

(\$ in thousands)

Project Title	Priority Ranking	Funding Source	Project Requests for State Funds		
			2018	2020	2022
Historic Fort Snelling Visitor Center	1	GO	\$ 30,000	\$ 0	\$ 0
Historic Sites Asset Preservation	2	GO	\$ 13,528	\$ 9,619	\$ 2,320
County and Local Historic Preservation Grants	3	GO	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 750
Minnesota History Center - Predesign Design and Implementation	4	GO	\$ 0	\$ 3,500	\$ 30,000
Total Project Requests			\$ 44,278	\$ 13,869	\$ 33,070
General Obligation Bonds (GO) Total			\$ 44,278	\$ 13,869	\$ 33,070

Historic Fort Snelling Visitor Center**AT A GLANCE****2018 Request Amount:** \$30,000**Priority Ranking:** 1**Project Summary:** The Minnesota Historical Society is requesting funding to construct a visitor center facility within historic buildings adjacent to Historic Fort Snelling, as well as landscaping and wayfinding features to enhance the visitor experience. These facilities will provide opportunities for the Fort's rich stories to be shared through a dynamic, inclusive visitor experience featuring new exhibits with innovative, community-based interpretive features.**Project Description**

Funding for construction of an improved visitor center and associated landscaping and wayfinding will provide enhanced facilities and services for Historic Fort Snelling's many visitors. The goal of the project is to improve public service, interpretation, and operations at this nationally significant site in order to increase access, services, use of current assets, and numbers of visitors.

Information from a recently completed Master Plan and Predesign for the site and adjacent area will inform the planning for the project. The MNHS is currently in the design phase with funding provided through a 2017 Capital Budget appropriation.

It is currently anticipated that the facility will be approximately 50,000 gross square feet within two historic structures, a 1904 Cavalry Barracks building and an 1880s Ordnance Building, and will include visitor services including classrooms, restrooms, museum exhibits and other visitor amenities. Funding will support demolition of the existing deteriorating and outdated visitor center and improved landscaping, parking, and wayfinding. Further details will be determined during the design process, currently underway.

The Minnesota Historical Society anticipates raising \$12 million in non-state funding for this overall \$46 million project.

Programming will be co-created with various stakeholder communities and will include guided and self-guided experiences, special events, living history, exhibits, multi-media and other experiences that allow visitors to examine differing perspectives and many aspects of the site's stories, particularly featuring the interpretive themes of confluence, place, remembrance, healing and community.

Project Rationale

Historic Fort Snelling is one of the most significant historic places in the state--Minnesota's first National Historic Landmark has been a crossroads for the many peoples who have lived in Minnesota and is therefore an appropriate platform for telling important stories of American Indian history, westward expansion, societal changes, and global conflict. This project will provide modern facilities to replace current deteriorating visitor facilities so visitors can explore our history, while preserving a highly significant historic structure that we are responsible for preserving.

As Fort Snelling approaches its bicentennial in the year 2020, Minnesotans will want to learn more about the many diverse stories of this historic place's rich history.

Since the Fort is well-known and beloved by many Minnesotans, the Minnesota Historical Society believes that there is capacity for private funding for this project, thus leveraging state funding to attract significant non-state funding. It is important for the state, therefore, to make a commitment so that additional donors can help to make the Fort a dynamic educational experience.

Project Timeline

Timeline of the project is anticipated as follows, pending appropriation of funding for construction during the 2018 Session:

2017

- Schematic design commences (with 2017 Capital Budget / bonding bill appropriation)
- Assessments (Hazardous Materials, Archaeology etc.)
- Interpretive / Programming planning and development including stakeholder involvement

2018

- Design Development / Construction Documents
- Interpretive / Programming planning and development including stakeholder involvement
- Construction

2019

- Interpretive / Programming planning and development including stakeholder involvement
- Construction

2020

- Construction
- Installation of Exhibits
- Opening

Other Considerations

MNHS has made great strides in the interpretive program at the site in recent years. After comprehensive studies of visitors and non-visitors to the site, we now have a better grasp of what Minnesotans want and need from Historic Fort Snelling. There is widespread appreciation for what we are doing now, but also a hunger for more stories to be told, more amenities to improve a visit, a community-based gathering place, as well as better orientation and wayfinding. As the planning process continues, we will continue extensive stakeholder involvement to help guide the future of this important historic place.

In response to public demand, we have changed the interpretive program incrementally, year by year, within the limitations of the current facilities. Broader stories are now beginning to be told, including:

- The history of the first inhabitants of the site, the Dakota, who consider this area their homeland. Interpretive themes include pre-European contact, the era of treaties and statehood, and the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862.
- MNHS will continue to tell the important military history that has marked the most recent centuries of this significant place's history.
- One of the many untold stories of this important historic site is the story of Dred and Harriet Scott,

who used their residence at Fort Snelling to champion their freedom in a landmark Supreme Court decision, one of the sparks for the Civil War. This nationally significant story, not widely known by Minnesotans, is an important connection between our state's African American history and national events and movements.

- A more recent story unknown to most Minnesotans is the experience of Japanese American language interpreters who worked at Fort Snelling during WWII.

In order for this history to be properly interpreted, significant investment is needed.

Fort Snelling enjoys a very high awareness rate among all Minnesotans. Its central location within minutes of the airport and the Mall of America puts it within the reach of tourists from around the world. At its peak in the 1970s, the site served over 150,000 visitors annually. If the site's full potential is realized, reaching these visitation numbers from 40 years ago should be a goal that we are able to achieve.

Significant momentum is also building on development projects in the greater Fort Snelling district, adjacent to the historic fort, at the Upper Post and beyond: a base camp facility built by the Boy Scouts; light rail-driven development in the area of the federal Whipple Building, including a new veterans housing facility which recently opened; and further development opportunities at the Upper Post are being pursued by the Department of Natural Resources, assisted by an interagency Joint Powers Agreement.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets

Further information on operating costs will be explored in the design process, which will include economic analysis. Our approach will be similar to work we have done at other sites in recent years. The planning assumption is that operating cost increases should be minimized as much as possible and any unavoidable increases should be covered with earned revenue rather than state appropriations.

Description of Previous Appropriations

Funding has been provided for various asset preservation projects to preserve historic structures on this National Historic Landmark site.

In the 2015 Capital Budget, \$500,000 in funding was appropriated for predesign for a visitor center for Historic Fort Snelling.

In the 2017 Capital Budget, \$4,000,000 for design for revitalization of Historic Fort Snelling.

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Historic Sites Asset Preservation

AT A GLANCE

2018 Request Amount: \$13,528

Priority Ranking: 2

Project Summary: The Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS) is requesting \$13.528 million in 2018 for the preservation and restoration of historic structures, landscapes and building systems in the State Historic Sites Network and for monuments located statewide. Due to increased deterioration of historic structures, and funding at less than requested levels, the state of facilities in the historic sites network is reaching a critical level.

Project Description

Funding for the Minnesota Historical Society’s Historic Sites Asset Preservation request will help to preserve some of the state’s most significant historic structures, which are preserved for the education and enjoyment of our citizens. Due to increased deterioration of historic structures, and funding at less than requested levels, the state of facilities in the historic sites network is reaching a critical level.

Over the past three decades more than 21 million students, families, and tourists have visited the 141 landmark buildings, trails and museums of the State Historic Sites Network. MNHS is committed to keeping these extraordinary properties open and accessible to the public now and for future generations. Although many of the historic structures are now more than one hundred years old and holding up remarkably well, age and modern visitation do take their toll. While keeping pace with the impacts of visitor traffic and continuous aging of the historic structures is always one of our chief concerns, we also must keep up with changes in life/safety systems, environmental issues, security, infrastructure upgrades and renovations necessary to support building use. In addition to the necessary work on historic structures, many of the modern visitor centers constructed 30 to 40 years ago are now in need of renewal or are reaching the end of their useful life. The asset preservation investment for such a vast network of varied structures is an indispensable component of operating the Historic Sites Network for the people of Minnesota.

In recognition of the integral part that these buildings and landscapes play in public education, the people of Minnesota have invested significantly in the State Historic Sites Network. Maintaining these resources is expensive, but it is a good cost-benefit ratio for the people of Minnesota and the nearly 600,000 visitors each year. As non-renewable social and cultural resources, historic buildings require a high standard of care. The skills of specially qualified architects, engineers and contractors are required to assess, design and implement repairs, maintenance, and systems improvements. The cost of high-quality materials increases every year. The investment is well rewarded by the educational benefits and public appreciation for preserving the state’s precious heritage.

The Historic Sites Network also serves as a showcase for the principles and techniques of historic preservation, setting a standard for the state. These structures are learning resources used by students of Minnesota history, by students and practitioners of architecture, and by the traditional building trades. Preservation of historic structures, by definition, meets the state’s goal of funding sustainable, high-performance buildings, since historic structures preserve previous energy and

financial investments. It has been said that “the greenest building is the one that is already built.”

The Society’s Facilities and Risk Management Department is responsible for all 141 of the structures in the Historic Sites Network. Every year the staff typically manages five or six large projects and dozens of small projects scattered across the state. Staff prioritizes work projects based upon long-range planning, building analysis, and structural conditions. Working in consultation with preservation architects and specialty engineers, cost estimates are prepared for appropriation requests.

Each of the projects named below are part of the State Historic Sites Network, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, 138.661, and have strong local and regional support from the areas in which they are located, since historic sites are an important component of our state’s tourism economy. Local citizens, businesses, and support group members have assisted these sites with volunteer hours, in-kind contributions, and grass-roots leadership. Minnesotans are rightfully proud of the sites.

The historic buildings, artifacts, and landscapes within the State Historic Sites Network are of national and state significance. They fulfill the mission given by the Territorial Legislature to the Society to collect and preserve evidence of human culture in the state, and to teach Minnesota history in all its academic, technological, and social diversity. Failure to maintain these cultural treasures will result in irreversible loss of material and intellectual culture.

Project Rationale

This request is for work that is critical to the preservation and maintenance of important historic resources, which are a state responsibility under Minnesota Statutes 138.661, the authorizing statute for the State Historic Sites Network. Preservation of historic structures, by definition, meets the state’s goal of funding sustainable, high performance buildings, since historic structures preserve previous energy and financial investments.

Project Timeline

Since asset preservation funding is comprised of multiple projects, each project will have a separate timeline. Project planning and design will commence soon after final approval of funding, and construction will begin for each project after completion of design.

Other Considerations

2018 Asset Preservation Requests: \$13,528

- Mill City Museum: \$1,500
 - Courtyard masonry, building preservation
- Historic Forestville: \$600
 - Exterior rehabilitation
- Statewide: \$632
 - Fire and Security system, upgrade and replacement
- Folsom House: \$1,431
 - Exterior, site and landscape
- Lindbergh House: \$632
 - HVAC

- Historic Forestville: \$491
 - House Interior
- Mill City Museum: \$1,596
 - Building Preservation
- HistoricFort Snelling: \$432
 - Commandants House interior
- Mille Lacs Museum: \$246
 - Exterior masonry and siding
- Historic Fort Snelling: \$2,160
 - Building 17 interior stabilization
- Grand Mound: \$1,450
 - Visitor Facilities tbd
- Historic Fort Snelling: \$491
 - Building 30 exterior
- Northwest Company: \$340
 - Roofs
- Lindbergh House: \$387
 - Site/Drainage
- Harkin Store: \$540
 - House and Store restoration
- Statewide: \$150
 - Monuments and Markers
- Statewide: \$450
 - Design for future projects

2020 Asset Preservation Requests: \$9,619

- HistoricFort Snelling: \$604
 - Retaining wall stabilization
- Comstock House: \$421
 - Foundation preservation and restoration
- Marine Mill: \$702

- Ruin stabilization and trail rehabilitation
- Statewide: \$211
 - Trail signage
- Forest History: \$421
 - Restroom rehabilitation
- James J. Hill House: \$3,900
 - House – Air Conditioning
- Split Rock Lighthouse: \$1,820
 - Facilities and Enhancements, interpretive areas and rebuild barn
- James J. Hill House: \$350
 - Gatehouse Restoration - Interior Preservation
- Forest History Center: \$195
 - Rehab of Gun Club Building including Storage, new HVAC, New Roof
- Lindbergh House: \$455
 - "Upper" landscape preservation
- Stateside: \$390
 - Design for Future Asset Preservation Projects
- Stateside: \$150
 - Monument/Markers

2022 Asset Preservation Requests: \$2,320

- James J. Hill House: \$455
 - Site Landscape Preservation & Site Feature Restoration
- Statewide: \$150
 - Trail and interpretive markers: Birch Coulee, Kelley, Laq Qui Parle, Forestville, Lower Sioux Agency
- Oliver Kelley Farm: \$250
 - Farmhouse Interior Restorations
- Lower Sioux Agency: \$250
 - Landscape Preservation
- Lac Qui Parle: \$250

- Landscape Preservation
- North West Company Fur Post: \$165
 - Roof replacements – Visitor Center
- Harkin Store: \$200
 - Exterior preservation, upgrade HVAC & plumbing system in House for efficiency & safety
- Statewide: \$450
 - Design for Future Asset Preservation Projects
- Statewide: \$150
 - Monument/Markers

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets

Generally, not applicable. There may be some minor savings from energy efficiency.

Description of Previous Appropriations

Appropriations for asset preservation of the state Historic Sites Network have been made in most major capital budget bills since 1990. In 2017, this activity received \$2.5 million; in 2014, it received \$1.440 million, in 2012, it received \$2.5 million, in 2011 it received \$1.9 million, in 2010 it received \$3.4 million; in 2009 it received \$2.165 million; and in 2008 it received \$4 million.

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County and Local Historic Preservation Grants

AT A GLANCE

2018 Request Amount: \$750

Priority Ranking: 3

Project Summary: This project provides funding, on a competitive matching basis, for county and local historic preservation projects. This program will allow local communities to preserve their most significant historical resources.

Project Description

The county and local historic preservation program provides grants on a local match basis to preserve historic assets owned by public entities. These properties are historically significant structures, with priority given to those that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This program is one of the most successful of its type, with relatively small amounts of money leveraging local funding and volunteer efforts. Since recipients of county and local preservation grants are required to fully match state funds, this project provides the best possible return on the state’s investment. Funds appropriated between 1994 and 2014 were spread across Minnesota on a competitive grant basis, with requests more than double the funds available.

This project also has the effect of reducing the state’s overall share of investment in preserving historic resources while fulfilling the state’s statutory commitment to preserving elements of the state’s inventory of historic resources (according to M.S. Sec. 138.665). Some states, for example, attempt to preserve 125+ historic sites at the state level. In Minnesota, we have limited the state’s historic sites network to 32 sites, allowing the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS) to concentrate on its mission of interpreting historic sites of statewide significance. Minnesota’s grant-in-aid program, initiated in 1969, encourages local organizations to take on such preservation projects.

Since 1969 more than 2,400 capital and operating grants have been awarded to qualified historical organizations in all 87 counties, resulting in the preservation of the evidence of Minnesota’s past. In recent rounds of grants, 219 grants from the Society’s capital bond-funded grant program have assisted in preserving and making accessible such projects as historic county courthouses (52 grants to 26 different courthouses); historic city halls (29 grants to 17 different city halls); and historic library buildings (20 grants to 16 different libraries). Grants have helped to preserve publicly owned historic structures that provide a unique lens on our state’s history.

Types of historic structures preserved with grants funds include depots, senior and community centers, schools, bridges, theaters, park buildings, museums, water towers, and township halls. Specific examples include Norman County Courthouse Preservation (Norman County); the Andrew Volstead House roof replacement (City of Granite Falls); the Olof Swensson House roof replacement (Chippewa County); the O.G. Anderson and Company Store restoration (City of Minneota); the Anna and Mikko Pyhala Farm Restoration project (Town of Embarrass); the Mahnomen City Hall Restoration; Winona Masonic Hall/Senior Center (City of Winona); the Rensselaer Hubbard House restoration (City of Mankato); Robbinsdale Branch Library restoration (City of Robbinsdale); and the Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery Preservation.

From a financial perspective, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, and 2014 appropriations totaling over \$ 8.5 million have leveraged at least an equal amount in local match funding, as well as countless hours of volunteer effort.

Project Rationale

The county and local historic preservation grants program enables city and county government to fulfill their obligations to preserve historic structures, under MN Statutes 138.665, while sharing the cost with the State of Minnesota.

Other accomplishments and rationale include:

- Grants for historic preservation have stimulated local economies. Local matches used to implement projects have more than doubled the over \$8 million in state funds. Tourists coming to visit these historic resources bring new dollars to Minnesota communities.

Project Timeline

The Minnesota Historical Society anticipates an initial grant round in mid to late 2018 if funds for this grant program are appropriated in the 2018 Session. Depending on the level of funding provided, there could be an additional grant round in 2019.

Other Considerations

Against a backdrop of economic challenges and heightened concern for the environment, historic preservation has a proven track record in stimulating local economies and revitalizing local communities, large and small.

It has been said: “the greenest building is the one that is already built.” Continuation of funding for this grant program leverages local resources and helps to preserve the built environment, thereby conserving the resources already put into these buildings and further the efforts to contribute to a sustainable future.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets

None.

Description of Previous Appropriations

Funding for the County and Local Historic Preservation Grant program has been included in every major capital budget bill since 1994. In the most recent three major capital budget bills, funding has been appropriated as follows: 2014: \$1,400,000 (GF); 2012: \$750,000 (GO); 2010: \$1,000,000 (GO).

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