

BANNACK NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PRESERVATION PLAN

Addendum to the 2001 Bannack State Park Management Plan

Goal: Preserve Bannack's historic character and National Historic Landmark-contributing features and characteristics, including its setting, feeling, and association, into perpetuity.¹

Period of Significance: 1862-1890

1. The approach at Bannack shall generally be historic preservation,² defined as follows in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards (SOI) for the Treatment of Historic Properties (Appendix A):

Preservation is defined as the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of an historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses upon the ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new construction. The limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a preservation project. However, new exterior additions are not within the scope of this treatment (Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties 2017 2).

2. When a feature or component can no longer be preserved, stabilized or repaired, replacement in kind shall be the next step, summarized here in the SOI standards regarding wood³:

Replacing in kind (i.e., with wood, but not necessarily the same species) extensively deteriorated or missing components of wood features when there are surviving prototypes, such as brackets, molding, or sections of siding, or when the replacement can be based on documentary or physical evidence. The new work should match the old in material, design, scale, color, and finish (SOI 40).

When in kind replacement of any feature or element is required, it shall replicate the feature or element as it was during Bannack's period of significance.⁴ Specifically, it shall be replicated as it

¹ National Historic Landmark is the highest designation for a heritage site in the US. NHLs have been recognized by the Secretary of the Interior as possessing national significance, and are of exceptional value in representing or illustrating an important theme in the history of the nation. A site listed on the National Register of Historic Places, on the other hand, may be significant at the local or regional level, but not necessarily significant nationally.

² Consultation shall occur with the State Historic Preservation Office through the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Heritage Program whenever preservation actions are required at a contributing feature at Bannack.

³ These concepts regarding in kind replacement shall apply to any material or feature, not only wood.

⁴ Lack of clarity on this point has previously led to a gradual deterioration of many of Bannack's structures, as they are continuously preserved to their previous level of preservation rather than to Bannack's period of significance. The 2001 Bannack Management Plan calls for maintaining a "sense of abandonment" in the townsite, which is unclear language from a preservation perspective.

was the last time it was altered during the period of significance. For example, if a structure's siding were three different colors during Bannack's period of significance, when the siding must be replaced it shall be painted the most recent of those colors. If the nature of the feature or element from the period of significance is not clear, the feature or element shall be replaced using techniques appropriate to Bannack's period of significance.

3. Many of Bannack's structures were altered before it became a park or during its early years as a park, in the 1950s-1990s. These alterations were not always in kind preservation actions; some changed the historic character of particular structures and/or of the townsite. Where such alterations can be identified, and an element or feature can no longer be preserved, the element or feature will be restored to its appearance during Bannack's period of significance. Alterations to a structure that occurred during Bannack's period of significance will be maintained. In the SOI Standards, restoration is defined as follows:

Restoration is defined as the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of features from other periods in its history and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period. The limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a restoration project (SOI 3).

In addition:

Replacement of missing features from the restoration period will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence. A false sense of history will not be created by adding conjectural features, features from other properties, or by combining features that never existed together historically (SOI 164).

4. In some limited cases, rehabilitation may be undertaken at Bannack. Bannack's park manager house, its visitor center, and a few other structures have already undergone some level of rehabilitation, defined in the SOI Standards as follows:

Rehabilitation is defined as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values (SOI 2).

Where appropriate, further rehabilitation may occur within Bannack so long as it does not cause adverse effect to any of Bannack's NHL-contributing features or characteristics. The exterior of a rehabilitated structure shall match its appearance during Bannack's period of significance, following the guidelines outlined in points 2 and 3 above.