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Montana Legislative Services Division

State Capitol, Room 110, Helena, Montana

BIENNIAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE

MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

During the three-year period July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2010, the Montana Historical Society (MHS) continued its 145-year mission to preserve Montana’s past and its cultural heritage through art, artifacts and documents, and to educate residents and visitors about the important history of the Big Sky country. MHS was formed by the territorial legislature in 1965, and made a state agency in 1891.

The MHS Annual Reports for FY07 and FY08 are attached as hard copies, and can also be found at mhs.mt.gov/finduse/annualreports.asp. The FY09 Annual Report is in production in electronic form, as will be future MHS annual reports. A pdf of this report is located at [mhs.mt.gov/finduse/2013 Legislative Report](http://mhs.mt.gov/finduse/2013%20Legislative%20Report)

Important transactions and acquisitions occurring during the last three fiscal years include the gift of a 300-acre parcel in the Three Forks area by an MHS board member, appraised at \$1.4 million, as a donation to the campaign for a new Montana Heritage Center. MHS made one significant art acquisition (\$18,400), a sculpture by renowned Blackfeet artist Jay Laber, depicting a buffalo hunt. An estate bequest to MHS from former Superintendent of Montana OPI, Harriet Miller, is in the amount of \$486,000.

The major forward movement for this state agency during this three-year period was the resolution of the location for an expanded facility, a new Montana Heritage Center, and the completion of a Schematic Design Report (master plan) for the heritage center. Total space needs were identified at 118,990 net square feet (nsf). A new building at the northeast corner of 6th and Roberts, connected by a concourse under the street to the current building, will provide 45,330 nsf of new space. The current building, officially the Pioneers and Veterans Memorial Building, with 66,995 nsf of usable space, will be renovated. The cost of this project is within the legislative authority of 2005 of \$37.5 million. Fund-raising for that amount is seen as a multi-year endeavor.

The completion of this project will enable a significant increase in the public services and public-trust mission of the Montana Historical Society.

Sincerely,

Richard Sims

Director

Montana Historical Society

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