Preserve Montana
The Newsletter of the Montana Preservation Alliance

Feb/March 2018

ROAD SHOW HEADS NORTHWEST!

What’s Not To Love About History in the Flathead/Glacier region?!

Book your room, choose your tours, and get ready to head northwest for the 2018 Montana Preservation Road Show, June 13-16 at the Cedar Creek Lodge in Columbia Falls. The Road Show launches from a different small town every other year with the mission to immerse participants in the history and culture of rural Montana, spotlight great local preservation efforts, and raise awareness of the importance of preserving Montana’s historic buildings and cultural landscapes.

In the Flathead, that means taking the path less traveled to see barns and homesteads, tribal landscapes, industrial buildings, ranger stations, depots, hotels, and more. Along the way, veteran preservationists, local historians, tribal experts, architects, archaeologists, authors, and professors all join in to provide a well-rounded portrait of the historic places that define the Flathead and Glacier areas and their people.

“By getting people out of the conference room and into the field to experience history first hand, we all gain a better appreciation and deeper understanding of the places in our past,” says MPA Outreach Director Christine Brown. “Each Road Show aims to shed a light on remarkable hidden rural places – how they played a role in the past, how they’ve been preserved or need to be preserved, and how they continue to be an important factor in our community’s economic and cultural well-being.”

You don’t have to be an historian or professional preservationist to join this conference – just an enthusiastic traveler, listener, and lover of history. “The Flathead has such a wealth of architecture, history, and cultural sites to learn about, we’ve really had a hard time narrowing down all the choices to fit into four days,” says Brown. “It will be a tough decision for a lot of folks to choose which concurrent tours to take.” For those who can’t attend the full conference, the keynote evening talk on June 14 is free and open to the public, and the tours on June 16 offer a one-day registration fee.

Book Early

Hotels near Glacier National Park fill fast. Ask for Preservation Road Show block rates.
Conference headquarters: Cedar Creek Lodge, Columbia Falls, 406-897-7070
Belton Chalet, West Glacier, 888-235-8665
Glacier Highland Motel, West Glacier, 406-888-5427
West Glacier Motel, West Glacier, 844-868-7474

Register Early And Save!
Early registration is $200 for members or $225 for non-members. Full program and registration at PreserveMontana.org/2018-Road-Show or call 406-457-2822. Rates go up $25 April 14.

Tour Highlights

North Fork Road history with the Flathead National Forest
Blackfeet history and culture with tribal experts
High-Style Architecture with historians and architects
Post-World War II industrial architecture at Hungry Horse Dam and Columbia Falls Aluminum Company plant
Choose a Saturday tour to learn about Salish-Kootenai history and culture; Spotted Bear Ranger District history; or historic barns.

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In Memoriam

Dear Friends,

We are sad today as we write the eulogy for what we knew and loved as the Frank Lloyd Wright building in Whitefish. We’re so sorry. We are heartbroken that we could not save the Lockridge Medical Clinic. It was Wright’s last completed design. Built after he died, it was a true Usonian design – modest, pragmatic and drawn from architectural ideals that made good design accessible for all. The central fireplace, the quiet massing, the decorative cornice – all were recurring themes for Wright. We thank the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, our Governor’s office and many good friends – together we valiantly tried to save the building from developer Mick Ruis, who was offered full price for the property and still said no. Life will go on in Whitefish with another commercial building that never will be on a walking tour and that no one will ever make a special trip to Whitefish to see. After 30 years of great saves, the MPA wishes this one could have been on that list along with Sperry Chalet. We thank all who believe that preserving our heritage is important in our state and makes Montana the special place that we call home.

Join us today! Members receive a one-year subscription to our Preserve Montana newsletter, notices of upcoming events, updates on statewide preservation issues, and discount admission to the Road Show and workshops throughout the year.

Passionate for Preservation:
- Inseparable! $2500
- True Love $1000
- Perfect Match $ 500
- Meant To Be $ 250

Basic Membership:
- Soul Mates $ 100
- Sweethearts $ 75
- Going Steady $ 50
- Puppy Love $ 25

Please make checks payable to: Montana Preservation Alliance, 120 Reeder's Alley, Helena, MT 59601

Donate Online at www.PreserveMontana.org

Path Less Traveled Guide
Coming in June!

It’s like the Road Show in your pocket! Stay tuned for the launch of The Path Less Traveled: Guide to Montana’s Hidden Rural Landmarks. MPA’s new website will guide you to dozens of Montana’s most interesting off-the-beaten-path historic places. Use Google Maps to navigate and get directions; read historical narratives; and swipe through photos – all on your computer, tablet, or phone! No app required.
**RestoreMT Update!**

**PLACER SCHOOL WINDOWS**

*Kirby Matthew (left), retired Forest Service Preservation Team Leader, teaches Broadwater High School students the finer points of wood window construction.*

**Nine students at Townsend’s Broadwater High School** now have a new appreciation for historic wood windows, and the Placer School near Winston will soon have new windows after decades without them. Over the course of several weeks in the fall, students in Clint Watson’s shop class not only learned the art of building replica wood windows from the experts, they also learned why it’s important.

With a grant from the Historic Preservation Education Foundation, MPA’s Dustin Kalanick and volunteer teachers Al Williams, retired National Park Service Preservation Crew; Kirby Matthew, retired US Forest Service Preservation Crew; and Pete Brown, MT State Preservation Office taught students everything from design stage, to cutting and fitting mortises and tenons, sanding, glass cutting, and glazing. The eight beautiful new windows will be installed at the Placer School in Spring 2018.

**A GUARDIAN FOR THE GUARDIAN OF THE GULCH**

MPA is pleased to report that a new preservation group has formed in Helena. The **Friends of the Fire Tower** formed in 2017 to support the restoration, preservation, and maintenance of Helena’s historic fire lookout tower. After an arson attempt last year, it was clear the tower needed some TLC. The new nonprofit hopes to foster community interest in the fire tower and encourage a strong partnership with various stakeholders including the City of Helena, preservation organizations, the downtown community, and interested citizenry to ensure its stewardship, now and in the future. Find them on Facebook at Friends of the Fire Tower.

**LOVE Saved the Tax Credit!**

**OUR ADVOCACY SAVED the historic preservation tax credit** because of MPA’s alliances with people like you who love historic buildings!

A very big **THANK YOU** to all who wrote letters, emails, made calls to members of Congress, and signed our joint letter from Montana in support of saving the Historic Preservation Tax Credit (HTC). Our efforts combined with our powerhouse partners at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Action, and many members of Congress, helped retain the 20 percent credit for rehabilitating income-producing historic buildings. Hooray!

The HTC had been threatened for about five years, and the issue came to a head in November 2017 when the first iteration of the Tax Cut and Jobs Act proposed repealing the credit all together. After some back and forth in Congress, the amendment—offered by Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-La., and cosponsored by Sens. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa; Pat Roberts, R-Kan.; Johnny Isakson, R-Ga.; and Tim Scott, R-S.C.—was accepted. We especially thank Montana’s Senator Steve Daines for working with the leadership to support protection for the HTC.

The program was revised slightly to offset future costs, requiring that the HTC be taken in phases over five years instead of in its entirety the year a rehabilitated building is completed. Though this change slightly devalues the tax credit, the Joint Committee on Taxation estimated that phasing the HTC reduces the cost of the program by approximately $2 billion over 10 years.

MPA is so proud of all the efforts made to save this valuable program and the strong response from people who know historic preservation is an economic driver. According to an article on the National Trust website, nearly 13,000 people took action, sending more than 40,000 letters to Congress—the most responses ever to an advocacy action on the Trust’s website.

The campaign reached more than 3.5 million people through social media, generated 228 media stories and nearly 480 million media impressions during the last three months. And our very favorite part, the video of President Ronald Reagan championing the HTC back in the 1980s, has been viewed more than 475,000 times across multiple platforms.

Thank you again to all who advocated for the HTC!!

**We hope that preservationists in MT see this as more than just a milestone in our efforts to fund preservation at the national level, but also as a stepping stone to boost support for preservation at the local and state level.**
Call For Nominations!

We need your help!

Nominate your favorite historic preservation project or preservationist and help us thank those who have contributed so much time and energy to preserving a piece of Montana history.

Each year MPA honors people who safeguard our state’s heritage by helping to preserve our historic buildings and cultural places. Our annual awards not only draw attention to the ways that preserving Montana heritage and culture can breathe new life into a community, they also give due credit to people who save places near and dear to all our hearts.

Nominations due at MPA by March 15. The awards ceremony will be held on June 15 at Noon at the Cedar Creek Lodge in Columbia Falls.

Download the nomination form at PreserveMontana.org/Preservation-Excellence-Awards.

Upcoming Events

MARCH 10, 20 & APRIL 11 BARN TALKS
Barns of Montana with Chere Jiusto & Christine Brown
March 10 @ 10 am, Daly Mansion, Hamilton
March 20 @ 7 pm, Harlem Public Library
April 11 @ 6 pm, Museum of the Rockies, Bozeman

MARCH 20 MEETING
Billings Preservation Roundtable
8:30 am to 10 am, Western Heritage Center, Billings

MAY 19 BOZEMAN PRESERVATION AWARDS
7 pm, Story Mansion, Bozeman

APRIL 15-17 TOURISM CONFERENCE
Governor’s Conference on Tourism; Big Sky Resort, Big Sky

JUNE 13-16 ROAD SHOW
Montana Preservation Road Show, Columbia Falls
See Page 1 for details or visit PreserveMontana.org

JUNE 21-23 PRESERVATION WORKSHOP
Cemetery Preservation Workshop
Radisson Colonial Hotel, Helena. Details at mthistory.org