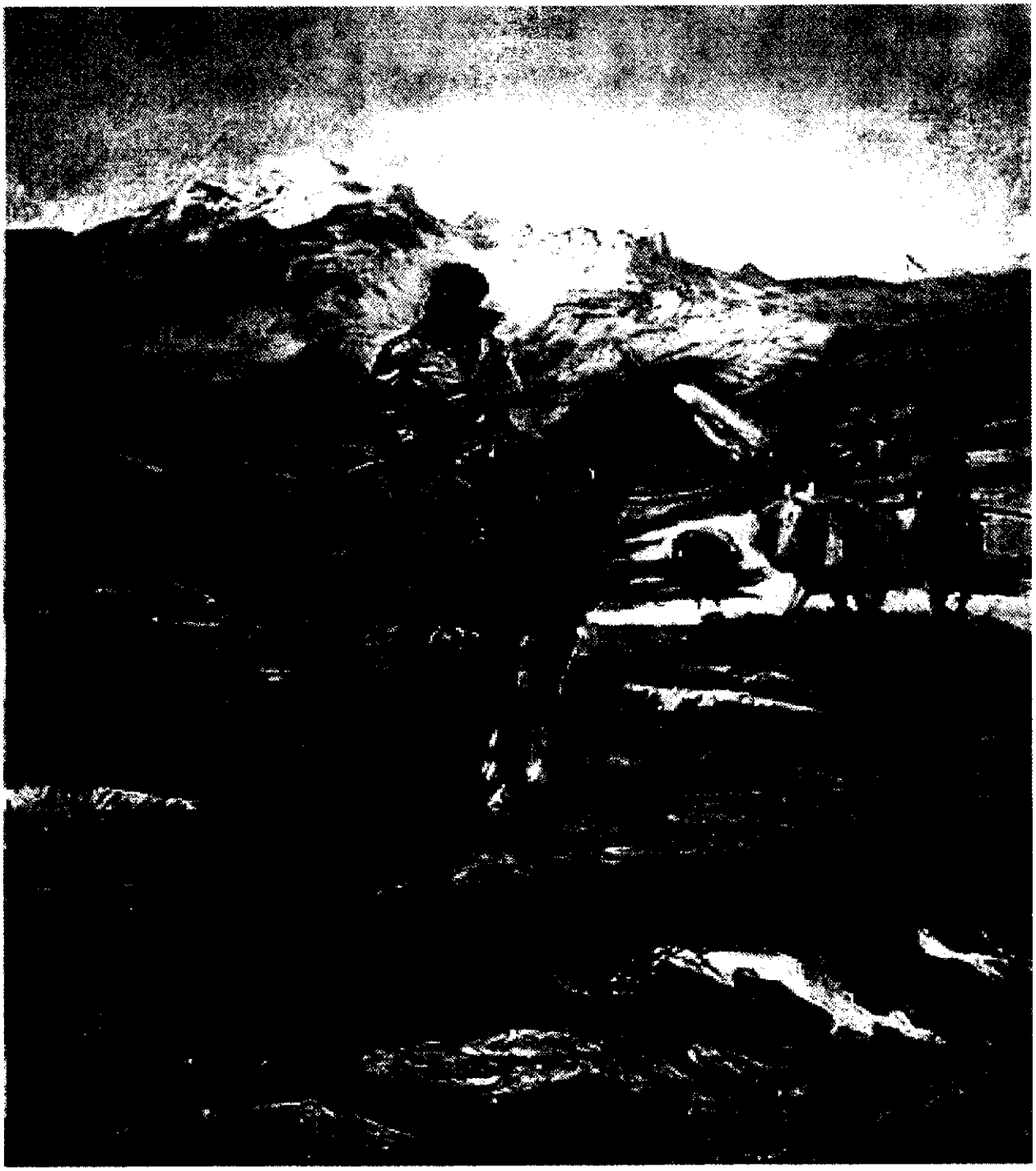
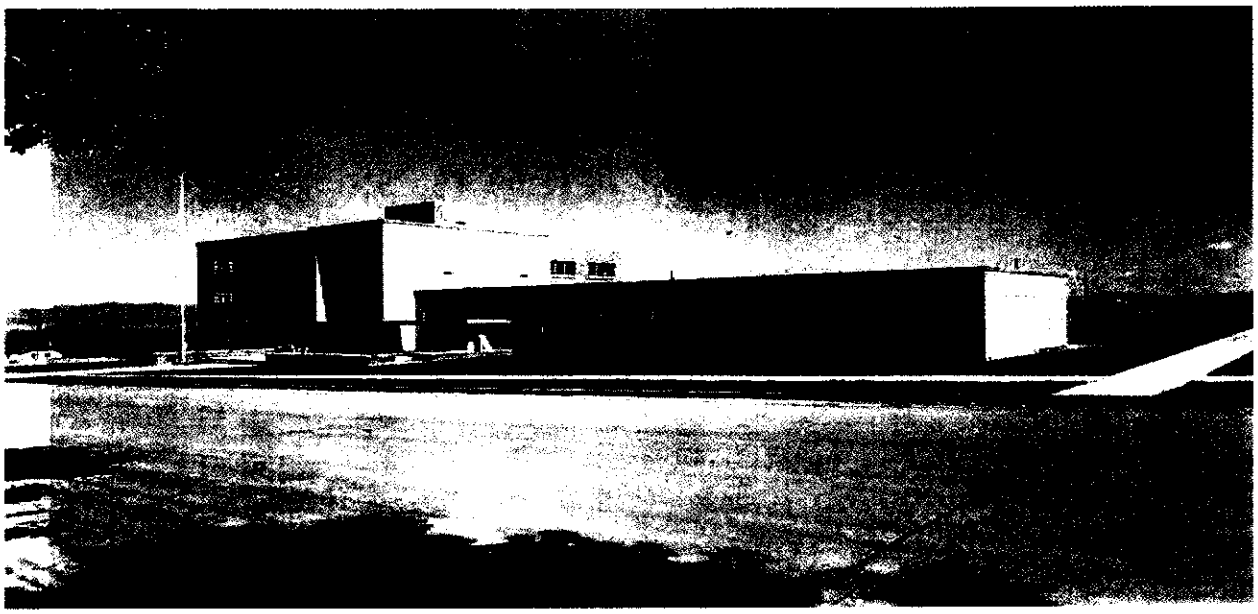
EXHIBIT 15
DATE 3-21-05
HB 540

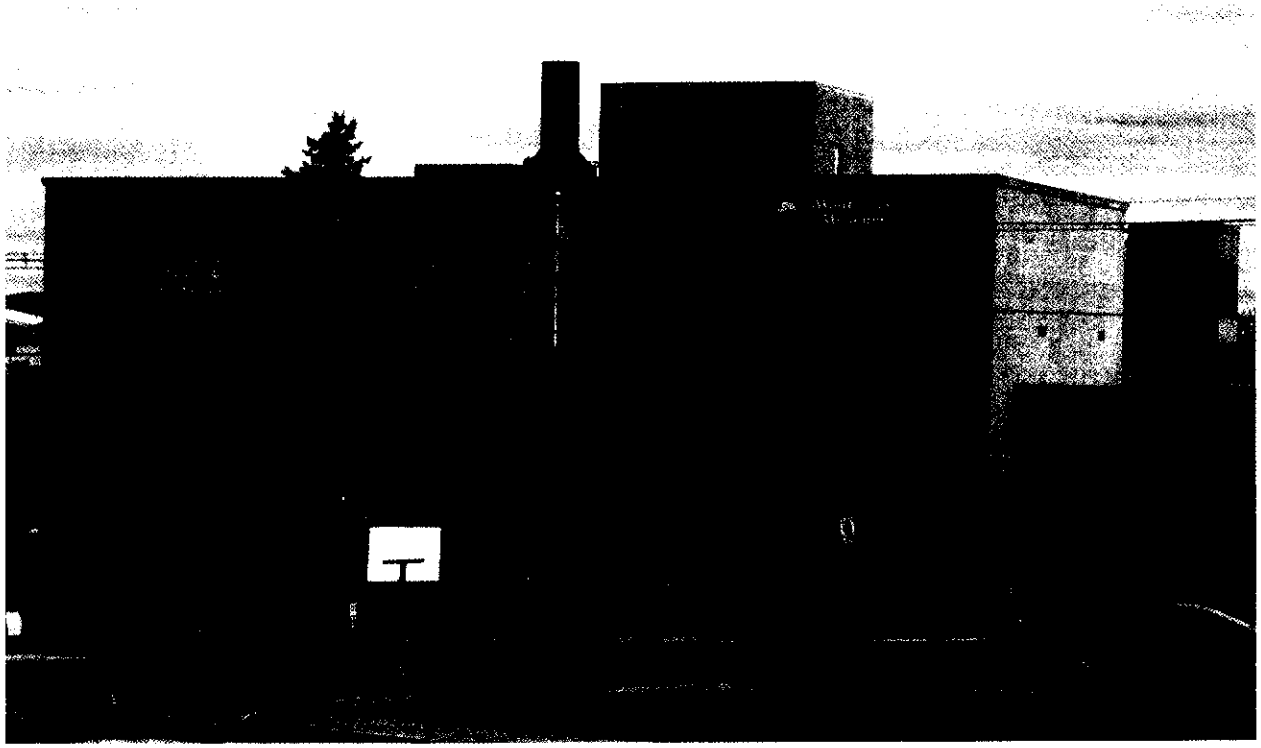
Montana History Center



"A once in a lifetime" opportunity.....



1951 – MHS Building Constructed



2005 – Bulging at the Seams
No Longer Meets Needs

Montana Historical Society
The Need for New and Better Space
Unique Requirements

Growing Space Needs ***(1,100 - 1,200 square feet total growth annually)***

Public Historical Library		Annual Increase	
100,000	Volumes	1,500 - 3,000	Books/publications
16,000	Maps	200	Maps
15,000	Microfilm Reels	600	Microfilm reels
2,000	Oral Histories	20	Oral histories

State Archives/Photograph Archives			
20,000	Linear Feet	600	Linear feet
450,000	Historic Photographs	10,000	Historic photographs

State Museum	
55,000	Artifacts
4,500	Native American
8,000	Works of Art
3,000	Agricultural/Cattle/Mining
5,100	Costumes/Textiles
1,000	Firearms
3,000	Furnishings

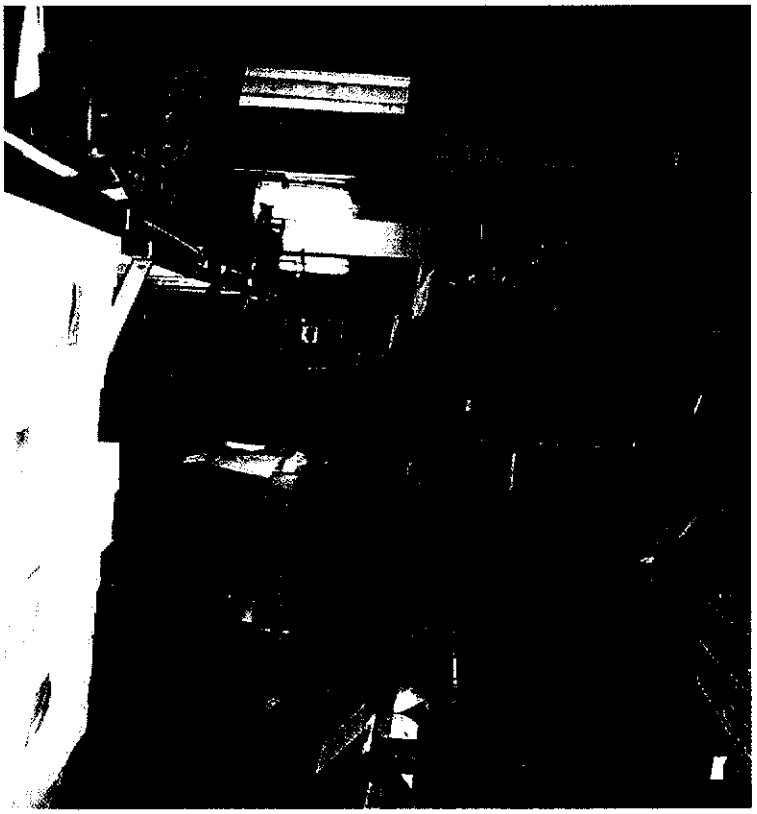
State Historic Preservation Office			
982	National Register Properties	15	National Register Properties
42,855	Archaeological/Historic Site Database	1,500	Archaeological/historic sites
26,747	Cultural Resource Reports	1,000	Cultural Resource Reports

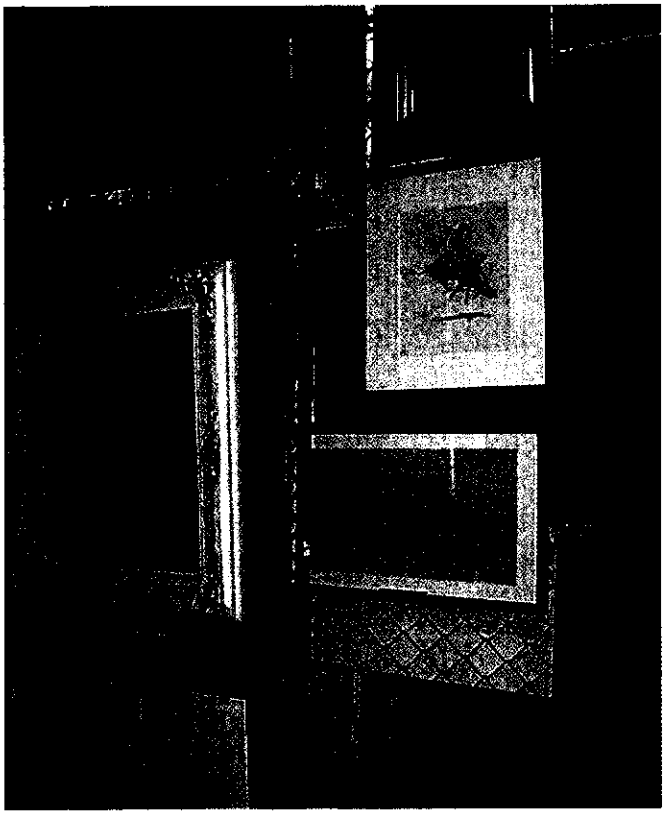
Parking
RVs
Busses (school and tours)
Major tourism attraction - seasonally high volume

High Level of Security
State assets over $200 million

Environmental Requirements
Controlled temperature, humidity, light - fire and water damage prevention
Quarantine areas and conservation work space needed
Insect and mold control

Current Conditions





Museum Storage

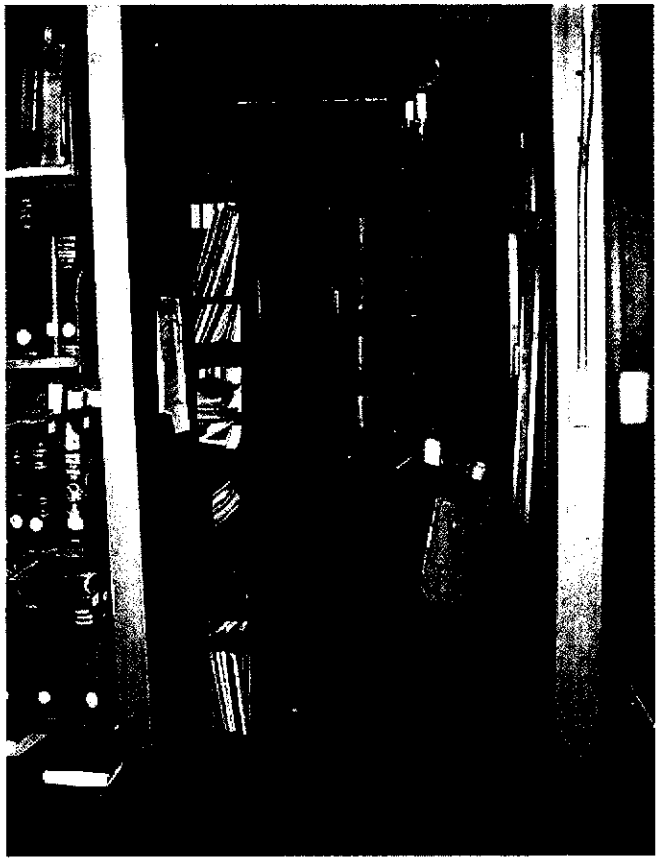
Exhibits Maintenance

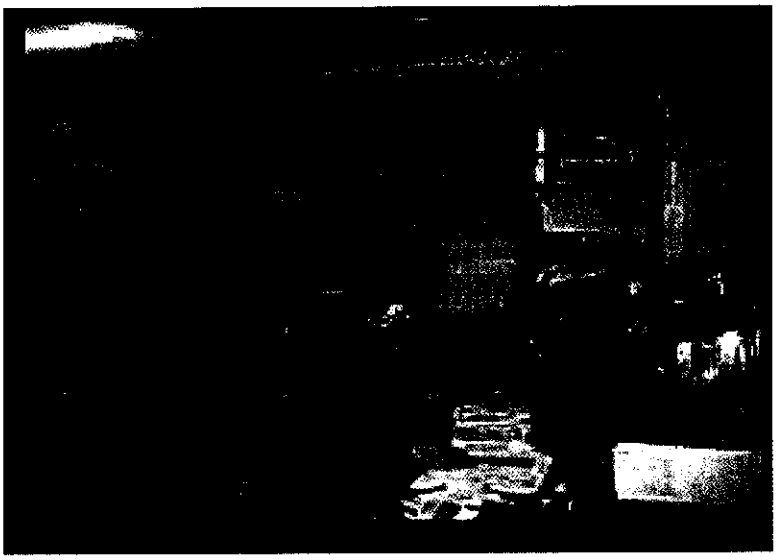
Montana Historical Society
State Collections of National Significance

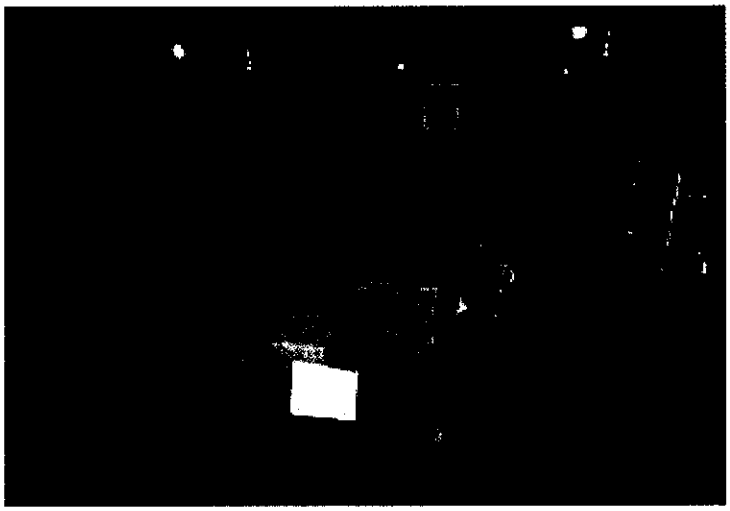
	Donation Origin
• 221-piece Charlie Russell Collection	Carbon County
• F. J. Haynes Photographs of 19th Century Northern Pacific Railroad and Yellowstone National Park	Gallatin County
• 3,000-piece Robert Scriver Collection	Glacier County
• Evelyn Cameron Photographs of Eastern Montana Homesteading	Powell County
• L. A. Huffman Photographs of Montana Ranching and Cowboy Life	Custer County
• Warren McGee Photographs of 20th Century Northern Pacific Railroad	Park County

- 32 National Historic Landmarks in Montana
- Numerous Homesteading Diaries and Records
- Anaconda Company Records - one of America's largest mining companies
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps - only superior collection Library of Congress
- Newspapers: Over 95% of all papers ever published in Montana (most on microfilm - rest unavailable)
- Teakle Ranch and Range Life Collection: the most extension collection (outside of Texas) of books and periodicals on US and Canada ranching and cattle history
- The most extensive collection of veterinary medicine equipment in the west
- Original Lewis and Clark/Thomas Jefferson documents
- One of the most extensive and rare collections of Indian artifacts west of the Mississippi (all 7 tribes)
- Museum nationally accredited by the American Association of Museums. Of the nation's 16,000 museums, only 750 are accredited.

Archives Storage



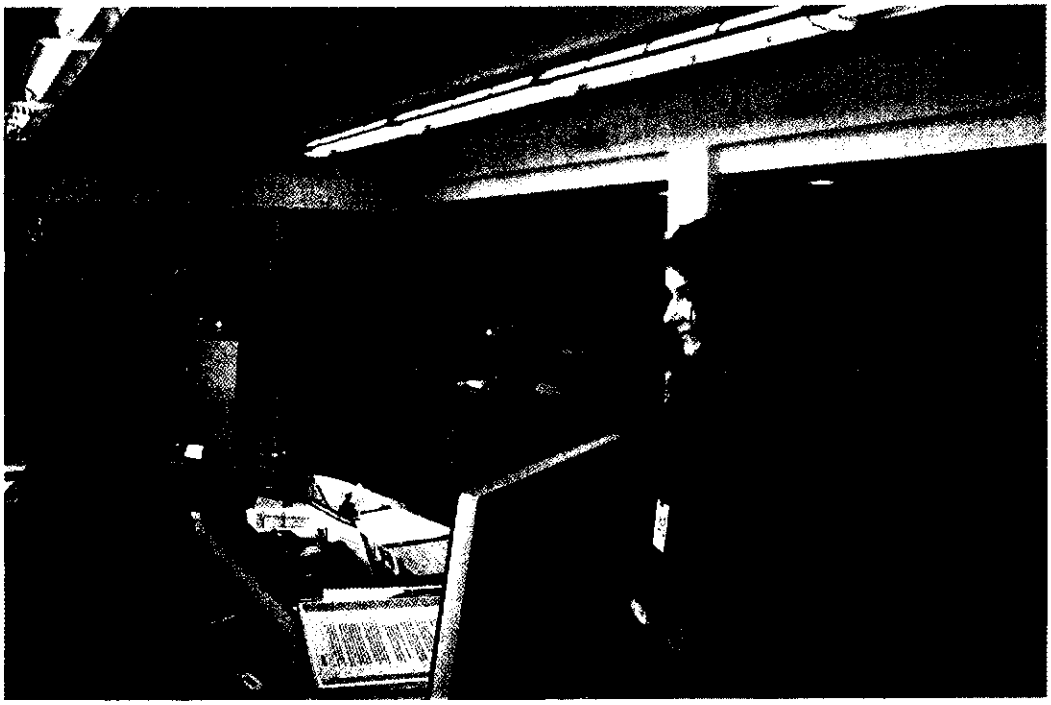




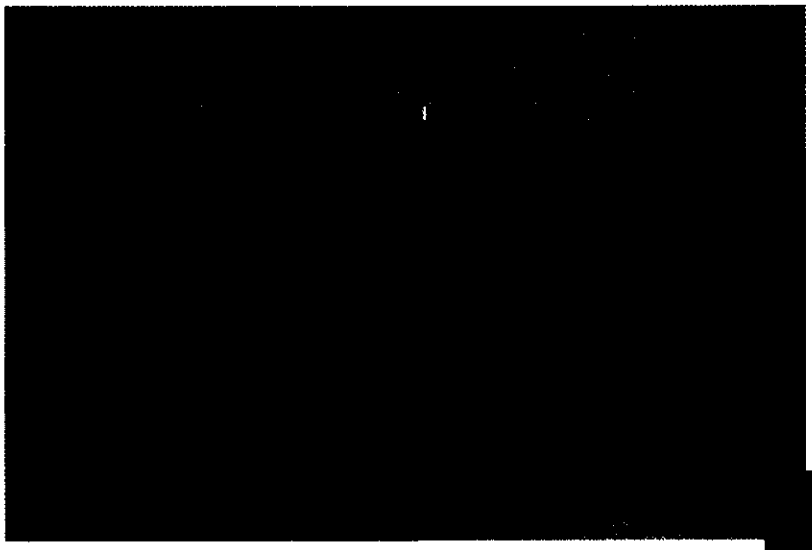
Mechanical System

- Blows particulates and lead paint chips into collections
- Employee safety concerns

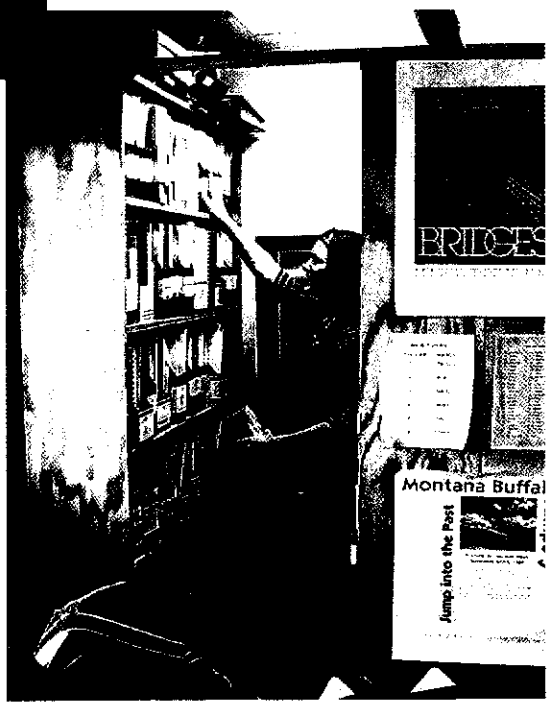
Asbestos in ceiling of library public reading room (public safety concern)



State Historic Preservation Office



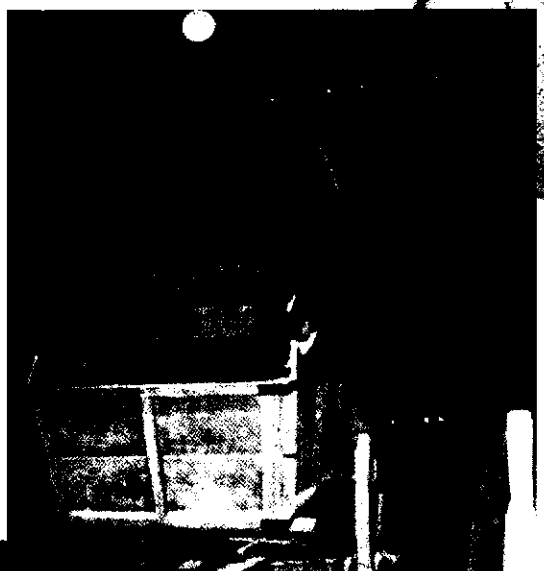
1960s duplex
(no fire
protection)

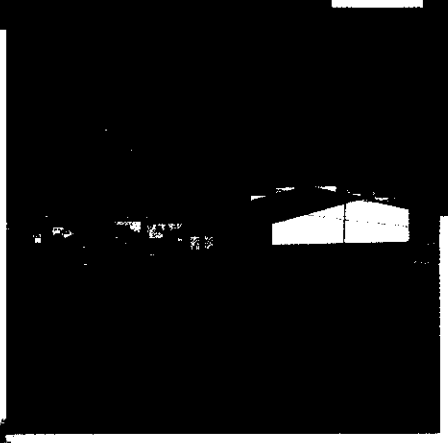


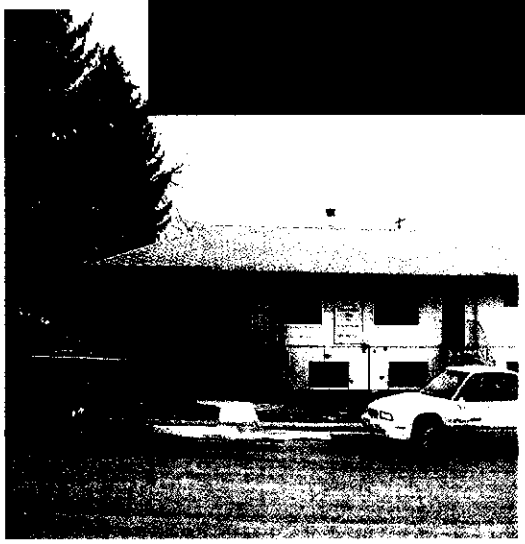
Speaks for itself...
when you look
inside.

Off-site storage

- 31,000 sq. ft
- Three separate buildings.







Montana Historical Society Parking Lot on a Typical Day

Tour Groups

No Bus or RV Parking

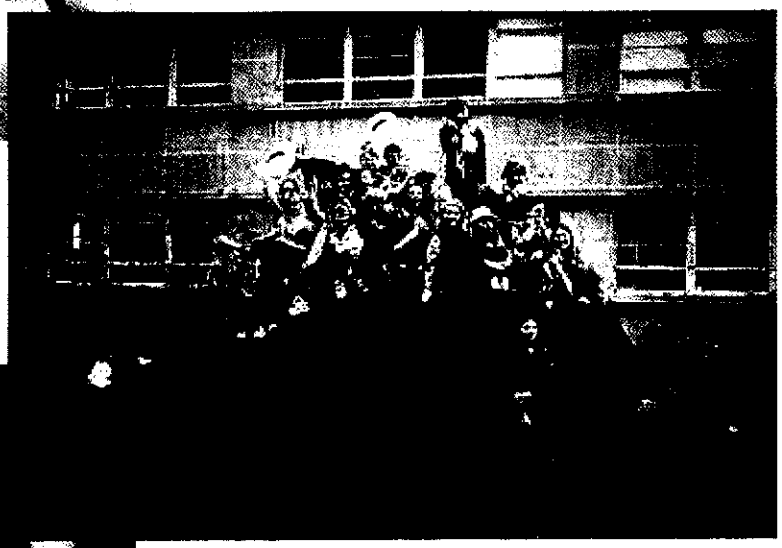
Year-round public meeting space lacking

- Public programs (need a 300-seat auditorium)
- Lectures
- Hands-on student projects
- Educational workshops

Educational Outreach 2003

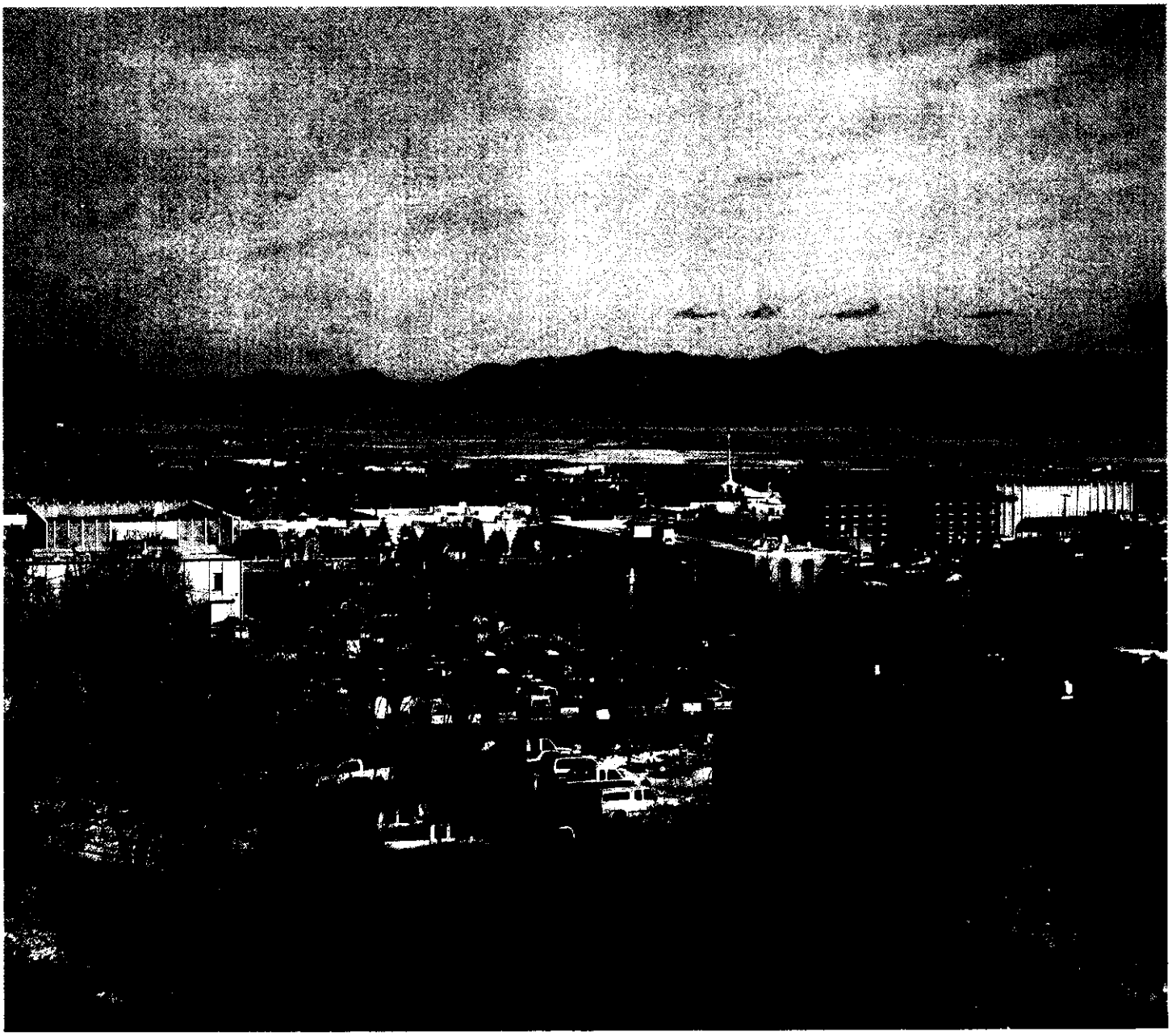
- 18,295 students served
- 53 communities
- 27 learning trunks
- 19 slide units and videos
- 17 communities / traveling exhibits
- 50 institutions received technical assistance

Classrooms Needed



Most state museums have 2 or 3 classrooms

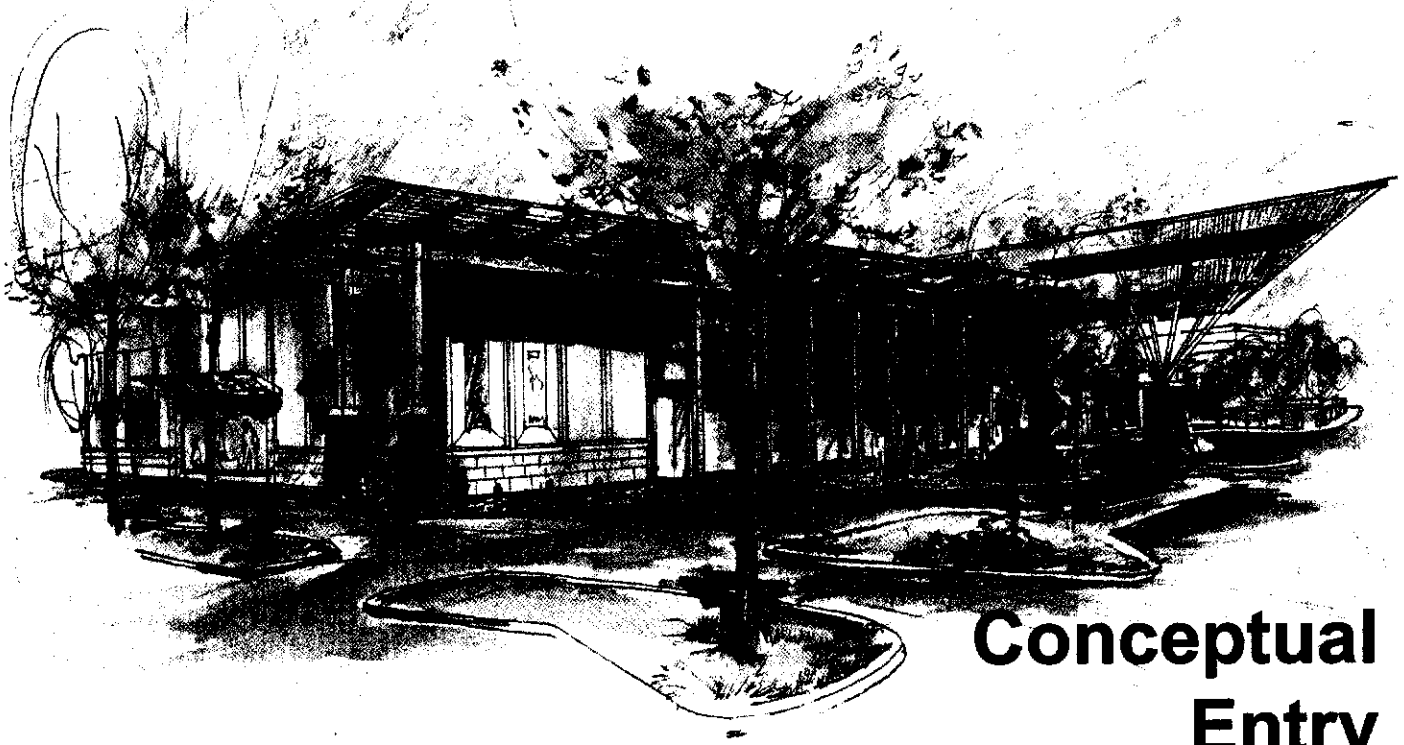
Conversion of Capitol Hill Mall to a New Montana History Center



A great opportunity to preserve and share our history

Conceptual Sketches

Prospect Avenue westbound

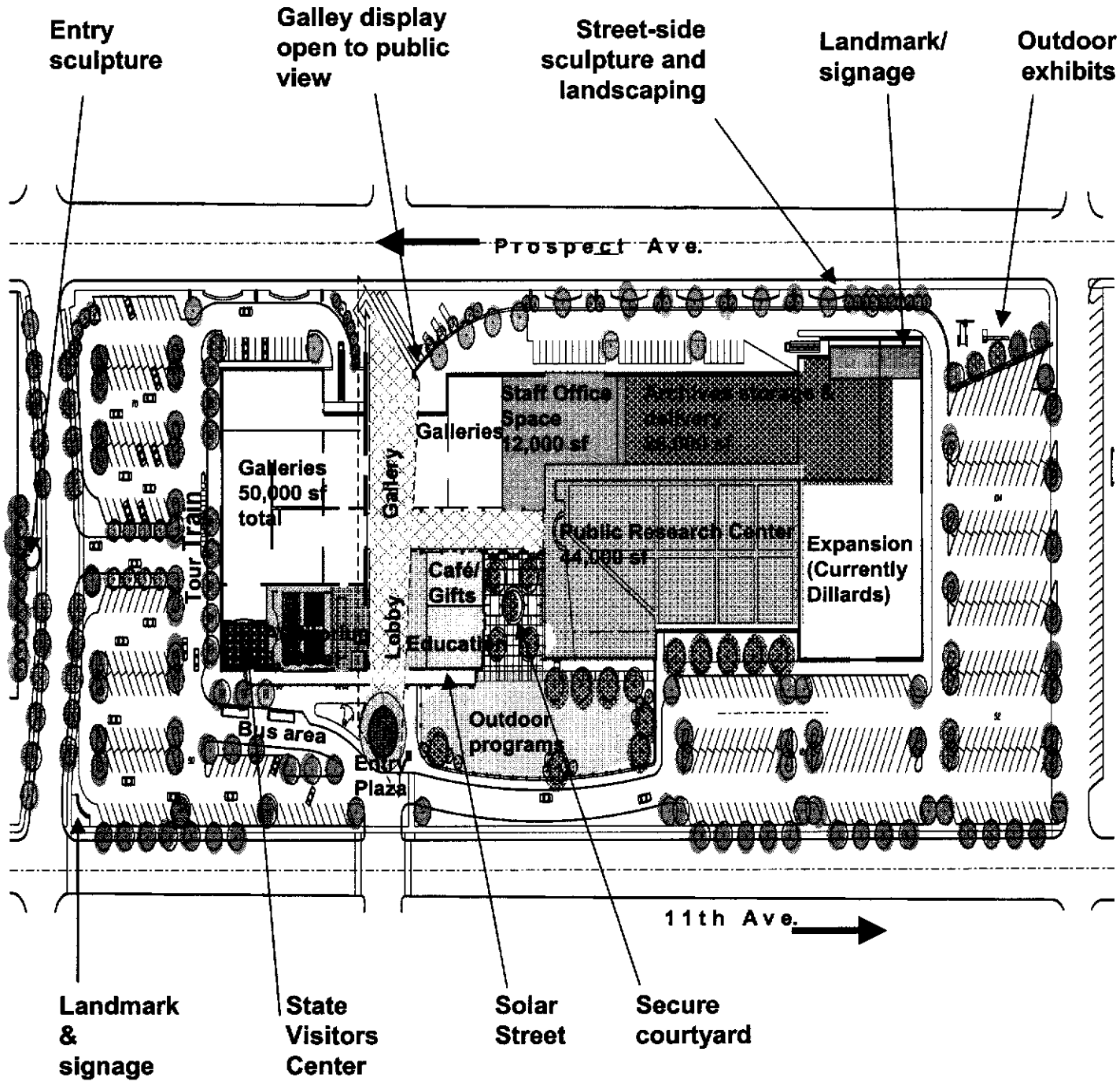


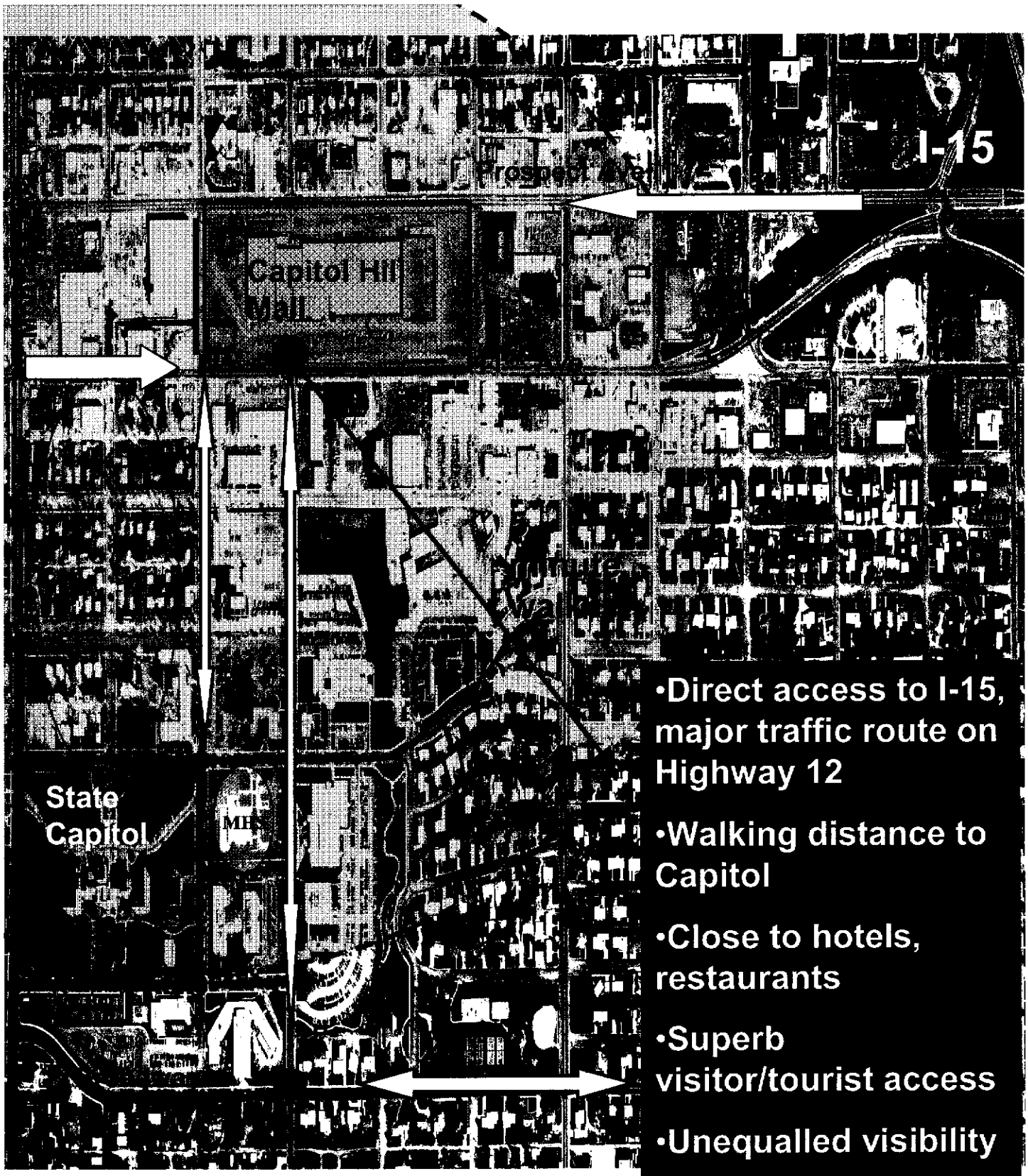
Conceptual Entry

Montana History Center

(present Capital Hill Mall)

Conceptual Layout





- Direct access to I-15, major traffic route on Highway 12
- Walking distance to Capitol
- Close to hotels, restaurants
- Superb visitor/tourist access
- Unequalled visibility
- Expanded exhibits will increase visitation; increase state revenues

Cost savings compared to new construction

New Facility on State Site

190,000 sf Building	$ 42,750,000
Site Development	$ 1,000,000
Parking Development	$ 1,000,000
Utilities	$ 250,000
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION	$45,000,000
Contingency	$ 6,500,000
Development Costs	$ 5,500,000
Site Acquisition	$ 6,000,000
TOTAL	**$63,000,000**

Capitol Hill Mall Adaptive Reuse

"Great Montana" Lobby/Gallery	$ 5,000,000
New Entry	$ 225,000
South Solar Street	$ 1,600,000
Courtyard	$ 240,000
Landmark Elements	$ 350,000
Façade Renovation	$ 1,700,000
Interior Renovations	$14,500,000
Entry Plaza	$ 320,000
South Lawn	$ 280,000
Parking Modifications	$ 230,000
Streets and Utilities	$ 160,000
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION	$24,605,000
Contingency	$ 3,500,000
Development Costs	$ 3,340,000
Site Acquisition	$ 10,000,000
TOTAL	**$41,445,000**

Economic Development Potential

- Montana History Center would be a tourism centerpiece located on I-15 between Glacier and Yellowstone Parks
- MHS contributes $11 Million to state economy – this could double or triple
- Cody Museum has 230,000 annual visitors with a collection inferior to Montana's in many ways
- Opportunity for State Visitors Center to direct tourists elsewhere throughout the state
- Building new mall(s) will increase tax base