

# BUTTE RESTORATION ALLIANCE



*Historic Preservation  
Subcommittee*

**Richard I. Gibson**  
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Mr. Jon Sesso  
Director, Planning Department  
Butte-Silver Bow County  
155 W. Granite St.  
Butte, MT 59701

[www.butterestorationalliance.org](http://www.butterestorationalliance.org)

January 18, 2008

Dear Mr. Sesso:

The Historic Preservation Subcommittee of the Butte Restoration Alliance spent much of 2007 studying the county-owned mine yards, to attempt to prioritize needs from the point of view of historic preservation, safety, and the role of the mine yards in an ultimate Heritage Park.

We are happy to hear of the plans for the Original Mine Yard for the 2008 (and later) National Folk Festival, and inasmuch as some of the improvement plans mesh well with our own recommendations, we are writing to encourage and request that you proceed with this.

Specifically, our top priority for the Original Mine Yard is to stabilize and secure the Engine Room (hoist house) from the elements, including pigeons – this entails roof and wall repairs, primarily. Naturally, we are also interested in maintaining the historic integrity of the building and its contents as well as loose artifacts in the yard.

We also want to go on record encouraging a proper geotechnical review of the site; given that your department and Pioneer Technical are involved, we trust their expertise and are confident that this will be accomplished.

If we can be of any further assistance in your endeavors to improve and make useful the historic structures at the Original Mine Yard, please be sure to contact us.

Best regards,

Richard I. Gibson, for the Historic Preservation Subcommittee

cc: Paul Babb

cc: Alliance Executive Committee; Alliance web site