

# Montana State Historic Preservation Office Federal Fiscal Year 2024 Activities Report



in accordance with  
**PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE: The Montana Historic Preservation Plan 2023-2027**





**The Montana SHPO dedicates its 2024 annual report to the memory of legislator, 1972 Montana Constitutional Convention member, preservationist, and “Bridge Lady”, Arlyne Reichert; 1926-2024.**

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**On the cover:** Mann Gulch is where 13 young wildland firefighters lost their lives on August 5, 1949. The lessons learned following that tragedy are used in firefighter training today. In 2024, SHPO commemorated Mann Gulch with this cover image on a greeting card. The Helena National Forest listed the historic natural landscape to the National Register in 1999.

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.

<https://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo/About/PreservationPlan>

## Goals and Objectives

### I. ISSUE: LACK OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES

#### GOAL: ADVOCATE - SEEK AND SECURE PRESERVATION FUNDING AND INCENTIVES

##### Objectives:

1. Identify and promote preservation's economic benefits in terms of tourism, job creation, and increasing the local tax base across Montana.
  - Share professionally conducted studies of preservation's economic benefits.
  - Share preservation case studies and success stories in SHPO's annual report.
2. Increase awareness of preservation funding and tax incentives.
  - Promote grants funding through social and traditional media, and in presentations.
  - Provide guidance and critique of preservation grant applications upon applicants' request.
3. Build and maintain support for preservation tax incentives.
  - Promote property tax abatement incentives in the CLG communities that have adopted them.
  - Promote of completed tax credit or preservation grant funded projects to elected officials.
  - Assist in the legislative process by providing appropriate information for legislation affecting historic preservation projects and preservation program infrastructure.
4. Pursue financial resources to supplement existing funding for historic preservation.
  - SHPO and agencies will identify cost-share opportunities and federal-state-private partnerships that support field schools, National Register nominations, and scholarly research.

### II. ISSUE: LACK OF PUBLIC AWARENESS, UNDERSTANDING, AND SUPPORT

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

##### Objectives:

1. Develop and disseminate more widely, information about SHPO, its mission, and intent.
  - Explain SHPO's directives under the law to a broad audience.
  - Gather, develop, and disseminate more widely, historic preservation guidance and standards.
  - Host preservation open houses to showcase personnel, operations, programs, and the 2023-2027 Plan.
  - Host Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) Summits.
  - Encourage Montanans to listen and participate in national, regional, local, and niche preservation conversations.
  - Provide guidance with a revised edition of *Consulting with SHPO*, and the *Montana Certified Local Government Manual*.
  - Update guidance on the National Register nomination process and tax credit application process as the associated materials and application processes move towards digitization.
  - Revise style and substance of SHPO website with visitor experience in mind.
  - Use social media to promote the Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.
  - Apply and more widely share best practices in the treatment of historic and precontact properties.

2. Share information about Montana’s historic, precontact, and traditional cultural properties.
  - Communicate regularly and work with THPOs.
  - Support development and updating of interpretive materials for historic places.
  - Encourage virtual and in-person interpretive opportunities for historic properties as mitigation for federal undertakings.
  - Participate in podcast and traditional media interviews.
  - Contribute to the Montana Historical Society’s Montana Memory Project of online primary source material.
  - Produce and support publications, news stories, and articles.
3. Incorporate academia and professional expertise more in the discussion of historic preservation issues and the training of preservation professionals.
  - Promote the relevance of historic architecture and archaeological sites and artifacts through presentations to students at all education levels.
  - Engage more with Montana’s state, private, and tribal colleges to learn from one another and provide information on cultural resources related research topics.
  - Encourage relevant college faculty to embrace preservation priorities.
  - Promote and expand availability of SHPO’s fellowship incentivizing SHPO’s database and GIS mapping in research.
  - Create student internship opportunities.
  - Publicize the role of SHPO as a resource for educators and researchers regarding historic preservation, history, and anthropology programs.
  - Publicize historic preservation as relevant to research in other disciplines such as GIS, urban planning, and community development.
  - Increase efforts to identify historic properties and preservation issues on state-owned properties including campuses, administrative sites, and recreational locations.

### **III. ISSUE: URBAN GROWTH AND RURAL DECLINE**

#### **GOAL: EMPOWER – GIVE COMMUNITIES AND PROPERTY OWNERS KNOWLEDGE AND MEANS BY WHICH TO PRESERVE THEIR HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

##### Objectives:

1. Collaborate on public programs with entities such as the Montana Main Street Program, CLG program, and MSU Extension’s Reimagining Rural to broaden preservation’s influence in communities undergoing change that affects places the community values.
  - Promote Montana Main Street’s key points for economically effective historic main streets.
  - Support preliminary architecture reports and developers’ packets.
  - Broadly share case studies of preservation successes brought about with tax credits, grants, sweat equity, local legislation, covenants, and easements.
  - Increased outreach to achieve greater awareness of these programs and opportunities.
  - Support survey and inventory, and National Register of Historic Places nominations.
2. Increase historic places’ profiles through signage, multi-media, events, and awards.
  - Advertise preservation workshops and conferences to the public.
  - Increase distribution of SHPO’s annual preservation greeting cards that call attention to Montana’s important historic places.
  - Host award ceremony that celebrates preservation achievements across Montana.
  - Attend and give public talks about historic places and contexts, preservation’s best practices, and reasons to preserve cultural resources.
  - Promote Montana National Register sign program.

**IV. ISSUE: THE PRESERVATION COMMUNITY NEEDS TO ATTRACT AND CONNECT MORE MONTANANS  
GOAL: DIVERSIFY – ATTRACT AND CONNECT PEOPLE BY BROADENING THE HISTORIC NARRATIVE,  
THROUGH OUTREACH, AND COMMUNICATION**

Objectives:

1. Promote preservation and increase preservation activity beyond Certified Local Government (CLG) communities, which support a local historic preservation office.
  - Present preservation topics and support place-based history exhibits at county museums.
  - Share written histories of Montana’s historic irrigation and conservation efforts.
  - Recognize more rural preservation accomplishments through SHPO’s biennial award ceremony.
  - Promote the National Register and its sign program in counties with minimal participation.
  - Increase decision and policy makers’ awareness of preservation opportunities and preservation in their communities; encourage their participation in preservation events.
  - Promote knowledge of preservation laws among law enforcement whose jurisdiction involves state and federal land subject to antiquities laws, and whose caseload could involve human remains discoveries.
  - Identify and contact native and other ethnic-focused organizations with preservation topics relevant to them.
  - Participate more in conferences and trade shows with a preservation overlap such as the Governor’s Tourism Conference, Montana Main Street, and real estate training events.
2. Promote preservation more widely at all education levels.
  - Create a “preservation footlocker,” for distribution to schools through the Montana Historical Society.
  - Present preservation topics in K-12 schools and establish localized preservation activities with faculty.
  - Lead and establish materials for school tours of historic districts and sites.
  - Host interns whose work and perspective can broaden Montana’s historic narrative.
  - Collaborate with the Montana Historical Society on an annual Archaeology Day for grade schoolers.
3. Use traditional and social media to convey historic preservation stories, successes, and opportunities.
  - Generate regular press releases for local preservation events, projects, and National Register listings.
  - Participate in podcasts and radio programs to bring preservation to new audiences.
  - Monitor and address SHPO website’s effectiveness in conveying information.
4. Solidify existing and form new partnerships for the benefit of historic preservation.
  - Promote preservation to architects and developers as integral to LEED Certified redevelopment projects.
  - Showcase LEED Certified projects that retain buildings’ historic architectural integrity.
  - Promote Montana’s historic buildings derived from Montana’s natural resources processed into building materials through local manufacturing powered by Montana natural gas, wood, coal, and hydroelectricity.
  - Sponsor or participate in forums that tie preservation to LEED certifiable redevelopment projects.
  - Support and participate in the biennial Montana Preservation Road Show.
  - Meet and work regularly with tribal cultural representatives to increase consideration of tribal perspectives in historic preservation.
  - Travel to reservations to meet with THPO staff.
  - Host or participate in Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) Summits.
  - Continue providing each THPO in Montana with access to SHPO cultural records.

## **V. ISSUE: INCOMPLETE SURVEY, INVENTORY, AND NATIONAL REGISTER EVALUATION OF MONTANA'S HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

### **GOAL: LOCATE - DOCUMENT AND EVALUATE MONTANA'S CULTURAL RESOURCES**

#### Objectives:

1. Conduct and support survey and National Register eligibility evaluation of properties statewide.
  - Solicit input from communities through a process that identifies priority survey needs.
  - Document all property types including those more recently historic places not widely perceived as historic; places associated with groups under-represented in Montana's historic narrative; prominent, but undocumented historic places; and places at risk.
  - Initiate survey of historic communities with no previous historic inventory.
  - Engage with property owners, including government entities wishing to nominate their properties.
  - Support documentation of tribal cultural properties in partnership with THPOs.
2. Encourage a landscape approach to properties with functional relationships among site features and topography such as a mining adit, tramway, ore bin, flume, and stamp mill on a mountainside.
  - Obtain Tribal Historic Preservation Office(s) (THPO) input on survey or National Register evaluation of historic and cultural landscapes.
  - Apply landscape approach to urban settings with designed landscapes such as parks and campuses.
  - Support historic battlefield landscape studies including documentation in line with National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program Standards.
3. Enhance the management of and access to cultural resource property information.
  - Develop paperless electronic Section 106 consultation process (e106) between SHPO and those who consult under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.
  - Use SHPO's State Antiquities Database to assist cultural resources research.
  - Develop GIS-based story maps to demonstrate the reach of SHPO and its programs.
  - Contribute to the Montana Memory Project (Montana State Library).
  - Continue data access and sharing agreements between SHPO, THPOs, and land managing agencies.
4. Encourage and assist owners to document and list properties in the National Register of Historic Places.
  - Provide examples and best practices for nominating properties to the National Register.
  - Provide financial support for professionally written nominations.
  - Pursue new and revise existing National Register listings that establish new historic contexts and expand Montana's historic narratives.
5. Guide the development and use of historical contexts for evaluating the significance and integrity of Montana's precontact, historic, and traditional cultural sites.
  - Develop Multiple Property Documents (MPD) with historic contexts for related properties.
  - Use existing historic contexts and MPDs to prepare National Register nominations.
  - Expand the African American Heritage Places MPD to include properties across Montana.
  - Support articles, walking tours, interpretive signs, etc. about place-based history.
  - Support research and writing to better understand properties with complex histories.
6. Promote forums that investigate and assess the significance of Montana's heritage properties.
  - Host virtual and in person National Register workshops, fieldwork, and other presentations to discuss property significance.
  - Advertise and promote public attendance at State Preservation Review Board meetings.
  - Encourage regular meetings amongst heritage personnel of state and federal agencies.

## **VI. ISSUE: NEED TO INTEGRATE PRESERVATION CONSIDERATIONS INTO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**

### **GOAL: INTEGRATE – INSTILL CONSIDERATION OF HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROPERTIES INTO NATURAL DISASTER MITIGATION, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY**

#### Objectives:

1. Increase cooperation among cultural resource managers to develop protocols that protect known historic and archaeological properties in pre-emptive fire, flood, and drought mitigation, as well as emergency responses, and recovery.
  - Develop Programmatic Agreements that streamline consultation amid emergencies.
  - Encourage effective alternative fire mitigation and fighting methods that avoid adversely impacting archaeological sites while protecting sites and the land from fire.
2. Collaborate with cultural resource managers to further develop probability modeling and site identification strategies to identify likelihood of archaeological resources in areas that would be affected by floods, firefighting, fire, and drought mitigation.
  - Support survey and inventory of historic and precontact resources in areas prone to natural disaster, and/or in line for pre-emptive natural disaster mitigation.



## Success Stories

### Union Bethel AME Church grant funding



Union Bethel AME Church, Great Falls will benefit from two SHPO-supported grant applications.

Thanks to Community Preservation Coordinator Kate Hampton, SHPO will pass \$200,000 from the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s Saving Black Churches program and \$497,712 from the National Park Service’s African American Civil Rights grant to Union Bethel to perform crucial masonry repairs, electrical upgrades, and upgrade accessibility needs.

Union Bethel AME church is among Montana’s most significant properties associated with African American civil rights history. Organized in 1890, congregants dedicated Union Bethel’s current church in 1917. By the 1910s, discriminatory “Jim Crow” laws infiltrated Montana’s codes and local ordinances, placing restrictions on Black residents’ ability to marry, work, and patronize businesses. Unofficial but pervasive policies placed many constraints on African Americans. In response, Union Bethel AME became the center of Great Falls African American citizens’ civil rights work for social uplift, education, and equality at the local, state, and national levels.

Pastor Betsy Williams describes the Gothic Revival-style church as a jewel in the neighborhood.

“I see life that comes from here,” Williams said. “It’s a shining brightness ... in the middle of this neighborhood; [it] is somewhere where you can gather, where there can be resources, where there can be help, where there can be spiritual uplifting.” {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives I.4}

### Governor’s Award for eConsultation

Governor Greg Gianforte recognized SHPO’s Cultural Records Manager, Damon Murdo with an award for Damon’s developing SHPO’s paperless eConsultation system. Beginning in 2020, Damon worked with Montana’s IT Division to develop and test SHPO’s new system, which became active in June 2024. SHPO and our consulting parties recognize that the new system saves resources, space, and time previously devoted to handling physical correspondence. The system is a new component of SHPO’s GIS-linked cultural records database, which Damon designed, and State IT built during his 23 years at SHPO. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives II.1, V.3}



Award-winning Cultural Records Manager Damon Murdo and Montana Historical Society Director Molly Kruckenberg.

### Montana Legislative Revenue Interim Committee (RIC) recommends extending state tax credit

Montana’s Legislative RIC cyclically evaluates state income tax credit programs and recommends amendments, continuation, or nullification of them to the legislature. SHPO commissioned a State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit study from Preserve Montana and presented it at the RIC’s June meeting. Tax credit applicants representing healthcare, housing, and commercial sectors testified at the meeting. The report and those testifying recommend an increase to the credit rate and applicants’ ability to transfer credits to would-be investors. Following the hearing, RIC members voted to recommend continuing the program. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives I.1-3}

## Investing in Montana: Montana's Historic Preservation Tax Credit



May 2024

Preserve Montana's State Historic Tax Credit Study

## Administrative Program

**. 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 (2023-2027 Goals/Objectives: I.4; II.2, 3; III.2; IV.1, 4; V.1-6; VI.1)**

Complied with state and National Park Service (NPS) policies and procedures in the ongoing budgeting, expenditure, and accounting for the annual Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) allocation to Montana SHPO totaling \$1,024,898.

Documented the required 40% non-federal state match to the HPF grant. Much 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 (CLG) communities, as administered by SHPO. Additional eligible state match derives from state accommodations-tax and general fund support of SHPO salaries and the Montana National Register (NR) sign program; from private grants, program revenue (fees), donated State Preservation Review Board, and volunteer services.

Awarded three (3) brick-and-mortar grants totaling \$100,000 completed in 2024 using state accommodations tax revenue given to the Montana Historical Society. These projects benefited Revitalizing Montana’s Rural Heritage (RMRH) Grant projects to complete scopes of work described in each applicants’ 2019 application for RMRH funds. RMRH funds were originally derived from a 2019 National Park Service Paul Bruhn grant. The three projects include the F.M. Mack Mercantile, Augusta; the Basin Creek Caretakers House, Silver Bow County; and Roundup Central School, Roundup. In FFY24, SHPO secured \$220,000 in state funding for additional brick-and-mortar grants in FFY25. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives I.4; III.1, 2; IV.1-4; V.1, 4, 5}

Allocated 10% of Montana’s federal Historic Preservation Fund apportionment to Montana Certified Local Governments (CLGs). 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. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives I.4; III.1}

- GIS Specialist Steffanie Wood joined SHPO in January.
- Accountant Cindy Davis joined the Montana Historical Society in August to manage SHPO’s federal grants.
- Compliance Officer R.J. Hilman joined SHPO in August.
- SHPO requested approval for a new fulltime Compliance Officer position from the Governor’s Budget Office to address increased compliance workload. The 2025 Montana Legislature will consider this request.



SHPO intern Richard Emory chronicling Montana’s Historic Tax Credit projects.

- SHPO hosted three interns between June and August. One from Middle Tennessee State University compiled tax credit project summaries. Two others from University of Montana conducted research on Montana aviation history, and Montana’s historic Chinese populations. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives II.3; V.5}

SHPO maintained 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 salaries are made up of 80% HPF, 12% enterprise, and 8% State funds. SHPO staff in FFY2024 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

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

M.A. Anthropology, emphasis in Archaeology

Lindsay Tran – 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 SOI Professional Quals. for **History, and Architectural History**

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

Melissa Munson – Program Officer 1

**Administration**

B.S. Biology & Botanical Sciences

Cindy Davis – HPF Grants Contracts

**Grants Administration/CLG assistance**

Associate Degree, Accounting

Damon Murdo – Cultural Records Manager

**Survey and Inventory/Compliance**

Meets the SOI Professional Qualifications for **Archaeology**

M.A. Anthropology, Forensic Anthropology and Archaeology

Steffany Wood– Cultural Records Assistant

**Survey and Inventory**

B.A. History; MSHP-Digital Heritage

R.J. Hillman – Sec. 106 Compliance Officer

**Compliance**

B.A. History & M.A. CRM/HP

Samantha Gilk– Sec. 106 Compliance Officer

**Compliance**

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

M.S. in Historic Preservation, emphasis in Architectural History

Jessica Bush – State Archaeologist

**Survey and Inventory / Planning / Compliance**

Meets the SOI Professional Qualifications for **Archaeology**

M.A. Anthropology, emphasis in Archaeology

Staff development: attendance and participation in professional conferences, workshops, and webinars to maintain and enhance staff knowledge, skills, and abilities: {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives II.3; IV.4}

- NPS training on Federal Rehab. Tax Credits, Indianapolis, and Interpreting the Rehabilitation Standards webinar
- Equity, Transparency, Humanity: Building a Better System for Archaeological Research webinar hosted by the Wenner-Gren Foundation
- Stabilizing Masonry Construction: How to Recognize Issues & What To Do; International Masonry Institute webinar
- National Trust for Historic Preservation Past Forward Conference
- ARPA Basics Webinar
- NPS Historic Tax Credits Frequent User webinar
- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) Burial Webinar
- ACHP Indigenous Knowledge policy statement webinar
- Montana Archaeological Society Conference
- National Trust for Historic Preservation Affordable Housing and Preservation Webinar
- Department of Homeland Security Climate Resiliency Webinar
- NAGPRA webinar
- ESRI GIS training
- Western SHPOs and Bureau of Land Management GIS Managers roundtable
- Montana History Conference
- State of Montana Leadership Training

Met with Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPO) and/or Native American Organizations {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives II.2, 3; IV. 4; V.1, 3}

- State Archaeologist Jessica Bush is staff to the State Burial Board. She is working with board members and the University of Montana's Crime Lab to establish a memorandum of understanding to facilitate DNA testing on human remains. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives II.3}
- The Northern Cheyenne (NC) Tribe invited State Burial Board staffer, and State Archaeologist Jessica Bush to participate in the reburial of human remains on the NC Reservation on November 27 and 28. Jessica's partner voluntarily built a wooden internment box for the remains. SHPO will continue to coordinate boxes upon request. Tribal Vice President Ernest Littlemouth expressed his gratitude in a letter to Jessica. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives IV.4}
- State Archaeologist attends quarterly meetings with the Libby Dam and Hungry Horse Dam Cooperating Groups involving SHPO, Bureau of Reclamation, Army Corps of Engineers, and THPOs. Committees discuss Tribal interests and ongoing mitigation in the dammed areas and river corridors. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives IV.4}
- National Register Coordinator John Boughton worked with Northern Cheyenne Tribal members to list the Head Chief-Young Mule Charge Site in the National Register. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives V.1, 2, 4, 5}



Head Chief-Young Mule Charge Site, Northern Cheyenne Reservation, Lame Deer, MT was listed to the National Register.

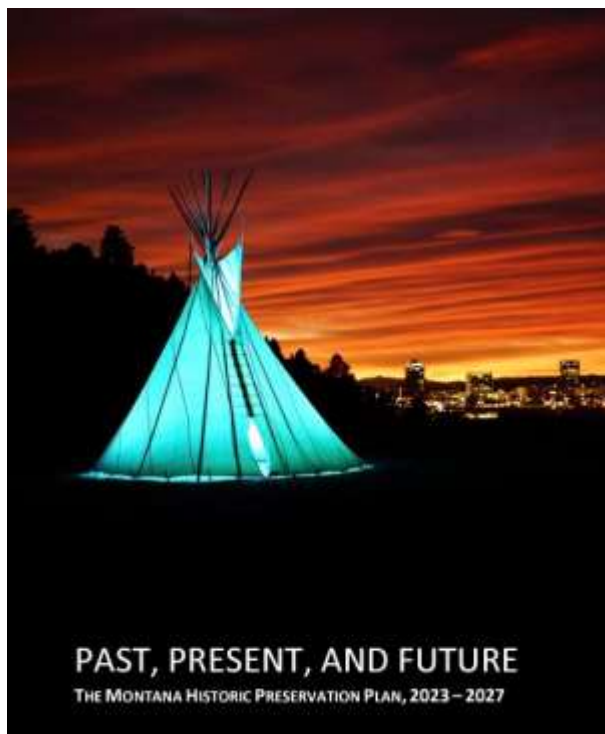
## Planning Program

**. 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 ( Goals/Objectives: I.1, 4; II.1-3; III.1, 2; IV.1, 4; V.1-6; VI.1, 2)**

Developed and routinely monitored SHPO activities and projects for conformance with the goals and objectives of the [2023-2027 Past, Present, and Future State Preservation Plan](#) (see above, 2023-2027 Goals and Objectives).

Undertook or contributed to priority planning activities as identified in the 2023-2027 state plan, 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, collaborative meetings with THPOs, state, and federal agencies, and other recommended activities described elsewhere in this report under individual programs.

- Met with Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, and Fort Peck Tribes THPO regarding a possible trail along the Missouri River near the Montana Historical Society-owned Lewis & Clark Bridge {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives IV.1, 4}
- Contracted with Preserve Montana to study and report on the state historic tax credit’s effectiveness and applicant satisfaction. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives I.1-3}
- SHPO’s Cultural Records management is implementing its paperless records retention plan. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives V.3}
- SHPO opened its Digital Antiquities Research Fellowship through MSU-Bozeman in April and is working with the University of Montana to offer the same program. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives II.3}
- Rebranding SHPO’s Revitalizing Montana’s Rural History (RMRH) grant as the *SHPO Grant*. SHPO established RMRH in 2019 with NPS Paul Bruhn Grant funds for rural properties. The SHPO Grant will launch in FFY 2025 using \$220,000 of state accommodations tax revenue to fund building preservation. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives I.4}



The state preservation plan, written by SHPO, reflects public input and is for all Montana’s preservation sectors to implement.

## Survey and Inventory Program

**. 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 ( Goals/Objectives: I.4; II.1-4; III.1; IV.2, 4; V.1-3, 6; VI.2)**

Continue to number and catalog newly recorded properties, updated property records, and cultural resources survey reports to SHPO’s Antiquities Database and GIS mapping system. Properties include precontact and/or historic sites. Site types can include districts with multiple properties, buildings, structures, landscapes, and objects. Survey reports document field work activities and findings as well as subject overviews, histories, excavation reports, and analyses.

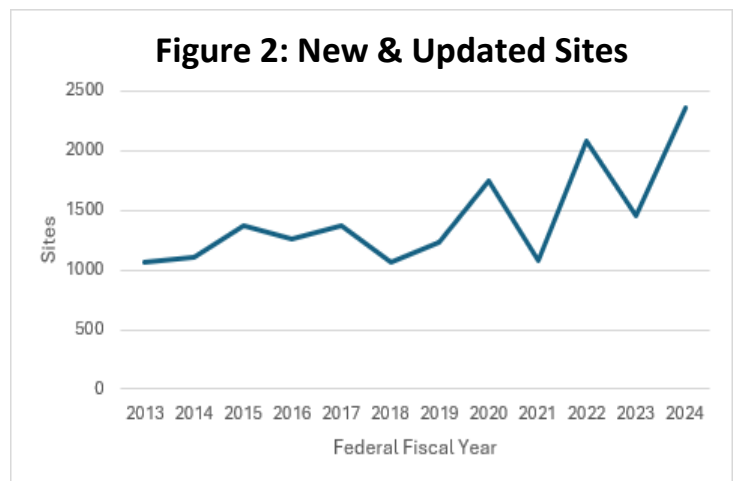
Most survey in Montana occurs on public lands, especially USFS and BLM lands. Significant survey also occurs in Montana communities and on private lands involved in federal undertakings (e.g., pipelines, transmission lines, mining, highway projects, etc.). {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objectives V.1, 3}

Original hard copies of cultural resource documents are at the Montana Historical Society. These are digitized and stored along with born digital documents in SHPO’s Database {2023-2027 Goal/Objective II.3}

The database’s documents are the basis of SHPO *file searches*, the first step in federal and state consultation. SHPO grants access to data through use agreements with qualified agency personnel and THPOs. {2023-2027 Goal/Objective V.3}

<b>Figure 1: Survey &amp; Inventory</b>	<b>2024</b>
Newly Recorded Sites:	
historic	793
precontact	693
combined precontact and historic	55
paleontological	9
<b>Total Newly Recorded Sites</b>	<b>1550</b>
<b>Total Updated Sites</b>	<b>816</b>
<b>Total New &amp; Updates Sites</b>	<b>2,366</b>
Total Cultural Resource Reports	450
surveyed acres	134,953

- The 2,366 new and updated sites submitted to SHPO in FFY24 is the highest number in over ten years (Fig. 2). This year’s tally adds to Montana’s 68,395 documented historic and archaeological sites.
- Consulting parties filed 450 survey reports with SHPO FFY24 reflecting 134,953 acres surveyed. These contribute to the 37,122 survey reports in SHPO’s database that reflect 6,520,340 acres surveyed over the last nine decades.
- Contracted with Delia Hagen, Ph.D. in September to revise SHPO’s cultural resources survey manual. The manual will be the basis for community surveys SHPO and certified local governments will contract for in the coming years. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives II.1, V.1-6}
- An increase in compliance consultation has provided SHPO with enterprise funding to conduct architectural and archaeological surveys beginning in FFY2025. Big Timber, Montana’s downtown is under contract for architectural survey and will likely result in 37 properties being nominated to the National Register. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives IIV.1}
- Surveyed 300 acres gifted to the Montana Historical Society. The survey identified no National Register-eligible features. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives V.1}



- Hired a temporary employee to re-scan poorly scanned site forms. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives V.3}
- Cultural Records management staff participated in twice-annual ESRI GIS training.
- Development of GIS-based predictive modeling for historic sites continues. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives V.3; VI.2}



Montana DNRC Archaeologist Patrick Rennie surveying state land with Youth Archaeological Survey Program students.



## National Register of Historic Places Program

*. 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 (2023-2027 Goals/Objectives: I.4; II.1; III.1, 2; IV.1, 3; V.1-6)*

Work continues on SHPO's Multiple Property Document (MPD) on Montana's historic Chinese-affiliated places . NPS awarded SHPO a \$50,000 Underrepresented Communities grant in 2022. A \$10,000 Montana Cultural Trust Grant supplements NPS's support. {2023-2027 Goal/Objective I.4; V.1, 5}

The [Montana State Historic Preservation Review Board](#) met on January 25, May 20, and September 12 to discuss and forward the following nominations to the Keeper of the National Register:

1. 308-310 West Silver St., Butte (addendum correcting an error in the 2006 district nomination)
2. Harding Way Historic District, Silver Bow County
3. Baatz Block, Great Falls
4. Northern Montana College Girls Residence Hall, Havre
5. Crystal Ice & Fuel Company, Billings
6. Lewis & Clark County Hospital Historic District Addendum and Boundary Increase, Helena
7. Zortman Ranger Station, Zortman
8. Westgate Village Shopping Center, Bozeman
9. Main Boulder Ranger Station, Park County
10. Head Chief-Young Mule Charge Site, Lame Deer
11. Castle Rock Lodge, Silver Bow County
12. Riverside Park, Yellowstone County
13. Manley's General Store, Fergus County
14. Gardiner Bridge, Gardiner
15. Regis Grocery, Red Lodge



**Westgate Village Shopping Center, Bozeman, was listed in the National Register.**

This year's National Register listings and addenda include:

1. Orange Street Tunnel, MISSOULA COUNTY, Orange St. b/tw 2nd St., & Alder St., Missoula, AD12000172, 11/22/2023 (Montana's Steel Stringer and Steel Girder Bridges MPS)
2. Ruffatto School, RICHLAND COUNTY, 31600 Road 154, Brockton, SG100009561, 11/22/2023
3. Basin Creek Park Historic District, SILVER BOW COUNTY, approximately 9 miles south of Butte on Basin Creek Rd. (393), Butte vicinity, SG100009566, 11/27/2023

4. Baatz Block, CASCADE COUNTY, 400-402 2nd Avenue South, Great Falls, SG100010108, LISTED, 3/25/2024
  5. 308-310 West Silver, SILVER BOW COUNTY, Butte, AD66000438, 3/29/2024
  6. Northern Montana College Girls Residence Hall, HILL COUNTY, 300 West 11th Street, Havre, SG100010160, 4/4/2024
  7. Harding Way Historic District, SILVER BOW COUNTY, MP 75.0 to Milepost 80.1, Butte vicinity, SG100010219, 4/8/2024
  8. Crystal Ice & Fuel Company, YELLOWSTONE COUNTY, 19 North 22nd St., Billings, SG100010218, 4/15/2024
  9. Lewis & Clark County Hospital Historic District, LEWIS & CLARK COUNTY, North Benton Ave., between Chert Place and Flagstone Ave., Helena BC100010499, 6/14/2024
  10. Head Chief-Young Mule Charge, immediately east of Chief Dull Knife College, Lame Deer, SG100010680, 8/7/2024
  11. Westgate Village Shopping Center, 1003, 1005, 1007, 1009, 1011 West College Street, Bozeman, SG100010714, 8/9/2024
- Regularly provided guidance to owners nominating their properties to the National Register. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objective III.1; V.1, 4}
  - Routinely provided National Register program information and access SHPO's [GIS-based story map](#) on listed properties. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objective III.1, 4}
  - Applied National Register eligibility criteria within the context of state and federal preservation regulations and concurred with agencies on National Register eligibility determinations. Evaluated 209 properties as eligible and 876 as not eligible. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objective V.1, 2}
  - Maintained a public inventory of *state-owned heritage properties*, which are NR listed/eligible state-owned properties. State agencies use the list in biennial reporting on their heritage property stewardship efforts as required under the Montana State Antiquities Act. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives V.1-3, 6}
  - Continued supporting the Montana Historical Society Research Center in maintaining and expanding the [Historic Montana](#) mobile app. The app is a way-finder program using NR interpretive sign texts and historic photographs, from SHPO's NR files to provide historical background and context on select places statewide. The rise in sites featured on Historic Montana coincides with an absence in communities developing new historic walking tours. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives III.2; IV.1; V.5; II.3; III.3}
  - Provided file support to the Montana Historical Society's Outreach & Education Division, NR Property Sign Program in the production of 44 interpretive plaques. This program is supported by an annual allocation from the state accommodations tax. Signs went to properties in 11 counties and include 6 individual listings and 38 contributing properties within 11 Historic Districts. Signs for recently listed properties include the Coulson Boothill Cemetery, Billings; and the Ruffatto School, Richland County. {2023-2027 Goal/Objective III.2; IV.1; V.5}
  - Regularly announced or assisted property owners in the preparation and distribution of press releases and stories of newly and previously listed NR properties. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objective IV.3}
  - Frequently featured Montana NR-listed properties in traditional media and [Montana Historical Society social media](#) (see Outreach Activities). {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objective IV.3}

## Development/Acquisitions/Covenants Program

**. 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. (2023-2027 Goals/Objectives: II.1-4; IV.1, 4)**

Routinely responded to owner inquiries regarding care of historic buildings and structures eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NR). {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives IV.4}

Provided funding, technical advice, and made field visits to public and private preservation projects (beyond federal compliance and tax credit projects reported elsewhere in this document) active in planning (pre-development) or implementation (development). {2023-2027 Goal/Objective I.4, II.1-4; IV.1, 4} These include:

- Provided F.M. Mack Mercantile in Augusta, \$8,000 additional non-federal funds for its Revitalizing Montana’s Rural Heritage (RMRH) grant. This enabled the grantee to complete replacement of the building’s damaged concrete front entry stairs. This work was reviewed under NEPA and Section 106 in 2020 but dropped from the earlier scope in 2021 when the project went over budget. {2023-2027 Goal/Objective I.4}
- Granted an additional non-federal \$46,000 to Roundup Central School to complete the scope of work proposed in an earlier RMRH grant. {2023-2027 Goal/Objective I.4, IV.1}
- Granted \$65,764 in non-federal funds to the Basin Creek Caretaker’s House enabling the installation of basic interior building systems and finishes that a 2019 RMRH grant could not cover. {2023-2027 Goal/Objective I.4}
- Managers of the I.G. Baker House are consulting for structural work on the house’s kitchen. The I.G. Baker’s RMRH-funded work was completed in Summer 2022, and this work is subject to SHPO review under the 15-year RMRH-related preservation agreement.
- The National Trust for Historic Preservation awarded a \$200,000 grant for the Union Bethel AME Church rehabilitation. SHPO’s Kate Hampton wrote the grant on behalf of the church. {2023-2027 Goal/Objective I.4}
- The National Park Service awarded SHPO an African American Civil Rights Grant (P24AP00773) for \$497,712 to rehabilitate and improve accessibility to the Union Bethel AME Church in Great Falls. SHPO will pass funds through the City of Great Falls’ Historic Preservation Commission to administer funds to the church. {2023-2027 Goal/Objective I.4}
- Rebranded SHPO’s Revitalizing Montana’s Rural History (RMRH) to the *SHPO Grant*. SHPO established RMRH in 2019 with NPS Paul Bruhn Grant funds for rural properties. The SHPO Grant launches in FFY25 using \$220,000 of state funds for Standards-compliant building repairs. {2023-2027 Goal/Objective I.4}
- Consulted with Madison County on an addition to the National Historic Landmark Madison County Courthouse.
- Sent notice to MT Dept. of Commerce that it violated its Virginia City SAT agreement. Commerce acknowledged its violation and has improved.
- Reviewed and scored 70 applications for the Montana Department of Commerce Historic Preservation Grant. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives IV.4; V.3, 6}
- Reviewed and scored 28 Montana History Foundation (MHF) grant applications. MHF awards over \$200,000 annually. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives IV.4}

- Monitoring preservation agreements for 28 properties that received federal preservation grants, federal tax credits, or were conveyed out of federal ownership.



**SHPO provided preservation funds for Basin Creek Caretakers House, Silver Bow County.**

## Preservation Tax Incentives Program

*. 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 ( Goals/Objectives: I.1-3; II.1; III.1)*

Since Montana’s first federal rehabilitation tax credit project in 1990, rehabilitation investments total \$93,763,739. SHPO regularly communicates and advises property owners considering the federal and state tax credit rehabilitation programs. SHPO performed 21 draft application reviews, some that are multiple drafts for a single project. {Goals/Objectives: I.1-3; III.1}

SHPO Tax Credit reviewers Samantha Gilk and Lindsay Tran participated in NPS’s five-part training on Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits and Interpreting the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards between September and November 2023. Both traveled to Indianapolis for Tax Credit reviewer training in July.

SHPO submitted for approval the following four (4) Part 1s, four (4) Part 2s, and two (2) Part 3s:

### Approvals

#### Part 1

Cooney Home, Helena

Baatz Block, Great Falls

Boulder School Cottage No. 5, Boulder

Thompson Block, Livingston

#### Part 2

Petroleum County Courthouse, Winnett

Milligan Building, Miles City

Stephens Hotel, Philipsburg

Baatz Block, Great Falls

#### Part 3

Crowley Block, Lewistown

Thornton Apartments, Missoula



The Crowley Block, Lewistown was certified for tax credits in 2024.

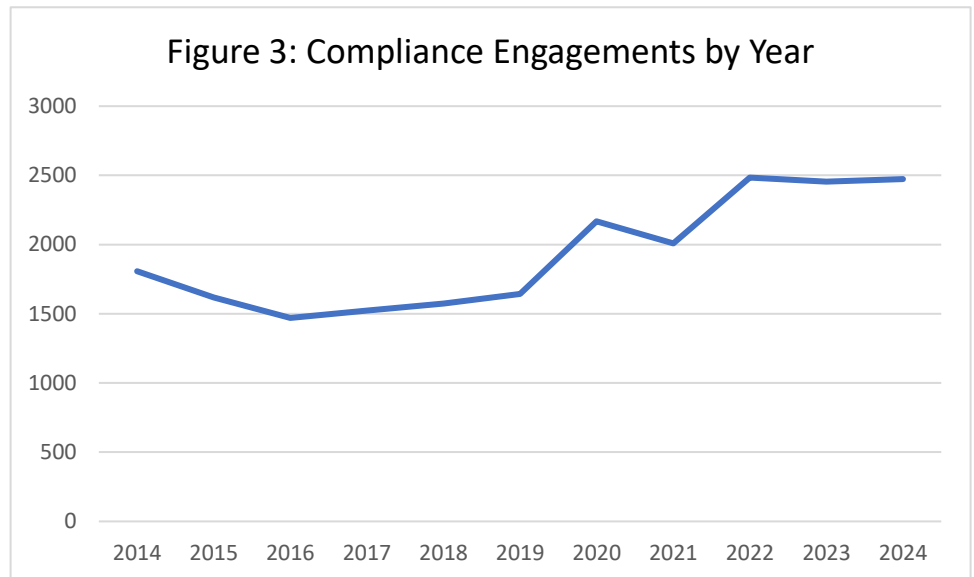
## Review and Compliance Program

**. 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 ( Goals/Objectives: II.2-4; IV.1, 4; V.1, 3, 6; VI.1, 2)**

SHPO’s Review and Compliance team is comprised of archaeologists, building preservationists, and architectural historians. Each year the team provides thousands of responses to project requests submitted for review and comment in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106), and the Montana State Antiquities Act.

Consultation typically begins with the agency initiating a “file search” request to SHPO for cultural resource information compiled in SHPO’s database. A file search, which includes a GIS review of the project area, is the basis of staff determining the likelihood of historic properties within the project scope or area of potential effect. File searches can result in SHPO’s recommendations for additional survey within the project’s area of potential effect. File search results and subsequent surveys lead to eventual determinations of National Register eligibility and the undertaking’s effect on historic properties. Resolving consultation involves findings of *no historic properties affected*, avoidance of adverse effects to historic properties, or mitigation of adverse effects.

SHPO provided consulting parties with 1,351 file searches, data requests, and site number assignments; and issued 1,123 written responses regarding findings of eligibility and effect, or establishment of agreement documents for a total of 2,474 engagements with consulting parties (Fig. 3). Response times among the seven (7) compliance staff averaged 6.7 days, an improvement over 2023’s 10-day average response time (SHPO had 6 compliance staff for much of 2023). SHPO continues to operate within the allowable 15 and 30-day response times.



In 2024, SHPO recommended that no further cultural resource work was warranted in 222 (20%) of the 1,136 file searches of 134,953 acres. Turnaround time for file searches averaged .51 day. To provide entities with high volume consulting immediate access to data and the agencies plan undertakings, SHPO grants database access to eight (8) federal agencies, three (3) state agencies, and Montana’s eight (8) THPOs. Only qualified agency or THPO staff can access restricted site data, which includes archaeological site information protected under federal and state laws.

After fulfilling SHPO’s file search recommendations, parties will 1) determine the subject properties’ National Register status; and 2) reach a finding of effect the undertaking would have on such properties based on a project overview. SHPO and the agency work to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects an undertaking could have to properties’ National Register qualities.

Certain compliance projects are handled under multi-year Programmatic Agreements (PA) that streamline consultation and establish protocols among consulting parties. Projects covered under PAs typically do not require SHPO's written response. {2023-2027 Goal/Objective VI.1} Agencies and SHPO executed seven (7) PAs.



Pre-contact-era hunting blinds and drive lines on federal land.

**PAs signed:**

- BLM-Butte Mining PA 5/24/24
- Veterans Affairs Fort Harrison Seismic Upgrades, 10/5/23
- BLM-Missoula Clark Force Face, 11/17/23
- EPA-Brownfields Harlowton Roundhouse Cleanup, 2/2/24
- EDA Little Powder River Bridge, 4/5/24
- HUD-City of Billings CDBG-HOME, 7/2/24
- DOE-FERC Broadwater Hydroelectric, 9/25/24

Of the 1,123 compliance consultations in 2024, 25 concluded in findings of adverse effect to National Register properties. Agencies may cancel or amend an undertaking to avoid adversely affecting historic properties; or they may elect to undertake an *adverse* project to meet non-preservation goals. Agencies unable to avoid adversely affecting historic properties establish a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with SHPO and other stakeholders. MOAs commit the agency to mitigation commensurate with the adverse effect.

In 2024, SHPO signed the ten (10) MOAs below. Some of these tie to findings of adverse effect in previous years.

- BLM-Billings, Bull Mountains; 11/17/23
- Army Corps of Engineers, Jack Creek Road Bridge; 2/7/24
- MT DOT, Conner-South US Highway 93, Ravalli County; 3/5/24
- MT DOT, Missouri River-Ft Benton Chouteau County; 3/5/24
- USFS-Lolo, McKinley Dam; 5/24/24
- EDA Deadman Bridge; 7/5/24
- MT DOT, Huntley East, Yellowstone County; 7/8/24
- EDA Caras Park River Access, Missoula; 7/11/24
- USFS-Custer/Gallatin, East Boulder Mine; 9/6/24
- MT DOT Augusta North; 9/6/24

Twelve state agencies report to the State Historic Preservation Review Board on the agencies' stewardship of state heritage properties. This reporting, which also reflects agencies' record of consultation under the state's Antiquities Act, occurs in February of even-numbered years. Reporting and subsequent research identified non-compliance from Montana Department of Administration, Montana Tech, University of Montana, and the Montana Heritage Commission (MHC), which manages the National Historic Landmark Virginia City. MHC has also failed to honor its Save America's Treasures agreement, which covers most of its Virginia City properties. SHPO is working with MHC's parent agency, the Montana Department of Commerce to ensure compliance going forward.

## Local Government Certification (CLG) Program

***. 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. (2023-2027 Goals/Objectives: I.1, 4; II.1, 3; III.1, 2; IV.4; V.1-6)***

Identified \$82,000 in funding passthrough of SHPO’s 2024 Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) apportionment statewide to 14 Certified Local Government (CLG) communities. The remaining \$20,489 in required passthrough funding will be subgranted to CLG projects in the next federal fiscal year.

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 contribute the majority of Montana’s 40% state match for federal funding (HPF).

Assisted and communicated regularly with all Montana local preservation officers during the year. Responded to requests in a timely manner.

- Fourteen (14) active CLGs filed annual activity and financial reports on spending a combined total of \$82,000 of Federal Historic Preservation Funds that pass through SHPO.
- Met with Billings-Laurel-Yellowstone County CLG during Billings’ Preservation Roundtable discussion in March. SHPO awarded additional CLG funds to Billings for a project to identify and document Architect Chandler Cohagen’s designs in Billings; and to Laurel to support National Register listing of Riverside Park.
- Provided Livingston funds to support a resurvey of its downtown.
- Performed four-year CLG performance evaluations visiting Carbon County, Livingston, Missoula, and Big Horn County. Carbon County, Livingston, and Missoula meet or exceed expectations. Big Horn County’s HPO will retire, and the program depends on identifying a new HPO and commission members. Negotiations are ongoing.
- Met with Carbon County CLG and Red Lodge Community Foundation (RLCF) to advise RLCF in its Paul Bruhn Grant management.
- Deer Lodge CLG funds are going to the Coleman-Larson Block parapet reconstruction, which contributes to the National Register-listed Deer Lodge Commercial District.
- NPS awarded Butte-Silver Bow a \$750,000 Paul Bruhn Grant in September for repairs to properties in Butte’s National Historic Landmark District.
- Consulted in person and remotely with community historic preservation officers and their commission members regarding eligibility, design review, certificates of appropriateness, and demolition review. Provided preservation training to these parties at the Montana History Conference Preservation Workshop, September. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objectives II.2; III.1; IV.4}
- Participated in May Preservation Month activities by providing information, guidance, and review to CLG programs’ activities. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objective I.1; II.1-3; V.6}
- Miles City’s CLG program is dormant.
- Conducted two sessions of CLG training at the Montana History Conference in Great Falls, the county seat of the CLG Cascade County, September. In session 1, Harvard Professor of History and best-selling author Tiya Miles spoke to Certified Local Government staff and attendees about researching and drawing greater attention to often overlooked vernacular architecture and historic marginalized communities. Professor Miles used her work with the Harriet Jacobs House and Bradley Memorial Church in Massachusetts. Session 2 featured Heather



McMilan and Julie Stiteler of HomeWord Montana, demonstrating how they create funding stacks—including historic tax credits—to capitalize HomeWord’s housing projects. Ms. McMilan, Ms. Stiteler, and Spark Architecture led a tour of HomeWord’s tax credit rehab of the Great Falls’ Baatz Block. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objective II.1-4; III.1, 2; V.2, 3, 6}

- Provided guidance and a grant application framework for Butte-Silver Bow County in its application for Paul Bruhn Grant funds to address preservation concerns in the economically disadvantaged uptown Butte. SHPO provided Carbon County with similar assistance in its successful 2022 Bruhn grant application. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives I.4}



**Lewis & Clark County’s Historic Preservation Commission secured \$5,000 from the Montana History Foundation to rehabilitate the Unionville School.**



## Outreach

**. 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 (2023-2027 Goals/Objectives: I.1-4; II.1- 3; III.1, 2; IV.1-4; V.1, 2, 4-6; VI.2)**

Responded to inquiries and provided technical assistance through 1,063 phone calls, 5,068 emails, and 515 meetings with 1,056 people. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives II.1,2; III.1; IV.1}

Networked with national preservation partners, including the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO), National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO), 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). {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives IV.4}

Provided expertise in preservation, historic architecture, architectural history, archaeology, and GIS to the programs and projects of the Montana Historical Society (MHS). {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives IV.4}

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 Preservation Commission, the Montana Archaeological Society, the Forest Fire Lookout Association, the Montana Main Street Advisory Board, Montana Department of Commerce Historic Preservation Grant staff, and Preserve Montana. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objective III.1; IV.4}

Co-sponsored a student poster session at the Montana History Conference. Scholarship recipient and UM-History student Matthew Stump presented on the theme of the Northern Pacific Railroad taking of Native land between 1840 and 1912; UM-History student Dylan Yonce presented on the University of Montana, Flathead Lake Biological Station, and the Dispossession of the Flathead Reservation; Elijah Arnold presented on Montana and the Colonial Philippines; and Colorado State's Delilah Lopez presenting on the history and legacy of Montana's federal Indian boarding schools. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objective I.4; II.4}

SHPO sponsored year two of the Youth Archaeological Survey Program (YASP), which provides six weeks of professionally led archaeological survey training in June and July. Four students learned survey methods relevant to precontact and historic sites with subsurface and standing features. SHPO and the Montana Historical Society's Outreach and Education program, and Montana DNRC organize and fund this program, which is part of the Montana Discovery Foundation's larger Youth Forest Monitoring Program. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives II.1, 2, 4; III.1; IV.2, 4; V.1, 2, 6; VI.2}

State Archaeologist Jessica Bush is working with the Montana Historical Society and an exhibit contractor to develop a First Peoples exhibit in the newly built Montana Heritage Center. The exhibit will jettison archaeological myths from earlier exhibits in exchange for the latest knowledge and unanswered questions regarding Northern Rockies and Great Plains archaeology. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives IV.2}

SHPO issued a \$3,000 1:1 challenge grant to the Montana Archaeological Society (MAS) to support two color print editions of MAS's Archaeology in Montana journal, free student membership and subscription, and MAS's pursuit of moving the journal to a digital format. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives I.4, II.2}

Created and distributed Montana preservation greeting cards featuring the NPS-Paul Bruhn subgrantee Basin Creek Caretaker's House; the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mann Gulch wildland firefighting tragedy; pre-contact archaeology Drive

Lines and Hunting Blinds. SHPO mails recipients multiple blank cards for use in correspondence and to multiply SHPO's reach. Cards were also distributed to Montana History Conference attendees. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives III.2}

SHPO staff conducted the following presentations and outreach activities. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives II.1-4; III.1, 2; IV.1-5; V.6}:

Outreach activities include:

- Mary MacLane's life, home, and writing in Butte; presentation at the Lewis & Clark County Library, January 4.
- National History Day judging, February 3.
- UM-Missoula Historic Preservation class presentations on the National Register, Standards for Rehabilitation, and preservation planning; January through March.
- B17 Norden Bomb Sight presentation at Lewis & Clark County Library, March 21.
- SHPO staff participated with US Forest Service personnel and Montana State University Public History students in an archaeological survey of the historic Bagdad mining camp, June 13
- SHPO hosted 33 visitors.

## Press and Social Media

Traditional news media:

- *MTHS Lecture will discuss life of notorious Butte figure* Josh Margolis, NBC Montana; January 1.
- Five Montana Sites Recommended for National Register Inclusion; Daily Inter Lake February 14.
- Donaldson Hall Nominated for the National Historical Registry; Northern Network News, February 16.
- Lewistown's Crowley Block Approved for Historic Preservation Tax Credits, May 1.
- Five National Register Nominations to be Forwarded to NPS; Miles City Star, May 9.
- Learning how people in the past did things; Helena Independent Record; May 10, 2024.
- Students learn about the past at Archaeology Day; Tom Buchanan, KTVH; May 9, 2024.
- Effort to Preserve Union Bethel AME Church Receives \$497K Grant; Jen Rowell, theelectric.com, July 31.
- Gardiner Bridge nomination for historic recognition reveals regional tales; Brett French, Helena Independent Record; September 20.
- Five Montana Properties Nominated for National Historic Register; Briana Henderson, NBC Montana; Sept. 23.
- Riverside Park's history to be honored with historic places designation; Jaci Webb, Laurel Outlook; Sept. 24.

NEWS

## Students learn about the past at Archaeology Day



NBC Montana's Archaeology Day coverage.

Social Media Posts,

- Montana History Conference poster session scholars
- How do history, archaeology, and preservation work together?
- National Register-listed Robworth Apartments
- National Register-listed Lavina School
- Montana Department of Commerce Historic Preservation grant program
- National Register-listed Meyers Creek Work Center
- National Register-listed West Fork Ranger Station
- Aviation history and SHPO's 2013 Montana Aviation History poster
- Montana's National Register listed theaters
- National Register-listed Monture Guard Station
- National Register-listed Sacajawea Park
- National Trust for Historic Preservation's grant programs
- National Register-listed Ruffatto School
- Historic awnings and Preservation Brief 44
- ACHP's *So you want to be a preservationist?*
- McCone County wouldn't be the same without \_\_\_\_\_?
- Painting Brick
- Carter County's historic properties, featuring the library and town hall
- Garfield County's historic Hornaday Camp, associated with the Smithsonian's 19<sup>th</sup> century buffalo study
- Montana History is Black History
- Powder River County's historic properties feat. The Cross Ranch Headquarters
- SHPO's Digital Antiquities Research Fellowship announcement
- State Review Board's May meeting
- SHPO greeting card feat. Square Butte Jail
- SHPO greeting card feat. Historic landscapes: Hunting Blinds and Drive Lines
- SHPO greeting card feat. Basin Creek Caretaker's House
- SHPO staff's visit to Coolidge ghost town
- SHPO's site form rescanning tech, Penny Meredyk
- SHPO's Youth Archaeological Survey Program
- SHPO greeting card feat. Mann Gulch Historic District
- R.J. Hilman, SHPO's new Compliance Officer
- SHPO Intern Richard Emory from Middle Tennessee State University
- Historic Preservation Scholarship for Montana History Conference attendance
- Historic preservation is good for business
- Montana students return to some iconic historic schools this week
- State Review Board's September meeting
- SHPO's National Register Story Map
- SHPO's Digital Antiquities Research Fellowship announcement
- Damon Murdo's Governor's Award for Excellence