



Mayor Robert E. Simison

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January 25, 2024

MEMORANDUM

TO: Historic Preservation Commission

FROM: Cassandra Schiffler, Arts and Culture Coordinator

RE: Historic Research Consulting Projects for FY24

Background

The Meridian Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) has an annual budget for historic research consulting and photography services. HPC's FY24 budget was planned to support the matching funds for the recently submitted SHPO grant for the purpose of updating the Meridian Historic Preservation Plan. However, due to SHPO's grant funding timeline and approval process, work on that potential project cannot actually begin until FY25. Below are several options for other various historic preservation projects that have been discussed in the past. Most of these would likely have smaller budgets and could potentially be completed in FY24. Staff can get estimates for projects if the commission would like to pursue them, and would like direction and prioritization on these potential projects.

- NHR nomination for the Zamzows Mill (this likely would be a multi-year project, but a phase could be started in FY24)
- New historic signage for downtown Meridian buildings or sites (sites would need to be identified)
- Walking tour thermoplast signage on sidewalk
- A redesign/update of the current downtown walking tour brochure
- A tour guide how-to binder to give commissioners/volunteers a script and images to help lead in-person walking tours (a cost estimate for this has been requested)
- Research into a "landmarking" program for Meridian. SHPO brought staff attention to a "landmarking" program as outlined in state code (67-4614 and 67-4616) <https://legislature.idaho.gov/statutesrules/idstat/title67/t67ch46/>. This could be used to designate certain historic properties as "landmarks." If the property is up for development or demolition, they would present these changes to the HPC who can provide opinions/advice/recommendations on the project. This research could become a section of the future Historic Preservation Plan.
- Although SHPO's guidance would first be required, HPC could start a NHR nomination process on either of the districts that TAG identified in the reconnaissance survey (this likely would be a multi-year project, but a phase could be started in FY24)
- Additions to the 360 [Virtual Tour](#) – new sites would need to be identified
- Other?

Recommendation

To discuss various projects, and identify priority historic research consulting projects that could be developed and completed in this fiscal year.