

# ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

## MEPA NEPA Checklist

All Montanans have the right to live in a clean and healthful environment. This environmental analysis is intended to provide an evaluation of the likely impacts to the human environment from proposed actions of the project cited below. This analysis will help Montana Historical Society State Historic Preservation Office to fulfill its oversight obligations and satisfy rules and regulations of both the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

### PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of proposed action.

Development \_\_\_\_\_

Renovation   X  

Maintenance \_\_\_\_\_

Land Acquisition \_\_\_\_\_

Equipment Acquisition \_\_\_\_\_

Other (Describe) \_\_\_\_\_

2. If appropriate, agency responsible for the proposed action.

**Montana Historical Society - SHPO**

3. Name, address phone number and E-mail address of project sponsor.

**Pete Brown, MT SHPO, 1301 E Lockey, PO Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620 – 1202,  
pebrown@mt.gov**

4. Name of project.

**Officer's Amusement Hall at Fort Assinniboine**

5. If applicable:

Estimated construction/commencement date

**February 1, 2020**

Estimated completion date

**No later than September 30, 2021**

Current status of project design (% complete)

**95%**

6. Location affected by proposed action (county, range and township).

**Hill County, Located within a parcel in T32 N, R15 E, in the S ½ of the SW ¼ of Section 28, Fort Assinniboine**

7. Project size: estimate the numbers of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:

(a) Developed:  
residential..... 0 acres  
industrial ..... 0 acres  
**commercial.....less than one acre**

(b) Open Space/Woodlands/  
Recreation..... 0 acres

(c) Wetlands/Riparian  
Areas ..... 0 acres

(d) Floodplain ..... 0 acres

(e) Productive:  
irrigated cropland..... 0 acres  
dry cropland ..... 0 acres  
forestry ..... 0 acres  
rangeland..... 0 acres  
other..... 0 acres

8. Map/site plan: attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.

9. Narrative summary of the proposed action or project including the benefits and purpose of the proposed action.

The Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has selected for possible HRSP funding, the National Register listed Officer's Amusement Hall at 3848 Fort Circle Havre, MT 59501. The building contributes to the Fort Assiniboine Historic District.

SHPO's HRSP two-part grant application is based on the Federal Rehab Tax Credit format. Parts 1 and 2, photos and drawings are enclosed. You may wish to focus on the Part 1's Property Significance and Architectural Description sections (pages 6); and Part 2's Rehabilitation/Preservation Description section (page 7-8).

The Officer's Amusement Hall is situated at the southern corner within the Fort Assiniboine Historic District near Havre. The building was constructed ca. 1886 and remained in use until the fort's military closure in 1911. The building is listed as a contributing building to the Fort Assiniboine Historic District.

Attached materials outline a project that includes the following work:

- Sistering or in-kind replacement of rotten rafters, and in-kind replacement of rotten roof deck boards;
- Replacement of the existing damaged roof with in-kind cedar shingles;
- Replacement of missing or damaged brick on the chimney with original brick on site that will be an exact match;
- Tuck pointing the chimney with a mortar based on analysis of adjacent historic mortar;
- New step flashing in existing reglets around the base of the chimney when roof is replaced;
- Replacement of the roof fascia with in-kind materials of matching profile and dimension, where fascia is rotten, broken or missing.
- Prep and paint fascia.
- Reconstruction of original stage located in front of historic mural using original dimensions. Historic materials of the stage are unknown. New materials will be as neutral as possible;
- Repair damaged floor in the north east room and in the stage area. Replacement of damaged floorboards using in-kind materials where necessary;
- Replacement of lath and plaster ceiling in the east room with appropriate materials.

10. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the MEPA-required no action alternative). At a minimum, the following three alternatives must be presented.

a). **Preferred Alternative: Fund project as described in narrative and application materials.**

b). **No-action Alternative: No funding provided by SHPO, project does not go forward.**

**c). Additional Alternatives: Project moves forward without funding as described in application. Time period extended, no federal or state oversight.**

11. Name of Preparer(s) of this Environmental Checklist:

**Eric Newcombe**

12. Date submitted. **12/17/2020**

DRAFT



## PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

**Comment Index Key Letter: N: No Impact; B: Potentially Beneficial; A: Potentially Adverse; P: Approval/Permits Required; M: Mitigation Required**

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT.** At the bottom of this “Land Resources” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on land resources. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects of the action as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

1. LAND RESOURCES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		<b>X</b>				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?		<b>X</b>				
c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		<b>X</b>				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		<b>X</b>				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		<b>X</b>				
f. Other						

The project area near Havre, Montana is a developed zone within Fort Assinniboine. Under Alternatives 1 and 3, the project tasks will not include soil disruption, and therefore will not cause adverse effects upon soil stability or geologic substructure. No project activities will reduce productivity or fertility, nor will they impact unique geologic or physical features. The activities are limited to the building footprint and immediate vicinity, and will not change siltation, deposition, or erosion patterns of any rivers, streams, or lakes. The existing property stands in Seismic Zone 1. Because the project tasks will be executed by people living in the same seismic zone, there no increase in risk of exposure to earthquake hazards. Similarly, none of the alternatives will result in exposure to ground failure nor natural hazard risks.

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT.** At the bottom of this “Air” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on air resources. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects of the action as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

2. AIR  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))			X		Yes	
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		X				
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. Any discharge that will conflict with federal or state air quality regs?		X				
f. Other						

**Air quality may be temporarily and minorly affected due to dust and exhaust from equipment but will be confined to construction days and will have no lasting effects. No significant impacts to air quality are anticipated.**

**While odors may be associated with the solutions used to clean, install, or seal materials under Alternatives 1 and 3, they would be negligible and of extremely short duration and limited to immediate area of the jobsite. Alternative 2 would not result in any odors.**

**Because construction/rehabilitation is limited to the footprint of an existing building, none of the 3 alternatives will result in alteration of air movement, moisture, temperature patterns, change in climate, adverse effects on vegetation, nor discharges in conflict with air quality regs.**

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT.** At the bottom of this “Water” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on water resources. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

3. WATER	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
<b>Will the proposed action result in:</b>						
a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of floodwater or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. Effects to a designated floodplain?		X				
m. Any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations?		X				
n. Other:						

**Because the project is limited to the existing constructions and on a previously developed parcel, the project Alternatives 1, 2, and 3 will have no effect on discharge, drainage, flooding, or groundwater. The FEMA flood map indicates that the parcel is within Zone X. Zone X indicates an “area determined to be outside 500-year flood plain.” (see attached map) The project does not introduce any new construction, and all materials to be restored will be replaced in-kind.**

<https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search?AddressQuery=3848%20fort%20circle%2C%20havre%2C%20mt#searchresultsanchor>

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT.** At the bottom of this “Vegetation” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on vegetative resources. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

4. VEGETATION	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?		X				
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?			X			
f. Effects to wetlands or prime and unique farmland?		X				
g. Other:						

Because the project is limited to the existing building’s parcel, and workers vehicles will be limited to compacted roads and parking areas, the project will not have direct impacts to vegetation. A search of the Montana Natural Heritage database found no species of concern in the immediate project area. The Fort Assiniboine area SOC report identified four priority 2b noxious weeds, including Russian Knapweed, Spotted Knapweed, Canada Thistle and Field Bindweed. (<http://mtnhp.org/mapviewer/?t=7>, Montana Plant Species of Concern Report. Montana Natural Heritage Program. Retrieved on 10/02/2020, from <http://mtnhp.org/SpeciesOfConcern/?AorP=p> and Montana Point Observations Export, Generalized Observations for Species. Vascular Plants = ALL Vascular Species. Bryophytes = ALL Bryophytes Species. Lichens = ALL Lichens ((All Vascular Plants) and (All Bryophytes) and (All Lichens)), Within Lat/Long: (48.48398,-109.74449) to (48.51246,-109.82801), Natural Heritage Map Viewer, Montana Natural Heritage Program, Retrieved on October 2, 2020, from <http://mtnhp.org/mapviewer/> ) There is a small risk of vehicles transporting seeds and noxious plant material inadvertently with the vehicle tires, etc. The short duration of the work time, limited disturbance, and use of paved and compacted roads and lots, will minimize the potential spread. No action (Alternative 2) would not increase the number of vehicles in the project area.

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT.** At the bottom of this “Fish/Wildlife” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on fish and wildlife resources. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

5. FISH/WILDLIFE	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
h. Adverse effects to threatened/endangered species or their habitat?		X				
i. Introduction or exportation of any species not presently or historically occurring in the affected location?		X				
j. Other:						

Because the project is limited to the existing building’s parcel, and workers vehicles will be limited to compacted roads and parking areas, the project will not have direct impacts to wildlife or habitat. A search of the Montana Natural Heritage database found one mammal Species of Concern (SOC) in the immediate project area, the Little Brown Myotis observed in 2003. This search identified three fish SOC, including the Iowa Darter, Northern Redbelly Dace and Sauger. No observations of unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species appear in the immediate vicinity of the project area on the Natural Heritage Map Viewer (<http://mtnhp.org/MapViewer/>), a more extensive report for the area indicates observations of one Species of Concern and one Potential Species of Concern (PSOC). SOC includes the Black-tailed Prairie Dog and PSOCs include the Brook Stickleback. (Montana Animal Species of Concern Report. Montana Natural Heritage Program and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Retrieved on 10/02/2020, from <http://mtnhp.org/SpeciesOfConcern/?AorP=a> ) The project will not impact the habitats of these animals.

As noted above, no impacts are anticipated regarding discharge, rainwater, or flooding. Therefore, there is no anticipated impact to the Iowa Darter, Northern Redbelly Dace, Sauger or Brook Stickleback identified in the general area.

Based on a review of the Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program Mapper (<https://sagegrouse.mt.gov/projects>), the proposed project is not mapped in an Executive Order (EO) Area for Sage Grouse Habitat. Sage Grouse are not anticipated to be adversely affected by this work.

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.** At the bottom of this “Noise/Electrical Effects” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects of noise and electrical activities. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X		Yes	
b. Exposure of people to severe or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other:						

**Under Alternatives 1 and 3, There will be construction noise related to the project. No additional permanent increase in noise will occur as a result of construction activities and these activities are anticipated to be short-term and will occur during daylight hours. No equipment will interfere with electrostatic or electromagnetic levels. No impacts are anticipated regarding radio/television interference.**

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.** At the bottom of this “Land Use” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on land use. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects.

7. LAND USE  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				
b. A conflict with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. A conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on, or relocation of, residences?		X				
e. Compliance with existing land policies for land use, transportation, and open space?		X				
f. Increased traffic hazards, traffic volume, or speed limits or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?			X			
g. Other:						

**The project area is a developed parcel at Fort Assiniboine. One of the potential project results (Alternatives 1 and 3) will be to increase tourism. The project will not conflict with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance, nor with existing land uses. Effects on neighboring properties would be limited to short-term noise during the project. A secondary effect may be increased foot and vehicular traffic volume related to increased tourism.**

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.** At the bottom of this “Risk/Health Hazards” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects of risks and health hazards. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects of the action as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

8. RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		X				
b. Effects on existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
d. Disturbance to any sites with known or potential deposits of hazardous materials?		X				
e. The use of any chemical toxicants?		X				
f. Other:						

**This rehabilitation project will consist of restoration within the building’s original footprint. Under Alternatives 1 and 3, any potential lead paint and asbestos analysis and/or abatement will be conducted according to state law. Any chemical solvents used to remove mastic and/or paint and cleaning supplies will be used and disposed of according to the manufacturer’s instructions and local and state laws and recommendations.**



**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.** At the bottom of this “Community Impact” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on the community. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?			X			
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
f. Other:						

**While the immediate project impact will provide construction jobs to local residents, long-term, the project also has the potential to have a beneficial impact on the community by enhancing local heritage tourism. Fort Assiniboine boasts parking and road capacity appropriate to accommodate the immediate construction project such that there will be no increase in traffic hazards, effects on facilities, nor patterns of movement.**

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.** At the bottom of this “Public Services/Taxes/Utilities” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on public services, taxes and utilities. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. An effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered, governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If so, specify:		X				
b. Effects on the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. A need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Increased use of any energy source?			X		X	
e. Other.						
Additional information requested:						
f. Define projected revenue sources.						
g. Define projected maintenance costs.						

**The proponents for the project (Alternatives 1 and 3) do not anticipate an effect upon or need for new or altered governmental services in the short term or the long term. The project will not require changes or upgrades to fire/police protection or other public maintenance facilities or utilities. While the use of power tools may increase electricity consumption for the property during the course of the project, that increase will be minimal and temporary. Gasoline consumption necessitated by travel for the work crews again will be minimal and temporary.**

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.** At the bottom of this “Aesthetics/Recreation” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on aesthetics & recreation. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)				X		B
d. Adverse effects to any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas?		X				
e. Other:						

**The project entails preserving and restoring original, aesthetically pleasing features of an existing building, and therefore will not alter scenic vistas, and will improve the public view of the community. Alternatives 1 and 3 have the potential to provide beneficial aesthetic and recreation/tourism effects for the community. The project proponents explain: “Tourism is crucial for rural communities. Highway 2 is busy with year-round tourists traveling to Western Montana, many headed towards Glacier National Park. Havre has recently adopted the Main Street Program. Currently there is a full fledge community effort to focus attention toward giving those visitors a reason to stay and check out what the local area has to offer. There are several historically significant attractions in Hiss County, but the Fort is ranked high on the list.”**

**No designated nor proposed Wild and Scenic Rivers, not trails are in the project area. (<https://www.rivers.gov/> and <https://nps.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=8ecd2c2e783c4dfa9636e1805df0e441> ) Given the relatively contained nature of the project, no impacts to wilderness nor rivers nor trails is anticipated.**

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.** At the bottom of this “Cultural/historical Resources” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on cultural/historical resources. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		<b>X</b>				
b. Physical changes that would affect unique cultural values?				<b>X</b>		<b>B</b>
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		<b>X</b>				
d. Adverse effects to historic or cultural resources?		<b>X</b>				
e. Other:						

**Because the project will take place on an existing developed lot the proponents do not anticipate any physical changes that will affect unique cultural values or religious/sacred uses of the area. The project scope of work does not include ground disturbance and therefore will not impact pre-historic or paleontological resources. The project will result in the restoration of a National Register-listed property, and therefore benefit the property’s unique cultural values. The project will meet the Secretary of Interior Standards for Rehabilitation.**

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.** At the bottom of this “Summary Evaluation of Significance” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects. Even if you have checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:						
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. Have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy?		X				
Additional information requested:						
g. List any federal or state permits required.						

**The relatively limited potential area of effect and limited scope of the project contribute to the determination that Alternatives 1 and 3 will have no substantial cumulative effect to the area environment. Significant effects identified throughout this checklist/report consistently bear a beneficial effect to the human environment. As additional similar projects take place in Fort Assinniboine, the future could witness increased traffic, energy consumption, and development as tourism increases. Overall, however, the project seeks to contribute to the stabilization of a single building, rather than a largescale transformation and development.**

### **PART III. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST CONCLUSION SECTION**

1. Discuss the cumulative and secondary effects of this project as a whole. These are impacts to the human environment that, individually, may be minor for a specific project, but, when considered in combination to other actions, may result in significant impacts.

2. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this Environmental Checklist (Part II), is an EIS required?

YES \_\_\_\_\_

NO   X  

If an EIS is not required, explain why the current checklist level of review is appropriate.

**The checklist process allowed for consideration of the project's potential for effects on the environment. Through the course of the research required, no substantial or unmitigable potential adverse effects were identified. Instead, several benefits to resource were summarized in the review. The project (Alternatives 1 and 3) will provide a long-term positive benefit to the cultural resource and the community.**

**The Montana Historical Society State Historic Preservation Office will initiate a 30-day public comment period for the project, including a legal ad in a daily newspaper with widest circulation in the immediate project area, a dedicated webpage with links to relevant documents, and a public meeting. All public comments will be duly considered and integrated in the final environmental checklist for the project. That final document will include: a description of the nature of the public comments received during the official public comment period; a number tally of comments in support of the project and the numbers against; and a summary of the most important comments received and responses to these comments. Copies of all public notices and comments received will be kept on file.**

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Affected Environment** – The aspects of the human environment that may change as a result of an agency action.

**Alternative** – A different approach to achieve the same objective or result as the proposed action.

**Categorical Exclusion** – A level of environmental review for agency action that do not individually, collectively, or cumulatively cause significant impacts to the human environment, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review, and for which an EA or EIS is not required.

**Cumulative Impacts** – Impacts to the human environment that, individually, may be minor for a specific project, but, when considered in relation to other actions, may result in significant impacts.

**Direct Impacts** – Primary impacts that have a direct cause and effect relationship with a specific action, i.e. they occur at the same time and place as the action that causes the impact.

**Environmental Assessment (EA)** – The appropriate level of environmental review for actions that either does not significantly affect the human environment or for which the agency is uncertain whether an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required.

**Environmental Assessment Checklist** – An EA checklist is a standard form of an EA, developed by an agency for actions that generally produce minimal impacts.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** – A comprehensive evaluation of the impacts to the human environment that likely would result from an agency action or reasonable alternatives to that action. An EIS also serves a public disclosure of agency decision-making. Typically, an EIS is prepared in two steps. The Draft EIS is a preliminary detailed written statement that facilitates public review and comment. The Final EIS is a completed, written statement that includes a summary of major conclusions and supporting information from the Draft EIS, responses to substantive comments received on the Draft EIS, a list of all comments on the Draft EIS and any revisions made to the Draft EIS and an explanation of the agency's reasons for its decision.

**Environmental Review** – An evaluation, prepared in compliance with the provisions of MEPA and the MEPA Model Rules, of the impacts to the human environment that may result as a consequence of an agency action.

**Human Environment** – Those attributes, including but not limited to biological, physical, social, economic, cultural, and aesthetic factors that interrelate to form the environment.

**Long-Term Impact** – An impact, which lasts well beyond the period of the initial project.

**Mitigated Environmental Assessment** – The appropriate level of environmental review for actions that normally would require an EIS, except that the state agency can impose designs, enforceable controls, or stipulations to reduce the otherwise significant impacts to below the level of significance. A mitigated EA must demonstrate that: (1) all impacts have been identified; (2) all impacts can be mitigated below the level of significance; and (3) no significant impact is likely to occur.

**Mitigation** – An enforceable measure(s), designed to reduce or prevent undesirable effects or impacts of the proposed action.

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)** – The federal counterpart of MEPA that applies only to federal actions.

**No Action Alternative** – An alternative, required by the MEPA Model Rules for purposes of analysis, that describes the agency action that would result in the least change to the human environment.

**Public Participation** – The process by which an agency includes interested and affected individuals, organizations, and agencies in decision making.

**Record of Decision** – Concise public notice that announces the agency's decision, explains the reason for that decision, and describes any special conditions related to implementation of the decision.

**Scoping** – The process, including public participation, that an agency uses to define the scope of the environmental review.

**Secondary Impacts** – Impacts to the human environment that are indirectly related to the agency action, i.e. they are induced by a direct impact and occur at a later time or distance from the triggering action.

**Short-Term Impact** – An impact directly associated with a project that is of relatively short duration.

**Significance** – The process of determining whether the impacts of a proposed action are serious enough to warrant the preparation of an EIS. An impact may be adverse, beneficial or both. If none of the adverse impacts are significant, an EIS is not required.

**Supplemental Review** – A modification of a previous environmental review document (EA or EIS) based on changes in the proposed action, the discovery of new information, or the need for additional evaluation.

**Tiering** – Preparing an environmental review by focusing specifically on narrow scope of issues because the broader scope of issues was adequately addressed in previous environmental review document(s) that may be incorporated by reference.



# Site Maps:

Property Record Card ✕

Tax Year 2020

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**Summary**

**Primary Information**

Property Category: RP      Subcategory: Government Property  
 Geocode: 12-4440-28-1-01-09-0000      Assessment Code: 0000018128  
 Primary Owner:      Property Address: 3848 FORT CIR  
 STATE OF MONTANA - AG EXPERIMENT STATION      HAVRE, MT 59501  
 3710 ASSINNIBOINE RD      COS Parcel:  
 HAVRE, MT 59501-8412  
*NOTE: See the Owner tab for all owner information*

Certificate of Survey:  
 Subdivision:  
 Legal Description:  
 S28, T32 N, R15 E, ALL LESS NWNE, FORT ASSINBOINE  
 Last Modified: 7/25/2020 7:09:24 AM

**General Property Information**

Neighborhood: 212.001      Property Type: EP - Exempt Property  
 Living Units: 0      Levy District: 12-1427-A16R  
 Zoning:      Ownership %: 100

Linked Property:  
 No linked properties exist for this property

Exemptions:  
 No exemptions exist for this property

Condo Ownership:  
 General: 0      Limited: 0

**Property Factors**

Topography:      Fronting:  
 Utilities:      Parking Type:  
 Access:      Parking Quantity:  
 Location:      Parking Proximity:

**Land Summary**

Land Type	Acres	Value
Grazing	0.000	26,511.00
Fallow	0.000	00.00
Irrigated	0.000	00.00
Continuous Crop	0.000	00.00

Owners

Appraisals

Market Land Info

Dwellings

Other Buildings/Improvements

Commercial

Ag/Forest Land

Fort Cir

Dir LRd

Road 40 S

Assiniboine Rd

0 400ft

- +

Street

Aerial

Topo

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