PRESERVE MONTANA

THE MONTANA HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN, 2008 – 2012

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MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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PUBLIC SUMMARY

- Historic preservation is about saving our important heritage places. Preservation benefits Montana – culturally, educationally, functionally, and economically. State Preservation Plans, prepared by the State Historic Preservation Office, serve as a guide for preservation efforts at the state and local level.
- This Plan *PRESERVE MONTANA: The Montana Historic Preservation Plan 2008-2012*, is a revision or update of the previous 2003-2007 Plan. It was developed from feedback, study reviews, and input from interested parties and stakeholders, including the public, historic preservation professionals, government officials, tribal representatives, state and local preservation organizations, avocationalists, and educational specialists.
- Montana has a rich and varied set of heritage properties that represent different themes in Montana history. Over 47,000 historic and pre-contact sites, buildings, structures, and districts have been identified and recorded in the state, with nearly 1,100 of these listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Many more are known or expected to exist as only about 5% of Montana has been inventoried to date. A significant number of Montana's heritage properties are at risk due to such factors as commercial and resource development, urban sprawl, neglect, mismanagement, changing population needs, lack of public awareness, and limited financial resources for preservation.
- Significant issues and challenges face Montana preservation over the next five years. These reflect national, state and local trends and perspectives. Issues include finding ways to: address the availability of necessary financial resources; increase public knowledge and awareness of culture/preservation issues; cope with urban commercial growth and rural decline; and support continued heritage property inventory and information management.
- The vision for historic preservation in our state is that *Montana is a place that knows, respects, and celebrates its heritage, openly encouraging and supporting the preservation of its significant historic, precontact, and traditional cultural properties*. Five goals to guide preservation over the next five years in achieving this vision are to: I. *Educate: Building a foundation for historic preservation through knowledge and awareness;* II. *Celebrate: Promoting preservation with recognition, acknowledgement, and praise;* III. *Locate and Evaluate: Identifying and documenting Montana's significant heritage places worthy of preservation;* IV. *Advocate: Seeking support of preservation through funding, incentives, and protection; and* V. *Collaborate: Working together to preserve Montana's historic, precontact, and traditional cultural properties.*

I. INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS HISTORIC PRESERVATION?

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

Quite simply: **Preservation is about saving our important places.** Each word has meaning….

Preservation	Is About Saving	Our	Important	Places
Restoration	Identification	Tribal	Educational	Buildings
Conservation	Documentation	Local	Religious	Structures
Consolidation	Nomination	State	Ethnic	Objects
Reconstitution	Protection	National	Political	Sites
Adaptive Use	Treatment		Governmental	Landscapes
Reconstruction	Education		Human Rights	Archaeology
Replication[1]	Regulation		Cultural	Historic districts
Rehabilitation	Incentivize		Masterworks	Traditional Cultural Properties
Stabilization				
Maintenance				

[1] Fitch, James Marston. *Historic Preservation: Curatorial Management of the Built World*, Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1990, pp. 46-47.

Historic preservation has made strides in governmental and public policy, in technology, and in public and private organization, particularly since the days of urban renewal. When the federal government passed the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*, it took a leadership role in avoiding harm to the nation's significant historic and precontact properties. Federal agencies were required to take "cultural resources" into consideration during project planning, and the law established the State Historic Preservation Office program to help them. Each **State Historic Preservation Office** (SHPO) became the repository for documented cultural resources, the leader in technical preservation assistance, and at times, also serves as a pass-through for preservation funding to better manage historic and precontact properties.

Local preservation continued from the days of saving the Old Statehouse in Philadelphia, and in 1980, the federal law was amended to formalize and provide some funding for local preservation through the Certified Local Government program. Since then, preservation strides have included the National Main Street program (1980), National Heritage Areas (1984), the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (1991), National Scenic Highways and Byways Program (1992), Tribal Historic Preservation Officer program (1992), Save America's Treasures funding program (1999), and the Preserve America designation and funding program (2003).

Historic preservation continues to face old and new challenges. They include, but of course are not limited to, the lack of funding, rural decline, urban decay with suburban sprawl, and many public perceptions: that preservation is for the elite, that progress is new construction, that if it's not in your backyard it's not important - or conversely not that in my backyard! Newer challenges to preservation include increasing natural disasters, vanity housing, the accelerating loss of abandoned wooden structures, and recognizing and saving the fragile buildings of the recent past.

As we look ahead, we can expect preservation to become more important as a quality of life issue and a contribution to environmental conservation. With landfills containing 40% construction waste, "the greenest building is one that is already built."[2] In Montana we look forward to incentives for historic homeowners, refining LEED certification with preservation in mind, celebrating national, regional, and local heritage areas, and a time when historic preservation is never in the way, but the way we do things here.

[2] Heritage Canada Conference, Regina, September 15-17, 2005.

WHY PRESERVE? THE BENEFITS OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Communities should be shaped by choice, not chance . . . The historic preservationist advocates the retention of places that unify and give meaning to a community.--
Constance E. Beaumont, *Smart States, Better Communities*

Heritage places build an identity for us as Montanans and educate us to that identity. The past brings meaning to our lives and helps guide our future. Our historic, precontact, and traditional cultural places are tangible links to who we are and what we are becoming. Historic places enhance economies and contribute to ways of life. Numerous studies show that historic preservation adds value to communities and opportunities for local people. Consider the case for rehabilitation of historic buildings:

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

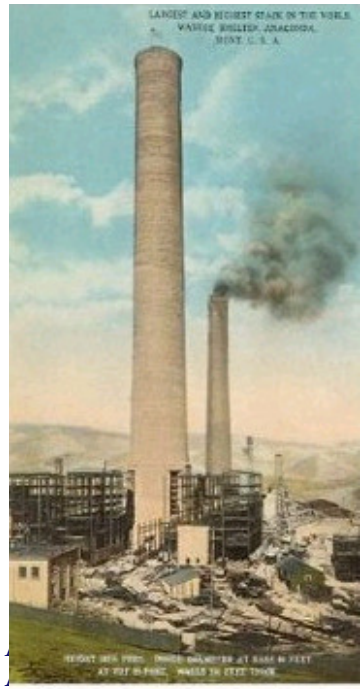
Historic buildings, archaeological sites, landscapes and other places are the fabric of our state's existence. Their preservation makes sense – culturally, educationally, functionally, and economically. By caring for its heritage places, Montana is caring for its citizens.

THE MONTANA HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN

The *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*, as amended, calls upon each SHPO to "prepare and implement a comprehensive statewide historic preservation plan." This plan is to serve as an important tool in setting priorities for the investment of human and financial resources in the preservation of significant historic and cultural resources. Specifically, the State Plan is designed "to be used by the State Historic Preservation Office and others throughout the State for guiding effective decision-making on a general level, for coordinating statewide preservation activities, and for communicating statewide preservation policy, goals, and values to the preservation constituency, decision-makers, and interested and affected parties across the State"[3]

The planning cycle for Montana's previous State Plan, *Working Together to PRESERVE MONTANA: The Montana Historic Preservation Plan*, was 2003-2007, which means that it is now due for revision. The present plan, *PRESERVE MONTANA: The Montana Historic Preservation Plan* will apply to the next five years, 2008-2012. Aside from its title, this plan also draws substantively upon its predecessor for guidance and content. This is not to say that the previous plan was unfulfilled, but rather to acknowledge that many of the assessments, issues, and strategies for historic preservation in Montana established five years ago remain equally valid today. As stipulated in guidelines provided by the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, this revised 2008-2012 Montana Historic Preservation Plan is a concise, summary document, containing the following sections:

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



Anaconda Copper Company smelter stack is one of the tallest free-standing brick structures in the world at 585 feet, 1.5 inches. The inside diameter at the bottom is 75 feet and at the top, 60 feet.

[3] *National Park Service Historic Preservation Fund Grants Manual, Chapter 6, Section G.*

II. Development of the 2008-2012 Montana Historic Preservation Plan

The current state planning process began when the previous effort concluded in 2003 with the adoption and release of *Working Together to PRESERVE MONTANA: The Montana Historic Preservation Plan 2003-2007*. Current plan development occurred and was facilitated over the past five years through a continuous feedback process. Comments on the previous Plan, annual MTSHPO review of its implementation, input solicitation towards a new Plan through questionnaires, discussions and stakeholder meetings, review of recent studies and planning documents, and updating resulted in a revised Plan. It continues into the next cycle with a return to comments and feedback on the current revised plan.

2003-2007 State Plan feedback

The process of developing the current Montana State Plan began with the completion and approval of the previous State Plan in 2003. Feedback on the 2003-2007 Plan – both negative and positive - was welcomed by MTSHPO staff and routinely discussed. Each copy of the distributed 2003-2007 Plan was accompanied by an invitation to provide MTSHPO with comment. The 2003-2007 Plan was also posted on the MTSHPO website where it was frequently referenced and referred to by others. These comments, provided sporadically over a number of years, were important in formulating a strategy for replacing or revising the Plan in 2008.

Annual implementation Annually between 2003 and 2007, MTSHPO staff also reviewed and evaluated the goals and objectives of the 2003-2007 State Plan as part of the office's application for and report of federal funding through the national Historic Preservation Fund. As required by National Park Service guidelines, annual workplans of activities developed for the various MTSHPO programs must establish their foundation in the goals and objectives identified in the State Plan. MTSHPO's success in accomplishing annual activities and meeting goals was made available to the public and interested parties for comment. These included the Governor-appointed nine-member Montana Historic Preservation Review Board, charged with providing MTSHPO advice and guidance in historic preservation planning. Among MTSHPO staff, the annual application of previous goals and objectives established in

the 2003-2007 Plan proved to be an excellent opportunity for evaluation and contributed to revisions made in the present plan to make it more applicable and responsive to current issues, needs and opportunities.

QUESTIONNAIRES, DISCUSSIONS AND STAKEHOLDER INPUT Throughout 2007, MTSHPO circulated a preservation planning questionnaire designed to gather information on historic preservation issues, goals and priorities most important to Montanans. The questionnaire was distributed widely in hardcopy and posted on the MTSHPO website. In conversations, meetings and other forums throughout the current planning process, open two-way communication with the public and interested parties was also stressed. Special efforts in this regard were made to engage the 15 local preservation officers of the Montana Certified Local Government (CLG) program. Montana's community preservation officers are recognized as experts in local public opinion regarding historic preservation matters, and especially those issues existing outside the narrow confines of federal and state preservation law. Input from CLG representatives forms the basis of many significant insights into local public needs and concerns. MTSHPO also met individually in discussions with other primary stakeholders including the State Historic Preservation Review Board, the Board of the non-profit statewide Montana Preservation Alliance (MPA), the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and federal and state agencies. All groups provided insights to prominent issues and support for revised goals and objectives.

RECENT STUDIES AND PLANNING DOCUMENTS Several recent efforts have taken place that contribute significantly to development of the 2008-2012 Montana Historic Preservation Plan. Most notable among these is the *Montana Governor's Council On Historic And Cultural Properties Report to the 60th Legislature 2007*, documenting recommendations for the State's policies on the preservation of publically-owned historic buildings and identifying opportunities for communities to use historic preservation as an economic development tool. With its increased recognition of the role of heritage tourism, the *Montana Tourism and Recreation Strategic Plan 2008-2012* also provides valuable interface with this State Preservation Plan. At the national level, the 2006 *Preserve America Summit* brought together federal agencies, organizations and individuals to examine the national preservation program and produce recommendations to guide historic preservation over the next ten years leading to the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act in 2016. No less stimulating, the work of other states in developing their State Preservation Plans, the 2007-2009 Strategic Plan of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers

(NCSHPO), and the 2006-2008 grassroots' polls and legislative agendas established by the national Preservation Action movement, are relevant and serve to inform Montana's 2008-2012 State Plan.

PLAN UPDATE AND REVISION With consideration of feedback and experience gained through 2003-2007 Plan implementation combined with input from the public, stakeholders, and recent studies, MTSHPO staff concluded that the Montana Historic Preservation Plan merited updating and revision, rather than a major reformulation. Specifically, MTSHPO staff recognized continuing concern with many of the same preservation issues identified five years ago yet overall satisfaction and optimism with the various local and state preservation programs, suggesting the need to adjust, rather than reinvent, Montana's preservation goals and objectives to make them more current and perhaps more effective. The current document, *PRESERVE MONTANA: The Montana Historic Preservation Plan 2008-2012*, is the product of this update.

REVISED 2008-2012 PLAN REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION With the completion of *PRESERVE MONTANA: The Montana Historic Preservation Plan 2008-2012*, the planning process does not end, but returns to the beginning to repeat itself in the comments received on this product. In keeping with revised goals, this planning cycle MTSHPO will again post the State Plan on its website under www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/shpo.

Pending funds (not made available for the 2003-2007 State Plan), MTSHPO will also endeavor to produce a summary pamphlet that will draw greater attention to the complete State Plan. The 4 or 6 page brochure - illustrated with photographs, charts and graphs - will summarize the conclusions of the State Plan while also outlining its adopted goals and objectives and how these are reflected in MTSHPO and other programs in the state. This format should find a larger audience and engender greater awareness and use as well as response to Montana's State Plan for historic preservation.

III. MONTANA'S HERITAGE PROPERTIES: AN OVERVIEW AND ASSESSMENT

MONTANA HERITAGE THEMES & ASSOCIATED RESOURCES

There are many ways to categorize the continuum of Montana's past into subject matters and the tangible resources that reflect them. The following list of heritage themes and associated resource types is taken, with revision and some addition, from the 2003-2007 State Plan, *Working Together to PRESERVE MONTANA*. While it would be possible to construct additional themes, those presented here serve the purpose of illustrating the range of properties in Montana and their historical significance.

THE LAND ~ Montana, the fourth largest state in the Union, boasts a landscape that is both diverse and dramatic, shaped by eons of mountain building and erosion and sculpted by glaciers, wind and rivers. It hosts the headwaters for the Missouri and Columbia river drainages and is rich in hard rock minerals, timber, grass lands, wildlife, oil & gas and coal. However, the landscape has not only been shaped by geologic forces, but by the people who have lived in and visited Montana for thousands of years. Though never densely populated, the state is deep in cultural environments associated with the history of human habitation and interaction with the landscape.

The Tongue River Valley of southeastern Montana features resources dating from millennia of occupation, from 7,000 year-old habitation sites, to a Great Sioux War battlefield, and a century-old ranching community, all of which combine in a vital cultural landscape.

Associated resources. Montana boasts a variety of rural and urban cultural landscapes. Some are large scale resources, such as those associated with Indian sacred sites, including the Sweet Grass Hills in north-central Montana; the mining landscape, manifested in Butte and Anaconda; and agricultural landscapes such as the Big Hole in Beaverhead County, the Tongue River Valley, and along the Hi-Line. Others are more narrowly contained by natural landforms or historical association, or both, such as the Finnish Homesteads of the Korpivaara settlement, or the Morgan-Case Homestead in Granite County. They also include specific geological formations such as Tower Rock on the Missouri River.

EARLY PEOPLES ~ Human habitation in the region is thought to have begun about 12,000 years ago. Present scientific theories, constantly being revised with new evidence, place Montana directly in the path of one or more of the earliest migrations of humans into the New World from Eurasia. These earliest peoples and those that followed came to and lived in Montana, in search of and sustained by its rich wildlife, plant life and mineral resources. For the most part they followed the natural seasons and rhythms of life.

Based upon archaeology, social and behavioral changes were marked in centuries or even millennia with many cultural elements persisting over generations. These include the hunting of buffalo, the gathering of wild plants, the manufacture of stone and bone implements, and a settlement pattern based upon regular movement within a defined and familiar territory. Unlike most regions of North America, domesticated agriculture did not replace hunting and gathering as a way of life for Montana's precontact inhabitants.

Various cultures existed across Montana in all environments over these millennia, some persisting and contributing more than others to the Indian tribes that existed here at the time of contact with Euro-Americans.

Associated resources. These include precontact archaeological sites (12,000 B.P. to 200 B.P.) of all types, including stone circle sites (tipi rings) located in many regions of the State, but especially in the northern glaciated prairie-plains of the Hi-Line; open campsites with assemblages of stone and bone tools; rock art (pictographs and petroglyphs) such as those at Pictograph Cave east of Billings; numerous buffalo jumps and other kill sites like the Madison Buffalo Jump south of Three Forks, Wahkpa Chu'gn in Havre and Ulm Pishkun (now First Peoples State Park) outside Great Falls; rock cairns and alignments; travel corridors such as the Cokahlarishkit Trail; and chert and other toolstone quarries where stone tools were made.

Trail treads, cairns, and culturally scarred trees help define the Cokahlarishkit Trail in the Alice Creek Historic District. The district contains resources that indicate the area has been a major travel corridor for at least 5,000 years.

At Pictograph Cave National Historic Landmark, the Pictograph, Middle and Ghost cave complex was home to generations of ancient hunters. Over 30,000 artifacts have been identified from the site.

WESTERN AMERICAN EXPANSION ~

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

A series of Euro-American expeditions surveyed the people, resources, and travel routes in the "new" land. This period in Montana was also characterized by steamboat travel, the fur trade, missionaries like Pierre-Jean DeSmet, and the earliest ranching and gold mining discoveries.

Associated resources. Resources, some known and some yet discovered and documented, include sites and portages along the routes of various expeditions beginning with the Corps of Discovery, and continuing with fur traders David Thompson and Manuel Lisa, through the mid-nineteenth century with John Mullan's military road across the Rockies. From the south, the first land-based inroads to the territory were connections made to and from the Oregon Trail, and often took advantage of existing Indian trails.

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Landmark. John Grant acquired the ranch in 1853, and often is credited with founding the range-cattle industry in Montana. Conrad Kohrs bought the ranch c. 1866, and became one of the foremost "cattle kings."

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

MONTANA TERRITORY ~

Following 60 years of Euro-American exploration and immigration, Congress declared Montana a territory of the United States on May 26, 1864. The majority of the non-Indian settlement in Montana at this time occurred in the southwestern part of the state.

This was largely due to the discoveries of great mineral wealth - first gold, then silver and copper - in the region. The First Territorial Legislature established nine counties, including four in the southwest.

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

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

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

Cairn along the Bozeman Trail. In 1863 John Bozeman and John Jacobs scouted out a route from the Bozeman Trail in central Wyoming to Virginia City, Montana, providing a more direct route than any previous trail into Montana. Its route through established Indian territory resulted in increased conflict between the Americans and the tribes.

AMERICAN INDIAN CULTURE AFTER 1800

~ After millennia of evolving cultural tradition, the life of American Indian Peoples in Montana changed quickly and dramatically with the arrival of Euro-Americans at the dawn of the nineteenth century. Change had already begun before Lewis and Clark appeared on the scene, with the acquisition of horses and guns through trade and warfare with neighboring tribes who had already encountered the new European culture.

Bannack's Masonic Lodge constructed this combination lodge and school in 1872. The school closed during the 1950s. It remains in use as a lodge, as the Masons meet there annually and help maintain the building.

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

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

The reservations themselves, subject to allotments under the Dawes Act of 1887, are now checkerboards of land owned by the tribes, individual Indians, non-Indians, and state and federal agencies.

Allotment was one tool used by the federal government not only to open reservation lands, but also to "assimilate" the tribes to non-Indian society. Boarding schools were another method by which the U.S. encouraged the sublimation of tribal cultures. These efforts to eradicate traditional lifeways continued through the twentieth century.

In 1904, the ladies basketball team from Fort Shaw Government Indian Boarding School, located in Montana's Sun River Valley, attended the Model Indian School at the St. Louis World's Fair. The school was, in fact, part of the Federal government's "anthropological exhibit" of America's indigenous peoples. The Fort Shaw team again took on all comers and emerged victorious.

The Wheeler-Howard Act of 1934 resulted in an "Indian New Deal" under which the U.S. returned some lands to the tribes and built infrastructure. To take part in the "Deal", tribes were required to establish governments whose organization often ran contrary to traditional forms of governance and created internal tensions.

After 1945, Public Law 280 allowed federal legal jurisdictions on reservations to be assigned to some states, including Montana, creating additional tension between authoritative entities. Nationally, by the early 1950s, termination and relocation policies, together with legislation, reversed many provisions under the Wheeler-Howard Act.

After 1961, federal direction regarding termination began to change, and after intense demands for Indian rights through the

1960s and early 1970s, the U.S. adopted "self-determination" as its official protocol.

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

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

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

Resources including current and former Indian Agency locations such as the Blackfoot "Old Agency" north of Choteau, Chief Plenty Coups State Park, Indian boarding schools, and allotment homesteads convey the history of the assimilation period.

The log round halls at Lodgepole and Heart Butte were constructed during the "Indian New Deal" period, and the Moncure Tipi at Busby is another example of 1930s Indian architecture in the round.

Other historic places, like Hill 57 in Great Falls, spotlight the effects of termination, relocation, and tribal recognition in the state. Historic archaeology has revealed the location of nature of other port-contact Indian sites, including the old Crow Agency II near Absorokee.

The Moncure Tipi is one of three permanent tipi shaped buildings known to have been constructed in Montana during the early 20th century. Built in 1931 by trader Preston Moncure, it was a site of tribal give-away ceremonies and dances.

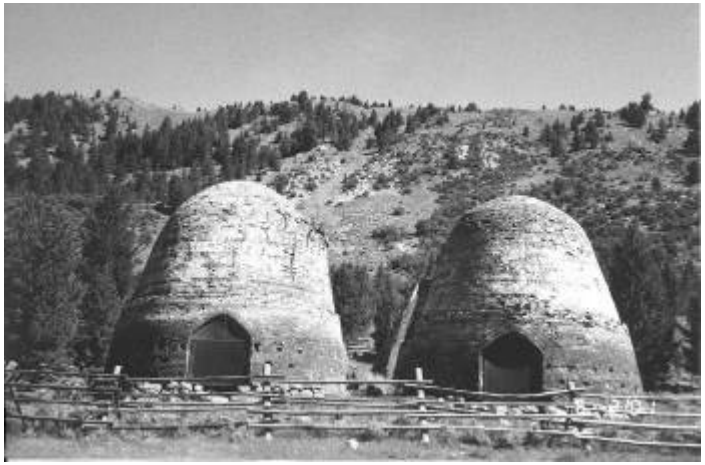
Jesuit missionary Pierre De Smet founded St. Mary's mission near Stevensville in 1841, serving the Salish people of the Bitterroot Valley. Four years later, he co-founded a second mission, St. Ignatius, near the Montana-Idaho border. In 1854 St. Ignatius was moved to the area south of Flathead Lake. Construction of the St. Ignatius Church, pictured at left, began in 1891 and was completed two years later.

"ORO Y PLATA" HARD ROCK MINING IN MONTANA ~

The first record of a gold strike in Montana was in 1852 on Gold Creek (formerly Benetsee Creek) in the northeast corner of Granite County. Subsequent larger strikes at Bannack and Virginia City were highly productive, but, like many "boom and bust" scenarios that followed, generally transitory. They were, however, extremely significant in that they opened up the territory, especially the western half, to further exploration and settlement.

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

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



The Hecla Consolidated Mining Company constructed these charcoal kilns in 1881 as part of their silver and lead smelting operations at Glendale. Representative of late nineteenth-century charcoal production facilities, the kilns also exhibit the architectural engineering necessary to support frontier industry.

Through the first half of the 20th century, the Anaconda Mining Company, its subsidiaries and partners, including the Montana Power Company, dominated the state's mining economy and in doing so, much of its politics.

At the same time, operations associated with other mining districts across much of the Western Montana historically played an important role in the extraction of a variety of metals for industrial, commercial and military (strategic) uses.

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

Philipsburg came to life as a silver mining boom town but stayed vital and vibrant by fiercely guarding its colorful history. The town proudly claims the Hope Mill, the first silver mill in Montana.

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

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

TIMBER ~ Of the state's 93 million land acres, more than 22 million are forested. In 1899 alone, Montanans harvested 255 million feet of lumber. In the late 19th century, the majority of timber related activity was driven by the needs of the growing mining industry. The first recorded commercial sawmill was erected at Bannack in July of 1862. Following the early mining rush, the timber industry waned for some time.

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

Portable government cabins lined up near the narrow-gauge railroad at the Calahan Creek timber sale, Kootenai National Forest, 1926. ***Photo by K.D. Swan, USFS.***

As communities grew nationwide in the late 19th Century and early 20th Century, the demand for construction timber also increased. With the exception of large timber resources in the far western and northwest regions of the state, however, the majority of timber harvested elsewhere in Montana was primarily for local use. After waning in the 1930s Depression, a second timber "boom" occurred during and especially after World War II, with the renewed nationwide demand for construction materials. The late 1960s witnessed a lull in the building industry, as did the late 1970s. Since the 1980s, the trends in the logging industry gravitated away from the rapidly disappearing old growth to processing smaller trees in automated mills. And while production remained high through the past two decades, unemployment has increased substantially.

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

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

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

AGRICULTURE & HOMESTEADING ~

By the end of the 1870s, thousands of head of cattle and sheep had been driven into Montana. This resulted in overstocking that was exacerbated by a drought in the 1880s and a particularly bad winter in 1886-87. These events led to the end of the "open range" in many western and southwestern regions as ranchers began to build fences and provide hay to the animals in the winter in the west. Larger cattle companies shifted to central and eastern Montana where expansive open ranges remained. In addition, ranchers increasingly made use of rail transportation to ship cattle to markets. The state produced more than $4 million worth of wool in 1900 and by 1910 there were more than 490 thousand beef cattle on Montana ranges worth more than $27 million.

The Homestead Acts of 1862 and 1909 and the Desert Land Act of 1877 provided land to settlers east of the mountains for a nominal

The beaverslide haystacker revolutionized haying when it was invented in the Big Hole Valley a century ago. Still in use, the beaverslide pictured above is located near Nevada Creek in Powell County.

fee and the promise to reside on the land and cultivate it for a period of five years. However, the arid and harsh climate, together with overspeculation doomed many of these small homesteads to failure, especially east of the Rockies. Those that were able to weather the difficult times generally acquired larger tracts of land to make their farms more profitable. Many others left the state and their homesteads behind, especially during the droughts of the late 1910s and 1920s.

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

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

Mining magnate and Thoroughbred horse breeder Noah Armstrong built the Doncaster Barn at Twin Bridges in about 1883. He built the barn to house the brood mares he had purchased in Illinois. The horses were shipped by rail to Dillon then trailed thirty miles to Twin Bridges. In 1886, the first foals were born. Among them was Spokane, a Kentucky Derby winner.

Today, cowboy and ranching lore are commemorated at such events as the bucking horse sale in Miles City and annual cattle drives near Roundup and Billings.

Coarse-laid stone sheepherder monuments stand on hilltops in open valleys. Grain elevators, barns, and homesteads (both abandoned and still in use) all across eastern and central Montana are dramatic reminders of the homesteader families who settled there. Homesteader towns like Shelby, Chester, Geraldine, and Joliet continue to serve as centers for service and commerce on the rural farming landscape. Beaver slides, developed by ranchers in the Big Hole Valley to stack hay, are still in use in large areas of Southwest Montana and are uniquely characteristic of the agricultural landscape in that region of the state.

COAL & OIL/GAS DEVELOPMENT ~

Coal-bearing areas are widely scattered across central and eastern Montana, occupying 35% of the state's total area. The five most outstanding seams are located in the Bull Mountain, Red Lodge, Great Falls, Eastern Lignite and Eastern Sub-bituminous regions. Early coal mining began during the 1860s gold rushes, but significant development came with the railroads. Coal was needed to operate the steam powered locomotives, for residential heating, and later to generate electricity at large coal fire facilities.

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

The first significant oil field was opened in 1915 at Elk Basin in Carbon County, and the search for more deposits began in earnest. The strike at Devil's Basin in Central Montana in 1919 was soon followed by development of Cat Creek near Winnett.

By 1922, the industry's epicenter shifted west to the Kevin-Sunburst fields located along the Rocky Mountain Front. Until 1951 most of Montana's commercial oil and gas fields were there.

The Smith Mine at Bearcreek was the site of the state's worst coal mining disaster. On February 27, 1943, an explosion ripped through Mine #3, killing 73 men.

New technologies developed in the late 1940s enabled deeper drilling to reach oil in other locations across the state, especially the Williston Basin in northeast Montana. This second oil and gas boom established Billings as the center of Montana's petroleum industry and its emerging status as the state's major concentration of population.

Though the oil industry witnessed a lull in production during the early 1960s, new fields opened in eastern Montana by the early 1970s leading to a period of boom and bust over the next decades, as prices rose and fell according to national trends. As interest in natural resource development rose, reaction from environmental concerns increased as well.

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

Oil wells dot the landscape along the west end of the High Line, near Kevin, Cut Bank, and Shelby, where the Kevin-Sunburst fields boomed during the 1920s and 1930s.

Associated resources. Colstrip, Red Lodge, Roundup, Forsyth, Miles City, and other communities in Carbon, Rosebud, Big Horn, Powder River, Mussellshell, Treasure and Yellowstone Counties provide cultural resources associated with coal mining, ranging from physical extraction to community development and settlement patterns. For example, the American Federation of Miners cemetery near Roundup demonstrates the ethnic diversity of the people who came to work in the coal mines of eastern Montana.

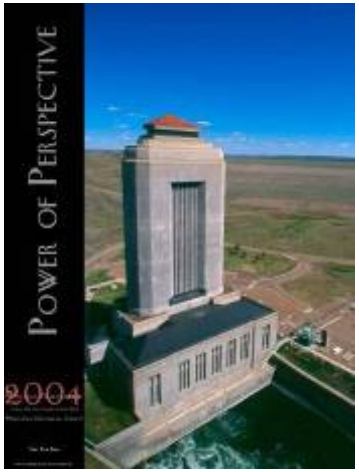
Among the resources that depict the oil industry in the first half of the 20th Century are the oil derricks scattered along Devil's Basin and Cat Creek, and sites east of the Rocky Mountain Front including areas around Sunburst, Oilmont, Shelby, Choteau and Cutbank. Eastern Montana communities such as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

Federal Agencies in Montana ~

The involvement of the Federal Government in Montana has been extremely significant. It can be said to have begun in 1805-1806 with the Lewis and Clark expedition. The U.S. military continued to play a pivotal role in the American settlement of Montana with the control and removal of tribes to reservations in the nineteenth century and with developments in the 20th century in conjunction with World Wars I and II as well as the Cold War.

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

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



MTSHPO's 2004 Preservation Poster highlighted the Fort Peck Dam. Authorized in 1933, its construction employed over 11,000 WPA workers. The dam was completed in 1940, and began generating electricity in July 1943.

Significant for its association with the nation's military buildup during World War II, the Cut Bank Army Air Force Base was one of four facilities constructed in Montana to train squadrons to fly B-17s and use the top secret Norden bombsight.

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

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

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ~

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

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

In the early years of statehood, Montana was made up of a couple dozen counties, including several very large counties in the eastern part of the state. "County-splitting" fever during the boom years of homesteading between 1910-1925 resulted in a doubling of that number, leading ultimately to the present total of 56. Establishment of county seats in each of these local governments resulted in significant public constructions in these towns, notably courthouses, some of which date back

To celebrate its centennial, the state legislature authorized the restoration of the state Capitol building. Work was complete in 2001. As part of the massive project, the stained glass barrel vault above the grand staircase was repaired and reinstalled.

to the Territorial Period. While Montana is not characterized by especially dense concentrations of populations, city governments and public works also have greatly influenced the look of Montana's urban communities.

Associated Resources. Included are: the recently restored State Capitol in Helena; state universities and colleges including those in Missoula, Bozeman, Butte, Dillon, Billings and Havre; other state institutions; fish hatcheries; state park visitor facilities; and wildlife management areas. Local resources consist of county courthouses; city/county buildings, jails; fire-stations; schools, libraries; and more.

TRANSPORTATION ~ The earliest non-Indian visitors to Montana - the fur trappers, missionaries, and explorers - made use of existing Indian trails. Freight transportation routes were largely focused on waterways, dominated by steamboat travel up the Missouri River to Fort Benton. However, once gold was discovered in the 1850s and '60s and immigration to Montana increased, overland travel and later railroads dealt fatal blows to the river transportation industry.

The need for better wagon roads from the United States to Montana Territory also increased as more immigrants moved westward. At first the settlers traveled by pack trains, then switched to wagon trains, each wagon capable of carrying from five to

The former administration building at the state school for the deaf in Boulder was in imminent danger of demolition in 2003. The Montana Preservation Alliance, with some help from MTSHPO, convinced the state legislature to use the money for the proposed demolition to stabilize the building.

sixteen thousand pounds. When gold was discovered in Montana, settlers from the south left the Oregon Trail and turned north to Montana ultimately establishing the Bozeman and Bridger Trails leading to Virginia City and Bannack.

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

Beginning with the Utah and Northern, and soon followed by the Northern Pacific, railroads dominated the travel industry by the mid 1880s. The celebrated completion of the Northern Pacific railroad at Gold Creek in 1883 and the entry soon after of the Great Northern Railway into Great Falls in 1887,

The Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bridge across the Kootenai River at Troy replaced a ferry crossing in 1913. Originally one of three identical bridges in the Kootenai Valley, it served as a critical early link between Glacier National Park and the West Coast during the emerging automobile age.

marked the end of extensive river transportation. Efforts to discover inland waterways to link America were abandoned and survey efforts were directed to the building of roads and rail beds to connect local communities to each other and to the rest of the nation. The Great Northern and the Milwaukee railroads later provided transcontinental service as well. Spurs and smaller railroad companies linked to specific communities and commodities.

Automobile travel in the first half of the 20th century revolutionized road and bridge building, establishing the historic network of routes and transportation structures that still exist today. The interstate highway system, and marked improvements to Montana's highways are associated with the continued popularity of the automobile, particularly after World War II. The increase in private transportation gave impetus to the trucking industry in the 1950s, and dependence on the railroads began to wane. By the 1970s, jobs and towns dwindled as the railroads consolidated and lost capital. The Great Northern and Northern Pacific lines merged as part of the Burlington Northern in 1970. The Milwaukee shut down in 1986.

In 1987, Washington Companies purchased the Northern Pacific's former southern route in Montana, through Sand Point, Idaho, reviving the railroad freight industry. Amtrak continues to provide passenger service across the Hi-Line.

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

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

The historic Livingston Depot was built in 1902 as the Northern Pacific Railroad's original access to Yellowstone National Park. Restoration efforts over the past two decades have been remarkably successful, and the building now functions as a museum and convention center. *Photo by Rolene R. Schliesman*

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

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

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

Listed in the National Register in 2004, the Great Falls Central Business Historic District represents the development of that important city and the vision of its founder, Paris Gibson.

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

Masonic Temples, magnificent religious buildings including synagogue buildings in Butte and Helena, the Helena Cathedral and the Catholic Church at Laurin, and Hutterite

colonies in north-central Montana commemorate the state's cultural diversity reflected in community architecture.

The Moss, Conrad, Daly, and Clark Mansions, together with the "Castle" at White Sulphur Springs provide good examples of the wealth that was amassed in the State and displayed in residential building.

TOURISM AND RECREATION ~ While short-term human visitors have come to Montana for thousands of years, the tourism industry as we know it today dates primarily from the late nineteenth century with the creation of Yellowstone Park in 1872. Although the majority of the Park is in Wyoming, visitors generally arrived there historically from the Montana entrances creating growth in the railroad hub communities of Livingston and West Yellowstone. The addition of Glacier Park in 1910 added to the attractiveness of Montana as a destination for national and international travelers.

The railroads played a key role in the development of Montana's tourism industry with both the Northern Pacific and the Milwaukee Road promoting Yellowstone Park and other Montana sights as a destination for their passengers. The railroads built elaborate hotels and lodging facilities in the National Parks, along rail lines near the entrances to the Parks and in gateway communities.

Many Glacier Hotel was built between 1910 and 1915, when the Great Northern Railway was establishing a series of hotels and backcountry chalets in Glacier National Park. This was part of an effort by the Great Northern Railway to establish the park as a destination resort and to promote the area as the "American Alps." To this end the Swiss Chalet Style was chosen for the hotels and chalets.

Turn-of-the-century resorts and spas developed at hot springs in southwestern Montana, including those at Boulder, Hot Springs, and Emigrant.

From 1900 to 1910, tourists spent an average of $500,000 a year in Montana. Beginning in 1910, tourism took another turn with the advent of the automobile. Roadside motels, campgrounds and restaurants were built to accommodate the new motorized public, and the old downtown hotels and railroad resorts began to suffer. By 1915 the authorities in Yellowstone were permitting automobiles to enter at West Yellowstone, Montana. Dude ranches also flourished in this period with over a hundred in operation by 1930.

The Depression and World War II notwithstanding, the tourism "industry" has gained steadily in Montana catering to out-of-state (as well as in-state) hunters, fishermen, hikers, skiers and sightseers – including

heritage tourists – alike. Presently, over 10 million visitors come to Montana every year making tourism the state's second largest industry.

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

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

THE RECENT PAST ~ In the years following WW II, Montana prospered as did most of the nation. Montana wheat and beef were in high demand and at generally high prices in these post-war boom years, supporting the economies of large Montana farms and ranches. Beginning in the early 1950s, the Anaconda Mining Company's switch to open-pit mining at the Berkeley Pit began to transform Butte – physically, politically, and psychologically. At the same time in western Montana, the lumber industry grew dramatically in response to nationwide construction. In 1957 Hoeriver Boxes and Waldorf Paper Products Companies opened a large pulp mill outside of Missoula creating hundreds of new jobs.

The discovery of and technology to access the deep oil field in the Williston Basin in northeast Montana launched the state's second oil & gas boom and the rise of Billings as a petroleum and population center. The Yellowstone Pipeline linking Billings with Spokane was completed in 1954. Montana Power Company rose to prominence in Montana affairs with its development of hydroelectric facilities, coal mines, and transmission lines.

Federal and state government also contributed to Montana's growth after WW II with significant developments involving public lands, institutions, and national defense. Not all Montanans benefited from this period of prosperity. Montana's Indian population, for example, continued to be subjected to poverty and questionable policy decisions. All told, however, it was a period of growth and building during which the state's population increased 10% and in 1950 its per capita

Completed in 1963, the James F. Battin Building is an important example of Modern architecture in downtown Billings. Owned by GSA, the building's fate is uncertain, as a new federal building will be constructed in the near future.

income actually stood 8% above the national average.

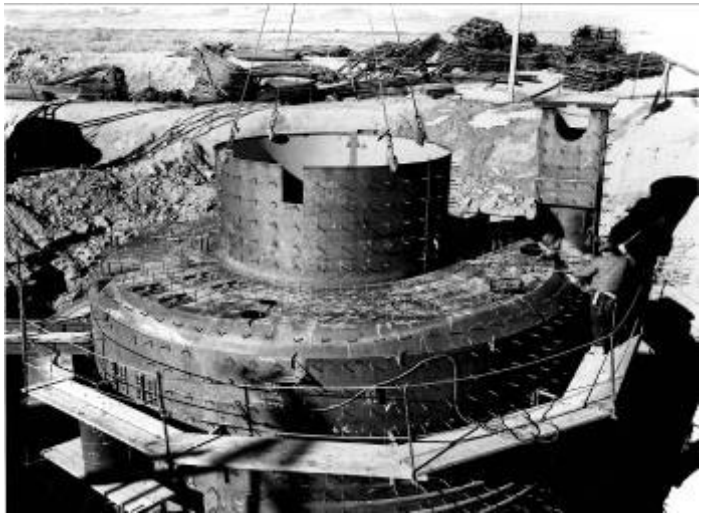
Montana's economy, especially in regard to agricultural and resource extraction, witnessed cycles of growth and decline through the 1980s. Tourism and service industries are beginning to replace the traditional agricultural and extraction markets, though the state lags behind others in terms of general prosperity.

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

Associated Resources. Resources include buildings, structures, sites, districts and objects associated with the industrial, business and residential growth following WWII. These diverse resources range from the ranch homes within the Headquarters Historic District at Glacier National Park to 1950s commercial buildings and facades in the Missoula Downtown Historic District (NR listing pending) and the Pioneers and Veterans Memorial Building that houses the Montana Historical Society in Helena.

Historic and architectural resources fifty years old and younger are often referred to as the "recent past". These resources frequently constitute a majority of the built environment, particularly in Montana's larger communities. Although the merits of these resources have been a topic of discussion at the national level, much of Montana is still in the process of embracing the buildings and sites associated with the recent past as historic and worthy of preservation. This lack of evaluation and appreciation has resulted in the tear-off of now-historic materials, unsympathetic alterations, and even demolition.

The inventory of Montana's historic resources of the recent past has just begun. Properties of exceptional significance but less than 50 years old have already begun to be considered, including "Mission 66" architecture in Montana's National Parks and Cold War military nuclear deterrents such as the still active defense system surrounding Great Falls that figured prominently in the Cuban Missile Crisis.



On 1 December 1961, the first Minuteman missile squadron, the 10th Strategic Missile Squadron at Malmstrom Air Force Base, was activated. Montana's array of Minuteman missile silos and command stations is present throughout central Montana.

STATE OF THE STATE INVENTORY

According to the State Antiquities Database managed by MTSHPO in partnership with the University of Montana, Department of Anthropology, as of September 27, 2007, there are 47,304 recorded cultural resource properties in Montana. Approximately 40% of these are historic period properties (including historic archaeological sites), while 60% are precontact properties, reflecting in part the origins of the state inventory in the Smithsonian Institution River Basin archaeological surveys of the 1950s. Each year over the past 10 years, approximately 1,000 to 1,500 new properties are added to the state inventory, with the number of historic sites catching up to that of precontact.

Each recorded property represents a site, structure, building, or district comprised of many individual buildings, such as community historic residential districts with 500 or more houses. Consequently, the total number of recorded individual cultural resource entities is actually greater by perhaps an order of 20% or more, i.e. approximately 56,000 cultural resources statewide. Nonetheless, many known historic, precontact, and traditional cultural properties are still not included in this total – including some very famous historic buildings or historic and precontact archaeological sites – simply by virtue of the fact that an inventory form has never been completed and registered in the system.

Among recorded precontact site types in Montana, archaeological lithic scatters predominate (14,752), followed by stone circle/tipi ring sites (6,842) and rock cairns (4,227). Lithic scatters are a generic archaeological site type referring to a concentration of intentionally chipped stone pieces, mostly detritus produced from the process of manufacturing, using and maintaining stone tools. Other artifacts may also occur, such as bone or fire-cracked rock, but chipped stone predominates. Ubiquitous to Montana, most lithic scatters require professional archaeological analysis and sometimes subsurface testing to determine their age (if possible) and whether they represent former habitations, places where raw materials were acquired, or some other form of special use locality. The age and function of many lithic scatters, nonetheless, remains indeterminable using current scientific techniques.

Tipi rings are most common east of the Continental Divide and are especially prevalent on the glaciated prairie-plains of northern Montana. They represent former

habitation locations. While some may be as old as 3,000 or even 4,000 years, most are thought to be less than 2,000 years old. Much has been written about the research significance of these stone circle sites and, while they continue to be a lively source of professional debate, they also represent the most widely recognized precontact site by the general public.

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

Among other well-known types of precontact or possibly early historic Indian sites in Montana, there are 279 buffalo jumps, 120 quarries, and 837 rock art sites currently recorded in the statewide inventory. Some rare precontact site types in Montana include pithouses, sites that can be definitively associated with fishing, and medicine wheels. Also relatively rare, less than a hundred recorded precontact sites have been associated with the earliest period of human occupation, between 12,000 – 7,500 years ago.

Given their relative recentness and familiarity, historic period properties in the state inventory are more readily recognized as to age and purpose than precontact sites. Recorded historic properties range from CCC camps to ferry landings to historic mining remnants to schools and grain elevators. They include standing in-use buildings and structures as well as historic archaeological sites, and some properties that are both. The three most common recorded historic property types are: mining sites (3,736), many of which are abandoned, i.e. historical archaeological sites; railroad, roads and other transportation-related properties, including bridges (2,110); and rural homesteads/farmsteads (2054), many "reclaimed" that also exist now only as historic archaeological sites.

Records also exist for over 250 historic districts and approximately 1500 individually documented historic residences. Most historic-age properties in the state inventory are associated with long continuous periods of use; only twenty-five have been identified as predominantly pre-1860 and about three hundred are associated directly with Montana's Territorial Period (1860-1889). The large majority of recorded historic sites were constructed after Montana achieved statehood in 1889.

A subset of the state inventory, 1,018 Montana properties have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places, including 32 recognized as National Historic Landmarks. About one hundred of these listed properties are historic districts, each comprised of anywhere from ten to hundreds of contributing buildings and structures. An

expansion to the Butte NHL was designated in 2006, the largest historic district in Montana, the Butte-Anaconda Historic District National Historic Landmark, is comprised of 6,033 contributing resources - Adding contributing buildings and structures, there are 16,779 individual cultural resources listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Only a handful of these National Register listed properties are precontact sites, including two National Historic Landmarks: the Hagan Site, a rare earth lodge village in Dawson County and Pictograph Cave outside Billings, arguably the first scientifically excavated precontact archaeological site in Montana. This is not a statement of the significance of precontact sites; rather it probably reflects the lack of tangible benefits afforded the listing of archaeological sites (especially precontact, but also historic period) and concerns for their safety in anonymity. Two Montana properties that have been listed as traditional cultural places important to Indian communities are Annashisee Iisaxpuatahcheeaashisee (Bighorn River Medicine Wheel) in Big Horn County and Sleeping Buffalo Rock in Phillips County. The vast majority of Montana's National Register listed properties are historic period, primarily Euroamerican sites. Ranging from the Troy Jail in Lincoln County to the Baker Hotel in Fallon County, these listed historic properties span the state, its history, and the various heritage themes described above.

Beyond those officially nominated and accepted for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, an additional 595 properties in the Montana state inventory have been formally determined eligible for listing by the Keeper of the Register (National Park Service) and 4,614 determined eligible through consensus between MTSHPO and a federal or state agency. Although lacking for the most part the level of documentation required of nominated properties, these eligible sites are treated as if they were listed in the National Register for the purposes of compliance with federal and state preservation laws. Also, unlike those actually in the Register, these properties only found eligible include many precontact sites in addition to historic and traditional cultural places. Together, the approximately 6,227 properties found eligible or listed constitute 13% of the state inventory and represent an excellent cross-section and characterization of what constitute Montana's significant precontact, historic, historic archaeological, and traditional cultural places.

It is difficult to say how many other historic and precontact properties – both known and unknown – remain to be added to the statewide inventory. However, to the extent that this is reflected by the amount of survey (i.e., intensive reconnaissance) to identify properties that has occurred, the answer is probably a lot. Survey records housed at the MTSHPO document 4,572,494 acres of intensive inventory – a lot to be sure, but just

scratching the surface when measured against the 92,983,695 acres of land in Montana. Of course much of this un-inventoried land surface may have a low probability of containing cultural resources. Yet the fact remains that relatively little (5%) of the state can be said to have been looked at with an eye towards identifying and recording the state's heritage properties.

Moreover, the current rate of survey is such that it will be a long time before many properties are recorded. Again according to MTSHPO records, between 70,000 to 156,000 acres of new survey have occurred in each of the last five years since 2002. As previously recognized, most of this survey continues to be undertaken in response to regulatory requirements associated with actions that are permitted or required by federal and state agencies - like timber sales, land exchanges, and oil & gas development (e.g., Section 106 compliance).

The U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management easily account for the most survey reconnaissance in the state, both in the number of inventories and total acreage. Each of these agencies has conducted over 1 million total acres of documented survey (roughly half of all recorded inventory statewide). Thus, reaction to projects rather than a conscious initiative to discover and record cultural resource properties continues to be the norm in Montana, resulting in many known properties or known areas of high probability for properties remaining undocumented, especially on private and undeveloped land.

Counteracting this trend in recent times have been a certain number of proactive inventories by federal land managing agencies made possible in part because of "streamlined" review and compliance procedures that have freed up limited time and dollars. Limited community surveys have also been supported by HUD/Community Development Block Grants, local preservation initiatives, and small MTSHPO grants, when available.

SUCCESS STORIES

Numerous successful projects and programs have occurred recently in Montana and continue to support the preservation of Montana's heritage properties statewide. Following are just a few of these highlights.

BUTTE-ANACONDA NHL

The nomination of the Butte-Anaconda NHL was a daunting task that spanned fourteen years. The project was launched when Butte emerged among eleven sites nationally highlighted by the 1991 National Park Service NHL Labor Theme study. Encouraged by officials with the National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmark programs, leaders of Butte and Anaconda and preservation advocates launched the effort to update and expand the landmark, eventually involving a broad consortium of historic preservation partners in the task.

The Butte-Anaconda Historic District encompasses the area originally designated as the Butte NHL in 1961, and enlarges it through the addition of Anaconda, the Butte Anaconda & Pacific Railroad line, the Washoe Smoke Stack, and contributing elements of Butte's mining and smelting landscape. With a total of 6,033 contributing resources, the revised Butte-Anaconda Historic District NHL is the largest landmark west of the Mississippi and encompasses a much more complete story of the relationship between the mining industry and labor history.

The Amselmo Mine Yard Interpretive tours and signage offer a unique look at mining technology for Butte's citizens and visitors.

MONTANA HERITAGE COMMISSION

In 1997, the Legislature established the Montana Heritage Commission to manage the state owned properties at Virginia City and Nevada City *and others that may be acquired in the future*. Under that mandate, in 2006, MHC acquired Reeder's Alley in Helena, which includes the city's oldest building (the "Pioneer's Cabin") as well as a complex of rare brick miner's residences completed in the 1870s during Montana's Territorial Period.

Oversight for the Commission transferred from the Montana Historical Society to the Department of Commerce in 2003. Though no longer directly connected to MHS, the Commission continues to be its partner, and together with the local community and the Virginia City Preservation Alliance continues to make great strides in the preservation of the properties for the benefit of all Montanans.

The Commission's skilled Preservation Team, a small group of dedicated professionals that resolves complex scenarios with conscientious tradesmanship, constantly seeks to expand and share their knowledge of traditional craft and has established a Virginia City Preservation Institute for the purpose of training. Bolstered by renewed operational support by the 2007 Legislature as well as a two million dollar allocation for building preservation, the future of the Montana Heritage Commission is bright.

TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICES Within the past five years, four new Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs) were established on reservations in the state, to the benefit of preservation for all Montanans. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes established the first THPO in 1996, and have since created programs, databases, and oral history projects that serve as a model for heritage preservation nationwide. Both the Rocky Boy's and Northern Cheyenne nations received their THPO designations in January 2003, and have actively participated in consultation and worked with state and federal agencies to identify resources important to their history. Most recently, the Blackfeet and Crow THPOs were established in January 2005 and February 2007, respectively.

MTSHPO works collaboratively with THPOs statewide to ensure that cultural resources on tribal lands are surveyed and evaluated under appropriate procedures, so that both tribal and non-Indian significant resources can be preserved. To this end, the THPOs and MTSHPO have data sharing agreements and other methods in place to continue the exchange of knowledge of significant places and ideas.

BURIAL PRESERVATION BOARD The Montana Burial Preservation Board, established in 1991 by state statute, works cooperatively with the MTSHPO to maintain a registry of unmarked burial sites located in the state; conduct field reviews upon notification of the discovery of human skeletal remains, a burial site, or burial materials; and arranges for final treatment and disposition of human skeletal remains and burial material with dignity and respect. Since its origin, the Board has overseen an average of three re-burials of human remains each year, bringing both process and sensitivity to the treatment of human remains.

ANNUAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION WORKSHOPS Preservation specialists, local commission members, tribal representatives and interested public constituents have participated in five annual statewide preservation workshops since 2003. That first year, MTSHPO teamed with the Montana Preservation Alliance and the Confederated Salish-Kootenai Tribal Preservation Office to offer collaborative information sessions regarding statewide preservation issues. Building on this success, MTSHPO has continued to partner with the Montana Preservation Alliance and others, including Montana Main Street, THPOs, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the National Park Service's Heritage Partnership program, the Montana History Foundation and Certified Local Governments to host annual workshops in locations across the state, including Virginia City, Billings, Deer Lodge, and Helena. Funding permitting, the annual Montana Preservation Workshop will continue well into the future.

PRESERVE AMERICA Montana has embraced the national Preserve America program begun in 2003, with First Lady Laura Bush as honorary chair. The state boasts fourteen Preserve America communities, dedicated to protecting and celebrating their heritage; using their historic assets for economic development and community revitalization; and encouraging people to

Deer Lodge hosted the 4th Annual Montana Preservation Workshop in June 2006. Participants benefitted from the expertise of local, state and national speakers.

experience and appreciate local historic resources through education and heritage tourism programs. In 2006 MTSHPO received a Preserve America grant for its Montana Rural Heritage Experience program. Through that initiative, seven Preserve America communities received re-grants totaling $90,000 to further rural heritage tourism.

In 2007, MTSHPO received a second Preserve America Grant for $100,000 to support preservation and heritage tourism training over the next two years (2008-2009). Training will encompass support for local constituents to participate in state, regional and national workshops and to bring expertise to communities.

HERITAGE BARNS Montana has an abundance of beautiful historic barns. As time marches on, many farmers and ranchers now struggle to maintain these old handcrafted buildings, and often do it out of a sense of

MONTANA'S PRESERVE AMERICA COMMUNITIES

- Anaconda-Deer Lodge
- Billings
- Butte-Silver Bow
- Fort Benton
- Great Falls
- Havre
- Hill County
- Jefferson County
- Lewistown
- Missoula
- Stevensville
- Red Lodge
- Terry
- Virginia City

affection, family legacy, and allegiance to rural community.In 2002, the Montana Heritage Barns Project initiated a register to record the history and design of barns across the state. This outreach program helps identify endangered resources, and raise awareness and appreciation for the rich historical collection of barns in Montana.

In 2006 MTSHPO was able to offer $15,000 in matching funds to barn owners across the state for maintenance, restoration and repair of their historic barns. The three highly successful projects funded were the Cue Barn in Melrose, the Nunberg barn in Wibaux, and the Myllymaki Barn near Belt. This brick-and-mortar program continued in 2007, with the award of $10,000 for repair of the Adams Stone Barn at Simms, and $5,000 to the Fort Assiniboine Cavalry Stable.

At the same time, the Montana Preservation Alliance has actively collected histories, information, and photographs in an effort to publish a book bringing awareness and appreciation for the history and beauty of our state's heritage barns. The book, supported in part with Preserve America funds, will be published in the near future in collaboration with the Montana Historical Society Press.

MONTANA LAND TITLE ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION HISTORIC PROPERTY FUND In the autumn of 2002, the Montana Land Title Association Foundation, established the Montana Heritage Property Fund with the intention of providing individuals, community organizations, and local non-profits with the assistance of historic resource professionals for accomplishing the research and writing necessary for nomination of properties to the National Register of Historic Places. As a result of their generosity, over a dozen properties have been listed in the Register that otherwise would not have been possible.

IDENTIFYING AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES STATEWIDE Through the efforts of individual historians and collectors, specific stories of Montana's African-American families, military units, churches, and political clubs have been documented. However, scholars have barely scratched the surface in identifying resources that convey the rich heritage of the black community. Indeed, most of these resources lie buried amid family papers, unprocessed archival collections, photo albums, scrapbooks, and personal memories. Until these resources are identified and organized, researchers, writers, and artists will not have the tools to tell the full history of Montana.

The Montana Cultural Trust awarded two Cultural and Aesthetics Grants to the Montana Historical Society for a project to identify African-American heritage resources in the state, including archival and other primary-source textual documentation, oral histories, photographs, art, objects, and

MONTANA BENEFITS FROM SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES

2006:

Missoula Carnegie Library, $394,115

Anaconda-Deer Lodge Courthouse, $147,793

2005:

West Yellowstone's Union Pacific Dining Lodge, $394,443

2004:

Bozeman's Story Mansion, $493,839

Madison County Courthouse, $246,919

2003

Livingston Depot, $298,000

Hamilton's Daly Mansion, $298,000

2002

Billing's Moss Mansion, $70,000

Great Falls' WWII 7th Ferry Group Collection, $125,000

2001

Virginia City Historic District, $300,000

Great Falls' Tenth Street Bridge, $250,000

2000

Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives, $50,000

historic places. The grants fund a temporary professional research historian position to collect information about known resources relating to black history in Montana, and uncover little or previously unknown resources. As it is identified, information about those resources is gathered in a searchable, dynamic database accessible through the Montana Historical Society.

SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES Since its inception in 1999, Montana has regularly benefited from the National Park Service's Save America's Treasures grant program for the preservation of heritage properties and collections of significance to the nation. Montana has received thirteen SAT grants totaling over $2.5 million in matching federal support. Historic properties restored through this program in the past five years include the Moss Mansion (Billings), the Daly Mansion (Hamilton), the Livingston Depot (Livingston), the Madison County Courthouse (Virginia City), Story mansion (Bozeman), the Union Pacific Dining Lodge (West Yellowstone) and the Anaconda-Deer Lodge Courthouse (Anaconda).

MONTANA PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

Celebrating its 25th anniversary, the Montana Preservation Alliance received a 2007 State Historic Preservation Award for excellence in preservation. With the hiring of an Executive Director and staff in 2002, the MPA has dramatically increased its activities around the state. In addition to achievements highlighted elsewhere, MPA produces a quarterly newsletter, hosts an annual preservation awards ceremony, conducts workshops, and regularly participates in public comment on endangered historic sites. Recent special funded MPA projects include preparation of the *Rosebud Battlefield Preservation Plan* and creation of an innovative *Digital Archive of the Tongue River Valley Cultural Landscape*.

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Montana's fifteen Certified Local Government (CLG) local preservation programs are responsible for many recent achievements in historic preservation at the local level. Annually, Bozeman, Great Falls, and Missoula have had hundreds attending their Preservation Month activities and events. Carbon County recently surveyed 50 barns in a countywide effort. Eight CLGs have been designated Preserve America Communities,

Montana's local historic preservation officers gather at the Certified Local Government meeting in Billings, October 2006.

and one is pending. Successful locally produced or supported National Register nominations in the past five years have included Downtown Deer Lodge, Downtown Great Falls, and Downtown Missoula, as well as many individually listed properties. Seven CLGs are currently engaged in design review with Bozeman reviewing over 300 Certificates of Appropriateness annually. The City of Lewistown is serving as developer for a major housing rehabilitation of the former historic hospital's nursing residence and Miles City is using a HGTV Restore America grant to rehabilitate the former Holy Rosary Hospital for housing. Billings, Missoula and Butte lead the way in downtown redevelopment with the use of Historic Rehabilitation tax credits. In innovation, Livingston is working on the state's first Night Sky ordinance while Lewistown produced Montana's first DVD on the historic tradition of stonemasons.

MONTANA MAIN STREET Adopted in 2005 within the Department of Commerce, the 2007 Legislature renewed the Montana Main Street program as an important component of Montana community heritage tourism and economic development. Seven designated Main Street programs are now active in Butte, Stevensville, Libby, Anaconda, Polson, Red Lodge and Livingston with four additional affiliate programs added in 2007 specifically designed for smaller, rural communities: Columbus, Sheridan, West Yellowstone and White Sulphur Springs. In 2006, the Montana Main Street program saw a combined community investment valued at $5.5 million, over 5,500 volunteer hours and a net gain of 45 new businesses and 115 new jobs.

STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES Public governmental agencies often go beyond the basic requirements of state and federal preservation law to contribute to the success of historic preservation in Montana. Recent accomplishments include the Bureau of Land Management's collaboration with MTSHPO in the development of a pilot state Geographic Information System (GIS) for southeast Montana; the US Forest Service Heritage Stewardship Enhancement program support for activities ranging from building preservation to archaeological investigations; the Montana Department of Transportation's 2006 publication through the MHS Press of *Conveniences Sorely Needed: Montana's Historic Highway Bridges, 1860-1956* as well as their public archaeology education efforts invested at an early precontact site excavation near Helmville; and the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks' development of management plans for Travelers Rest NHL and Rosebud Battlefield state parks in addition to the creation of a new historic preservation specialist position in the state office.

RESOURCE CONDITION/RESOURCES AT RISK

RESOURCE CONDITION In 2002's State Preservation Plan, *Working Together to PRESERVE MONTANA*, the condition of resources in the state was described as fair with some notable exceptions. The diagnosis for cultural resources in the state, today, has arguably not improved significantly. Exceptions are buildings and some other structures for which funds have been made available for maintenance or restoration through public funding, concession income, community revitalization grants and loans, national grants, or as a result of federal management. In the case of most historic properties, however, conditions are viewed as generally negative or at least threatening, with a number of detrimental factors seen in particular: deterioration, vandalism, changing land use, lack of local monetary support, vacancy, and the sheer number of potential resources in need, for example in the case of smaller eastern Montana towns.

The story for precontact sites is more difficult to ascertain but the threats are nonetheless the same or similar: residential development in rural areas, recreational use of open space, vandalism, and impacts from both natural resource extraction and land reclamation. In addition, the anonymity of archaeological sites (both precontact and historic) makes it difficult to rally support for their protection. While most archaeological sites can be avoided by project developments, avoidance in and of itself does not mean longterm preservation.

The Beaver Dam School was built in 1914 by the Anaconda Company for school age children in the town of Opportunity. Still structurally sound, its fate is uncertain until a new use can be identified and implemented.

RESOURCES AT RISK The risks that face Montana's cultural resources are as varied as the properties themselves. They include inappropriate commercial or resource development, urban sprawl, neglected maintenance and repair, mismanagement, changing population needs, lack of public awareness, the limited jurisdiction and enforcement available through state or local law, and – of course – limited financial

resources and/or incentives for historic preservation at all levels: federal, tribal, state, local and private. Each of these issues was reinforced by respondents to the planning questionnaires distributed by MTSHPO in 2007.

Since 2001, the statewide non-profit Montana Preservation Alliance (MPA) has released an annual list of the most endangered places in Montana. Over the past five years, those lists have included: the Bair Family Museum near Martinsdale, Craig Bridge, Baker Hotel, the Tongue River Valley, Montana Barns, Libby High School, Trask Hall in Deer Lodge, Boulder River School Administration Building, Stonewall Hall at Virginia City, the O'Rourke building in Butte, Rosebud Battlefield State Park, Dumas Brothel in Butte, Kootenai Lodge on Seeley Lake, segments of the Lolo, Lewis an Clark and Nez Perce Trails, historic bridges, Great Falls Portage NHL, the railroad depot in Homestead, the Malta Carnegie Library, the Bitterroot River Bridge north of Hamilton, native languages and place names, Montana State Fair Racetrack in Helena, LeGrande Cannon Boulevard in Helena, Beaverdam School in Opportunity, and the Holy Rosary Convent and Rectory in Bozeman.

Montana properties have also been regularly featured nationwide on the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) 11 Most Endangered Historic Places, for example: Custer (now Little Big Horn) National Monument and Reno-Benteen Battlefield Memorial (1988); Virginia City (1992, 1993, and 1994); Sweetgrass Hills (1993); Historic Structures of Glacier National Park (1996); Flathead Indian Reservation (1997); Travelers Rest NHL (1999); and two properties in 2002: Pompeys Pillar and Missouri River Cultural & Sacred Sites (Fort Peck Reservoir). Kootenai Lodge was added to the list in 2006.

The progress in preserving Montana's significant historic, precontact, and traditional cultural places is real, but so is the ongoing need to do more. Once these heritage properties are lost, they are lost forever.

Conceived and engineered in 1907 as a "driveway" or carriage road for horse-drawn vehicles, Le Grande Cannon Boulevard retains much of its perambulatory character as scores of pedestrians and non-vehicular traffic walk, run and bicycle its entire length. The boulevard is now threatened by subdivision pressures that would widen and pave it destroying the historic ambiance of the boulevard as a recreational roadway.

IV. Issues and Challenges in Montana Historic Preservation

Overview of Stakeholder and Public Input

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

National Perspectives: Through its network of national programs, policy, and funding, the federal government plays an important role in Montana preservation. To celebrate the 40th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act (the Constitution of national preservation), the **Advisory Council on Historic Preservation** convened a **Preserve America Summit** in New Orleans in 2006. This summit brought together over 450 individuals across the country representing federal agencies, national, state and local organizations, and other stakeholders to examine emerging preservation challenges and to offer recommendations to the President and Congress for addressing priority issues across the country. Over three days, eleven expert issue area panels met to consider a variety of identified topics that included such things as the need for building a preservation ethic, coordinating public and private stewardship, determining what's important, and dealing with the unexpected, among others. Thirteen priority recommendations emerged, notably focusing on addressing issues surrounding 1) the identification and inventory of historic properties; 2) enhanced stewardship; 3) local sustainability; 4) preservation education; and 5) leadership.[4]

The **National Trust for Historic Preservation**, a preservation advocacy leader with a broad national public member base and known for its successful *Main Street* and *Barn*

[4] *The Preserve America Summit: Charting a Future Course for the National Historic Preservation Program, Findings and Recommendations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, August 2007.*

Preserve America Summit Issue Area Panels

- Building a Preservation Ethic and Public Appreciation for History
- Coordinating the Stewardship and Use of Our Cultural Patrimony
- Determining What's Important
- Protecting Places That Matter
- Improving the Preservation Program Infrastructure
- Dealing with the Unexpected
- Addressing Security
- Using Historic Properties as Economic Assets
- Involving All Cultures
- Fostering Innovation
- Participating in the Global Preservation Community

Again! programs, identifies funding, federal and state preservation tax incentives, public agency stewardship, local advocacy capacity, historic building codes, and neighborhood community character as priority issues in its 2007 national preservation policy agenda.[5] In conversations with the Trust's Mountains/Plains Office several issues can also be highlighted specifically for Montana: growing local preservation infrastructure, including the Montana Certified Local Government (CLG) program; incorporating historic preservation in zoning and subdivision review; state funding and tax incentives,; developing responsible heritage tourism; inventory and identification of historic properties; public resource stewardship; energy development; and the impact of uncontrolled off-road vehicle recreation.

Similarly **Preservation Action**, a national lobbying arm for non-profit preservation organizations, culture resource management professionals, state and local preservation offices, architects and students, conducts an annual grassroots poll of its membership to identify priority issues, primarily preservation programs in need of additional funding. Topping their 2008 list of concerns is under-funded State Historic Preservation Offices (93% ranking), followed by passage of a historic homeowner federal tax credit, improvements to the existing commercial rehabilitation tax credit, a strong Save America's Treasures brick-and-mortar grant program and further support of Tribal Historic Preservation Offices. Rounding out the list is maintaining or increasing funding for several federal programs that support historic preservation: Rural preservation programs (including the Farm Bill), National Heritage Areas, HUD/Community Development Block Grants, Brownfields Economic Development Initiative, and Preserve America. Non-funding issues of Preservation Action in recent years have included concerns with proposed amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act to limit the review of impacts of federal undertakings (Section 106 process) and proposed administrative changes to restructure National Park Service preservation programs and standards.

STATE PERSPECTIVES: On August 15, 2005, Governor Brian Schweitzer signed Executive Order 18 creating a seven-member **Governor's Advisory Council on Historic and Cultural Properties** to study the issues and benefits of historic preservation in Montana

The Veterans and Pioneers Memorial Building is one of hundreds of state buildings addressed by the Governor's Council on Historic and Cultural Properties.

[5] NTHP: nationaltrust.org/advocacy/publicpolicy

and formulate recommendations to the Governor and the 2007 Legislature concerning the state's policies on the preservation of publically-owned historic sites and buildings. The Council also was charged with identifying opportunities for working with local communities to use historic preservation as an economic development tool.

Chaired by Lt. Governor John Bohlinger, this first ever state sponsored review committee met throughout 2006 to study the issues surrounding the economics of historic preservation in Montana, best practices for state stewardship, the nature of heritage development, and the role of civic cultural and heritage tourism. Concluding their work in a *Report to the 60th Montana Legislature 2007*, the Governor's Council on Historic and Cultural Properties identified several key components for a new vision for Montana historic preservation. Among these are recommended policies and strategies to address issues in the capacity of local governments to encourage and support local preservation, in the state's procedures for maintaining and using state historic properties, and in funding for state programs in historic preservation – including the Montana Main Street program, Montana Heritage Commission, and the State Historic Preservation Office (ranked 49th in the nation in amount of state funding).

The Council also recommended creation of a Montana Legacy Program to facilitate the survey and inventory of historic properties across the state, assist heritage development for tourism and economic development, and provide grants and revolving loans for the rehabilitation of heritage properties. Notably, the Governor's Budget Office and the 2007 Legislature acted on several of these recommendations, passing legislation to allow for the creation of local cultural and historic districts and providing a one-time appropriation to fund critical building stabilization needs of state-owned historic buildings at Virginia City National Historic Landmark. The Montana Legacy Program, while gaining majority support from a wide coalition as part of a broader tourism initiative (Best Place First), passed the 2007 legislature, but was ultimately vetoed by the Governor as a non-sustainable measure in the current state budget.

Issues of state historic preservation were also recently addressed by the **Montana State Historic Preservation Review Board** in a planning workshop held in Red Lodge in June 2007. The nine-member Governor appointed Review Board, in addition to overseeing the state's participation in the National Register of Historic Places, also serves to guide state planning efforts and the annual activities of the State Historic Preservation Office. Funding for historic preservation at the state and local level, including financial incentives, has been and will continue to be the primary issue facing Montana over the next five years

Past and current presidents of the State Historic Preservation Review Board gather on the steps of the Charley Montana Bed and Breakfast in Glendive at their September 2007 meeting.

as seen by the Review Board. In no particular order, public attitude and understanding of preservation, affordability and sustainability, the cost/benefit of heritage tourism, and pressures to uncritically retrofit historic buildings to be more energy efficient are further identifiable issues.

In a related discussion, the Board and staff note that many vacant and abandoned turn-of-the-century rural historic properties (homesteads, barns, churches, schools, and mining ghost-towns) are collapsing at an accelerating rate – or being taken down as liabilities or for salvage. The fragility of these 100+ year old landmarks that have long defined rural and historic mining landscapes and scenic vistas throughout Montana has never before been more obvious.

Working concurrently with the development of the State Preservation Plan, the Montana Department of Commerce/Montana Promotion Division has updated the **Montana Tourism and Recreation Strategic Plan for 2008-2012**. Adopting a vision of geo-tourism, this plan seeks to create a Montana tourism that is a high quality experience which both respects and celebrates Montana's unique heritage and character. Heritage and cultural tourism in particular is recognized as the fastest growing segment, involving over 80% of adult tourists nationwide. The Montana Tourism Plan also emphasizes the need to balance promotion with "product," seeing historic sites and

This abandoned homestead near Molt is just one of the "skeletons of the prairie" rapidly disappearing from the Montana landscape.

cultural resources as assets that must be nurtured and protected.

Managing these resources on public and private lands as well as maintaining and enhancing facilities and infrastructure (historic sites, museums, parks) are viewed as important tourism policy issues. Goal 4 of the Montana Tourism and Recreation Strategic Plan 2008-2012 is to *enhance and preserve Montana's culture and history* by not only promoting historical/cultural attractions, but also by improving historic interpretation, supporting inventory, maintaining historic sites, and creating cooperative opportunities though **Montana Main Street** to assist revitalization efforts in historic downtowns.

Public land-managing agencies, both state and federal, hold in public trust many of the state's most significant historic, precontact, and cultural places and have a vested interest in preservation. The **U.S. Forest Service** and

Bureau of Land Management in Montana alone easily account for half of the inventoried acreage and 40% of the 47,500+ recorded cultural resource properties that are documented in the State Antiquities Database. The **National Park Service** manages the unique cultural resources of Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks, Little Bighorn and Big Hole Battlefields, and Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site as well as administering the networks associated with the Lewis & Clark and Nez Perce National Historic Trails through Montana.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks manages 20 state-owned historic and archaeological parks, including six of Montana's 24 National Historic Landmarks, while the **Montana Heritage Commission** was established ten years ago to ensure care of the state acquired 250+ historic buildings at Virginia and Nevada Cities. Together, these land and resource managing agencies, and others, universally cite the lack of adequate budgets and backlog of maintenance as primary issues in state historic preservation. Educating the public and instilling a preservation ethic are also seen as important, in part as a response to concerns about vandalism. As managers, finding balance in historic preservation between reactive, compliance-driven work and proactive, stewardship activities is also an often mentioned challenge.

For Montana's seven Indian Reservations, five with certified **Tribal Historic Preservation Offices** (Confederated Salish-Kootenai, Rocky Boys, Blackfeet, Northern Cheyenne, and Crow), there are special issues involving cultural patrimony and the extent to which federal regulations and programs, including the National Register of Historic Places, pose a loss of control over traditional knowledge while simultaneously failing to protect important aspects of traditional cultural value and significance.

Rosebud Battlefield in southeastern Montana is one of many cultural resource sites managed by Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks. The property is currently under consideration for NHL designation.

LOCAL PERSPECTIVES: MTSHPO developed a public 12-topic questionnaire that circulated 2006-2007 via email, hard copy, and online. Responses were mostly individual with the addition of two local public meetings hosted by the Great Falls-Cascade County and Lewistown Historic Preservation Advisory Boards.

Funding, education, and development issues are at or near the top of every response. Proximity played a key role in identifying significant site-specific issues; for example,

Great Falls responses included the Tenth Street Bridge, Hill County residents mentioned Fort Assiniboine, Lewistown citizens pointed to the WWII Satellite Airfield, and Miles City respondents cheered the rehabilitation of the historic Holy Rosary Hospital. Urban area citizens are concerned most with land use, incentives and regulations, design review, recent past architecture, subdivisions, and development. Rural citizens focus more on vacant and neglected buildings, main street revitalization, rural buildings and landscapes, trails and railroads, and public apathy. There is also much cross-over of issues and favorite sites – many mention Virginia and Nevada Cities, Butte, barns, small towns, landscapes, archaeology, and cohesive neighborhoods as important places for preservation efforts.

Education, awareness, stewardship, and public relations are viewed publically as both issues and proactive solutions to assist historic preservation efforts locally and across the state. Public education, including youth curriculums, is a very high priority. Identified educational venues include walking tour brochures, preservation fairs, heritage area guidebooks, hands-on workshops, websites, and published books. Survey and updated survey of heritage places, the foundation of all preservation, are seen as important by respondents as are other MTSHPO preservation programs. Rewarding and creating incentives for good preservation practices and establishing regulations to prevent bad practices are both seen as necessary. Technical assistance is appreciated but more is requested, from hands-on workshops to grant writing assistance.

Many questionnaire respondents suggest solutions that encourage partnerships among the public, federal, tribal, state, and local governments and agencies, organizations, and private enterprises. Proposed laws, statutes, ordinances, and regulations include better protection for archaeology and paleontology, design review (both traditional demolition delays and recent demolition-by-neglect ordinances), and more "community rights" and public notice when alterations are planned for treasured local buildings. Preservation-minded planning, zoning, and building codes and their respectful implementation are highly valued. New outreach suggestions include a broad partnership with environmental conservation, education, commerce, tourism, parks and recreation, agriculture, and housing authorities. There is a general sense of a broader appreciation for historic properties due in part to the advent of television channels, magazines, books, and internet sites devoted to home improvement, history, archeology, travel, and "fine living." The movement toward earth-friendly and sustainable architecture is seen as an emerging support for historic building

Miles City's Holy Rosary Hospital was recently spared demolition and reopened as low-income housing units. The project benefitted from dedicated local advocates, HGTV's Restore America program, and the Miles City Housing authority.

preservation in that "the greenest building is one that is already built."

Many of these local public perspectives are echoed by **Montana's Certified Local Government (CLG)** network of preservation commissions and officers and by the non-profit statewide preservation advocacy group, the **Montana Preservation Alliance**, who work closely with the public on the local level everyday. Most of Montana's fifteen CLG programs (collectively representing over half of Montana's population base) indicate that they focus their attention largely on issues of public awareness, tourism and interpretation, awards, training workshops, design review, and general technical assistance. In addition to its lobbying efforts, the Montana Preservation Alliance is actively engaged in addressing issues of increased local capacity for preservation, generating public involvement in commenting on local projects, and identifying and bringing awareness to properties at most risk – most recently public historic buildings slated for demolition and Eastern Montana rural landscapes threatened by coal bed methane energy development.

PRESERVATION ISSUE HIGHLIGHT: FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION The MTSHPO easily receives five to ten inquiries per week, sometimes more, asking about the availability of funds or financial incentives to facilitate historic preservation. The majority come from private individuals who, in turn, are the most often disappointed to learn that neither historic preservation grants or incentives cater to homeowners. At the same time, potential eligible recipients – incoming producing properties, non-profit organizations, and public agencies – face increasing restrictions and/or competition for limited financial resources and are often forced to choose between using funds for historic preservation or for some other worthy purpose.

The lack of financial resources affects preservation at all levels. Understaffed federal agency heritage programs, largely funded and driven by undertakings, have little opportunity to initiate historic preservation stewardship projects on federal lands proactively. Local governments, many of which rely directly or indirectly on federal or state support, struggle with public needs and services seemingly more basic than historic preservation. At the state level, despite a net increase in state support for the 2009 biennium, MTSHPO remains one of the lowest state-funded preservation offices in the nation and is unable to maintain a regular survey-and-inventory or brick-and-mortar re-grant program.

Considered both an issue as well as a solution to other issues, base funding for historic preservation continues to be a primary challenge in Montana. Reliance on special funded projects, one-time only appropriations, volunteerism, and philanthropy, while

The Vogt-Nunberg Barn just south of Wibaux suffered from a failing foundation wall. MTSHPO's Rural Property Brick and Mortar Grant program provided $5,000 in matching grant funds to repair and paint the building.

creating opportunities that would otherwise not exist, will not in and of itself address this issue.

Opportunity: Threatened with statutory budget endings in 2007, both the Montana Heritage Commission and the Montana Main Street programs received new funding – and life - from the 2007 Legislature.

Opportunity: MTSHPO's successful applications for national Preserve America funding in 2006 ($150,000) and 2007 ($100,000) will result in project funding through re-grants for Montana's twelve eligible Preserve America communities into 2009.

Opportunity: Preservation advocates continue to lobby Congress for an increase in the national Historic Preservation Fund distribution to State Historic Preservation Offices from 35.7 million (FY2007) to 45 million (FY2008). This increase would elevate Montana's allocation approximately $150,000 for use in re-grants to local communities and heritage property owners.

PRESERVATION ISSUE HIGHLIGHT: PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION In polls taken previously, public awareness of cultural/historic preservation issues was cited as the most significant factor affecting Montana historic preservation in 1996 and ranked second in 2001. Current input again suggests that this issue is among the most prominent. While this suggests that progress in public education has been slow, it also recognizes the direct correlation between public appreciation and the commitment of dollars to preservation activities. As public awareness increases regarding the importance of preservation, it is likely that public policy decisions will increasingly favor the commitment of resources in support of heritage resources.

The incorporation of historic sites in state and local tourism promotion and economic development efforts across Montana is a good example of how public knowledge and perceptions have changed. Increasingly, Montana cities and counties consider impacts to historic properties in land use planning issues, including subdivision review. Some communities have created special historic zones that encourage revitalization, mixed uses, and architectural design standards for designated neighborhoods and commercial districts. The Montana Main Street program has been eagerly awaited and readily accepted. Historic walking tours have been developed for many communities. Generally, Montanans are becoming more aware of the importance of documenting and preserving local history.

Yet, important public policy decisions regarding community and economic development, public infrastructure, housing and general land use are still often made at

Francis Alt of the Confederated Salish-Kootenai Preservation Office spoke to participants of the 4th Annual Historic Preservation Workshop about tribal consultation practices. ***Photo by Rolene R. Schliesman***

the expense of preserving heritage properties. Local historical societies, preservation professionals and state preservation officials are often not consulted in the important early planning stages of project development. Rather preservationists often find themselves in a last ditch effort to save a site. The risk is that the preservation community, by being involved so late, can be characterized as obstructionist and anti-progressive. Educational programs which increase awareness among the public and their elected officials would be very beneficial in addressing this problem.

It is also necessary to confront the perception that preserving historic properties is too expensive or restrictive when measured against benefits. Property owners seeking advice and assistance might feel overwhelmed by what they view as unnecessary paperwork, extravagant expense or complicated processes. In some cases, they may be right. Information about more inexpensive construction materials which can be substituted to achieve the same goal, for example, would likely result in property owners being more willing to undertake restoration projects. Landowners who can continue to use their land while preserving precontact and historical sites will likely be more cooperative.

In the end, preservation education must confront all aspects of awareness - lack of interest, lack of experience, lack of information – if it is to succeed in making a difference.

Alternative energy sources, such as wind towers, have an effect on the visual characteristics of cultural landscapes. *Photo by Rolene R. Schliesman*

Opportunity: For the past five years, the Montana State Historic Preservation Office and the Montana Preservation Alliance have teamed up to organize a statewide *Montana Preservation Workshop and Conference*, sharing heritage training opportunities and bringing greater awareness to hundreds of Montanans.

Opportunity: The Montana Historical Society's new state history textbook, *Montana: Stories of the Land*, due out in 2008, will give educators a new and comprehensive means for teaching history and providing context for the preservation of Montana's heritage places.

PRESERVATION ISSUE HIGHLIGHT: CULTURAL LANDSCAPES Cultural landscapes have been recognized in Montana as a historic property type at least since the late 1980s. However due to limited funds for

statewide inventory and the propensity for federal project impact reviews to focus upon direct effects on discrete properties, there has been little effort to identify landscapes outside of relatively narrow confines. The dearth of inventory and evaluation of cultural landscapes seems to be more widely felt at the moment in Montana due to developments that have far greater visual effects and impacts to setting than actual ground disturbance, e.g. wind tower farms, cell towers, transmission lines, coal bed methane field development, and subdivision expansion into rural areas.

Cultural landscapes (like ecosystems) by their very nature are potentially time-consuming to define, complex to evaluate, and difficult to avoid impacting with new construction. They are not conducive to political and economic pressures for "streamlining" compliance with environmental and preservation laws. Even smaller scale landscape properties such as the Ewing-Snell Ranch in Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area or Traveler's Rest NHL at Lolo face increasing pressure, not only from surrounding land use changes, but also from the development of increased visitor services to meet perceived needs of increased heritage tourism. Visitor's amenities have or will likely cause adverse effects at the Little Big Horn Battlefield, Pompey's Pillar, Pictograph Cave and Lemhi Pass - all national monuments or landmarks.

Cultural landscapes are important to many Montanans, even to those who have not previously recognized them as such. Landscapes often define what we think of in describing what is distinctive and special about Montana. The recognition and preservation of Montana cultural landscapes is intimately tied to Montana's sense of place and quality of life.

Opportunity: The National Park Service, a leader in the study and documentation of cultural landscapes, continues cultural landscape evaluations at various park units in the state, including Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site and Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument.

Opportunity: Other recent and ongoing cultural landscape studies include expansion and re-evaluation of the Badger Two-Medicine Traditional Cultural Landscape on the Rocky Mountain Front (Blackfeet Tribe/US Forest Service), a land-based homesteading overview for eastern Montana (Bureau of Land Management) and research including extensive oral history on historic ranch settlement and development in the Tongue River Valley (Montana Preservation Alliance).

Opportunity: Newer residents of Montana, exposed to cultural landscape studies and heritage areas in other states, will potentially bring knowledge and awareness of landscape preservation issues and ethics with them.

The Red Bluff Stage Stop near Harrison succumbed to a grass fire in July 2006. The building had been the subject of an intensive preservation effort, and had recently been re-roofed using donated materials and labor.

Preservation Issue Highlight: Urban Commercial Growth and Rural Decline

Montana's population continues to grow exponentially around a few urban centers while small rural towns struggle to maintain residency sufficient to sustain basic services. Urban and suburban sprawl are relatively new to Montana from a national perspective, yet seemingly occur without benefit of lessons learned elsewhere. Impacts to historic downtowns and to surrounding rural lands from loosely regulated subdivisions and large scale fringe commercial developments are repeated over and over as Montana cities become more and more homogenized.

The rural counterpart to sprawl, perhaps, is the ongoing loss of working ranches and farms to new owners – often retirees and recreationalists - more interested in land than land use. While often sensitive to wildlife and the scenic environment, historic properties on these lands have not fared as well, nor have the small communities reliant on the business that these ranches once supported. Increasingly Montana's historic rural landscapes are becoming remnants, no longer sustained by economic functions.

"*Boom and bust*" and shifting population dynamics have always been an important part of Montana's history, as reflected in the historic places that have and have not survived to the present. From a historic preservation standpoint, it will require active community consideration and participation to ensure the preservation of many local historic resources in the face of continued spasmodic growth and decline.

Urban development pressure threatens the rural character of many of Montana's counties, as agricultural lands are subdivided for new residential construction. ***Photo by Rolene R. Schliesman***

Opportunity: The 2007 Legislature passed a *Montana Heritage Preservation and Tourism Act* to provide for the creation of local historic and cultural commissions and the designation of districts in the planning for protecting and promoting local heritage resources.

Opportunity: Increasingly, Montana counties have included consideration (including inventory and impact avoidance) of cultural resources in county subdivision reviews.

PRESERVATION ISSUE HIGHLIGHT: HERITAGE PROPERTY INVENTORY AND INFORMATION

Current estimates indicate that about 5% of Montana has been systematically inventoried for historic, precontact, and traditional cultural resource properties. The bulk of this inventory has been on federal lands and in two dozen or less communities. A significant percentage of this inventory is itself historic - out-of-date and in need of revision.

Heritage property inventories in their evolving, chronological nature are never finished. Montana has never had a true sense of its wealth of historic places. In its recent deliberations, the 2006 Governor's Council on Historic and Cultural Properties could not ascertain how many state-owned buildings are historic, nor evaluate their significance and integrity. Most survey and inventory in Montana occurs in front of and as a result of development. Due to limited funding, MTSHPO has not initiated statewide inventories since the 1980s. Federal and state land-managing agencies acknowledge that identification and documentation of properties has occurred on only a small portion of public lands in Montana.

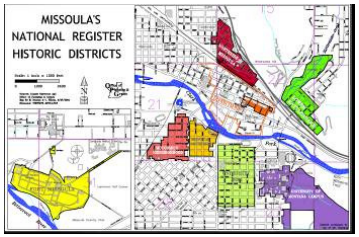
Heritage property information management and retrieval in Montana has also lagged behind other states. There is no comprehensive statewide Geographic Information System (GIS) in place, although both the Forest Service and BLM, as well as some others including several cities, maintain internal computer mapping and database systems. Electronic sharing of information is limited, further complicated by the need to maintain confidentiality in the case of sensitive information, including the location of archaeological sites.

The need to know where significant heritage properties exist in order to begin to consider their preservation has been identified nationally, regionally, and at the level of local planning. Heritage property inventory and information management is an investment that underlies many important efforts in historic preservation.

Opportunity: The Bureau of Land Management continues to provide important financial support to cultural resource data management, development and sharing with MTSHPO.

Opportunity: Since 2002, the Montana Land Title Association Foundation has contributed regularly to the research and nomination of properties to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, receiving a Montana Historic Preservation Award in 2007.

Opportunity: Trained citizen volunteers routinely contribute time and effort to the survey and documentation of historic buildings in Montana community historic districts.



Missoula boasts seven National Register historic districts and the downtown district is currently under consideration for listing. Volunteers, dedicated staff and experienced contractors have contributed to the success of the local historic preservation program.

V. A Vision for Montana Preservation 2008-2012: Goals & Objectives

Vision

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

Montana Preservation Goals and Objectives 2008-2012

Goal I.

Educate: Building a foundation for historic preservation through knowledge and awareness.

Objectives:

1. Gather, develop, and disseminate historic preservation guidance and standards.
2. Instill awareness and appreciation for Montana's heritage and heritage properties.
3. Promote learning opportunities with the public and interest groups.
4. Pursue new ways and means to share information about Montana's historic, precontact and traditional cultural properties

Goal II.

Celebrate: Promoting preservation with recognition, praise, and acknowledgement.

Objectives:

1. Use multi-media to convey historic preservation successes and opportunities.
2. Promote forums to acknowledge and reward outstanding achievements and efforts in historic preservation.
3. Facilitate recognition of historic properties through signage, published materials, events, and programs.

GOAL III.

LOCATE AND EVALUATE: IDENTIFYING AND DOCUMENTING MONTANA'S SIGNIFICANT HERITAGE PLACES WORTHY OF PRESERVATION.

Objectives:

1. Survey or support the survey of un-inventoried properties throughout the state.
2. Guide the development and use of historical contexts for evaluating the significance and integrity of Montana's precontact, historic and cultural sites.
3. Encourage and assist owners to document and list properties in the National Register of Historic Places.
4. Enhance the management of and access to cultural resource information.

GOAL IV.

ADVOCATE: SEEKING SUPPORT OF PRESERVATION THROUGH FUNDING, INCENTIVES, AND PROTECTION.

Objectives:

1. Encourage the integration of historic preservation in planning and policy-making.
2. Promote the cultural, social, and economic benefits of historic preservation.
3. Provide leadership and vision in historic preservation.
4. Implement existing preservation legislation and encourage new laws and incentives to protect heritage properties.
5. Seek additional financial resources to supplement funding for historic preservation.

GOAL V.

COLLABORATE: WORKING TOGETHER TO PRESERVE MONTANA'S HISTORIC, PRECONTACT, AND TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTIES.

Objectives:

1. Reach out to federal, state, tribal, local, public and private stakeholders.
2. Sponsor or participate in forums to share ideas, experience, and information.
3. Solidify existing partnerships and form new consensus for the benefit of historic preservation.
4. Meet regularly with tribal cultural representatives to facilitate consideration of tribal perspectives in historic preservation.

VI. PLANNING CYCLE: 2008 - 2012

The current Plan, *PRESERVE MONTANA: The Montana Historic Preservation Plan 2008-2012*, will apply to and be implemented over the next five years. For each year in this cycle, its goals and objectives will form the basis for defining and prioritizing the activities of the Montana State Historic Preservation Office and other organizations choosing to participate in its vision.

Copies of the Plan will be distributed to those involved in the planning process and it will be advertised and made available to others upon request during its five-year duration. The Plan will also be posted on the Montana Historic Preservation Office website under www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/shpo. Pending adequate funding, a 4-6 page illustrated pamphlet will also be developed in 2008 (or as soon as possible thereafter) to draw attention to the Plan, its adopted goals and objectives, and how these are being implemented in statewide preservation programs, including those of the State Historic Preservation Office. This format is intended for wide distribution and to facilitate greater awareness of, use, and response to Montana's State Plan for historic preservation.

Feedback on *PRESERVE MONTANA* will be documented and discussed. In consultation with the National Park Service, adjustments may be made as needed over the cycle of the Plan. Comments on the Plan will also initiate the process for revising or replacing the Plan in 2013.

To comment on or receive a copy of this Plan, please write, email, fax or call:

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(406) 444-2696 (FAX)
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VII. Bibliography & Supporting Documents

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National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended through 2000 (16 USC 470 et seq.)

36 CFR Part 60 National Register of Historic Places

36 CFR Part 61 Procedures for State, Tribal, and Local Government Historic Preservation Programs

36 CFR Part 63 Determinations of Eligibility for Inclusion in the National Register

36 CFR Part 65 National Historic Landmarks Program

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8 Use of Nomination Documentation in the Part I Certification Process (out-of-print)

12 Definition of National Register Boundaries for Archeological Properties (see #21)

13 How to Apply National Register Criteria to Post Offices

14 Guidelines for Counting Contributing and Noncontributing Resources for National Register Documentation (out-of-print, see #16)

15 How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation

16 Guidelines for Completing National Register Historic Places Forms

Part A: How to Complete the National Register Registration Form

Part B: How to Complete the National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form

17 Certification of State and Local Statutes and Historic Districts (out-of-print)

18 How to Evaluate and Nominate Designed Historic Landscapes

19 Reviewing National Register Nominations

20 Nominating Historic Vessels and Shipwrecks to the National Register of Historic Places

21 Defining Boundaries for National Register Properties (appendix includes #12)

22 Guidelines for Evaluating and Nominating Properties That Have Achieved Significance Within the Last Fifty Years

23 How to Improve the Quality of Photos for National Register Nominations

24 Guidelines for Local Surveys: A Basis for Preservation Planning

26 Certified Local Governments in the National Historic Preservation Program (n.a.)

28 Using the UTM Grid System to Record Historic Sites

29 Guidelines for Restricting Information About Historic and Prehistoric Resources

30 Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes

32 Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Properties Associated with Significant Persons

34 Guidelines for Evaluating and Nominating Historic Aids to Navigation

35 Examples of Documentation: National Register Casebook.

36 Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Archeological Properties

38 Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Properties

39 Researching a Historic Property

40 Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating and Registering America's Historic Battlefields

41 Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places

42 Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating and Nominating Historic Mining Properties

• Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Historic Aviation Properties

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MONTANA HERITAGE PROPERTIES AND CONTEXT

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NPS National Register of Historic Places
www.nps.gov/history/nr/index.htm

NPS National Historic Landmark Program
www.nps.gov/history/nhl

NPS Archeology and Ethnography
www.nps.gov/archeology

NPS HABS/HAER/HALS
www.nps.gov/history/hdp/

NPS NAGPRA
www.nps.gov/history/nagpra

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
www.achp.gov

National Trust for Historic Preservation
www.nationaltrust.org

Preservation Books
www.preservationbooks.org

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NPS Heritage Preservation Services
www.nps.gov/history/hps/

NPS Preservation Tax Act/Incentives:
www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/tax/

NPS Preservation Planning and Strategies
www.nps.gov/history/hps/pad/planpubs.htm

MONTANA HERITAGE PARTNERS

Montana State Agencies:

Montana Arts Council
PO Box 202201
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406-444-6430
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Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks
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Montana Dept. of Natural Resources
Trust Lands Division
1625 11th Ave.
PO Box 201601
Helena, MT 59620-1601
406-444-2074
www.dnrc.mt.gov

Montana Dept. of Transportation
2701 Prospect Ave.
PO Box 201001
Helena, MT 59620-1001
406-444-6201
www.mdt.mt.gov

Montana Heritage Commission
101 Reeder's Alley
Helena MT 59601
406-449-6688
www.montanaheritagecommission.com

Montana Historical Society
225 North Roberts
PO Box 201201
Helena, MT 59620-1201
406-444-2694
www.mhs.gov

Montana Main Street
301 South Park Ave.
Helena, MT 59601
406.841.2756
www.mtmainstreet.mt.gov

MTSHPO
Montana Historical Society
P.O. Box 201202
1410 8th Avenue
Helena, MT 59620-1202

Montana State University
Bozeman, MT 59717
406-994-0211
www.montana.edu

Museum of the Rockies
600 West Kagy Boulevard
Bozeman, MT 59717
406-994-3466
www.museumoftherockies.org

Travel Montana
Montana Department of Commerce
PO Box 200533
Helena, MT 59620-0501
406-841-2870
www.travelmontana.mt.gov

University of Montana
32 Campus Drive
Missoula, MT 59801
406-243-0211
www.umt.edu

University of Montana
Arch Site Records Office
Anthropology Department
University of Montana
Missoula, MT 59812
406-243-5525

Montana Non-Profit Organizations:

Billings Preservation Society
914 Division St.
Billings, MT 59101
406-256-5100
www.mossmansion.com

Butte Citizens for Preservation and Revitalization
PO Box 164
Butte, MT 59703
www.buttecpr.org

Conrad Mansion
PO Box 1041
Kalispell, MT 59903
406-755-2166
www.conradmansion.com

Daly Mansion Preservation Trust
PO Box 223
Hamilton, MT 59840
406-363-6004
www.dalymansion.org

Preservation Cascade, Inc.
1409 Fourth Ave. South
Great Falls, MT 59405-2415
406-452-5492
www.montanas-archbridge.org

Montana Archaeological Society
P.O. Box 2123
Billings, MT 59103
406-994-6925
www.msubillings.edu/COTFaculty/MAS

Montana Preservation Alliance
516 N. Park Ave.
Helena, MT 59601
406-457-2822
www.preservemontana.org

Museums Association of Montana
PO Box 1451
Helena, MT 59624
406-444-4713
www.montanamuseums.org

Western Heritage Center
2822 Montana Avenue
Billings MT 59101
406-256-6809
www.whc.org

Certified Local Governments:

Anaconda-Deer Lodge County

Historic Preservation Office
800 S. Main Street
Anaconda MT 59711
406-563-7416
anacondahistory@montana.com

Billings/Yellowstone County
510 N. Broadway
4th Fl Parmly Library
Billings MT 59101
406-247-8622
www.ci.billings.mt.us

City of Bozeman Planning Office
PO Box 1230
Bozeman MT 59771
406-582-2272
www.bozeman.net

Butte-Silver Bow County
25 W Front Street
Butte MT 59701
406-497-5021
www.bsb.mt.gov

Carbon County
PO Box 881
Red Lodge MT 59068
406-446-3667
www.carboncountyhistory.com

City of Deer Lodge
266 Warren Lane
Deer Lodge MT 59722
406-846-2070

Great Falls/Cascade County
PO Box 5021
Great Falls MT 59401
406-455-8435
www.ci.great-falls.mt.us

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

Havre/Hill County
PO Box 500
306 Third Ave Ste 104
Havre MT 59501

Helena/Lewis & Clark County
316 N Park
Helena MT 59623
406-447-8357
www.co.lewis-clark.mt.us

Lewistown
305 Watson
Lewistown MT 59457
406-535-1775
www.ci.lewistown.mt.us

Livingston
330 Bennett
Livingston MT 59047
(406) 222-4903
www.ci.livingston.mt.us

Miles City
907 B Main Street
Miles City MT 59301
406-234-3090
www.milescity.org

Missoula/Missoula County
435 Ryman
Missoula MT 59802
406-258-4706
www.co.missoula.mt.us

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

Tribal Preservation/ THPOs

Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes
Cultural Resource Committee
PO Box 1027
Fort Peck Agency
Poplar, MT 59255
406-768-5155

Blackfeet Nation Tribe
THPO
PO Box 2809
Browning, MT 59417
406-338-7406

Fort Belknap
Community Council
RR 1 Box 66
Harlem, MT 59526
White Clay Society
PO Box 340
Hays, MT 59527
406-673-3366

Buffalo Chasers Society
PO Box 834
Harlem MT 59526

The Crow Tribe of Indians
THPO
P.O. Box 159
Crow Agency, MT 59022
406-638-3126

Northern Cheyenne Tribe
THPO
PO Box 128- N. Cheyenne Agency
Lame Deer, MT 59043
406-477-6035

Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boys
THPO
R R 1 #544
Box Elder, MT 59521
406-395-4225

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
THPO
PO Box 278
Pablo, MT 59855
406-675-2700

Regional Preservation

Bureau of Indian Affairs
316 N. 26th St.
Billings, MT
406-247-7925
www.doi/bureau-indian-affairs.html

Bureau of Land Management
5001 Southgate Drive
Billings, MT 59101
406-896-5000
www.blm.gov

Bureau of Reclamation
Great Plains Regional Office
P.O. Box 36900
Billings, MT 59107-6900
406-247-7600
www.usbr.gov

General Services Administration
Rocky Mountain Region
One Denver Federal Center
Bldg. 41, Room 240
PO box 25546
Denver, CO 80225-0546
www.gsa.gov

National Park Service
12795 Alameda Pkwy
Denver, CO 80225
303-969-2500
www.nps.gov

National Trust for Historic Preservation
Mountain/Plains Region
535 16th St. Ste. 750
Denver, CO 80202
303-623-1504
www.nationaltrust.org

US Army Corps of Engineers
Robert Duncan Plaza
333 S.W. First Avenue
Portland, OR 97204
503-808-5150
www.nwp.usace.army.mil

USDA Forest Service
Region One
PO Box 7669
Missoula, MT 59807
406-329-3654
www.fs.fed.us

National Preservation:

Advisory Council for Historic Preservation
1100 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Suite 809
Washington, D.C. 20004
202-606-8503
www.achp.gov

National Conference of SHPOs
444 N. Capitol St. NW
Suite 342
Washington, D.C. 20001-1512
202-624-5465
www.ncshpo.org

National Park Service
1849 C St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20240
202-208-6953
www.nps.gov

National Trust for Historic Preservation
1785 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20036
800-944-6847
www.nationaltrust.org

Preservation Action
1350 Connecticut Ave. NW
Suite 401
Washington, D.C. 20036
202-659-0915
www.preservationaction.org