

**MONTANA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Federal FY2020
Annual Report of Activities
(October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020)**

in accordance with
PRESERVATION MONTANA: The Montana Historic Preservation Plan 2018-2022
(<http://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo/About/PreservationPlan>)



December 2020

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On the cover:

I.G. Baker House, Fort Benton, Chouteau County, MT

Listed in the Fort Benton National Historic District on November 5, 1961, the I.G. Baker House is a double-pile, wood-clad, adobe house built sometime between 1865 and 1876. It is one of Montana's earliest remaining buildings constructed during the state's territorial era, when Fort Benton was as far west as the Missouri River's waters were navigable. From Fort Benton, goods were transported to and from gold fields, early homesteads, and forts.

The Montana SHPO is proud to grant the Fort Benton Community Improvement Association (CIA) \$66,480 for their \$110,800 preservation project. The basis of the CIA's plan is an exhaustive historic structure report (HSR) researched and written by Architect, Ken Sievert. Mr. Sievert provided SHPO with drafts of the HSR throughout its writing and presented a final copy in November 2019.

The I.G. Baker House and six other brick and mortar projects are funded through SHPO's Revitalizing Montana's Rural Heritage Grant (RMRH). A \$391,067 grant from the National Park Service's (NPS) Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program provides the majority of RMRH funding.

Images on file at the Montana Historical Society and Montana SHPO.

The activities that are the subject of this report have been financed in large part with federal funds (Historic Preservation Fund) from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. However, the contents and opinions expressed in the report do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior.



This report This report is written in honor of rancher and father of western archaeology,
Professor George Frison 1924-2020

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Goals and Objectives

I. ISSUE: LACK OF PUBLIC AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING

GOAL I: 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 II: 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 that preservation workshops and conferences are 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

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

GOAL III: 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.*

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 IV: 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

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 V: 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 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 Preservation Economics 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 Montana State Historic Preservation Office
- Identify cost-share opportunities and federal-state-private partnerships
- Enhance grant-writing skills
- Explore other 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 VI: 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

VII. ISSUE: WORKING OUTSIDE OF THE IMMEDIATE PRESERVATION COMMUNITY

GOAL VII: INTEGRATE - INCORPORATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION INTO OTHER PROGRAMS, PROJECTS AND POLICIES THAT HAVE POTENTIAL TO BENEFIT OR HARM 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 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 how-to participate 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 myths and realities of historic preservation
- 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

FY2020 Montana State Historic Preservation Office Success Stories

Revitalizing Montana's Rural Heritage Grant Program

<https://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo/RMRH>

MT SHPO has long desired to financially support undercapitalized preservation projects and is fortunate to realize this aspiration a \$391,067 National Park Service (NPS) Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Subgrant (HRSP). The HRSP enables SHPO to establish the Revitalizing Montana's Rural Heritage grant (RMRH). SHPO is augmenting this with \$100,000 in HPF funds (P20AF00031) to award **\$491,067** to eight (8) brick-and-mortar projects in rural Montana. Grant matches exceed \$6 million.

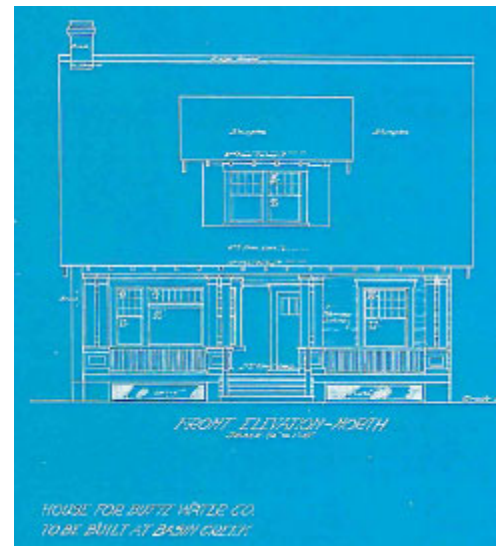
SHPO's one-time \$100,000 HPF budget surplus comes from staff vacancies, an increase in HPF funds, and absence of travel and events due to COVID.

Between Fall 2019 and 2020, SHPO's Kate Hampton and Pete Brown created an RMRH program framework, promoted it, worked with applicants, convened a scoring committee, conducted environmental reviews, and established contracts. The committee includes an architect on the State Historic Preservation Review Board (Board), two grant managers from Montana Department of Commerce's Mainstreet Program, Kate Hampton, and Pete Brown. The committee narrowed a field of 28 applicants down to eight (8) who contracted with SHPO in August 2020. These eight projects include:

- Basin Creek Caretakers House, Silver Bow County; to be nominated; CLG; \$100,000
- Broadway Apartments, Lewistown, Fergus County; listed; CLG; \$40,000
- Central School, Roundup, Musselshell County; listed; \$60,000
- Dion Block, Glendive, Dawson County; listed; \$65,000
- F.M. Mack Mercantile, Augusta, Lewis & Clark County; to be nominated; CLG; \$24,500
- I.G. Baker House, Fort Benton, Chouteau County; contributing to NHL district; \$66,480
- Montana Hotel, Anaconda, Deer Lodge County; contrib. to NHL district; CLG; \$54,061
- Waterworks Museum, Miles City, Custer County, listed; CLG; \$20,306



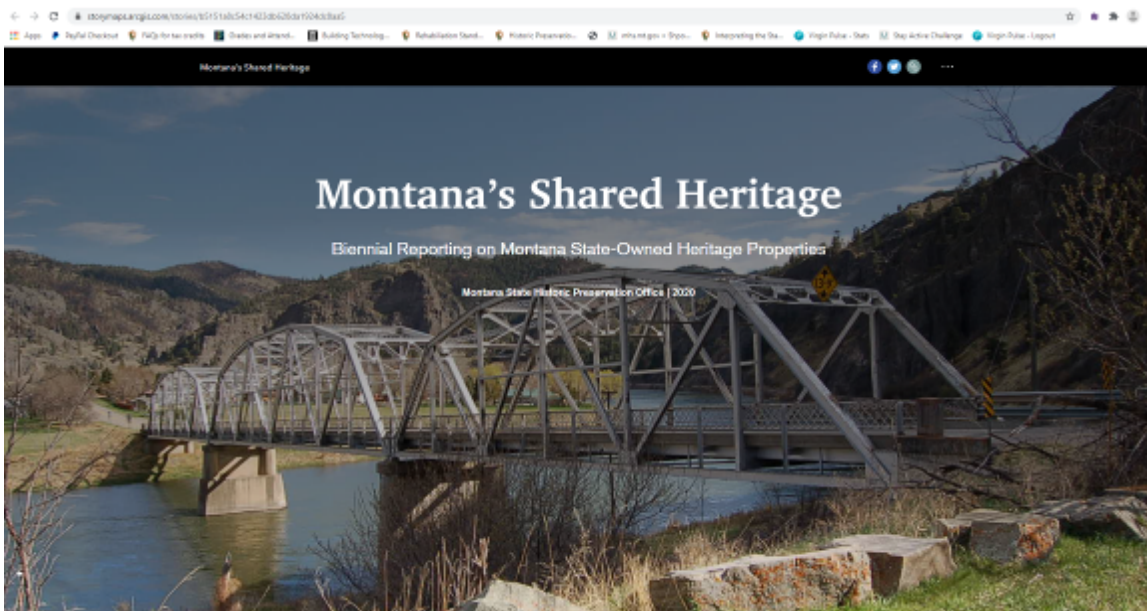
Basin Creek Caretakers House to be rehabilitated and nominated to the National Register with \$100,000 of HPF (P20AF00031).



Improving Consultation under the State Antiquities Act

The Montana Legislature enacted the State Antiquities Act in 1973. Public pressure convinced lawmakers to protect the state's cultural resources from souvenir hunters, neglect, and agency decisions made without professional preservation input. Since 1973, the act has been amended and refined to reflect the National Historic Preservation Act, and criteria for *state heritage properties* mirrors National Register criteria. The twelve agencies that own heritage properties report to SHPO and the Board biennially on their heritage property stewardship over the biennium. To promote stewardship, SHPO has encouraged agencies to consult, has supported survey work, and National Register nominations. Despite this and biennial reporting, agencies plan large scale projects without SHPO input.

Following 2020's biennial report, SHPO staff and the Board met virtually with agencies to discuss reports, expectations for consultation under the Act, and upcoming projects. To remind agencies of their legal obligations under the Act, to formalize SHPO's expectations of agencies, and to streamline consultation, SHPO is establishing programmatic agreements with the Montana Department of Administration, the Montana Heritage Commission, University System, and Montana Corrections, which manages the Historic Prison Museum. These agencies own numerous significant heritage properties and lack cultural resources staffing.



SHPO's report to the Montana Legislature on State Agency Heritage Stewardship.

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/b5151a8c54c1423db628da1924dc8aa5>

Fort Harrison VA and Freedom's Path Tax Credit Project

The National Register listed Fort Harrison Veterans Administration Hospital Historic District occupies 83 acres in the Helena valley. The functioning hospital and adjacent rehabilitated buildings are set in the fort's historic core. Twenty-five contributing buildings include warehouses, a steam plant, residences, and current and former hospitals, built from 1895 and 1957. The ten residences and original hospital front the historic parade ground. These buildings were mothballed for over 20 years with no plan for redevelopment.

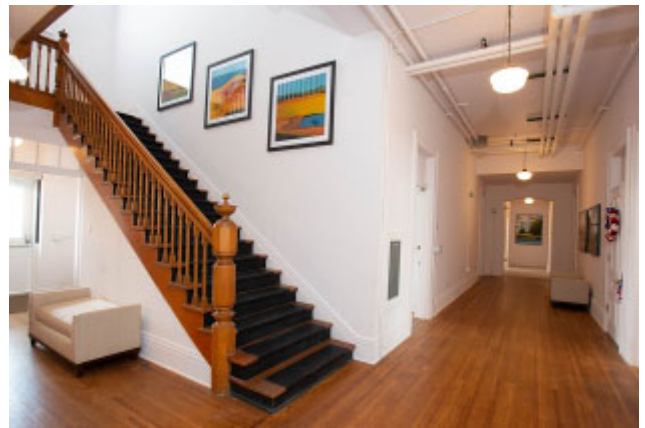


Original Post Hospital, Ft. Harrison VA, Helena

In 2017, the VA entered into an Enhanced Use Lease agreement with Beneficial Communities to provide housing for veterans at risk of homelessness. The Freedom's Path project combined federal and state tax incentives to capitalize the \$11 million project. Federal Rehab Tax Credits applied to \$9.6 million in qualified rehab expenses were key to making the project work.

Because the residential buildings are duplexes, some of which are three stories, they and the historic hospital were good candidates for subdividing. The program carved out 26 residential units from eleven buildings safeguarding the buildings' future and repopulating the park-like Ft. Harrison grounds with activity.

https://helenair.com/news/local/housing-for-low-income-vets-opening-soon-at-fort-harrison/article_e8e2f5ee-6ecf-5f0a-bf8a-902697c507bc.html



Original Post Hospital Foyer, Ft. Harrison VA, Helena

ADMINISTRATIVE PROGRAM FY2020

. Perform regular, allowable administrative activities that contribute to the preservation of Montana's cultural resource properties, including: budget formulation; personnel management and staff development; administrative organization; grant, sub-grant and contract management; and responsible fiscal policies and procedures (2018-2022 Goals/Objectives: V.4, VI.2)

- ✓ Complied with state and National Park Service (NPS) policies and procedures in the ongoing budgeting, expenditure, and accounting for the FY2020 annual Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) federal grant allocation to Montana SHPO totaling \$878,341.
- ✓ Documented the required 40% non-federal state match (\$585,560.67) to the FY20 HPF grant. Most of Montana's cash and in-kind match derives from the allowable documented activities of local preservation offices in the form of over-match to the 10% required HPF pass-through to Certified Local Government communities, as administered by SHPO. Additional eligible state match derives from state bed-tax support of the Montana National Register sign program, private grants, program revenue (fees), donated State Preservation Review Board and volunteer services, and certain state general funding as provided in the Montana Historical Society budget (FTE grant manager position).
- ✓ Awarded in FY2019 and now administering \$491,067 in HPF dollars for brick-and-mortar subgrants. The Revitalizing Montana's Rural Heritage Grant combines a \$391,067 Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Subgrant (HRSP), and \$100,000 in HPF funds (P20AF00031). Grantees are in eight (8) communities across the state, some of which have had little SHPO-related preservation activity for decades. The program will also yield two National Register nominations. {2018-2022 Plan Goals/Objectives IV.3; V.4}
- ✓ Awarded \$50,000 from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and \$15,000 from the Greater Montana Foundation to supplement the FY19 \$27,052 National Park Service *Underrepresented Communities* (URC) grant in FY19, SHPO has a combined total of \$103,400 to produce a documentary in FY21 on the historic African American experience in Montana. SHPO is assembling an advisory committee of historians versed in the historic African American experience in the West. {2018-2022 Plan Goals/Objectives II.1, 3, 4; IV.1, 2; V.4}
- ✓ Using revenue from SHPO's file search service to verify and digitize information for inclusion in SHPO's cultural records database and GIS mapping system. SHPO is contracting with former Cultural Records Assistant, Steffany Wood to facilitate and proof work by University of Montana (UM) Anthropology students. Students are focusing on cultural sites in multiple western Montana counties. {2018-2022 Plan Goals/Objectives III.3}
- ✓ Allocated \$187,835 in FY20 HPF to Montana's 16 Certified Local Governments (CLGs), exceeding the 10% required HPF pass-through. Developed sub-grant contracts and processed CLG semi-annual reports and requests for reimbursement in a timely manner, ensuring use of HPF for allowable expenses. {2018-2022 Plan Goals/Objectives V.2, VI.2, VII.1}
- ✓ SHPO maintained professional staffing requirements with staff meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Professional Qualifications in historic preservation, history, architectural history, and archaeology. SHPO staff (9.5 FTE) in FY20 are:

Peter Brown – State Historic Preservation Officer

Planning/Administration/Compliance

Meets the SOI Professional Qualifications for **Historic Architecture, Architectural History**

M.S. Historic Preservation;
Architectural History with emphasis in
historic building technology

John Boughton – National Register Coordinator

National Register/Survey and Inventory

Meets the SOI Professional Qualifications for **History, Archaeology, and Architectural History**

M.A. Anthropology;
emphasis in Archaeology

Eric Newcombe – Historic Architectural Specialist

Preservation Tax Incentives/Compliance/ Development, Acquisition and Covenants

Meets the SOI Professional Qualifications for **Historic Architecture, Architectural History**

M.S. Historic Preservation;
emphasis Architectural History

Kate Hampton – Community Preservation Coordinator

CLG Coordinator/National Register/Survey

Meets the SOI Professional Qualifications for **History, and Architectural History**

M.A. History;
emphasis in Western U.S. History

Melissa Munson – Administrative Assistant

Administration

B.S. Biology & Botanical Sciences

Vickie Sheppard – HPF Grants Contracts

Grants Administration/CLG assistance

Master of Accounting

Damon Murdo – Cultural Records Manager

Survey and Inventory/Compliance

Meets the SOI Professional Qualifications for **Archaeology**

M.A. Anthropology, Forensic Anthropology
and Archaeology

Jolene Keen – Cultural Records Assistant

Survey and Inventory

M.S. Mapping & Cartographic Science

Laura Evilsizer – Sec. 106 Compliance Officer

Compliance

Meets the SOI Professional Qualifications for **Archaeology**

M.A. in Anthropology; emphasis in
Archaeology & Cultural Resource
Management

Jessica Bush – State Archaeologist

Survey and Inventory / Planning / Compliance

Meets the SOI Professional Qualifications for **Archaeology**

M.A. Anthropology; emphasis
in Archaeology

- ✓ Former Sec. 106 Compliance Officer, Jessica Bush was promoted to State Archaeologist on October 11, 2019.
- ✓ Melissa Munson became SHPO's Administrative Assistant on November 18, 2019.
- ✓ Laura Evilsizer joined SHPO as its Sec. 106 Compliance Officer on December 16, 2019.
- ✓ After seven months as Acting SHPO, Montana Governor Steve Bullock appointed former Historic Architecture Specialist, Pete Brown as Montana's new State Historic Preservation Officer on February 3, 2020.
- ✓ Eric Newcombe became SHPO Historic Architecture Specialist on May 26, 2020.

- ✓ Grants Manager, Craig Mrock left SHPO on March 20, 2020. SHPO hired Vickie Sheppard who began on May 26, 2020.
- ✓ All Montana SHPO positions in FY20 are fully federally funded (HPF), except the Cultural Records Assistant (revenue-funded) and the Grants Contracts Coordinator (revenue-funded and state-funded).
- ✓ Staff development: attendance and participation in professional conferences, workshops, in-person trainings were replaced after March 2020 with webinars and online forums to maintain and enhance staff knowledge, skills, and abilities: {2018-2022 Plan Goals/Objectives V.1&2, VI.2}
 - National Park Service Grants Manager Training, Shepherdstown, WV; October 7-11, 2019. (Craig Mrock).
 - National Park Service Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit Reviewer Online Training; August 2020 (Eric Newcombe).
 - Harassment Awareness Training, November 12, 2019 (Pete Brown, Damon Murdo).
 - Arizona Preservation Foundation *Preservation in Place* virtual conference on how to conduct meaningful consultation while governments regulations are being streamlined and minimized; June 18, 2020 (Laura Evilsizer).
 - Advisory Council on Historic Preservation *Section 106 Essentials and Agreements Seminar*; online, July 2020 (Laura Evilsizer, Eric Newcombe).
 - Sapiens Anthropology Magazine “Reclaiming the Ancestors: Indigenous and Black Perspectives on Repatriation, Human Rights, and Justice” online panel discussion; September 2, 2020 (Laura Evilsizer).
 - *Gather* documentary on indigenous food systems, health, and food sovereignty; September 2020 (Laura Evilsizer).
- ✓ Met monthly with Montana Historical Society Centralized Services Division to closely monitor State Historic Preservation Office fiscal activity and policies, budget, revenue, and expenditures.

PLANNING PROGRAM FY2020

. Perform regular, allowable planning activities that contribute to the preservation of Montana's cultural resource properties, including participation in the creation, review, and revision of agency and local plans; the development of historic contexts; the development and implementation of state and local preservation ordinances, regulations, and laws; and the application of advanced technologies in historic and prehistoric property preservation planning (2018-2022 Goals/Objectives: I.1, IV.1, VII.1)

- ✓ Developed and routinely monitored FY20 SHPO activities and projects for conformance with the goals and objectives of the state preservation plan (see above, 2018-2022 Goals and Objectives).
- ✓ Undertook or contributed to priority planning activities as identified in the 2018-2022 state plan (see above), including use of social media to increase public awareness and appreciation of historic preservation in collaboration with the Montana Historical Society's Social Media Committee, working with University of Montana students in database and GIS applications, collaborative meetings with state and federal agencies, and other recommended activities described elsewhere in this report under individual programs.
- ✓ Supported Big Sky Country National Heritage Area, Inc. in its draft National Heritage Area Feasibility Study. The draft document is the culmination of five years' work. It demonstrates the potential of a multi-county National Heritage Area celebrating the historic and pre-historic themes of the upper Missouri River. Big Sky NHA, Inc. submitted its draft to Congress after August 15, 2020, following the document's 45-day public review period. {2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objectives II.3, 4; III.2}
- ✓ Met virtually with eleven (11) state agencies to improve consultation under the State Antiquities Act. Set expectations for consultation timing and content; writing programmatic agreements to formalize the agency's consultation obligations. On September 15, SHPO and the State Historic Preservation Review Board presented its findings on state agency heritage stewardship to the legislature using *Montana's Shared Heritage* story map. {2018-2022 Plan Goals/Objectives V.2,3; VII.1-3}
- ✓ Joined other Western SHPOs and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) data managers in May at the annual Cultural Resource Data Partnership virtual meeting. The meeting is a way to share information on how SHPOs in the region are managing and tracking project correspondence and site information. {2018-2022 Plan Goals/Objectives III.3; VI.2}
- ✓ Met on September 23 with staff of the Montana Department of Commerce Community Development Division (CDD) and the Montana Tourism Advisory Board (MTAB) to score and discuss 94 applications for CDD's *Montana Historic Preservation Grant Program*, established under the Montana Museums Act of 2020. CDD will forward a list of 25 applicants to the 2021 State Legislature for the Legislature's consideration of which projects to fund. {2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objectives VI.4, VII.3}
- ✓ Met virtually throughout FY20 with US Forest Service Region 1 forest archaeologists to discuss Site Identification Strategies (SIS) that Region 1 forests are developing. SHPO approved the Helena-Lewis & Clark SIS in November. SISs are intended to identify efficiencies in archaeological survey and propose that future surveys focus more on high-probability areas within a range of topographic slope and proximity to water. {2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objectives III.1}

- ✓ Consulted via email and telephone with local historic preservation officers and commission members regarding eligibility, design review, certificates of appropriateness, and demolition review. Though MT SHPO does not have jurisdiction or authority to dictate local review outcomes, MT SHPO's CLG program provided guidance regarding best practices to the CLGs that have review responsibilities. {2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objectives I.1, V.3, VI.2, VII.1}
- ✓ MT SHPO staff virtually met and communicated with each of the state's 16 CLGs throughout the year. Interactions ranged from promoting training opportunities to how to determine a property's National Register eligibility. Each of the CLGs faced challenges, especially regarding COVID-19 restrictions. MT SHPO offered procedural advice on meetings, and how best to conduct design reviews. Staff also maintained communication with potential CLGs, particularly in Hamilton, Dillon, and Glendive. {2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objectives I.1, V.2}
- ✓ Met with project architects and Montana Historical Society (MHS) administration throughout the ongoing Montana Heritage Center design process. The new heritage center will attach to the National Register listed Veterans & Pioneers Building. SHPO continues to assess its space needs prior to moving into the Veterans & Pioneers Building following the heritage center's projected completion in 2025. SHPO is one of MHS's six programs. Moving to the Veterans & Pioneers Building will be mutually beneficial to MHS and SHPO in combining resources and expertise.
- ✓ Participated in strategic planning and assessment for the Montana Historical Society (MHS) on November 13. {2018-2022 Goal/Objective VII.3}

SURVEY AND INVENTORY PROGRAM FY2020

Perform regular, allowable survey and inventory activities that contribute to the preservation of Montana's cultural resource properties, including: the conduct or support of surveys to locate, identify, record, and evaluate historic and pre-contact sites; the development, maintenance and use of cultural resource inventory information; and the application of new technologies in support of the above (2018-2022 Goals/Objectives: III.1-3)

- ✓ Added 1,020 newly recorded properties in FY2020 to the Montana *Cultural Resource Information System* (CRIS) database and statewide property inventory files maintained at SHPO [FY2019: 919 new properties]. These comprise 640 new historic properties, 314 pre-contact sites, 25 combination historic/pre-contact sites, and 41 paleontological sites. Updated information was also collected and registered for 666 additional previously recorded properties. There are presently 63,207 total cultural resource properties (districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects) recorded in Montana as part of the State Antiquities Database inventory {2018-2022 Goal/Objective III.1}.
- ✓ Assigned individual Smithsonian trinomial numbers to all newly recorded properties for inventory tracking purposes. Filed and uploaded property records and updates into the State Antiquities Database. Continual re-scanning first-generation site records, as needed and as time permits, to improve quality and convert to OCR.pdf format. There is at least one scanned registration form for each of the recorded 63,207 properties in CRIS, and several forms/updates for many of these sites. The hard copies of the property records are housed at SHPO (Site Records Office). {2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objectives III.3}

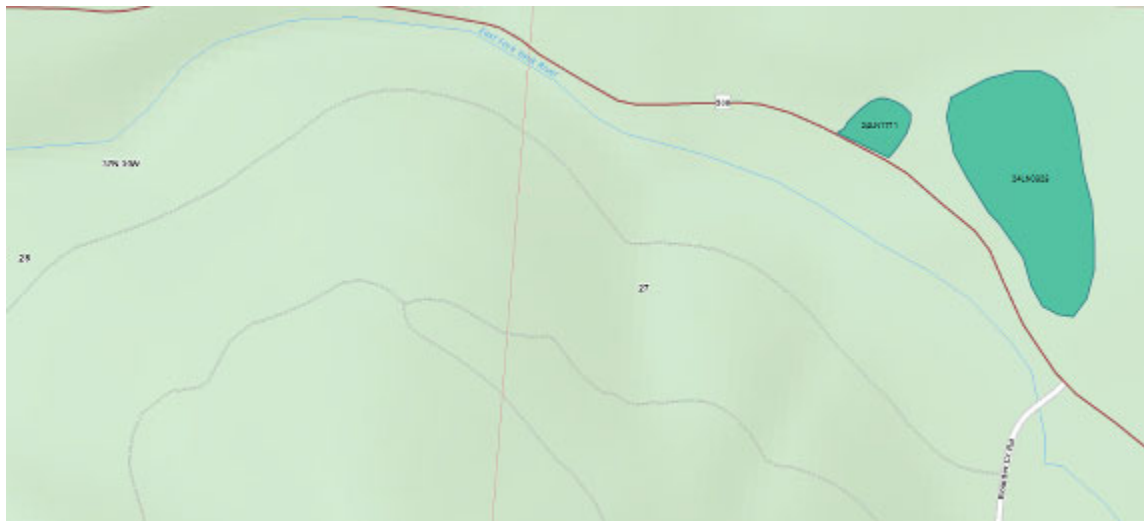


SHPO's site records files in the Old Board of Health Building, today and yesterday.

- ✓ Added 667 new cultural resource reports to the SHPO statewide *Cultural Resource Annotated Bibliography System* (CRABS) database and inventory library in FY20, representing 157,812 acres of new survey [FY2019: 475 new reports/88,665 acres]. There are presently 38,185 individual report documents in CRABS and on file at SHPO, comprising documentation on 6,048,073 million acres of historic and archaeological survey in the state as well as other cultural resource studies - including overviews, histories, syntheses, archaeological excavations, analyses, and research studies. While the majority of documented survey in Montana has occurred on public lands (especially lands managed by the USFS and BLM), significant survey has also taken place in and around many Montana communities and on private lands, particularly lands involved in federally permitted or funded undertakings (e.g.

pipelines, transmission lines, mining, highway projects, land exchanges, etc.). {2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objectives III.1}

- ✓ Continued to grow the comprehensive digital text library of the existing 38,185 cultural resource survey reports and other documents in the Montana *Cultural Resource Annotated Bibliography System* (CRABS). SHPO digitized pre-electronic reports between FY2011 and FY2019. New reports arrive in hard copy and digitally for upload. {2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objectives III.3}
- ✓ Original printed hard copies of all survey documents and research reports are curated in the Montana Historical Society Research Center (Library-Archives) and are accessible on a case-by-case basis with permission. {2018-2022 Goal/Objective I.2}
- ✓ Furthered the creation/import of new and backlog GIS map data (Arc-GIS shape files) for both cultural resource site and survey records in the State Antiquities Database. {2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objectives III.3}



GIS map showing shape files of surveyed areas.

- ✓ Continuing FY19 work, SHPO again contracted in FY20 with the University of Montana Department of Anthropology employing graduate students to create shape files for legacy site and survey data, focusing on Montana's western counties with incomplete GIS datasets. Students digitized and uploaded 2,755 sites and 1,019 inventories, completing Lincoln and Flathead Counties. {2018-2022 Goals/Objectives I.3, III.3}
- ✓ As fiscal year end, approximately 79% of all recorded properties and 60% of all documented surveys in the state have been spatially digitized and registered as shape files in the State Antiquities Database. All newly submitted site records and survey reports are entered in the state GIS on a go-forward basis. {2018-2022 Goals/Objectives I.3, III.3}
- ✓ Perform file searches by providing digital and hard copies of site records and reports, as well as GIS shape files, to agencies, consultants, property owners and other qualified researchers. Managed Digital Data and Information User Agreements for the use and protection of confidential shared cultural resource information. {2018-2022 Goal/Objective III.3}

- ✓ SHPO currently shares online access to the State Antiquities Database with the Bureau of Land Management, Montana Department of Transportation, Natural Resource Conservation Services, Bonneville Power Authority, Tetra Tech, Inc. for its Air Force contract, and with THPOs on request through individual tribal data sharing agreements. {2018-2022 Goals/Objectives III.3, VI.3}
- ✓ Damon Murdo participated in the annual regional Bureau of Land Management-State Historic Preservation Office (BLM-SHPO) Cultural Resource Data Partnership (CRDP) virtual meeting October 29. BLM and SHPO representatives from 11 western states collaborated in the meeting. {2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objectives VI.2}

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROGRAM FY2020

. Perform regular, allowable National Register program activities that contribute to the preservation of Montana's cultural resource properties, including: support for the Montana State Historic Preservation Review Board; documentation and evaluation of properties for potential National Register listing; preparation and submission of nominations for eligible properties to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places; participation in the designation of National Historic Landmarks; public education and promotion of the National Register program; and the support of the official Montana National Register property interpretive sign program (2018-2022 Goals/Objectives: IV.1-3)

- ✓ John Boughton, SHPO National Register Coordinator, organized three meetings of the nine-member, Governor-appointed Montana State Historic Preservation Review Board in FY20. The meetings occurred in Helena (January 17), and online (May 15, 16, and September 16). Sixteen (16) draft National Register nominations were reviewed and approved by the Board at these meetings; no nominations were unapproved or tabled. The Spokane Hill Airway Beacon nomination is tied to the *Sentinels of the Airways: Montana's Airway Beacon System, 1934-1979 MPS*. (<http://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo/NationalReg/RBagenda>) {2018-2022 Goal/Objective IV.2}

FY20 Nominations include:

- The Heritage Museum, Libby
- Quinn's Garage, Augusta
- Frank-Link House, Billings
- Stark House, Missoula Co.
- Pugsley Bridge, Liberty Co.
- Lepper Memorial Hall, Winnett
- Sacred Heart Church, Blaine Co.
- Spokane Hills Airway Beacon, Broadwater Co.
- Glenn's Dam H.D., Anaconda
- Silver City Cemetery, Lewis & Clark Co.
- Monarch Depot, Monarch
- Pioneer Park, Yellowstone County
- Kate Fratt Memorial School, Billings
- Sage Creek Ranger Station, Carbon Co.
- St. Paul's Mission Church, Hayes
- Billy Miles & Bros. Grain Elevator, Livingston



The Monarch Depot, formerly threatened, was rehabbed, and nominated by its private owner.

- ✓ Governor Steve Bullock appointed KellyAnne Terry and Nick Kujawa to the State Historic Preservation Review Board. They fill vacancies left in FY19 by Debra Hronek and Tim Urbaniak. Ms. Terry and Mr. Kujawa serve on the board as members of the interested public. Ms. Terry owns a historic hotel in Lewistown, and Mr. Kujawa completed one of Montana’s largest rehabilitation tax credit projects on the Hennessey Annex in Butte, in 2013. Board member, Milo McLeod reached the end of his term at the end of FY20 after serving two four-year terms as a professional member (Archaeology). He is succeeded by Dr. Delia Hagen who fulfills the qualification of History professional. Governor Bullock re-appointed Patti Casne (Interested Public) Jeff Sheldon (Architecture) and Marcella Sherfy Walter (History, former SHPO) in September.



The National Register listed Howard Lepper Memorial Hall; Flatwillow, Petroleum County

- ✓ Fourteen (14) properties were listed in the National Register of Historic Places in FY20 {2018-2022 Goal/Objective IV.3}:
 - Andrus Hotel, Dillon 12/2/2019
 - Dillon City Hall, Dillon 12/2/2019
 - Dean School, Stillwater County 12/2/2019
 - McCrossin Cabin, Hamilton Vicinity 12/6/2019
 - Bottler, Frederick and Josephine House, Emigrant 2/3/2020
 - Glenn's Dam Historic District, Anaconda 3/16/2020
 - Whitetail Airway Beacon, * Whitehall 3/13/2020
 - Quinn's Garage, Augusta 3/27/2020
 - The Heritage Museum, Libby 3/27/2020
 - Silver City Cemetery, Silver City vicinity 4/23/2020
 - St. Paul's Mission Church, Hays 7/31/2020
 - Sage Creek Ranger Station, Bridger vicinity 8/17/2020
 - Howard Lepper Memorial Hall, Flatwillow 8/30/2020
 - Billy Miles & Bros. Grain Elevator, Livingston 9/30/2020
- *Sentinels of the Airways: Montana's Airway Beacon System, 1934-1979 MPS*
- ✓ Regularly met or communicated with public and private owners of historic properties interested in listing their properties in the National Register of Historic Places. Provided workbooks, guidance, and technical assistance on request to owners to assist in research and documentation efforts. {2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objective IV.3}

- ✓ Routinely provided information in response to frequent public inquiries regarding National Register listed properties. Maintained an updated Montana SHPO online list of National Register of Historic Places properties in Montana: <http://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo/NationalReg/NRMap.aspx> Initiated planning to upgrade National Register information and public access in FY20 with Geographic Information System (GIS) map-based platform. {2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objective I.2, VII.4}
- ✓ Documented and concurred in assessments of eligibility of historic and archaeological properties for listing in the National Register by applying NR criteria of significance and assessment of integrity within the context of state and federal historic preservation legislation, aka: “consensus determinations” between SHPO and state/federal agencies under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Montana State Antiquities Act. Evaluated 156 properties as eligible and 430 as not eligible. {2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objective IV.1}
- ✓ Maintained a public inventory list of *state-owned heritage properties* - that is, properties owned by the state of Montana that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places or determined in consultation with SHPO to meet the criteria for eligibility.
(<http://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo/ReviewComp/StateHeritageProperties>) This list is used by state agencies in biennial reporting on their heritage property stewardship efforts as required under the Montana State Antiquities Act.
- ✓ Continued supporting the Montana Historical Society Research Center in maintaining and expanding the *Historic Montana* (formerly *Explore Big*) mobile app (<https://historicmt.org/>). The app is a way-finder program using National Register interpretive sign texts and other content, including historic photographs, from SHPO’s National Register files to provide historical background and context on select places statewide. {2018-2022 Plan Goals/Objectives I.2, II.3, III.3}
- ✓ Gave file support to the Montana Historical Society’s Outreach & Interpretation Division, National Register Property Sign Program in the production of 79 interpretive plaques in FY20. This unique state sign program is supported by an annual allocation from the state accommodations tax. Signs went to properties in 19 counties and include 12 individual listings and 67 contributing properties. Twenty-two of the contributing property signs are for properties within Anaconda’s Commercial Historic District. Signs for recently-listed resources, include Heltne Oil Company gas station in Havre, Quinn’s Garage in Augusta, and the James McCrossin Cabin near Hamilton. {2018-2022 Goal/Objective II.3}
- ✓ Regularly announced or assisted local communities, public agencies, and private owners in the preparation and distribution of press releases and stories of new and previously listed National Register properties across the state (see Outreach). {2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objective II.1}
- ✓ Frequently featured Montana National Register-listed properties in Montana Historical Society social media (see Outreach). {2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objective II.1}



DEVELOPMENT/ACQUISITIONS/COVENANTS PROGRAM FY2020

. Perform regular, allowable activities relating to historic property development, acquisition and/or covenants that contribute to the preservation of Montana's cultural resource properties, including: the review or preparation of "pre-development" plans; assistance in the material conservation of National Register listed properties; support for the acquisition and preservation of historic sites; preparation and provision of technical assistance in historic architectural preservation; and development and monitoring as provided for in historic property preservation agreements. (2018-2022 Goals/Objectives: I.1; V.4; VI.2; VII.3)

- ✓ Routinely responded to owner inquiries regarding care of historic buildings and structures eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places. {2018-2022 Plan Goals/Objectives I.1; VII.4}
- ✓ Gave technical advice and/or made field visits to public and private preservation projects (beyond federal compliance and tax credit projects reported elsewhere) that were active in planning (pre-development) or implementation (development) in FY20. Several of these properties are the subject of Montana History Foundation grants and Montana Main Street planning grants. Both encourage applicants to consult with SHPO during project planning. {2018-2022 Goal/Objective VI.1} These include:
 - Boulder Hot Springs, Boulder;
 - Philipsburg Theater, Philipsburg;
 - Paradise School, Paradise;
 - Virginia City School, Virginia City;
 - 10th Street Bridge, Great Falls;
 - Ft. Missoula Internment Camp Barracks (reconstruction), Missoula;
 - Shelby Downtown Master Planning, Shelby; and
 - Multi-component, privately-owned archaeological site in the Clancy vicinity.
- ✓ Met with agencies and architects and consulted onsite under the Montana State Antiquities Act on a variety of undertakings involving state-owned heritage properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places, including the University of Montana Campus Historic District, Missoula; Montana State University Historic District, Bozeman; Montana Veterans and Pioneers Memorial Building; Montana Parks' Fort Owen, Ravalli County. {2018-2022 Plan Goals/Objectives V.3; VII.1 & 2}
- ✓ Currently monitoring active preservation covenants and/or easements for fifteen (15) historic properties as a result of previous federal historic preservation assistance grants (e.g. NPS Save-America's Treasures grants), tax credit projects, property disposals, and/or other compliance mitigation agreements. {2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objective VII.2}



Neon signs prevail on Main Street, Shelby.

PRESERVATION TAX INCENTIVES PROGRAM FY2020

. Perform regular, allowable activities related to the federal and state tax credit rehabilitation programs that contribute to the preservation of Montana's cultural resource properties, including: providing technical assistance and information to organizations and individuals related to the use of federal, state, and local tax incentives; and the review, inspection, and certification of federal tax act projects pursuant to 36 CFR 67 (2018-2022 Goals/Objectives: I.1, V.3; VI.2; VII.2)

- ✓ Since Montana's first federal rehab tax credit project in 1990, investments total \$82,705,293. There has been considerable Part 1 & 2 tax credit activity including two National Register listings for applicant properties in FY20. The Fort Harrison project is the only certified project.
- ✓ Regularly communicated with and advised owners of commercial properties considering the federal tax credit rehabilitation program. Communications were primarily via telephone and email, but Historic Architecture Specialist, Eric Newcombe visited the Gallatin Laundry Building in Bozeman, in September. {2018-2022 Goals/Objectives V.1; VII.3}.
- ✓ In FY20, SHPO submitted the following properties to NPS for certification to apply for tax credits:
 - Albrecht Block, Great Falls
 - Crowley Block, Lewistown
 - Thornton Hospital, Missoula
 - Fratt Memorial School, Billings



Crowley Block, Lewistown

REVIEW AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FY2020

. Perform regular, allowable review and compliance activities that contribute to the preservation of Montana's cultural resource properties, including: timely project reviews with qualified professional staff according to applicable federal and/or state rules, standards and guidelines; specific assistance to federal agencies in fulfilling their responsibilities under Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act; the development and participation in preservation compliance agreements; and the participation as legally designated in related state preservation laws and code, including the Montana State Antiquities Act, the Montana Human Skeletal Remains and Burial Protection Act and the Montana Repatriation Act (2018-2022 Goals/Objectives: III.1; IV.1; V.3; VI.1 and 3; VII.2)

- ✓ SHPO's Review and Compliance team Compliance Officer Laura Evilsizer, State Archaeologist Jessica Bush, Historic Architecture Specialist Eric Newcombe, and Cultural Records Manager Damon Murdo. In FY20, the team provided written responses to 2,169 project requests submitted for review and comment in compliance with National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106), the National Environmental Protection Act, and/or state preservation laws (Montana State Antiquities Act, Montana Environmental Protection Act). These responses represent an average of 8.6 written review and compliance consultations per *workday* (251 workdays/yr.), comparable to FY19 tallies of 1,643 reviews; 6.5 reviews/workday. {2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objective VII.2}
- ✓ Each compliance review request for SHPO comments is a written piece of correspondence which may involve one or more projects and properties, i.e. ranging from the potential for effects of a single 10-acre gravel pit with no identified properties versus an entire 100-mile pipeline project with tens or hundreds of sites. Certain compliance projects from some federal agencies (e.g. Bureau of Land Management; USDA Forest Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs/THPOs) are also sometimes programmatically received and processed, but do not require or generate SHPO written responses. In FY20, there were 212 project submittals or notifications on which SHPO reviewed but did not comment.
- ✓ Of the total 2,169 written review and compliance consultations in FY20, a third or 728, were initiation of consultation or "file search" requests for known SHPO cultural resource information and recommendations for the need for additional survey of project areas of potential effect. SHPO provided same day or next-day responses to most file search requests. The average response turn-around rate was .02 *calendar days*, where 0 = same day; 1 = next *calendar day*. These 728 FY20 file searches involved cultural record searches and reviews for a total of 4,827 sections of land.
- ✓ SHPO recommended no further cultural resource work was warranted in 321 (44%) of the 728 file searches. Information in the State Antiquities Database is the basis of staff determining the likelihood of significant historic properties within the project scope or area of potential effect. These 321 reviewed projects proceeded without further consultation.
- ✓ For the remaining 1,441 written consultations that are not file search responses, SHPO's average response time in FY20 was 7.6 *calendar days* per consultation. This increased from FY19 (4.7 *calendar days*) due to workload, but SHPO still operates well below the allowable 15 and 30-day response time.
- ✓ Of the 2,169 written consultations in FY20, nine (9) concluded in findings of adverse effect to National Register properties; nine (9) fewer than in FY19. Several other projects were cancelled or modified to avoid adverse effects. Eight (8) of these adverse effects were federal undertakings, involving four

different federal agencies: Office of Surface Mining (1), FEMA (1), Montana Department of Transportation (2), Army Corps of Engineers (3), National Park Service-Glacier (1). The one non-federal, state project reviewed under the Anti resulting in adverse effects to historic properties involved Montana Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS), which demolished a dairy barn related to the earliest days of the state hospital. None of these undertakings were addressed under the terms of Programmatic Agreements. Only FEMA and Montana DPHHS have concluded consultation by completing mitigation in FY20.

- ✓ SHPO signed eight (8) new Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) and an additional four (4) new Programmatic Agreements (PAs) and no PA Amendments in FY20. PAs and MOAs serve as legal documents for the treatment and mitigation of adverse or potential adverse effects to significant historic properties under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36CFR800).
- ✓ The four (4) new FY20 Programmatic Agreements address how the agency will approach cultural resource preservation. {2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objective VII.1} These include:
 - USDA-Forest Service Region 1 Recreation Residence PA
 - USDA-Forest Service Flathead National Forest Mid-Swan Restoration Project
 - US Bureau of Reclamation Pryor Travel Management Area
 - US Bureau of Reclamation Mill Creek, Bundy, and Shepherd Travel Management Areas
- ✓ SHPO Review & Compliance Officer Laura Evilsizer and State Archaeologist, Jessica Bush worked extensively with the USDA-Forest Service on a draft nationwide programmatic agreement outlining the agency's desire for phased NEPA-Section 106 compliance. SHPO provided comment to the Forest Service, National Conference of SHPOs, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. {2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objective V.3}
- ✓ Provided Governor Bullock's office with an overview of 36 CFR part 800 as it relates to Federal agencies phasing NEPA and Section 106 reviews for multi-year, large-scale landscape projects. These projects have come under legal attack in some western states—though not yet in Montana--where agencies have not followed 36 CFR part 800's guidance on how to legally combine NEPA and Section 106. {2018-2022 Plan Goals/Objectives V.2}
- ✓ SHPO Review & Compliance Officer Laura Evilsizer and State Archaeologist, Jessica Bush commented on the FCC's draft program comment outlining the agency's desire to exclude future consultation on modifications to "twilight towers" which are cell towers constructed prior to 2012 without Section 106 review. On September 24, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation found the FCC's proposal to fall outside of what 36 CFR Part 800 regulations allow. This finding is in line with SHPO comments. {2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objective V.3}
- ✓ COVID-19 forced SHPO staff to work remotely during Governor Bullock's shelter-in-place order. Because SHPO and those we consult with were without easy access to printing and mailing options, SHPO issued a statement to consulting parties that we would accept e-consultation while consulting parties work from home. This came with the caveat that SHPO's policy of hard copy consultation and reporting remains in place, and that consulting parties must submit hard copy materials at their earliest convenience.

- ✓ SHPO compliance reviewers hosted or attended 82 meetings in FY20 with representatives of federal, state, and local agencies, and other interested parties regarding project undertakings. In the second half of FY20, COVID-19 halted travel but necessitated an online meeting infrastructure that has made meetings easier to bring about and more common. As described under Administrative Program, SHPO also participated training webinars staff would not have been able to attend were they not online. {2018-2022 Goal/Objective VI.1 & 3; VII.3}.
- ✓ Provided support to the Montana Burial Board under the Montana Human Skeletal Remains and Burial Site Protection Act, assisting in the notification, handling, and documentation of new cases of discovery of human remains and maintaining a separate and confidential unmarked burial registry. Jessica Bush, SHPO State Archaeologist, attended one Burial Board meeting scheduled in FY20. {2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objective VI.3; VII.3}
- ✓ Regularly consulted with state agencies involving state-owned heritage properties and projects on state land under the Montana State Antiquities Act, including the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (Trust Lands), Fish Wildlife & Parks, the Montana Heritage Commission (Virginia City NHL/Reeder's Alley), the Montana Department of Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, and the Montana University system. {2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objective VI.1}

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FY2020

. Perform regular, allowable activities relating to the certification of local governments in the Certified Local Government (CLG) program that contribute to the preservation of Montana's cultural resource properties, including: certification as eligible under Section 101c of the National Historic Preservation Act; processing of applications for certification or amendments of certification agreements; development of state program guidance and procedures; and monitoring and evaluation of existing CLG performance under sub-grants. (2018-2022 Goals/Objectives: VI.1; VII.1)

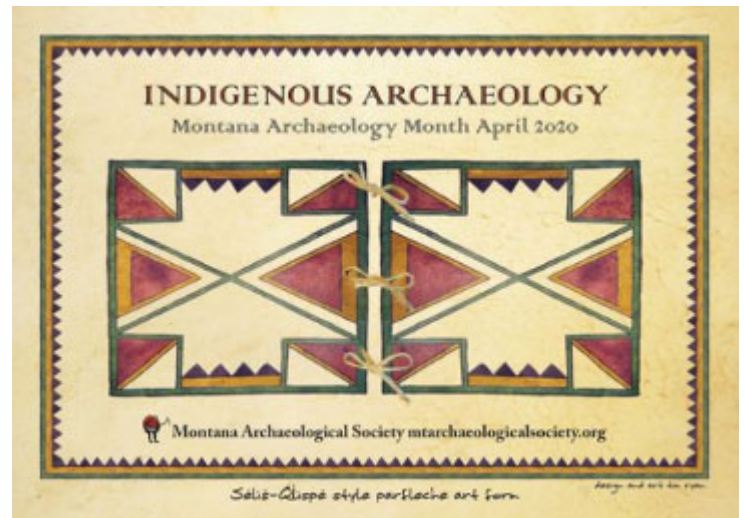
- ✓ Allocated \$187,835 in financial support from the FY20 Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) to Montana's 16 communities and/or counties participating in the Certified Local Government (CLG) program, meeting the NPS 10% HPF pass-through requirement.
- ✓ Reviewed and approved semi-annual and annual reports and requests for reimbursement from CLGs, including documentation of allowable activities and match (cash and in-kind). Montana's CLGs currently make up the majority of Montana's 40% state match for federal funding (HPF).
- ✓ Assisted and communicated regularly via phone, email, and social media with all Montana local preservation officers during the year. Responded to requests in a timely manner. {2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objective I.1; VII.4}
- ✓ Provided an additional \$5,000 in HPF pass-through funding to the Billings/Yellowstone CLG to hire a consultant to prepare a National Register nomination for the McKinley School in Billings. The State Review Board will hear the nomination at its January 2021 meeting. {2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objective III.1}
- ✓ Virtually participated in May Preservation Month activities by providing information, guidance, and review to CLG programs' activities. Due to COVID-19, restrictions, however, several CLGs postponed their preservation month projects. {2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objective I.1}
- ✓ Communicated via email and telephone with the new planning officer in Hamilton, Montana to continue to gauge interest in establishing a CLG in that community. (October, November 2019, January 2020) {2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objective II.4}
- ✓ Performed 4-year performance evaluations of four CLG programs: Butte, Great Falls, Helena, and Livingston. Each met or exceeded program performance standards.
- ✓ Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the annual Certified Local Government training took the form of online training opportunities. MT SHPO communicated and facilitated CLG participation in online trainings/webinars hosted and produced by other organizations. MT SHPO worked with Montana Preservation Alliance (now Preserve Montana) to produce a special training video focusing on historic wood window restoration. {2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objective I.2; II.3}
- ✓ Assisted CLGs with the review and development of local preservation plans and ordinances, as requested (see above, Planning Program FY20) {2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objective I.1, VII.1}
- ✓ No Montana CLGs currently on probation.

OTHER ACTIVITIES FY2020
(OUTREACH and MULTIPLE PROGRAMS)
See also individual programs

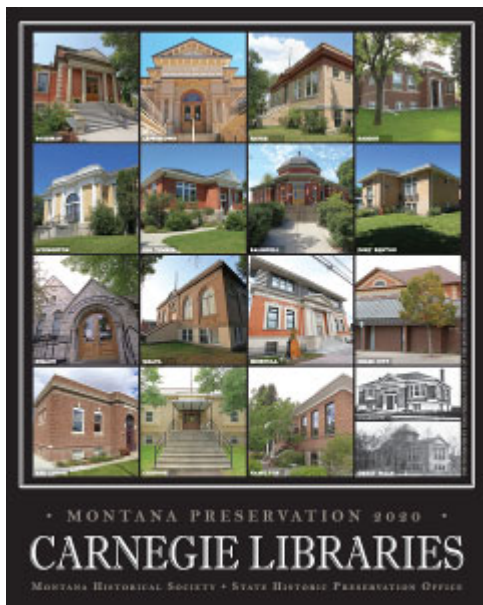
. Perform regular, allowable other activities that contribute to the preservation of Montana's cultural resource properties, including: organization and participation in historic preservation outreach and education programs; assistance to HABS/HAER documentation projects; the support of statewide and local preservation organizations; and the conduct of other activities that cross-cut other program areas (2018-2022 Goals/Objectives: I.2, II.1-4, VII.3; All)

- ✓ Responded to public and professional inquiries and provided technical assistance through 2,158 phone calls, 3,384 emails, and 128 meetings (with 329 people) in FY20, in addition to written letters and consultations. {2018-2022 Plan Goals/Objectives VI.1, VII.3&4}
- ✓ Networked with national preservation partners, including the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO), National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP), National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), and the National Park Service (NPS).
- ✓ Routinely provided expertise in preservation, historic architecture, architectural history, archaeology, and GIS to the programs and projects of the Montana Historical Society (MHS). State Archaeologist Jessica Bush meets weekly with the MHS museum staff and exhibit designers to establish accurate exhibits of pre-contact artifacts and lifeways in the Montana Heritage Center, to be completed in 2025. {2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objective VI.1}
- ✓ Provided input and service to boards and special committees or programs of other state and statewide organizations, including: the Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees, the State Historic Preservation Review Board, the Montana Burial Preservation Board, the State Information Technology Services Division Geographic Information System Coordination Committee, the Montana Heritage Commission, the Montana Archaeological Society, the Forest Fire Lookout Association, the Montana Main Street Advisory Board, and Preserve Montana. {2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objective VI.2}
- ✓ SHPO and MHS Outreach and Interpretation Division (O&I) hosted two archaeology day events in FY20. The usual in-person event was on October 3, 2019. In September 2020, SHPO curated and created online content for the virtual MHS *Archaeology Day!* This virtual event provides explanations of archaeology and prehistoric technology to elementary and middle school students across the state. Whereas the October 2019 event reached 6 Helena area schools/21 classes/531 students and occurred on a single day, O&I sent the online version's link to 580 educators across the state.
<https://mhs.mt.gov/education/IEFALessonPlans/ArchaeologyDay> {2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objective II.1}
- ✓ SHPO's Community Preservation Coordinator, Kate Hampton continues with her multi-year *Montana's African American Heritage Resources* effort. Building on a \$27,000 September 2019 NPS Underrepresented Communities grant award, Kate amassed \$75,000 in additional grants to support a documentary on the African American experience in Montana. To guide the project, Kate is establishing a board of western Black history experts and those with documentary experience including Montana PBS staff. Montana PBS will air the eventual product in 2022.
<https://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo/AfricanAmericans> {2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objective I.3; II.1; IV.1}

- ✓ Collaborated with the non-profit Montana Archaeological Society (MAS) in celebrating Montana Archaeology Month (April 2020). Organized the bulk mailing of the 2020 poster *Indigenous Archaeology of Montana* to 175 MAS member addresses and arranged for additional distribution at public venues and upon request. (<http://mtarchaeologicalsociety.org/> SHPO's Laura Evilsizer and Damon Murdo Serve on the MAS Board, and the Education, and Conservation committees. MAS cancelled the annual conference slated for April. {2018-2022 Plan Goals/Objectives I.3, VI.2}



- ✓ Hosted the Montana BLM-SHPO Statewide Cultural Resource Workshop on May 15, 16, involving thirteen BLM heritage staff, including Byron Loosle, Division Chief for Cultural Resources, Paleontology and Tribal Consultation from the BLM national office. The group discussed tribal consultation, national data standards, travel management, geoarchaeology, paleontology, and the BLM-MTSHPO consultation protocol. {2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objective VI.2}



- ✓ Created and distributed the 2020 Montana Preservation poster: *Carnegie Libraries*. The poster, released in July, celebrates Montana's 17 Carnegie libraries built between 1901 and 1922. Fifteen of these libraries remain and the poster depicts them with contemporary photography. The Glasgow and Great Falls libraries were demolished and are presented in historic photos. The poster also promotes Kate Hampton's 2019 book on Carnegie libraries, *The Best Gift*. {2018-2022 Plan Goals/Objectives II.1, 3, 4}

- ✓ Since Preserve Montana (formerly the Montana Preservation Alliance) cancelled its summer Preservation Road Show, to which SHPO had pledged \$5,000, SHPO supported Preserve Montana's window repair video, instructions, and window repair tool kits to be loaned to property owners through select Montana CLG Historic Preservation Offices. Preserve Montana continues to build this program through donations that will expand the number and offerings of tool libraries across the state.

<http://preservemtprod.wpengine.com/get-involved/restoration-kits/>
<https://preservemontana.egnyte.com/dl/XxYVknhrF/?>

{2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objective I.1; II.1}

- ✓ FY20 SHPO staff presentations, education, and outreach activities {2018-2022 Plan Goals/Objectives I.1-3; II.1-4}:

Presentations

- Pete Traveled to Missoula on 10/25 to speak on the Federal Rehab Tax Credit program at the Montana Downtown Assoc. Conference;
- Kate presented “Montana’s Carnegie Libraries” at Chico Hot Springs (10/13), Great Falls Rotary Club (10/22), Lewistown (11/7), and Helena (2/12) in conjunction with her book, The Best Gift: Montana’s Carnegie Libraries. Covid precluded ongoing engagements around the state. However, the book inspired the Kalispell Carnegie Library to develop an exhibit on its history. The exhibit opened in December 2019.
- In September, Jessica lectured at Carroll College’s Introduction to Anthropology class about precontact Montana.

Outreach

- Kate met with Dan Nelsen and Ken Robison in Fort Benton on 10/22 to tour the I.G. Baker house and other buildings to discuss grant opportunities and plans to move forward with preservation projects;
 - Jessica met with private property owner, Dusty Accord on 11/22 to discuss archaeology on his property outside of Helena;
 - John & Pete met with the Quinn’s Garage owner in Augusta on 11/11 to verify some of the building’s architecture prior to Pete finalizing his NR nomination for the building.
 - Melissa, Eric, Jessica, and Vickie participated in Preserve Montana’s July workday at the historic Placer School. Workers demolished rotten floorboards. The building is without windows and a roof and workers were masked but socially distanced.
 - Kate and Pete provided guidance to numerous applicants for the MT Dept. of Commerce Historic Preservation Grant, most extensively to the 10 Street Bridge, Great Falls; Boulder Hot Springs, Boulder.
 - Eric and Pete met with the Boulder Hot Springs owner to discuss site grade issues and building envelope repairs including in-kind replacement of historic pneumatically applied stucco.
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- ✓ As a priority FY20 outreach activity, regularly prepared and/or assisted in the preparation of press releases for state preservation properties, activities, news and success stories, including National Register of Historic Places meetings and property listings, public forums and workshops, special events, and grant awards. Also provided historic preservation content to the Montana Historical Society newsletter (*Society Star*) and social media outlets, including the MHS Facebook page. FY20 press releases include {2018-2022 Plan Goal/Objective II.1}:
 - *Rebuilding of Historic Glacier National Park Chalet Complete* Chris Peterson, Reporter, Hungry Horse News and www.usnews.com, October 25
 - *Grant offered for historical building preservation* Helena Independent Record, December 6; Sydney Herald, November 27
 - *Complaint Sparks Debate Over Historic Use of Swastika-like Symbols in the West* Nate Hegyi, Reporter, Mountain West News Bureau, December 13; related to upcoming Antiquities Act consultation with University of Montana, Missoula
 - *New Exhibit Highlights the History of Kalispell’s Carnegie Library* Justin Franz, Reporter, Flathead Beacon, December 19; related to The Best Gift: Montana’s Carnegie Libraries



- *Data center to lease old Rainbow Powerhouse from Northwestern Energy* (featuring Great Falls-Cascade County Historic Preservation Advisory Committee, a CLG). NorthWestern Energy News Release, July 30, 2019
- *New community center to open Saturday in Townsend* (featuring SHPO's Federal Rehab Tax Credit program) Tyler Manning, Reporter, Helena IR, August 9, 2019
- *The Best Gift: Montana's Carnegie Libraries* Kay Erickson, Reporter, Yellowstone Public Radio, September 9, 2019
- *A legacy preserved: McCrossin Cabin placed on the National Register of Historic Places*; Fairfield Sun Times; 1/13/20
- *Augusta shop nominated for NRHP*, Choteau Acantha; 1/29/20.
- *Libby' Heritage Museum Nominated for National Historic Register, Unique 12-sided building was built in the 1970s*; Justin Franz; Flathead Beacon, 2/6/20
- *Archaeologists uncover pieces of Missoula's 'red light district,' Chinese community*; David Erickson; Missoulian, 2/13/20
- *Augusta's Quinn's Garage Building Named to National Register*; Jeani-Liz Brickner; The Fairfield Sun Times, April 17, 2020
- *Wood magic: Swan Valley artisan's home, furnishings made history*; (Stark House National Register Nomination) Tom Bauer; Missoulian, May 13, 2020
- *MHS showcases resources about African American history in Montana*; Sam Hoyle; KTVH Helena; broadcast June 19
- *SHPO staff created the following Facebook posts for the MHS account: RMRH Grant announced 12/2; SHPO Slide Collection Scanning and Archiving 12/3; National Register Map, 7/23; What does SHPO do? Historic Architecture, 7/30; Staff Profile: Pete Brown 8/6; Placer School Workday 8/13; Then & Now, SHPO Records Room, 7/20; National Register Highlight: Ft. Peck Dam, 8/27; Staff Profile: Melissa, 9/3; National Register Highlight: Great Falls High, 9/17; Monarch Depot, 9/18; What does SHPO do: Community Preservation Program, 9/24*
- *Montana Historical Society to Produce Documentary about African Americans*; Jess Sheldahl, Yellowstone Public Radio KEMC; July 22, 2020.
<https://www.ypradio.org/2020-07-22/montana-historical-society-to-produce-documentary-about-african-americans>
- *Voices of diversity: Montana Historical Society to produce African American doc*; Audrey Pettit, Missoula Current; July 24, 2020
- *Montana Historical Society making Black history documentary*; Marga Lincoln, Helena Independent Record and Missoulian; August 19, 2020
- *There's a History of Black People in Montana? The Documentary is Coming*; Lee Bailey, Everything Urban + Radioscope (Blog) August 20, 2020
- *Monarch Depot area nominated for historic district designation*, Great Falls Tribune, September 18, 2020
- *Preservation Grant Offered*, Choteau Acantha, September 29, 2020.
- *Montana State Historic Preservation Office Awarding 8 Preservation Grants*, Fairfield Sun Times; September 30, 2020