Timeline

1865 Created in Bannack by Montana's First Territorial Legislature, making it one of the oldest institutions of its kind west of the Mississippi.
1874 Moved to Helena.
1891 Made a state agency by the state legislature.
1902 Moved into the basement of the newly constructed State Capitol Building.
1949 Board of Trustees expanded; agency redefined by the legislature to current format with most current duties; plans for Veterans and Pioneers Memorial Building to serve as home for MTHS began.
1951 K. Ross Toole hired as first official MTHS director.
1953 Veterans and Pioneers Memorial Building dedicated.
1963 Fine arts responsibilities added to the MTHS mandate by the legislature.
1973 MTHS receives initial accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums.
1977 Historic Preservation Office transferred to MTHS from Fish and Game Department.
1981 MTHS assumes administrative responsibility for the Original Governor's Mansion.
1985 Given oversight of the Moss Mansion in Billings by the legislature.
1995 After it led the charge to save historic Virginia City and Nevada City, MTHS is given oversight of Montana Heritage Commission and Virginia City and Nevada City assets by the legislature.
1996 Given oversight of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission by the legislature.
2003 Oversight of Montana Heritage Commission and Virginia & Nevada City assets transferred from MTHS to the Department of Commerce by the legislature.
2007 MTHS becomes a Smithsonian Affiliate; Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission sunsets.
2015 150th anniversary of the Montana Historical Society.
2019 Legislature passes bipartisan bill funding Montana Heritage Center.
2020 Ground blessing for Montana Heritage Center. Construction begins.