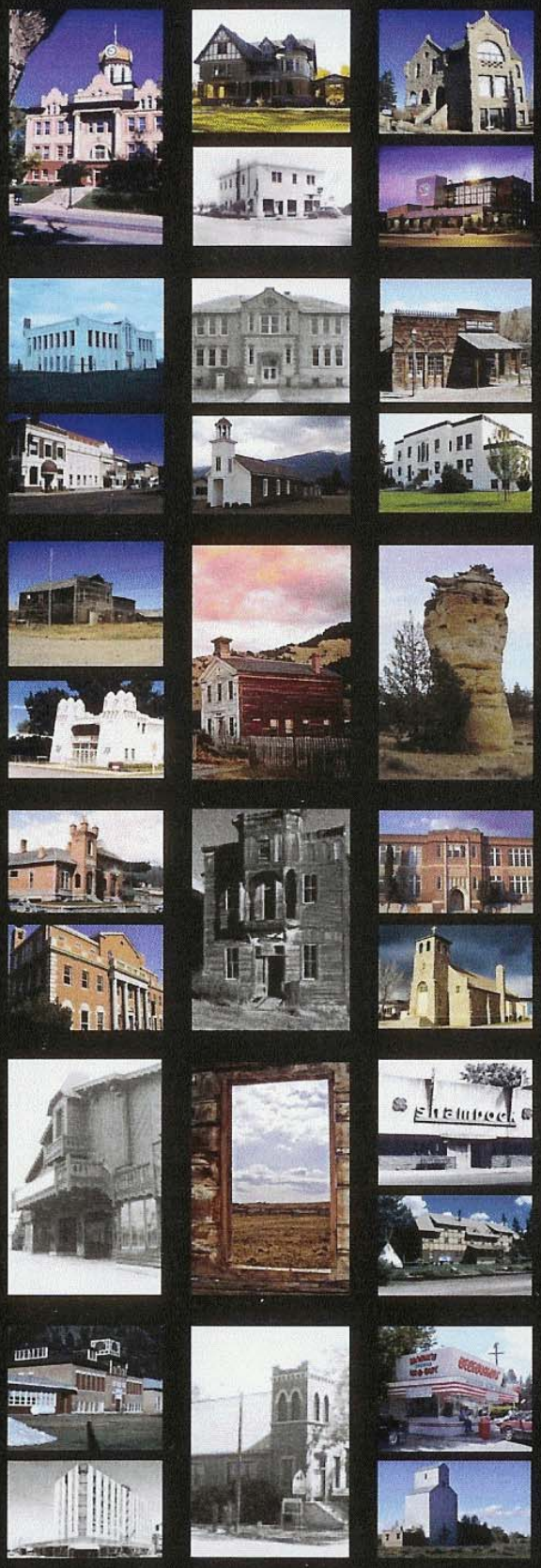


Montana Governor's Council On Historic And Cultural Properties

Report To The 60th Legislature 2007

On August 15, 2005 Governor Schweitzer signed Executive Order 18 creating a seven-member Historic and Cultural Advisory Council. Chaired by Lt. Governor John Bohlinger, the Council was charged with studying the benefits of historic preservation and formulating recommendations to the Governor and the 2007 Legislature concerning the State of Montana's policies on the preservation of publicly-owned historic buildings. The Council also identified opportunities for communities to use historic preservation as an economic development tool.

Governor's Council

GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND KEY FINDINGS

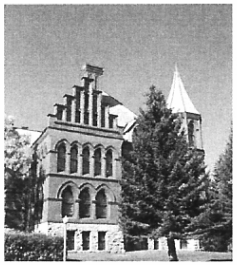
The State of Montana values its heritage assets.
In 1999, the State of Montana raised $25 million to restore the Montana Capitol. The Montana Legislature in 1997 committed $8 million dollars to acquire Virginia & Nevada Cities. They now have an appraised market value of $30 million. This early investment has reached 4 times its original value, and we have an obligation to the people of Montana to protect these valued assets.

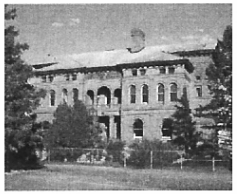
Preservation of these public assets requires public investment.
We must be willing to invest funding to stabilize and preserve Montana's heritage properties in order to protect our investment and see it grow for the future.

Historic preservation, state stewardship and heritage activities should reflect the best interests of Montana and its communities.
Preservation of public buildings such as schools, libraries and courthouses is directly linked to maintaining our quality of life and the identity of communities. State partnership with local community efforts through programs such as the Montana Main Street program and the Montana Courthouse Restoration bill is critical to the success of local efforts to preserve their heritage assets.

The preferred course of action is preservation.
The State of Montana currently ranks 49th in state support for the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Policies such as fully funding the SHPO, developing an up-to-date inventory of state-owned heritage properties, and encouraging preservation statewide through local and cultural districts, a statewide revolving fund and local government bonding are in the interest of all Montanans.

The Corpus of the Cultural Trust should be inviolate.
The Montana Cultural Trust issues grants to support arts and cultural activities in communities from Alzada to Yaak, and provides funds to support preservation at the local level. However, there is still much unmet need throughout Montana and the earnings from the Cultural Trust are able to fund only a handful of worthy preservation projects each year.





A 2020 Vision For Montana

STEWARDSHIP OF STATE HERITAGE PROPERTIES

We can create a lasting legacy for our children by preserving Montana's rich heritage. The Council developed strategies and policies that look to the year 2020 and beyond, providing much-needed funding and guidance for a state-wide stewardship program.

STRATEGY	FUNDING
Preserve Montana Heritage Virginia City: $3 Million Bannack: $1 Million	One-time Appropriations to Fund Critical Building Stabilization Needs
Boost MT Cultural Trust $1.5 Million	One-time Appropriation to Increase Funding for Cultural & Arts Activities Across Montana
Create Montana Legacy Program	Expanded State Funding for Tourism and Heritage Programs

A 2020 VISION FOR MONTANA: POLICIES	
POLICY	**STRATEGY**
Encourage State Stewardship	Develop Policies that Encourage State Agencies to Maintain and Use Heritage Properties
Partner with Educational Institutions	Encourage University Participation in Preservation Projects throughout Montana
Encourage Local Protection	Support & Expand SHPO's Community Preservation Programs Encourage Local Cultural & Historic Districts
Encourage Local Funding	Authorize Local Bonding for Historic Preservation Establish Statewide Revolving Loan Program for Local Community Projects
Montana Main Street Program	Support Montana's new Main Street Program
Montana Courthouse Restoration Bill	Support Montana Counties' Efforts to Upgrade & Preserve Historic Courthouses

Historic preservation is a proven means of safeguarding heritage places, as well as stimulating local economies.

A 2020 Vision For Montana

PRESERVATION STRATEGIES AND FUNDING

Invest in Montana's Heritage Properties

Substantial OTO funding is needed to stabilize and preserve the state's heritage properties, inventory state-owned properties, and support local revitalization.

Urgent needs:

- $3 million Virginia City/Nevada City
- $1 million Bannack

The council also supports the Long Range Building Committee and its request for one-time funds to address two decades of deferred maintenance on the state's existing building stock. Current deferred maintenance is estimated at $200 million; the state's total built assets are currently valued at $1.1 billion. The Council strongly urges a substantial investment to address the backlog of maintenance needs, with emphasis on refurbishing some of the outstanding state-owned heritage buildings.

Future needs include funds to create a State-Owned Historic Property Inventory and Database and funding to ensure preservation of the Rosebud Battlefield.

Increase Montana Cultural Trust

Montana's Cultural & Aesthetic Trust funds arts and cultural endeavors throughout the state. The Trust has a well-run existing administrative structure that allocates grant funds to communities and non-profit entities, including brick and mortar preservation projects. Boosting the corpus of the Cultural Trust could be accomplished through a one-time only infusion from the anticipated $900 million state surplus and, in the future, revenue from new state coal-to-fuel programs.

Create Montana Legacy Program

The Montana Legacy Program is a long-range strategy to preserve Montana's historic buildings, sites and districts by investing a greater portion of the state accommodations tax revenue into expanded support for tourism promotion and enhanced heritage programs. Other states provide definitive data that such investment stimulates local business and replaces revenue in state coffers through expansion of the business, income and property tax base.

The New Montana Legacy Program Would Emphasize:

- **Stewardship - Survey & Inventory of Historic Properties Across the State**
- **Heritage Development – Heritage Tourism & Main Street Programs**
- **Preservation Grants – Brick & Mortar Grants for Heritage Properties:**
  - Public – State (historic state-owned properties)
  - Public Local (courthouses, schools, libraries)
  - Non-Profit (museums)
  - Private (historic hotels, barns, commercial buildings)
- **Revolving Funds for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings**

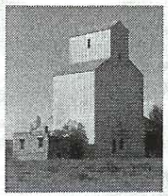
A 2020 Vision For Montana

STATE-OWNED HERITAGE PROPERTIES

According to a rough inventory, the state of Montana owns approximately 2,000 buildings. Of these, about 700 are historic, including 250 at Virginia and Nevada Cities, and 60 at Bannack State Park. The Council recognized that state agencies must be active partners to improve management, planning and long-term viability of the state's heritage properties. Agency participation in inventorying and providing stewardship of these important assets is critical.

Heritage properties were defined for the Council's purposes as those listed or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Identified heritage properties of special interest include:

- **Buildings on State Park Lands**
- **Historic Buildings in the University System**
- **Agency-Owned Landmarks**
  - Boulder Administration Building
  - Warm Springs Hospital
  - Montana State Veterans' Home
- **State-Owned Historic & Cultural Sites**
  - Virginia City/Nevada City
  - Travelers' Rest State Park
  - Pictograph Caves State Park
  - Missouri Headwaters State Park
  - Rosebud Battlefield State Park
  - Council Grove State Park
  - Chief Plenty Coups State Park
  - Warm Springs Mound
  - Historic Mansions: Original Governor's, Moss and Daly



Montana owns approximately 700 historic properties – including 250 at Virginia and Nevada cities, and 60 at Bannack State Park

Montana ranks 49th in the nation in the level of funding our state provides to support our State Historic Preservation Office

Governor's Council

RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

The Council convened four public meetings in November 2005, and February, May and December 2006. The Council reviewed Montana's existing programs and funding, and compiled a preliminary inventory on the range and condition of historic state-owned properties. The Council focused upon policies and strategies that affect state-owned heritage properties, although some of their recommendations may affect historic buildings under local government control (such as courthouses, schools and libraries), non-profit or private ownership. The Council reviewed data from across the country and sponsored presentations by some of the nation's leading preservation spokespeople.

Economics of Historic Preservation

Featured Speaker: Donovan Rypkema, Executive Director Place Economics, author of *The Economics of Historic Preservation*

Historic preservation is a proven means of safeguarding heritage places, as well as stimulating local economies. Construction jobs and business expansion into attractive historic buildings greatly stimulates local economies. In Montana, our best examples include the Montana Avenue renaissance in downtown Billings and the rebirth of charming Philipsburg, Montana.

Best Practices for State Stewardship

Featured Speaker: Dr. Carroll Van West, Director of Preservation Studies, Middle Tennessee State University, author of *Capitalism on the Frontier: History of Billings and the Yellowstone Valley*

Stewardship of state-owned properties and state support for local preservation programs set an important example and keep our history intact. Montana has a wealth of landmark buildings and nationally-significant historic parks. These places are a tremendous asset and business attractor. Coordination between the state and public-private sectors would open the door to local growth while preserving our state's historic and cultural legacy.

Heritage Development

Featured Speaker: Barbara Pahl, National Trust for Historic Preservation

All states operate a state historic preservation office program (SHPO), and numerous states provide funding to preserve heritage properties and to stimulate economic development and tourism through this agency. Montana currently ranks 49th in state support for the historic preservation activities of our SHPO.

Civic Tourism

Featured Speaker: Dan Shilling, author of *The Poetry & Politics of Place*

The term civic tourism refers to heritage and cultural tourism programs that are highly successful approaches to local development. Important in these efforts is the need to retain community identity and social fabric. Montana's State Tourism program currently invests in promotion through marketing and advertising; there is a compelling need now to balance that with support for venues, product and visitor experience.

Governor's Council

ON HISTORIC & CULTURAL PROPERTIES

Lt Governor John Bohlinger, Chair
Senator Lynda Moss, Billings, Vice-Chair
Randy Hafer, Billings
Chris King, Winnett
Bob McCarthy, Butte
Wendy Raney, Wolf Creek
Marilyn Ross, Twin Bridges

Staffing support:
Chere Jiusto, Christine Brown & Patty Dean, Montana Preservation Alliance
Will Hammerquist & Jackie Williams, Lt Governor's Office

Many Thanks!
To Representatives of the Following Organizations Consulted in the Preparation of this Report:

Office of Governor Brian Schweitzer
Office of Lt Governor John Bohlinger
Montana State Legislature

Montana Architecture & Engineering Division
Montana Arts Council
Montana Department of Commerce
Montana Heritage Commission
Montana Main Street Program
Travel Montana Program
Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks
Montana Historical Society
Montana State Historic Preservation Office
MSU & UM Facilities Programs
Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity
Montana League of Cities & Towns
Montana Association of Counties
Legislative Long Range Planning Interim Committee
Certified Local Government programs
Tourism Advisory Council
Innkeepers Association
Montana Tribal Tourism Alliance
AIA Montana Chapter
Montana Car Rental Industry

And Special Thanks!
To these Generous Supporters
CTA Architects Engineers, Billings and Bozeman
MSU Billings
Barb Pahl & National Trust for Historic Preservation
Don Rypkema, Place Economics
Dan Shilling, Sharlot Hall Museum
Dr. C. Van West & Sarah Jane Murray, Middle Tennessee State University

Photographs used in this publication were generously provided by:

A&E Architects (Paul Filicetti)

Bozeman Preservation Office (Allyson Bristor)

CTA Architects Engineers (Wooly Bugger)

Philip Greenspun (http://philip.greenspun.com)

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (Lee Graves)

Montana Heritage Commission (Staff)

Montana Historical Society
(Tom Ferris, John Smart, Michael Umphrey)

MontanaPictures.net

Montana Preservation Alliance
(Bruce Selyem and Staff)

Montana State Historic Preservation Office
(Staff)

National Trust for Historic Preservation
(Sarah Hansen)

Preservation Cascade (Dean Hellinger)

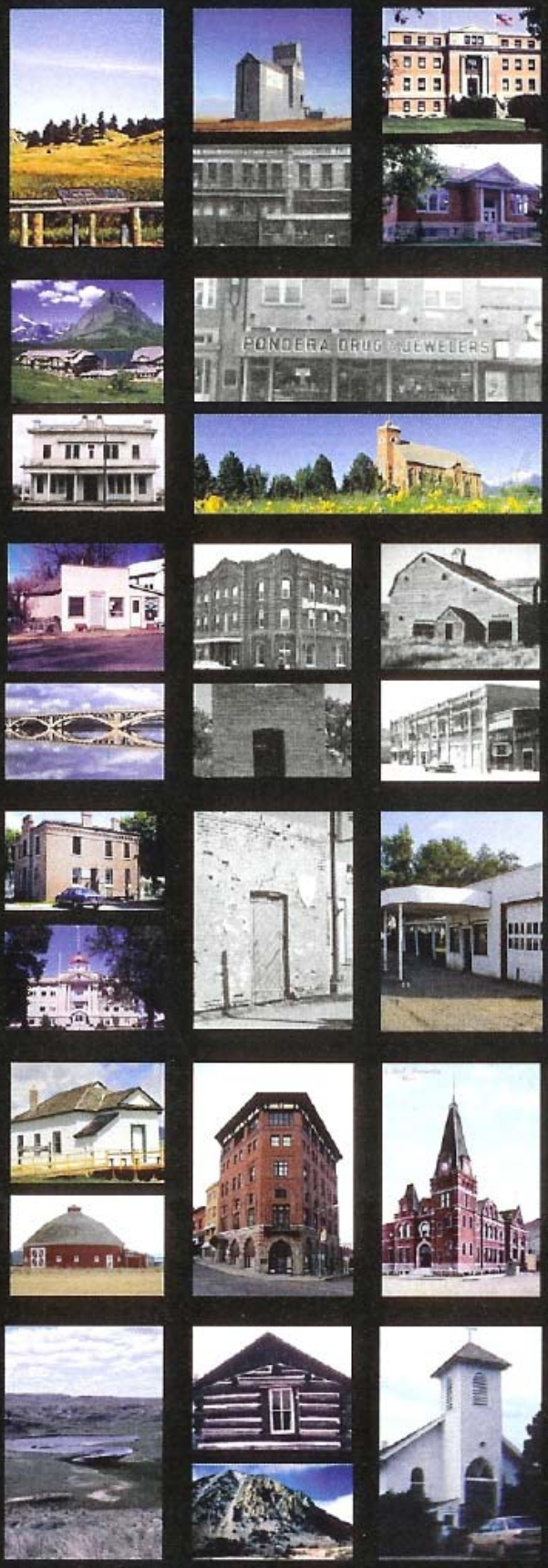
Travel Montana (Donnie Sexton)

University of Montana ~
Western (Media Relations)

University of Montana ~ Daly Mansion

Dr. Carroll Van West

Design by CTA Architects Engineers
(Kirby Anderson)

Printing by Alpha Graphics

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