

(\$ in thousands)

Project Title	Priority Ranking	Funding Source	Project Requests for State Funds		
			2022	2024	2026
Historic Sites Asset Preservation	1	GO	\$ 13,310	\$ 10,500	\$ 12,725
		GF	\$ 275	\$ 0	\$ 0
MN History Center Facility Enhancements - Pre-design and Design	2	GO	\$ 500	\$ 3,500	\$ 40,000
County and Local Historic Preservation Grants	3	GO	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Total Project Requests			\$ 15,085	\$ 15,000	\$ 53,725
General Obligation Bonds (GO) Total			\$ 14,810	\$ 15,000	\$ 53,725
General Fund Cash (GF) Total			\$ 275	\$ 0	\$ 0

Historic Sites Asset Preservation

AT A GLANCE

2022 Request Amount: \$13,585

Priority Ranking: 1

Project Summary: The Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS) is requesting \$13.585 million in 2022 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 deferred maintenance needs of historic structures outpacing appropriations, 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.

Over the past three decades more than 24 million students, families, and tourists have visited the 150+ 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, accessibility, 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 over 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 150+ 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.

Projects in this request 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, because historic structures preserve previous energy and financial investments.

Project Timeline

Other Considerations

(dollars in thousands)

2022 ASSET PRESERVATION REQUEST

Historic Fort Snelling, Historic Fort Snelling Round Tower Exterior Repairs, \$600
Mill City Museum, Mill City Train Shed & East Engine House Preservation, \$1,075
Split Rock Lighthouse, Split Rock Historic Site Accessibility, \$800
Comstock House, Comstock House Foundation Stabilization, \$550
Ramsey House, Ramsey House Preservation, \$850
Fort Ridgely, Fort Ridgely Masonry Stabilization, \$225

Mill City Museum, Mill City Conveyors and Tunnel Rehabilitation, \$2,300
Mill City Museum, Mill City Wheel House Rehabilitation, \$300
Historic Fort Snelling, Historic Fort Snelling Wall Stabilization, \$360
Split Rock Lighthouse, Split Rock Dwelling #3 Interior Preservation, \$300
Kelley Farm, Kelley Farm Farmhouse Exterior Preservation, \$500
Historic Fort Snelling, Historic Fort Snelling Building #30 Interior Preservation, \$600
Kelley Farm, Kelley Farm Farmhouse Interior Preservation, \$425
Mille Lacs Indian Museum, Mille Lacs HVAC Upgrades, \$600
Historic Fort Snelling, Commandant's House Preservation, \$800
Lower Sioux Agency Historic Site, Lower Sioux Visitor Center Exterior and Warehouse Preservation, \$275 (general fund)
Historic Fort Snelling, Building 17 and Link Interior Preservation, \$2,475
Statewide, Design for Future Asset Preservation Projects, \$400
Statewide, Monuments and Markers, \$150
2022 Total: \$13,585

2024 ASSET PRESERVATION REQUEST

NW Company / Snake River Fur Post, Security System and Fire System Update, \$150
Historic Fort Snelling, Building 22 Preservation, \$3,000
Southwestern MN Historic Sites, Trail Repairs and Update, \$700
Mayo House, Mayo House Exterior Preservation, \$300
Mill City Museum, East Wall Masonry Project, \$4,475
Forest History Center, Forest History Center Entrance Road Upgrade, \$150
Folsom House, Folsom House Interior Preservation, \$200
Harkin Store, Harkin Store Exterior Envelope Rehabilitation, \$500
Split Rock Lighthouse, Lighthouse Moisture Mitigation, \$475
Statewide, Design for Future Asset Preservation Projects, \$400
Statewide, Monuments and Markers, \$150
2024 Total: \$10,500

2026 ASSET PRESERVATION REQUEST

Mill City Museum, Mill City Elevator #1 Rehabilitation, \$7,100
Mille Lacs Indian Museum, Mille Lacs Trading Post Restroom Remodel, \$125
Folsom House, Folsom House Roof Replacement, \$275
NW Company / Snake River Fur Post, Fur Post Visitor Center & Picnic Shelter Roof Replacement, \$775
James J. Hill House, Hill House Gatehouse Interior Preservation, \$325
Forest History Center, Forest History Center Logging Camp Restroom Renovation, \$750
Forest History Center, Visitor Center Water Tank Replacement, \$50

James J. Hill House, Hill House Landscape Rehabilitation, \$250
Lindbergh House, Lindbergh House Landscape & Drainage Improvements, \$500
Historic Fort Snelling, Exterior Preservation, \$2,000
Lac Qui Parle Mission, Lac Qui Parle Mission Interior Preservation, \$150
Statewide, Design for Future Asset Preservation Projects, \$400
Statewide, Monuments and Markers, \$150
2026 Total: \$12,725

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 2020, this activity received \$2.350 million; in 2018, it received \$8 million; in 2017, it received \$2.5 million; in 2014, it received \$1.44 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.

Project Contact Person

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MN History Center Facility Enhancements - Predesign and Design

AT A GLANCE

2022 Request Amount: \$500

Priority Ranking: 2

Project Summary: Through this project, the Minnesota Historical Society will complete predesign, design and construction for renovations of MNHS facilities, including the Minnesota History Center, to optimize space use for collections and visitor services. This work will anticipate the next generation of collections practices and technology, as well as visitor engagement including exhibits, educational and public programs.

Project Description

The Minnesota Historical Society is requesting funds to plan for future use of the Minnesota History Center and other facilities. While some physical collections storage areas are nearly full, technology is rapidly changing, creating an opportunity for a different way of approaching collections. At the same time, we must examine the best ways to reach today’s and future in-person visitors to the History Center.

The MNHS will examine its program functions and space needs through a Master Planning process in the next several months and years, and anticipates readiness for predesign and design funding to plan for optimal usage of space.

Project Rationale

In 2022, the Minnesota History Center will mark its 30th anniversary. Since its opening, the History Center has been the place where millions of Minnesotans and guests from around the world have discovered our history, and where collections have been preserved for future generations. Guests have celebrated special occasions, remembered our heroes and learned about our neighbors, whose background may be different from their own.

As we look to the next 30 years and beyond, the Minnesota Historical Society will assess its space needs for collections and visitor services in order to best preserve, share and connect Minnesotans with their history.

Project Timeline

Other Considerations

N/A

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets

To be determined through the master planning and predesign process.

Description of Previous Appropriations

The Minnesota History Center opened in the Fall of 1992, and was funded through major State of Minnesota Capital Budget appropriations made in the late 1980s, as well as matching private donations.

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County and Local Historic Preservation Grants

AT A GLANCE

2022 Request Amount:	\$1,000
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 in 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, 248 grants from the Society’s capital bond-funded grant program have assisted in preserving and making accessible such projects as historic county courthouses (62 grants to 27 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); the Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery Preservation, and the Norenberg Estate Water Tower (Hennepin County [Grantee is Three Rivers Park District]), and Bemidji Carnegie Library (City of Bemidji).

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 Statute 138.665, while sharing the cost with the State of Minnesota.

Project Timeline

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 most major capital budget bills since 1994. The three most recent appropriations have been: 2020: \$750,000 (GO); 2014: \$1,400,000 (GF); 2012: \$750,000 (GO); 2010: \$1,000,000 (GO).

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