride, Placemaking and Potential,” 2014 Montana Downtown Conference, Helena (MT Main Street)
- Public programs and presentations, including service/professional clubs and agencies. (All)
- State Preservation FAQs: <http://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo/FAQs> (SHPO)

## RESOURCE CONDITION/RESOURCES AT RISK

### RESOURCE CONDITION

Although lacking the statistics of a comprehensive condition assessment, it is clear nonetheless that many Montana's heritage resource properties are in jeopardy statewide. While there have been causes for celebration, many historic, precontact and traditional cultural properties remain underutilized and lacking in substantive protection or assistance opportunities. Particularly outside of the state's more vibrant urban centers, deterioration, vandalism, changing land use, lack of local monetary support, vacancy, and the sheer number of potential resources in need exacerbate the condition of many properties. In cities, new development pressures challenge the few local demolition and design review ordinances in place. Severe weather and natural disasters compound these issues and do not discriminate; for example, the devastating 2017 fire season in Montana took the Sperry Chalet National Historic Landmark in Glacier National Park, leaving only the stone wall shell in place.



SPERRY CHALET NHL  
GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

The condition of a subset of Montana properties – that of state-owned heritage properties – has been formally assessed biennially by state agencies, the state preservation review board, and the State Historic Preservation Office in *Montana's Shared Heritage*, Biennial Reports on the Status, Condition and Stewardship of Montana's State-owned Heritage Properties (2012, 2014, and 2016). Of 371 state-owned historically significant properties reported on most recently in 2016, only 30% were described as in excellent condition, while at the same time 13% were characterized as “poor” (unstable or unmaintained) or “failed.” The condition of 7% of the properties was identified as “unknown,” reflecting a lack of awareness and information available about these public resources.

Resource conditions for precontact sites are more difficult to document and analyze, but the themes are familiar. Residential development into formerly rural areas, intensified recreational use of open space, vandalism, and impacts from both natural resource extraction and land reclamation all continue to constitute real threats to archaeological properties and traditional cultural areas susceptible to ground disturbance activities. In addition, the anonymity of archaeological sites (both precontact and historic) makes it difficult to rally support for their protection. While most archaeological sites, if known, can be avoided by project developments, avoidance in and of itself does not ensure long-term preservation.

Several Montana preservation organizations have risen to the challenge, particularly in the past five years, to support substantive planning and bricks-and-mortar projects with historic property owners and communities. In addition to the on-going federal and state tax credits program, these include the Montana Main Street Program, the Montana Preservation Alliance's (MPA) Restore Montana! Program, and the Montana History Foundation's (MHF) grant program. Grant-funded projects like the Hotel Libby in western Montana, the Big Elk School in Two Dot, and the Winnett Cemetery restoration project, represent grassroots initiatives supported by MHF's small, but important investments in more remote, rural communities.



Montana Main Street's work in places like Thompson Falls facilitates planning and visioning processes coupled with substantial economic development funding to realize preservation-minded revitalization in their historic downtowns. The MPA Restore Montana! Program has provided on-site training and expertise to properties ranging from monumental buildings in Yellowstone National Park to the nationally-significant Western Clay Manufacturing Company/Archie Bray complex in Helena. Grassroots volunteer organizations in our cities, including Preserve Historic Missoula, Preserve Historic Bozeman, and Save Central Helena, have provided local leadership, often formed in response to a particular project, but determined to continue to help their community identify and implement improved processes.

## RESOURCES AT RISK



MISSOULA MERCANTILE DEMOLITION  
(PHOTO BY THE MISSOULIAN)

The many risks and challenges to Montana preservation continue to include growth and sprawl, neglect and abandonment, energy development, and lack of information and understanding about how to maintain properties and preservation alternatives. However, over the past few years, the enforcement of local historic preservation laws has taken center stage. In Bozeman, Helena, and Missoula, iconic buildings and historic districts have been under attack by new-construction project proposals resulting

in city-council authorized demolitions, despite pro-preservation recommendations from the local historic preservation commissions.

These trends are supported by a 2017 survey taken by 500 public individuals and stakeholders statewide (See Appendix). When asked to identify a major issue or challenge facing historic preservation in Montana, survey respondents identified lack of funding and the high cost to preserve as the biggest challenge. While many of the respondents noted a general lack of funding from local, state, and federal governments, respondents also identified more specifically the high costs of upkeep and restoration of historic properties as a significant barrier. Remediation expenses and dealing with hazards associated with old structures were mentioned as disincentives to preserve. Respondents were quick to point out that deferred maintenance and upgrades of historic structures often leads to their "emergency" status before being considered for funding, and in some cases by that point it's too expensive to do much. While most survey responses pointed to local communities as the best sources for decisions and support for historic preservation, others made note of where communities had recently failed to preserve their iconic historic structures, (e.g. Bozeman, Helena, and Missoula). Specific property types identified by respondents as especially needing priority attention include downtown historic districts, Native American archaeological sites, schools, and rural agricultural properties.

From the 2016 assessment of state-owned heritage properties described above, 10 out of 371 properties (2.5%) are identified as endangered and another 30 (8.2%) as threatened. Endangered state-owned properties include Engineering Hall at Montana Tech in Butte (University System), Fort Assiniboine (Montana Agricultural Extension Service), the Brewery Dugout Cabin and Susan Marr House in Virginia City (Montana Heritage Commission), and the Powder River Depot historic archaeological site (DNRC).

For most of the 2000s, the Montana Preservation Alliance maintained a “Most Endangered” list highlighting threatened properties in Montana. The lists included both individual places, like the Story Mill Complex in Bozeman, and thematic resources, including Montana’s historic one-room schools and the Tongue River Valley cultural landscape. Since 2010, the official list has been published sporadically, as the organization focuses on more bricks-and-mortar and documentation projects, but their continued involvement with endangered properties, including Lewistown’s Broadway Apartments, Helena’s Central School, and the Missoula Mercantile has a substantial impact on a wide range of resources at risk in Montana.

While preservation projects continue to meet with success and demonstrate the viability of historic preservation, it is clear that the condition and risks to Montana’s significant historic, precontact and traditional cultural properties pose difficult challenges.





## IV. ISSUES, CHALLENGES, & OPPORTUNITIES IN MONTANA HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Historic preservation in Montana does not occur within a vacuum. Preservation exists interwoven amidst a background of issues at the national, state, and local levels. Common themes emerge from recent studies and conversations at all these levels. Key to planning for the future success of historic preservation in Montana is recognizing the challenges as well as the common ground in these issues and building collaboratively upon the opportunities that develop in response to them.



*SCHOOLHOUSE, ILIAD, MT (PHOTO BY TODDKLASSY)*

### NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Agencies, organizations, and individuals across the country celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act in 2016 (<http://preservation50.org/>). When President Lyndon Johnson signed the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) into law in 1966, formally recognizing historic preservation as an important national policy, it fundamentally changed America's relationship with its past. Among the many programs and processes created under or by the Act (and its amendments) that are still in place today are: the National Register of Historic Places, the State Historic Preservation Office program, the Certified Local Government preservation program, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, certified Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, the Section 106 review process for considering and taking into account the effects of federal undertakings on historic and cultural resources, the Secretary of the Interior's standards and guidelines for historic preservation, federal agency preservation programs, public-private partnerships, and the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) administered by the National Park Service as a federal matching funding source.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) established in the NHPA is an independent federal agency that promotes the preservation, enhancement, and productive use of our nation's historic resources, and advises the President and Congress on national historic preservation issues and policy. In 2016, the ACHP took the opportunity of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NHPA to “analyze the national program established under the law and to recommend policy and other actions for enhancing and improving the program to address current and future needs.” The ACHP reported the results of its study in *The National Historic Preservation Program at 50: Priorities and Ideas for the Future*, 2016 ([www.achp.gov/p50ideas.pdf](http://www.achp.gov/p50ideas.pdf)). This brief 5-page summary document with associated goals and strategies serves as a cogent national perspective on historic preservation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### ACHP Priorities

- ✓ Develop wider public and political support
- ✓ Provide leadership and expertise
- ✓ Expand and encourage public engagement
- ✓ Enhance further appreciation for heritage through formal and informal education
- ✓ Advance equity, inclusiveness, and diversity
- ✓ Recognize the full range of the nation's heritage
- ✓ Embrace and respond to the cultures, views, and concerns of indigenous peoples
- ✓ Obtain adequate and sustainable financial support
- ✓ Promote collaboration and partnership
- ✓ Address climate change, planning, and environmental sustainability
- ✓ Improve preservation processes and systems, including use of appropriate technology

- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 2016

Among the issues identified by the ACHP that affect historic preservation today are those that are both old (i.e., potential conflicts with public works and infrastructure, energy development, urban revitalization, loss of industry, and rural economic shifts) and those that are newer (e.g., consequences of population change, increased cultural diversity, environmental and economic sustainability, climate change, and coping with large-scale natural disasters). In identifying priorities and ideas for the future, the ACHP includes “increasing the depth and breadth of support for preservation and appreciation for history and culture; ensuring that preservation's benefits are widely available and enjoyed; and keeping preservation relevant and useful for building better lives and communities.” Specifically, the ACHP highlights the following priorities (see ACHP report for discussion of challenges and opportunities, as well as outline of goals, strategies, and ideas for implementation):

### MONTANA PERSPECTIVES

The State Historic Preservation Office hears from and listens to the public about issues facing the preservation of heritage properties every day. SHPO also makes year-round efforts to engage with the public and stakeholders statewide through meetings, presentations, site visits, telephone discussions, and correspondence. These interactions enable the office to garner public and local input about preservation issues, policy and programs on a regular basis.

In preparing this 2018-2022 update to the Montana Historic Preservation Plan, SHPO reflected on this input. In 2017, SHPO also developed and implemented a preservation questionnaire (500 responses) and conducted *stakeholder interviews* in the form of one-on-one phone conversations and meetings with various targeted individuals and groups representing a cross-section of those involved significantly

with historic preservation in Montana. These stakeholders include representatives of federal and state agencies, Montana non-profits, professional architects and consultants, THPOs, local preservation officers, the State Preservation Review Board, and owners of recently listed National Register properties. Together the questionnaire and stakeholder input provide a distinctly Montana perspective on historic preservation.

### Montana Preservation Questionnaire

A ten-question questionnaire was circulated broadly by SHPO between April and August 2017 through email lists, social media, and a variety of preservation events and other venues. Questions focused on the status of preservation in Montana, its overall effectiveness, priorities for the future, as well as challenges and how to address these. Questions were equally divided between fixed choices and open-ended answers. Responses were capped at 500 and included a reasonable cross-section of historic preservation professionals (38%), history buffs (38%), and those who identified themselves as general public (24%). A detailed summary of the survey results is presented in the Plan Appendix. Several general takeaways from the questionnaire include:

- 1) Overall, historic preservation in Montana is viewed as better off or the same as it was five-years ago, with only 18% of total respondents replying it is worse now than before. Professionals were more critical of the current status of preservation than either history buffs or the general public with 26% of professionals saying it was worse.
- 2) On a scale of 1-10, respondents gave Montana a 6.3 in effectiveness of overall current efforts to preserve heritage places and likewise a 6.2 in realizing the vision of Preserving Montana, the Montana Historic Preservation Plan 2013-2017: *Montana is a place that knows, respects, and celebrates its heritage, openly encouraging and supporting the preservation of its significant historic, precontact and traditional cultural properties*. Similarly, 63% felt that historic preservation is currently a substantive consideration in Montana local communities (if not always successful).
- 3) Survey respondents want to see the preservation of historic and archaeological places prioritized and coordinated at the local level. Sustainable support and funding for historic preservation must have a local basis to succeed; and there is a need at the local level to connect historic preservation with economic stability.
- 4) While lack of funding and the high cost to preserve is viewed by many as a top issue (40%), other challenges include apathy and lack of understanding, growth and development, lack of community support, and disinterested government and elected officials.
- 5) More than half of survey respondents want more done to showcase preservation successes, and believe that a combination of marketing/outreach and education is needed to change mindsets and behavior and lead to personal investment in historic preservation.

### Montana Preservation Stakeholder Interviews

The following is based on conversations between the State Historic Preservation Office staff and various stakeholders in Montana preservation.

*The Montana State Historic Preservation Review Board*, which advises SHPO and state government on the preservation of Montana's heritage properties as well as approves nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, was not surprised that questionnaire respondents viewed the local community as where historic preservation must begin. They were also not surprised that survey respondents prioritized buildings that generate economic value over less obvious property types. However, the Board noted that while





*MONTANA HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD AND SHPO STAFF, 2017  
(PHOTO BY TOM FERRIS)*

buildings that have an obvious economic value are important, there are other worthy resource types (i.e. homesteads, rock art, tipi rings, cultural sites) which may have little obvious economic value, yet merit preservation. In addition to preservation economics (“preseconomics”), education and outreach must touch on the human value of historic preservation and the quality of human life directly tied to our human past.

Preservation Review Board members feel that potential collaboration amongst state programs (i.e. SHPO, Montana Main Street, the Montana Heritage Commission, tourism boards) at the local level is not fully realized. They emphasized that SHPO could have a greater presence in communities, especially CLG communities. SHPO should be a resource for education and outreach. The SHPO website could profitably be updated to function as a clearinghouse for frequently asked preservation questions and information for promoting the value of historic preservation in local communities. Board members agreed with survey respondents that education is key in turning public apathy into action. Education includes the schoolroom as well as community hall. Preservationists, including the Board, must do a better job highlighting successes. This includes not only award ceremonies, but also social media, email, print, newspaper, television and other media.

Finally, the Board feels strongly that state financial support for its heritage preservation programs (SHPO, Montana Main Street, Montana Heritage Commission) is woefully inadequate. Elsewhere they have underscored that this lack of funding extends to state agencies who are nonetheless charged with being stewards of over 370 state-owned heritage properties and districts (*Montana’s Shared Heritage*, 2016).

In speaking about the status of preservation in the state, the *Montana Main Street Program* reiterates that there have been missed opportunities for collaboration amongst state and other programs in projects as well as messages to the public and to community leaders. More communication is needed. Montana Main

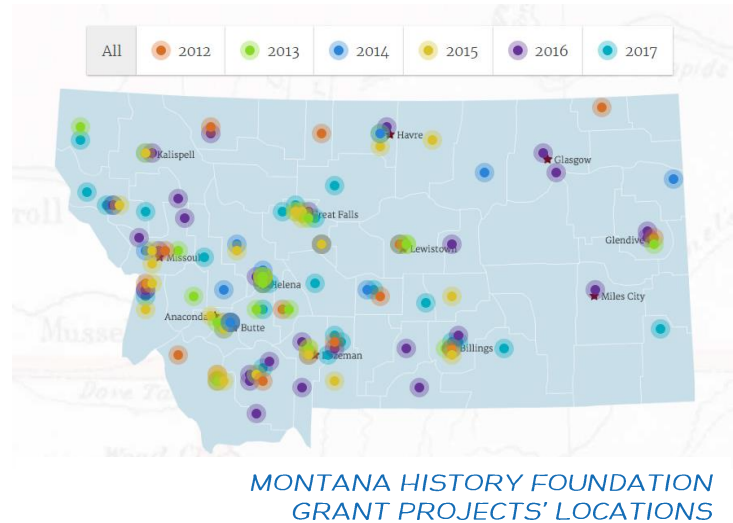
Street understands that it takes time to develop credibility, trust and relationships in Montana's small communities. Developers want to see feasibility studies and know that historic preservation is an integral part of a community's development plan and vision. Education and outreach are pivotal to instilling interest and awareness – especially for younger populations that must be addressed on their own terms using their own organizational and communication frameworks. Funding for historic preservation in Montana is a concern, but opportunities for historic preservation projects do exist within other state and local business and economic development programs. More sophisticated and coordinated proposals are needed to secure state legislative budget support.

The *Montana History Foundation*, a statewide non-profit, has made a niche in the delivery of small grants for historic preservation around the state, which they feel serves a primary need in Montana preservation. In its grant program, MHF has found that \$5,000 can sometimes be a limiting factor and would like to increase its support through donations and collaborations for larger projects with a proven track record. Local capacity for grant-writing and management are also issues in Montana, which are being addressed in part through MHF grant workshops. MHF has found many regular donors – large and small –

in Montana who as a general rule wish to fund specific results-based projects, either public or private, that have clear criteria and products. Recently, in recognition of the additional need to provide emergency funding, MHF has instituted a matching History Emergencies! grant program available on short notice. Emergency response guidance and technical support is needed as a companion to this funding program.

In the past several years, Montana's 16 *Certified Local Governments* (CLGs) who participate in the NPS-SHPO administered local preservation partnership network have witnessed staff turnover, several high-profile city demolition controversies, and a challenging economic environment. As a result, many of the local historic preservation officers and commission members feel embattled. Frustrations stem primarily from public misconceptions about rehabilitation and implications of National Register listing. Several HPOs note that local officials often dismiss preservation efforts as a luxury that money-strapped cities cannot afford, or as obstructionist. The result too often has been threats to defund entire programs and animosity within the communities.

While every local historic preservation officer (HPO) interviewed mentioned the lack of funding, nearly all identified public misconceptions about preservation programs as the biggest local challenge. Misinformation about the historic tax credit program, standards, and local and state staff's role in review processes abound. They recommend investment in education and the marketing of historic preservation as a revitalization tool as priorities. While the past decades have been important to establish the infrastructure of preservation statewide – formation of CLGs, staffing, local ordinances, etc. – it is now important to celebrate our successes in a very public way. HPOs noted that to be successful and relevant in the future, local officials and the public need a better understanding of historic preservation as an economic revitalization tool. City





budgets need to reflect the importance of preservation programs in generating healthy communities rather than defunding them and viewing them as a burden to development.

On a positive note, a few CLGs have dealt with these issues in a very proactive and public way, and are beginning to see good results. For example, ten years ago, SHPO placed the Butte-Silver Bow CLG on probation. Not only did local officials meet the requirements to re-attain good standing, a community-wide preservation planning process and careful ordinance revision has revitalized the program. In both Butte and Miles City, the HPO staff positions no longer reside in the planning department, where conflicts of interest often occurred, but instead report directly to the local chief executive. In Virginia City, successful marketing, professional contracted preservation staff, and recent infusions of brick and mortar funding resulted in a successful program and community buy-in to the preservation ethic. Livingston has invested in resurvey to aid in design review and revitalization, and Billings, Missoula, and Great Falls boast new historic district surveys as well as several successful rehabilitations.



*CARY YOUPEE INSTRUCTS SHPO STAFF  
ON TIPI CONSTRUCTION  
(PHOTO BY KATE HAMPTON)*

Four of Montana's eight *Tribal Historic Preservation Officers* (THPOs) agreed to and returned calls for an "interview" to discuss preservation. Six stated they had or would fill out the written questionnaire. On the matter of the general relationship between THPO and SHPO, all four who discussed it indicated they thought Montana had better relationships than those in neighboring states. When asked about improvements all mentioned the need for funding of THPO programs. Financial support from SHPO being unlikely, a THPO summit hosted by SHPO was mentioned particularly as a past success and one that should be permanently institutionalized. Database sharing was mentioned as another area where tribal sovereignty should be actively encouraged by SHPO in some better way. Financial support in setting up independent databases was

mentioned as one possibility. Suggestions as to heritage places under-represented in Montana preservation that can be prioritized for more attention and protection include plant gathering sites and cultural landscapes. The relocation of the National Register-listed Sleeping Buffalo rock near Saco on the Hi Line was also mentioned as a project to be work on. Two THPOs mentioned that SHPO concurrence with agencies had caused them harm for an off-reservation undertaking.

Montana is home to many projects undertaken by or on behalf of federal and state agencies that are subject to consultation and compliance with preservation laws including the Montana State Antiquities Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act which states that federal agencies must consider the effects of their undertakings on significant historic and precontact properties. *State and Federal Agency heritage resource program* staff not only work within their agency at the local and state level, but also at the



regional and national level. Federal agencies in Montana often deal with national trends in historic preservation and Section 106 policy that do not always fit neatly with Montana's environment or history.

Agency representatives in Montana that we talked to emphasize the importance of educating the public about cultural resources and the role of preservation laws and compliance. The consensus is that educational efforts should be targeted towards rural communities, where the local populace often does not have many opportunities to experience and learn about historic preservation and see the benefits of successful consideration of cultural resources in project undertakings. Increasing public involvement in discussing mitigation of impacts is not only a good way to educate the public, but can also show how review and compliance may benefit their communities.

In archaeology, education should also focus on the detriments of artifact collecting; a substantial problem on public lands, which is often a generational hobby among family members. One agency cultural resource specialist suggested that precontact artifact (e.g. "arrowhead") collecting may be, at least partially, solved by cross-cultural education programs. These programs should explain to the public that precontact archaeological sites, and their artifacts, are not representative of lost cultures, but still have an important role in Montana's Native communities. Agency staff felt that this type of community outreach is part of their agency responsibility, but that they often do not have the time and personnel to do this with any consistency.

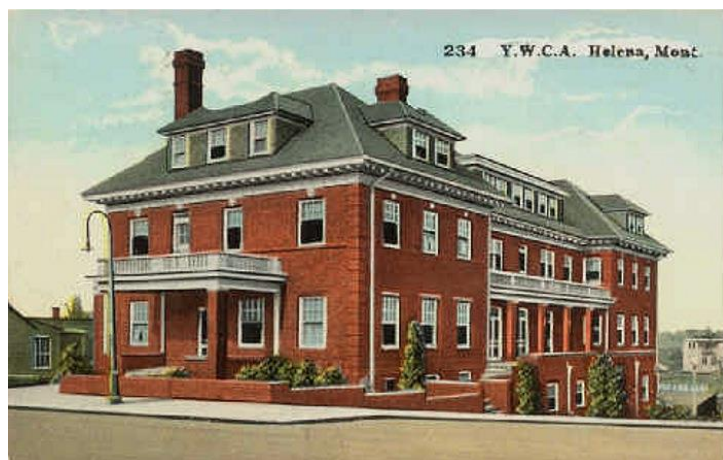
Lack of funding for historic preservation in state and federal agencies is felt across the board, but one problem specific to land-managing agencies was mentioned several times. Instead of preserving, or maintaining, potential National Register eligible properties, many are being avoided and neglected until they are in such a state of disrepair that they are no longer eligible and can be removed with little cost to the agency (i.e., "demolition by neglect"). In these cases, avoidance of impacts is not preservation at all.

Two large land-managing federal agencies responsible for the stewardship of thousands of Montana historic, archaeological and traditional cultural places are the *Bureau of Land Management* (BLM) and the *United States Forest Service* (USFS). With respect to the former, historic preservation on BLM land is arguably better off than it was five years ago. This is reflected both in a lessening in cases of vandalism to historic and precontact sites and an increase in internal support for historic building stabilization, particularly log and other standing wooden structures. With the prospect of additional federal budget cuts, funding for the heritage program remains a concern with the BLM. A priority for funding, if available, is additional proactive survey to identify heritage properties in sensitive areas, in areas with high potential for unrecorded or unusual sites, and in areas within unique environments. Archaeologically, stratified buried sites at risk of vandalism or erosion are most in need of attention. Standing historic structures that have good historic contexts and stories to interpret are also a priority.



PROJECT ARCHAEOLOGY  
SITE STEWARDSHIP TRAINING, 2012  
(PHOTO BY PROJECT ARCHAEOLOGY)

Building relationships with the public, the state and with other agencies is a primary goal of the USDA Forest Service heritage program in Montana. The USFS would like to see an inter-agency preservation roundtable established to provide a better forum for discussing historic preservation issues on public lands. The USFS also believes more time needs to be spent proactively considering heritage properties, including the development of historic contexts and syntheses of property types and what is important to preserve. Success stories, like the USFS Heritage Stewardship Enhancement program and the Region 1 USFS Historic Preservation Team work on historic buildings, lookouts and other structures, need to be told more often and widely.



HELENA YWCA  
2016 CERTIFIED TAX CREDIT PROJECT  
(MHS POSTCARD COLLECTION – HELENA – BUILDINGS)

Four *Montana Historic Architects* whose work has long focused on historic buildings indicated that historic preservation in Montana communities is getting better but has room for significant improvement. These, as well as other architects, attribute success in preservation primarily to Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit projects. Each architect feels strongly that tax incentives work in both larger and smaller communities, as witnessed by the positive ripple effect economically and in community pride. Some also recognized the establishment of new TIF districts as making conditions better for preservation.

Historic architects interviewed acknowledged that most historic buildings thrive and are maintained in places with high-priced real estate. Ironically, it's in these same places where preservation faces its biggest challenge in the form of development pressure. Architects cite cases in Missoula and Bozeman where buildings are being lost due to weak local ordinances, and that city planning offices and elected officials in Montana are overly responsive to aggressive developers. Direct approaches of improving income tax and property tax incentives and of establishing or strengthening local preservation ordinances are recommended to confront these issues. Change in the Federal or state tax codes would require changes made by Congress and the legislature, which will require skillful lobbying.

Historic architects also favor long-term efforts to cultivate allies and make preservation more mainstream. Preservation is inherently sustainable and needs to become synonymous with renewable energy, recycling, and a clean environment. Also, preservation trades represent a trained skill set. Vo-tech programs need to incorporate historic building rehabilitation and maintenance into their curricula. Finally, successful preservation projects are cause for celebration, but beyond the good feelings, preservation's positive effects on neighborhoods, economies, the tax base, and employment levels should be documented, studied, and well-publicized.

*Montana Archaeologists* as a group were not interviewed, however many contributed individual responses to the SHPO preservation questionnaire at the annual Montana Archaeological Society conference held in Missoula in April 2017. The keynote speaker for that conference, Professor Kelly Dixon of the University of Montana Anthropology Department, also spoke to issues of historic preservation in her talk: *Sustainability*,

*Resilience, and Cultural Heritage: Observations from Montana in the Early 21<sup>st</sup> Century.* The talk closed with a series of discussion questions for archaeologists to consider in planning for the future, including: What do we do with all the artifacts, buildings, landscapes, sites, and knowledge in an era when budgets are not allowing land managers to re-fill positions and keep sites open to the public? How do we make cultural heritage (and records) available for future generations? What can archaeology do for people today? How can we improve marketing on issues that emphasize the importance of adaptive reuse? What types of collaborative projects can we start (now) to ensure sustainable futures for the resources under our protection?

Finally, several *National Register property owners* of recently listed properties told us that neighbors and people visiting those properties appreciate that the owners cared enough to make the effort to list their historic property. At the same time, several owners mentioned the common misconceptions of the National Register of Historic Places held by the public and suggested having National Register-related literature displayed at listed properties, or available through other media vehicles. All owners stated they were quite happy with the process and results of listing their properties and furnishing their property's history to interested parties for educational purposes ("which is what people who visit historic properties want"). While the research and paperwork involved in the process was recognized as daunting to many, several owners also talked about the possibility of incentivizing others to list their eligible properties. At least one owner who invested several years in preparing the successful and uncommon nomination of a prehistoric archaeological district on his property encouraged more Montanans to do the same instead of listing more historic properties that are "old but not that important."



VALIER SCHOOL, NR-LISTED  
(PHOTO BY JO FLICK)

### **PRESERVATION CHALLENGE HIGHLIGHT: FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

One of the most common preservation inquiries in Montana is asking about the availability of funds or financial incentives to facilitate historic preservation. This question frequently comes from private individuals who, in turn, are the most often disappointed to learn that neither historic preservation grants or credits cater to historic homeowners. At the same time, potential eligible recipients – incoming-producing properties, non-profit organizations, and public agencies – face increasing restrictions and/or competition for limited financial resources and are often forced to choose between using funds for historic preservation or for some other worthy purpose.

The lack of financial resources affects preservation at all levels. Two popular national preservation grant programs administered by the National Park Service and utilized effectively in Montana – *Save America's Treasures* and *Preserve America* – are presently not funded. Understaffed federal agency heritage programs, largely funded and driven by proponent undertakings, have limited opportunity to initiate historic preservation stewardship projects on Montana public lands proactively. Local governments, many of which rely directly or indirectly on federal or state support, struggle with public needs and services seemingly more basic than historic preservation. The federal budget for Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs) has not



increased while the number of certified tribal programs has expanded greatly (Montana has seven THPOs), leaving each program with a smaller piece of the pie.

With recent state budget cuts, the Montana State Historic Preservation Office now has less state financial support than all other state preservation program in the nation. No state monies contribute to SHPO core programs and operations and only half of one staff position (SHPO grants manager) is supported by state General Fund. As such, Montana SHPO relies almost entirely on its federal funds (HPF: Historic Preservation Fund) alone to support personnel and operating costs. In the face of these deficits, SHPO recently curtailed all travel that is not reimbursed and is unable to maintain a regular survey-and-inventory or brick-and-mortar sub-grant program.

Considered both an issue as well as a solution to other issues, base funding for historic preservation continues to be a primary challenge in Montana. Over 40% of respondents to the 2017 preservation plan questionnaire (see Appendix) identified lack of funding and/or the cost of preservation as the top issue facing historic preservation in Montana. Reliance on special funded projects, one-time only appropriations, volunteerism, and philanthropy, while creating opportunities that would otherwise not exist, will not in and of itself address this challenge.

*Opportunity:* Private donations remain strong at the Montana History Foundation, sustaining their successful annual grant program, totaling \$575,00 to 148 projects in 68 communities since 2012. In 2017 MHF added a matching *History Emergencies!* program to their funding repertoire for historic properties in imminent danger.

*Opportunity:* The federal historic tax credit program remains popular in communities like Billings, Great Falls and Butte and is an important component in developer packages that would otherwise not pencil out. Montana reached a milestone of \$70 million in private investment in the rehabilitation of important historic properties across the state incentivized by federal and state tax credits.

*Opportunity:* Montana continues to compete successfully for nationwide grants, including \$40,000 for upgrade of the state antiquities database (State Historic Preservation Office 2016: MICA Foundation Cultural Resource Fund), a three-year \$60,000 grant in support of the biennial *Path Less Traveled: Montana Preservation Road Show* (Montana Preservation Alliance 2018-2020: National Endowment for the Humanities), and \$25,380 for a cemetery preservation workshop focusing on innovative and integrated technologies (Montana History Foundation 2017: NPS Preservation Technology and Training Grants)

## **PRESERVATION CHALLENGE HIGHLIGHT: MONTANA DEMOGRAPHICS**

Montana is the fourth largest state in the union, yet has only a little over one million residents statewide. Who and where these people are has always been an important part of living in Montana. Changing demographics played a major role in Montana history and presents a challenge to historic preservation.

More than 82,000 homesteaders filed claims on 25,000,000 acres in Montana between 1909 and 1919; more than in any other state. The population of Montana spread relatively evenly across a largely rural landscape organized around small township villages



*FORT PECK THEATER  
(PHOTO BY CWBROWN333)*

and county seats, supported by five urban centers. The 1917 drought affected eastern and central Montana initially. It expanded west to the Flathead and Bitterroot valleys by 1919. Within six years 70,000 people had left Montana farms for towns or migrated out-of-state. Demographic trends are talked about in Montana as being recent but the trend for increasing urban population at the expense of rural communities began at least by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The 2010 Census documents that urban counties in Montana have become larger and younger while rural counties have lost population and grown older. Moreover, all significant recent population growth has occurred in the western third of the state apart from Yellowstone County (Billings). Gallatin County in southwest Montana has been the fastest growing county with 32% growth while Kalispell in the Flathead is the largest urban growth area with a 40% increase. Ten counties alone have accounted for 93% of the overall population increase in Montana during the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Only western (Flathead and Missoula) and southern counties (Gallatin) experienced growth in the 26 to 31 age group. Perhaps most striking is the fact that 10,000 persons (out of 80,000 total) arrived as out-of-state migrants in the 10 – 17-year-old range, and almost all of them settled in urban areas in the western third of the state (again excepting Billings). In northern and eastern Montana, there was a net out-migration during that same period of 26% - almost all of it in the 18 – 29 years old age range group.

Demographic changes influence the nature of community and the association of personal and community identity with historic properties. “Old schools” and “old barns” do not invoke the same associations for people arriving recently in western Montana cities. Small historic schools which are closing in record numbers in rural counties and collapsing barns which are being replaced in new economy of scale agribusinesses also do not have the same use-values for aging rural communities. As Montana’s population continues to grow around urban centers, small rural towns struggle to sustain basic services. The rural counterpart to sprawl is the ongoing loss of working ranches and farms to new owners – often retirees and recreationalists - more interested in land than land-use.

From a historic preservation standpoint, it requires active community consideration and participation to preserve local historic resources in the face of spasmodic growth and decline. The challenge is to develop a sense of community and identity that recognizes the importance of history in an economy of recreation and development and an increasingly younger and more mobile population. Demography has engendered dichotomies reflecting a lack of consensus on preservation issues in Montana: rural - urban, native – non-Native, Indigenous - Nonindigenous, tourism/recreation – ranching/mining, people with children – people without children, new - old. Properties from the recent past appear most at risk, perhaps because the frontier and precontact properties are easier for newcomers to associate as being uniquely Montanan. Outreach and education in support of local level efforts to connect historic preservation with economic stability are needed to change mindsets and behavior and lead to personal investments in historic preservation.

*Opportunity:* The Montana Main Street program continues to gain momentum and take root across the state, with three Accredited and twenty-four Affiliate communities participating.

*Opportunity:* Increasingly, Montana city-county planning offices have required consideration (including inventory and impact avoidance) of cultural resources in county subdivision and other local developments.

*Opportunity:* The Montana Certified Local Government (CLG) program and preservation network, administered for the National Park Service by the SHPO, added its first new participant in many years in 2012: the rural community and county of Columbus/Stillwater County.



*CENTRAL SCHOOL, HELENA, DEMOLISHED 2017  
(PHOTO BY MADISON EVANSON)*

#### **PRESERVATION CHALLENGE: INFLUENCING OPINIONS ABOUT HISTORIC VS. NEW**

The perennial debate in which preservationists engage can often be boiled down to one thing: *historic vs. new*. How preservation can prevail in this is at the heart of many responses to our 2017 preservation questionnaire (see Appendix), and something preservationists, including SHPO staff, dwell on regularly. The basis of one's preference for new or historic is complex and individualistic; it can also change based on circumstance.

Though some hard situations are not easily overcome, historic preservation must nurture a greater appreciation and preference for the historic, putting preservation in a better starting place at the beginning of debate.

Montanan's value for old barns and one-room school houses is readily apparent. Books, documentaries and tours are based on these emblems of our American agrarian history. In our towns, there is also a ready appreciation for maintained residences and rehabilitated commercial buildings. These are the basis of walking tours, and one's choice of a B&B instead of a chain hotel. Historic businesses provide consumers with experiences many find rewarding, meaningful and memorable.

But preservation is a broad heading that represents more than these casually enjoyable historic places. Preservation is fundamentally also a sometimes labor-intensive and costly conscious act of repairing and reinvesting – which at times can be made a difficult choice.

After a spate of recent high-profile demolitions involving viable buildings in Montana communities Helena, Missoula, Bozeman, Lewistown, and Great Falls (all of which participate in the Certified Local Government - CLG preservation program), we see the same decision makers and public who “love history” show their conditional affection when preservation takes the shape of a complex choice between historic and new.

Often proponents for “new is better” find a tangible strawman in a demonstrably adaptable historic building. Their airy ideas for replacement with something more current reside only on paper, but nullify opposition with pledges of public safety, function, and a bottom line tailored to compete with maintenance and rehabilitation of a building that has seen neither for years.

In the debate of historic vs. new, preservationists have repeatedly lobbied and provided informational support for CLGs, the public, and elected officials in the face of pending demolition. Despite this, demolition still happens. The lesson for preservationists is that we are hard pressed to influence decisions if we cannot first establish a platform of preference for historic preservation outside of these contentious issues.

*Opportunity:* SHPO's mission and statewide reach provide it with the opportunity to nurture a pro-preservation culture in Montana through better education, media marketing, and outreach. And although



SHPO is positioned to initiate this understanding and provide content, community partners who speak first-hand about preservation's benefit to the community, and who have a louder voice than a state agency must also broadcast the message.

*Opportunity:* SHPO, as a program advisor and administrator, routinely supports Montana CLGs but can also share its expertise and knowledge, if not also its opinion, with non-governmental community organizations that extend beyond governmental reach. A silver lining to demolitions is the formation of advocate groups like Friends of Bozeman Historic Preservation and Preserve Historic Missoula who may speak freely and often to their neighbors and elected officials.

*Opportunity:* For non-activists, or latent advocates, rewards for preservation include publicity and pride in a job well done. Property owners, commercial occupants, architects, and contractors rightfully lay claim and must be acknowledged for their preservation successes. Preservation needs them on board as part of its broad-based effort to normalize preservation and win the debate between historic vs. new.



## V. A VISION FOR MONTANA PRESERVATION 2018-2022: GOALS, OBJECTIVES & RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES

*The Legislature shall provide for the identification, acquisition, restoration, enhancement, preservation and administration of scenic, historic, archeological, scientific, cultural, and recreational areas, sites, records and objects, and for their use and enjoyment by the people.*

- Montana State Constitution, Article IX, Section 4: Cultural Resources, 1972



SQUARE BUTTE WILDERNESS STUDY AREA AND NATIONAL NATURAL AREA  
(PHOTO BY ZANE FULBRIGHT)

### VISION

The following vision for historic preservation in Montana continues the vision originally set forth in 2008. Although progress over the past ten years is evident in the record and in the minds of Montanans, on average most today believe that on a scale of 1 to 10 we are only slightly above a 6 in achieving this vision for Montana and that the work must continue:

*Montana is a place that knows, respects and celebrates its heritage,  
openly encouraging and supporting the preservation of its significant  
historic, precontact, and traditional cultural properties.*



## MONTANA PRESERVATION GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES 2018-2022

The following goals and objectives for historic preservation in Montana continue and expand upon many of the same goals and objectives identified in the 2013 – 2017 Montana Historic Preservation Plan. They continue because they still respond to current issues identified in historic preservation in Montana, as well as support fundamental preservation best practices and successes. Some (but by no means all) new strategic activities or priorities are also suggested under each objective, in order to provide further direction and guidance in developing preservation workplans and actions over the next five years.

### I. ISSUE: LACK OF PUBLIC AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING

#### GOAL: EDUCATE\_ - BUILD A FOUNDATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION THROUGH KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION AND TRAINING

##### Objectives:

1. *Gather, develop, and disseminate historic preservation guidance and standards.*

2018-2022 priorities/recommended activities:

- Create and distribute widely a 2018-2022 Plan summary focusing on goals, objectives, and priorities.
- Refresh online guidance
- Utilize social media applications
- How-to: address common preservation situations and considerations
- Where-to: identify helpful preservation programs and contacts
- Elaborate on information about local preservation and ordinances
- Develop guidance for emergency and disaster response

2. *Pursue new ways and means to share information about Montana's historic, precontact and traditional cultural properties.*

2018-2022 priorities/recommended activities:

- Make website platforms and content upgrades
- Continue to develop walking tour and travel map apps
- Ensure owner awareness
- Contribute to Montana Memory Project
- Produce publications, press, and other printed materials

3. *More fully incorporate academia and professional expertise in the discussion of historic preservation issues and the training of preservation professionals.*

2018-2022 priorities/recommended activities:

- Encourage academic fieldwork and research in Montana
- Create student internship opportunities
- Become resources for University and tribal college historic preservation, history, and anthropology programs
- Integrate historic preservation into current research: climate change; environmental law; ecosystems; geographic information systems; emergency responses
- Identify historic properties and preservation issues on campuses

## II. ISSUE: LACK OF PUBLIC APPRECIATION

### GOAL: CELEBRATE - MARKET PRESERVATION THROUGH OUTREACH, RECOGNITION, PRAISE, AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

#### Objectives:

1. *Use traditional and social media (e.g., television, print, internet) often to convey historic preservation stories, successes and opportunities.*

#### 2018-2022 priorities/recommended activities:

- Generate regular press releases for local preservation events, projects and National Register listings
  - Create feature stories illustrating both practical and novel approaches
  - PSA development with recognizable spokespersons
  - Radio programming
2. *Create forums to acknowledge and reward outstanding achievements and efforts in historic preservation.*

#### 2018-2022 priorities/recommended activities:

- Support existing award ceremonies
  - Re-invigorate local awards and recognition
  - Establish meaningful awards and presentations
  - Continue the biennial Montana Preservation Road Show
  - Nominate Montana projects for national awards
3. *Increase public recognition of heritage properties through signage, published materials, events, and programs.*

#### 2018-2022 priorities/recommended activities:

- Promote Montana National Register sign program and highway signage
  - Advertise and make preservation workshops and conferences open to the public
  - Increase visibility of annual preservation poster in public spaces
  - Include heritage places and properties prominently in tourism ads and marketing
  - Attend and give public talks
4. *Expand outreach and partnerships beyond the usual historic preservation audience.*

#### 2018-2022 priorities/recommended activities:

- Set-up informational tables in non-preservation venues
- Develop basic marketing displays and products
- Experiment with new groups and audiences



NPS HISTORIAN PAUL LUSIGNAN AT  
BILLINGS' WESTERN HERITAGE CENTER, 2016  
(PHOTO BY BILLINGS GAZETTE)

### III. ISSUE: INCOMPLETE RECORD – LESS THAN 6% OF MONTANA IS SURVEYED FOR HERITAGE PLACES

#### GOAL: LOCATE - IDENTIFY AND DOCUMENT MONTANA’S HISTORIC, PRECONTACT, AND TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PLACES.

##### Objectives:

1. *Survey or support the survey of un-inventoried public and private properties throughout the state.*

##### 2018-2022 priorities/recommended activities:

- Prominent, but presently undocumented heritage places
  - Properties associated with under-served or under-represented groups
  - Historic communities with no previous historic inventory
  - Endangered or at-risk properties
  - Public properties, especially state and federal managed sites
  - Tribal cultural properties (if appropriate)
2. *Encourage a holistic, landscape approach, when possible, to the identification and explanation of the relationships among individual properties.*



MOOSE LAKE CAMP HD  
(PHOTO BY JOAN BROWNELL)

##### 2018-2022 priorities/recommended activities:

- Implement a successful cultural resource landscape case study
- Sponsor a landscape identification workshop with the National Park Service
- Identify potential rural agricultural landscapes
- Apply landscape approach to urban settings
- Investigate historic battlefields using KOCO military terrain analysis, per NPS ABPP guidance

3. *Enhance the management of and access to cultural resource property information.*

##### 2018-2022 priorities/recommended activities:

- Utilize the State Antiquities Database (SHPO) as a clearinghouse of property records
- Develop more public access to non-sensitive documentation
- Assist local inventories
- Contribute to the Montana Memory Project (Montana State Library)
- Develop data access and sharing agreements with tribes and land managing agencies to share and protect information



#### IV. ISSUE: WHAT IS IMPORTANT IN MONTANA AND WORTHY OF OUR PRESERVATION?

##### GOAL: EVALUATE - ASSESS THE SIGNIFICANCE AND INTEGRITY OF MONTANA'S HERITAGE PLACES

###### Objectives:

1. *Guide the development and use of historical contexts for evaluating the significance and integrity of Montana's precontact, historic, and traditional cultural sites.*

###### 2018-2022 priorities/recommended activities:

- Develop Multiple Property Documents (MPD) with contexts for related properties
- Expand the African American Heritage Places MPD to other communities
- Revive the *Montana Mainstreets* series of published local city histories
- Underwrite research and historic background for better understanding common or problematic property types
- Share best practices and make existing studies accessible



GHOST SIGN, BIG TIMBER  
(PHOTO BY BOB KISKEN)

2. *Promote forums that investigate and assess the significance of Montana's heritage properties.*

###### 2018-2022 priorities/recommended activities:

- Host National Register workshops, fieldwork, and other presentations to discuss property significance
- Advertise and promote attendance at State Preservation Review Board meetings
- Encourage regular meetings amongst heritage personnel of state and federal agencies
- Use social media to create and gauge public interest and ideas
- Invite professionals to discuss current research

3. *Encourage and assist owners to document and list properties in the National Register of Historic Places.*

###### 2018-2022 priorities/recommended activities:

- Develop more user-friendly step-by-step guidance
- Provide a clearinghouse of examples and best practices
- Maintain lists at the state and local level of the most significant Montana properties not yet listed in the National Register of Historic Places
- Seek financial support through grant funding and donations.
- Use historic anniversaries (e.g. WWI Centennial) to promote associated National Register property listings

## V. ISSUE: LACK OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES, SUPPORT AND POLITICAL CLOUT

### GOAL: ADVOCATE - SEEK AND SECURE SUPPORT OF PRESERVATION THROUGH FUNDING, INCENTIVES, AND LEGAL PROTECTIONS.

#### Objectives:

1. *Research, learn and promote the cultural, social, and economic benefits of historic preservation.*

#### 2018-2022 priorities/recommended activities:

- Conduct well-documented studies on the benefits of historic preservation in Montana, using recognized measures
- Create and share a digest of Montana case studies and success stories
- Link to national research and results
- Teach Montana Preseconomics 101

2. *Provide leadership and vision in historic preservation.*

#### 2018-2022 priorities/recommended activities:

- Public speaking and writing
- Local preservation assistance and training
- Outreach to communities
- Communicate pro-actively with or in response to elected officials, administrators, boards and decision-makers at all levels

3. *Encourage compliance with existing preservation legislation and encourage new laws and incentives to protect heritage properties.*

#### 2018-2022 priorities/recommended activities:

- Increase public agency awareness of historic preservation responsibilities
- Recognize and reward good public stewardship
- Identify and question areas of non-compliance
- Find and/or assist legislative sponsorship, as appropriate, for improving and funding historic preservation

4. *Seek and obtain additional financial resources to enhance and supplement existing funding for historic preservation.*

#### 2018-2022 priorities/recommended activities:

- Request increased state budget support for historic preservation in Montana, including state match for the programs of the Montana State Historic Preservation Office
- Identify cost-share opportunities and federal-state-private partnerships
- Enhance grant-writing skills
- Explore non-traditional sources of funding, including fees, donations and sponsorships
- Strengthen funding available for emergency situations
- Seek continued funding for battlefield landscape studies from the NPS American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP)

## VI. ISSUE: WORKING TOGETHER IN A LARGE STATE WITH FEW PEOPLE

### GOAL: COLLABORATE - WORK TOGETHER WITH PRESERVATION PARTNERS TO PRESERVE MONTANA'S HISTORIC, PRECONTACT, AND TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTIES.

#### Objectives:

1. *Reach out to federal, state, tribal, local, public and private preservation stakeholders.*

#### 2018-2022 priorities/recommended activities:

- Increase awareness among the different preservation programs and people within Montana
- Recruit expertise at the local, state, tribal and federal level as needed
- Respond to inquiries and requests from other preservation stakeholders

2. *Solidify existing and form new partnerships for the benefit of historic preservation*

#### 2018-2022 priorities/recommended activities:

- Sponsor or participate in forums to share ideas, experience, and information with colleagues and other like-minded individuals.
- Attend and share new information at established conferences and workshops
- Support and participate in the biennial Montana Preservation Road Show as a cross-section of Montana preservation programs and efforts.

3. *Meet and work regularly with tribal cultural representatives to facilitate more consideration of tribal perspectives in historic preservation.*

#### 2018-2022 priorities/recommended activities:

- Establish tribal consultation protocols
- Host or participate in Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) Summits
- Make indigenous collections accessible to collaborative management and stewardship

4. *Harness the growing momentum and local enthusiasm of the Montana Main Street Program and the larger work of the Montana Department of Commerce for historic preservation.*

#### 2018-2022 priorities/recommended activities:

- Advertise Department of Commerce assistance in planning and implementation
- Coordinate outreach and trainings with the Montana Main Street Program
- Strengthen connections between the Certified Local Government (CLG: SHPO/NPS) program and the Montana Main Street program



KALISPELL HD, A MONTANA MAIN STREET COMMUNITY  
(PHOTO BY MONTANA MAIN STREET)

## VII. ISSUE: WORKING OUTSIDE THE IMMEDIATE PRESERVATION COMMUNITY

### GOAL: INTEGRATE - INCORPORATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION INTO OTHER PROGRAMS, PROJECTS AND POLICIES THAT HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO BENEFIT OR AFFECT HERITAGE PROPERTIES.

#### Objectives:

1. *Integrate historic preservation in public planning, policy-making, and politics at all levels.*

#### 2018-2022 priorities/recommended activities:

- Meet with city-county planning departments to discuss historic preservation
- Increase visibility and standing of local historic preservation commissions
- Grow state legislator awareness
- Monitor state and federal agency stewardship and compliance
- Incorporate consideration of historic properties into disaster planning and recovery

2. *Participate in reviews and comments on undertakings involving heritage properties, pursuant to federal, state and local preservation laws.*

#### 2018-2022 priorities/recommended activities:

- Promote “A Citizens Guide to Section 106” and other public participation guidance
- Participate in public meetings and hearings, as appropriate
- Prepare written comments, reviews, and editorials
- Acknowledge good stewardship

3. *Engage with interest groups that may approach heritage properties from other perspectives*

#### 2018-2022 priorities/recommended activities:

- Contact and offer to meet with realtors, developers, contractors, outfitters/guides, architects, recreational and conservation groups, etc.
- Provide information regarding historic preservation philosophies and programs
- Participate in alternative conferences and trade shows

4. *Compile and make available answers to frequently asked questions about historic properties and historic preservation.*

#### 2018-2022 priorities/recommended activities:

- Speak to the myth and reality in being listed in the National Register of Historic Places, preservation law, and the monetary benefit of historic rehabilitation vs. replacement
- Provide easy access to resources for more information or points of contact
- Address most commonly asked questions first

5. *Gather public input on preservation priorities*

#### 2018-2022 priorities/recommended activities:

- Seek funding to contract for a professional public survey for development of the next Montana Historic Preservation Plan, 2023-2027



## VI. PLANNING CYCLE: 2018–2022



*PATHWAY THROUGH THE BIBLE, JOLIET (PHOTO BY KATE HAMPTON)*

*PRESERVATION MONTANA: The Montana Historic Preservation Plan 2018-2022* will apply to and be implemented over the calendar years 2018 and 2022. For each year in this 5-year cycle, its goals and objectives will form the basis for defining and prioritizing the activities of the Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), which are reported on by SHPO each year and available for comment. Other organizations are also encouraged to participate in the vision, goals, and objectives of this plan, and to report on their success.

Once approved by the National Park Service as meeting the standards and guidelines for state preservation plans, *PRESERVATION MONTANA* will be advertised widely and made available to others by SHPO upon request during its 5-year duration. The Plan will also be posted on the Montana Historic Preservation Office website at <http://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo/About/PreservationPlan> for reference and download.

Feedback on this Plan is welcomed and will be documented and discussed. In consultation with the National Park Service, adjustments may be made as needed over the cycle of the Plan. Comments on the Plan will also initiate the process for revising or replacing the Plan in 2022.

To comment on or receive a copy of *PRESERVATION MONTANA: The Montana Historic Preservation Plan 2018-2022*, please write, email, fax or call:

State Historic Preservation Office  
Montana Historical Society  
P.O. Box 201202  
Helena, MT 59620-1202  
(406) 444-7715  
(406) 444-2696 (FAX)  
[mtshpo@mt.gov](mailto:mtshpo@mt.gov)



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## MONTANA HERITAGE PROPERTIES AND CONTEXT

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**Montana Cultural Resource Annotated Bibliography System (CRABS)**. State Historic Preservation Office. The statewide library of reports describing efforts to identify, research and evaluate Montana's cultural resource properties, currently comprising about 32,500 mostly unpublished studies and documents, referenced by location (Township/Range/Section), properties recorded, and keywords for themes, property types and subject matter.

**Montana Project, Eligibility, and Effect Register (PEER)**. State Historic Preservation Office. A record of federal and state compliance consultations, including findings of National Register eligibility of and effect to cultural resource properties developed in consensus between MTSHPO and federal or state agencies. Includes Montana's buildings, structures, sites, and districts listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

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Montana Preservation Alliance [www.preservemontana.org](http://www.preservemontana.org)

National Park Service: Cultural Resources <https://www.nps.gov/history/index.htm>

NPS National Register of Historic Places [www.nps.gov/history/nr/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/index.htm)

NPS National Historic Landmark Program <https://www.nps.gov/nhl/>

NPS Archeology and Ethnography [www.nps.gov/archeology](http://www.nps.gov/archeology)

NPS Heritage Documentation programs (HABS/HAER/HALS) [www.nps.gov/history/hdp/](http://www.nps.gov/history/hdp/)

NPS NAGPRA <https://www.nps.gov/nagpra/>

NPS American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) <https://www.nps.gov/ABPP/>

NPS National Center for Preservation Technology [www.ncptt.nps.gov](http://www.ncptt.nps.gov)

NPS Heritage Preservation Services [https://www.nps.gov/nr/preservation\\_links.htm](https://www.nps.gov/nr/preservation_links.htm)

NPS Preservation Tax Act/Incentives: [www.nps.gov/tps/tax-incentives.htm](http://www.nps.gov/tps/tax-incentives.htm)

NPS Preservation Planning and Strategies [https://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/arch\\_stnds\\_1.htm](https://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/arch_stnds_1.htm)

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation [www.achp.gov](http://www.achp.gov)

National Trust for Historic Preservation [www.preservationnation.org](http://www.preservationnation.org)

## MONTANA HERITAGE PARTNERS

(see also: [www.mhs.mt.gov/shpo/PreservationHelp.asp](http://www.mhs.mt.gov/shpo/PreservationHelp.asp))

### Montana State Agencies:

Montana Arts Council (MAC)

PO Box 202201

Helena MT 59620-2201

406-444-6430

[www.art.mt.gov](http://www.art.mt.gov)

Montana Dept. of Administration (DOA)

Architecture and Engineering Division (A&E)

1520 East Sixth Ave., Rm. 33

PO Box 200103

Helena, MT 59620-0103

406-253-4091

[www.architecture.mt.gov](http://www.architecture.mt.gov)

Montana Dept. of Natural Resources (DNRC)

Trust Lands Division

1625 11th Ave.

PO Box 201601

Helena, MT 59620-1601

406-444-2074

[www.dnrc.mt.gov](http://www.dnrc.mt.gov)

Montana Dept. of Transportation (MDOT)

2701 Prospect Ave.

PO Box 201001

Helena, MT 59620-1001

406-444-6201

[www.mdt.mt.gov](http://www.mdt.mt.gov)

Montana Heritage Commission (MHC)

300 W. Wallace St./P.O. Box 338

Virginia City, MT

Helena MT 59755

406-843-5247

<http://montanaheritagecommission.mt.gov/>

Montana Historical Society (MHS)

225 North Roberts

PO Box 201201

Helena, MT 59620-1201

406-444-2694

<http://mhs.mt.gov/>

Montana Main Street

301 South Park Ave.

Helena, MT 59601

406.841.2756

<http://comdev.mt.gov/Programs/MainStreet>

Montana State Historic Preservation Office  
(SHPO)

Montana Historical Society

P.O. Box 201202

1410 8th Avenue

Helena, MT 59620-1202

406-444-7715

<http://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo>

Montana State Parks (MSP)

1420 East Sixth Ave.

PO Box 200701

Helena, MT 59620

406-444-2535

[www.stateparks.mt.gov/](http://www.stateparks.mt.gov/)

Montana State University (MSU)

Bozeman, MT 59717

406-994-0211

[www.montana.edu](http://www.montana.edu)

Museum of the Rockies (MOR)

600 West Kagy Boulevard

Bozeman, MT 59717

406-994-3466

[www.museumoftherockies.org](http://www.museumoftherockies.org)

Travel Montana

Montana Department of Commerce

PO Box 200533

Helena, MT 59620-0501

406-841-2870

<http://www.visitmt.com/>

University of Montana (UM)

32 Campus Drive

Missoula, MT 59801

406-243-0211

[www.umt.edu](http://www.umt.edu)

### **Montana Non-Profit Organizations:**

Billings Preservation Society

914 Division St.

Billings, MT 59101

406-256-5100

[www.mossmansion.com](http://www.mossmansion.com)

Butte Citizens for Preservation and Revitalization

(Butte CPR)

PO Box 164

Butte, MT 59703

[www.buttecpr.org](http://www.buttecpr.org)

Conrad Mansion

PO Box 1041

Kalispell, MT 59903

406-755-2166

[www.conradmansion.com](http://www.conradmansion.com)

Daly Mansion Preservation Trust

PO Box 223

Hamilton, MT 59840

406-363-6004

[www.dalymansion.org](http://www.dalymansion.org)

Humanities Montana

311 Brantly

Missoula, MT 59812

406-243-6022

[www.humanitiesmontana.org](http://www.humanitiesmontana.org)

Montana Archaeological Society (MAS)

P.O. Box 2123

Billings, MT 59103

406-994-6925

[www.mtarchaeologicalsociety.org/](http://www.mtarchaeologicalsociety.org/)

Montana History Foundation (MHF)

1750 N. Washington St.

Helena, MT 59601

406-449-3770

<https://www.mthistory.org/>

Montana Preservation Alliance (MPA)

516 N. Park Ave.

Helena, MT 59601

406-457-2822

[www.preservemontana.org](http://www.preservemontana.org)

Museums Association of Montana (MAM)

PO Box 1451

Helena, MT 59624

406-444-4713

[www.montanamuseums.org](http://www.montanamuseums.org)

Preservation Cascade, Inc.

1409 Fourth Ave. South

Great Falls, MT 59405-2415

406-452-5492Z

[www.montanas-archbridge.org](http://www.montanas-archbridge.org)

Preserve Historic Missoula

201 S. Fourth St. W. #2

Missoula, MT 59806

406-820-0302

[www.preservehistoricmissoula.org](http://www.preservehistoricmissoula.org)

Western Heritage Center (WHC)

2822 Montana Avenue

Billings MT 59101

406-256-6809

[www.ywhc.org](http://www.ywhc.org)

### **Certified Local Governments (CLG/Local Preservation Offices)**

<http://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo/Communitypres>

Anaconda-Deer Lodge County

Historic Preservation Office

800 S. Main Street

Anaconda MT 59711

406-563-7416

Billings/Yellowstone County

510 N. Broadway

4th Floor Parmly Library

Billings MT 59101

406-247-8622

<http://www.ci.billings.mt.us/516/Historic-Preservation>

City of Bozeman Planning Office  
PO Box 1230  
Bozeman MT 59771  
406-582-2272

<https://www.bozeman.net/government/community-development/historic-preservation>

Butte-Silver Bow County  
25 W Front Street  
Butte MT 59701  
406-497-5021

<http://www.bsb.mt.gov/505/Historic-Preservation>

Carbon County  
PO Box 881  
Red Lodge MT 59068  
406-446-3667

[www.carboncountyhitory.com](http://www.carboncountyhitory.com)

City of Deer Lodge  
300 Main Street  
Deer Lodge MT 59722  
406-846-2070

Great Falls/Cascade County  
PO Box 5021  
Great Falls MT 59401  
406-455-8435

<http://www.greatfallsmt.net/planning/historic-preservation>

Hardin/Big Horn County  
10 E. Railway Street/PO Box 317  
Hardin MT 59034  
406-665-2137

Havre/Hill County  
PO Box 500  
306 Third Ave Ste 104  
Havre MT 59501  
406-376-3230

<http://www.havrehillpreservation.org/>

Helena/Lewis & Clark County  
316 N Park  
Helena MT 59623  
406-447-8357

<http://www.lccountymt.gov/historic-preservation-commission.html>

Lewistown  
305 Watson  
Lewistown MT 59457  
406-535-1775

Livingston  
330 Bennett  
Livingston MT 59047  
(406) 222-4903  
[www.livingstonmontana.org/living/historic\\_preservation.html](http://www.livingstonmontana.org/living/historic_preservation.html)

Miles City  
907 B Main Street  
Miles City MT 59301  
406-234-3090  
[www.milescity-mt.org/hisoric-preservation/](http://www.milescity-mt.org/hisoric-preservation/)

Missoula/Missoula County  
435 Ryman  
Missoula MT 59802  
406-258-4706  
<http://mt-missoula.civicplus.com/index.aspx?NID=495>

Virginia City  
PO Box 35  
Virginia City MT 59755  
406-843-5321



### **Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs):**

Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes Cultural Resource Cte.

THPO

PO Box 1027

Fort Peck Agency

Poplar, MT 59255

406-768-5155

<http://www.fortpecktribes.org/crd/>

Blackfeet Nation Tribe

THPO

PO Box 2809

Browning, MT 59417

406-338-7406

Fort Belknap Indian Community

THPO

656 Agency Main Street

Harlem, MT 59526

406-353-8433

Fort Belknap - White Clay Society

PO Box 340

Hays, MT 59527

406-673-3366

Fort Belknap - Buffalo Chasers Society

PO Box 834

Harlem MT 59526

The Crow Tribe of Indians

THPO

P.O. Box 159

Crow Agency, MT 59022

406-638-3874

<http://crowthpo.org/>

Northern Cheyenne Tribe

THPO

PO Box 128- N. Cheyenne Agency

Lame Deer, MT 59043

406-477-6035

<https://www.facebook.com/NCTHPO/>

Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boys

THPO

R R 1 #544

Box Elder, MT 59521

406-395-4225

<http://nei-yahw.com/preservation.html>

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

THPO

PO Box 278

Pablo, MT 59855

406-675-2700

<http://www.csktribes.org/history-and-culture/cultural-preservation>

### **Regional/National Preservation**

Advisory Council for Historic Preservation (ACHP)

1100 Pennsylvania Ave. NW

Suite 809

Washington, D.C. 20004

[www.achp.gov](http://www.achp.gov)

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

316 N. 26th St.

Billings, MT

406-247-7925

<https://www.bia.gov/regional-offices/rocky-mountain>

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Montana State Office

5001 Southgate Drive

Billings, MT 59101

406-896-5000

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/cultural-heritage-and-paleontology>

Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)

Great Plains Regional Office

P.O. Box 36900

Billings, MT 59107-6900

406-247-7600

[www.usbr.gov](http://www.usbr.gov)

General Services Administration (GSA)

Rocky Mountain Region

One Denver Federal Center

Bldg. 41, Room 240

PO Box 25546

Denver, CO 80225-0546

[www.gsa.gov](http://www.gsa.gov)

National Conference of SHPOs  
444 N. Capitol St. NW  
Suite 342  
Washington, D.C. 20001-1512  
202-624-5465  
[www.ncshpo.org](http://www.ncshpo.org)

National Park Service (NPS)  
12795 Alameda Pkwy  
Denver, CO 80225  
303-969-2500  
[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP)  
Mountain/Plains Region  
535 16th St. Ste. 750  
Denver, CO 80202  
303-623-1504  
[www.preservationnation.org](http://www.preservationnation.org)

Preservation Action  
1350 Connecticut Ave. NW  
Suite 401  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
202-659-0915  
[www.preservationaction.org](http://www.preservationaction.org)

USDA Forest Service (USFS)  
Region One  
PO Box 7669  
Missoula, MT 59807  
406-329-3654  
[www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)

## APPENDIX: 2017 MONTANA PRESERVATION QUESTIONNAIRE SUMMARY

Montana Historic Preservation Plan Update 2018-2022

10/06/2017

### 2017 Questionnaire

**Question 1: What county do you live in?**

**Question 2: In terms of preserving the past are you a:**

- 1) Professional
- 2) History buff, volunteer, enthusiast
- 3) General public?

**Question 3: In your opinion, is historic preservation in Montana better off or worse than it was 5 years ago?**

- 1) Better
- 2) Worse
- 3) Same

**Question 4: *Preserving Montana, The Montana Historic Preservation Plan 2013-2017* has the following vision statement for our state: “Montana is a place that knows, respects, and celebrates its heritage, openly encouraging and supporting the preservation of its significant historic, pre-contact, and traditional cultural properties.” On a scale of 1-10 (with 10 = 100%), how close do you think Montana is today to realizing this vision?**

**Question 5: On a scale of 1-10, how effective do you feel are the overall current efforts to preserve significant heritage places in Montana?**

**Question 6: Whether entirely successful or not, is local preservation currently a substantive consideration in your community as it develops plans for future economic development, growth, and sustainability?**

- 1) Yes
- 2) No

**Question 7: If you had \$100,000 more to invest in improving historic preservation each year, how might you spend it? (e.g. projects, programs, studies, staff, marketing, donation, etc. – for whom and what?)**

**Question 8: What type of historic or archaeological property do you feel needs more priority attention for preservation? (e.g. schools, barns, tipi rings, theaters, bars, modernist buildings, etc.)**

**Question 9: What is a major issue or challenge facing historic preservation in Montana?**

**Question 10: What could the preservation community in Montana do to address this issue or challenge?**

**Total responses = 500**

**Q1: What county do you live in?**

42 out of 56 Montana counties represented and 9 western states.

Lewis & Clark County had the most responses with 138 (28%), followed by Missoula County with 52 (10%) and Gallatin County with 37 (7%).

**Q2: In terms of preserving the past are you a:**

	# of Responses	Percentage of Total
History Buff	193	38.60%
Professional	188	37.60%
General Public	118	23.60%
No Response	1	0.20%
TOTAL	500	100.00%

**Q3: In your opinion, is historic preservation in Montana better off or worse than it was 5 years ago?**

	# of Responses	Percentage of Total
Better	210	42.00%
Same	190	38.00%
Worse	90	18.00%
No Response	10	2.00%
TOTAL	500	100.00%

**Breakdown by Respondent Type**

	General Public	History Buff	Professional	TOTAL
Better	50 (42%)	88 (46%)	72 (38%)	210 (42%)
Same	49(42%)	79 (41%)	62 (33%)	190 (38%)
Worse	18 (15%)	24 (12%)	48 (26%)	90 (18%)
No Response	1 (1%)	2 (1%)	6 (3%)	9 (2%)
	118	193	188	*499

(\* plus 1 Unknown/No response)

Respondents who identified as history buffs were more likely to view historic preservation in Montana as “better,” while respondents who identified as professionals were more likely to view preservation as “worse” than it was 5 years ago. Responses from the general public came in about the average in all three categories. Interestingly, in Q4 and Q5, professionals were also more likely to have a negative view of preservation in Montana, while history buffs and the general public viewed the current status and efforts more positively.



**Q4: Preserving Montana, The Montana Historic Preservation Plan 2013-2017** has the following vision statement for our state: “Montana is a place that knows, respects, and celebrates its heritage, openly encouraging and supporting the preservation of its significant historic, precontact, and traditional cultural properties.” On a scale of 1-10 (with 10 = 100%), how close do you think Montana is today to realizing this vision?

Average:	6.24	62%
General Public:	6.46	65%
History Buff:	6.28	63%
Professionals:	6.01	60%

*Note: The 2012 Montana State Historic Preservation Plan Stakeholder Questionnaire asked a similar question with broadly similar middle-range results. In that survey 145 individuals (mostly professional stakeholders) responded to the following question: “To what extent do you find the following statement to be currently true?: “Montana is a place that knows, respects, and celebrates its heritage, openly encouraging and supporting the preservation of its significant historic, pre-contact, and traditional cultural properties.” Four possible answers were provided in 2012 comparable to 2017, as follows:*

13.7%	Right on the money	(2017 equivalency: 9-10)
82.2%	Some truth, but not across the board	(2017 equivalency: 6-8)
4.1%	More fiction than reality	(2017 equivalency: 3-5)
0.0%	Not true at all	(2017 equivalency: 1-2)

**Q5: On a scale of 1-10, how effective do you feel are the overall current efforts to preserve significant heritage places in Montana?**

Average	6.30	63%
General Public	6.37	64%
History Buff	6.21	62%
Professionals	6.01	60%

*Note: In the 2012 Montana State Historic Preservation Plan Stakeholder Questionnaire a similar question was asked, again with broadly similar middle-range results. In that survey 145 individuals (mostly professional stakeholders) responded to the following question: “In your experience, how effective are current efforts to preserve the significant historic, archaeological, and traditional cultural places of Montana?” Four possible answers were provided in 2012 that might be comparable to 2017, as follows:*

4.1%	Very effective	(2017 equivalency: 9-10)
49.1%	Usually effective	(2017 equivalency: 6-8)
43.4%	Sometimes effective	(2017 equivalency: 3-5)
3.4%	Not very effective	(2017 equivalency: 1-2)

**Q6: Whether entirely successful or not, is local preservation currently a substantive consideration in your community as it develops plans for future economic development, growth, and sustainability?**

	# of Responses	Percentage of Total
Yes	314	62.80%
No	164	32.80%
Not Sure	9	1.80%
No Response	13	2.60%
	500	100.00%

*Note: The 2012 Montana State Historic Preservation Plan Stakeholder Questionnaire asked a similar question but without the caveat of “whether successful or not.” In that survey 145 individuals (mostly professional stakeholders) responded to the following question: “Is historic preservation currently a substantive consideration in your community as it develops plans for growth, economic development, housing, etc.?” A yes/no response was required with significantly fewer respondents in 2012 replying “yes”, as follows:*

*Yes: 46.8%*

*No: 53.2%*

**Q7: If you had \$100,000 more to invest in improving historic preservation each year, how might you spend it? (e.g. projects, programs, studies, staff, marketing, donation, etc. – for whom and what?)**

	# of Responses	Percentage of Total
Funding for General Preservation	121	24.20%
Funding for Specific Projects	94	18.80%
Funding for Public Outreach/Education	85	17.00%
Funding for Marketing & Studies	72	14.40%
Funding for Preservation Grants, Funds and Donations	48	9.60%
Funding for Documentation/Digitization/Oral History	30	6.00%
Funding for Private Property Owners	6	1.20%
No Response	44	8.80%
	500	100.00%

This survey question was left open ended intentionally to allow individuals the freedom to name specific projects or ideas for which the hypothetical increase in funding could be applied. The MT SHPO received 500 responses that varied from one word to several paragraphs in length. The responses were reviewed and organized by common theme into eight categories.

**Funding for General Preservation:** Many of the responses SHPO received for this question were one word answers (i.e. programs, projects, donation, etc.). This is likely due to our seeding the survey question with these terms. In lieu of more specifics, we group these generic responses into one category, which is labeled “Funding for General Preservation.” This category received the most responses (121) and comprised 24% of the total.

**Funding for Specific Projects:** Ninety-four respondents, or 18% of the total, listed specific projects worthy of preservation. Specific historic properties, districts, landscapes, sites, museums, and preservation groups were identified. A complete list of the individual responses is available upon request.

**Funding for Public Outreach/Education:** Eighty-Five respondents, or 17% of the total, identified outreach and education as important and worthy of the hypothetical \$100k increase in funding. Interestingly outreach and education were not specifically mentioned in the question. These responses drove home the idea that to better preserve and protect Montana’s historic and cultural resources, Montanans must understand and appreciate the resources first. Ideas included preservation internships for students, education for young people, and outreach programs for preservation minded locals. Many comments focused on the perceived need to educate elected officials on the value of preservation. Public programs as well as trainings offered by the Montana SHPO were mentioned as ways to educate elected leaders and local communities. While the phrase “educate the general public” shows up often, ideas on exactly how to educate the public, or what specifically the public needs to hear, is absent from the responses.

**Funding for Marketing & Studies:** Seventy-two respondents, or 14% of the total, felt that funding for marketing and studies was most important, sometimes including professional or trained staff to implement these activities successfully. These comments identified marketing and staffing needs primarily at the local and state levels, especially funding for museum staff and grant writing staff. Respondents also called for funding to be used in identifying vulnerable historic properties. Several responses indicated that after threatened historic properties were identified, funds could then be used to create marketing campaigns to save them. The theme of heritage tourism, or the idea that historic properties are of economic value, shows up frequently in the responses.

**Funding for Preservation Grants, Funds and Donations:** Forty-eight respondents, or 9% of the total, suggested funding be used to create grants for preservation, or that the funds be donated directly to organizations like local historical societies. Suggested recipients included brick and mortar restoration projects, money for surveys, reports, creating revolving funds, project endowments, etc.

**Funding for Documentation/Digitization/Oral History:** Thirty respondents, or 6% of the total, indicated that the money should be spent on oral history projects or projects that focus on documenting and digitizing history. Specific projects noted were preserving documents from the Montana State Orphanage, Butte Archives, and Bozeman and Bridger Trails. Other comments focused on the need for improvements in available archaeological and historic data, including data on recorded sites and surveys.

**Funding for Private Property Owners:** Six respondents, or 1% of the total, identified funding private property as important. Comments included ideas for a revolving fund for repairs to private historic properties, grant funding for private property owners, and funding for education/outreach for owners of historic properties.

**No Response:** Forty-Four respondents, or 8% of the total, offered no response.

**Q8: What type of historic or archaeological property do you feel needs more priority attention for preservation? (e.g. schools, barns, tipi rings, theaters, bars, modernist buildings, etc.)**

	<b># of Responses</b>	<b>Percentage of Total</b>
Downtown Main Street/Historic Buildings	134	26.80%
Save it All/Endangered	84	16.80%
Native American/Archaeological sites and places	72	14.40%
Schools	64	12.80%
Rural Ag Properties (Barns, Ranches, Grain Elevators)	62	12.40%
Theaters	22	4.40%
Mining/Ghost Towns/Railroads	13	2.60%
Bars	8	1.60%
Museums	6	1.20%
No Response	35	7.00%
	500	100.00%

This survey question was also left open ended intentionally to allow individuals to name specific historic or archaeological property types. Responses were reviewed and organized by common theme into ten categories. One of the challenges in having an open-ended question was that respondents could list multiple property types, which is what happened in many cases. Because most respondents (except for those that offered no response) listed multiple property types that they felt needed priority attention, SHPO systematically selected the property type they listed first when choosing which of the ten categories to place their response in. For example, if a respondent listed “schools, barns, ghost towns, museums” we placed the response in the “Schools” category.

**Downtown Main Street/Historic Buildings:** One hundred thirty-four respondents, or 27% of the total, identified historic downtowns and/or historic buildings as needing priority attention. While the term “historic building” was used often as a generic identifier, “historic homes” and “commercial buildings” were also mentioned frequently. Several respondents listed specific types of architectural styles they hoped to see preserved. These included Modernist, Art Deco, Googie, Classic, Victorian, and Mid-Century.

One respondent commented that, “While preservation of structural remains are [sic] important for interpretive reasons, sites that still serve a functional use are of the utmost importance: be they bar, hotel, bank, or stable, nowhere else does history intersect with daily life in a more clear cut way then in Montana.” The idea that historic buildings should serve a practical purpose beyond being interpretive sites comes through in many of the comments. Respondents noted that these types of historic structures (the ones that continue to be used) are often social and economic cornerstones of the community and should be priorities when considering preservation efforts. One respondent shared his/her feelings that, “It’s a shame and wrong to quit using a building in the name of saving it. The building should be used and allowed to live on, with acknowledgement of its historic past.” Additional comments supported the idea that buildings that



provide economic value should be at the top of the list. One respondent noted that a building must have “Real historic value versus saving something old (by definition past a certain date in time).”

The comments also made clear that the decision-making process regarding which historic buildings receive priority attention should be left up to the local community. As one respondent put it, “Preservation that can enhance the community and its economics should be first consideration, as the item must be able to have ongoing funding to be truly preserved, even if it means moving a structure closer to, or in, a community.” The terms *community* and *local* show up multiple times in question eight, driving home the idea that preservation must begin at the local level.

**Save it All/Endangered:** Eighty-four respondents, or 17% of the total felt that all property types should be considered for saving, not a particular property type. Frustration over why some property types are selected for preservation and why others are not showed up in these comments. At the same time, several of these respondents indicated that the 50-year requirement to be “historic” is too short, and that 100 years should be the new cutoff. Other comments emphasized coming up with a plan to identify the “most threatened sites” first, instead of pursuing efforts to preserve and restore buildings or other property types that are not in immediate danger. Other comments despaired, noting that everything is at risk right now, especially large historic buildings in downtowns. The Missoula Mercantile was mentioned several times as well as Central School in Helena as examples of where preservation efforts failed. A common theme among comments was the idea that saving and preserving historic properties must begin at the community level. Whatever is most significant to the community is what should be preserved, and by default, is most likely to find support.

**Native American/Archaeological sites and places:** Seventy-two respondents, or around 14% of the total, identified Native American sites and/or archaeological sites as needing priority attention. Native American sites included traditional cultural places, bison kill sites, bison jumps, tipi rings, and rock art. Archaeological sites were also mentioned in broad terms (i.e. pre-contact aboriginal sites). This relatively high percentage may be elevated in part by a high percentage of response from attendees at the 2017 annual meeting of the Montana Archaeological Society (see below: Sources).

**Schools:** Sixty-four respondents, or 13% of the total, identified schools as needing priority attention. While a majority of responses were one word, (i.e. “schools”) one respondent added, “Schools; ideally figure out a way around the 'preservation vs students/kids' mentality.” This property type percentage may also be artificially elevated in part by its listing first in the question as an example property type.

**Rural Agricultural Properties (Barns, Ranches, Grain Elevators):** Sixty-two respondents, or 13% of the total identified rural property types as needing priority attention. The property types listed were barns, homesteads, farms, ranches, grain elevators, cabins, parks, log structures and lookouts. One respondent wrote, “Just about anything in rural areas and communities that don't have the funds or resources necessary to preserve their local history. Particularly historic barns, homes and homesteads, and local landmark historic structures or sites.”

**Theaters:** Twenty-two respondents, or 4% of the total, identified theaters as needing priority attention. No substantive explanatory comments were included; however this property type was provided as an example in the question.

**Mining/Ghost Towns/Railroads:** Thirteen, or 3% of the total, identified mining history, ghost towns, and railroads as needing priority attention. No substantive explanatory comments were included.

**Bars:** Eight respondents, or 2% of the total, identified bars as needing priority attention. No substantive comments were included, however as in the case of theaters this property type was provided as an example in the question.

**No Response:** Thirty-five respondents, or 7% of the total, offered no response to the question.

<b>Q9: What is a major issue or challenge facing historic preservation in Montana?</b>	<b># of Responses</b>	<b>Percentage of Total</b>
Lack of Funding/High cost to preserve	201	40.20%
Apathy/Ignorance/Lack of Education/Understanding or Awareness	85	17.00%
Growth and Development/Demolition	66	13.20%
Government/Elected Officials	38	7.60%
Lack of Public/Community Support	23	4.60%
Lack of Leadership from SHPO	3	0.60%
Other	44	8.80%
Unsure	7	1.40%
No Response	33	6.60%
	500	100.00%

This survey question was also left open ended intentionally to allow individuals the freedom to express what they view as major issues and/or challenges facing historic preservation in Montana. Responses received were reviewed and organized by common theme into nine categories.

**Lack of Funding/High Cost to Preserve:** Two hundred and one respondents, or a little over 40% of the total, identified lack of funding and/or the high cost of preservation as the major challenge facing historic preservation in Montana. While many of the comments focused on a general lack of funding from local, state, and federal governments as the main challenge, comments also identified more specifically the high costs of upkeep and restoration of historic properties as a pressing concern. For example, one respondent noted, “Historic properties contain hazards and remediation is expensive, this is an economic barrier and complete disincentive to preservation.” Other comments grappled with the problem of what should and should not be preserved. One respondent suggested, “The cost of maintaining large historic structures increases drastically each year, so significant structural projects keep getting put off until they reach emergency status. By then it might be too late.” Another respondent argued, “There is a lot of work, and at some point some of the buildings deemed historic, may be so far gone that it is beyond saving and the money could be spent on prevention of a building not so far gone.”

While it is clear that everyone would like to see more funding for preservation, there are some that believe what money is available isn’t currently being spent wisely. For example, one respondent stated, “There is a crucial need to have an informed economic discussion of historic preservation impacts before haphazardly introducing legislation for preservation funds every session. The state history museum saga has taken away

from the important need for discussion of local preservation across the state. Agencies should better collaborate to help provide direction and thoughtful leadership to these local efforts.” Survey responses pointed to local communities as the best sources for support and funding for historic preservation. As one respondent pointed out, “Montana is geographically a massive state with a lot of historic structures and sites to consider.”

**Apathy/Ignorance/Lack of Education/Understanding or Awareness:** Eighty-five respondents, or 17% of the total, identified apathy, ignorance, a lack of education/understanding or awareness as a serious challenge facing historic preservation in Montana. Respondents noted the need to educate both young and old regarding the value of historic preservation. As one respondent suggested, “Montanans generally seem to not know their history as well as being more enamored with our wonderful natural resources. I believe this is due to the state and local historians missing the mark as educators and sellers of our culturally significant sites. More funding to establish historical outreach programs and greater involvement of our historians is needed in all of our communities!”

Again, the responses convey the idea that communities are ground zero for the success or failure of historic preservation. To address apathy and lack of education, funding is needed at the local level. One respondent pointed out, preservation efforts have become more “reactive than proactive.” To change this, the comments suggested that education must happen at the local level. While many of the respondents agreed that education is needed, who will teach, what should be taught, and how it will be funded is less clear.

**Growth and Development/Demolition:** Sixty-six respondents, or 13% of the total identified new growth and development with consequential demolition of old (historic) properties as a serious challenge to historic preservation in Montana. Survey respondents clearly see a problem with unchecked urban growth and local governments that don’t seem to value preservation, or lack the laws necessary to stop demolition of historic structures. The historic Missoula Mercantile was mentioned several times in the comments. The terms “developer” and “greed” are often used in the same sentence. Many respondents also viewed outsiders as a threat. For example, one respondent stated, “People coming in or buying into MT who don’t care about our rich history, they just want to make a buck or millions.” Another respondent stated there is a problem, “Allowing non-Montanans to change/destroy/modernize historical sites, etc.” Another complained that “Nonnatives buying land around or finding things and not reporting to historical society; the apparent demand to modernize everything.”

While some respondents blamed, “nonnatives” for growth and development, other comments identified the need to bolster and maintain interest in local history to balance development with historic preservation. As one respondent pointed out, the challenge is finding balance between “The booming economy and the desire to tear down old buildings/houses to build a new building/house that will generate more income.” To protect historic structures, the community must value those structures and the structures must provide economic benefit to the community. As another respondent stated, “There must be incentives for developers to invest in preserving historic buildings rather than build a new structure.”

**Government/Elected Officials:** Thirty-eight respondents, or 8% of the total, identified elected officials or government as a serious challenge to historic preservation in Montana. City government as well as the state legislature were called out. The current administration as well as Republicans in general were also viewed negatively, and were often blamed for a lack of funding and community support. However, a few respondents pointed out that it’s often more complex; as one respondent wrote, “Local government

councils which are challenged with keeping the resources that make a community attractive to investors and citizens, while curtailing unexamined development. Hard challenges.”

**Lack of Public/Community Support:** Twenty-three respondents, or 5% of the total, identified lack of community support as a major issue. Interestingly, while the theme of community involvement shows up throughout the survey, relatively few respondents viewed lack of community support as a concern.

**Lack of Leadership from SHPO:** Three respondents called on SHPO at the state level to improve its work with local communities, noting SHPO has, “A lack of cooperating/communicating with people in the communities you are targeting. SHPO has a snob complex it needs to address.” Another respondent noted, “The SHPO's office seems to only provide comments, and lacks any sort of regulatory authority to require mitigation, if historic resources are threatened.” The third comment simply stated “Absolutely no leadership from SHPO.”

**Other:** Forty-four respondents, or around 9% of the total, identified a variety of issues or challenges that don't fit well within the other categories. These responses included: the weather, amateur archaeologists, boneheads from the east, volunteers, vandalism, lawsuits, decay, anti-rancher racism, etc. as problems for historic preservation.

**Unsure:** Seven respondents, or 1% of the total, stated that they were unsure.

**No Response:** Thirty-three respondents, or 7% of the total, offered no response.

**Q10: What could the preservation community in Montana do to address this issue or challenge?**

Category	# of Responses	Percentage of Total
Marketing Campaigns/Outreach/Fundraising	180	36.00%
Education	98	19.60%
Vote for New Leadership/Lobby for Change	49	9.80%
Recommendations for SHPO	47	9.40%
Other	53	10.60%
Unsure	20	4.00%
No Response	53	10.60%
	500	100.00%

This survey question was left open ended intentionally to allow individuals the freedom to express their ideas on what could be done to address the issues and challenges raised in the previous question. As before, responses were reviewed and organized by common theme into seven categories.

**Marketing Campaigns/Outreach/Fundraising:** One hundred eighty respondents, or 36% of the total, identified marketing campaigns, fundraising, and/or community outreach as the best remedy to address the challenges and issues identified in Question Nine. As in previous responses, respondents listed the “local



community” as the place where preservation efforts must begin. More specifically, comments highlighted the need to “Showcase/publicize specific examples of success, perhaps with social media attention, awards, public thanks.” Many respondents noted that a better job needed to be done connecting historic preservation with economic stability. For example, one respondent noted, “Celebrate the value of historic preservation in generating revenue for the state and local communities. Establish a connection with historic preservation values in the marketplace.” Another respondent stated, “Emphasize projects that have improved economics in communities to squash the belief that preservation stymies economic development.” Another respondent argued that there is room to improve by “Working with architects/contractors/business to highlight the positive effects of historic preservation.”

Furthermore, the idea that local communities should be “proactive” instead of “reactive” shows up throughout. To be “proactive” many of the comments highlighted the need for aggressive marketing campaigns to identify threatened structures and raise funds to save them. However, as one respondent pointed out, marketing campaigns that teach people about the value of preservation don’t necessarily save historic buildings; “We can’t fight big money developers without our own money - be it grants, tax credits, or revolving funds.” While many of the comments identified the need for more fundraising, exactly how the fundraising should be done is absent. Most of the comments use generic statements, i.e. “we need more fundraising, more money for grants, advocate for more funding, etc.” How to successfully fundraise for historic preservation seems to be less clear.

**Education:** Ninety-eight respondents, or 20% of the total, identified education to address challenges and issues facing historic preservation. While many of the respondents simply wrote “education, or better education,” others outlined that different types of education were needed for different groups (i.e. youth, adults, civic leaders, developers, legislators, etc.) The common theme throughout the responses was that when these groups better understand historic preservation they will value it and support it financially. As one respondent suggested, we need to “1) Develop materials and programs to educate and involve the public to impress upon them how the preservation of historic sites and properties benefits the economy and quality of life for residents of the state. 2) With this understanding comes greater financial support and investment.”

Education is often tied to marketing and outreach efforts. In many cases the comments noted both “education” and “outreach/marketing” in the same sentence. For example, one respondent wrote of the need for “Increased public education knowledge re: LOCAL and REGIONAL benefits of historic preservation and archaeology (especially of school-age children), increased community outreach at local level and in rural communities, increased opportunities for public involvement in historic preservation issues (including hands-on/active participation where possible, which I think gives people more of a personal investment).” For most respondents, generating “personal investment” in historic preservation is the end goal. And succeeding is through a combination of education and marketing/outreach. Therefore, when combined, the number of responses in the Marketing/Outreach and Education categories exceeds 55% of total responses. More than half of the 500 respondents feel that some combination of education and marketing/outreach is needed to change mindsets and behavior to address the challenges and issues to historic preservation.

**Vote for New Leadership/Lobby for Legislative Change:** Forty-nine respondents, or 9% of the total, identified electing new leadership and/or lobbying for legislative or budget-related change as the best solution to address the challenges and issues facing preservation. A specific political party or philosophy was

identified as a problem in some cases, however, most were generic or stated something along the lines of needing to “get organized, lobby legislature and local city councils/local government.”

A few respondents did call out the state legislature directly. For example, one respondent wrote, “The MT Dept. of Commerce has data that tourists are coming to MT and falling in love with our culture and arts scene. If this is such an asset we need to be able to both preserve and promote it for the tourism economy. I am so disappointed in ALL our state leadership for not making a strong stand last legislative session. I realize that it's time to move on and think forward, but I am having trouble doing that!”

Several respondents also identified specifics. For example, “Lobby state legislature for state tax credit for rehabilitation/preservation projects meeting SOI Standards for commercial AND RESIDENTIAL properties.” Another comment noted the need for “Rule making or codifying preservation at local level - with teeth!” And one respondent wrote, “Preservation professionals and stakeholders can create a task force to begin to strengthen state and municipal preservation ordinances and laws. All the tools for promoting and enforcing preservation right now lack the teeth to ensure sensitive adaptive reuse instead of demolition. A task force, working together with legislators, and looking at other states with stronger laws, could take a step-by-step approach to implementation in MT.”

**Recommendations for SHPO:** Forty-seven respondents, or 9% of the total, complimented, criticized or made specific suggestions/recommendations for the MT SHPO and its programs. Many of these respondents noted that they want greater funding and support for Certified Local Governments (CLGs). Another respondent wrote that SHPO needs to be more involved in “Process guidelines/regulations to make developers 'stop and think' about the long-term effects of their actions.”

Several respondents also suggested that SHPO increase its advisory role and offer more workshops and trainings. One respondent wrote, “Help create a better toolkit for local preservation efforts, i.e. tax benefits, historic conservation easements etc. Help with creating teeth! Thank you for all you do!” Another respondent noted the need for, “Travelling workshops to refresh the education level of City Councils, Planning Boards, County Commissioners. And better follow-up support or availability to them, as they run into questions.”

Finally, a few respondents listed their frustration with SHPO. One respondent wrote that SHPO needs to “Reach out and work with people. Get out of Helena and realize there are others more knowledgeable than you are in communities you are targeting and support their efforts.” Another respondent wrote, “Stand up and be counted on preservation issues - as Missoula Mercantile. Allow yourselves to be excited about your work.”

**Other:** Fifty-three comments, or around 10% of the total responses didn't fit well into any one category. These responses cover a range of topics and are best understood by reading each comment individually.

**Unsure:** Twenty respondents, or around 4% of the total, were unsure.

**No Response:** Fifty-three respondents, or 11% of the total, offered no response.

### **Survey Sources:**

In gathering 500 survey questionnaire responses MT SHPO reached out over a period of 5 months (April – August 2017) directly to an estimated 5,000 individuals via list-serves, email invitations, Facebook, our web-page, meetings and other forums, in addition to one-on-one interactions. An additional unknown number of people heard about the survey indirectly through word-of-mouth. Some of the direct sources were:

Sources	Estimated # of People Contacted	# of Completed Responses	% of Individuals that Completed Survey
Montana Historical Society (MHS) staff	69	Combined 117	8.67%
Museum Assoc of Montana List-Serve	139		
Montana Library Association List-Serve	991		
MHS Montana Teachers' List-Serve	150		
MHS Facebook Post April 27, 2017	1,000	148	14.80%
SHPO stakeholder email Lists, Montana Chamber of Commerce, Montana Preservation Alliance Board and Membership, Montana History Foundation Board	1,500	84	5.60%
Facebook Post July 20, 2017	1,000	100	10.00%
Email reminder to federal and state agencies and consultants	100	10	10.00%
Montana Archaeological Society Meeting April 2017 (paper copies of survey)	80	41	51.25%
Total	5,029	500	9.94%

## #Mttimetraveler Photo Campaign

As part of the update of Montana State Historic Preservation Plan for 2018-2022, the Montana SHPO created a photo campaign to help celebrate and identify historic properties and cultural resources across the state. Montanans were encouraged to submit photos via social media and email using the hashtag #mttimetraveler. The Montana SHPO received over 100 photos, which can be viewed [here](#). Some of these photos are also featured in this document. Please see below for a list of photo credits.

### Frontispiece Photo Collage, Front from Left to Right, Top to Bottom

- The James Bar, Missoula, Montana. Photo by Instagram user historicmissoula.
- Archie Bray, Helena, Montana. Photo by Instagram user ccsaintdawg.
- Central School, Helena, Montana. Photo by Madison Evanson.
- Round Red Barn, Collins, Montana. Photo by Instagram user toddklassy.
- Daniels County Museum and Pioneer Town, Scobey, Montana. Photo by Daniels County Museum.
- Square Butte Wilderness Study Area, Chouteau County, Montana. Photo by Zane Fulbright.
- Ghost Sign on the Grand Hotel, Big Timber, Montana. Photo by Bob Kisken
- Hardy Creek "Untouchables" Bridge, Cascade County, Montana. Photo by Instagram user firstcastflywear.
- Father Ravalli's Apple Tree, St. Mary's Mission, Stevensville, Montana. Photo by Ellen Baumler.

### Frontispiece Photo Collage, Back from Left to Right, Top to Bottom

- Travelers' Rest State Park - home of the only archaeologically verified campsite of the Lewis & Clark Expedition, Lolo, Montana. Photo by Molly Stockdale.
- Town & Country Lounge Bar, Missoula, Montana. Photo by Instagram user historicmissoula.
- Metis and Blackfeet historic sites along the Rocky Mountain Front. Photo by Instagram user mskohl.
- The Parrot Confectionery, Helena, Montana. Photo by Instagram user ccsaintdawg.
- St. Mary's Chapel, Stevensville, Montana. Photo by Colleen Meyer.
- Grain Elevator, Hobson, Montana. Photo by Instagram user mskohl.
- Axtell Bridge, Gallitan County, Montana. Photo by Jon Axline.

### Backplate Photo Collage, Front from Left to Right, Top to Bottom

- Fort Peck Theatre, Fork Peck, Montana. Photo by Instagram user cwbrown333.
- Archaeology, Absarokee Agency, Montana. Photo by Crystal Alegria.
- Judith River Ranger Station, Judith Basin County, Montana. Photo by Ellen Baumler.
- St. Helena Cathedral, Helena, Montana. Photo by Instagram user ccsaintdawg.
- Babcock Theatre, Billings, Montana. Photo by Carroll Van West.
- Pioneer Cabin, Helena, Montana. Photo by Instagram user ccsaintdawg.

### Backplate Photo Collage, Back, From Left to Right, Top to Bottom

- Madison Buffalo Jump, Gallatin County, Montana. Photo by Chad Kneedler.
- Grave of Frank Little, Butte, Montana. Photo by Instagram user mskohl.
- Fort Missoula, Missoula Montana. Photo by Instagram user historicmissoula.
- Sunset at Medicine Rocks State Park on the eve of its 60th birthday celebration, Carter County, Montana. Photo by Tim Urbaniak.
- Grizzly Gulch Lime Kilns, Helena, Montana. Photo by Instagram user ccsaintdawg.
- Garnet Ghost Town, Granite County, Montana. Photo by Instagram user historicmissoula.
- Abandoned grain elevator, Loma, Montana. Photo by Instagram user toddklassy.
- The Elk Bar, Chinook, Montana. Photo by Carroll Van West.
- Roadside jail, Martinsdale, Montana. Photo by Instagram user mskohl.











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