

*Yellowstone Historic Preservation Board*  
*A certified local government (CLG)*  
*Program representing four governing bodies:*

City of Billings  
City of Laurel

Crow Tribe  
Yellowstone County

Presented below is the agenda for the next Yellowstone Historic Preservation Board (YHPB) meeting. If you have any questions regarding the agenda, items to add, or are unable to attend the meeting, please call me at 247-8622. Lora Mattox, Historic Preservation Officer

1. Call to Order-YHPB: Welcome! YHPB Chair
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** – As required ( minute maximum per person.) *Any member of the public may be heard on any subject that is not on the agenda. The Yellowstone Historic Preservation Board will not take any action on these items at this time, but could choose to add an item to the next meeting’s agenda for discussion.*  
  
*Attendees: Please sign in on the provided meeting attendance sheet.*
  - a. **Comments on items not on the agenda and requests to add items to future agendas.**
  - b. **Comments on items on the non-public agenda items.**
3. **Motion. Approval of the minutes of: May 21, 2019**
4. Old Business
5. New Business
  - a. National Register Nomination Draft - Billings Communal Mausoleum
  - b. Montana History Conference
6. **Other Business**

a. Board Roundtable

b. **Announcement:** The next Yellowstone Historic Preservation Board meeting will be held as announced: September 17, 2019

7. **Future Agenda Items**

8. **Adjournment**

YHPB Agenda

3.

**Meeting Date:** 08/20/2019

---

**Subject**

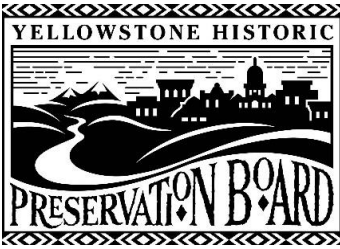
**Motion. Approval of the minutes of: May 21, 2019**

---

**Attachments**

May Minutes

---



***Yellowstone Historic Preservation Board***  
*A Certified Local Government (CLG)*  
*Program representing four governing bodies:*

*City of Billings*  
*City of Laurel*

*Yellowstone County*  
*Crow Tribe*

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**MAY 21, 2019**  
**First Floor Conference Room**  
**2825 3rd Avenue North**

**Members Present** – Sue Mueller, Evan Bruce, Becky Jeter, and Kevin Nelson

**Members Absent** – Allen Rapacz, Blain Fandrich, Keith Edgerton (excused)

**Staff Present** – Lora Mattox, Lauren Hunley and Tam Rodier

**Others Present** –

**Minutes** - The minutes of the April meeting were approved on a motion by Sue, seconded by Evan.

**Public Comment** – No public comment.

**CDBG Property Review** –

**417 Alderson** – The property was constructed in 1936 and is in good original condition. Work proposed includes the installation of handrails along the exterior stairs going to the basement, repair or replace crumbling front concrete steps and handrail, **prep and painting of stucco walls while retaining the integrity of the inlaid diamond-shared accent pieces**, if possible, and install basement egress windows as needed. Lora states that this area could be designated as a historic district in the future and would recommend to the board that the diamond in-laid accents be kept. On a motion by Evan, seconded by Sue, the board approved using Federal funds for the rehabilitation based on the proposed work in the submitted memo.

**Downtown Walking Tour** – Lora took a bit of time to look at the electronic downtown walking app and it appears to be working but maybe not up to its potential. Lora is concerned that the YHPB is paying for an app that may not be running smoothly. Lora will look at closer and bring some recommendations to the board.

**Consultant's Report** – *Attached at the end of the minutes.* The board did discuss allocating hours for Western Heritage Center to hire a sub-consultant to complete a draft of a National Register nomination for the Mausoleum at Mountview Cemetery. Lauren anticipates that 80 hours would develop a draft nomination for staff to finalized. Sue motions to direct the WHC to allocated 80 hours of their YHPB time to developing a nomination for the mausoleum, seconded by Becky. Approved. Riverside Park in Laurel is still unknown as the Laurel City Council has not made a decision on listing to the National Register.

**Historic Preservation Officer Report** – Lora shared the following with the board:

- The silos in Laurel have been demolished. Numerous photos of the site were taken.
- Lora handed out new copies of the State’s National Register Sign Program brochure.

**Board Roundtable** –

- Evan informed the board that the Laurel Museum foundation is dissolving. They gave most items to the Community Foundation at 101 E. Main, some items also went to the Laurel Chamber of Commerce. Lauren offered assistance from Western Heritage Center to Evan for assistance with storage/display ideas. Also, King Koin Laundromat has done some rehabilitation work.
- Kevin gives an update on the work going on at Alberta Bair, they did spot an area where some Art Deco design was left.
- Lauren reminded the board of all of the tours and activities going on at the Western Heritage Center including the portable NASA Starlab which will be there on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

The next meeting – June 18 (if needed)

Adjournment.

**Yellowstone Historic Preservation Board (YHPB)**

Western Heritage Center (WHC) Consultant Report

**Lauren Hunley – April 16, 2019**

**Goals & Objectives of YHPB:**

- I. Promote the preservation of historic buildings, sites, or neighborhoods
- II. Increase community awareness on the benefits of historic preservation activities
- III. Promote increased awareness of preservation activities and the work of the YHPB through the four governing bodies represented on the Board
- IV. Comply with the duties and responsibilities of historic preservation organizations under the state Certified Local Government Program and the requirements of the Inter-local Agreement

**Community Work**

WHC hosted the 2019 YHPB Roundtable at the Heritage Center on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Twenty organizations shared slide updates with the group.

The WHC has answered several research questions and helped multiple researchers in projects pertaining to historic Billings properties including the Hart Albin Building, the L&L Building, and 716 N. 32<sup>nd</sup> St.

As requested by the Board, the WHC researched Sunny O’Days in Laurel. Please see the binder at the meeting for full information.

YHPB Agenda

5. a.

**Meeting Date:** 08/20/2019

---

**Subject**

National Register Nomination Draft - Billings Communal Mausoleum

---

**Attachments**

NR Registration Form  
NR Continuation

---

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Billings Communal Mausoleum

Other Names/Site Number: Mountview Mausoleum / Landmarks Mausoleum

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: N/A

## 2. Location

Street & Number: 1704 Central Avenue

City or Town: Billings State: MT County: Yellowstone

Not for Publication:  Vicinity:

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this  X  nomination   request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  X  meets   does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

National                       X  Statewide                       X  Local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X  A                        B                       X  C                        D

_____ <b>Signature of Certifying Official/Title:</b>	_____ <b>Date</b>
_____ <b>State or Federal Agency/Bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ <b>Signature of Commenting Official:</b>	_____ <b>Date</b>
_____ <b>Title:</b>	
<b>State or Federal Agency/Bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

Billings Communal Mausoleum  
Name of Property

Yellowstone, Montana  
County and State

---

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

---

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

---

#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Billings Communal Mausoleum  
Name of Property

Yellowstone, Montana  
County and State

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Objects
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Contributing Building: Community Mausoleum  
Contributing Structure: Circular Driveway  
Noncontributing Structure: Columbarium

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

---

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

FUNERARY / Mausoleum

**Current Functions**

FUNERARY / Mausoleum

Billings Communal Mausoleum  
Name of Property

Yellowstone, Montana  
County and State

---

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

LATE 19TH CENTURY & EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS / Classical Revival

### Materials:

Principal exterior materials of the property:

FOUNDATION: Concrete, metal (steel)

WALLS: Concrete, metal (steel)

ROOF: Concrete, tile & metal (steel & copper)

OTHER: Concrete, glass & metal (steel & bronze)

## Narrative Description

---

### Summary Paragraph

The Billings Communal Mausoleum is one of only three known community mausoleums built in Montana during the Early 20th Century. In 1920, the City of Billings authorized Arthur L. Rankin, president of the Montana Mausoleum Company, to build a \$100,000 community mausoleum on the western edge of Mountview Cemetery, the newly established municipal cemetery.<sup>1</sup> The Montana Mausoleum Company, a firm that held the patent rights on community mausoleums in the states of Montana and Wyoming,<sup>2</sup> commissioned John Gustav Link, a prominent Montana architect, to design the 330-crypt mausoleum and a local construction firm, Gagnon and Company, to build it.<sup>3</sup> Construction, under the direction of Frank Hebb, began in late 1920, and, although the mausoleum wasn't formally dedicated until 1924, it was placed into operation in 1922, becoming Montana's first community mausoleum. Built of reinforced concrete with a Classical Revival design, the Billings Communal Mausoleum is representative of the national Community Mausoleum Movement and its distinctive funerary architecture.

---

<sup>1</sup> "City Acquires Desired Site for New Municipal Cemetery." *Billings Gazette*, September 23, 1920. Accessed April 17, 2015. Newspapers.com/image/60094312.

<sup>2</sup> "Billings Dedicates Enduring Structure; Presents Window." *Billings Gazette*, May 31, 1924. Accessed August 30, 2018. Newspapers.com/image/409509615.

<sup>3</sup> "Monolith at New Municipal Cemetery to Be Beautiful and Enduring Structure." *Billings Gazette*, November 7, 1920. Accessed August 23, 2018. Newspapers.com/image/415396769.

Billings Communal Mausoleum  
Name of Property

Yellowstone, Montana  
County and State

---

## Narrative Description

The Billings Communal Mausoleum sits atop a high point on the western edge of Mountview Cemetery in Billings, Montana. Curbed lanes wind from the cemetery entrance through shade trees and mature landscaping to the gracefully imposing structure. The mausoleum faces onto a circular drive and the municipal cemetery grounds to the east. In the distance to the north are the sandstone rimrocks that flank the city of Billings. The vista to the south extends across the 65-acre cemetery and commercial neighborhoods of Billings to the Yellowstone River and the Pryor Mountains beyond. A 50-foot swath of lawn, lined with a chain-link fence, separates the back of the mausoleum from the city-owned golf course to the west.

In 1920, the City of Billings authorized Arthur L. Rankin, president of the Montana Mausoleum Company, to build a \$100,000 community mausoleum in the newly established municipal cemetery.<sup>4</sup> The Montana Mausoleum Company, a firm that held the patent rights on community mausoleums in the states of Montana and Wyoming,<sup>5</sup> commissioned John Gustav Link, a prominent Montana architect, to design the 330-crypt mausoleum and a local construction firm, Gagnon and Company, to build it.<sup>6</sup> Construction, under the direction of Frank Hebb, began in late 1920, and, although the mausoleum wasn't formally dedicated until 1924, it was placed into operation in 1922.

The mausoleum's Neoclassical design features a modified cruciform plan that measures 123.6 x 49.5 feet.<sup>7</sup> On the front elevation, unfenestrated wings flank a barrel-vaulted portico that leads into an entrance hall and chapel. Designed around the concept of enduring and indestructible beauty, the entire structure was constructed of reinforced concrete with a marble-clad interior and bronze and copper detailing. The exterior walls are 15-inch reinforced concrete, 19 inches at the corners, atop a 30-inch foundation and 42-inch footings.<sup>8</sup> The walls are finished with simple, geometric detailing and brush-hammered texturing painted white.<sup>9</sup> Sets of three cathedral glass windows light the chapel and the ends of the corridors of the north and south wings. The east and west-facing walls are punctuated with small, louvered metal vents along the roofline and foundation. The

---

<sup>4</sup> "City Acquires Desired Site for New Municipal Cemetery." *Billings Gazette*, September 23, 1920. Accessed April 17, 2015. Newspapers.com/image/60094312.

<sup>5</sup> "Billings Dedicating Enduring Structure; Presents Window." *Billings Gazette*, May 31, 1924. Accessed August 30, 2018. Newspapers.com/image/409509615.

<sup>6</sup> "Monolith at New Municipal Cemetery to Be Beautiful and Enduring Structure." *Billings Gazette*, November 7, 1920. Accessed August 23, 2018. Newspapers.com/image/415396769.

<sup>7</sup> Link & Haire Architects. *Billings Mausoleum Architectural Plans, Floor Plan*, c. 1920. Cemetery Plats, Yellowstone County Clerk and Recorder, Billings, Montana.

<sup>8</sup> Link & Haire Architects. *Billings Mausoleum Architectural Plans, Vertical Plan*, c. 1920. Merrill G. Burlingame Special Collections and Archives, Montana State University Library, Bozeman, Montana.

<sup>9</sup> "Costly Mausoleum near Municipal Cemetery to Be Completed This Fall." *Billings Gazette*, May 30, 1921. Accessed August 30, 2018. Newspapers.com/image/410544277.

Billings Communal Mausoleum

Name of Property

Yellowstone, Montana

County and State

roofline is marked by an unadorned cornice and low parapet. The flat roof consists of tile over reinforced concrete with copper sheeting encasing the vaulted rib. In keeping with the “indestructible” design of the building, the mausoleum lacks electricity, plumbing and heating and is illuminated by natural light filtering through the windows.

The east-facing portico incorporates Palladian architectural elements, including an arched pediment supported by two Doric columns. Set in the recessed tympanum above double bronze doors and an engraved panel with the word “PEACE” is a single, arched memorial window. A newspaper account of the window’s unveiling on Memorial Day in 1924 noted, “The beautifully leaded art glass depicts Hebe, the goddess of youth, with upraised lamp shedding rays of kindness and mercy, coming over rugged fields to the foreground of tiny white crosses that mark the graves of 49 Yellowstone boys who perished ‘over there.’ In her left arm, Hebe bears a tablet with a single star upon it, in honor of Miss Agnes Talcott, Red Cross nurse, who gave her life in the World war.”<sup>10</sup>

The 1924 *Billings Gazette* newspaper article also details the mausoleum’s interior at the time of its dedication. “The interior is completely finished in a beautiful gray Alaskan marble, noted for its fineness of texture. All metal trimmings, including the vase racks and inscription plates on the door of each crypt is of bronze. The whole interior, from the seven-inch terrazzo floor to the marble walls and ceiling, presents a sanitary and very cheerful aspect. The unique ventilating system keeps the walls, crypts and passage ways fresh, sweet and dry. The huge bronze doors, weighing over 400 pounds each, swing almost as easily and noiselessly on their ball bearing hinges as the shutter of a fine camera. The mellow stained glass windows, the rich bronze fittings and other decorations give to the interior a rich and distinctive atmosphere.”<sup>11</sup>

Rusticated, solid bronze doors have replaced the original bronze doors, which were more ornate with inset stained glass panels.<sup>12</sup> These heavy doors open into a gray, marble-clad entrance hall and chapel. The barrel-vaulted ceiling above is plastered and painted pale gray with a stenciled border of dark gray laurel leaves. The chapel, featuring an alcove with a raised floor and cathedral glass windows, originally contained a marble seat and altar for funeral services during inclement weather.<sup>13</sup> Marble urns and pedestals adorn the entrance hall and chapel.

To each side of the chapel is a long corridor lined with five tiers of standard-sized crypts. These crypts measure 7’6” long by 2’8” wide and 2’ high. Recessed in the corners of the chapel are the more expensive “deluxe” and pulpit crypts, and smaller, infant crypts frame the entrance. Four inches of reinforced concrete separate the crypts, the floors of which slope slightly toward a

---

<sup>10</sup> “Billings Dedicates Enduring Structure; Presents Window.” *Billings Gazette*, May 31, 1924. Accessed August 30, 2018. Newspapers.com/image/409509615.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Merryman, Kathleen. “Crypts in Ruin, Mausoleum Repairs Perused.” *Billings Gazette*, May 15, 1980. Accessed August 22, 2018. Newspapers.com/image/414822221.

<sup>13</sup> “Mausoleum for Billings.” *Dillon Tribune*, October 15, 1920. Accessed August 17, 2018. Montanane newspapers.com/lccn/sn85053040/1920-10-15/ed-1/seq-10.

Billings Communal Mausoleum

Name of Property

Yellowstone, Montana

County and State

shallow gutter at the back to catch any fluids that may leak from the caskets. Wooden caskets can dry out and crack, breaking the seal, in the arid climate of southcentral Montana, so some families opted to inter their loved ones in metal caskets instead.<sup>14</sup> Upon interment, the caskets were enclosed within the crypts by a vented, two-inch concrete slab and then hermetically sealed behind a marble faceplate.<sup>15</sup> Vents at the head of the crypts expel vapors to the outside through channels between the concrete and marble panels. There are similar vents at the foot of the crypts. The original casket lift is still in use today as the recently departed are laid to rest in the few yet unoccupied crypts.<sup>16</sup>

As the popularity of cremation grew, areas within and around the mausoleum were repurposed for cremains. The marble altar and bench were removed, and niches of cremains now line the alcove of the chapel. Bronze columbaria, banks of compartments for cremains, were installed in the entrance hall, and several of the smaller crypts intended for infants have instead become family vaults for cremains. A marble columbarium, a non-contributing structure, also stands at the center of the landscaped circular drive in front of the mausoleum.

Restoration work in 1980 included installing a waterproof membrane over the tile roof, mending cracks, repairing water damage, replacing the front doors, stabilizing windows and repainting.<sup>17 18</sup>

Wire mesh has been installed to protect the cathedral glass windows from breakage on the north, south and west sides, and the memorial window is obscured at one corner by a mass of bees trapped between the inner and outer panes. The roof is currently in need of repair with leakage from the vaulted copper roof over the chapel resulting in some water stains on the ceiling. The exterior paint is also peeling in places.

Even though the mausoleum remains much as it was when built nearly a century ago, the landscape around it has changed. In the early 1920s, Mountview Cemetery, the new municipal cemetery, and the mausoleum were surrounded by farmlands well beyond the outskirts of town. In the years since then, the city has grown westward. Mountview Cemetery, once little more than an open field, is now a verdant oasis of manicured lawns and mature trees in midtown Billings. Today, the cemetery and the fairways of the neighboring golf course provide the tranquil setting of peaceful repose that the citizens of Billings long ago envisioned for their community mausoleum.

---

<sup>14</sup> Interview with Lee Stadtmiller, Superintendent of Mountview Cemetery, on August 21, 2018.

<sup>15</sup> "Costly Mausoleum near Municipal Cemetery to Be Completed This Fall." *Billings Gazette*, May 30, 1921. Accessed August 30, 2018. Newspapers.com/image/410544277.

<sup>16</sup> Interview with Lee Stadtmiller, Superintendent of Mountview Cemetery, on August 21, 2018.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Merryman, Kathleen. "Crypts in Ruin, Mausoleum Repairs Perused." *Billings Gazette*, May 15, 1980. Accessed August 22, 2018. Newspapers.com/image/414822221.

Billings Communal Mausoleum  
Name of Property

Yellowstone, Montana  
County and State

## **Integrity**

The property retains a high level of aesthetic, architectural and structural integrity. The mausoleum, situated within the serene setting of the municipal cemetery, is in excellent condition and continues to serve its historic function as a community mausoleum. Its architectural design and massing are unchanged, and the building has had very few alterations. The exterior alterations are primarily cosmetic, including replacement of the original art glass-paneled bronze doors with rusticated bronze doors, the installation of protective wire mesh over the stained glass windows on three sides of the mausoleum and the addition of a modern marble columbarium at the center of the historic circular drive in front of the mausoleum. Alterations to the interior of the building are limited to the removal of the marble altar and bench from the chapel to make room for cremation niches and the installation of bronze columbaria in the entrance hall. Otherwise, the mausoleum remains largely unchanged since its construction in the early 1920s.

Billings Communal Mausoleum  
Name of Property

Yellowstone, Montana  
County and State

---

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Billings Communal Mausoleum  
Name of Property

Yellowstone, Montana  
County and State

**Areas of Significance**

Social History  
Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1920-1924

**Significant Dates**

1920-1922, 1924

**Significant Person**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Mausoleum Contractor: Arthur L. Rankin, Montana Mausoleum Company  
Architect: John G. Link, Link & Haire Architects  
Building Contractor: Frank Hebb, Gagnon & Company

Billings Communal Mausoleum  
Name of Property

Yellowstone, Montana  
County and State

## Statement of Significance

### Summary Paragraph

The Billings Communal Mausoleum is significant at the state and local levels. The mausoleum is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as representative of a broad pattern of social history concerning changes in burial practices and Criterion C for its architectural significance as an example of distinctive funerary architecture. The period of significance is 1920 to 1924, encompassing the start of construction in 1920 and ending with the mausoleum's dedication in 1924.

---

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

#### *Criterion A:*

The Billings Communal Mausoleum is representative of the Community Mausoleum Movement.

#### Summary of the Communal Mausoleum Movement

#### Billings Communal Mausoleum

#### *Criterion C:*

The Billings Communal Mausoleum is architecturally significant as an example of distinctive funerary architecture. The mausoleum, which incorporates Palladian architecture into a patented communal mausoleum design, is one of three known Early 20th Century community mausoleums in the state.

The Montana Mausoleum Company constructed the Billings mausoleum using the International Mausoleum Company's patented community mausoleum design, originally marketed by William I. Hood and John W. Chesrown of the National Mausoleum Company. Hood had developed and patented the initial concept in 1907 for a ventilated, concrete communal burial vault with a large hall for indoor funerals, US Patent 858,070. The National Mausoleum Company registered improvements to its system in 1909, incorporating John W. Chesrown's refinements to the original design, US Patent 919,126, and a deodorizing and disinfecting device, US Patent 915,000, invented by Arthur G. Walter and B. M. Fremont to neutralize deleterious gases with formaldehyde.

The concept consisted of seamless concrete construction and tiers of vaults with a ventilation system that exhausted vapors from the crypts to the outside. Gases that built up within the crypts were expelled through valve-controlled ports into air channels between the vaults and the outer

Billings Communal Mausoleum

Yellowstone, Montana

Name of Property

County and State

and inner walls and released through vents along the roofline.<sup>19</sup> The air circulating through the ventilation system, often touted as “scientific” and “sanitary,” evaporated dampness and conducted offensive vapors out of the building to keep the mausoleum dry and odor-free while slowly desiccating remains. In 1909, the National Mausoleum Company restructured as the International Mausoleum Company and moved its headquarters from Ohio, to Chicago, Illinois.

Local architect John G. Link designed the Billings Communal Mausoleum according to Hood and Chesrown’s patented specifications for a ventilated structure of steel-reinforced concrete construction. Reinforced concrete was a durable, non-flammable construction material and an economical alternative to cut stone, making crypt burials more affordable to those of ordinary means. It also accommodated any architectural style that a community desired.

In addition to its patented design, the Billings Communal Mausoleum is a rare local expression of Early 20th Century Neoclassical architecture with a Palladian motif. Other than the mausoleum and Laurel’s original public library, now part of City Hall, there are few examples in Yellowstone County of buildings with Palladian features, such as symmetrical cruciform massing, barrel-vaulted roofs and columned porticos.

The Billings Communal Mausoleum is also the oldest of only three known community mausoleums built in Montana during the Early 20th Century. A year after construction began on the Billings mausoleum, Arthur L. Rankin began erecting the Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum, through the Consolidated Mausoleum Company, in September, 1921, and completed it in 1924.<sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> Bids to construct community mausoleums in Roundup<sup>22</sup> and Livingston<sup>23</sup> were unsuccessful.

In 1928, however, Rankin secured a franchise for a 1000-crypt mausoleum in the Mountain View Cemetery in Butte.<sup>24</sup> When Rankin’s project fell through, a group of local investors took up the cause, purchasing a parcel of land a short distance from the cemetery with plans to build a 920-

---

<sup>19</sup> Hood, William I. Burial-Crypt. US Patent 858,070, filed March 14, 1907, and issued June 25, 1907; Chesrown, John W. Burial-Vault. US Patent 919,126, filed November 16, 1907, and issued April 20, 1909; Walter, Arthur G. and B. M. Fremont. Deodorizing and Disinfecting Device. US Patent 915,000, filed March 11, 1908, and issued March 9, 1909.

<sup>20</sup> McCormick, Mary and Joan L. Brownell. “Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum.” *National Register of Historic Places Inventory/Nomination Form*. Carbon County Historical Society and Museum, Red Lodge, Montana. November, 2010.

<sup>21</sup> “Last Marble Placed in New Mausoleum Built at Red Lodge.” *Billings Gazette*, September 19, 1924. Accessed March 13, 2019. [Newspapers.com/image/524917903](http://Newspapers.com/image/524917903).

<sup>22</sup> “Plan a Mausoleum Here.” *Roundup Record*, April 18, 1919. Accessed August 17, 2018. [Montananewspapers.org/lccn/sn86075094/1919-04-18/ed-1/seq-5](http://Montananewspapers.org/lccn/sn86075094/1919-04-18/ed-1/seq-5).

<sup>23</sup> “To Build Masoleum for Livingston Dead.” *Great Falls Tribune*, April 7, 1922. Accessed April 15, 2019. [Newspapers.com/image/238041384](http://Newspapers.com/image/238041384).

<sup>24</sup> “Butte Will Have Large Mausoleum.” *Anaconda Standard*, January 12, 1928. Accessed March 14, 2019. [Newspapers.com/image/35463137](http://Newspapers.com/image/35463137).

Billings Communal Mausoleum

Name of Property

Yellowstone, Montana

County and State

crypt mausoleum.<sup>25</sup> Building contractor Carl J. Nepper began construction of the \$200,000 Silver Bow Community Mausoleum in September, 1929.<sup>26</sup> Soon after, the company's shareholders became embroiled in a legal dispute over stocks,<sup>27</sup> and the mausoleum project was abandoned.

Also in 1929, Wade H. George, president of family-owned Great Falls Mausoleum, Inc., began construction of the Hall of Memories,<sup>28</sup> a \$300,000, 1,200-crypt mausoleum with 24 family rooms and a 900-niche columbarium in Great Falls.<sup>29</sup> The sprawling, **Italianate**-style structure, designed by San Francisco architect Wallace H. Hubbert, was to include a crematorium, large chapel, reception and waiting rooms, restrooms and greenhouse.<sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> Local building contractor George Calvert completed the first phase of the project, the 420-crypt north wing of the mausoleum, with a more modest design in early 1931, and the Great Falls mausoleum took its place as the third Early 20th Century communal mausoleum in the state of Montana. The Hall of Memories, with several additions, reorganized as a non-profit perpetual-care community memorial, the Hillcrest Lawn Memorial Association, in 1953.<sup>32</sup>

Add paragraph on mid to late-century communal mausoleums in Billings

---

## Additional Historical Context

### Mausoleum history

---

<sup>25</sup> "Mausoleum Will Be Erected Here: Butte Men File Incorporation Papers." *Montana Standard*, April 18, 1929. Accessed March 14, 2019. Newspapers.com/image/354591954.

<sup>26</sup> "\$200,000 Mausoleum for Butte - Only One in the State." *Independent Record*, September 13, 1929. Accessed March 14, 2019. Newspapers.com/image/528339102.

<sup>27</sup> "Dougherty Sues Mausoleum Co." *Montana Standard*, November 2, 1929. Accessed March 14, 2019. Newspapers.com/image/354363644.

<sup>28</sup> "Now Accepting Reservations for Space in the Hall of Memories." *Great Falls Tribune*, July 21, 1929. Accessed August 30, 2018. Newspapers.com/image/238620859.

<sup>29</sup> "Office Building of Mausoleum Firm Finished." *Great Falls Tribune*, July 14, 1929. Accessed March 14, 2019. Newspapers.com/image/238619718.

<sup>30</sup> "Wonderful 'Hall of Memories' to Be Erected Here at Heavy Cost." *Great Falls Tribune*, May 26, 1929. Accessed March 14, 2019. Newspapers.com/image/238391975.

<sup>31</sup> "To Start Work on Mausoleum Construction." *Great Falls Tribune*, August 18, 1929. Accessed April 15, 2019. Newspapers.com/image/238657066.

<sup>32</sup> "Great Falls Mausoleum Reorganized as Non-profit Community Memorial." *Great Falls Tribune*, January 25, 1953. Accessed April 15, 2019. Newspapers.com/image/238752660.

Billings Communal Mausoleum  
Name of Property

Yellowstone, Montana  
County and State

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

---

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: Western Heritage Center, Billings, MT

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** N/A

Billings Communal Mausoleum  
Name of Property

Yellowstone, Montana  
County and State

---

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property**    Less than one acre (0.2988 acres)

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

**Or**

### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927    or     NAD 1983

- |          |     |           |        |           |         |
|----------|-----|-----------|--------|-----------|---------|
| 1. Zone: | 12N | Easting:  | 689635 | Northing: | 5071150 |
| 2. Zone: |     | Easting:  |        | Northing: |         |
| 3. Zone: |     | Easting:  |        | Northing: |         |
| 4. Zone: |     | Easting : |        | Northing: |         |

### Verbal Boundary Description

The proposed NRHP boundary for the Billings Communal Mausoleum is Tract B of CS 845 in S07, T01S, R26E.

### Boundary Justification

Tract B of CS 845 includes the mausoleum, front lawn, circular drive with columbarium and a 3-foot strip of lawn along the north, west and south sides of the mausoleum's periphery. Additional tracts associated with the history of the mausoleum were excluded because they encompass a pump house, graves and a cremation cemetery installed after 1924 and, therefore, post-date the property's period of significance.

Billings Communal Mausoleum  
Name of Property

Yellowstone, Montana  
County and State

---

### 11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: **XXXX / XXXX**

Organization: Western Heritage Center

Street & Number: 2822 Montana Avenue

City or Town: Billings State: Montana Zip Code: 59101

E-Mail: **XXX**

Telephone: (406) 256-6809

Date: **XX/XX/XXXX**

---

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Billings Communal Mausoleum

Name of Property

Yellowstone, Montana

County and State

## Photographs

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Billings Communal Mausoleum

County and State: Yellowstone, Montana

Location of Digital Images: Western Heritage Center, Billings, Montana

1 of 12	Description: Façade of the Billings Communal Mausoleum in 2018 Facing: Southwest Photographer: Ann Kooistra-Manning Date Photographed: August 17, 2018
2 of 12	Description: East Elevation with circular drive and columbarium in front, 2019 Facing: West Photographer: Ann Kooistra-Manning Date Photographed: June 12, 2019
3 of 12	Description: West Elevation with view of barrel-vault roof, 2019 Facing: Southeast Photographer: Ann Kooistra-Manning Date Photographed: June 12, 2019
4 of 12	Description: West Elevation, 2019 Facing: East Photographer: Ann Kooistra-Manning Date Photographed: June 12, 2019
5 of 12	Description: North Elevation with pump house in the foreground, 2019 Facing: South Photographer: Ann Kooistra-Manning Date Photographed: June 12, 2019
6 of 12	Description: South Elevation with view of golf course beyond chain link fence, 2019 Facing: North Photographer: Ann Kooistra-Manning Date Photographed: June 12, 2019
7 of 12	Description: Entrance hall and World War One memorial window, 2014 Facing: East Photographer: Kevin Kooistra Date Photographed: October 7, 2014
8 of 12	Description: Chapel and pulpit crypts as viewed from the entrance hall, 2019 Facing: West Photographer: Ann Kooistra-Manning Date Photographed: March 6, 2019
9 of 12	Description: South corridor window with original crypt lift on the left, 2019 Facing: South Photographer: Ann Kooistra-Manning Date Photographed: March 6, 2019
10 of 12	Description: South corridor facing chapel and north corridor, 2019 Facing: North Photographer: Ann Kooistra-Manning Date Photographed: March 6, 2019

Billings Communal Mausoleum

Yellowstone, Montana

Name of Property

County and State

---

11 of 12 Description: Newspaper photo of a funeral at the Billings Communal Mausoleum in the *Billings Gazette*, dated July 14, 1927

---

12 of 12 Description: Historic photo of the 1930 Memorial Day service at Mountview Cemetery with the mausoleum visible in the background, courtesy of the Western Heritage Center

---

### Additional Documentation

---

1 of 9 Description: Newspaper advertisement promoting the Billings Communal Mausoleum in the *Billings Gazette*, dated June 1, 1919

---

2 of 9 Description: Architectural drawing of front elevation of the Billings Communal Mausoleum, c. 1920, courtesy of the Merrill G. Burlingame Special Collections and Archives at the Montana State University Library in Bozeman, MT

---

3 of 9 Description: Architectural drawing of vertical crypt plan of the Billings Communal Mausoleum, c. 1920, courtesy of the Merrill G. Burlingame Special Collections and Archives at the Montana State University Library in Bozeman, MT

---

4 of 9 Description: Architectural drawing of crypt plan of the Billings Communal Mausoleum, c. 1920, courtesy of the Merrill G. Burlingame Special Collections and Archives at the Montana State University Library in Bozeman, MT

---

5 of 9 Description: Architectural drawing of floor plan of the Billings Communal Mausoleum, c. 1920, courtesy of the Yellowstone County Clerk & Recorder, Billings, MT

---

6 of 9 Description: Ventilation system, c. 1920, courtesy of the Merrill G. Burlingame Special Collections and Archives at the Montana State University Library in Bozeman, MT

---

7 of 9 Description: Crypt plan of the east side of the Billings Communal Mausoleum, c. 1920, courtesy of the Yellowstone County Clerk & Recorder, Billings, MT

---

8 of 9 Description: Crypt plan of the west side of the Billings Communal Mausoleum, c. 1920, courtesy of the Yellowstone County Clerk & Recorder, Billings, MT

---

9 of 9 Description: Certificate of Survey 845, Billings, Yellowstone County, MT

---

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Billings Communal Mausoleum  
Name of Property  
Yellowstone County, Montana  
County and State  
N/A  
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation - Maps

Page 1 of 3

TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP

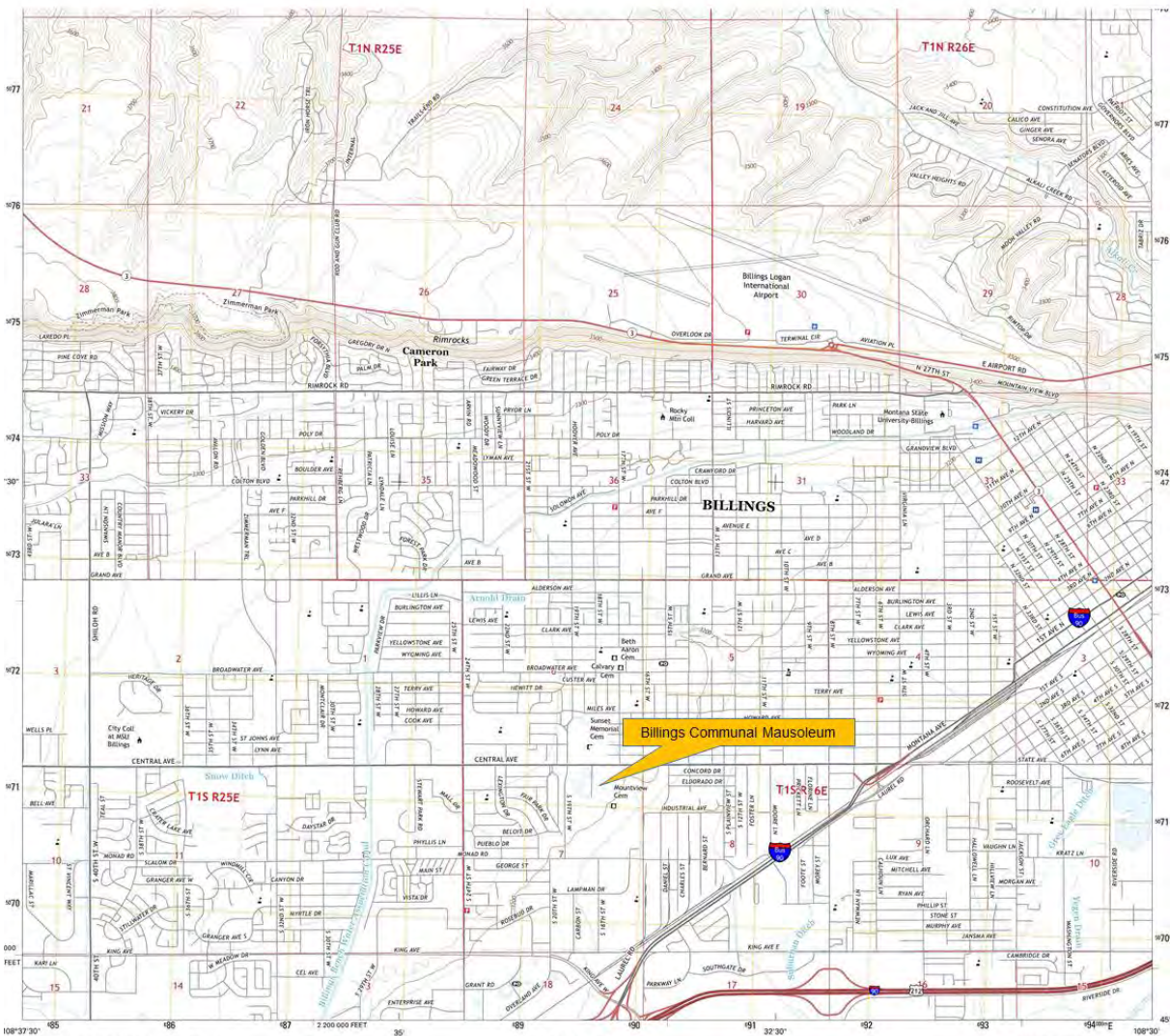
Billings West, Montana (2017)  
T1S, R26E, Section 7



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



BILLINGS WEST QUADRANGLE  
MONTANA-YELLOWSTONE CO.  
7.5-MINUTE SERIES

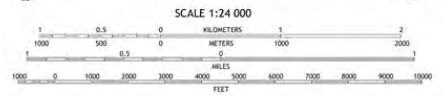


Produced by the United States Geological Survey

North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)  
World Geodetic System of 1984 (WGS84), Projection and  
1 000-meter grid; Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 12T  
10 100-foot ticks; Montana Coordinate System of 1983

This map is not a legal document. Boundaries may be  
generalized for this map scale. Private lands within government  
reservations may not be shown. Obtain permission before  
entering private lands.

Imagery:.....NAP, November 2015  
Roads:.....U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 - 2016  
Names:.....CNS, 2016  
Hydrography:.....National Hydrography Dataset, 2015  
Contours:.....National Elevation Dataset, 2006  
Boundaries:.....Multiple sources; see metadata file 1972 2016  
Public Land Survey System:.....BLM, 2016  
Wetlands:.....FWS National Wetlands Inventory 1977 - 2014



CONTOUR INTERVAL: 20 FEET  
NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1988  
This map was produced to conform with the  
National Geospatial Program US Topo Product Standard, 2011.  
A metadata file associated with this product is draft version B.6.9



BILLINGS WEST, MT  
2017

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

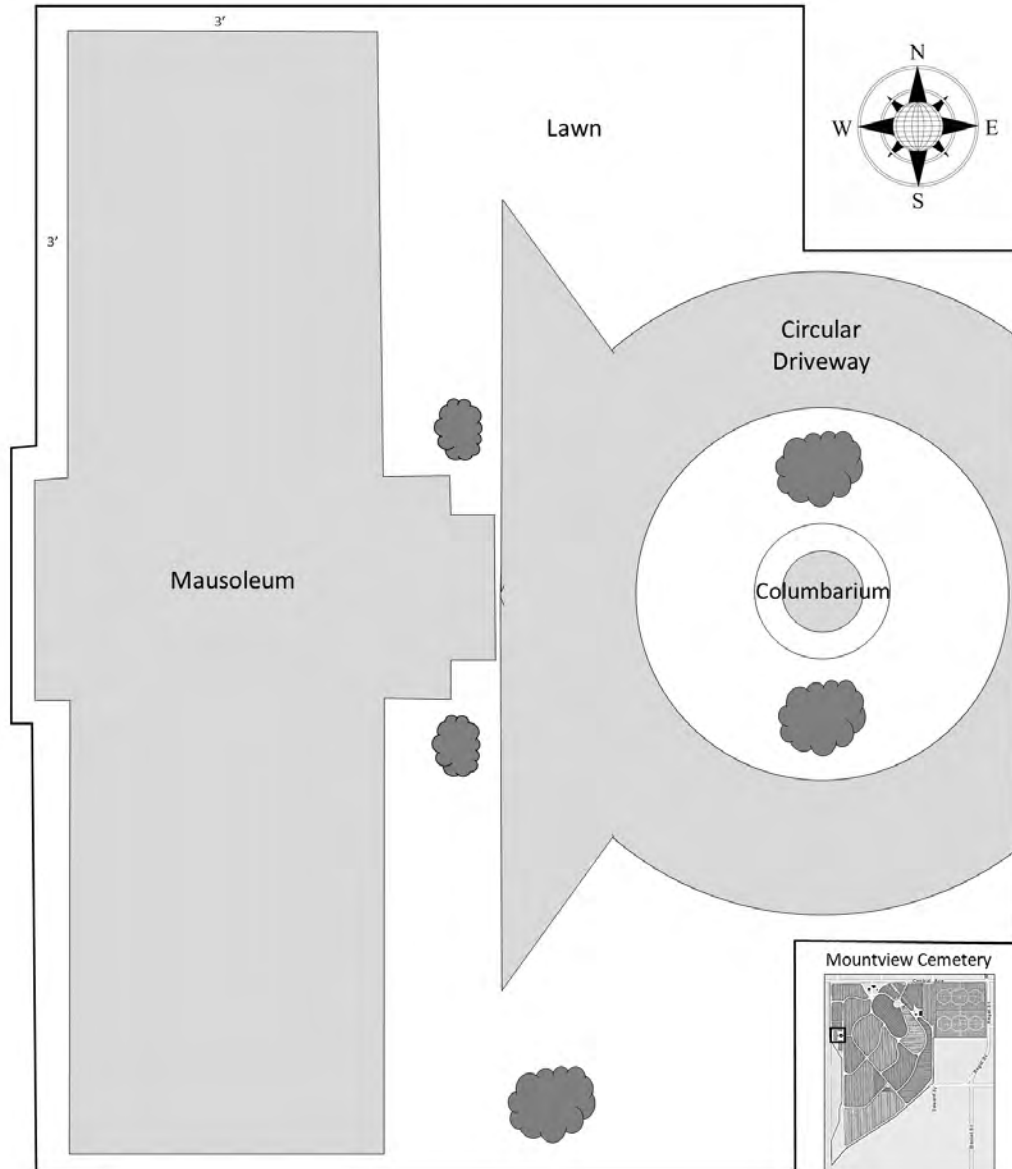
Billings Communal Mausoleum
Name of Property
Yellowstone County, Montana
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation - Maps

Page 2 of 3

SITE MAP

Billings Communal Mausoleum



SCALE

25 feet

T1S, R26E, Section 7  
Tract B of CS 845  
0.2988 Acres

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Billings Communal Mausoleum

Name of Property

Yellowstone County, Montana

County and State

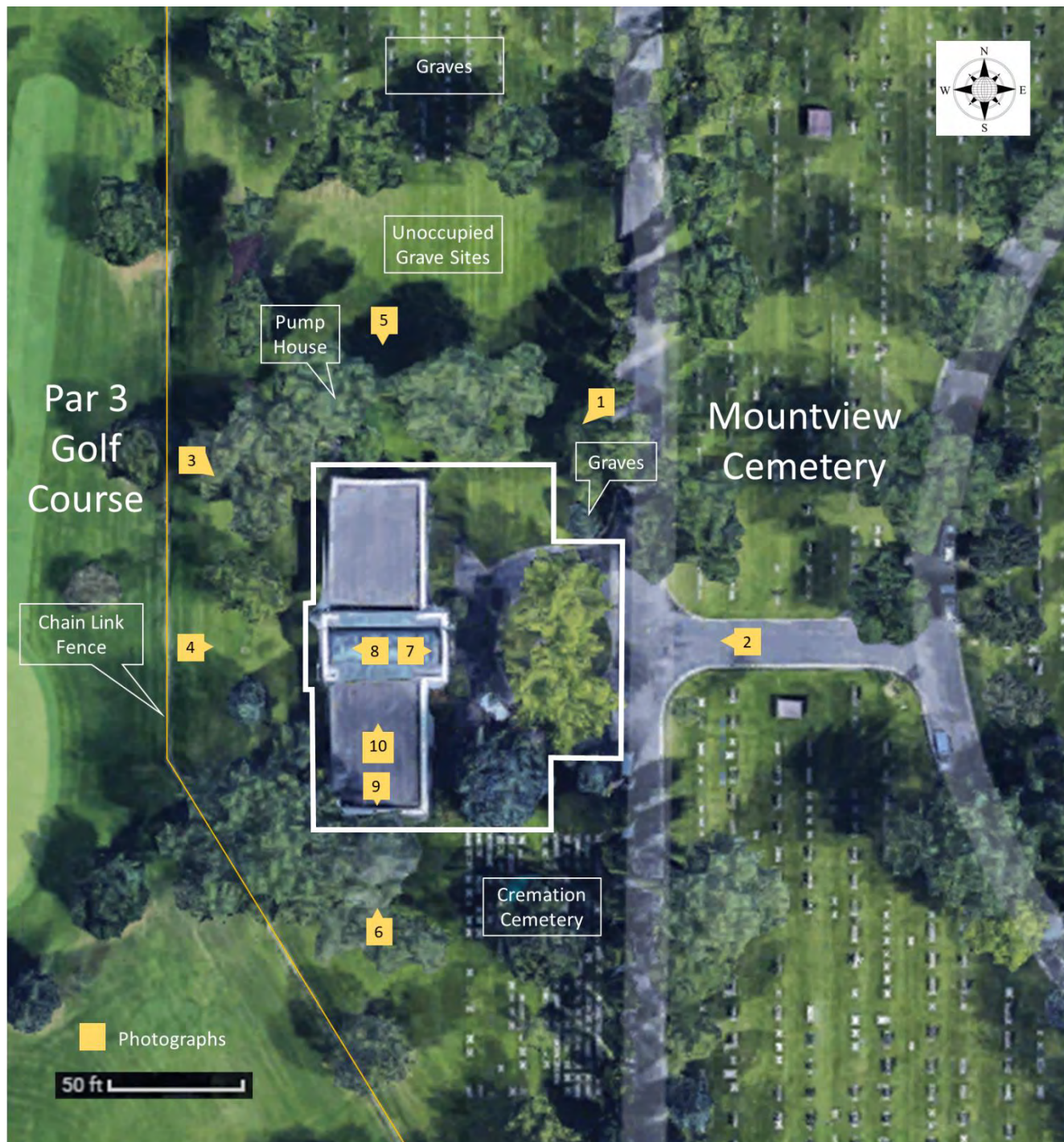
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation - Maps

Page 3 of 3

AERIAL MAP WITH PHOTO REFERENCES



**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Billings Communal Mausoleum

Name of Property

Yellowstone County, Montana

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation - Photographs & Additional Items

Page 1 of 14



Photo 1 of 12: Façade of the Billings Communal Mausoleum, 2018, view to southwest



Photo 2 of 12: East elevation with circular drive and columbarium in front, 2019; view to west

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Billings Communal Mausoleum
----- Name of Property
Yellowstone County, Montana
----- County and State
N/A
----- Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation - Photographs & Additional Items

Page 2 of 14



Photo 3 of 12: West elevation with view of barrel-vault roof, 2019; view to southeast



Photo 4 of 12: West elevation, 2019; view to east

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Billings Communal Mausoleum
-----
Name of Property
Yellowstone County, Montana
-----
County and State
N/A
-----
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation - Photographs & Additional Items

Page 3 of 14



Photo 5 of 12: North elevation with pump house in the foreground, 2019; view to south



Photo 6 of 12: South elevation with view of golf course on the left beyond chain link fence, 2019; view to north

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Billings Communal Mausoleum
----- Name of Property
Yellowstone County, Montana
----- County and State
N/A
----- Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation - Photographs & Additional Items

Page 4 of 14



Photo 7 of 12: Entrance hall and World War One memorial window, 2014; view to east

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Billings Communal Mausoleum

Name of Property

Yellowstone County, Montana

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation - Photographs & Additional Items

Page 5 of 14



Photo 8 of 12: Chapel and pulpit crypts as viewed from the entrance hall, 2019; view to west

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Billings Communal Mausoleum
----- Name of Property
Yellowstone County, Montana
----- County and State
N/A
----- Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation - Photographs & Additional Items

Page 6 of 14



Photo 9 of 12: South corridor window with original crypt lift on the left, 2019; view to south



Photo 10 of 12: South corridor facing chapel and north corridor, 2019; view to north

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Billings Communal Mausoleum
Name of Property
Yellowstone County, Montana
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

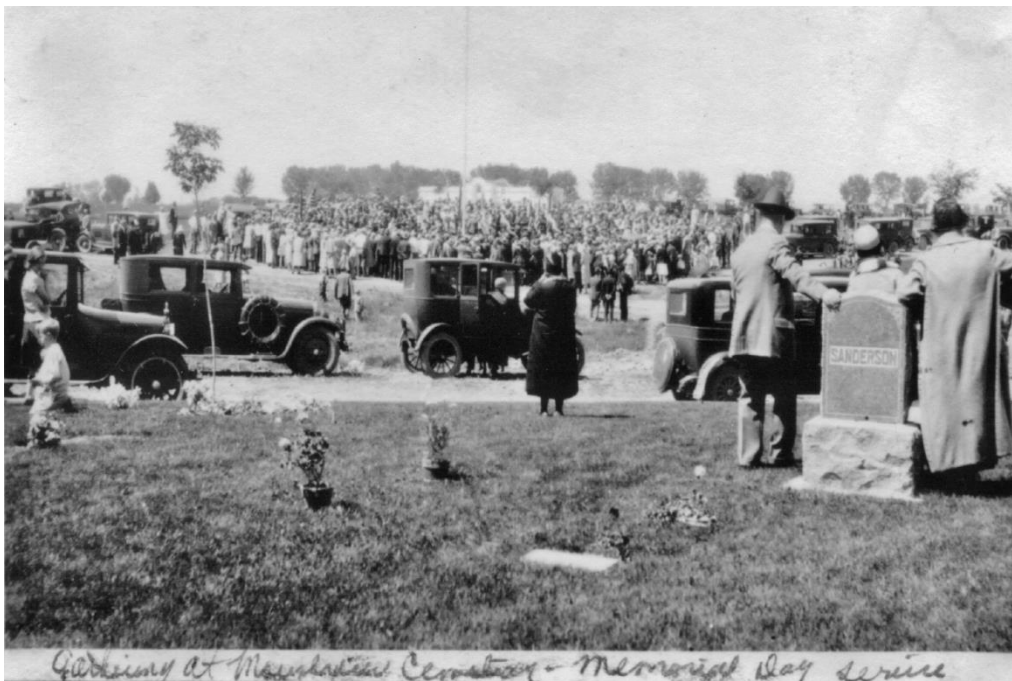
Section number Additional Documentation - Photographs & Additional Items

Page 7 of 14



—Photo by Petek.  
Scene at municipal mausoleum where committal services were held Monday afternoon, under the direction of Ashlar lodge, A. F. & A. M.

Photo 11 of 12: Newspaper photo of a funeral at the Billings Communal Mausoleum in the *Billings Gazette*, dated July 14, 1927



*Gathering at Mountview Cemetery - Memorial Day service*

Photo 12 of 12: Historic photo of the 1930 Memorial Day service at Mountview Cemetery with mausoleum visible in the background, courtesy of the Western Heritage Center; view to northwest

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Billings Communal Mausoleum
Name of Property
Yellowstone County, Montana
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation - Photographs & Additional Items

Page 8 of 14

Sunday, June 1, 1919. BILLINGS GAZETTE 3

If a Mansion in Heaven for the Soul. Why Not a Palace on Earth for the Body?  
 Modern Science Points the Way

## BILLINGS COMMUNAL MAUSOLEUM

"The Better Way" ————— "The Better Way"

Since the Pyramids of Egypt no monument to the dead can excel it—classical architecture, imperishable exterior, polished marble interior, bronze doors, massive, indestructible.	<b>Get Your Information First Hand</b> We have a corps of gentlemen who are engaged solely to tell you all about it. That is their business; that is their pleasure and they know.	The cost is no greater than the ordinary ground burial. No decay, no putrefaction, no decomposition. Absolutely sanitary desiccation.
--	--	---

*43 Clark* Most Imposing Structure of its Kind in the State

Sacred Sentiment

—

Public Health

—

Private Economy

—

Civic Pride



Sanitary Sightly and Friendly

—

Protection for the living

—

Respect for the dead

—

Constructed to last for all time

Marble Corridor of Billings Mausoleum

Entombment is Sanctioned By All Biblical Teachings, Laws of Sanitation, Intellectual Thought and Sentiment of Heart

**Gladstone said:**

"Show me the manner in which a nation or community cares for its dead, and I will measure with mathematical exactness the tender sympathies of its people, their respect for the laws of the land, and their loyalty to high ideals."

**Living Without Worry**

In the calm of health, consider and choose. Investigation must precede intelligence. Intelligence is essential to decision. We cannot afford to spend a moment in gloomy contemplation of death, but we can afford to devote a day to the discovery of *peaceful living* by preparedness.

If You Wait Until the Angel of Death Crosses Your Threshold It Will Be **TOO LATE---TOO LATE** The Revenge of Neglect is Merciless and Follows the Unprepared

<b>INFORMATION COUPON</b> For Full Information and Booklet Mail This Name _____ Address _____	Safeguarded in Every Way Against All Hazards of Investment. <b>Strongly Endowed.</b>	No Future Expenses for Upkeep. <b>Permanently Endowed.</b>	What Will Your Answer Be? Neglect? or Care?
--	---	---	--

Mail the Coupon Today  
**NOW—DO IT—NOW**

**The Montana Mausoleum Co.**  
 520-21-22-23 Securities Bldg.  
 Telephone 1356  
 Billings, Montana  
 C. M. Corkill, Sales Mgr.

Mail the Coupon Today  
**NOW—DO IT—NOW**

*Billings Gazette, June 1, 1919*

Additional Item 1 of 9: Newspaper advertisement promoting the Billings Communal Mausoleum in the *Billings Gazette*, dated June 1, 1919

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Billings Communal Mausoleum
Name of Property
Yellowstone County, Montana
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation - Photographs & Additional Items

Page 9 of 14



Additional Item 2 of 9: Architectural drawing of the façade of the Billings Communal Mausoleum, c. 1920, courtesy of the Merrill G. Burlingame Special Collections and Archives at the Montana State University Library in Bozeman, MT

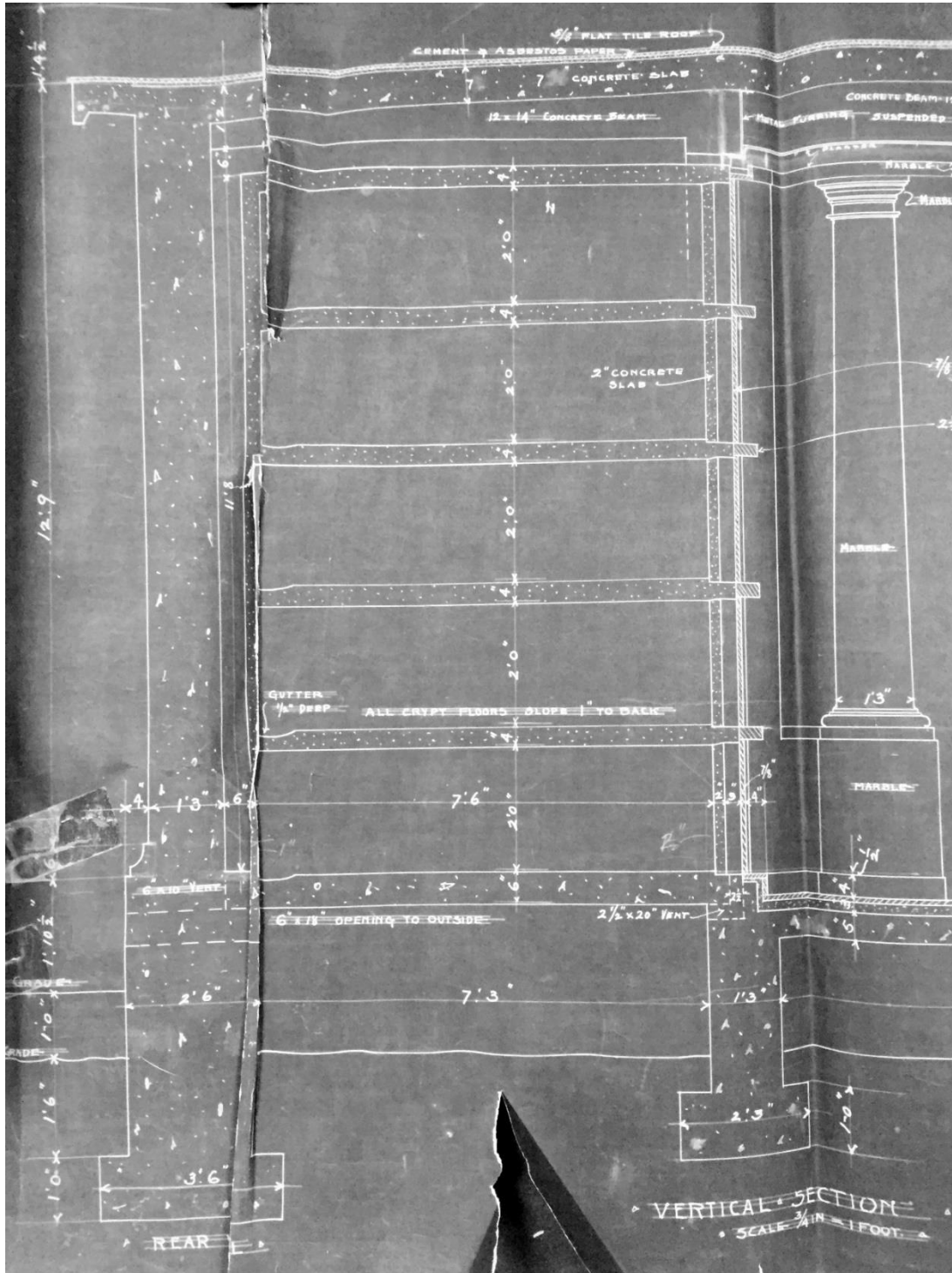
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Billings Communal Mausoleum
Name of Property
Yellowstone County, Montana
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation - Photographs & Additional Items

Page 10 of 14



Additional Item 3 of 9: Architectural drawing of vertical crypt plan of the Billings Communal Mausoleum, c. 1920, courtesy of the Merrill G. Burlingame Special Collections and Archives at the Montana State University Library in Bozeman, MT

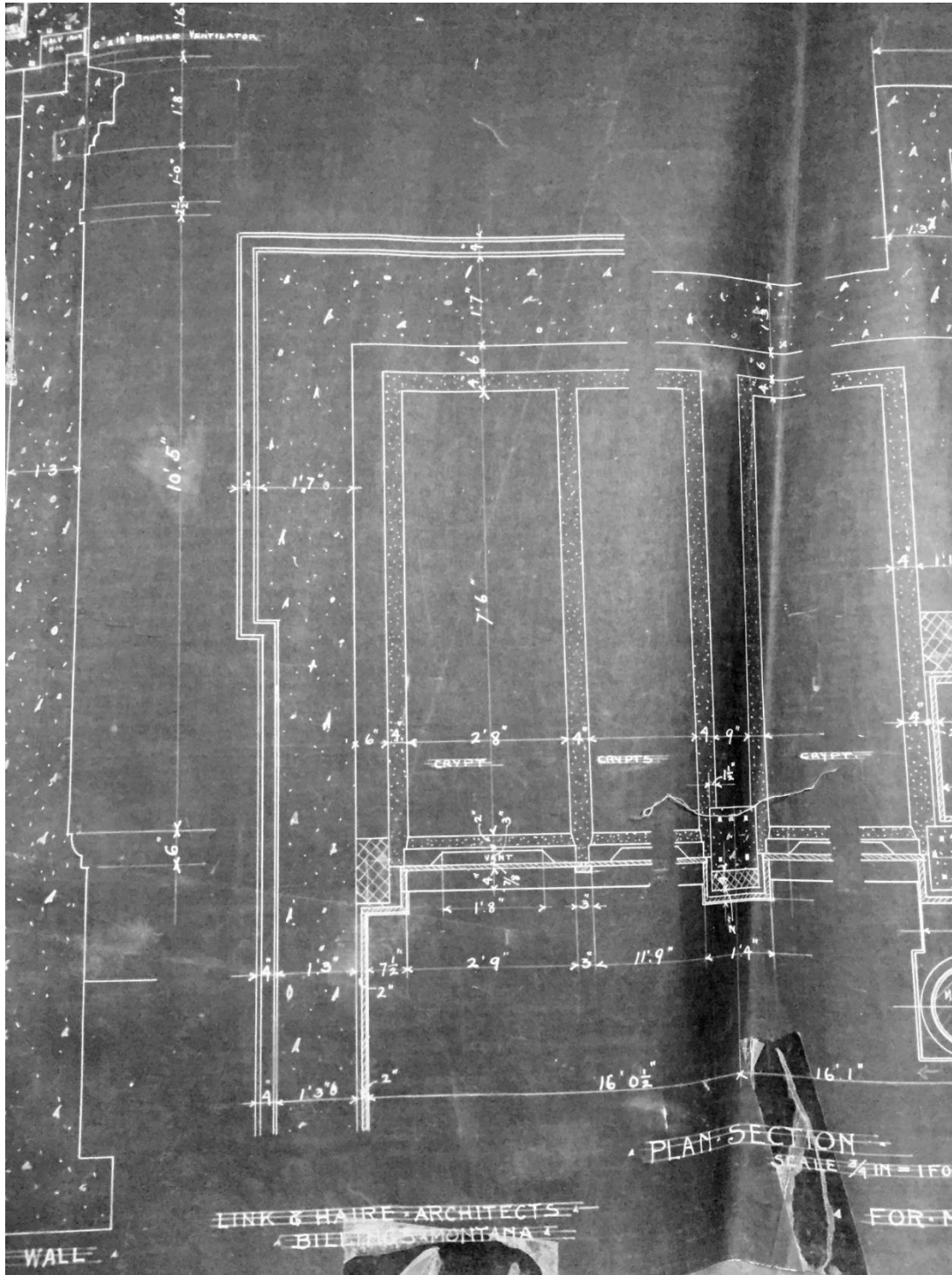
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Billings Communal Mausoleum
Name of Property
Yellowstone County, Montana
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation - Photographs & Additional Items

Page 11 of 14



Additional Item 4 of 9: Architectural drawing of crypt plan of the Billings Communal Mausoleum, c. 1920, courtesy of the Merrill G. Burlingame Special Collections and Archives at the Montana State University Library in Bozeman, MT

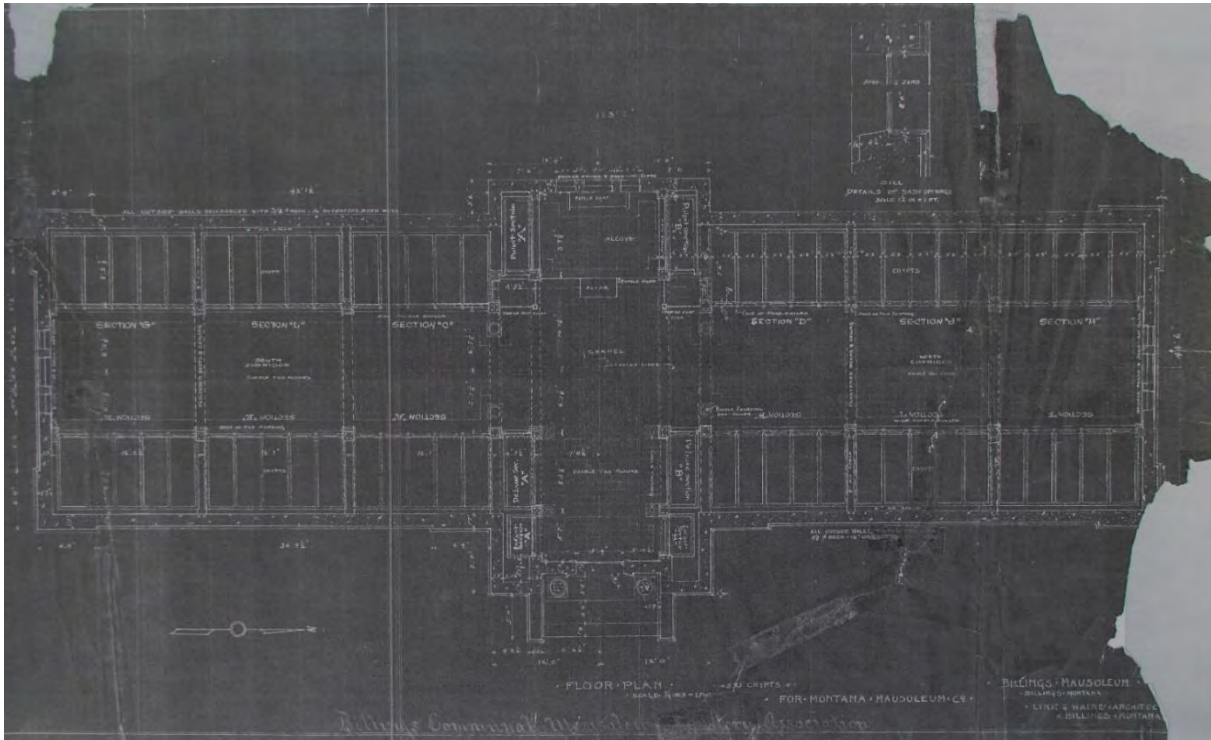
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

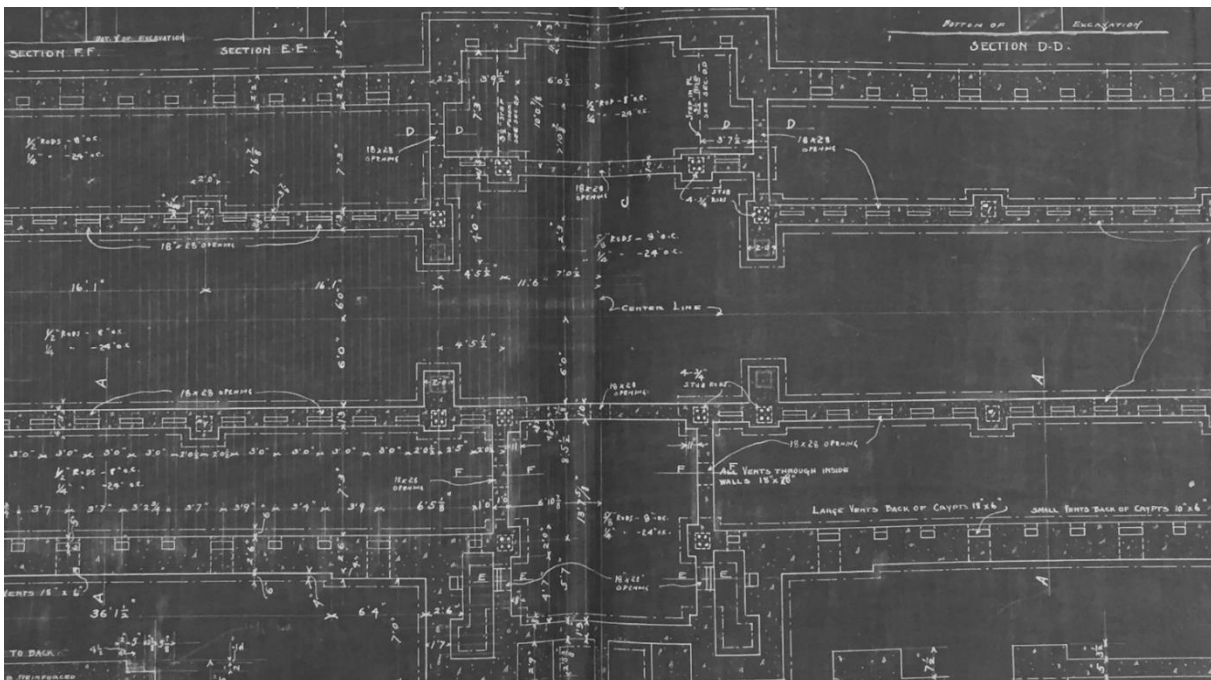
Billings Communal Mausoleum
Name of Property
Yellowstone County, Montana
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation - Photographs & Additional Items

Page 12 of 14



Additional Item 5 of 9: Architectural drawing of floor plan of the Billings Communal Mausoleum, c. 1920, courtesy of the Yellowstone County Clerk & Recorder, Billings, MT



Additional Item 6 of 9: Ventilation system, c. 1920, courtesy of the Merrill G. Burlingame Special Collections and Archives at the Montana State University Library in Bozeman, MT

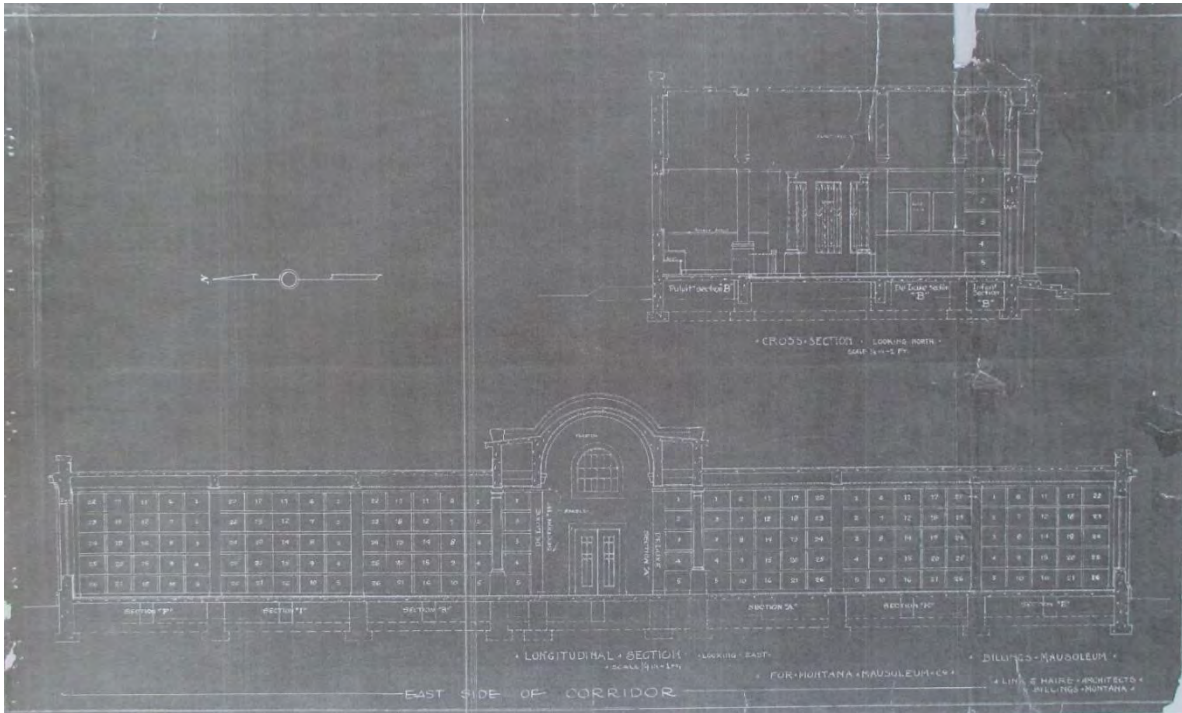
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

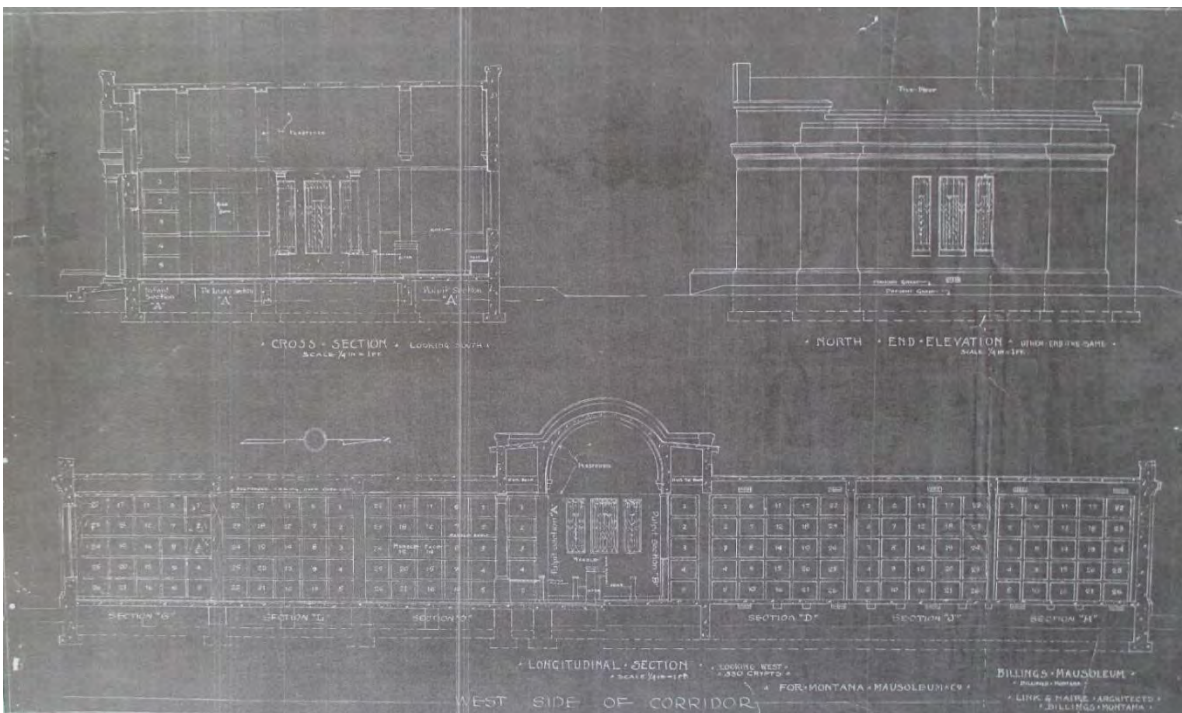
Billings Communal Mausoleum
Name of Property
Yellowstone County, Montana
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation - Photographs & Additional Items

Page 13 of 14



Additional Item 7 of 9: Crypt plan of the east side of the Billings Communal Mausoleum, c. 1920, courtesy of the Yellowstone County Clerk & Recorder, Billings, MT



Additional Item 8 of 9: Crypt plan of the west side of the Billings Communal Mausoleum, c. 1920, courtesy of the Yellowstone County Clerk & Recorder, Billings, MT

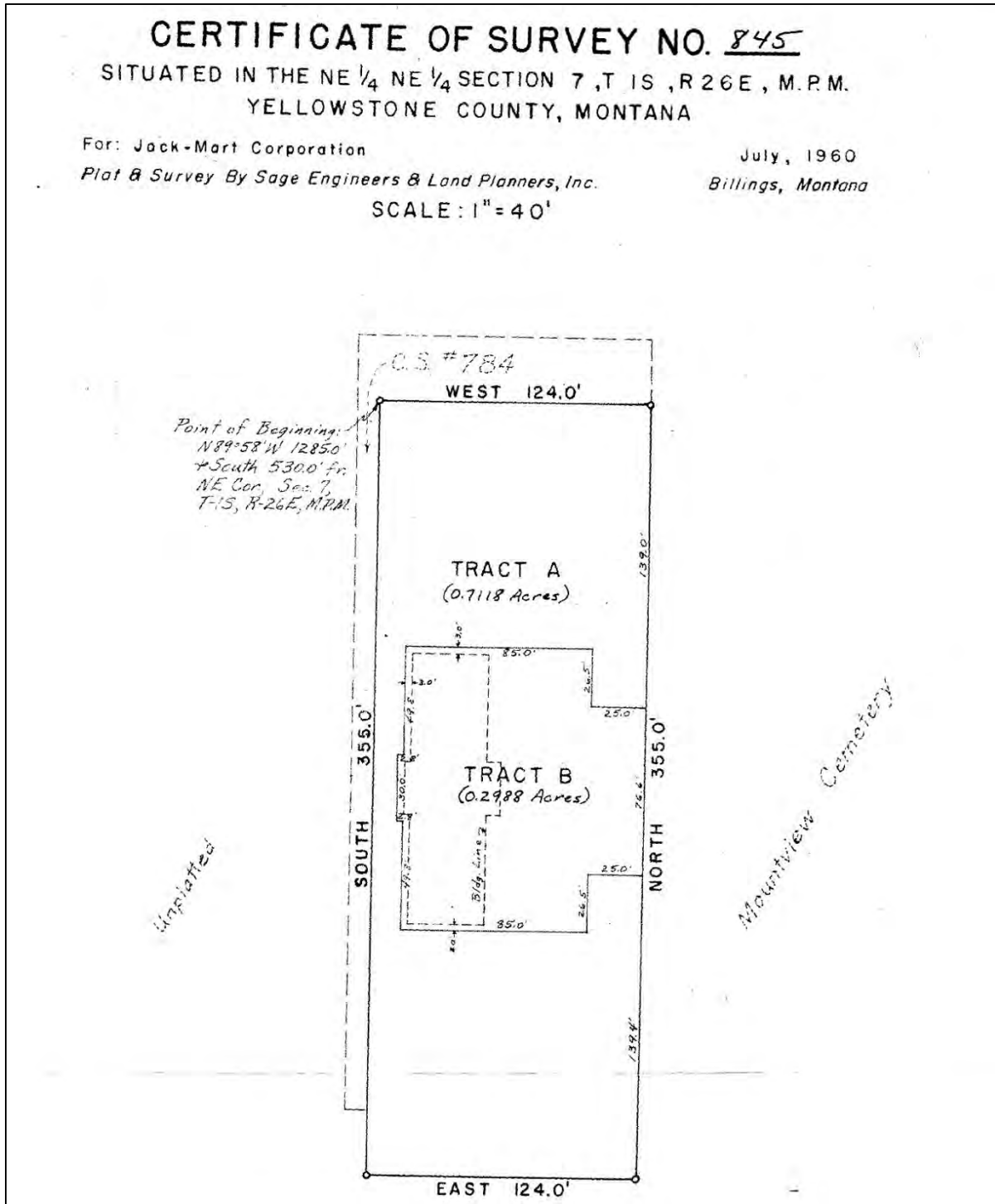
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Billings Communal Mausoleum
Name of Property
Yellowstone County, Montana
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation - Photographs & Additional Items

Page 14 of 14



Additional Item 9 of 9: Certificate of Survey 845, Billings, Yellowstone County, MT

**YHPB Agenda**

**5. b.**

**Meeting Date:** 08/20/2019

---

**Subject**

Montana History Conference

---

**Attachments**

MHC Brochure

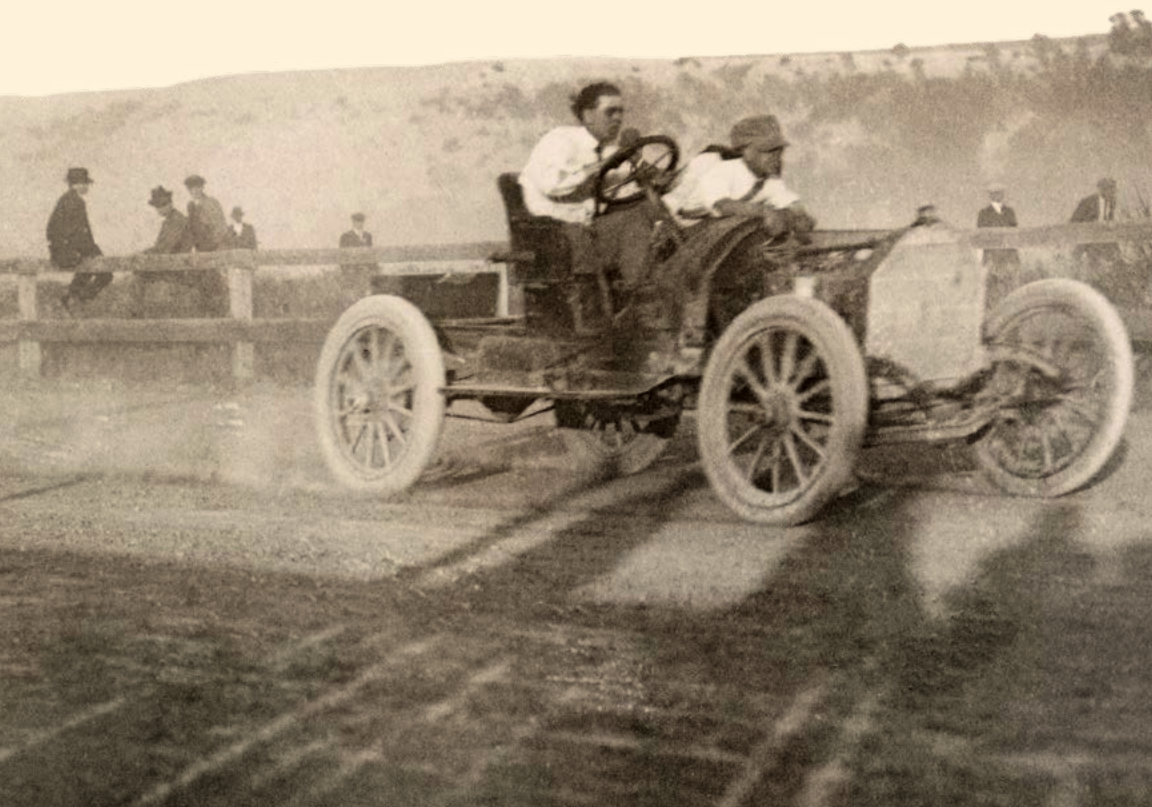
---

# *Keeping Up* with the Past!

The 46th Annual

MONTANA HISTORY CONFERENCE

Helena, September 26–28, 2019





(above) Helena's First National Bank, corner of Sixth and Main, 1930 Leslie H. Jorud photographer, MHS Lot 037 CB B13 (front cover) Early day auto racing, Livingston MHS 940-229

## Conference logistics *(see map on page 26)*

The history conference will be headquartered at the Delta Hotels Helena Colonial located at 2301 Colonial Drive. A block of rooms is being held until August 25. Reservations can be made at [www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com) or by calling (406) 443-2100. **Be sure to ask for the Montana History Conference rate!**

Additional room blocks are being held at a special History Conference rate until August 25 at Days Inn by Wyndham Helena, 2001 Prospect Avenue, (406) 204-3728 or [www.wyndhamhotels.com/days-inn](http://www.wyndhamhotels.com/days-inn). **Be sure to ask for the Montana History Conference rate!**

Other accommodations can be found at [www.visitmt.com](http://www.visitmt.com).

**Teacher credit:** Up to 23 OPI Renewal Units are available for conference attendees. Teachers desiring renewal units may obtain forms and additional information at the conference registration table.

*Keep Up with the Past!* at **#MThistconf2019**.

## Keeping Up with the Past

Welcome to the 46th Annual Montana History Conference. We're happy to have you in Helena where, in addition to the conference, you can visit Montana's Museum at the Montana Historical Society. This comes at a time when the 2019 Montana Legislature approved the renovation and expansion of the Montana Historical Society and funded a grant program for museums and historic properties all across the state. This is truly a time to celebrate our history!



Each year, the Montana History Conference presents Montana's history—the people, events, and milestones that make our heritage so rich and exciting. This year, the conference theme is **Keeping Up with the Past!** That could mean just about anything, and probably will. You can be assured of terrific speakers and tours, a wide variety of topics, and a whole lot of fun with our friends in the Montana history community.

We have had great partners in preparing the Montana History Conference this year, and especially want to thank those who have been with us year after year: the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, the Estate of Patricia Hoksbergen, and the Montana History Foundation.

Join us for this unique and always stimulating conference, and take a deep dive into Montana's past. Enjoy seeing friends also attending the conference who share the love of Montana history. While in the state capital, we hope that you will extend your visit a bit and take advantage of the many heritage and cultural amenities that this historic community has to offer.

Please join us in **Keeping Up with the Past**. We know you will enjoy the conference, and we look forward to greeting all of you—our good friends—in Helena.

Bruce Whittenberg  
Director

**Please note:** The conference schedule is subject to change. Unless otherwise noted, all events will be held at the Delta Hotels Helena Colonial. Admission to the Montana Historical Society is free for attendees throughout the conference.

## Thursday, September 26

---

- 🕒 7:30 A.M.–5:30 P.M. Conference Registration
- 🕒 8:30 A.M.–5:00 P.M. **Made in Montana Tour** (departs from the conference hotel; limited to 20. Wear sturdy boots or shoes and weather-appropriate clothing; lunch is included but don't forget money for beer if you are so inclined).



Lewis and Clark County courthouse and jail (now the Myrna Loy Center), ca. 1900 MHS 953-357

Montana's "Queen City" supports a diverse array of institutions dedicated to the arts. This art-focused tour will stop first at the Montana Historical Society Museum where tour-goers will have time to explore the exhibits that feature both Montana history and art. Subsequent stops include the Myrna Loy Center, the Holter Museum of Art, the Helena Civic Center, and the Archie Bray Foundation for Ceramic Arts, a world-renowned ceramic and

educational center created in 1951 in a local brickyard. After lunch at the Bray, the group will tour the pottery and clay works with longtime resident and retired employee, Chip Clawson. The afternoon tour will focus on local artisans including Earl Fred, a wooden mosaic (intarsia) artist; Emily Free Wilson of Free Ceramics, a gallery and studio for ceramic artists; and finally, Al Swanson at his studio and workshop where he creates handcrafted wooden furniture and decorative fly-fishing boxes. This year's tour will end at the Ten Mile Creek Brewery for a brief tour and an opportunity to taste their wide variety of craft beers.

- 🕒 9:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M. **Educators Workshop** (lunch included)

**No Place Like Home: Teaching Montana History and Geography** The morning session will focus on strategies and lesson plans for teaching Montana history and geography to elementary and middle school

students. The afternoon session will train teachers to find primary sources to complement their lessons and introduce a new primary source–based lesson plan for high school students (and advanced middle schoolers) on allotment and homesteading on the Flathead Reservation.

 9:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M. **Archives Workshop** (lunch included)

**Survival Tips for the “Accidental Archivist”** Are you an “Accidental Archivist”? Someone who has been assigned archives work, but does not have training and/or background in archival studies? If so, this is the workshop for you! Members of the State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) will discuss tools, tips, and tricks needed to help you survive your first foray into archival work. This daylong workshop will focus on gaining intellectual control of your collection, storage basics, collection-level processing, creating user-friendly finding aids, triage-level preservation techniques, donor relations 101, and policy creation. Attendees are encouraged to bring questions and requests for guidance.

 9:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M. **CLG Workshop** (lunch included)

**Annual Certified Local Government Meeting and Preservation Workshop** Each year, members of Montana’s CLG program meet to discuss preservation issues from across the state, update each other on local preservation projects, and discuss organizational and funding ideas. This is a public meeting; all are welcome to attend.

 1:00 P.M.–4:00 P.M. **Cemetery Preservation Workshop**

**Saving Montana’s Burying Grounds** Historic cemeteries provide a lasting reminder of earlier generations, but they are often in a state of neglect and disrepair. This workshop will highlight some innovative technologies available to help locate, map, protect, and preserve historic cemeteries. Preservation officer for the City of Helena and Lewis and Clark County Pam Attardo will discuss preservation efforts at the Silver City Cemetery north of Helena; Ethan Ryan, archaeologist/GPR specialist and PhD candidate at the University of Montana, will illustrate the uses of ground-penetrating radar for subsurface analysis; and Montana History Foundation president/CEO Dr. Charlene Porsild will highlight additional resources available for cemetery preservation training and potential funding sources. This two-part workshop will begin with presentations at the conference hotel and continue with a field

trip to the Silver City Cemetery. Sturdy walking shoes and layered clothing are recommended.

🕒 5:30 P.M.—8:00 P.M. **Montana Historical Society**



**Opening Reception—Flashback: Montana 1969** 2019 marks the fiftieth anniversary of diverse milestones in American history such as the Woodstock, New York, music festival and man landing on the moon. Back home in the Treasure State, Montana’s first McDonalds opened in Billings, high school administrators debated banning men’s long hair (they lost), and Governor Forrest Anderson vetoed a bill that would have legalized “vicious” bingo. So, dust off your bell bottoms and love beads, let your hair down, and come party like it’s 1969! Enjoy heavy hors d’oeuvres and a no host bar while you chat with fellow history enthusiasts about what they were doing fifty years ago. Also, view a new “Montana 1969” slide show

by MHS historian Christine Brown, see moon rocks from the Apollo 11 mission, or go behind the scenes to get a glimpse of treasures from the 1960s (as well as other eras!) in MHS artifact storage. Prizes awarded for the best 1960s attire.

## Friday, September 27


🕒 7:00 A.M.—5:30 P.M. Conference registration

🕒 7:45 A.M.—9:00 A.M. Plenary breakfast

**Pure Quill** Throughout her long career, acclaimed photographer Barbara Van Cleve has used her camera to capture the spirit of the West. Deemed a “Treasured Montana Artist,” Van Cleve has documented western ranch life from the mid-twentieth century continuing through today. In **Pure Quill**, Van Cleve will cover her life story in photography from the beginning on her family’s ranch, the Lazy K Bar, which was situated on the slopes of the Crazy Mountains.

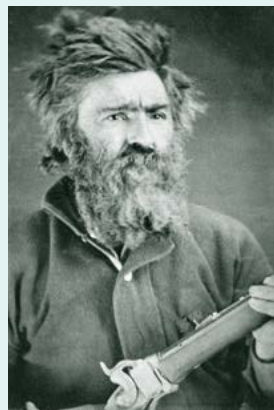


She will trace her photographic journey through its transformation from an avocation into a vocation, her efforts setting up projects whose stories had to be told photographically, and finally, her contributions sharing her vast knowledge with high school age youngsters as well as adults.

 9:15 A.M.—10:30 A.M. Concurrent sessions

**Man-Eaters** In her talk **Cannibal Frontier: The Emeline Fuller Story**, Montana Historical Society editor Dr. Diana Di Stefano will explore the disasters that befell the Utter-Van Ornum Party on the Oregon Trail in 1860. In particular, she will focus on the experience of one of the survivors, Emeline Fuller, who was forced to eat her siblings to survive. Montana Department of Transportation historian Jon Axline will examine **The Sagas of Liver Eating Johnston and Boone Helm, or How to Build Your Reputation as a Cannibal**. Stories of cannibalism on the American frontier are legion. All involved somehow going to the extreme to survive, but a few reputed cannibals really seemed to enjoy their reputations as man-eaters—whether they actually were or not.

**Bad Blood** The reports of Lieutenant William Barrett Pease—Blackfeet agent during the crisis of Major Eugene Baker’s massacre of Heavy Runner’s peaceful and friendly Piegiens—contributed greatly to a nationwide debate about the “Indian Question.” In his talk, **A Thorough Investigation**, Penn State University associate professor of history, emeritus, Dr. Rodger Henderson will examine how Pease’s reports laid the foundation for the Piegan perspective of the massacre, a counter-narrative to the military viewpoint. In **Blood Quantum and the Blackfeet**, Montana state senator and Blackfeet tribal member Susan Webber will speak about how the use of blood quantum—or degree of ancestry—as the sole qualifier for tribal enrollment has impacted the Blackfeet Tribe and families over the last century. Webber will also shed light on what the continued use of blood quantum, rather than other criteria for membership, means for the future of the Blackfeet Nation.



*“Liver Eating” Johnston,*  
ca. 1877 John H. Fouch  
photographer, MHS 943-008

**Fallen Women** Montana State University graduate student Katie McLain will discuss **Hooked: A Historical Look at Women and Drug Use in Montana**. Looking backward from the vantage point of today’s substance use crisis,

McLain will survey the changes over time in drug use, distribution, and enforcement in the American West, focusing on the role of asylums and public health interventions over the last one hundred years. The Extreme History Project director Crystal Alegria will present **A Landscape of Vice: Montana's Red-Light Districts in the Progressive Era**. Alegria will examine the political and social complexity of red-light districts and the women who were, for a time, able to navigate that complexity to prosper in these commercialized centers of vice. As the Progressive Era came to a close and reform movements peaked, however, once-tolerated houses of ill repute were moved out and closed-up, never to reopen.



Lounging prostitutes, Saltsee, ca. 1910 MHS PAC 2002-12.2

🕒 10:45 A.M.–12:00 P.M. Concurrent sessions

**Moving Images** In **Dynamic Montana in Time Lapse: From Early Heyday to the Present**, Missoula author Dr. Doug Ammons will use time-lapse photographs, converted into videos, to illustrate how key parts of Montana have evolved over the past one hundred years. The short, reversible videos illustrate specific changes over time, and are presented with tight background stories in a remarkable method that allows viewers to see how the past has evolved into the present. The Moving Image Archives at the Montana Historical Society currently houses over ten thousand items across thirty-one distinct audiovisual formats. In **The Edmund B. Craney Film and Media Archives: Preserving Montana's Audiovisual Heritage**, Montana Historical Society moving image archivist Kelly Burton will provide an overview of the collections and discuss the preservation steps taken to extend the life of Montana's aging audiovisual history. Clips from recent digitization projects will be shown to highlight the importance of these vital (and entertaining!) cultural resources.



Great Falls broadcaster Norma Ashby interviewing actor Clint Eastwood KRTV Moving Image Collection, MHS MOV 0139

**Montana Medicine Show** Dr. Todd L. Savitt, historian of medicine at East Carolina University's Brody School of Medicine, will discuss **Montana's First Licensed Physicians: Stories and Statistics**. Before 1889, Montana exerted little oversight of those who claimed to be healers. Starting that year, however, the state required all medical practitioners


to register with the newly formed State Board of Medical Examiners. This paper will give a group demographic picture of the doctors who did (and did not) register and tell stories of some particularly interesting physicians in that group. Todd Harwell, administrator for the State of Montana’s Public Health and Safety Division, will present **“The Biggest Public Health Experiment Ever”:** **Montana’s Contribution to the Eradication of Polio in the United States.** Polio crippled children for centuries before the cause was clearly identified and an extraordinary prevention strategy was developed. Harwell’s talk will review the history of polio and efforts to treat it before a vaccine was available, and follow Montana’s use of the vaccine to eradicate the disease during the 1950s and 1960s.



Reproduction of a Great Northern Railway promotional brochure by Robert F. Morgan MHS

**Western Trips for Eastern People** Since 1882, when the Treasure State’s first transcontinental railroad line was completed, Montana has enjoyed connections with the rest of the United States by way of the finest passenger train service on the Great Northern, Northern Pacific, Milwaukee Road, and Amtrak railways. In **From Steam to Superliners**, railroad historian Dale Paterka will present a brief history of passenger trains in Montana illustrated with images taken by noted railroad photographers Ron Nixon and Warren McGee. Early railroad companies quickly realized that the beautiful scenery along their routes would be an attraction to Americans enthralled by the romance of the West. In **The Call of the Mountains: Art of the Railroads**, Montana Historical Society outreach and interpretation

program manager Kirby Lambert will illustrate how advertising campaigns featuring beautiful promotional art lured adventure-seekers—and paying customers—to experience firsthand the spectacular scenery of national parks and other scenic wonders of the West.

 12:30 A.M.–1:45 P.M. Luncheon

**Public Memory and the Mann Gulch Fire: Historical Narratives in Film, Television, and Literature** In 1949, Mann Gulch—located north of Helena on the Missouri River—was the scene of a devastating wildfire

that claimed the lives of thirteen firefighters. Four well-known accounts describe this tragedy: *Red Skies Over Montana*, a 1952 feature film, loosely based on the fire; *Young Men and Fire*, written by Norman Maclean and published in 1992; *Escape! Fire in Mann Gulch*, a 2004 History Channel documentary; and *A Great Day to Fight Fire: Mann Gulch, 1949*, written by Mark Matthews and published in 2007. Each narrative presents the Mann Gulch story from a different vantage. Drs. Brant Short and Dayle Hardy-Short, both professors of communication at Northern Arizona University, will explore these narratives and consider how public memory about the fire emerges in these diverse, readily accessible accounts.



Dr. Brant Short




Dr. Dayle Hardy-Short

🕒 2:00 P.M.–3:15 P.M. Concurrent sessions

**Saints Preserve Us** Founded by Fr. Pierre De Smet in 1841 and set against the backdrop of the majestic Bitterroot Mountains, St. Mary’s Mission played a significant role in the early story of the Treasure State. In **St. Mary’s Mission: Then and Now**, staff members Susan Doverspike and Lyn Graves will explore St. Mary’s history from its origins as “the place where Montana began” to its role as a historic site and museum today. Doverspike will present an overview of the mission’s history from its founding to its closure in 1954. Graves will present the trials and tribulations of preserving historic buildings—which date back to 1861—plus the challenges of creating new exhibits to tantalize return visitors.

**Racing the Wind** In **Running under the Big Sky: Horse Racing in Montana**, Helena attorney and author Brenda Wahler will detail the history of this ancient sport in the Treasure State. Native peoples raced horses long before Euro-Americans arrived, bringing their own racing traditions with them. Whether horses ran down the dusty streets of mining towns or past the glorious grandstands of the Gilded Age, Montanans gathered through prosperous times and downturns to watch the sport of kings. In **Indian Relay**, Kendall Old Horn—a member of the Apsáalooke (Crow) Nation and relay practitioner and advocate—will examine this thrilling sport. Widely enjoyed by men and women from tribal nations across the Rocky Mountain West, Indian relay is an action-packed mix of daring and horsemanship that evolved from traditional practices into a fully organized, professional sport.

**Conflict and Hard Times** In his presentation **Putting “out the fires of discontent”: The Montana Loyalty League’s War on Socialism, 1918–1920**, Montana Historical Society senior archivist Rich Aarstad will examine the battle waged by *Helena Independent* editor Will Campbell against the twin threats to American democracy—the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), who advocated revolutionary industrial unionism; and the Non-Partisan League, which called for the takeover of farm-related industries from corporate control. At the close of World War I, post-war dynamics, drought, and more combined to create one of the worst crises in Montana history. In her talk, **“To Afford Such Relief As May Be Possible”: Montana’s 1919 Extraordinary Session**, Montana Historical Society reference historian Zoe Ann Stoltz will discuss the events leading up to homesteading’s bust and the special legislative session’s attempts to alleviate the looming disaster.

 3:30 P.M.–4:45 P.M. Concurrent sessions

**Living History** Between 1906 and 1926, Charlie and Nancy Russell spent every summer in Glacier National Park at their beloved Bullhead Lodge where they entertained friends and prominent artists, explored the park, and reveled in the rugged beauty of the mountains. In her presentation, living-history interpreter Mary Jane Bradbury will share the story of **An Artist, His Wife, and the Land of Shining Mountains**. In **Shovel, Ax and Bucket**—one in his twenty-part Education Through Entertainment series—Polson performing artist and Governor’s Arts Award winner Neal Lewing will salute the U.S. Forest Service, national parks, and the timber industry. Lewing incorporates music, lies, legends, and a few laughs into a lively and entertaining history lesson.

**A Buried Past** Random burials and early cemeteries lie scattered across Montana’s vast landscape, under roads, fields, housing developments, shopping centers, and other areas. Forgotten dead have surfaced at one time or another in most Montana communities. Such unexpected discoveries make grisly surprises for those unaware of the history that lies beneath. From her forthcoming book on Montana’s cemetery history, retired Montana Historical Society interpretive historian Dr. Ellen Baumler will examine **Life of the Afterlife under the Big Sky**, sharing some of these discoveries, the problems they created, and the stories they tell. In **“With all the Mystic Rites of the Orient”: Chinese Religious Traditions and Burial Practices in Montana**, Mark Johnson—a University of Notre Dame Fellow with the Institute for Educational Initiatives—will explore Chinese religious traditions and burial practices, focusing specifically on China

Row Cemetery in Helena and Mount Moriah Cemetery in Butte. Johnson will examine the religious traditions maintained in Montana's Chinese communities and their cultural practices surrounding death, including the burial rituals, exhumation, and return of remains for reburial in China.



Green Clay Smith CREDIT?

**Men to Match My Mountains** In **The Shaping of an American Legend: Green Clay Smith, Montana's Second Governor**, *Yellowstone History Journal* editor Bruce Gourley will tell the story of General Green Clay Smith, who arrived in Montana Territory a Civil War hero, former U.S. congressman, and champion of the Thirteenth Amendment. As governor, Smith cast a prescient vision for the future of Montana while struggling to resolve numerous pressing territorial problems. Bozeman historian and author John Russell will discuss **Treasure State Tycoon: Nelson Story and the Making of Montana**. Russell will recount the remarkable tale of a colorful and contradictory figure whose influence on Montana's development was profound. After striking it rich in the goldfields of Alder Gulch, Story drove the first

herd of cattle from Texas to Montana, then built a commercial empire of diverse interests, crafted with determination and ingenuity as well as a penchant for fraud and deceit.

🕒 5:30 P.M.–6:30 P.M. Cocktails and conversations

🕒 6:30 P.M.–8:30 P.M. Awards banquet

**Celebrating the contributions of Mardell Plainfeather, The Extreme History Project, and Dr. Larry Len Peterson** The Montana Historical Society's Board of Trustees' Heritage Guardian and Heritage Keepers Awards honor exemplary work, commitment, and effort in identifying, preserving, and presenting the history and heritage values of Montana for current and future generations. The award recognizes those individuals, families, organizations, educators, historians, and others whose efforts have had a significant impact on generating interest in, and the preservation of, the rich and diverse history of Montana.

## Board of Trustees' Heritage Keeper Award Recipient

### Mardell Plainfeather

Mardell Plainfeather's Crow name—Baa Hinnaché, or Always Working—reflects her tireless spirit and dedication to preserving, documenting, promoting, and teaching the history, culture, and identity of the Crow Apsáalooke people.

Plainfeather is an enrolled member of the Crow (Apsáalooke) Tribe, a member of the Big Lodge clan, and a Whistling Waters child. She speaks fluent Crow and is adopted in the Sacred Tobacco Society of the Crow—the original “medicine” of the tribe. She is a member of a Crow Women's Language Club, a small group of women who gather frequently to practice language, have discussions, share food, and do beadwork; they say, “Our language is our identity.”



Throughout the 1980s, Plainfeather was Plains Indian Historian Park Ranger at Little Big Horn Battlefield National Monument, and she taught classes at Little Bighorn College from 1986 to 1988. She spent seven years as Supervisory Park Ranger of Interpretation and Visitor Services at Fort Smith National Historic Site in Arkansas. She “retired” from the Park Service and returned to Montana in 1997 to direct her immense energy toward interpreting and preserving Crow tribal history.

Over the past twenty years, Plainfeather has been instrumental in developing and completing a wide range of museum, tourism, and public outreach projects on Crow history through partnerships with a wide variety of organizations. From public lectures, museum exhibits, and tribal tourism initiatives to extensive oral history projects, articles, and books, her collected work comprises an invaluable contribution to the permanent record of the Crow people. Her 2012 book, *The Woman Who Loved Mankind: The Life of a Twentieth-Century Crow Elder* (co-authored with Barbara Loeb), is the autobiographical life story of Mardell's mother, Lillian Bullshows Hogan. The book is a major contribution to Native American history, women's studies, and interpretive autobiography, and is a groundbreaking work of ethnopoetry.

With great awe and admiration, we recognize Mardell Plainfeather with the 2019 Heritage Keepers Award.

## Board of Trustees' Heritage Keeper Award Recipient

# The Extreme History Project

As noted by Humanities Montana director Ken Egan, "It's tempting to describe The Extreme History Project as the little engine that could, but it's not a little engine. It's a big engine, a game changer, a risk taker, a path breaker." With a small staff and growing list of volunteers, not only has the Bozeman-based



Crystal Alegria

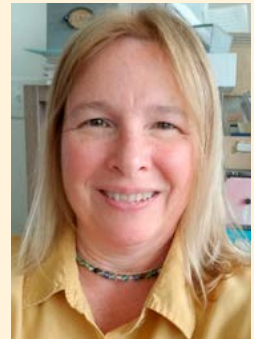
nonprofit achieved a dizzying array of preservation projects, but it has succeeded in drawing attention to overlooked topics while closing the relevance gap between the past and present.

The Extreme History Project was founded in 2011 by Marsha Fulton and Crystal Alegria. Initially inspired by their research on the first Crow Indian agency at Fort Parker, Fulton and Alegria worked to help document Montana's Native American experience. The result was, in 2015, the preservation of Fort Parker along with more than fifteen oral histories with Crow tribal members. Extreme History's work bringing attention to underrepresented communities and overlooked historical subjects progressed exponentially with the launch of its website, social media platforms, and public lecture series in 2012.

Since 2013, Extreme History has championed efforts to draw attention to a wide range of lesser-known histories through both conventional and offbeat presentations that reach a wide audience. "After Dark" ghostly living-history tours, "Red Light" district tours, bus tours, workshops, live theater plays, teacher workshops, and college courses call out hidden-away history and show how it informs us today.

More recently, the Making History Relevant Workshop Series offered three daylong workshops aimed at teaching citizens how to conduct historic building, genealogy, and archival research. Future projects include publication of the *Historical Activist Handbook*, a guide to preserving and promoting "Extreme History" at the community level.

For its energy, commitment, and innovation in exposing history while tying it to current issues, The Extreme History Project has proven its ability not only to *keep* heritage, but to make it thrive.



Marsha Fulton

## Board of Trustees' Heritage Guardian Award Recipient

### Dr. Larry Len Peterson

Born and raised in Plentywood, Montana, Dr. Larry Len Peterson's outstanding efforts to preserve and promote Montana history and culture by writing



beautiful, engaging books about Montana's historic artists is a model for future generations to follow. Through these publications, Peterson has not only dedicated his efforts to well-known artists like Charlie Russell and L. A. Huffman, but also brought to light less well-known, but extremely significant, Montana artists like John L. Clarke, John Fery, and a variety of artists who worked in Glacier National Park.

Peterson has published a prolific eight books relating to Montana artists, and his non-art, 2017 master work, *American Trinity: Jefferson, Custer, and the Spirit of the West*, has won several prestigious awards. The book exposes the history of the treatment of Native Americans by non-Indians and explores the origins, development, and consequences of hatred and racism.

To add to Peterson's impressive record of advancing Montana history, he has gifted the proceeds of his efforts to various Montana Historical Society (MHS) causes. Most recently, he donated the royalties from *American Trinity* to the Montana Historical Society to provide travel scholarships for reservation schools to bring students to Helena to visit the Society. He is giving royalties from his new book on John L. Clarke to MHS to benefit art-related exhibits. Peterson's befriending of MHS is ongoing and extensive. In addition to the above-mentioned support, he has donated multiple copies of both *Photographing the Legend* and *American Trinity* to the Society's Outreach and Interpretation Program to distribute to classrooms and school libraries around the state. He presents public programs at MHS and other venues, and enthusiastically promotes MHS, our resources, and our staff at venues ranging from the C. M. Russell Museum in Great Falls to the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

Peterson's contributions to MHS and to Montana history, and the spirit in which he has made them, qualify him as a true Heritage Guardian.

**Schedule at a Glance** The conference schedule is subject to change. Unless otherwise noted, events will be held at the Delta Colonial Hotel. Admission to the Montana Historical Society is free for attendees throughout the conference.

Thursday, September 26

---

- 7:30 A.M.–5:30 P.M. Conference Registration
- 8:30 A.M.–5:00 P.M. Made in Montana tour (limited to twenty, lunch included)
- 9:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M. Educators workshop (lunch included)
- 9:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M. Archives workshop (lunch included)
- 9:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M. CLG workshop (lunch included)
- 1:00 P.M.–4:00 P.M. Cemetery preservation workshop
- 5:30 P.M.–8:00 P.M. *Opening Reception*, Montana Historical Society, 225 N. Roberts

Friday, September 27

---

- 7:00 A.M.–5:30 P.M. Conference Registration
- 7:45 A.M.–9:00 A.M. *Plenary breakfast, Pure Quill*
- 9:15 A.M.–10:30 A.M. *Concurrent sessions*  
Man-Eaters  
Bad Blood  
Fallen Women
- 10:45 A.M.–12:00 P.M. *Concurrent sessions*  
Moving Images  
Montana Medicine Show  
Western Trips for Eastern People
- 12:30 P.M.–1:45 P.M. *Luncheon, Public Memory and the Mann Gulch Fire*
- 2:00 P.M.–3:15 P.M. *Concurrent sessions*  
Saints Preserve Us  
Racing the Wind  
Conflict and Hard Times
- 3:30 P.M.–4:45 P.M. *Concurrent sessions*  
Living History  
A Buried Past  
Men to Match My Mountains
- 5:30 P.M.–6:30 P.M. Cocktails and Conversations

6:30 P.M.–8:30 P.M. Awards Banquet, *Celebrating the contributions of Dr. Larry Len Peterson, Mardelle Plainfeather, and the Extreme History Project*

Saturday, September 28

---

7:30 A.M.–2:30 P.M. Conference Registration

7:45 A.M.–9:00 A.M. *Plenary breakfast, Blackfeet John L. “Cutapuis” Clarke and the Silent Call of Glacier National Park: America’s Wood Sculptor*

9:15 A.M.–10:30 A.M. *Concurrent sessions*  
The Business of History  
The Formative Years  
A Toxic Past

10:45 A.M.–12:00 P.M. *Concurrent sessions*  
Digging up the Past  
Timber!  
Picture Perfect

12:30 P.M.–1:45 P.M. *Plenary luncheon, Cheyenne and Lakota Women and the Battle of the Little Bighorn*

2:00–4:30 P.M. *Post-conference field trips*  
Medicine and Health from Gold Camp to Capital  
Montana Historical Society  
Hidden Helena

Photograph by Barbara Van Cleave





MHF

THE MONTANA HISTORY  
FOUNDATION



The Montana History Foundation is an independent, non-profit corporation preserving the rich legacy of Montana's past – one story, one community, one project at a time.

Visit our website to find out how we can help  
your community preserve the past.

(406) 449-3770 • [www.mthistory.org](http://www.mthistory.org) •  “Like” us on facebook



**MONTANA PRESERVATION**

**ROAD SHOW**

Once again, it's time to grab your walking shoes, hop on the tour bus, and join us for a Preservation Road Show in **White Sulphur Springs, June 10-13, 2020!** Ride along with historians, authors, professors, preservationists, and archaeologists as we visit historic trails, barns, churches, grain elevators, schoolhouses, downtown storefronts, and more.

For more information, visit [www.preservemontana.org/2020-road-show](http://www.preservemontana.org/2020-road-show)

NEITHER  
*the* LIFE  
OF AN *individual*  
NOR THE  
HISTORY  
OF A *society*  
CAN BE  
UNDERSTOOD  
*without understanding*  
BOTH

- C. Wright Mills -

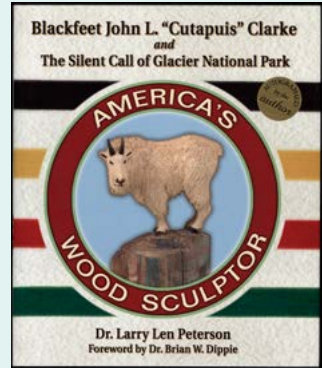
DENNIS & PHYLLIS  
WASHINGTON  
FOUNDATION

# Saturday, September 28

- 7:30 A.M.–2:30 P.M. Conference Registration
- 7:45 A.M.–9:00 A.M. Plenary breakfast

## Blackfeet John L. “Cutapuis” Clarke and the Silent Call of Glacier National Park: America’s Wood Sculptor

Raised at the edge of what would become Glacier National Park on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and robbed of his hearing by scarlet fever at age two, John L. Clarke overcame many hardships to become a celebrated and widely collected artist. He rose to fame by applying his passions for the Glacier area, its wildlife, and Native Americans to the arts of wood carving, sculpture, sketching, and painting. Author Dr. Larry Len Peterson will share the tale of this Blackfeet icon, providing a unique view of the artist’s historical and cultural milieu—a view at once panoramic and intimate.



- 9:15 A.M.–10:30 A.M. Concurrent sessions

## The Business of History

In **The Bone Hunters: New Visions of an Ossified Past**, Montana State University PhD student Casey Pallister will examine the buffalo bone industry of the 1880s through a cultural lens. After briefly outlining the industry, Pallister will consider such factors as who participated in bone hunting, how hunters and non-hunters envisioned their labors, and



Métis bone pickers and Red River carts at the Northern Pacific Railroad yards in Minnewaukan, Dakota Territory, 1886 F. Jay Haynes photographer, MHS H-1702

the ways in which gender roles, racial dynamics, and imaginings of the West impacted the practice and its place in memory. Montana State University PhD student Micah Chang will present **Oasis of the Hi-Line: The Continuity of Sleeping Buffalo Hot Springs**. The Sleeping Buffalo Hot Springs near Saco has been a cornerstone of continuity and community pride for the last century. The popular attraction defied decades of regional economic decline throughout the twentieth century and provides suggestions for how the Hi-Line can continue forward in a time of depopulation.

**The Formative Years** In **Concretizing Montana**, Montana State University graduate student Kirke Elsass will investigate why Montana's built environment has as much concrete as it does. He will also examine the way in which the concretization of Montana—between 1880 and 1910—illustrates the entanglement of peoples' material experience and their modes of thinking, as well as the intersection of geologic and human histories. Bozeman preservation architect Lesley Gilmore will relate **The Life of the LOMIC Building**. Crowning a prominent hillside in Bozeman, the Life of Montana Insurance Company (LOMIC) building is often perceived as a modernist temple, but research reveals that it was not built until 1979, years after its Neo-Formalist stylistic cousins were constructed. Gilmore will unveil how this came to be and why LOMIC vacated the building as early as 1984.

**A Toxic Past** In **An Air That Kills**, *Montana Standard* editor and author David McCumber will discuss the investigative work that he and his partner, Andrew Schneider, conducted into health issues surrounding the mining of asbestos in Libby. McCumber will provide the backstory behind the pair's journalistic efforts as well as the far-reaching impacts their award-winning articles had in uncovering a national scandal. Libby's past was based in natural resource extraction, predominately logging and mining. Today, however, neither industry exists to underpin the economy and provide employment. In **Libby, Montana: Incorporating a Toxic Past into the 21st Century**, Montana State University PhD candidate Jennifer Dunn will examine what aspects of its history Libby chooses to highlight as it re-creates its image as a pristine outdoor destination.



The overflow spillway at Anita Reservoir on the Huntley Project, built by Civilian Conservation Corps workers ca. 1934 MHS PAC 2003-47-135

**Digging up the Past** Montana State University instructor and PhD student Nancy Mahoney will consider **Indians, Amateurs, and Archaeologists: Artifact Collecting in Montana 1880–1950**. Although home to indigenous nomadic peoples for over ten thousand years, Montana remained one of the last regions to attract academically trained archaeologists. This lapse allowed a thriving community of amateurs and avocationalists to amass collections of Native artifacts, a practice that has ongoing consequences for the public stewardship of Montana’s prehistoric past. University of Montana professor of anthropology Dr. Doug MacDonald will examine **Yellowstone Obsidian: Making It Accessible to the Public**. Native Americans were Montana and Wyoming’s original hard-rock miners, conducting extensive pit and trench excavation at important sources of stone, including several obsidian sources in Yellowstone National Park. In his talk, MacDonald will describe the traditional use of two important obsidian sources in Yellowstone—Obsidian Cliff and Cougar Creek—and propose ideas on ways to better utilize these sites in interpreting the park’s Native American past.



*16,130 ft. of Logs, Hauled by Baker Brothers with a Single Team, March 17, 1900* MHS 949-126

**Timber!** Three panelists will discuss **Timbering in Montana and the Evolution of Public Forest Management**. Dr. Greg Gordon, professor of environmental history at Gonzaga University, will examine **Poaching, Politics, and Profits: A. B. Hammond and the Birth of Montana’s Timber Industry**. In the last quarter of the nineteenth century, capitalism and conservation collided in the forests of western Montana, where the practice of timber poaching was widespread. Adept at both political and business manipulations,


timber baron A. B. Hammond emerged as one of Montana’s wealthiest and most powerful individuals. Dale Burk, owner of Stevensville’s Stoneydale Press and a former journalist, will explore the **Clear-cut Crisis: Montana’s Bitterroot Forest Controversy of the 1970s**. Clear-cutting on the Bitterroot National Forest during the 1950s and 1960s, and Burk’s reporting in the *Missoulian* during the early 1970s ultimately led to a major reform of logging practices on U.S. Forest Service lands nationwide. Retired Montana Historical Society library manager Brian Shovers will discuss **The Survivors: The Changing Face of the Montana Timber Industry**. At their peak, Montana lumber mills employed more than 13,000



C. Owen Smithers advertising photograph, 1927 Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives, C. Owen Smithers Photograph Collection, Smithers.46.142.03

workers in over three hundred sawmills. Today fifteen mills with 2,700 employees remain. Shovers will examine the reasons for the decline and the persistence of smaller family-owned mills.

**Picture Perfect** In **Snapshot of the Past**, Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives staff members Aubrey Jaap and Harriet Schultz will tell the tale of Butte photojournalist C. Owen “Snapshot” Smithers, who from 1920 to 1970 captured every event, large and small, in the Mining City. Jaap and Schultz will use Smithers’s diary to share the story behind a selection of images illustrating his fifty years of work. Montana Historical Society photograph archives manager Jeff Malcomson will examine a **Window to Helena’s Past: The Leslie Jorud Photograph Collection**. From the 1930s into the 1960s, the name Les Jorud was synonymous with photography in Helena. Beginning in his adolescence, Jorud photographed his hometown, documenting its people through group portraiture of families, wedding parties, and a wide variety of community groups. His commercial photography business specialized in photographic work for commercial businesses, government agencies, lawyers, and insurance companies, but Jorud also captured downtown street scenes, special community events, and natural disasters. Jorud’s photography not only reflected the life of the capital city, but also helped shape its identity.


 12:30 P.M.–1:45 P.M. Luncheon

**Cheyenne and Lakota Women and the Battle of the Little Bighorn** Dr. Leila Monaghan, professor of anthropology at Northern Arizona University, will provide insight into the important, but little known, material, military, and spiritual assistance that women provided before, during, and after the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Using the testimony of Cheyenne and Lakota women—Antelope, Pretty White Buffalo, Moving Robe, Julia Face, and others—Monaghan will describe the battle as women experienced it: ensuring their family’s safety, rallying




their warriors with “strongheart songs,” capturing runaway horses, nursing the wounded, landing death blows to injured enemy soldiers, engaging in direct combat, and performing rites for the dead.


## Post-conference Field Trips

-  2:00 P.M.–4:30 P.M. **Medicine and Health from Gold Camp to Capital** (transportation provided, departs from the conference hotel; limited to 25. Wear sturdy boots or shoes and weather-appropriate clothing).

From surgery at home and early quarantine laws to the evolution of its hospitals, a healthy Helena has always been the goal of medical professionals and public officials. This unusual tour, led by retired Montana Historical Society interpretive historian Ellen Baumler, will take you to the sites that interpret the history of health and medicine in the local community and the state. Learn about the first deaths in the mining camp, the first cemetery, the first hospitals, and the efforts of the first doctors who battled epidemics in primitive conditions. Discover the early sites of the House of the Good Shepherd, the first Montana Children’s Home, and other places that gave relief to the community.

-  2:00 P.M.–4:30 P.M. **Montana Historical Society** (transportation on your own, 225 North Roberts)

A trip to Helena isn’t complete without a stop at the Montana Historical Society. Come visit with Montana Historical Society curator of collections Amanda Streeter Trum while exploring our new exhibit on the ice age; talk with “Nancy Russell” (Mary Jane Bradbury), wife and business manager of Montana’s Cowboy Artist, in our Mackay Gallery of C. M. Russell Art; and watch selected films from the Society’s ever-growing Moving Image Archives.

-  2:00 P.M.–4:30 P.M. **Hidden Helena** (transportation on your own, directions will be provided. Wear sturdy boots or shoes and weather-appropriate clothing).

You are invited to join the Montana Preservation Alliance (MPA) on a new self-guided tour into some of the Helena Valley’s most spectacular rural historic sites. Participants will explore homesteads, mountain towns, schoolhouses, and other sites not ordinarily open to the public. Proceeds from this tour benefit MPA. For more information, visit [www.preservemontana.org/hidden-helena-2019](http://www.preservemontana.org/hidden-helena-2019).

## 20/20 Vision: Looking Clearly at the Past

**Save the date** for the 47th Annual Montana History Conference,  
September 24–26, 2020, in Butte!



*Lewis's First Glimpse of the Rockies* by F. Pedretti's Sons, 1902, Montana State Capitol  
MHS X1902.04.13

### Thank you to our sponsors!

Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation  
Estate of Patricia Hoksbergen  
Montana History Foundation  
Montana Preservation Alliance

# Helena



## Conference Venues

Montana Historical Society, 225 N. Roberts St.

Delta Hotels Helena Colonial, 2301 Colonial Dr.

# Montana History Conference, September 26–28, 2019

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Street/Box No. \_\_\_\_\_ City/Town \_\_\_\_\_

State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any dietary restrictions (i.e. vegetarian, kosher, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Pre-registration closes Friday, September 20. Limited on-site registration will be available beginning Thursday, September 26, if space allows.**

**Full conference registration** includes reception on Thursday; all sessions, breakfast, lunch, and banquet on Friday; and all sessions, breakfast, and lunch on Saturday. Workshops and field trips are extra, as indicated below. All amounts are U.S. currency.

	Advance registration (by Sept. 20)	Amount
<input type="radio"/> Regular	\$165	_____
<input type="radio"/> College student (ID required)	\$95	_____
<b>Workshops &amp; Field Trips</b>		
<input type="radio"/> Thursday: Made in Montana Tour (limited to 20, lunch included)	\$25	_____
<input type="radio"/> Thursday: Educators Workshop (lunch included)	\$25	_____
<input type="radio"/> Thursday Archives Workshop (lunch included)	\$25	_____
<input type="radio"/> Thursday: CLG Workshop (lunch included)	\$25	_____
<input type="radio"/> Thursday: Saving Montana's Burying Ground	Free	_____
<input type="radio"/> Saturday: Medicine and Health from Gold Camp to Capital	\$20	_____
<input type="radio"/> Saturday: Montana Historical Society	Free	_____
<input type="radio"/> Saturday: MPA's Hidden Helena	\$20	_____
<b>Single Day Registration</b>		
<input type="radio"/> Friday only (includes all sessions, breakfast, lunch, and awards banquet)	\$125	_____
<input type="radio"/> Saturday only (includes breakfast and lunch)	\$50	_____
<b>Extra tickets for guests of attendees</b>		
<input type="radio"/> Extra tickets, Thursday night reception	\$20	_____
<input type="radio"/> Extra luncheon tickets, Friday noon	\$25	_____
<input type="radio"/> Extra banquet tickets, Friday evening	\$45	_____
<input type="radio"/> Extra luncheon tickets, Saturday noon	\$25	_____
	<b>Total</b>	_____
<input type="radio"/> <b>Note: MHS Prospector (\$200 level) Members or higher</b> receive a 15% discount on the total amount. Member #: _____	-15%	_____
	<b>Amount due</b>	=====

**Note: Payment is due at the time of registration. Cancellations received before September 20 will be refunded in full less a \$20.00 handling fee. No refunds can be made for cancellations received after September 20.**

## Method of payment

Check enclosed      Charge to my:  MasterCard    Visa    Discover    American Express

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Sec. code \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail registration form and payment to:** History Conference, Montana Historical Society, P.O. Box 201201, Helena, MT 59620-1201. Or register on-line at <http://mhs.mt.gov/education/ConferencesWorkshops>.

**For conference questions call (406) 444-1799 or email [jlewis@mt.gov](mailto:jlewis@mt.gov).**

Big Sky, Big Land, Big History,  
**Montana**  
Historical Society

225 N. Roberts St.  
P.O. Box 201201  
Helena, MT 59620

