

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the National Endowment for the Humanities' Section 106 Review of the Meeteetse Museum District Roof Retrofit and Solar Panel Installation

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has conditionally awarded the Meeteetse Museum District (Museum), in Meeteetse, Wyoming a Challenge Infrastructure and Capacity Building grant (CHA-295954) for a new metal roof and the installation of solar panels.

NEH is an independent grant-making agency of the United States government dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities. This public notice is issued as part of NEH's responsibilities under 36 C.F.R. Part 800, the regulations which implement Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, 54 U.S.C. 306108. NEH, a funding agency, is required by regulation to identify and assess the effects of any proposed actions on historic properties. If any proposed action will have an adverse effect on historic resources, NEH works with the appropriate parties to seek ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects. Additionally, the Section 106 regulations require NEH to consider the views of the public on preservation issues when making final decisions that affect historic properties.

The project involves renovations to the roof of the Meeteetse Museum, at 1947 State St, Meeteetse, WY 82433. The project will change the style of the roof so that the building should not have annual winter leaks from snow. Solar panels (41 panels of 405 watts) will be added to the back pitched roof in two sections to shrink utility costs while providing renewable energy and educating the community on different types of energy and electricity. The building was constructed in 1918 and has served a variety of uses over the years. It has been significantly altered and is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. First National Bank Museum, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NHRP). Located within a block is the First National Bank of 1033 Park Ave., Meeteetse WY 82433, which is listed on the NHRP (#90001388). The bank was constructed in 1901. It is significant because it was the cornerstone of Meeteetse's early downtown commercial district and played a key role in the town's early commercial development. The roof and solar panels will not be visible from the bank building.

On March 28, 2024, Casey Woster, National Register Program Coordinator, with the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) provided the opinion that the proposed work will have No Adverse Effect. After reviewing Section 106 documentation NEH issues a final determination of No Adverse Effect, conditioned upon the following: If any cultural materials are discovered during construction, work in the area shall halt immediately, NEH and SHPO staff will be contacted, and the materials be evaluated by an archaeologist or historian meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (48 FR 22716, Sept. 1983).

As required by Section 106, NEH is providing the public with information about this project, as well as an opportunity to comment on any knowledge of, or concerns with, historic properties in the proposed project area, and issues relating to the project's potential effects on historic properties. Comments may be submitted to the NEH by e-mail to FPO@neh.gov. The deadline for submitting comments is June 19, 2024.