

**Great Falls – Cascade County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission
Minutes from the April 10, 2024 meeting, held in the PCD Conference Room at the Civic Center**

Members Present: Steve Taylor, Channing Hartelius, Ellen Sievert, Chris Christiaens, Ken Sievert, Suzanne Waring, Ken Robison, Rich Ecke, Carol Bronson

Members Absent: none

Staff Present: Samantha Long

Ex-Officio Members Present: Joe McKenney, Rae Grulkowski

The meeting was called to order by Channing Hartelius at 12:00 PM

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2023

- Suzanne noted that the motion regarding the Vinegar Jones Cabin should read that the roof is being sealed with linseed oil.
- Ken Robison moved that the minutes be approved as amended. Rick Ecke seconded, and the motion carried.

2. Native American Boarding School Research – Michael Dalton

- Mike Dalton presented a recent publication of the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition. He is working with the Ursuline Center to install an exhibit of the information presented within, which includes a history of Native American boarding schools and the effects they have had on the Native community.

3. HPO Report

- We have been awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Foundation for Montana History to install interpretive signage at St. Peter's Mission.
- There will be a ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion of the Civic Center façade restoration on April 19, which is the anniversary of its original dedication in 1940.
- The deadline to submit an application for the Great Falls Growth Policy Steering Committee is April 12.
- Sam will be out of the office April 30-May 3.

4. Preservation Award Nominations

- Ken Robison nominated the Civic Center façade restoration for a 2024 Historic Preservation Award. Chris Christiaens seconded, and the motion carried.
- Ellen Sievert nominated the OHaire Motor Inn for a 2024 Historic Preservation Award. Carol Bronson seconded, and the motion carried.

5. Highland Development/Portage NHL Section 106 Report

- The consulting parties are working their way through the comments collected on the proposed MoA. The group hopes to finish this process on a timeline of about three months, at which point the document will be put to public comment.

6. Boston and Montana Barn Report

- Sam is still working on arranging a site visit with Preservation Cascade, and intends to arrange a committee meeting with Park and Rec after that event.

7. Vinegar Jones Cabin Committee Report

- The individual that Ken S. proposed to do the roof work will not be able to work under City insurance, and so will not work out. Sam will investigate the possibility of having one of Park & Rec's employees do the work and having their hours be paid out of the Cabin fund.

8. Reports from Commissioners

- Rich Ecke clarified that HPAC members may serve until a replacement is appointed.
- Ken Robison reported the following:
 - A film about Mary Fields, which was put on hold for some years, has resumed production.
 - The Mullan Road Conference will be held in Spokane May 31-June 2.
 - On June 8th there will be a reunion of descendants of the Ft. Shaw Indian School Girls Basketball Team.
 - The MT History Conference has made their selection for this year's speakers and will announce them to the public soon.
 - Ken thanked Ellen for two decades of service to Cascade County historic preservation efforts, and thanked Rich, Carol, and Steve for their service.
- Rich expressed appreciation to Joe and Rae for their service as HPAC liaisons.
- Suzanne reported that the History Museum's Second Saturday event in April would be a tour of the Brother Van museum.
- Channing reminded us of the annual Great Falls Museum Sunday Sampler, occurring April 14. He also reported that the Mary Fields birthday celebration went well, and the community continues to raise money for a Fields statue.
- Chris relayed that the Providence Gallery is hosting an exhibit of the works of Sister Mary Trinitas and highly recommends a visit.

9. Public Comment

- There was no public comment.

Channing Hartelius adjourned the meeting at 1:06 PM.

Some commonly asked questions and brief answers:

1. What is the National Register of Historic Places?

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of America's districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are considered worthy of preservation. Neither a major regulatory program nor simply an honor roll, the creation of the National Register was authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The Register is part of a Federal, State and local program administered by the National Park Service to coordinate, as well as support, public and private efforts to identify, evaluate and protect cultural resources that contribute to an understanding of American history.

2. What are the requirements for National Register designation?

A property must meet one or more of the following criteria: a) it is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history; b) it is associated with the lives of people significant to the past; c) it embodies the special characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or it represents the work of a master or possesses high artistic value; d) it has yielded or is likely to yield information important to a better understanding of prehistory or history. Generally, a property must be at least 50 years old to be considered, and it must possess a high degree of architectural integrity.

3. How does a National Register designation effect me?

The National Register Program provides the following: national recognition of the value of historic properties individually and collectively to the nation; eligibility for Federal and local tax incentives for preservation activity; assistance in cultural resource planning; and, Federal rehabilitation grants and technical assistance.

Listing on the National Register of Historic Places does not, in and of itself, interfere with a property owner's right to maintain, remodel, sell or even demolish historic properties, unless Federal funds or tax incentives are used for these purposes. Moreover, listing does not require that owners make improvements to their properties or to open their houses, business or historic sites for public visitation.

4. Where can I go for advise/technical assistance on listing or rehabilitating my property?

The Historic Preservation Office can provide information on the Department of Interior Standards for Rehabilitation, technical rehabilitation information, assistance in listing your property in the National Register of Historic Places, and can provide historical information on the listed properties within Cascade County.

This informational brochure has been financed with federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior and administered by the Montana State Historic Preservation Office.

Mission Statement

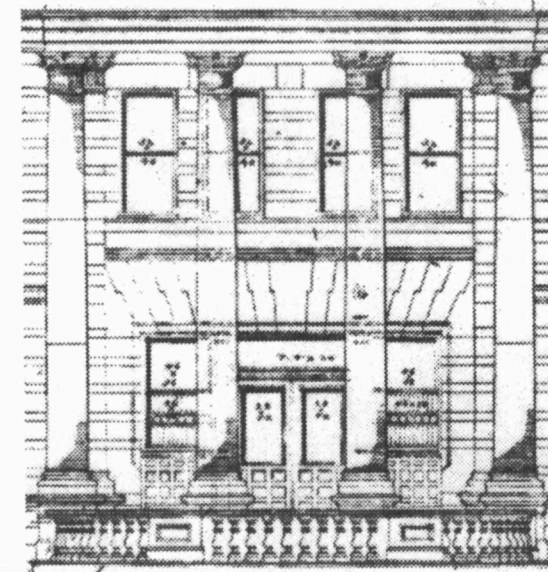
"The Purpose of the Great Falls/Cascade County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission is to provide a leadership role in the preservation of cultural, historic, and pre-historic sites, structures, buildings and districts within the City and County."

It is often said that all preservation is ultimately local; protecting historic properties depends most heavily on local support and local actions. Without these, State and Federal programs alone, are of limited use.

In recognition of the importance of local actions to historic preservation, the 1980 amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act established the Certified Local Government (CLG) program. The CLG program's purpose is to expand the existing Federal-State preservation partnership to include local governments and citizens.

In order to qualify for CLG status, the City of Great Falls and the Cascade County commissions established a nine-member Historic Preservation Advisory Commission (HPAC) to advise the local governments on matters of preservation and to insure that historic preservation is considered at all levels of City-County planning and is incorporated in projects throughout the area.

The Historic Preservation Officer serves as staff to the HPAC and administers the local preservation program. The Preservation Office is located in the Civic Center (City-County Planning). It is staffed Tuesday – Thursday. Phone (406) 455-8435; Fax 452-6256; Email: esievert@ci.great-falls.mt.us.



Answers to Questions about the Great Falls & Cascade County Historic Preservation Program

**City of Great Falls-Cascade County
Historic Preservation Advisory Commission**



Cascade County Courthouse

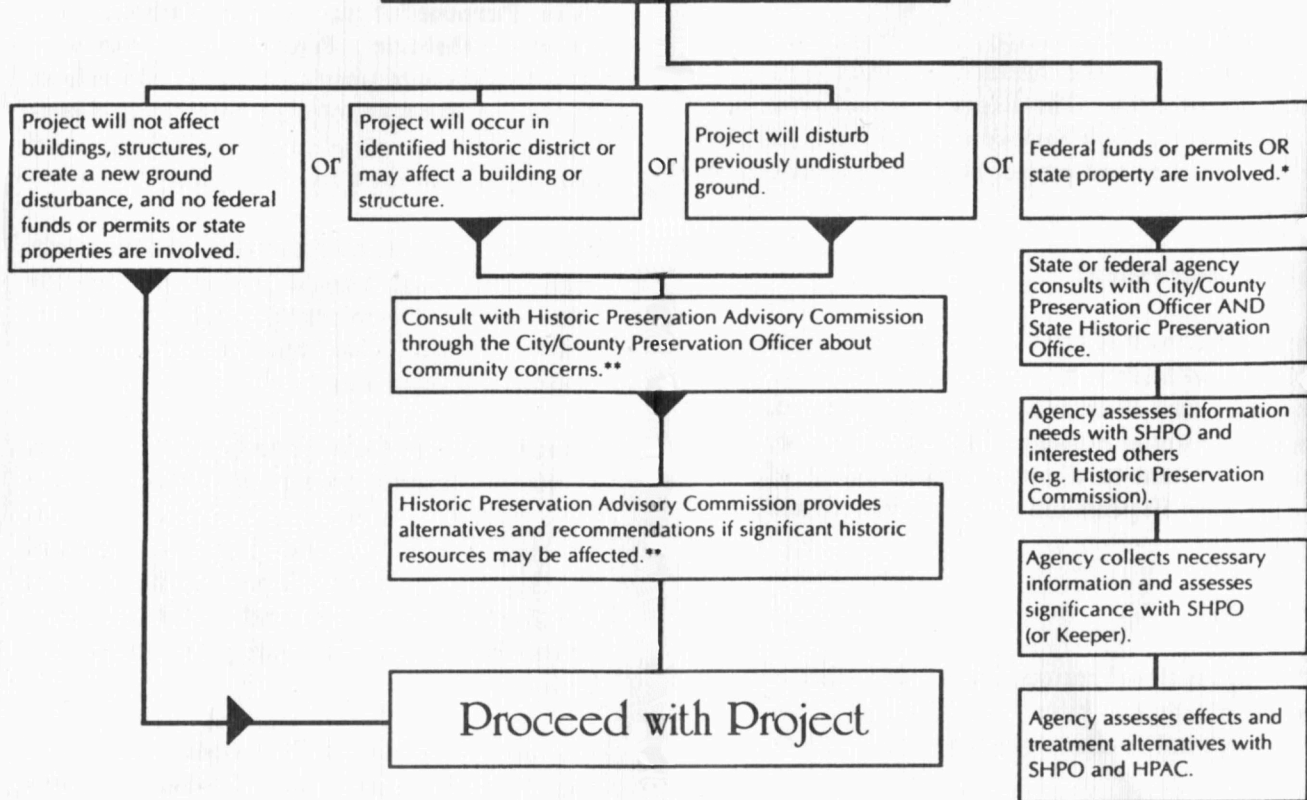
*"The Congress finds and declares –
 (a) that the spirit and direction of the Nation are founded upon and reflected in its historic past;
 (b) that the historical and cultural foundations of the Nation should be preserved as a living part of our community life and development in order to give a sense of orientation to the American people;..."*
 National Historic Preservation Act of 1966

Authorized in 1935, the National Register was expanded under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 to become a planning device to guide federal, state and local actions.



Fine Arts Building, Fairgrounds

Project Proposal



*Section 106 of the Act directs Federal agencies to take into account the effects of projects on historic or archaeological properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Federally financed, assisted or licensed undertakings are required **in the earliest stages of project planning** to determine whether historic resources are involved, evaluate the potential effect of the project and find ways to remove or minimize any adverse impact through consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the State Historic Preservation Office. If state property is involved the Antiquities Act may apply.

**The City-County Historic Preservation Officer may recommend further research, or additional consideration. The local process encourages sensitivity in the restoration of historic resources whether or not state or federal laws apply.

Call the local preservation office at 455-8435 to incorporate historic preservation in your project planning.



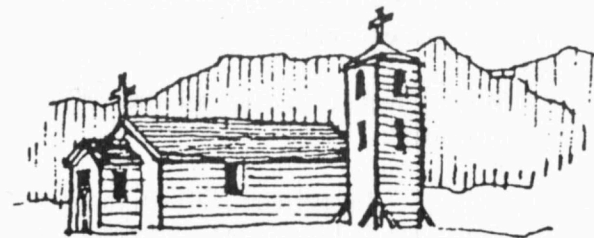
Ursuline Academy

"The basic purpose of preservation is not to arrest time but to mediate sensitively with the forces of change. It is to understand the present as a product of the past and a modifier of the future."

John W. Lawrence



Paris Gibson Square



St. Peter's Mission

Artwork by: Ken Sievert