



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....

<u>Preservation</u>	<u>Is About Saving</u>	<u>Our</u>	<u>Important</u>	<u>Places</u>
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.

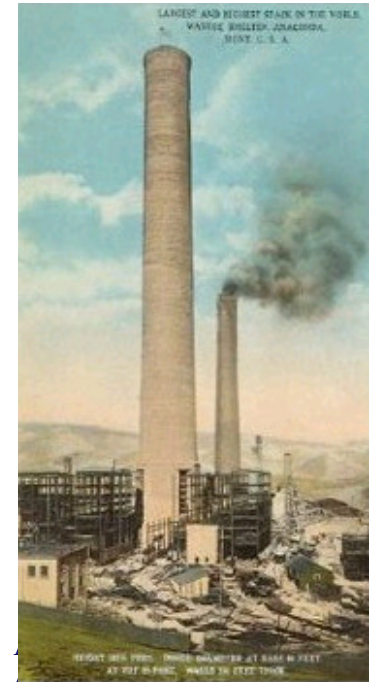
THE MONTANA HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN

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.*