

2007 Preservation Awards



The Great Falls/Cascade County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission selected six projects to be honored at the 2007 Preservation Award reception.

Cascade County was honored for the restoration of the Lady Justice sculpture, which was completely restored to a high standard of integrity and quality and returned to Cascade County's most prestigious historic structure. With this honor special recognition went to Conservation Solutions, Inc., Brad Clark, the County Attorney's office and H & H Crane Service.

- Tony and Colette Longin for the sensitive rehabilitation of their Colonial Revival home at 617 4th Avenue North. Built in 1906, the residence was converted into five apartments in 1951. The dining room chandelier is thought to be an original fixture that was transported from St. Louis to Fort Benton by barge. The Longin's have owned and enjoyed working on the home for about six years.
- NeighborWorks was honored for work to preserve existing homes and apartments for the enjoyment of future generations and the sensitive design of the infill projects at 921 5th Avenue South and 700 3rd Avenue South. Sixty existing homes have been renovated in the historic neighborhoods of Great Falls restoring vitality to neighborhoods and encouraging private investment. The renovation of the Gibson TownCondos preserves a 1917 building and will likely encourage private developers to restore other apartment buildings in the community.
- At the encouragement of John Koppelman, President of Wells Fargo Bank of Great Falls, Neighborhood Housing Services successfully applied for a Wells Fargo Team Volunteer Grant. The grant of \$25,000 and 2,000 volunteer hours was awarded to NHS in the spring of 2006 for the renovation of the residence at 700 3rd Avenue South. When it was discovered that the residence had severe structural problems that precluded rehabilitation, the Wells Fargo Team agreed to build the new home. Throughout the fall and winter, the volunteers contributed far in excess of the 2000 hours and enlisted other volunteers to frame and side the structure.

Ken Robison and Bob Harris challenged the Montana Historical Society to get involved in the study of black history in Montana which has generated a chain of activity that has and will continue to build a statewide database on the largely neglected African American history of Montana.

In Great Falls, this project has fueled considerable interest in black history on many levels. Research on the Union Bethel A.M.E. Church for a National Register of Historic Places listing led to a solid plan for preservation efforts, including the recent installation of stained glass windows. National recognition for the church's history came with its being featured on the National Park Service website during National Black History month.

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The multi-year project to identify statewide black history resources has landed the project on the agenda for the State History conference and encouraged the Great Falls Genealogy Society to undertake the task of building an early settlers database.

Historical Photo of a band playing at the Ozark Club

Oral history projects have been initiated, including those with Jack Mahood that have resulted in Philip Aaberg's work to remaster original recordings from the Ozark Club. The Ozark Club project has taken on a life of its own and will be the focus of "A Night at the Ozark" June 1 at the History Museum marking the opening of a major exhibit that will showcase the Ozark Club through the summer.

Tribune clipping with photo of work being done on the Historic 10th Street Bridge.

The Great Falls Tribune photographers have long provided researchers with an impressive photographic record of historic buildings, sites and events and they do so with outstanding professionalism. Along with the honor for the current staff, special recognition is due Wayne Arnst and Ray Ozmon, former Tribune photographers, whose work in recording historic resources and events continue to provide significant visual information about the history and development of Great Falls.

Tile floor in rehabilitated women's restroom at the Civic Center

The Great Falls Civic Center is recognized throughout Montana as a premier example of city offices in a structure of dignity and grace and the recent project to rehabilitate the women's restroom maintained those values while accommodating the need for expanded services.

Rehabilitated Women's restroom at the Civic Center

City staff and Dick Olson Construction, Inc. completed a very difficult project within the city's historic center of government with sensitivity to the architecture of the Civic Center. With this honor, special recognition is due to Paul David Barrick of Dick Olson Construction, Inc. for the exemplary craftsmanship displayed in the project.

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