

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



**Federal Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report of Activities  
(October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023)**

in accordance with

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

Montana State Historic Preservation Office • Montana Historical Society • 225 Roberts • Helena, MT 59620





**The Montana SHPO dedicates its 2023 annual report to the memory of writer, historian, preservationist,  
and friend, Ellen Bauml, Ph.D.  
1949-2023**

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**On the cover:** Montana Department of Natural Resources (DNRC) Archaeologist Patrick Rennie teaches students how to document a stone circle. The students are enrolled in the Montana State Historic Preservation Office's (SHPO) Youth Archaeological Survey Program (YASP), a six-week summer program teaching archaeological survey, site documentation, and survey reporting to high school students. SHPO organizes and sponsors the program with support from the Montana Historical Society's Outreach and Interpretation program, Montana DNRC, and the Youth Forest Monitoring Program.

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.

## PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE: The Montana Historic Preservation Plan 2023-2027

(<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 have 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 that may not be 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 for better understanding of 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**

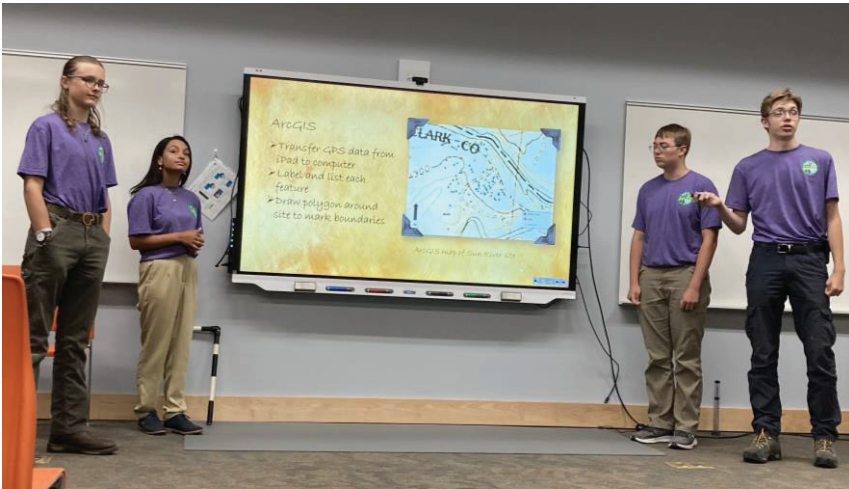
Objectives:

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. Collaboration among 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.



## 2023 Montana State Historic Preservation Office Success Stories

### Youth Forest Monitoring Program (YFMP) Archaeological Survey

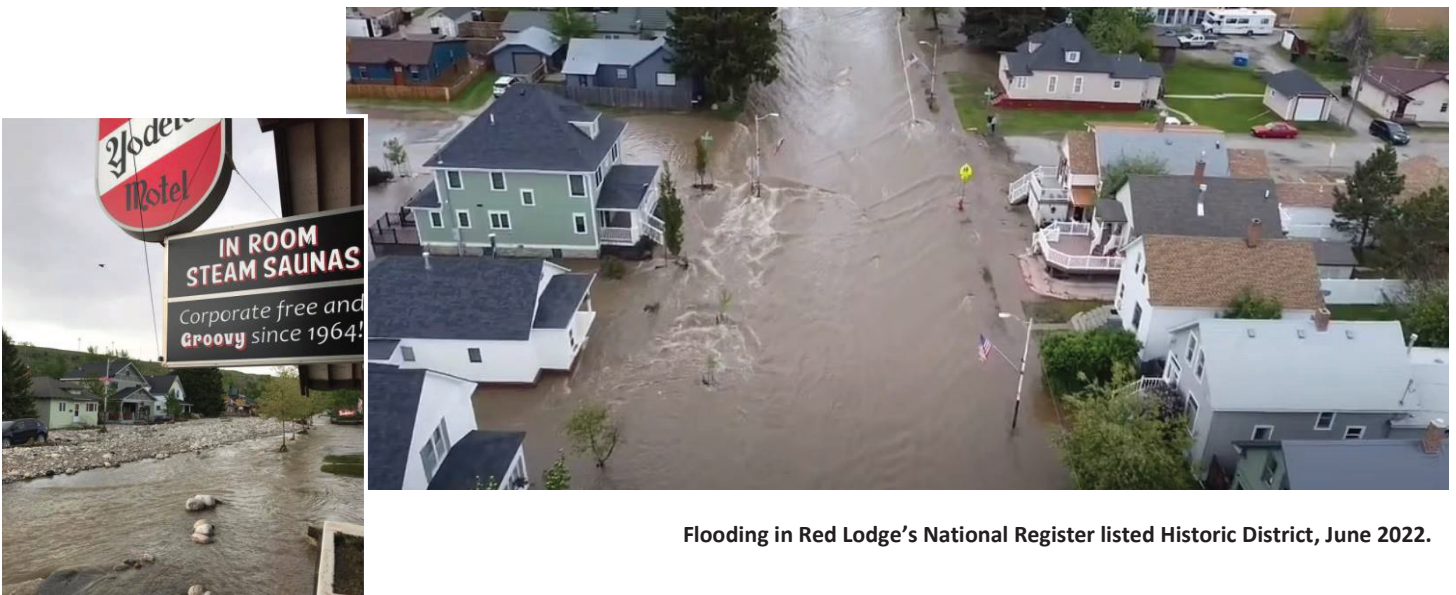


High school students present what they learned about archaeological survey.

The Montana Discovery Foundation and Helena National Forest administer YFMP, which has brought student scientists into the field to monitor natural resources for 25 years. To cultivate the next generation of cultural resources professionals, SHPO and the Montana Department of Natural Resources (DNRC) provided organizational, staffing, and financial support so YFMP could offer a cultural resources component for four weeks in summer 2023. Staff taught students survey methods using pre-contact and historic archaeological sites on DNRC land, and architectural documentation of a historic Forest Service cabin.

### Preservation-oriented Flood Disaster Recovery Funds for Carbon County

SHPO Community Preservation Coordinator Kate Hampton provided extensive guidance to the Red Lodge Area Community Foundation (RLACF) on RLACF's successful application for National Park Service (NPS) Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program (HRSP) funds. RLACF is one of 12 grantees nationwide that NPS awarded a 2023 HRSP grant. SHPO has expertise in HRSP since NPS awarded it the grant in 2019. RLACF will use SHPO's framework of rules, application forms, and scoring criteria to manage \$747,564 in subgrants to owners of historic properties across Carbon County impacted by 2022's Yellowstone River flood. SHPO will advise RLACF and subgrantees on tailoring repairs to meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties that HRSP requires. Carbon County's Historic Preservation Commission is enrolled in the Certified Local Government Program that SHPO coordinates.



Flooding in Red Lodge's National Register listed Historic District, June 2022.

### **Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Summit**

In May, State Archaeologist Jessica Bush hosted a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer summit in Helena. All seven (7) THPOs from within Montana, and representatives from the Little Shell Tribe's Culture Committee participated in a daylong discussion of THPO activities and concerns. Beyond the opportunity for THPOs and SHPO to get better acquainted, discussion included sharing of site information between THPOs and SHPO; confidentiality of cultural sites referenced in scholarly articles; and the status of THPOs in State Antiquities Act consultation.

Montana's THPOs include (front row, L to R) Katie MacDonald, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes; Teanna Limpy, Northern Cheyenne Tribe; Dyan Youpee, Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes; (back row L to R) Aaron Brien, The Crow Tribe of Indians; Michael Blackwolf, Fort Belknap Indian Community; John Murray, Blackfoot Nation Tribe.



## 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) federal grant allocation to Montana SHPO totaling \$1,024,898.
- ✓ Documented the required 40% non-federal state match (\$683,266) to the 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 (CLG) communities, as administered by SHPO. Additional eligible state match derives from state accommodations-tax support of the Montana National Register (NR) sign program, private grants, program revenue (fees), donated State Preservation Review Board and volunteer services, and state general funding as provided in the Montana Historical Society budget (FTE grant manager position).
- ✓ Awarded eight (8) brick-and-mortar grants totaling \$491,067 in 2019 and *completed* in 2023. The Revitalizing Montana's Rural Heritage (RMRH) Grant combined a \$391,067 Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Subgrant (HRSP), and \$100,000 in National Park Service Historic Preservation Fund money (grant #P20AF00031). Beyond supporting building repairs in rural communities without many examples of SHPO-related preservation projects, the program yielded the National Register listing of the F.M. Mack Mercantile, and the Basin Creek Caretakers House and related landscape features. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives I.4; III.1, 2; IV.1-4; V.1, 4, 5}

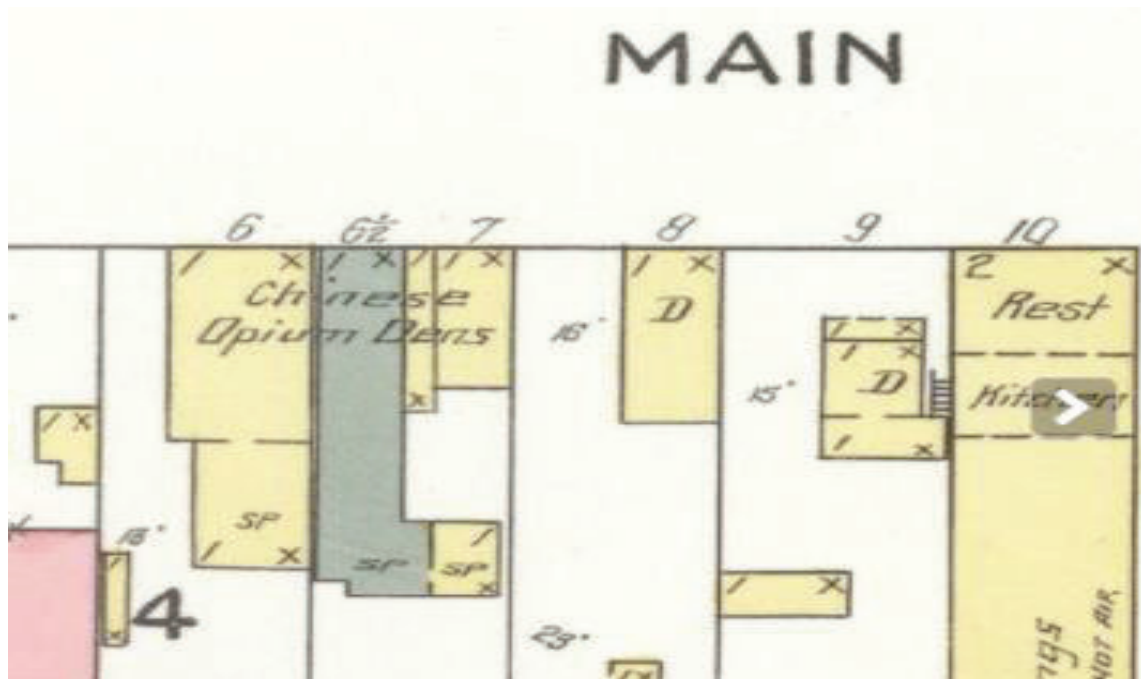


The Dion Block, Glendive has been rehabilitated using Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits and an RMRH grant.

**RMRH Grantees:**

- Basin Creek Caretakers House, Silver Bow County, \$100,000
- Central School, Roundup; \$100,000
- Dion Block, Glendive; \$65,000
- Fort Assiniboine Amusement Building, Hill County; \$60,720
- F.M. Mack Mercantile, Augusta; \$24,500
- I.G. Baker House, Fort Benton National Historic Landmark District (NHL); \$66,480
- Montana Hotel, Anaconda NHL; \$54,061
- Waterworks Museum, Miles City, Custer County; \$20,306

- ✓ Airing the documentary *Hidden Stories: Montana's Black Past* on Montana PBS in January. NPS's Underrepresented Communities (P19AP00178) grant was significant in helping produce documentary. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives IV.1-4}
- ✓ Allocated \$102,489.80 in 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. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives I.4; III.1}
- ✓ Submitted application for SHPO's annual Historic Preservation Fund apportionment.
- ✓ Awarded a \$9,000 Montana Cultural and Aesthetic Grant to supplement SHPO's \$50,000 National Park Service Underrepresented Communities Grant to develop a historic context for Chinese history in Montana {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives I.4; V.1, 5}



This Havre Sanborn Map indicates a Chinese-affiliated property.

- ✓ 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 in FFY2023 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

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

Vacant – HPF Grants Contracts  
**Grants Administration/CLG assistance**

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

Vacant – Sec. 106 Compliance Officer  
**Compliance**

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

- ✓ All Montana SHPO positions are fully federally funded (HPF), except the Cultural Records Assistant and one Compliance Officer (revenue-funded), and the Grants Contracts Coordinator (revenue-funded and state-funded).

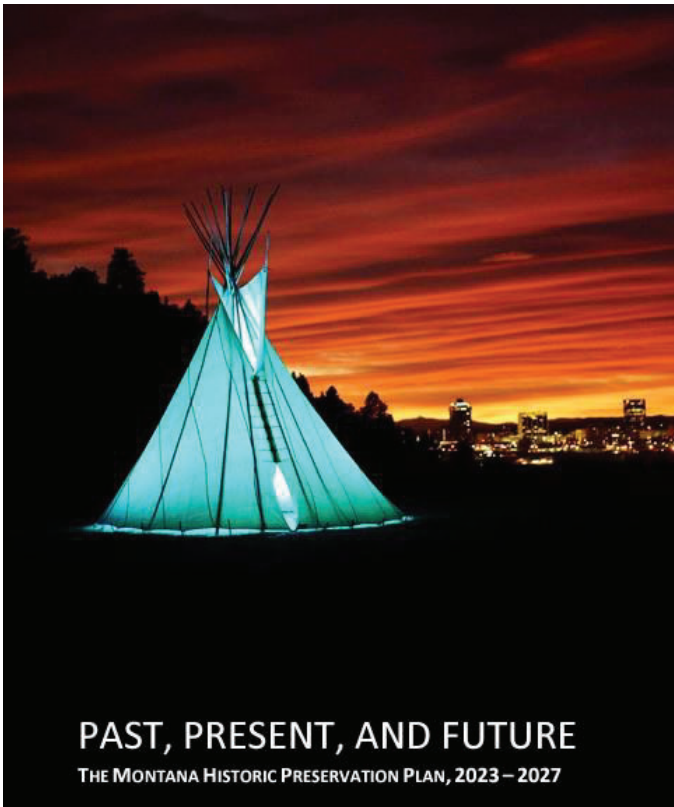
- ✓ Staff development: attendance and participation in professional conferences, workshops, webinars, and online forums to maintain and enhance staff knowledge, skills, and abilities: {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives II.3; IV.4}
  - Association of American Indian Affairs 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Repatriation Conference: Reactivating our Ancestral Connections, October;
  - Montana DOT-hosted Ground penetrating radar demonstration at Lewis & Clark County Poor Farm Cemetery, October;
  - National Trust for Historic Preservation Past Forward Conference, November;
  - National Register Workshop hosted by National Register program administrator Paul Lusignan, November;
  - ESRI GIS training, January;
  - Society for American Archaeology roundtable on the future of the cultural resource management industry, February;
  - Webinar on revisions to National Register Bulletin 38 *Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Properties*, February;
  - The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's (ACHP) webinar *So you think you need a programmatic agreement*, February;
  - US Forest Service ScienceX Fire webinar on indigenous fire stewardship and cultural burning, February;
  - Society for American Archaeology annual meeting, Portland, OR, February;
  - National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO) webinar on Catholic Boarding School archives, April;
  - Center for the Humanities *Unfence the Future: Taking Down Fortress Conservation and its Enduring Legacy*, April;
  - NATHPO webinar on Traditional Cultural Properties National Register Bulletin Revisions, April;
  - Montana Archaeological Society Conference, Livingston, April;
  - Western SHPOs Roundtable and webinar on the National Register program, May;
  - Utah SHPO-hosted *First Peoples of the Great Salt Lake Region* webinar, May;
  - ACHP webinar on involving the public in Section 106, May;
  - Bureau of Reclamation-hosted Traditional Cultural Properties conference, Spokane, WA, June.
  - Western SHPO online summit, June;
  - Installing cedar shingle roofs hosted by Preserve Montana, August;
  - ARPA Law webinar, September;
  - Montana History Conference, September
  
- ✓ Met monthly with Montana Historical Society Centralized Services Division to closely monitor State Historic Preservation Office fiscal activity and policies, budget, revenue, and expenditures.
  
- ✓ 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, staff to the State Burial Preservation Board, attended Montana Burial Preservation Board meetings in January, May, and August.
- Hosted a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer summit attracting representatives from the Little Shell Culture Committee, and all seven (7) THPOs representing each Indian reservation in Montana, May.
- Met onsite with Blackeet, Fort Belknap, and Fort Peck THPOs, Montana DOT, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) staff to discuss relocation of sacred Sleeping Buffalo rock (a boulder) away from Highway 2 to a less trafficked location on BLM land.
- Multiple NATHPO webinars (see bullet list of trainings above).

## 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 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 (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, collaborative meetings with THPOs, state, and federal agencies, and other recommended activities described elsewhere in this report under individual programs.
- ✓ Released Montana’s preservation plan, [Past, Present, and Future](#), in January 2023. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives II.2}



Past, Present, and Future is Montana’s State Preservation Plan released in 2023.

- ✓ Met virtually with other Western SHPOs and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) data managers in January at the annual Cultural Resource Data Partnership meeting. The meeting serves to share information on how SHPOs in the region manage and track project correspondence and site information. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives IV.4; V.3, 6}
- ✓ Staff volunteered to score Montana History Foundation (MHF) grant applications in March. MHF awarded over \$200,000 in April. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives IV.4}
- ✓ Met with the Army Corps of Engineers to discuss their Fort Peck Reservoir Master Plan, March. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives V.3}
- ✓ Met with National Trust for Historic Preservation, project architect, and minister to discuss Great Fall’s Union Bethel AME church’s preservation with the Trust’s Sacred Places grant. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives I.4; IV.1}



- ✓ Met with National Trust for Historic Preservation staff and St. Xavier Church, Big Horn County, to discuss the church's preservation with a Sacred Places grant from the Trust. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives 1.4; IV.1}
  
- ✓ 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. {2023-20272 Plan Goal/Objectives II.2; III.1; IV.4}

## 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 add documentation on newly recorded properties, updates to previously recorded properties, and cultural resources survey reports to SHPO’s Cultural Resource Information System database and GIS mapping system.
- ✓ Cultural properties include precontact sites, historic sites, or sites featuring both. Site types can include districts featuring 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.
- ✓ SHPO assigns a Smithsonian trinomial number to each newly recorded property for tracking and inventory purposes.

Survey and Inventory Program	2023
Newly Recorded Sites:	
historic	964
precontact	242
combined precontact and historic	10
paleontological	2
<b>Total Newly Recorded Sites</b>	<b>1,218</b>
<b>Total Updated Sites</b>	<b>234</b>
<b>Total Cultural Resource Reports</b>	<b>498</b>
surveyed acres	120,553

- ✓ Most survey in Montana has occurred on public lands, especially USFS and BLM lands. Significant survey has also occurred 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.). {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objectives V.1, 3}
- ✓ Original printed hard copies of all CRABS documents are curated in the Montana Historical Society Library-Archives and accessible with SHPO’s permission. {2023-2027 Goal/Objective II.3}
- ✓ Perform file searches by providing site records, reports, and GIS shape files to agencies, consultants, property owners, and qualified researchers. Managed Digital Data Use Agreements for the access and protection of confidential cultural resource information. {2023-2027 Goal/Objective V.3}
- ✓ SHPO currently shares online access to the State Antiquities Database with the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service Region 1, Montana Department of Transportation, Natural Resource

Conservation Services, Bonneville Power Authority, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and THPOs. {2023-2027 Goals/Objectives V.3; IV.4}

- ✓ Joined the annual 11-state western regional Bureau of Land Management-State Historic Preservation Office (BLM-SHPO) Cultural Resource Data Partnership (CRDP) virtual meetings in October, April, and June. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objectives V.3}
- ✓ Funded and collaborated on archaeological survey of Sun River stone circles site on state land, archaeological survey of Charter Oak Mill and Mine, and architectural survey of Scapegoat Wilderness Cabin as part of the Youth Forest Monitoring Program described in SHPO success stories. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives II.1, 2, 4; III.1; IV.2, 4; V.1, 2, 6; VI.2}
- ✓ Ongoing development of a GIS-based predictive modeling for historic sites. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives V.3; VI.2}

## 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)*

✓ SHPO hosted three meetings of the nine-member, Governor-appointed [Montana State Historic Preservation Review Board](#) in January, May, and September. The Board reviewed and approved 10 draft National Register of Historic Places (NR) nominations; approved one nomination addendum. The Board approved all nominations. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objective V.6}

### **Nominations include:**

1. Meyers Creek Work Center, Stillwater County
2. Hillcrest Cemetery, Powell County
3. Sacagawea/Miles Parks Historic District, Park County
4. Wise River Ranger Station, Beaverhead County
5. West Fork Ranger Station, Ravalli County
6. Lavina School, Golden Valley County
7. Robworth Apartments, Powell County
8. Basin Creek Caretakers House, Silver Bow County
9. Orange Street Underpass, Missoula County
10. Ruffatto School, Richland County

### **Addenda to existing nominations include:**

Gladstone Hotel, McCone County

-- The Gladstone Hotel burned to the ground on September 21, the day of the Review Board meeting.

✓ The Keeper of the National Register certified 15 nominations and approved one multiple property document.

### **Listings include:**

1. Swanson Homestead, Superior vicinity, SG100008425, Listed, 11/22/2022
2. Como School, Jct. of Old Darby Rd. and US 93, Darby vicinity, SG100008424, Listed, 11/22/2022
3. Morelli Bridge, Head of Reeder's Alley on Howie St., Helena, MT SG100008436, Listed, 12/8/2022
4. Yellowstone Bighorn Research Association Camp, 118 Howell Gulch Rd., Red Lodge vicinity, SG100008457, Listed, 12/15/2022
5. Monture Guard Station, Lolo National Forest, Seeley Lake Ranger District, Ovando vicinity, SG100008550, Listed, 1/18/2023
6. James F. Battin Federal Building (Courthouse & Federal Office Building), 316 North 26th St., Billings, SG100008535, Listed, 1/13/2023
7. Driver's Saloon and Café, 104-106 East Commercial Ave., Anaconda, RS100008428, Listed, 2/7/2023 (Black Montana's Heritage Places MPD)

8. Hillcrest Cemetery, West Milwaukee Ave., approx. .1 mi. west of Deer Lodge, Deer Lodge vicinity, SG100008723, Listed, 3/13/2023
9. Meyers Creek Work Center, 101-199 Meyers Creek Road, Custer National Forest, Nye vicinity, Stillwater County, SG100008876, Listed 4/14/2023
10. Sacajawea-Miles Parks Historic District, bounded by West Butte and South 2<sup>nd</sup> Streets, River Dr. and the Yellowstone River, Livingston, SG100008882, Listed 4/24/2023
11. Robworth Apartments, 625 Main St. Deer Lodge, SG100009074, Listed 6/20/2023
12. Lavina School Historic District, 214 1<sup>st</sup> St. East Lavina, SG100009087, Listed, 6/26/2023
13. Wise River Ranger Station, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Wise River Ranger District, Wise River vicinity, SG100009207, Listed 8/2/2023
14. West Fork Ranger Station, 6735 West Fork Rd., Darby vicinity, Ravalli County, SG100009135, Listed, 7/18/2023
15. Wise River Ranger Station, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, Wise River Ranger District, Wise River vicinity, Beaverhead County, SG100009207, Listed, 8/2/2023

**Multiple Property Documents approved:**

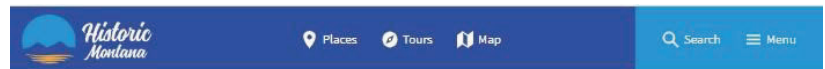
Black Montana's Heritage Places MPD, MC100008427, COVER DOCUMENTATION APPROVED, 12/2/2022

- ✓ NPS awarded SHPO a \$50,000 Underrepresented Communities grant in 2022 to write a Multiple Property Document (MPD) on historic Chinese-affiliated places in Montana. SHPO awarded a contract to Delia Hagen in January to complete this work. {2023-2027 Goal/Objective I.4; V.1, 5}
- ✓ The National Council on Public History recognized contract historian Delia Hagen for her *Black Montana Heritage Places MPD* at the organization's April conference in Atlanta. {2023-2027 Goal/Objective III.2}



Driver's Saloon, Anaconda is listed in the National Register under the Black Montana Heritage Places MPD.

- ✓ Regularly communicated with historic property owners interested in listing their properties in the NR. Provided guidance and technical assistance to owners researching and documenting properties. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objective III.1; V.1, 4}
- ✓ Routinely provided NR information and access SHPO’s [GIS-based story map](#) on listed properties. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objective III.1, 4}
- ✓ Documented and concurred with assessments of NR eligibility of historic and archaeological properties for eventual NR listing 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 183 properties as eligible and 250 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 & Interpretation Division, NR Property Sign Program in the production of 38 interpretive plaques. This unique state sign program is supported by an annual allocation from the state accommodations tax. Signs went to properties in 17 counties and include 6 individual listings and 32 contributing properties within 13 Historic Districts. Signs for recently listed resources include the Swanson Homestead Historic District in Mineral County, Como Schoolhouse in Ravalli County, Sacajawea Miles Park Historic District in Park County, and the Yellowstone Bighorn Research



## Como School

ID: 5687 | This file appears in: [Como School](#)



**The Como Schoolhouse’s owners elected to have the 1902 building listed in the National Register of Historic Places and to have it interpreted through Montana’s National Register Sign Program.**

Association in Carbon 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 technical advice and/or 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 II.1-4; IV.1, 4} These include:
  - Reed & Bowles Trading Post, excavation of a county-owned territorial-era site, Fergus Co.
  - Baxendale Schoolhouse, re-roof project organized by Preserve Montana, Lewis & Clark County.
  - City of Great Falls Civic Center historic plaster repair
  - Stadler Mansion window repair, Helena
  - Moss Mansion boiler pipe replacement, Billings
  - Advised applicants for Montana Department of Commerce Historic Preservation Grant and applicants for Montana History Foundation Grants on Secretary of the Interior’s Standards-based treatments to their buildings.
- ✓ Met with agencies and architects and consulted onsite under the State Antiquities Act on a variety of undertakings involving state-owned heritage properties listed in the NR. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives II.4}



The F.M. Mack is protected under a five-year preservation agreement as part of SHPO’s Revitalizing Montana’s Rural Heritage grant.



- ✓ Established preservation agreements with owners of the Dion Block, Glendive; and Fort Assinniboine Amusement Building, Hill County, which are Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program subgrantees. Established a preservation agreement with Butte-Silver Bow CLG for exterior rehabilitation of the Basin Creek Caretakers House, which SHPO supported with Historic Preservation Fund dollars.
- ✓ Monitoring preservation agreements for 23 properties that received federal preservation grants, federal tax credits, or were conveyed out of federal ownership.

## 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 \$92,053,739. The Northern Hotel, Great Falls, and Livingston Memorial Hospital, Livingston, and Gallatin Laundry received certification for tax credits.
- ✓ Regularly communicated with and advised owners of commercial properties considering the federal tax credit rehabilitation program. SHPO performed 14 draft application reviews, some that are multiple drafts for a single project. {Goals/Objectives: I.1-3; III.1}
- ✓ SHPO submitted two (2) Part 1s, five (5) Part 2s, and three (3) Part 3s for these properties:

### **Part 1 approvals**

Broadway Apartments, Lewistown  
Grand Hotel, Butte

### **Part 2 approvals**

Crowley Block, Lewistown  
Rocky Mountain Bldg. Great Falls  
210 E. Miller, Helena  
Clancy Building, Billings  
Collins Block, Billings

### **Part 3 approvals**

Northern Hotel, Great Falls  
Livingston Memorial Hospital  
Gallatin Laundry, Bozeman



The Gallatin Laundry, Bozeman was certified for Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits in 2023.

## 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 hundreds of written responses to project requests submitted for review and comment in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106), the National Environmental Protection Act, the Montana State Antiquities Act, and the Montana Environmental Protection 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 significant 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*. In 2023, SHPO recommended no further cultural resource work was warranted in 421 (72%) of the 585 file searches.

- ✓ In 2023, SHPO’s file search turnaround averaged .34 day for 585 file searches of 4,347 sections of land. Some consulting agencies with qualified staff and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices have direct access to SHPO’s database. These entities used SHPO’ database 300 times.

- ✓ 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 from some federal agencies (e.g., Bureau of Land Management; Forest Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs/THPOs) are sometimes

Compliance Correspondence	2023
Eligibility Review	778
Adverse Effect	22
No Adverse Effect	199
No Properties Affected	256
Unresolved	190
Other	64
MOA Draft Comment	9
MOA Signed	7
MOA Product Review	7
PA Draft Comment	18
PA Signed	2
PA Product Review	17
NEPA-Sec. 106 Comment	0
NEPA-Sec. 106 Final	0
EA/EIS Comment	1
<b>Total Written Responses</b>	<b>1,570</b>
Average Response (days)	10
<b>File Search</b>	
File Search Consultant	300
File Search Survey Recommended	164
File Search No Survey Recommended	421
<b>Total</b>	<b>885</b>
Number of Sections	4,347
Average Response (days)	.34

programmatically received and processed, but do not require or generate SHPO written responses.

- ✓ For written consultations that are compliance-related but not file search responses, SHPO’s average response time in 2023 was 10 *calendar days* per consultation. This increased from 2022 (5.9 calendar days), though SHPO continues to operate well within the allowable 15 and 30-day response times.
- ✓ Of the 1,570 written consultations in 2023, 22 concluded in findings of adverse effect to National Register properties. Agencies elected to cancel or modify several other projects to avoid adverse effects. Eighteen (18) of these adverse effects were federal undertakings, involving ten (10) agencies: US Forest Service (4), Montana Department of Transportation (MDT, funded by Federal Highways) (2), Department of Energy (3), Bureau of Reclamation (1), Bureau of Land Management (1); Economic Development Authority (3), the Environmental Protection Agency (1), USDA-Rural Development (1), Army Corps of Engineers (1), and FCC (1). Four *adverse* state projects subject to the State Antiquities Act involved Montana State University (1), the Department of Environmental Quality (2), and Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (1). In some cases, Memoranda of Agreement with stipulations to mitigate adverse effects will be established with certain agencies in the coming year.
- ✓ Signed seven (7) Memorandums of Agreement (MOA) stipulating mitigation for undertakings that adversely affect historic properties. MOAs are legal agreements in which agencies commit to mitigation commensurate with adverse effects that their undertakings would have on historic properties. Some MOAs in the following table tie to findings of adverse effects in previous years.

Project Name ↕	Agency ↕
DONALDSON DAM MOA FINAL	BLM/BILLINGS
BLACKTAIL PEAK RADIO STATION DRAFT MOA	DOE/BPA
BIG HOLE RIVER PROJECT MOA	FHWA
MUD CREEK MOA	USFS/BITTERROOT
MOA RR BRIDGE REMOVAL LIVINGSTON W/ FHWA	MDOT
RR BRIDGE REMOVAL - LIVINGSTON PA CO - MOA FINAL RECEIVED AFTER FHWA SIGNED LAST 11-18-20222	MDOT
TOSTON IRRIGATION DISTRICT CROW CREEK PUMPING PLANT REHAB MOA	BOR

- ✓ Signed two (2) Programmatic Agreements (PA) and amended none. PAs establish a set of legal protocols between agencies, SHPO and/or THPOs establishing efficiencies and expectations for consultation or reporting on often routine undertakings or undertakings the agency cannot define due to unknown variables in a project.

Project Name ↕	Agency ↕
SENTINEL PA SIGNED	DOD/AIR FORCE
SOUTH OTTER FINAL PA	USFS/CUSTER

- ✓ SHPO compliance reviewers hosted or attended 237 meetings in 2023 with representatives of federal, state, and local agencies, tribal nations, and other interested parties regarding project undertakings. Many of these meetings were held virtually. As described under Administrative Program, SHPO also participated in webinars that staff would not have been able to attend in person. {2023-2027 Goal/Objective II.2, 3; IV.1, 4; V.1, 6; VI.1}.

- ✓ 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 and staff to the Board, attended four Burial Board meetings.
- ✓ Regularly consulted with 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. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objective II.4; V.1, 3, 6; VI.1, 2}

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATION 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)**

- ✓ Exceeded the minimum 10% funding passthrough of SHPO's 2023 Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) apportionment to \$112,000 spread across 15 Certified Local Government (CLG) communities.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Provided the City of Billings CLG \$5,000 for window restoration training and tool kits for loan to the public; {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objective I.4; IV.4}
- ✓ Provided Billings CLG with \$9,114.65 for a Multiple Property Document on Chandler Cohagen's architecture. HPF pass-through funds to supplement their ongoing survey and inventory city-wide. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objective I.4; V.1, 4}
- ✓ Provided Lewis & Clark County CLG with \$5,000 to fund public scholarships for training on cedar shingle re-roofing led by Preserve Montana's Restoration Director. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objective I.4; IV.4}
- ✓ Provided the City of Livingston CLG \$10,000 to update the Livingston Commercial Historic District. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objective V.1, 4, 5}
- ✓ 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}
- ✓ Performed 4-year performance evaluation of CLG programs including visits to Carbon County, Billings, Hardin, Missoula, Lewistown, and Butte-Silver Bow. Each program met or exceeded program performance standards.
- ✓ Miles City has not accepted SHPO's pass-through funding. Miles City's pass-through funds are directed to other CLG programs.
- ✓ Conducted two sessions of CLG training at the Montana History Conference in Helena, the county seat of the CLG Lewis & Clark County, September. Professor Carroll Van West, Ph.D., from Middle Tennessee State University, presented *Keeping Pace with Preservation*. Forty years ago, Dr. West wrote Montana's first state plan and began inventorying Montana's vernacular architecture seasonally. He

described how best to conduct community architectural surveys, and the evolution of perspectives on historical significance. The Foundation for Montana History led the second session, which taught how to develop architectural tours. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objective II.1-4; III.1, 2; V.2, 3, 6}

- ✓ Assisted Carbon County in its application for Paul Bruhn Grant funds to address damage to historic properties from June 2022 floods. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives I.4}

## OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

**. 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 1,005 phone calls, 5,880 emails, and 237 meetings with 996 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 Master of Historic Preservation student Matt Kelly from the University of Oregon presented an open data philosophy as a way to access and manage the National Register of Historic Places. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objective I.4; II.4}
- ✓ Collaborated with the Youth Forest Monitoring Program (YFMP), Montana Discovery Foundation, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, and Montana Historical Society’s Outreach and Interpretation program to establish and archaeological survey component to YFMP’s offerings. YFMP offers a six-week summer program for high school students interested in the scientific aspects of land management. Five SHPO staffers participated in teaching specific aspects of



University of Oregon’s Matt Kelly presenting is SHPO-sponsored poster on the National Register program.



archaeological survey including field survey, site documentation, GIS mapping, National Register eligibility considerations, and reporting. Beyond students learning, the experience identified for SHPO a possible direction for the office's Archaeology Research in Montana Fellowship (ARM) to include undergraduates. ARM awards graduate students a \$3,000 fellowship tied to academic work. It did not attract students in the 2023 Spring or Fall semesters. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives II.1, 2, 4; III.1; IV.2, 4; V.1, 2, 6; VI.2}



SHPO's annual greeting card features Millie Ringold and promotes Montana's African American Heritage Resources Project.

- ✓ Created and distributed Montana preservation greeting card featuring Millie Ringold and Montana's African American Heritage Resources Project. SHPO mails recipients multiple blank cards, which recipients can use in correspondence and 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 and Presentations**

- Presented SHPO's database and principles of field survey to UM Archaeology Survey Class, November;
- Presented archaeology as a profession at Helena Central School's Kids College, January;
- [Hidden Stories, Montana's Black Past](#) premiered on Montana PBS January;
- Full-length oral histories used in *Hidden Stories* posted on SHPO's [African American Heritage Resources](#) website, January;
- Presented the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Preservation to Moss Mansion Staff and Board, January;

- Presentation at Lewis & Clark County Library on Montana laws that affected how Black residents were able to participate in society, February;
- Tax Credit presentation at Preserving the Past, Building the Future event hosted by the Montana Business Assistance Connection, Helena, March;
- Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting, Portland; *Outreach and Education: Approaches and Strategies from the Montana State Historic Preservation Office*, March;
- Published an article on the Mary McLane House in the Butte National Historic Landmark District for *Distinctly Montana Magazine*, April;
- Montana Preservation Awards Ceremony with awards given to Chere Jiusto, Preserve Montana; Ellen Baumler, Historian; F.M. Mack Mercantile; Como Schoolhouse; and the Kate Fratt Memorial School, May;
- Archaeological testing with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks staff at Chief Plenty Coups' House, May;
- Dirt on the Past Podcast interview discussing Montana State Preservation Plan, June;
- Juneteenth Celebration in collaboration with MTHS O&I and the Myrna Loy Center, Helena, June;
- Presented Montana's Carnegie Libraries at Cocktails and Conversations, Gulch Distillery, Helena, June;
- Led a Helena West Side Walking Tour as part of Montana FWP's conservation tours program, June;
- Youth Archaeological Survey Program (YASP) financial, organizational, leadership, and field support for this SHPO-initiated offshoot to the Youth Forest Monitoring Program, June-July;
- Participated in the US Forest Service's Savenac Nursery Passports in Time (PIT) project, July;
- Provided support for archaeological excavation of Reed & Bowles Trading Post, Lewistown, July;
- Provided technical expertise on stone features in Emigrant vicinity, August;
- Presentation: Trade Routes Prior to Colonization at Missoula Public Library August;
- Toured three preservation-oriented community projects in Winnett with Winnett Aces members and three Petroleum County Commissioners. September;
- Participated in a conversation on tangible and intangible heritage with Winnett ACEs members and a writer writing an article on the subject, September;
- Presented forensic archaeology at Starbase Academy middle school program, September;



SHPO recognized retired Preserve Montana Director Chere Jiusto at the 2023 Preservation Awards for her career-spanning contributions to historic preservation.

- Hosted the *Keeping Pace with Preservation* in conjunction with the Montana History Conference. The presentation featured Professor Carroll Van West's (Middle TN State Univ.) 40-year look-back at Montana's preservation movement, September;
- Hosted a Montana History Conference Session on how to guide innovative walking tours, September.
- ✓ Press releases serve as an outreach priority to promote SHPO activities and success stories, including NR meetings and property listings, public forums, special events, and grant awards. SHPO staff also provides historic preservation content to the Montana Historical Society newsletter (*Society Star*) and social media outlets, including the MHS Facebook page. Press releases include {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objective II.1, 3; III.2; IV.1, 3}:



SHPO staff show their commitment to cultivating the next generation of cultural resources professionals by helping lead volunteers at the Reed & Bowles excavation.

### Social Media:

- State Historic Preservation Review Board Meeting announcement; 10/6
- National Register listed Morellis Bridge, Helena; 10/13
- Shotgun houses repost of NCSHPO post; 10/18
- National Register listed Lake Como Schoolhouse, Ravalli County; 10/27
- Hidden Stories, Montana's Black Past documentary Helena premiere; 10/9 & 29
- National Register sign program featuring the Kohrs House, Helena; 11/1
- SHPO Staff Spotlight, Cheresse Gerhardt; 11/3
- National Register listed Swanson Homestead,
- National Register sign program featuring the Dansereau Residence, Butte; 11/22
- National Register sign installation at Montana National Bank, Billings; 12/2
- National Register listed Pugsley Bridge, Toole County; 12/3
- National Register listed Montana Deaf and Dumb Asylum, Boulder; 12/7
- National Register listed Doe's Rexall, and separately listed Doe Residence, Philipsburg; 12/13
- National Register listed McMaster Ranch featured in the Conservation Fund's blog; 12/16
- Yellowstone-Bighorn Research Association Camp listed to the National Register of Historic Places; 12/22
- Can I get financial assistance to fix my old building? 1/5
- Hidden Stories Montana's Black Past Montana PBS Premiere 1/8
- Black Montana's Heritage Places MPD, 1/12
- Como School listed in the National Register of Historic Places, 1/24

- Past, Present, and Future Montana Historic Preservation Plan, 1/26
- Historic Montana laws that affected how Black residents were able to participate in society, 2/6
- Driver's Saloon listed in the National Register of Historic Places, 2/23
- Seventh Avenue Gym, Helena as a preservation and development opportunity, 3/2
- Youth archaeological survey job opportunities, 3/16
- James F. Battin Federal Building listed in the National Register of Historic Places, 3/23
- Hungry Horse Dam construction, 3/23
- Montana's Shared Heritage Biennial Report on State-Owned Heritage Properties, 3/31
- SHPO-BLM meeting and tour of the McMaster Ranch Historic District, 4/13
- "The Near Perfection of Ugliness": Restoring Mary MacLane's Home in Butte America (repost) article written by SHPO's Lindsay Tran, 4/18
- Save the Date: Montana Preservation Awards Ceremony, 4/20
- Millie Ringold to be featured in annual SHPO preservation greeting card commemorating Montana's Black history, 4/21
- National Register listed Crump House, Helena, part of the Black Montana Historic Context, 5/2
- Revitalizing Montana's Rural Heritage Grant recipient and SHPO preservation award recipient F.M. Mack, 5/4
- Japanese headstones in the National Register listed Hillcrest Cemetery, Deer Lodge, 5/11
- Revitalizing Montana's Rural Heritage Grant recipient and Federal Rehab Tax Credit applicant, Roundup Central School, 5/19
- National Register listed Washoe Brewery, Anaconda, 5/23
- The Long Return, Native News story on Ft. Peck THPO Dyan Youpee, 5/25
- Seventh Avenue Gym, Helena as a preservation and development opportunity, 3/2
- Youth archaeological survey job opportunities, 3/16
- Juneteenth Building Tour Street Party on 6/17 hosted by the Montana Historical Society, and Myrna Loy Center, 6/6
- Helena School District's Historic Seventh Avenue Gym and Ray Bjork School call for lease proposals, 6/15
- Opinion, Juneteenth is Different Out West (repost), 6/16
- SHPO launches the Youth Archaeological Survey Program, 7/13
- Dirt on the Past Podcast Series (sponsored by SHPO), 7/6, 7/20
- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's policy defining connections between extreme weather and historic properties, 7/27
- Youth Archaeological Survey Program presentations, 8/3
- Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program begins electronic submission process, 8/4
- Belton Chalet, Glacier National Park, National Historic Landmark, 8/22
- Lindsay Tran joins SHPO as its new Historic Architecture Specialist, 8/24
- Samantha Gilk joins SHPO as its new Compliance Officer, 8/31
- Precontact vs. Prehistoric, 9/7

#### **Press & Traditional News Media:**

- Lake Como Schoolhouse nominated to National Register of Historic Places, Ravalli Republic; Jessica Abell, 10/20
- Helena Bridge nominated for the National Register of Historic Places, KTVH; Ryan Burg, 10/05

- Historic district south of Bozeman added to National Register of Historic Places, Bozeman Daily Chronicle, Helena Dore; 1/24
- Hidden Stories Montana's Black Past, Montana PBS, 2/13
- Starr Block, site of 'Buffalo Soldier' Lee Pleasant Driver's Saloon, added to National Register of Historic Places, Anaconda Leader; 2/24
- Anaconda's Starr Block recently listed in National Register of Historic Places, Montana Standard; 2/28
- Montana Historical Society honors historic preservation efforts; Ravalli Republic; 5/2
- 5 honored May 5 at Montana Historic Preservation Awards, Helena Independent Record, 5/1
- F.M. Mack General Store in Augusta to be recognized; Choteau Acantha; 5/3
- Como Schoolhouse celebrates National Register of Historic Places listing; Ravalli Republic; 5/12
- Enthusiasm for history, Ellen Baumler and Chere Jiusto honored for their contributions to historic preservation; Helena Independent Record; Marga Lincoln; 6/8
- Juneteenth Is Different Out West; New York Times; Dr. Tiya Miles; 6/16

## Helena bridge nominated for the National Register of Historical Places



By: Ryan Burg

*Posted at 5:21 PM, Oct 05, 2022 and last updated 5:21 PM, Oct 05, 2022*

**Montana news network KTVH featured the Morelli Bridge's National Register nomination.**