

What is NRHP?

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is a National Park Service program that supports local efforts to preserve the historic places that matter most to communities. Created by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register defines properties and places significant to our history, architecture, and archaeology.

Historic preservation professionals at the local and state levels of government administer the program and work with property owners to identify properties deemed worthy of listing in the National Register. As a Certified Local Government under the National Historic Preservation Act, Butte-Silver Bow has an active National Register program.

expiration date 03/31/2026

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property
Historic name: _____
Other names/site number: _____
Name of related multiple property listing: _____
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location
Street & number: _____
City or town: _____ State: _____ County: _____
Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this _____ nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
_____ national _____ statewide _____ local
Applicable National Register Criteria:
_____ A _____ B _____ C _____ D

Signature of certifying official/Title: _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

The first page of the National Registers of Historic Places Registration Form.

Being listed in the National Register is an honor and provides access to potential grants, government assistance, and a measure of protection from adverse impacts by federal government projects. Listing in the National Register does not prevent private property owners from using their property as they see best or require them to open to the public. Always respect property boundaries at National Register locations.

Anyone can submit a nomination for their property. Submissions include a description of the property and its architecture, statement of historic significance, maps and photographs. In Montana, the State Historic Preservation Office at the Montana Historical Society receives and reviews the submissions.

CHIP MTSU Center for Historic Preservation
Scholars • Partners • Leaders

Documenting a National Register Property's History and Condition

Federal guidelines help property owners and historic preservationists determine the history and importance of a nominated property. Primary source research at places such as the Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives and the Montana Historical Society identify key evidence of what happened, when and where significant events took place, who was involved, and why a place matters to local and national history.



Primary source research is assessed according to four criteria for eligibility to the National Register:

- A: Related to a historic event.**
-Butte Disaster taken around 1910, courtesy of the Butte-Silver Bow Archives.
- B: Related to a historic person(s).**
-Picture of Senator Burton K. Wheeler taken in 1941, courtesy of the Butte-Silver Bow Archives.
- C: Architecture that is distinctive due to type, period, construction method, work of master, or high artistic value.**
-Picture of the World Barn in 2008, courtesy of Montana SHPO.
- D: Has or may yield information related to prehistory or history.**
-A part of the Stone Hill Springs Prehistoric District taken in 2013, courtesy of Montana SHPO.

Properties less than fifty years old, cemeteries, birthplaces, religious institutions, relocated structures, reconstructed buildings, and commemorative properties are not eligible for listing unless they have documented significance in one of the four criteria.

Nor are properties eligible when they have been altered to such a degree that they no longer have the defining feature or characteristics of their design, materials, workmanship, location, setting, association, and feeling from the time in history when they were important. National Register properties can change as long as those changes do not affect its essential features or characteristics that portray the properties' historic identity.

In the state of Montana, the quality of integrity can be ranked as:

- Excellent
 - Having no alterations.
- Good
 - Minimal additions that are hard to discern from original features.
- Fair
 - Identity impacted by loss of significant features.



803 W. Park, Julian Boughton and Martha Kohl, Montana SHPO, July 2022.



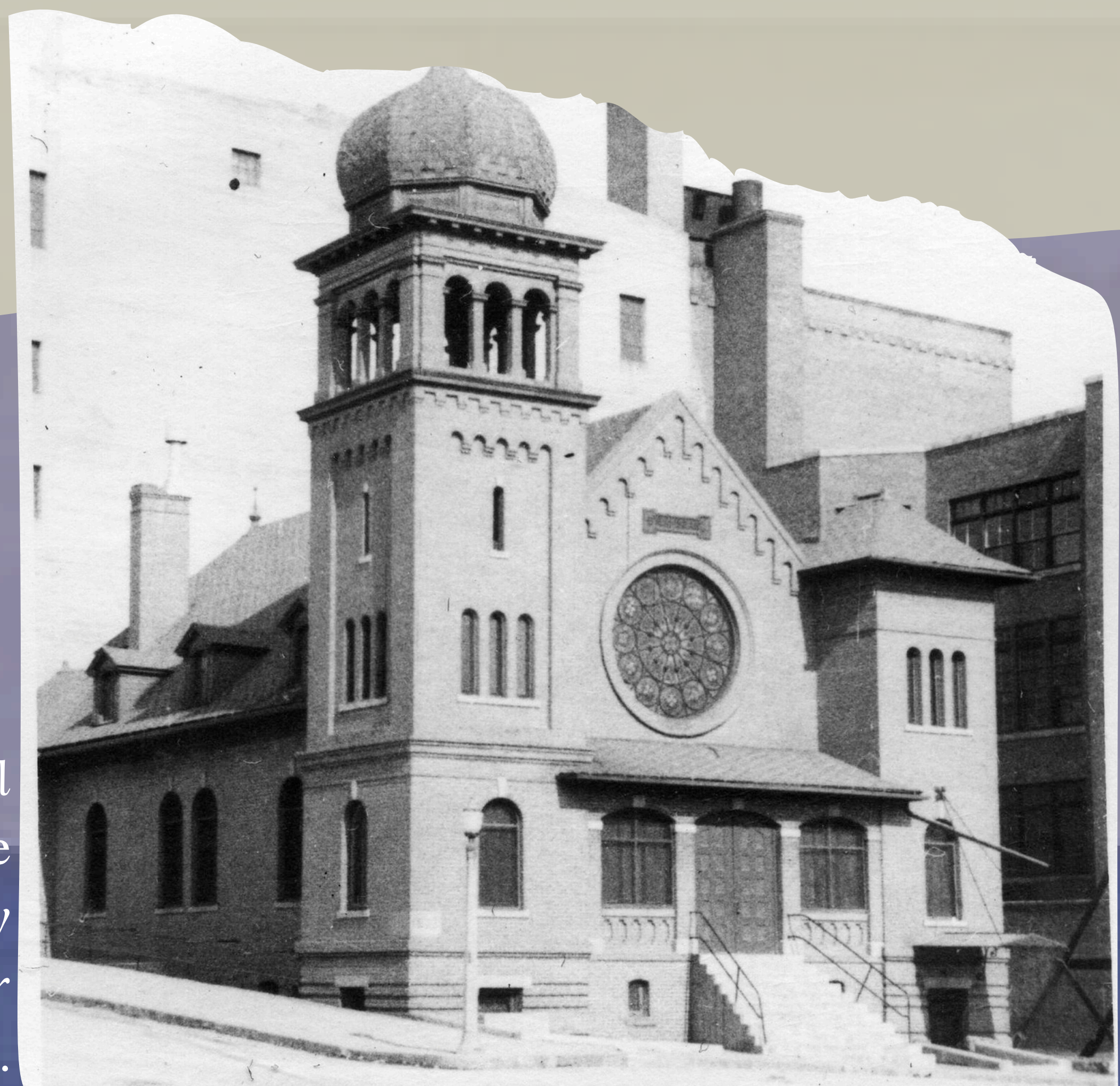
Butte and the Register

Hundreds of properties in Butte and Silver Bow County are listed in the National Register of Historic Places due to the area's importance in Montana's ethnic history, mining history, social history, politics/government, and architecture. The historic uptown district was designated a National Historic Landmark for its national significance in ethnic and mining history.

B'nai Israel Temple

As one of Butte's most distinctive buildings, with its Moorish-influenced architecture and Butte-made stained-glass art, Congregation B'nai Israel Temple at 327 West Galena is home to the oldest synagogue still in use in Montana. As a center for local Jewish history and culture, the synagogue is part of the National Historic Landmark-listed Butte-Anaconda Historic District. Butte's Jewish community began in 1875; a reform congregation organized in 1897 and built the temple in 1903. Today the congregation partners with Butte-Silver Bow Archives, Preserve Montana, and the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation to present programs and exhibits on Butte's rich ethnic history.

B'nai Israel Temple in the 1940s, courtesy of Butte-Silver Bow Archives.



B'nai Israel Temple, courtesy of Dr. Van West.



Burton K. Wheeler House

A property individually listed as a National Historic Landmark, the Wheeler House is a privately owned bungalow that was the home of prominent Montana politician Burton K. Wheeler (1882-1975) who lived there from 1908-1923. Wheeler was then elected to the U.S. Senate and served until 1947.

Wheeler House taken in the 1950s, courtesy of Butte-Silver Bow Archives.



Wheeler House in 2024, courtesy of Butte-Silver Bow Archives.



Matt's Place Drive-In

Now closed, Matt's Place was listed for its place in American history as one of, if not Montana's first, Drive-In restaurant during the rise of American car culture during the 1930s-1950s. The Drive-Ins' architectural features shows how what was once a house became an icon of roadside architecture.

Matt's Place Drive-In from its 2001 NRHP application.



Matt's Drive-In in 2024, courtesy of Butte-Silver Bow Archives.



724 N. Wyoming Ave

Built between 1900-1910, this building was regarded as an excellent example of a Queen Anne Cottage that had maintained its historical integrity, even with its alteration according to the Montana Historical and Architectural Inventory. However, the property was never listed and currently sits abandoned.

724 N. Wyoming taken in the 1950s, courtesy of Butte-Silver Bow Archives.



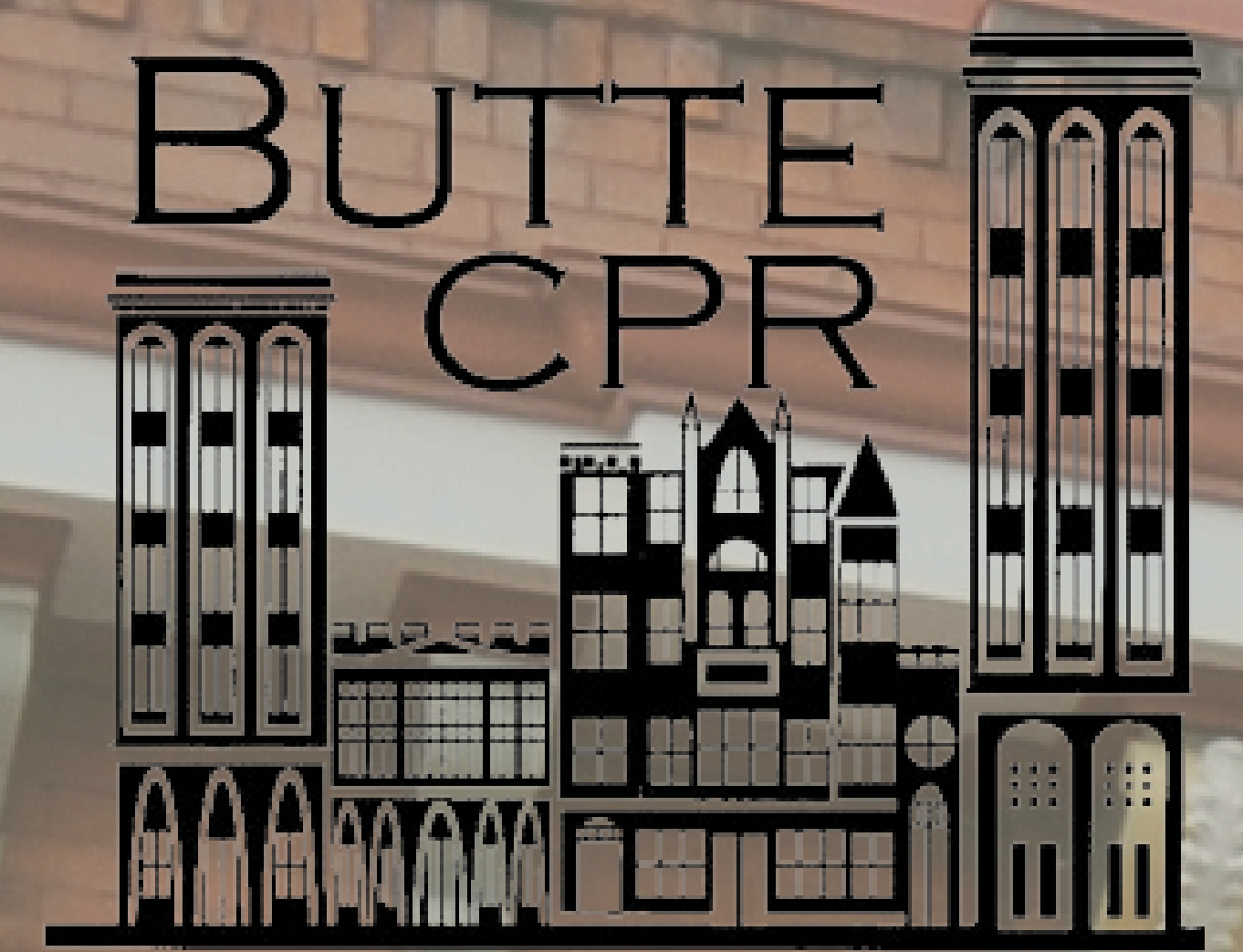
724 N. Wyoming in 2024, courtesy of Butte-Silver Bow Archives.



Frequently Asked Questions on Preservation

Where can I find information about the history of my property?

Homeowners interested in learning more about their property can visit the Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives and the Historic Preservation Office. Staff can assist them in locating historic photos, prior owners, maps, and further information through their collections. For more information visit: buttearchives.org.



If I own a historic home are there limitations of what I can do with my property?

Listing in the National Register does not interfere with an owner's right to manage their property as they see fit. You may paint, remodel, administer, sell, or even demolish your property. You may alter your building at any time, unless you use Federal funds or Federal tax incentives to rehabilitate it, in which case the alterations are reviewed by the agency in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office. Placing a property in the Register also does not obligate an owner to make any repairs or improvements. Moreover, the State or Federal government will not attach restrictive covenants to properties or seek to acquire them as a result of a National Register listing.

The local government has a Historic Preservation Ordinance affecting the treatment of properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places. For example, funding received through SARTA or URA for exterior restoration could initiate a review by the Historic Preservation Commission to ensure that the alterations are historically appropriate. Please check with Butte-Silver Bow's Historic Preservation Office regarding any questions.

Is there funding available to help me restore my historic home?

There are several funding opportunities available to residents of Butte-Silver Bow to assist in the restoration of their property. Organizations that provide grants include Butte-Silver Bow Urban Revitalization Agency (URA), Superfund Advisory and Redevelopment Trust Authority (SARTA), and Butte Citizens for Preservation and Revitalization.



How do I purchase a National Register sign for my property?

The Montana Historical Society (MHS) manages the National Register property sign program. Each National Register sign includes a brief description of the property's historic significance. After a property owner submits an application, MHS staff research the property and write the interpretive sign text. Applicants will receive a draft text for review and approval prior to preparation of final sign copy. For more information visit: mhs.mt.gov/Shpo/Signs.

