



Sheridan County Historic Preservation Plan

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Wagon Box Monument. Photo
Courtesy of JoAnne Puckett



Story Fish Hatchery

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Eaton Brothers Ranch in Wolf Creek Canyon, 1909.
J.E. Stimson Collection, Wyoming State Archives, Stimson Neg 2603

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The Sheridan Inn

INTRODUCTION

Sheridan County’s cultural heritage stretches back more than 11,000 years. Increase in development and demand for land, general deterioration from age, and lack of funding for maintenance and improvements, has threatened the historic resources of the county resulting in a growing dedication to preservation throughout Sheridan County. In addition, results of the public survey conducted by the Sheridan County Historic Preservation Commission (SCHPC) indicate the community’s desire for the county to be more proactive and strengthen its historic preservation efforts. To address these concerns and strengthen the preservation program, the SCHPC has developed the following preservation plan. The goal of the preservation plan is to identify the objectives, strategies, and policies that will support the continued preservation efforts throughout the county for present and future generations as we continue to advance into the 21st century. As a certified local government (CLG), the preservation plan also fulfills the SCHPC’s obligations to comply with the regulations as stated in 36 CFR § 61.6.

The SCHPC’s implementation of this preservation plan will facilitate Sheridan County to achieve its preservation objectives while enhancing its cultural heritage and increasing the economic vitality of the county. The preservation plan was informed by the vast perspectives of our shared cultural heritage through deep time and across the county. Through public involvement, the SCHPC identified six main objectives for Sheridan County’s preservation program:

1. Promote public awareness of historic preservation
2. Enhance funding opportunities and financial incentives for historic preservation projects
3. Prioritize inclusion within Sheridan County’s historic preservation program
4. Strengthen partnerships with existing local, regional, and national organizations to enhance local preservation efforts
5. Provide appropriate guidance to elected and appointed officials when making development decisions that could affect Sheridan County’s heritage
6. Strengthen Sheridan County’s existing historic preservation program

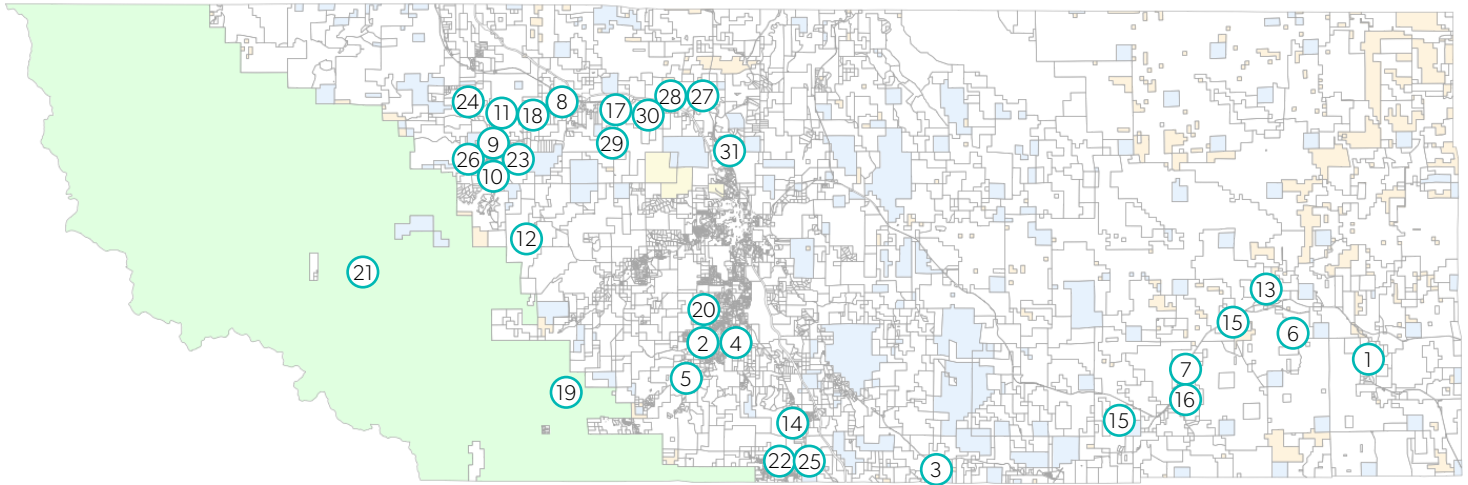
The following preservation plan outlines how these objectives were developed and the technical approaches and strategies that can be implemented to accomplish them. It is important to note that the preservation plan is not a static document, the preservation plan will be amended and improved upon as Sheridan County’s preservation program continues to grow and more inclusive perspectives are incorporated.



Exhibit Hall within the County Fairgrounds Historic District.

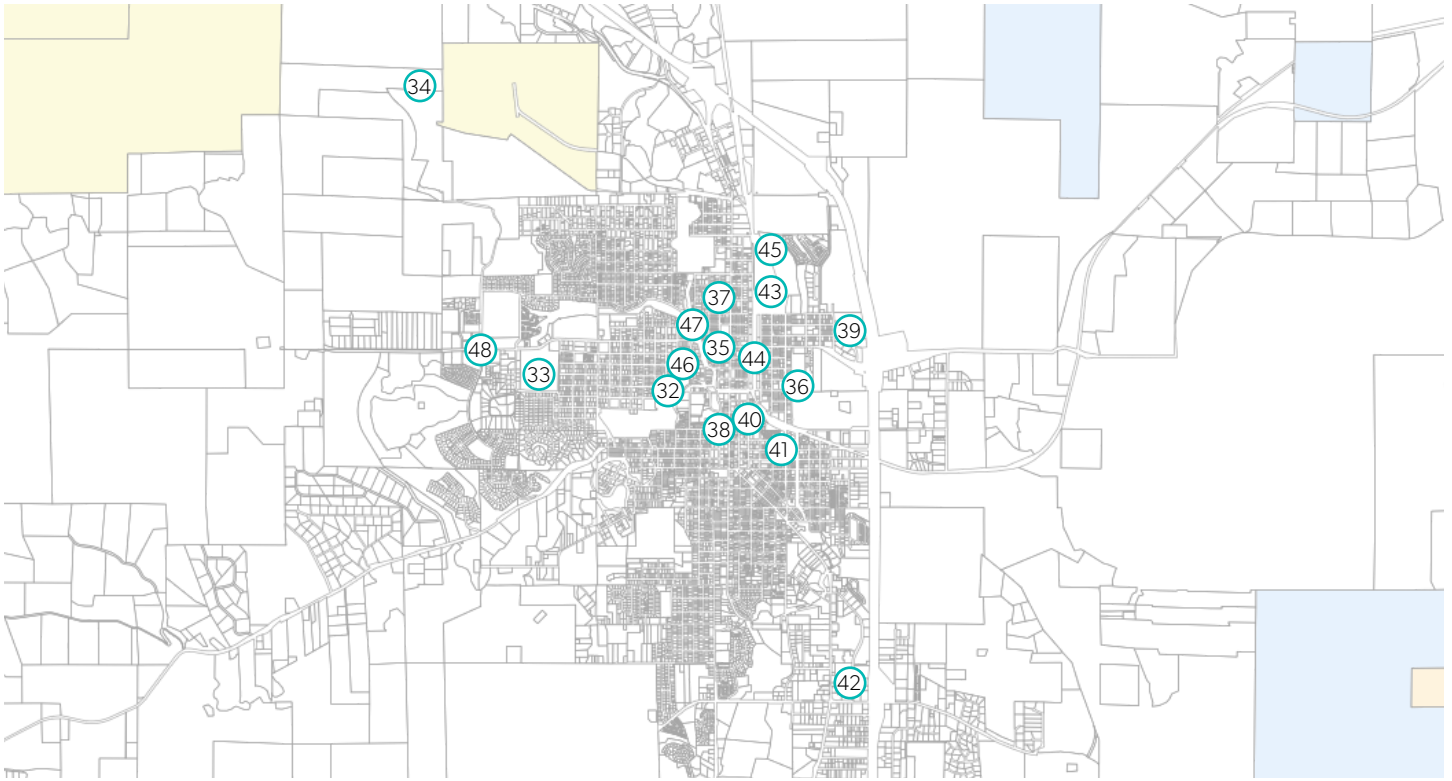
SUMMARY OF SELECT HISTORIC RESOURCES

Sheridan County features a wide breadth of known cultural resources throughout the county. These cultural resources represent the diverse history of the county, from its original Native American inhabitants through to the modern era. This section summarizes select properties that capture some of the diversity of heritage resources within Sheridan County, many of which are examples of successful preservation efforts (e.g. Brinton Museum and the Quarter Circle A Ranch, Huson Homestead, Trail End Historic Site, Connor Battlefield, and Historic Districts). The following includes a selection of these resources and their corresponding location within the county. A more detailed description of fifteen of these resources is included in Appendix A.



SHERIDAN COUNTY, WYOMING 1

REFERENCE	NAME	REFERENCE	NAME
1	Arvada Bridge	17	Kooi Bridge
2	Big Horn Johnson Street Historic District	18	Little Blue School House / Owens School
3	Big Red Ranch Complex	19	Moncrief Ridge
4	Bozeman Trail Museum	20	Odd Fellows Hall
5	Brinton Museum & Quarter Circle A Ranch	21	Sibley Fight at Sibley Lake
6	CKW Bridge Over Powder River	22	Story Fish Hatchery
7	Clearmont Jail	23	Susan Wissler House
8	Connor Battlefield	24	Tongue River
9	Dayton Community Hall	25	Wagon Box Fight
10	Dayton Mercantile	26	Dayton Bell Tower
11	Dayton - Traditional Lakota Camp Site	27	Acme (mining town, part of the Black Diamond Historic Mine Trail)
12	Eatons' Ranch	28	Kleenburn (mining town, part of the Black Diamond Historic Mine Trail)
13	EBF Bridge Over Powder River	29	Kooi (mining town, part of the Black Diamond Historic Mine Trail)
14	Fetterman Fight (Fetterman Battle Site)	30	Monarch (mining town, part of the Black Diamond Historic Mine Trail)
15	Grain Elevators along Highway 14/16	31	Dietz (mining town, part of the Black Diamond Historic Mine Trail)
16	Huson Homestead		



CITY OF SHERIDAN 1

REFERENCE	NAME	REFERENCE	NAME
32	Big Goose Creek Buffalo Jump	41	Sheridan County Courthouse
33	Sheridan County Fairgrounds Historic District	42	Sheridan Flouring Mills, Inc. (Mill Inn)
34	Fort Mackenzie	43	Sheridan Inn National Historic Landmark
35	General Crook Encampment	44	Sheridan Main Street Historic District
36	Holy Name Catholic School	45	Sheridan Railroad Historic District
37	Mandel Cabin & Post Office	46	St. Peter's Episcopal Church
38	Mount View (Brooks Yankee House)	47	Trail End Historic Site (John B. Kendrick Mansion)
39	Museum at the Bighorns	48	Bozeman Trail
40	Robinson-Smith House		



Huson Homestead.
Photo Courtesy of Sheridan Community Land Trust

SHERIDAN COUNTY HISTORY AND CHARACTER

Sheridan County is located in the north central portion of the State of Wyoming, with its northern boundary abutting the Montana State border. The western portion of the county encompasses the northern section of the Bighorn Mountains, while the central and eastern portion of the county is characterized by the high plains and a semi-arid climate of the Powder River Basin. Today, Sheridan County consists of the City of Sheridan; the incorporated townships of Dayton, Ranchester, and Clearmont; the unincorporated communities of Arvada, Story, and Big Horn; and the rural centers of Banner, Beckton, Leiter, Parkman, Ucross, Ulm, Wolf, and Wyarano. Sheridan County's population is approximately 31,000¹.

Sheridan County is rich in human history, from the Paleoindian Period to the present. Archaeological evidence indicates that people arrived in the Powder River Basin and Bighorn Mountains more than 11,000 years ago². These nomadic hunter-gatherers moved seasonally throughout the region utilizing the diverse natural resources available in the varied ecosystems that occur within the area. Between 1450 and 1870, several Native American tribes migrated toward the Powder River Country. Some of these tribes followed the seasonal migration of the Plains bison, migrating onto the plains permanently with the acquisition of the horse, and others were pushed west because of Euro-American expansion³. Some of the tribes who hunted in this region include the Arapaho, Crow, Kiowa, the seven bands of the Lakota, Northern Cheyenne, Shoshone, and Ute.

The first fur traders of record in the area were French, arriving in the 1740's⁴. Fur traders and trappers hunted, trapped and exchanged furs in the Powder River Country. During the 1850s and the 1860s, the Powder River Basin region was the last great hunting area for the Northern Plains Indians, where they lived, hunted, and fought for their lands within the Great Plains. As pressure from Euro-American expansion increased and land treaties were broken, the regional Plains Indians saw their hunting grounds and game diminish.

1 "QuickFacts: Sheridan County, Wyoming," United State Census Bureau, Population Estimates, July 2021, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/sheridancountywyoming>.

2 Kornfeld, Marcel, George Frison, and Mary Lou Larson, *Prehistoric Hunter-Gatherers of the High Plains and Rockies* (Left Coast Press, Walnut Creek, California, 2010).

3 Cynde, George, *In the Shadow of the Bighorns* (Sheridan County Historical Society, Sheridan, 2010).

4 Hardee, Jim. "The Fur Trade of Wyoming," published November 8, 2014, <https://www.wyohistory.org/encyclopedia/fur-trade-wyoming>.

In 1863, the Bozeman Trail was pioneered as a route to the gold fields of Montana, near Virginia City⁵. The trail cut off from the Oregon-Overland trail, near the present-day city of Glenrock, Wyoming, heading north through the heart of the hunting grounds of the Northern Plains Indians. The Lakota, specifically, objected to travel along the trail resulting in conflict and the establishment of forts to protect travelers along the trail. Following the Wagon Box Fight of 1867 and the arrival of the transcontinental railroad in southern Wyoming, offering a faster and safer route to the gold fields of Montana, the U. S. government signed the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868 abandoning the Bozeman Trail, its forts, and granting the Lakota the right to hunt in the unceded lands of the Powder River. In 1874 gold was discovered in the Black Hills and the Treaty of 1868 was broken, and the tribes were forced, permanently, onto even smaller reservations.

In May of 1868, the Territory of Wyoming was organized, with the territorial government organized a year later⁶. Settlers, largely of Euro-American descent, began homesteading and developing towns along the southern tier of Wyoming. In 1878, Big Horn City was the first community established in Sheridan County and later was renamed the Town of Big Horn. George Mandel, a fur trapper, established the first post office in 1881, in Mandel, in what is the present-day City of Sheridan, located where Big and Little Goose Creeks meet. In 1882, in the eastern portion of Sheridan County, the Pratt & Ferris Cattle Company began construction of their ranch headquarters. Sheridan County was founded March 9, 1888⁷.

By 1892, with the arrival of the Burlington & Missouri Railroad, the population of the town of Sheridan grew⁸. Beginning as a farming community, with its relatively low elevation and moderate climate, agriculture remained one of the main industries in Sheridan. By the World War I era the county had added production industries including the Sheridan Brewery, Sheridan Manufacturing Company Flour Mill, and Holly Sugars. A variety of industries in Sheridan County were spurred by the railroad, for instance the timber industry, based out of the Dayton and Ranchester areas, provided railroad ties

5 "A Brief History of the Bozeman Trail," Fort Phil Kearny Historic Site, accessed December 29, 2021, <https://www.fortphilkearny.com/bozeman-trail>.

6 Cynde, George, *In the Shadow of the Bighorns* (Sheridan County Historical Society, Sheridan, 2010).

7 "Big Red Barn a Brief History of the Ucross Ranch and Nearby Buildings," Alliance for Historic Wyoming, published June 15, 2016, <https://www.historicwyoming.org/profiles/ucross-ranch>.

8 Cynde, George, *In the Shadow of the Bighorns* (Sheridan County Historical Society, Sheridan, 2010).

and just north of Sheridan featured coal mines. Immigrants working in the coal mines directly influenced Sheridan County's rich cultural identity⁹. Although most immigrants came from Poland, over 20 nationalities were represented in Sheridan County mines, including Italians, Germans, and Japanese. During the early twentieth century the combined population of the coal sites reached 10,000, outnumbering the City of Sheridan's population of 8,000.

The railroad also influenced the beginnings of tourism, with Eatons' Ranch, known as the original dude ranch, 1905 request for a railroad passenger stop at the town of Ranchester for the ranch's guests¹⁰. Other early tourism includes a variety of recreation opportunities in the Bighorn Mountains. Individual means of transportation expanded tourism to driving routes.

The Black and Yellow Road, today portions of U. S. Route's 14, 16, and 20, was a commonly traveled route in the mid-twentieth century for tourists visiting the Black Hills in South Dakota to Yellowstone National Park in western Wyoming¹¹.

Another venue for Sheridan County tourism is the WYO Rodeo, beginning in 1930, the WYO Rodeo represents the continuing ranching traditions and Sheridan County's western heritage¹². One of the rodeo's main events are the World Championship Indian Relay Races. Relay races have varying origins among regional Plains Indians, and the relationship between the Plains tribes and the horse has remained an important cultural tradition, into the 21st century¹³. After Lucy Yellowmule won the rodeo queen contest, Sheridan established the first All-American Indian Days and the National Miss Indian America Pageant, held during the Sheridan WYO Rodeo in 1953¹⁴. The All-American Indian Days was celebrated with the WYO Rodeo until 1984.

9 Kuzara, Stanley, *Black Diamonds of Sheridan* (Pioneer Press, Sheridan, Wyoming, 1977).

10 Ringley, Tom, *Wranglin' Notes: A Chronicle of Eatons' Ranch, 1879–2010* (Pronghorn Press, Greybull, Wyoming, 2010).

11 Vannoy, Cynthia, The Black and Yellow Trail Through Wyoming. Sheridan Media, September 11, 2021, <https://sheridanmedia.com/news/57853/the-black-and-yellow-trail-through-wyoming/>.

12 Ringley, Tom, "History of the Sheridan WYO Rodeo," Sheridan WYO Rodeo, accessed December 29, 2021, <https://www.sheridanwyorodeo.com/history/>.

13 Old Elk, Hunter, "Indian Relay: American's First Extreme Sport," Buffalo Bill Center of the West, accessed February 15, 2022, <https://centerofthewest.org/2017/07/06/indian-relay-extreme-sport-of-the-plains/>.

14 Nickerson, Gregory, All-American Indian Days and the Miss Indian America Pageant, Montana The Magazine of Western History, published Summer 2017, <https://gregorynickerson.files.wordpress.com/2017/08/all-american-indian-days-and-the-miss-indian-america-pageant-montana-the-magazine-of-western-history-summer-2017-gregory-nickerson.pdf>.



Ucross Barn.
Photo Courtesy of Ucross Foundation

Today within Sheridan County, historic preservation is seen with many examples of architectural structures to historic and archaeological sites¹⁵. Sheridan's Main Street District was enrolled in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1982 and features the brick and stone structures built from 1910 to 1920. In the early 1980's the Ucross Foundation restored the Big Red Ranch, originally the Pratt & Ferris Cattle Company, located in eastern Sheridan County. The Big Red Barn and the ranch house are now working facilities for the foundation and artist-in-residence studios and living quarters. Two of the main Plains Indian War battle sites, the Wagon Box and the Fetterman battle sites, are part of the Fort Phil Kearny Historic Site Wyoming State Historic Site, National Landmark and Interpretive Center. The northern part of the county and west bound U. S. Route 14, that travels through Ranchester and Dayton, is still a scenic byway and gateway into the Bighorn Mountains for recreational opportunities.

15 "History," Fort Phil Kearny Historic Site, accessed December 29, 2021, <https://www.fortphilkearny.com/history>.

ESTABLISHING A VISION FOR PRESERVATION IN SHERIDAN COUNTY

Historic preservation is central to Sheridan County’s cultural identity, which is evident in the long-term dedication to the preservation of the county’s cultural heritage. This dedication is manifest in the many examples of historic properties that have been preserved, restored, reused, and/or protected throughout the county; as well as, through the inclusion of historic preservation in the county’s Comprehensive Plan and the establishment of the SCHPC. The Sheridan County Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2020, was established to guide “County leaders and citizens in crafting the appropriate growth, development, and preservation of Sheridan County” including the “Preservation of our rich history of places and people that make Sheridan County special¹⁶.” The comprehensive plan outlines the goal to develop a historic preservation plan “so that the most effective preservation tools are available with emphasis on incentives and coordination with other agencies and land trusts (Policy 6.2(a)).” As part of the historic preservation plan, the county will “support the efforts of the Historic Preservation Commission.”

The SCHPC was first formed in 1993 supporting historic preservation efforts throughout the county until the commission fell into a period of inactivity. Following several years of inactivity, in 2019, the SCHPC was reestablished “to continue the work of recognizing and preserving the county’s history¹⁷”. The SCHPC’s mission is to enhance and protect Sheridan County’s cultural heritage and preserve the natural environments by partnering with citizens, agencies, and organizations to identify, evaluate, protect, educate, and encourage stewardship of the county’s cultural resources, while adhering to local, state, and federal regulations and policies.

16 Sheridan County, Sheridan County Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2020, <https://www.sheridancounty.com/depts/publicworks/planning/comprehensive-plan/2020-comprehensive-plan/>.

17 Sheridan County, “Comprehensive Plan,” 151.



SCHPC booth set up at Dayton Days (bottom) and Third Thursday (top). Photo courtesy of the Sheridan County Historic Preservation Commission.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND SURVEY RESULTS

Historic preservation is a multi-faceted topic, one where value is attributed to heritage resources on many different levels. Throughout the preservation planning process, planners and managers must carefully consider these multi-faceted values attributed to the respective heritage resource(s) by a wide breadth of stakeholders. Given so, the SCHPC sought public input throughout the entire development of this preservation plan using a variety of community engagement approaches including, holding public meetings in different locations throughout the county, attending municipal government and community organization's meetings, publishing articles with local media outlets, doing radio interviews, sending invitation letters to interested parties and organizations, and a public survey. The draft preservation plan was also available for comment, hosted on the Cushing Terrell Historic Sheridan webpage. The following section summarizes the public involvement and survey results.

Tribal Partners

The SCHPC recognizes the significance of Sheridan County to the multitude of Native American tribes who have connections to this region throughout history and into the present. To develop relationships with tribal partners and enhance inclusivity, the SHCPC invited 27 tribes, with letters sent to their respective Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, asking for their input into the preservation plan. An example of the Invitation to Comment Letter sent to these tribal partners is included in Appendix B and a list of invited tribal partners is included in Appendix C.

The Northern Cheyenne Tribe responded indicating interest in reviewing the draft preservation plan and setting up a larger meeting between the tribes and the SCHPC so that the SCHPC can gain a "greater depth of understanding of the importance of this area and the tangible and intangible footprints our nations have created at various historic places throughout the area. Additionally, other places of significance that is yet to be identified."¹⁸ To date, the SHCPC has not received any further correspondence from the Northern Cheyenne Tribe or the other 26 invited tribes. However, the SHCPC will continue to seek out Native American's perspectives, including those of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, as the preservation program develops.

18 Teanna Limpy, Northern Cheyenne Tribal Historic Preservation Office Director, email to Kristin Campbell, Sheridan County Historic Preservation Commission Chair, October 5, 2021.

Community Partners

Sheridan County has a strong history of historic preservation efforts, owed to the multitude of community members and organizations who have acted as stewards of the county's past. To engage as many community partners as possible, the SCHPC advertised the preservation plan in two newspaper articles published in the Sheridan Press and promoted the preservation plan during two episodes of the radio show Public Pulse where members of SCHPC discussed the benefits and purpose of the preservation plan. In addition, the SCHPC reached out to the municipal governments within the county and several organizations with interests in historic preservation within Sheridan County, including the Story Women's Club, the Big Horn Lions Club, Big Horn Women's Club, Sheridan Community Land Trust, Daughters of the American Revolution, Trail End State Historic Site, Museum of the Bighorns, Brinton Museum, and Clearmont Historical Group.

Public Survey

To determine a baseline understanding of the public's perception on historic preservation in Sheridan County and what is important to individuals concerning historic resources throughout the county, the SCHPC conducted a public survey. The public survey was offered during the summer and fall of 2021 and was distributed by the SCHPC from their booth at the June, July, and August Third Thursday events in Sheridan and in July at Dayton Days in Dayton. The survey was also available online via the Cushing Terrell Historic Sheridan webpage. In addition, the Sheridan Community Land Trust also distributed the survey to their affiliates. The survey was available on the website from July 28th, 2021, through October 15, 2021.

Survey Results

One hundred and ninety-seven people responded to the seven-question survey. The first six questions were multiple choice while the seventh question could be answered in a sentence format. All responses are included in Appendix D. In addition, the public was invited to provide general feedback on historic preservation and the preservation plan, those responses are included in Appendix E. The following summarizes the survey results.

The first question focused on the familiarity with Sheridan County's historic resources. Respondents indicated they are most familiar with "battle sites or historic landscape" (n = 137) and "roads and trails" (n = 103) while they are least familiar with "community buildings and sites" (n = 46), "commercial or

industrial buildings and sites" (n = 46), and "tourist industry buildings and sites" (n = 54). The familiarity of "residential buildings and neighborhoods" (n = 72), "municipal buildings and infrastructure" (n = 71), and "archeological sites or other cultural heritage sites" (n = 70) were nearly equally represented at the median. These results are consistent with the established historic sites throughout the county and region (e.g. Bozeman Trail, the Connor Battle Historic Site, and Fetterman Massacre Monument). Historic battle sites and trails are also heavily promoted aspects of Sheridan County's history that have a wide following of interest. While battle sites and transportation corridors are important aspects of Sheridan County's history, they make up a fraction of the historic properties and landscapes throughout the county. Given so, the SHCPC can better promote the awareness and preservation options of all types of historic properties throughout the county, focusing on those resources that are the least familiar to the community.

The second question asked respondents to rate Sheridan County's recognition and appreciation of its own historic resources between "highly", "somewhat", "poorly", and "neutral". Most respondents answered "Somewhat" (n = 95) followed by "Highly" (n = 78). Results indicate the respondents believe Sheridan County somewhat to highly recognizes and appreciates its historic resources; however, more recognition and promotion of the county's historic resources is still needed.

The third question asked respondents to identify the most important aspects of historic preservation within Sheridan County. A list of 10 choices were provided to help facilitate and respondents were asked to choose three or fewer answers. The top three choices were: "Preservation of the county's historic resources" (n = 119); "Designation of county funds for the maintenance and care of historic properties" (n = 90); and "Community and public education about historic sites and resources" (n = 89).

The fourth question asked respondents to indicate the top three concerns faced by historic preservation in Sheridan County and seven options were listed. Of those, "Lack of support for historic preservation in local planning and community revitalization" (n = 113); "Major alterations or no ordinances for historic properties and/or districts" (n = 96); and "Urban and/or rural development" (n = 91) were listed as the top three concerns.

Results from questions 3 and 4 were the most informative to the development of the preservation plan and directly influenced the SCHPC's objectives 1 and 2, outlined below. Those objectives were developed specifically to address what respondents identified as both the most important aspects of historic

preservation and the top concerns historic preservation faces in Sheridan County.

The fifth question asked respondents to indicate whether they were Sheridan County residents or visitors. Of the 197 responses, 89 percent were county residents (n = 176 residents and n = 21 visitors). Residents were asked to classify geographic location from a list of six options and City of Sheridan (n = 110) had the most respondents.

The sixth question asked respondents to select the three historic places of interest within the county that are the most important to them from a list of 54. The question included an area for respondents to indicate historic sites not listed. The top three resources selected were the Sheridan Inn National Historic Landmark (n = 76), Sheridan Main Street Historic District (n = 70), and Trail End Historic Site (n = 63). Similar to question one, these results are consistent with expectations. The Sheridan Inn, the historic district, and Trail End Historic Site are some of the most prominent historic resources within the county.

The seventh survey question was an open-ended question that encouraged respondents to provide their thoughts on historic preservation. Three examples were provided within, to the first, “Are there historic resources you would like to see restored or protected?”, the two most frequent responses were the historic buildings of downtown Sheridan and the historic locomotive that sits on 5th and Broadway Street in between the train depots and across Broadway Street from the Sheridan Inn.

To the second, “Is there a specific topic or historic event [the SCHPC] should research?”, the most prominent answer was the need for additional research on Native American history; and 19th and 20th century immigrants who worked at the local mines. Other suggestions include: the history of the railroad and settlements along Big Goose Creek.

Finally, for “share any additional information below”, respondents made suggestions on how to further promote historic preservation in the county, including newspaper articles highlighting historic sites and more historic tours, and signage.

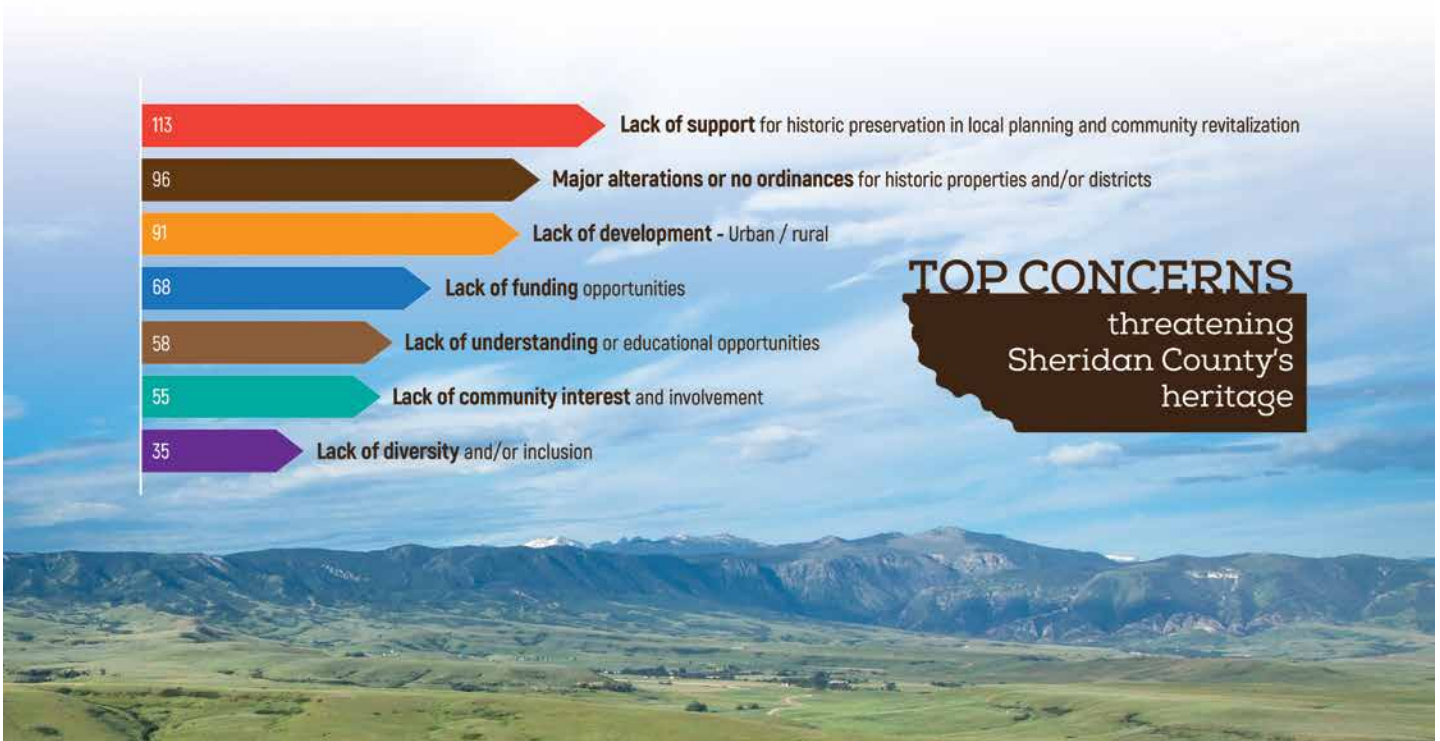
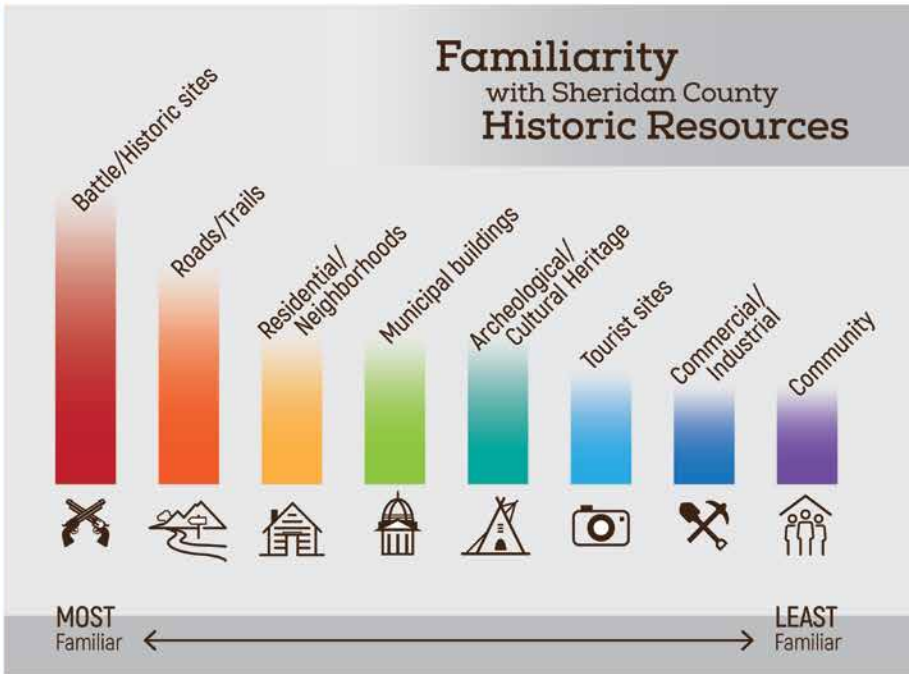
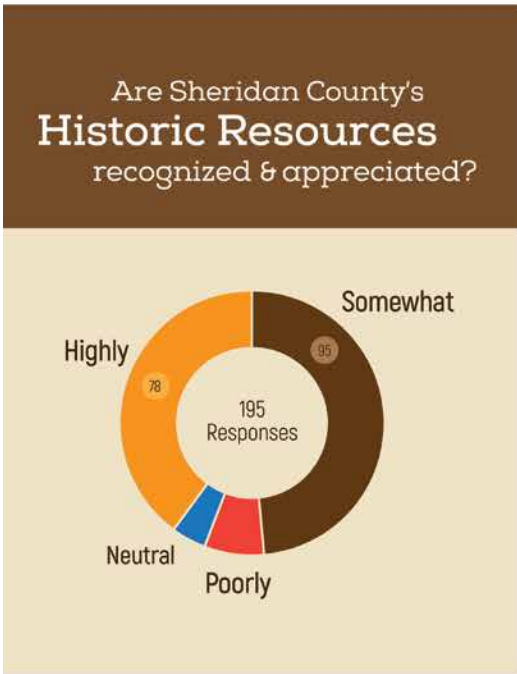
The survey highlighted the past success of historic preservation efforts throughout the county but also illustrated where historic preservation efforts have fallen short and the desire from county stake holders for more proactive and robust historic preservation efforts. Responses from questions 1 and 2 indicate that while respondents are familiar with historic resources throughout the county there are a variety of historic resources that could be recognized through preservation or education efforts. The responses from question 4 indicate a significant perception among respondents that local ordinances and planning efforts have not supported historic preservation in Sheridan County. Coupled with the response to the third question, which indicates that preservation is important to respondents, we see a gap between community values and the perception of planning efforts throughout the county. Responses to questions 5 through 7 emphasize historic resources within the City of Sheridan and could reflect the need to identify and recognize resources located outside of the city.

The results of the public surveys, combined with guidance from the SCHPC indicate three core values motivating stake holders concerned with preservation in the county:

1. The value of inclusive processes
2. The value of providing resources and educational opportunities for community members.
3. The value of processes and procedures for identification of historic properties, prioritization of historic preservation, the creation of ordinances and districts, and funding opportunities.

What You Said...

SHERIDAN COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN Survey Results





Episcopal Church in Sheridan.



Clearmont Jail.
Photo Courtesy of Sheridan Community Land Trust.

PRESERVATION PLANNING OBJECTIVES

The SCHPC's purpose is to enhance and protect Sheridan County's cultural heritage and natural environments while utilizing historic preservation as a tool to create a vibrant economy. Informed by the vast perspectives of our shared cultural heritage through deep time and across the county, the SCHPC developed the following objectives for the preservation program.

Objective 1:

Promote public awareness of historic preservation to:

1. Engage the community in preservation efforts
2. Promote preservation as a tool to revitalize Sheridan County's unique neighborhoods and commercial, agricultural, and natural areas
3. Enhance stewardship of historic resources within the county

Objective 2:

Enhance funding opportunities and financial incentives for historic preservation projects, including:

1. Connecting individuals and organizations to existing funding opportunities
2. Creating new funding opportunities and financial incentives for property owners

Objective 3:

Prioritize inclusion within Sheridan County's historic preservation program

Objective 4:

Strengthen partnerships with existing local, regional, and national organizations to enhance local preservation efforts

Objective 5:

Provide appropriate guidance to elected and appointed officials when making development decisions that could affect Sheridan County's heritage

Objective 6:

Strengthen Sheridan County's existing historic preservation program

TECHNICAL APPROACHES TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVES

The objectives outlined above are tied to economic vitality, historic preservation, and public awareness. The SCHPC will use the following technical approaches to achieve these objectives. The technical approaches include creating awareness of historic preservation resources and opportunities; a strong data collection and analysis strategy; a robust public engagement plan; opportunities to utilize partnerships and funding; and next steps to enhance historic preservation efforts throughout the county. It is noteworthy that any number of stakeholders can take action to preserve the county's cultural resources and that non-profits, municipalities, and those interested in the stewardship of a particular resource can all play a part in implementing these strategies.

Creating Awareness of Historic Preservation

To promote public engagement, stewardship, and historic preservation efforts, the SCHPC will create awareness of existing preservation resources from technical approaches to funding, to educational resources, connecting individuals and organizations with the information and resources needed for their specific interests or project needs. The SCHPC also, where possible, will enhance existing resources or if gaps in resources are identified, will create new resources to support the county's preservation needs. The following section introduces some of the technical, funding, and educational resources currently available to the SCHPC and community stakeholders.

Treatment of Buildings and Landscapes

The National Park Service (NPS) features several programs and incentives to encourage and facilitate historic preservation, including defined standards for the treatment of historic buildings and landscapes. The treatments include¹⁹:

- Rehabilitation — alter to or add for modern use, but retain the buildings character defining characteristics
- Restoration — returning a historic structure to a specific time period through the removal of evidence of other historic periods and/or reconstruction of those elements
- Reconstruction — recreating vanished or non-surviving portions of the property
- Preservation — maintenance and repair of existing historic materials

19 "Technical Preservation Services," National Park Service, accessed February 14, 2022, <https://www.nps.gov/tps/index.htm>

To support these standards, the NPS offers Preservation Briefs to provide information on preserving, rehabilitating, and restoring historic buildings.

Funding Opportunities

The SCHPC will utilize partnerships with affiliated organizations and community services that can aid in funding for preservation opportunities. The SCHPC will consult with stakeholders and organizations to increase public access to these funding opportunities. A section on funding is included below. Some examples of public organizations where funding is available includes:

- Local organization's programs
- Sheridan County or its municipalities
- Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office
- National organizations and foundations

Educational Resources

There are a multitude of existing educational resources regarding historic preservation, these resources range from treatment of buildings and landscapes, as outlined above, to resources for individuals who would like to learn more about the field of historic preservation in general. Educational resources are available from a variety of sources and are aimed at all demographics from school-aged children, adults, practitioners, to professionals. Educational opportunities are available nationally through the NPS, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Main Street America program. Regionally, educational opportunities are available through the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Alliance for Historic Wyoming (AHW). Finally, local educational opportunities are available through several organizations including the Sheridan Community Land Trust and the Museum of the Bighorns.

Community Engagement

At present, the SCHPC has the beginnings of a strong community engagement plan. The SCHPC currently works with local organizations and has publicized activities through traditional and social media. To increase the levels and quality of community participation while building and strengthening trust between Sheridan County residents and its community stakeholders, the SCHCP will practice the following community engagement methods and techniques.

The SHCPC will continue to work with known stakeholders and seek out any additional stakeholders that may have interest in Sheridan County. These stakeholders may be local or non-local and may or may not support historic preservation. The SCHPC understands the importance of understanding a diverse group of stakeholders and their equally diverse values when balancing the preservation needs and ideals for a community.

As the preservation program continues to grow, the SCHPC will use the following approaches to facilitate a variety of community engagement opportunities and events, designed to reach the maximum number of stakeholders while also ensuring quality participation and fostering stewardship and support for the historic preservation of Sheridan County.

Community Engagement Approaches

Community Mapping

Community mapping can be used to allow the community to illustrate how they see and experience their area. These types of projects can facilitate the acquisition of important community knowledge while building a sense of community ownership. Community mapping may be conducted in person or through an online interactive platform for all stakeholders, local and non-local, to participate in the community mapping public engagement strategy.

Street Stalls

Community events are hosted across the county throughout the summer months. These events provide an ideal opportunity to reach out to silent stakeholders that may not otherwise get involved or reach new stakeholders that would be unaware of the preservation goals of the county without the incidental engagement with the street stall. These events have the potential to foster new relationships with the community.

Community Surveys

Community surveys can gain the input from a large number of people in a consistent data that can be used for quantitative analyses. While community surveys traditionally have low response rates, used in conjunction with other community engagement methods can aid in the efficacy of these types of surveys.

Workshops and Focus Groups

Workshops and focus groups are a useful method to encourage discussion among stakeholders that may be less confident to participate in large public meetings. The workshops and groups can also be targeted to specific interest groups, facilitating a more direct focus of discussion. These types of engagements would be ideal to work with the SCHPC's existing relationships with organizations throughout the county.

Public Meetings

Public meetings can provide the SCHPC the opportunity to consult a large number of stakeholders at one time. Public meetings will allow the SCHPC to have an open dialogue with multiple stakeholders and demonstrate the county's openness to receive community engagement and values.

Financial Incentives and Funding Opportunities

The SCHPC will serve as a resource to the community to help direct stakeholders to funding opportunities and financial incentives to facilitate preservation projects. The public survey shines light on the perception of planning efforts in the county and the SCHPC recognizes there is a desire to develop processes that support historic preservation, particularly through financial incentives and funding opportunities. Tax credits, tax deferrals, and grants are three of these opportunities that could be applied to preservation projects and are described below.

Federal Tax Incentives

The Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program offers tax credits for certified rehabilitation projects of eligible properties²⁰. The program is designed to encourage private investment in the rehabilitation of historic buildings. This credit—a dollar-for-dollar direct reduction in federal income tax owed—is 20 percent of the qualifying expenses of rehabilitation for a certified historic structure. For example, if \$100,000 of costs were incurred for the certified rehabilitation of a certified historic structure, the tax credit would be equal to \$20,000. The tax credit eligibility requirements include:

- The Rehabilitation must be substantial; its cost must exceed \$5,000 or the building's adjusted basis of the building and its structural components.
- The property must be depreciable, meaning it must be used in a trade or business or held for the production of income.

The Wyoming SHPO supports tax credit projects throughout the state, not only serving as the liaison between the property owner and the NPS, but by providing technical assistance and information on using these tax credits.

Local Property Tax Breaks and Delays

Property tax breaks are used by many municipalities in coordination with state governments. These tax breaks or delays can compensate building owners caring for designated historic properties. These advantages can also begin after the restoration of a property when resulting property tax increases (due to a higher property value) are delayed for several years.

²⁰ "Historic Preservation Tax Incentives," National Park Service, accessed February 4, 2022, <https://www.nps.gov/tps/tax-incentives/taxdocs/about-tax-incentives-2012.pdf>.

Rebates such as these may be connected to ordinances regulating the right to demolish or alter the property and are intended to compensate owners for these constraints on the use of their property. Houston, Texas for example has a property tax exemption program that delays taxes for 10 to 15 years for designated historic buildings if the cost of the rehabilitation is 50 percent or more of the building’s value.²¹ In Florida, there is a property tax exemption of as much as 100 percent of the assessed improvements resulting from the rehabilitation of a qualified historic property. This is done by state statute, and it is up to counties or municipalities to adopt the relevant ordinance. This sort of structure allows for local control (local leaders to decide if they will participate) but creates a state-level funding mechanism to support the ordinance for those municipalities that offer the tax exemption.

Grants

The SCHPC will maintain good standing as a CLG of the Wyoming SHPO, and as such will be eligible to apply for Historic Preservation Funds. To apply, the CLG must provide 40 percent of the total project cost with either cash or in-kind contribution and the Wyoming SHPO will potentially match as a reimbursement grant²². CLG grants are available for the following types of projects: education opportunities for municipalities, local governments, and the public; survey or inventory; National Register nominations; and preservation planning, such as strategic plans, feasibility studies, ordinance development, and zoning review.

Also available through the Wyoming SHPO is the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant which supports the rehabilitation of historic buildings on rural historic main streets and/or commercial districts in Wyoming²³. Other grants may become available through federal and state programs that may be facilitated by the Wyoming SHPO. The SCHPC will continue to communicate with the Wyoming SHPO to stay informed about all existing and new grant opportunities in which they facilitate.

There are a multitude of grant opportunities available across the U.S. that support historic preservation efforts, examples include the Main Street Façade Improvement Grant; National Trust Preservation Funds, including the

21 Norman Tyler, Ilene Tyler, and Ted J. Ligibel, *Historic Preservation*, 3rd ed. (New York; London: W. W. Norton & Company, 2018).

22 “CLG Grants,” Wyoming SHPO, accessed February 14, 2022, <https://wyoshpo.wyo.gov/index.php/programs/community-preservation-program-clg/clg-grants>.

23 “Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants Program,” Wyoming SHPO, accessed February 14, 2022, <https://wyoshpo.wyo.gov/index.php/programs/paul-bruhn-historic-revitalization-program>.

Battlefield Fund, Emergency/Intervention Funding, Hart Family Fund for Small Towns, and National Fund for Sacred Places; and Daughters of the American Revolution Historic Preservation Grants.

Data Collection and Analysis Strategy

Identification, documentation, and evaluation are foundational to the SCHPC’s preservation efforts. With basic knowledge of existing heritage resources within the community, the SCHPC can proactively plan for the protection of those resources and make recommendations for their preservation prior to those respective resources being threatened by development, demolition, or alterations. In addition, as a CLG, the SCHPC must “maintain a system of survey and inventory” that is compatible with statewide inventories as stated in 36 CFR § 61.6(e)(3). To accomplish this goal the SCHPC will apply the following strategy to inventory, document, and evaluate historic properties throughout the county. To ensure compatibility with statewide inventories, in general, the strategy follows the standards and guidelines set forth by the Wyoming SHPO. The strategy will allow the SHCPC to begin developing and implementing the historic preservation program while continuing to identify heritage resources throughout the county.



Step 1: Identify

To fully understand the heritage of Sheridan County, the SCHPC will incorporate strategies from the four Classes of Inventory defined by the Wyoming SHPO, these include Existing Data inventories (Class I), Sampling Field Inventory (Class II), Intensive Field Inventory (Class III), and Reconnaissance Inventory. These inventories will allow the SCHPC, to the extent possible, to identify all structures, areas, and districts of significance and archaeological sites that lie within the county. The SCHPC will incorporate strategies including public consultation and probability modeling to inform inventory planning and development. The Sheridan County public is invaluable to understanding, identifying, and accessing historic properties within the county and should be consulted to develop inventory strategies. Probability models should be developed based on the results of a detailed historic context of the county and information gathered from multimedia sources including Sheridan County's Geographic Information System interactive map that provides information on property ownership and building construction dates. These models will allow the SCHPC to quickly identify the resources that are likely to hold the most significance to the community allowing these resources to be addressed immediately while the SCHPC continues to document all other resources outside of the highest probability areas. The SCHPC plans to utilize the Wyoming SHPOs WyoTrack system to document the extent and results of the respective inventories.

See Step 2 for intangible cultural heritage.

Step 2: Document

To ensure consistency and professional standards in documentation of historic properties, the SCHPC will generally follow the Resource Definitions and Recording Guidelines established by the Wyoming SHPO. The inventories should also include those resources that are no longer extant and any documentation that exists for that resource. When historic properties are identified, the SCHPC will document the respective resources using the Wyoming Cultural Properties Form and any applicable attachments through the Wyoming SHPO's WyoTrack system.

As most of the buildings and land within Sheridan County are privately owned, to assist the SCHPC in accessing private property to identify historic resources, the SCHPC may use a Landowner Questionnaire. These questionnaires would allow landowners to grant access permission to representatives of the SCHPC, or consultants on their behalf, to document any cultural resources identified on the property. This form will also provide

landowners the opportunity to self-report on any known historic resources known on their property.

Like tangible cultural heritage, to ensure consistency and professional standards for identification and documentation of intangible cultural heritage, the SCHPC will follow the established guidelines, protocols, and standards for identifying and inventorying intangible cultural heritage as recommended by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Step 3: Evaluation

Congruent with the identification and documentation of historic resources, to ensure consistency and professional standards of evaluation, the SCHPC will follow the NPS's criteria of evaluation for the NRHP and those set forth by the Wyoming SHPO, and for intangible cultural heritage, those guidelines detailed by UNESCO.

Evaluation will also include assessing the current and future needs of each resource. This will help the SCHPC identify what resources that are at most risk and require immediate attention.

Municipal Government Partnership

The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is the general administrative body for Sheridan County government. The county also encompasses four incorporated communities, each with their own local governments. The BOCC and these councils, commissions, and committees are responsible for planning, zoning, and creating and enforcing local ordinances. These municipal governments consistently work on projects, development, planning, zoning, and ordinances that involve, impact, or influence the county's heritage and historic properties. Given so, it is paramount that the SCHPC establishes appropriate guidance to elected and appointed officials when making development decisions that could affect Sheridan County's heritage. These municipal governments include:

Sheridan County

- Board of County Commissioners
- Planning and Zoning Commission
- Historic Preservation Commission

City of Sheridan

- City Council
- Planning Commission
- Tree Board
- Board of Adjustment
- Sheridan Public Arts Committee
- Sheridan Travel and Tourism

Town of Dayton

- Town Council
- Planning Committee

Town of Ranchester

- Town Council
- Planning Commission

Town of Clearmont

- Town Council

A procedural framework is needed that allows the SCHPC to be made aware of development proposals so that it can make informed recommendations to the various commissions, boards, and committees. Codifying this step of gathering SCHPC input into the bylaws of these delegations is recommended, though these processes may be instituted initially by mutual agreement. Participation in these decision-making processes is a way to include the value of cultural resources in planning and development decisions throughout the county. In addition, development of historic preservation and demolition ordinances within these municipalities would add additional protection to the county's heritage resources.



Wooden Train depot.
Photo Courtesy of Sheridan Community Land Trust

PRESERVATION TOOLS AND INCENTIVES

Sheridan County residents and organizations have a strong tradition in historic preservation, which is apparent in the prevalence of local organizations that feature programs, incentives, and values concerning historic preservation and those private property owners who have made historic preservation a priority during the investments to their property. The SCHPC seeks to cultivate this stewardship by enhancing the preservation tools and incentives available to Sheridan County property and business owners. The following section includes a selection of local and statewide organizations where historic preservation is central to their respective mission and details the available historic preservation tools and incentives they provide. The section is followed by an introduction of the current tools and incentives available within Sheridan County, how those programs can be enhanced, and viable tools and incentives that, if developed could support historic preservation efforts throughout the County.

Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office

“The Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office manages a variety of programs to document, preserve, and promote the heritage of Wyoming²⁴.” These programs are designed for the public, professionals, CLGs, and any individuals or organizations interested in historic preservation.

Through the Community Preservation program, the Wyoming SHPO coordinates the CLGs across the state, ensuring that the CLGs comply with the regulations as stated in 36 CFR § 61.6(e) and any requirements at the state level.

The Wyoming SHPO provides CLGs:

- Technical assistance
- Training opportunities
- Networking opportunities
- State and federal support for preservation communities
- Grant Funding
- Technical assistance

²⁴ “Programs,” Wyoming SHPO, accessed February 14, 2022, <https://wyoshpo.wyo.gov/index.php/programs>.

Additional preservation programs, documents, and services include:

- Wyoming Cultural Records Office and the online WyoTrack database
- Tax Credits—the Wyoming SHPO service as the liaison between the NPS and the property owner.
- Wyoming Archaeological Site Stewardship program
- Wyoming Centennial Farm & Ranch program
- Planning and Historic Contexts
- Wyoming State Preservation Plan
- Review and Consultation

To maintain certification and follow regulations the SCHPC must:

- Maintain a historic preservation commission or board
- Enforce a local preservation ordinance or resolution
- Survey and inventory historic properties
- Provide opportunities for public participation
- Submit an annual report

Downtown Sheridan Association

The Downtown Sheridan Association (DSA), which is an accredited Main Street America, seeks to “preserve, enhance, and promote historic downtown Sheridan to ensure future prosperity.²⁵” Since its founding in 1985, the DSA has promoted preservation-based economic development to build a thriving economy within downtown Sheridan. As the county seat, the historic buildings in downtown Sheridan are prime contributors to the overall historic fabric of Sheridan County’s urban districts and is the economic core of the county. The DSA District Boundary encompasses the downtown core of the City of Sheridan, including the NRHP-listed Sheridan Main Street (48SH686) and most of the Sheridan Railroad District (48SH1435) historic districts.

25 “Incentives.” Downtown Sheridan Association, accessed February 14, 2022, <https://downtownsheridan.org/incentives/>.

For the buildings and businesses within the DSA’s District Boundary, the DSA offers:

- Free Design Consultation Program which provides building owners and tenants free consultation with an architect and/or interior designer.
- Small Business Loan Program which provides low interest loans for small business property improvements
- Design guidelines for the commercial buildings within historic downtown Sheridan
- Recommended Guidelines for Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings and Compatible New Construction within the Sheridan Railroad Historic District

In addition, a memorandum of understanding between the BOCC and the DSA has established that the DSA will provide administrative support to facilitate the SCHPC operations and will provide space for SCHPC meetings and files at no cost to the county. The DSA’s Design Committee also works closely with the SCHPC.

Sheridan Community Land Trust

The Sheridan Community Land Trust (SCLT) strives to preserve Sheridan County’s heritage of open spaces, healthy rivers and creeks, working ranches, wildlife habitat, and vibrant history, while expanding recreation opportunities to connect people with the places they love²⁶. Through their historical programs, the SCLT works to tell Sheridan County’s local and regional history through the lens of its natural resources, landscapes, and diverse cultures. This program offers community members and visitors of Sheridan insight about local history and the heritage of regional Native Americans. The SCLT’s historical program includes two main elements.

Explore History program that combines:

- In-person and virtual tours of historic sites, landscapes, and districts
- Interpretive signs
- Community presentations

26 Sheridan Community Land Trust, accessed February 14, 2022, <https://sheridanclt.org/>.

Historic Preservation Easements (HPE):

These easements offer protection of historic properties through restrictions on the types of renovations that can be made to a historic building to prevent changes to the historic integrity of the respective building or site. HPE are voluntary easements between the property owner and the SCLT and can be perpetual or set for a term of years. SCLT monitors the easement annually. Incentives for HPE's include:

- Protection of a significant historic property
- Easements are custom crafted to meet the specific needs of the property and to protect a historical site or the architectural and historic integrity of all or historic architectural features of the building
- Property owners continue to own and manage the property
- A perpetual historic preservation easement may qualify for tax advantages for the property owner

The impact of SCLT's HPE program is evident in the protection of two iconic Sheridan County properties, the Sheridan Inn and the Huson Homestead. The easement on the Sheridan Inn, which is a National Historic Landmark, is the first historical easement in the State of Wyoming and the Huson Homestead was protected through joint conservation and historical preservation easements, which together protect both the homestead and its associated ranchlands.

Wyoming Room at the Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library

The Wyoming Room at the Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library has an extensive collection of local history, western history, and genealogical sources available to the public²⁷. The collections include both print and digital sources, maps, audio recordings, and film recordings.

27 "The Wyoming Room," Sheridan County Public Library System, accessed February 14, 2022, <http://www.sheridanwyolib.org/the-wyoming-room/>.

Alliance for Historic Wyoming

The AHW is dedicated to protecting Wyoming’s historic and cultural resources in both the built and natural environments — “respecting the story of past generations and enriching our lives for the future.”²⁸ As a 501(c)(3) organization that collaborates with individuals, organizations, and state and local governments to ensure the places that represent our cultural heritage survive, the AHW provides several services to its members:

- Educational workshops
- Provides advocacy for historic preservation issues across the state, from legislative interests to threatened resources, among others
- Consultation services to assist with specific preservation goals, from historic rehabilitation, NRHP nominations, and beyond
- Preservation Toolkit for the preservation of historic schools

Additional Organizations with Preservation Interests

Several additional local, regional, and national organizations and governments have programs or other interests in historic preservation within Sheridan County. Although not detailed above, these organizations interests align with the mission and objectives of the SCHPC; and, as such, should be recognized for their historic preservation efforts in the region, their institutions should be promoted, and the tools and incentives they offer should be employed to enhance preservation efforts throughout Sheridan County. The SCHPC will work to establish partnerships with these organizations to add other historic resource opportunities. These organizations include:

- Big Horn Historical Association
- Bozeman Trail Museum
- Brinton Museum
- Clearmont Historical Group
- Colonial Dames
- Connor Battlefield Historic Site
- Daughters of the American Revolution

²⁸ Alliance for Historic Wyoming, accessed February 14, 2022, <https://www.historicwyoming.org/>.

- Don King Museum
- Fort Fetterman Historic Site
- Fort Phil Kearny/Bozeman Trail Association
- Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum
- Kleiber Studio Museum
- Main Street America
- National Trust for Historic Places
- Our Montana
- Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library, Wyoming Room
- Sheridan County Conservation District
- Story Centennial Museum
- Trail End Historic Site
- Tribal Historic Preservation Offices
- Wyoming Archaeological Society — Sheridan and Johnson County Chapter
- Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists
- Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund
- Wyoming State Parks
- Wyoming State Historical Society — Sheridan County Chapter



Connor Battlefield.
Photo Courtesy of Sheridan Community Land Trust.

NEXT STEPS TO ENHANCE PRESERVATION EFFORTS THROUGHOUT SHERIDAN COUNTY

As detailed above, Sheridan County has a multitude of preservation tools and incentives currently available to residents and community stakeholders. However, an increase in development and demand throughout Sheridan County has threatened or put at risk the historic character of the county. Therefore, it is important to balance the economic demands of the county with the desire and need to maintain its historic character. To effectively balance these needs, as part of the preservation program, the SCHPC will explore the development of the following preservation tools and incentives: historic context, design guidelines, a heritage tourism management plan, resiliency plan, and preservation code. These documents would be designed in a way that would be easily adapted to the resource specific needs identified through the implementation of the data collection and analysis strategy and community outreach strategies included in the preservation plan.

Historic Context

To provide a baseline understanding of the prehistory and history of Sheridan County, the SCHPC plans to develop a detailed historic context of the county. This context will use existing documentation regarding the Native American occupation of the area, from the Paleoindian Period to the present, and the historic age to modern occupation of the area. The context will tie in the importance of Sheridan County's prehistoric history, to the events leading up to and including the Plains Indian Wars and the gold rush, to Sheridan County's history in agriculture. The context will allow the SHCPC to evaluate the significance of the historic resources to both the local community and residents and the regional trends, events, and people. As the SCHPC moves forward with the data collection and analysis strategy, the historic context can be expanded upon, eventually ending in, for all intents and purposes, a complete history of Sheridan County.

Design Guidelines

Design guidelines will ensure that the increased development throughout the county does not negatively impact the historic character of Sheridan County. The design guidelines will provide property owners, residents, and prospective property owners or residents clear, concise guidance and requirements to follow when planning for all proposed alterations, maintenance, new construction, and demolition projects for new or existing buildings, features, and landscaping within the historic neighborhoods and rural areas of Sheridan County. These design guidelines will protect and reinforce the historic character of the neighborhoods

and rural areas while allowing owners and residents to improve their property and for Sheridan County to continue to flourish. Design guidelines could be recommended but would have the greatest impact if they were codified.

Heritage Tourism Management Plan

A Heritage Tourism Management Plan will facilitate Sheridan County to develop its historic resources in a way that does not negatively affect its historic character. This plan will help identify properties that are underutilized or vacant and provide ways to increase the utilization of these buildings while maintaining their historic integrity. The plan will include a section that connects property owners and business owners to potential funding opportunities, including historic preservation tax credits, business loans, and other potential grant funding.

Resiliency Plan

A resiliency plan will identify potential threats to Sheridan County, and its historic resources, and allow the community to proactively plan for these events. In particular, Sheridan County's more rural areas are at significant risk of wildfires. The resiliency plan can establish ways for owners to protect their properties to better withstand the effects of natural disaster events, like wildfires, while maintaining the historic integrity of the property.

Preservation and Demolition Ordinances

Establishing preservation and demolition ordinances are the best way for Sheridan County to guarantee that historic preservation is prioritized during development. In the case of historic districts, these ordinances would support design review procedures that protect the historic character of the district by ensuring that alterations are not made that would be detrimental to the historic fabric of the district. Creating design review procedures may include creating owner guidelines and design review boards. It is notable that in some municipality's preservation ordinances allow for a reduction in property taxes for designated historic properties. The cities of Douglas and Cheyenne, Wyoming have design review processes that could be explored as a model for future action in Sheridan County²⁹. The SCHPC respects that private property rights are important to the property owners of Sheridan County. Therefore, any exploration of preservation and demolition ordinances would be conducted with public input and the SCHPC would not seek to enact ordinances without the support of the public and affected property owners.

29 Renée Bovée, Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund Program Coordinator, phone interview by Sarah Berwald, Cushing Terrell Project Manager, October 20, 2021.



School House in Ranchester, Wyoming locally known as the "Little Blue School House". Photo Courtesy of Sheridan Community Land Trust.

CONCLUSION

The preservation plan identifies the objectives, strategies, and policies that will support the continued preservation efforts throughout the county for present and future generations as we continue to advance into the 21st century. As a CLG, the preservation plan also fulfills the SCHPC's obligations to comply with the regulations as stated in 36 CFR § 61.6.

The SCHPC's implementation of this preservation plan will facilitate Sheridan County to achieve its preservation objectives while enhancing its cultural heritage and increasing the economic vitality of the county. The preservation plan outlines how these objectives were developed and the technical approaches and strategies that can be implemented to accomplish them. It is important to note that the preservation plan is not a static document, the preservation plan will be amended and improved upon as Sheridan County's preservation program continues to grow and more inclusive perspectives are incorporated.



Silo in Leiter, Wyoming.
Photo Courtesy of Sheridan Community Land Trust

APPENDIX A: Summary of Select Historic Resources



5. BRINTON MUSEUM & QUARTER CIRCLE A RANCH

The Brinton Museum & Quarter A Circle Ranch, located a few miles southwest of Big Horn, was homesteaded in 1882 by the Clark Family¹. In 1892, the homestead and surrounding property was purchased by William Moncrieffe and the Quarter Circle A Ranch was established. Bradford Brinton purchased the ranch in 1923, remaining in his hands until his death in 1936. His sister Helen Bradford established the Bradford Brinton Memorial so the public could visit the ranch grounds and house, enjoy the art collection, and so the ranch could remain in its natural state. In 2015, the Forrest E. Mars, Jr. Building opened which houses Plains Indian art and artifacts and a significant collection of Western Art. This property is over 2,800 acres with a museum, the Brinton home, nature trails, and ranch buildings. The Quarter Circle A Ranch (Bradford Brinton Memorial) was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1976².



Dayton Mercantile. Photo courtesy of the Dayton Mercantile.

10. DAYTON MERCANTILE

In 1886, Henry Croghan built the Dayton Mercantile³. The Dayton Mercantile started as a small country store in the 1880s and grew to be one of the biggest enterprises in the town and region. It even served as the first post office, which was operated by the town's founder. The second story has one of the oldest ballrooms in the state, which was the main gathering location for meetings, dances, boxing matches, and community events. Today, the Dayton Mercantile is open for business where you can find sweet treats, gifts, antiques, and collectibles. The Dayton Mercantile was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2016⁴.

1 "The Quarter Circle A Ranch," The Brinton Museum, accessed February 12, 2022, <https://thebrintonmuseum.org/about/the-quarter-circle-a-ranch/>.

2 "Quarter Circle A Ranch (Bradford Brinton Memorial)," Wyoming SHPO, accessed February 14, 2022, <https://wyoshpo.wyo.gov/index.php/programs/national-register/wyoming-listings/view-full-list/779-quarter-circle-a-ranch-bradford-brinton-memorial>.

3 "About Us," Dayton Mercantile, accessed February 12, 2022. <https://daytonmercantile.com/about-us>.

4 "Dayton Mercantile," Wyoming SHPO, accessed February 12, 2022, <https://wyoshpo.wyo.gov/index.php/programs/national-register/wyoming-listings/view-full-list/773-dayton-mercantile>.



12. EATONS' RANCH

Known as the original dude ranch, the Eatons' Ranch was first established in 1879 in North Dakota. But by 1904, the family moved its operations to Wolf in the foothills of the Bighorn Mountains 14 miles west of Sheridan. Here the Eaton brothers grew their horse and cattle ranch and had visitors stay for long periods of time. The Ranch is on 7,000 acres and is a retreat for anyone wanting to experience the ranch lifestyle.



14. FETTERMAN MONUMENT

The Fetterman Monument was built and dedicated in 1908, to recognize the Fetterman Battle Site, also known as the Battle of the Hundred-in-the-Hands⁵. The battle occurred on December 21, 1866, when Bvt. Lt. Col. Fetterman's command was lured out of Fort Phil Kearny and ambushed by Lakota, Northern Cheyenne, and Arapaho warriors. During the event the entire command was wiped out.

32. BIG GOOSE CREEK BUFFALO JUMP

The Big Goose Creek Buffalo Jump is located roughly 10 miles west of Sheridan⁶. The site features a drive lane and approach area, sections of which are marked with piles of boulders, and a kill area below. Carbon-14 dating indicates the jump was used in the late 15th or early 16th century. The Big Goose Creek Buffalo Jump was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.



41. SHERIDAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Designed by Link & McAllister, the Sheridan County Courthouse, located on the corner of Burkitt and Main Street in Sheridan, was completed in 1905⁷. This building encompasses two design styles: Neo-Classical Revival and Beaux Arts. This building is one of the most architecturally imposing courthouses in Wyoming, and one of the most monumental government buildings in the state. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.

5 "The Fetterman Fight," Fort Phil Kearny Historic Site, accessed February 12, 2022, <https://www.fortphilkearny.com/fetterman-battle-history>.

6 "Big Goose Creek Buffalo Jump," Wyoming SHPO, access February 12, 2021, <https://wyoshpo.wyo.gov/index.php/programs/national-register/wyoming-listings/view-full-list/765-big-goose-creek-buffalo-jump>.

7 "Sheridan County Courthouse," Wyoming SHPO, accessed February 12, 2022, <https://wyoshpo.wyo.gov/index.php/programs/national-register/wyoming-listings/view-full-list/781-sheridan-county-courthouse>.



The Mill Inn motel, c. 2015. Photo courtesy Carol Highsmith, retrieved from the Library of Congress.



The Sheridan Inn. Photo retrieved from the Library of Congress¹.



Downtown Sheridan Historic Main Street. Photo courtesy Sheridan County Travel and Tourism.

42. SHERIDAN FLOURING MILLS

The Sheridan Flouring Mills in Sheridan were originally established in the 1890s⁸. After the downtown location was destroyed by fire in 1919, a larger mill was built on Coffeen Avenue. The new mill featured fire resistant masonry and was the largest of its kind in the state. The mill operated until 1972 when changes in freight rates made the Sheridan Flouring Mills, Inc. unable to compete with other milling locations. In 1992, the mills were converted to a hotel. The Sheridan Flouring Mills, Inc. (Mill Inn) was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1997⁹.

43. SHERIDAN INN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

The Sheridan Inn, located on East 5th Street in Sheridan, was established in 1892 as one of the town’s original hotels¹⁰. Between 1894 and 1896 the Inn was operated by William F. Cody, known as Buffalo Bill. According to folklore, Cody headquartered his Wild West Show at the Inn and auditioned new members for the show from the front porch of the Inn. The Sheridan Inn National Historic Landmark was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1964¹¹. A historical preservation easement is held by the Sheridan Community Land Trust to help preserve the Inn’s architectural features¹².

44. SHERIDAN MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Sheridan Main Street Historic District encompasses Main Street, between Burkitt and Mandel Streets¹³. This Historic District consists of buildings constructed as early as the late 19th Century with various classical design styles. The original town of Sheridan, platted in 1882, included over 40 acres; the Main Street Historic District was part of this original townsite. The Sheridan Main Street Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1982¹⁴.

8 “The History of the Mill Inn,” Mill Inn, accessed February 12, 2022, <https://sheridanmillinn.com/history/>.

9 “Sheridan Flouring Mills, Inc. (Mill Inn),” Wyoming SHPO, accessed February 12, 2022, <https://wyoshpo.wyo.gov/index.php/programs/national-register/wyoming-listings/view-full-list/783-sheridan-flouring-mills-inc-mill-inn>.

10 “About Historic Sheridan Inn,” Sheridan Inn, accessed February 12, 2022. <https://sheridaninn.com/hotels-in-sheridan-wy/>.

11 “Sheridan Inn National Historic Landmark,” Wyoming SHPO, accessed February 12, 2022, <https://wyoshpo.wyo.gov/index.php/programs/national-register/wyoming-listings/view-full-list/784-sheridan-inn-national-historic-landmark>.

12 “Sheridan Inn,” Sheridan Community Land Trust, accessed February 14, 2022, <https://sheridanclt.org/projects/sheridan-inn/?portfolioCats=41>.

13 “Historic Main Street,” Sheridan Wyoming, accessed February 12, 2022, <https://www.sheridanwyoming.org/discover/downtown-sheridan/historic-main-street/>.

14 “Sheridan Main Street Historic District,” Wyoming SHPO, accessed February 12, 2022, <https://wyoshpo.wyo.gov/index.php/programs/national-register/wyoming-listings/view-full-list/785-sheridan-main-street-historic-district>.

1 Historic American Buildings Survey, Creator, et al., photographer by Huntsman, Al. Sheridan Inn, Broadway between 4th & 5th Streets, Sheridan, Sheridan County, WY. Documentation Compiled After 1933. Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/wy0028/>.



Tongue River. Photo courtesy Wyoming Game & Fish Department.



45. SHERIDAN RAILROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Sheridan Railroad Historic District is located along Broadway, from Grinnell Street, north to Sixth Street in the northeastern part of the original commercial district of Sheridan¹⁵. Although structures within this historic district are primarily residential, there are a few commercial and warehouse buildings, including two depots. This location was the transportation hub for the town of Sheridan and surrounding communities. The Sheridan Railroad Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2004.

22. STORY FISH HATCHERY

The Story Fish Hatchery is the oldest continuously operating hatchery in the state¹⁶. The original buildings of the hatchery were constructed in 1909 to serve the needs of northern Wyoming. The fish hatchery has grown and now encompasses ten hatcheries and rearing stations. This area is also where trees were harvested for construction of Fort Phil Kearny.

24. TONGUE RIVER

The headwaters of the Tongue River are in the Bighorn Mountains and the north and south forks join at a deep canyon near Dayton before continuing northeast into Montana¹⁷. For centuries people have found shelter and sustenance from this river. The Battle of Tongue River, part of the 1865 Connor expedition, was fought in August of 1865 when General Connor made a surprise attack upon the Arapahoe village of Chief Black Bear. The site is now known as the Connor Battlefield.

47. TRAIL END HISTORIC SITE (JOHN B. KENDRICK MANSION)

The Trail End Historic Site is located on over three acres, overlooking downtown Sheridan¹⁸. The Trail End was home to the John B. Kendrick family beginning in 1908, although construction of the home was not completed until 1913. The home was slated for demolition in 1968 but the Sheridan County Historical Society purchased the property the same year, opening the home to the public as a house museum highlighting life during the period of 1913 to 1933 through the lens of the Kendrick family. In 1982, the property

15 "Sheridan Railroad District," Wyoming SHPO, accessed February 12, 2022, <https://wyoshpo.wyo.gov/index.php/programs/national-register/wyoming-listings/view-full-list/786-sheridan-railroad-historic-district>.

16 "Story Hatchery and Visitor Center," Wyoming Game & Fish Department, accessed February 12, 2022, <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/About-Us/Offices-and-Facilities/Story-Fish-Hatchery>.

17 Fishing and Boating: Tongue River," Wyoming Game & Fish Department, accessed February 14, 2022, <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Fishing-and-Boating/Instream-Flow-XStream-Angler/Instream-Flow-Map/Tongue-River>.

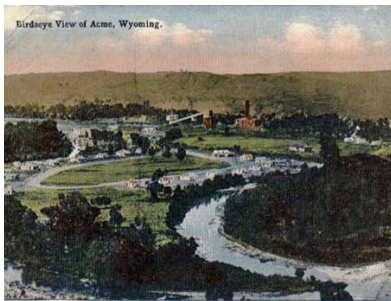
18 "About – Trail End," Trail End Historic Site, accessed February 15, 2022, <https://wyoparks.wyo.gov/index.php/about-trail-end>.

was transferred to the ownership of the State of Wyoming. The mansion was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1970¹⁹.



48. BOZEMAN TRAIL

The Bozeman Trail, originally a game trail, was established as a shortcut to the Montana goldfields in 1863²⁰. It diverged northwest from the California-Oregon Trail, which followed the North Platte River through Wyoming. In the 1860s, as emigrant travel increased, conflicts erupted with Native Americans who opposed the trail because of the hunting pressure newcomers placed on the game upon which the tribes depended to survive. This led to the building of Forts Reno, Phil Kearny, and C.F. Smith and later Fort Fetterman. After 1866, the trail became a military road. Following the abandonment of the forts, the trail was used for mail and stagecoaches.



Acme, c. 1910. Photo courtesy Sheridan Area Coal Camp Photos from wyomingtalesandtrails.com.

27. ACME (MINING TOWN)

In 1911, Archie Craig purchased the land that would become the town of Acme and opened a coal mine²¹. That same year the construction of a coal fire power plant was completed. The power plant provided electricity to Sheridan and the surrounding coal mining communities. In 1940 the mines at Acme were shut down and the final residents were forced to leave in 1977 when the town site was purchased by Big Horn Coal. Although many of the buildings were condemned, some of the homes were moved to the town of Sheridan or were sold to area ranches. The only building left at the historic mining town is the Acme Power Plant.

¹⁹ "Trail End (John B. Kendrick Mansion)," Wyoming SHPO, accessed February 15, 2022, <https://wyoshpo.wyo.gov/index.php/programs/national-register/wyoming-listings/view-full-list/789-trail-end-john-b-kendrick-mansion>.

²⁰ "A Brief History of the Bozeman Trail," Fort Phil Kearny Historic Site, accessed December 29, 2021, <https://www.fortphilkearny.com/bozeman-trail>.

²¹ "The Power of Acme's Past: Historical Background and Personal Narratives," Acme Project, completed 2020, https://www.acmeprojectwyoming.org/_files/ugd/2ecf10_0cb1fa9e247d49fd92f076032249e2eb.pdf, 6.

APPENDIX B: Invitation to Comment Letter Sent to Tribal partners



Sheridan County Historic Preservation Commission

224 S Main St, Sheridan, WY 82801 – bocc@sheridancounty.com

September 9, 2021

[Name]

[Tribe]

[Address]

[City, State Zip]

RE: Invitation to Comment on the Sheridan County Historic Preservation Plan

Dear [Name]:

The Sheridan County Historic Preservation Commission is developing a preservation plan that will establish a vision, identify priorities, and set goals for the preservation of historic and cultural resources in Sheridan County. We understand that the [Tribe Name] have ties to the region, both prehistorically and historically, and as such have a vested interest in the preservation of the cultural and historic resources within the county.

The preservation plan will strengthen future grant applications and will serve as a roadmap for all historic preservation efforts in the county. The plan will also establish guidelines for the Sheridan County Historic Preservation Commission to:

- Identify, evaluate, register, and treat sites, buildings, places, and intangible cultural heritage within the County.
- Communicate and work with Sheridan County community members and community stakeholders concerning historic preservation and historic preservation projects.

Comments can be made directly to the Sheridan County Historic Preservation Commission via email at: bocc@sheridancounty.com or on our website at: <https://cushingterrell.com/historicsheridan/>. Please also see our survey located at the bottom of the page on our website. We ask that you direct any questions or comment regarding the preservation plan and this letter to the Sheridan County Historic Preservation Commission no later than October 8, 2021. A draft of the preservation plan is anticipated for review this fall and will also be posted on our website.

We look forward to your response and are excited at the prospect of collaborating with you and the [Tribe Name] on this and future projects.

Sincerely,

Kristin Campbell, chair

APPENDIX C: Invited Tribal partners

DARRIN CICSO Apache Tribe of Oklahoma 510 E Colorado Drive Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005	JOHN MURRAY, THPO Blackfeet Nation PO Box 850, Browning, Montana 59417	MILAN ROMAN NOSE, THPO Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma 700 Black Kettle Blvd, PO Box 145 Concho, Oklahoma 73022
JONATHAN WINDY BOY, THPO Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation PO Box 230 Box Elder, Montana 59521	MARTINA MINTHORN, THPO Comanche Nation PO Box 908 Lawton, Oklahoma 73502	MERLE MARKS, THPO Crow Creek Sioux Tribe PO Box 50 Fort Thompson, South Dakota 57339
AARON BRIEN, THPO Crow Tribe PO Box 159 Crow Agency, Montana 59022	JOSH MANN, THPO Eastern Shoshone PO Box 538 Fort Washakie, Wyoming 82514	GARRIE KILLS A HUNDRED, THPO Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe PO Box 283 Flandreau, South Dakota 57028
MICHAEL BLACK WOLF, THPO Fort Belknap Assiniboine Gros Ventre Tribes 656 Agency Main St Harlem, Montana 59526	DYAN YOUPEE, THPO Fort Peck Assiniboine Sioux Tribes PO Box 1027 Poplar, Montana 59255	PHIL DUPOINT, MUSEUM DIRECTOR Kiowa Indian Tribe THPO PO Box 369 Carnegie, Oklahoma 73501
CHRISTIAN SKUNK, DIRECTOR Lower Brule Sioux Tribe 187 Oyate Circle Lower Brule, South Dakota 57548	BEN RIDGLEY, THPO Northern Arapaho Tribe PO Box 67 St. Stevens, Wyoming 82524	TEANNA LIMPY, THPO Northern Cheyenne Tribe PO Box 128 Lame Deer, Montana 59043
PATTY TIMBIMBOO-MADSEN History and Culture Specialist, Library Services Northwestern Band of Shoshone 2575 Commerce Way Ogden, Utah 84401	NOAH WHITE, THPO Prairie Island Indian Community 5636 Sturgeon Lake Rd Welch, Minnesota 55089	IONE QUIGLEY, THPO Rosebud Sioux Tribe PO Box 430 Rosebud, South Dakota 57570
LOUISE DIXEY, HETO Cultural Resources Director Shoshone-Bannock Tribes PO Box 306 Fort Hall, Idaho 83203	DIANNE DESROSIERS, THPO Sisseton Whapeton Oyate Tribe PO Box 907 Sisseton, South Dakota 57262	GARRET BRIGGS, THPO Southern Ute Tribe PO Box 737 Ignacio, Colorado 81137
DR. ERICH LONGIE, THPO Spirit Lake Nation PO Box 76, Fort Totten, North Dakota 58335	JON EAGLE SR., THPO Standing Rock Sioux Tribe PO Box D, Fort Yates, North Dakota 58538	BETSY L CHAPOOSE Cultural Rights & Protection Director Ute Indian Tribe PO Box: 190 Ft. Duchesne, Utah 84026
STEVE VANCE, THPO Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe 98 South Willow Street, PO Box 590, Eagle Butte, South Dakota 57625	THOMAS BRINGS, THPO Oglala Sioux Tribe PO Box 2070, Pine Ridge, South Dakota 57770	KIP SPOTTED EAGLE, THPO Yankton Sioux Tribe PO Box 1153 Wagner, South Dakota 57380



Main Ranch House at the Quarter Circle A Ranch

APPENDIX D: Survey Results



Sheridan County Historic Preservation Commission

224 S Main St, Sheridan, WY 82801 – boccc@sheridancounty.com

Please make your voice heard by filling out a brief survey for Sheridan County's Historic Preservation Commission.

1. There are a variety of historic resources in Sheridan County. How would you characterize the resources you're most familiar with? Please check three or fewer.

- Municipal buildings and infrastructure 71
- Battle sites or historic landscape 137
- Roads and trails 103
- Tourist industry buildings and sites 54
- Commercial or industrial buildings and sites 46
- Community buildings and sites 46
- Archeological sites or other cultural heritage sites 70
- Residential buildings and neighborhoods 72

2. How would you rate Sheridan County's recognition and appreciation of its own historic resources?

Highly 78 Somewhat 95 Poorly 14 Neutral 8

3. What aspect(s) of historic preservation in Sheridan County are most important to you? Please check three or fewer.

- Preservation of the county's historic resources 119
- Community and public education about historic sites and resources 89
- Designation of county funds for the maintenance and care of historic properties 90
- Economic incentives for private property and business owners of historic properties 59
- Statewide and nationwide publicity for Sheridan County's historic resources 46
- Addition of more historic districts with design guidelines or ordinances intended to protect historic buildings or sites 51
- Inclusion of diversity within historic resources 46
- Listing of historic properties in the National Register of Historic Places to generate more awareness of local history 65
- Ongoing surveys, research, and documentation of Sheridan County's historic resources 40
- Historic preservation is not important to me or Sheridan County 5

4. There are a variety of concerns that threaten historical resources and local identity. From your perspective, what are the top three important concerns facing historic preservation in Sheridan County?

- Major alternations or no ordinances for historic properties and/or districts 96
- Urban and/or rural development 91
- Lack of community interest and involvement 55
- Lack of understanding or educational opportunities 58
- Lack of funding opportunities 68
- Lack of diversity and/or inclusion 35
- Lack of support for historic preservation in local planning and community revitalization 113



Sheridan County Historic Preservation Commission

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5. Are you a Sheridan County resident or visitor?

___ Resident **176** ___ Visitor **21**

If you are a resident, where would you classify your geographic location?

___ City of Sheridan **110** ___ Town of Big Horn **16** ___ Clearmont **1**
___ Dayton/Ranchester **26** ___ Story/Banner **6** ___ Other **26**

6. Below is a list of historic resources in the county. Please select the 3 sites that are most important from your perspective. If there is a site that’s missing, even if it’s not important to you, please write it in below.

Historic Places of Interest

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| ___ Arvada Bridge 2 | ___ Fetterman Fight 24 | ___ Sheridan County Courthouse 27 |
| ___ Beckton Crossing 3 | ___ Fort MacKenzie 19 | ___ Sheridan Flouring Mills 21
(Mill Inn) |
| ___ Big Goose Creek Buffalo Jump 19 | ___ French Pete Death Site | ___ Sheridan Inn National
Historic Landmark 76 |
| ___ Big Horn Johnson Street
Historic District 10 | ___ General Crook Encampment 8 | ___ Sheridan Main Street
Historic District 70 |
| ___ Big Red Ranch Complex 6 | ___ Grain Elevators Along
Highway 14/16 4 | ___ Sheridan Railroad Historic District 46 |
| ___ Black Diamond Coal Tipple 3 | ___ Holy Name Catholic School 8 | ___ Sibley Fight at Sibley Lake 10 |
| ___ Bozeman Trail Museum 14 | ___ Huson Homestead 3 | ___ St. Peter’s Episcopal Church 10 |
| ___ Brinton Museum & Quarter
Circle A Ranch 35 | ___ Kendrick Park Buffalo Jump 35 | ___ Story Fish Hatchery 23 |
| ___ CKW Bridge over Powder River 1 | ___ Kooi Bridge 2 | ___ Susan Wissler House 8 |
| ___ Clearmont Jail 9 | ___ Little Blue School House/
Owens School 5 | ___ Tongue River 28 |
| ___ Conner Battlefield 17 | ___ Mandel Cabin and Post Office
13 | ___ Trail End Historic Site 63
(John B. Kendrick Mansion) |
| ___ County Fairgrounds
Historic District 18 | ___ Moncrief Ridge 3 | ___ Wagon Box Fight 14 |
| ___ Dayton Community Hall 18 | ___ Mount View | ___ Dayton Bell Tower 1 |
| ___ Dayton Mercantile 20 | ___ Mount View 5
(Brooks-Yonkee House) | <u>Historic Trails:</u> ___ Bozeman Trail 21
<u>Mining Towns – Black Diamond Trail</u>
<u>Byway</u> 8 |
| ___ Dayton –Traditional Lakota
Camp Site 16 | ___ Museum at the Bighorns 17 | ___ Acme 22 ___ Kleenburn 11 ___ Kooi 8 |
| ___ Eaton’s Ranch 23 | ___ Odd Fellows Hall 2 | ___ Monarch 15 ___ Dietz 7 |
| ___ EBF Bridge over Powder River 2 | ___ Robinson-Smith House 1 | |

Other sites suggested by respondents: Holly Sugar Building Behind Perkins, Garritson (store), Clearmont Library, Blue Northern Hotel and Old Ranchester Mercantile Building (both in private ownership), Bighorn Mercantile, Story Fish Hatchery Original Residence, Old Post Office/grocery store (razed last year), Bomber Mountain, Tie Hacks and Tongue River Tie Flume, Padlock Ranch, Tie Flume, Foothills Campground in Dayton, Teepee Lodge, Bear Lodge, Historic Ranches of Sheridan County, Sheridan Trolley, Locomotive across from Sheridan Inn, Would like to see more recognition of Native American and prehistoric sites.



Sheridan County Historic Preservation Commission

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7. The commission is interested in your thoughts. Are there historic resources you would like to see restored or protected? Is there a specific topic or historic event we should research? Please share any additional information below.

From July 3rd Thursday Event :

- Would like to see Big Horn National Forest as restored or protected (x2)
- Weekly articles in the Sheridan press would create awareness of historic sites
- Cemetery tours are impressive; The Carnegie Library (??)
- Downtown stores with historical value; the history of women leaders in the county; financial help for historic restoration of businesses “exceptionally beautiful downtown but it is expensive to renovate”
- More tours, and public knowledge of historic places and history of the area.

From Dayton Days:

- Bring awareness to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW), Residential schools/places; history about the land
- The residential schools
- King’s Saddlery is a place people like (the store has been in its present location since 1973).
- Suggestion that maps would help locate the sites if another survey is conducted.

Meeting in Clearmont:

- Signage would be good.

From September 3rd Thursday Event:

- “...(illegible)..with the train! Leave it there!”
- “I’m just generally a history lover and would love to see this beautiful area preserved”

From Website:

Website Responses: Are there historic resources you would like to see restored or protected?
I would like to see an effort by the county to conduct cultural resource surveys with tribal involvement and consultation. Also, to identify potential resources in areas that may be proposed for development in the future. A collaborative effort will ensure that the oldest resources found on these landscapes are managed properly.
The city park and the railroad district
In order to better protect the national historic downtown district Sheridan County might consider passing ordinance to protect the facades of historic downtown buildings. This will maintain the spirit of Sheridan's downtown--which is a draw to tourists and locals alike.
The Monarch water tower is one of two buildings that still stand from the community. Efforts should be made to preserve the water tower.
Support for repositories of Sheridan County's history. These currently include: Claremont Historical Society, Museum at the Bighorns, the Wyoming Room, and the Bozeman Trail Museum.
Monarch Bridges.



Sheridan County Historic Preservation Commission

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<p>Priority to historic preservation is needed to ensure funding is provided. Education is needed as well.</p>
<p>I would like the commission to carefully consider any and all changes before moving forward on any project. Sometimes it's BEST to leave things as they are.</p>
<p>protect by curbing urban sprawl</p>
<p>Tie flume/tie hack history.</p>
<p>Agricultural operations on Big Goose owned by Asian immigrants in the early 1900s.</p>
<p>Story Fish Hatchery original residence. (Scheduled for demolition)</p>
<p>Penrose Trail (ruined by 4-wheeler traffic)</p>
<p>Fish Hatchery Road (straightened and widened years ago, so traffic zooms now. The old meandering road should be restored to slow everybody down.)</p>
<p>More emphasis on Native American history</p>
<p>Leave the CB&Q 5631 locomotive where it is!</p>
<p>Cady Building, Acme Powerplant</p>
<p>As our population ages and passes, we need to ensure that we have preserved their oral histories to humanize these historic places.</p>
<p>Protect all you can! We learn from the past what mistakes not to make in the future - or what should be our priorities for the day. Historic elements in a community educate all and provide youth a grounding to discover their roots.</p>
<p>There is so much to preserve and so little concern Thanks for your actions</p>
<p>I have always been fond of the Vore Buffalo Jump Site. It would be neat to have similar recognition and preservation of the Kendrick Park and Goose Creek sites.</p>
<p>I would like the train engine to remain on the corner of 5th and Broadway, also what happened to the bell on top?</p>
<p>As a former USFS Archaeologist it would be nice to see all of our history protected and funded for restoration. Realistically restoration won't happen to many sites due to logistics and costs. On the other side protection could be accomplished within budgets, and should be done.</p>
<p>leave the train engine stay where it is</p>
<p>Downtown historical buildings along with the locomotive. Urban development and selling off historic property is frustrating to see. Seems like sheridans history is taking a backseat to development.</p>
<p>Leave the stream engine where it is.</p>
<p>Please for the love of all things good leave the train where it has sat for so many years, proud and majestic...</p>
<p>Train engine on 5th.</p>
<p>Train engine across from the Sheridan Inn.</p>
<p>Restore Goose creek water ways as much as possible. Recreate the shady, treed course of the creeks. This could be possible and still maintain the purpose of flood control but with less concrete apparent.</p>
<p>Celebratory passenger train rides once or twice a year to recognize the importance of the railroad in Sheridan's history and economic growth.</p>
<p>The historic locomotive. Please don't remove it.</p>
<p>Keep the historic engine at its present location.</p>
<p>I would love to see the train restored as it is a part of our towns history.</p>



Sheridan County Historic Preservation Commission

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<p>The entire Main Street area should be preserved and not changed / expanded at all. This includes the Sheridan Inn and the train engine. Further, land development should be stopped. The main draw to this area, to this lifestyle, is the land.</p>
<p>Steam engine needs to remain in Sheridan</p>
<p>I would like to see the train stay in the location it is currently at. I dont think it should be moved to accommodate a parking lot. I love our history, and we've got to stop pushing it to the wayside for revenue.</p>
<p>Please protect and preserve our engine on the lot it is currently on. Close to the Inn, and historic downtown sheridan.</p>
<p>Just restore and protect accordingly</p>
<p>The steam engine needs to stay where it is</p>
<p>The locomotive should be kept at the current location near the depots and the Sheridan Inn.</p>
<p>CB&Q locomotive needs to stay at current location! Kendrick park needs to go back the way it was!</p>
<p>The train by the tracks on 5th Street needs to be protected & updated to stay where it is!</p>
<p>One which I think is critical is the oral history of residents of Sheridan County, we have several "senior citizens" with a wealth of family and Sheridan area history, that needs to be saved and preserved.</p>
<p>Keep the train where it is</p>
<p>none come to mind</p>
<p>The open lands outside of Sheridan</p>
<p>We are short of financial resources. It seems like a shot gun approach. Can we focus on a few of these vs all of these sites. Some seem like a higher priority.</p>
<p>Not specifically at this time but through development of a Historic Preservation Plan, in which major historic themes or contexts are established, site types within each theme or context could be identified and prioritized for restoration and/or protection</p>
<p>We should do everything we can to preserve our history. Good or bad we need to understand it.</p>
<p>Downtown buildings- making sure owners know what's available and how they can fix/maintain/restore their buildings</p>
<p>I would like to see full reviews of historic sites - photography, documentation, etc. before they are irretrievably lost community expansion. Any changes to historic buildings should have to go through a historic preservation committee review. Billings, MT has an excellent committee for an example.</p>
<p>Kendrick Pool Building</p>
<p>Holly Sugar Bldg on Sugarland drive. Old mining row houses on Val Vista and otheroctions, historic commercial buildings on Main. St such as the old Edward's Hotel, which desperately needs historic restoration.</p>
<p>The Acme power plant</p>
<p>There should be informational/interpretive signs at all of the sites listed in #7 above so people know what they are and why they are important.</p>
<p>The old Trolley</p>



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History tends to reflect wealth. The entire area was built on the backs of thousands of miners yet we know very little about the complexity of those communities. It's more difficult to portray because they didn't live in mansions nor do their names show up on streets or buildings. Yet without them, none of those majestic remnants would exist. The histories of Monarch and Acme, for example reflect rich remnants of these vibrant workers and families lives that were much richer than the toil in the mines. Some physical remnants of these lives exist but there is no place to immerse one's self to capture their lives, hopes, challenges...such as the Kendrick Mansion for a taste of life as a rich rancher. Unfortunately the stories of those who lived those lives are vital to capturing this slice of our history and those individuals are nearly gone. Stories, artifacts, a restored sampling of mining town buildings and homes would be needed for capturing this history and making it accessible. Not sure that's feasible but that is what I feel is inadequately represented in our history...a historical record of largely the lives of the wealthy and glamorous.

Keep locomotive at an appropriate place

No additional ideas at this time. Not sure how tepee circles on different ranches are part of this.

More tribal history. Too much emphasis on the white people who booted them out.

Website Responses: Is there a specific topic or historic event we should research?

The history of tribal nations in the area from their perspective, with places dedicated to telling the earliest stories of this land.

The historic development of the greater Sheridan area (County). From the first arrival of the settlers that farmed and ranched, to logging and milling of trees/lumber, the arrival of the railroad, and the growth of Sheridan, Dayton, Ranchester, Clearmont, Arvada, etc.

Immigrants coming to mine coal in the early 1900's

The influence of the railroad on Sheridan and Sheridan County

An exhaustive directory of each of the businesses that were downtown and when they were active.

Research on the African American and Japanese communities of Sheridan County. Including their business, churches, and professions along with the modern locations.

Monarch

town of Story and surrounding area

More education on the items listed above—I had not heard of several of them.

Thank you for your interest. I know it's difficult to decide when "modern" becomes "historic." Story is one example. Historically, it has been a sleepy little bedroom community, and I would like to see it preserved as that. Before that, it was a military post. Some would like to preserve that aspect to the point of attracting tourists in order to "educate" them, thus destroying the very atmosphere they claim they want to preserve. Sad. Very sad.

Under-represented groups in Sheridan history

Prehistoric presence in the area

Our Native Americans lived in this valley and county long before the settlers came. We need to renew efforts to preserve their history and stories before they are lost and at more than a passing mention.

Any would be great. How about the fact that Sheridan and Johnson County started as just Johnson County.....what was the driving factor to divide it, and why was the border drawn as it was? Did any historic sites drive those decisions?



Sheridan County Historic Preservation Commission

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I was a kid when the "No Indians No Dogs" signs still existed on some store fronts...those and other prejudices need to be acknowledged
Bomber Mountain. This to me is an incredible historical site and resource. The remaining parts should be protected. What an incredible, underappreciated gem of the Bighorn Mountains.
Keeping historic preservation a vital part of our community.
the Ranches of Sheridan County
Settlements on Big Goose
Johnson county wars
Women in WWII. What did Sheridan women do to support the war effort.
Preserve the undermine coal history at Acme. Use a Heart Mountain history recreation as a model to demonstrate the life and communities that existed in the early to mid 1900's. Make it a living history destination.
Sheridan. History of the railroad and it's involvement in Sheridan's growth.
CB&Q locomotive across from Historic Sheridan Inn
Research & exhibit more about the impact of the railroad in our county.
All are important to someone or something, the hardest is prioritize what to do and be able to complete, those should be first so that there are examples of "victories" for maintained support and interest, and future assistance.
Please hold all topics and historic events as a top priority.
Active racism against the Native Americans. For example, the Brinton Museum only displays many works on deceased Native Americans and maybe one or two by still alive.
Yes, in particular, Getting local, regional, and state support to our U.S. Congressional delegation and Governor for listing of the Bozeman Trail as a National Historic Trail. Generally, expanding education about American Indian occupation culture for the area for the past 12,000 years and inclusion of American Indian people of knowledge in the development of educational products and active participation in educational programs.
Where the heck was the original electric plant in Sheridan located?? When the town first got electricity in 1893.
More in-depth study of the individuals involved in our history.
More data, from the appropriate resources, on Native American history in this area.
Steam Locomotive preservation and park on 5th street.
Old boarding houses such as was at 945 N Main St. This was my grandmother's house, Ella Ball. The new owners gutted the apartments and made it I to one big house, I think. How do we preserve these, since they are personal property?
Archaeological investigations of the actual site of the Sibley Fight and lesser known battle and camp sites along the Bozeman Trail.
Can't think of anything.
PK Rodeo
Ucross has been developing initiatives related to Native American artists and writers - we would have a great interest in Native American history or topics.
I really enjoying reading those #TBT stories I see the Sheridan Community Land Trust doing on my Facebook. I learn a lot and they're always something new and interesting.