



BUTTE CITIZENS FOR PRESERVATION AND REVITALIZATION

P.O. Box 164, Butte, MT 59703



www.buttecpr.org

E-NEWSLETTER ❖ SEPTEMBER 2007

CPR



CPR SUPPORTS ARCHIVES BOND ISSUE

Butte Citizens for Preservation and Revitalization is supporting the \$7.5-million bond issue proposed by the Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives.

CPR recognizes the critical, central role of the Archives in Butte, both as a preserver of historical information and as a resource that impacts Butte's economy today.

Ellen Crain told CPR members that more than 4,000 people travel to Butte each year to explore the Archives. They research family history, seek photos and newspaper articles



to underpin scholarly research, and look for background and details that become parts of television documentaries, movies, and books, like Michael Punke's 2006 *Fire and Brimstone*.

At the August CPR meeting, individuals suggested many ways to help "get out the vote" in the November election. The mail-in balloting requires a 40% turn-out of the electorate, and a majority must approve the bond. CPR volunteers will probably help with envelope stuffing for informational mailings, door-to-door canvassing and delivery of flyers, and production and display of posters providing information about the Archives and the proposal.

\$7.5 million sounds like a lot of money, but it works out to just \$25 per year on a \$100,000 property tax value—and it is likely that the effective amount will be a lot less, perhaps half the \$25 estimate, once existing bonds reach maturity.



The need is critical, both to rehabilitate the existing 1900 building and to build an adjacent state-of-the-art archival vault. The bond will cover both.

Call the Archives at 782-3280 to schedule a presentation about the bond for your group.

WINDOWS WORKSHOP RESCHEDULED

Scheduling issues are going to push the National Park Service's Windows Workshop into Spring 2008—perhaps a better time for people to learn repair techniques and implement them. It will also give CPR time to seek funding to cover the \$5,000 cost of the workshop.

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TO SAVE OUR HISTORY

CPR Member Julie Crowley is working on a draft letter to BSB government asking for development of a policy on cobblestones.

Although only a few alleyways, such as the one at right, retain the historic paving stones made from Butte granite, they turn up often during excavation and other projects. They are county property—but how to re-use and deal with them fairly? In the past, contractors have taken the stones for resale; outside Butte they can bring \$10-\$20 per stone.

Prompted by removal of cobblestones from Park Street in June (shown below), Julie hopes to encourage county department heads and commissioners to establish a policy for these historic artifacts.



MARK REAVIS RESIGNS

Butte-Silver Bow Property Manager and Preservation Advisor Mark Reavis resigned, effective August 20, after 21 years with the county. CPR appreciates his work and wishes him well.

VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE FORUM PLANS CONTINUE

CPR member Dick Gibson is working with historians, architects, and others around southwest Montana on the Planning Committee for the VAF 2009 meeting in Butte and vicinity. The current focus is on the four or five out-of-town field trips planned.

Dick and Denny Dutton recently scouted historic structures in Philipsburg and Deer Lodge, and a September trip to Helena and surrounding areas will be guided by Rolene Schliesman, Patty Dean, and others.

The VAF meeting is planned for June 10-14, 2009, and we expect about 200 to attend from all over the country.

CPR ADDS HISTORIC GAS STATION TO “MOST THREATENED” LIST

CPR’s web site, buttecpr.org, includes among its pages a short list of “most threatened” properties. In addition to the Dumas, the list includes the historic Longfellow School, outside the historic district but independently listed in the National Register. We hope the new owner of this property will work to permit it to be removed from the CPR list.

CPR recently added the old gas station at the corner of Wyoming and Granite to the threatened list, because its ownership seems to be in limbo and the structure continues to deteriorate.

Built about 1927 and serving as a Conoco station for part of its life, this building’s original tin ceiling is intact. The roofline includes interesting, jerkin-headed gables.

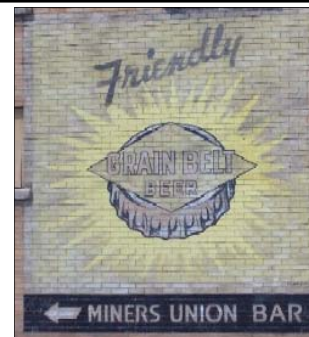
Visitor center? Covered outdoor refreshment stop? We hope that someone with a creative idea for adaptive reuse will step forward to save one of the oldest surviving gas stations in Montana.

The lower photo at right is from the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), Library of Congress.



Left: In the BSB Archives.

Right: Ghost sign on east wall of 88 E. Park Street.



NEXT CPR MEETING
Tuesday Sept. 11
Leonard Hotel
205 W. Granite St.
7:00 p.m.

CPR membership is just \$10 per year for individuals and \$60 for businesses. Dues and donations help us provide free informational brochures and flyers, as well as free services like wrought-iron gate protection and stained glass tours.