

Project Title	2008 Agency Priority Ranking	Agency Project Request for State Funds (\$ by Session)				Governor's Recommendations 2008	Governor's Planning Estimate	
		2008	2010	2012	Total		2010	2012
Historic Fort Snelling Visitor Center & Site Revitalization	1	\$24,800	\$0	\$0	\$24,800			
Historic Sites Asset Preservation	2	7,349	4,068	3,102	14,519			
County and Local Historic Preservation Grants	3	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000			
Kelley Farm Revitalization	4	1,500	10,500	0	12,000			
Heritage Trails	5	894	0	0	894			
History Center Enhancements		0	2,000	6,000	8,000			
Total Project Requests		\$36,543	\$18,568	\$11,102	\$66,213			

Historic Fort Snelling Visitor Center & Site Revitalization

2008 STATE APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$24,800,000

AGENCY PROJECT PRIORITY: 1 of 5

PROJECT LOCATION:

Project At A Glance

The Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) seeks funds to continue the revitalization of Minnesota's most significant historic site on the state's Sesquicentennial anniversary. The funds will continue the revitalization of the site by creating a modern visitor center and preserving National Historic Landmark structures.

Project Description

Millions of people have visited Historic Fort Snelling in the forty years that MHS has operated the site. These visitors followed in the footsteps of millions before them-- American Indians, French trappers, Yankee entrepreneurs, missionaries, slaves, immigrants, and green recruits for a dozen wars--on a path that stretches back at least 5000 years. Their stories have shaped the state of Minnesota and continue to influence our lives today. Building on their foundation, we need to prepare this most significant site for the 21st century.

The Minnesota Historical Society is requesting funds to construct a modern visitor center at Historic Fort Snelling, to realign pedestrian and vehicle routes, to improve buildings within the walls of the Historic Fort to better serve visitors to the site, and to preserve historic structures in order to put them to good use. The new Visitors Center will be the portal to the historic site, providing visitor services, ticketing, and orientation. It will replace the existing underground visitor center, which has experienced significant structural and water-penetration problems in recent years.

Project History

Historic Fort Snelling is Minnesota's first National Historic Landmark, the highest designation given to historic places by the federal government, recognizing the site's role in the nation's development. Fort Snelling was the governmental administration center for this region from 1819 until statehood in 1858, and an active military post until 1946. The original fort site was restored and opened to the public in 1965. A visitor center was completed in 1983.

The original restoration and site program at Historic Fort Snelling is now more than forty years old. While the site continues to serve 85,000 visitors each year, it is not reaching its full potential due to limited facilities, decades-old exhibits, and a program narrowly focused on the early 19th century.

Just as important, the site is not taking advantage of its greatest assets—its extraordinary position overlooking the Mississippi River, its location in the center of the state's population, and its prominent place in the hearts of Minnesotans.

There is a broad consensus for action. Buildings and grounds that show signs of heavy use need to be replaced. Historic structures that are empty and decaying need restoration if they are to have a productive use. Attendance has not kept pace with the remarkable growth in the Twin Cities area. Historic Fort Snelling needs to regain its status as a major attraction to meet the educational and recreational needs of people today and in the future.

In 2002, the MHS proposed to temporarily close Fort Snelling in order to focus energies on site development. The immense public outcry over this proposed action had a dramatic effect. If there was any doubt before about the special place the site holds in the hearts of Minnesotans, it was put to rest. The legislature responded in kind, with appropriations in 2002, 2005, and 2006, totaling \$2.1 million in capital funds and \$2.0 million in asset preservation funds to initiate the site's rebirth. Those funds have been used to fund design and restoration of the Round Tower, the Half-Moon Battery, porches on three barracks buildings, new roofs on six structures, and design for a new visitor center.

Project Overview

Historic Fort Snelling Visitor Center & Site Revitalization

Historic Fort Snelling currently offers visitors a single type of experience, with only rudimentary site amenities. Guided by a new plan, the site will be transformed into a multi-faceted experience with a wide variety of things to do, see, and learn.

- Over the past forty years, historical reenactments by costumed interpreters have been the centerpiece of the visitor experience at Historic Snelling. That kind of personal engagement will continue to hold center stage and will be expanded to tell unknown Minnesota stories with national impact. For example, there is the untold story of Dred Scott's life at the fort, which led to his claim for freedom and the momentous 1857 Supreme Court decision that sustained slavery.
- As compelling as reenactments can be, 21st-century visitors demand a more varied experience, and a higher level of participation. At the same time, the Society has thousands of images and artifacts from Fort Snelling that currently cannot be easily put on display. New technologies can provide many opportunities for the public to see them. Using both math and science skills, for example, students could locate the original vantage point for an 1870 photograph and call up the digital image on a hand-held device while standing on that very spot.
- A revitalized Historic Fort Snelling will help educators and students to meet state-mandated educational standards, particularly Social Studies standards. An enhanced program would fulfill 14 of the State's mandated standards for elementary students and 9 for secondary students.
- The Society employs numerous traditional-craft experts in fields such as blacksmithing, hearth baking, and basket making. Historic Fort Snelling can be national leader for sustaining these skills and passing them on to the next generation. Public interest in participation in intensive learning opportunities is growing.
- The Society will add other in-depth experiences, following the example of the very successful Memorial Day Weekend. A recent World War II encampment program for home-school families was very well attended and will be expanded. We are planning to recreate the first State Fair that was held within the walls of the fort in the 1860s.

To make this vision succeed, significant investment is needed in the site. The welcoming, new visitor center will highlight views of the Mississippi River, and provide the modern amenities visitors expect. New admission counters and restrooms will end the lines now seen when school buses arrive or summer programs start. A new orientation gallery will give visitors an overview of the centuries of human life on this extraordinary site, preparing them to make the most of their visit. An expanded gift shop will give them a chance to buy a book or a memento of their experience.

New circulation and parking configurations will set visitors on the path to the visitor center, taking full advantage of the river view while screening highway noise. School groups will have greater access and bus traffic will be more efficiently organized. Bike and pedestrian trails will connect the site to Minnehaha Park and Fort Snelling State Park. New classrooms, staff work rooms, accessible restrooms, and refurbished food service areas inside the walls of the fort will accommodate more visitors, students, and families. This project will also put historic structures to better use, and ensure the survival of important buildings.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets (Facilities Notes)

Inevitably, the planned program and visitor enhancements will require additional dollars in the site's operating budget. Revenue from admissions, store sales, food service and facility rental will cover some of the increased costs, but not all. In particular, increased costs for utilities, staffing, and marketing will out-pace new revenues. Additional state support will be a necessary part of the operating budget.

Previous Appropriations for this Project

2002, 2005, 2006

Other Considerations

At its peak in the late 1970s, the Fort served over 150,000 visitors annually. The site still serves about 85,000 visitors per year. A prime motivation for this redevelopment is to attain the higher potential of this site, one more fitting to its significance and prime location. With a combination of dedicated marketing and year-round programs, this site will be able to significantly

Historic Fort Snelling Visitor Center & Site Revitalization

increase annual attendance. Our ultimate goal is to meet or exceed historic attendance levels.

Project Contact Person

David Kelliher
Legislative Liaison
Minnesota Historical Society
History Center
345 Kellogg Blvd. W
Saint Paul, MN 55102
Phone: (651) 259-3103
Fax: (651) 296-1004
E-mail: david.kelliher@mnhs.org

Governor's Recommendations (To be completed by the Department of Finance at a later date)

Historic Sites Asset Preservation

2008 STATE APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$7,349,000

AGENCY PROJECT PRIORITY: 2 of 5

PROJECT LOCATION:

Project At A Glance

The Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) is seeking \$7.349 million for the preservation and restoration of historic structures, landscapes and building systems in the state's Historic Sites Network and for monuments located statewide. This request is for work that is critical to the preservation and maintenance of these important state resources.

Project Description

Over the past three decades more than 15 million students, families, and tourists have visited the 130 landmark buildings, trails and museums of the Historic Sites Network. MHS is making this request among its highest priorities in order to keep these extraordinary properties open to the public. Many of these buildings were built with materials intended for private family homes; they are now exposed to visitation on the scale of public buildings with greater loads and accelerated wear. While keeping pace with the traffic and continuous aging of the historic structures is our chief concern, we also must keep up with changes in life/safety systems, environmental concerns, and infrastructure upgrades. The asset preservation needs for such a vast Network of fragile historic structures cannot be met by the Society's operating budget with its modest repair and replacement funding.

In recognition of the integral part that these buildings and landscapes play in public education, the people of Minnesota have invested significantly in the Historic Sites Network. Maintaining these resources is expensive. As non-renewable social and cultural resources, historic buildings require a high standard of care. Special training and skills are required to assess, design and implement repairs and maintenance. Integrating new life/safety and mechanical systems into these historic structures requires specially qualified architects, engineers and contractors. The cost of first-quality materials rises

every year. The investment is well rewarded by the 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. Minnesota continues to be a leader in the field of preservation.

The Society's Historic Sites Division is responsible for all 130 of the structures in the Historic Sites Network. Every year they typically manage 5 or 6 large projects over \$1 million and dozens of small projects scattered across the state. Society staff prioritizes work projects based upon long-range planning, building analysis, structural conditions. Working in consultation with preservation architects and specialty engineers, cost estimates are prepared for appropriation requests.

Inventory of Asset Preservation Needs for 2008

Hill House	Hill House Exterior and Historic Gates & Fencing Preservation	\$1,610,000
Jeffers Petroglyphs	Petroglyphs Conservation	\$224,000
Fort Snelling	Historic Fort Restoration	\$1,600,000
Split Rock Lighthouse	Historic Building Exterior Preservation	\$1,200,000
Mille Lacs	Sanitary/Sewer System upgrades and connections and Ayer House Rehabilitation	\$363,000
Statewide	Design for Future Asset Preservation Projects	\$488,000
Statewide	HVAC Replacement	\$607,000
Hill House	Walnut Street Retaining Wall Preservation	\$230,000
North West Co. Fur Post	Fur Post Palisade Replacement	\$122,000
Ramsey House	Carriage Barn Rehabilitation	\$365,000
Statewide	Monuments & Markers Repair	\$150,000

Historic Sites Asset Preservation

Statewide	Management Agreement Sites Building Stabilization	\$390,000
Total		\$7,349,000

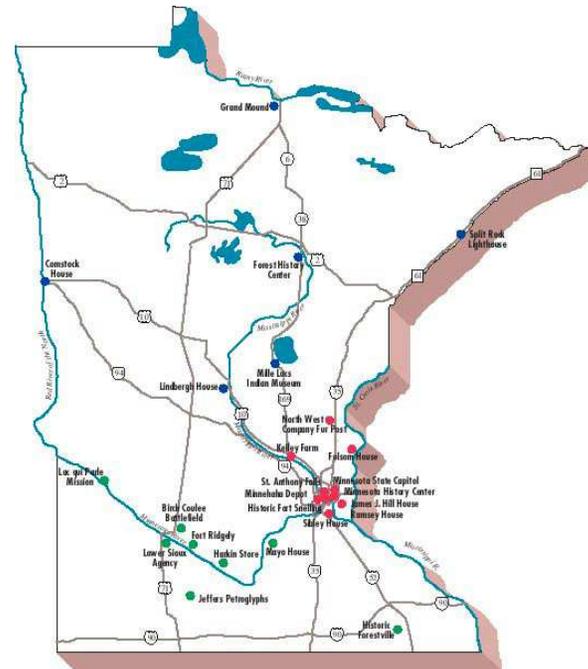
Inventory of Asset Preservation Needs for 2010

Split Rock Lighthouse	Exhibit Replacement in Visitor Center and Fog Signal Building	\$1,300,000
Hill House	Interior Restoration of House and Gatehouse	\$1,233,000
Statewide	Roof Replacement	\$280,000
Statewide	Design for future asset preservation projects	\$336,000
Ramsey House	Interior Restoration	\$414,000
Forest History Center	Logging Camp Rehabilitation	\$205,000
Mill City Museum	Masonry Stabilization	\$300,000
Total		\$4,068,000

Inventory of Asset Preservation Needs for 2012

Lindbergh House	Boyhood Home Interior, WPA Structure and Landscape Restoration	\$636,000
Jeffers Petroglyphs	Visitor Center Renovation	\$272,000
Statewide	Maintenance Buildings	\$227,000
Statewide	Design for future asset preservation projects	\$300,000
Statewide	Roof Replacement	\$309,000
Statewide	Masonry Preservation	\$363,000
Historic Forestville	Interior Restoration of Meighen House	\$382,000
Ramsey House	Landscape and Site Feature Restoration	\$363,000
Statewide	Sustainable Design Improvements	\$250,000
Total		\$3,102,000

Each of the projects named above are part of the state’s Historic Sites Network, as defined in M.S.138.661, and have strong local and regional support from the areas in which they are located. Local citizens, businesses, and support group members have assisted these sites with volunteer hours, in-kind contributions, and grass-roots leadership. Local legislators have also shown leadership that has kept these sites open to the public and kept them in good operating condition. Minnesotans are rightfully proud of the sites.



The historic buildings, artifacts, and landscapes within the 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.

Historic Sites Asset Preservation**Impact on Agency Operating Budgets (Facilities Notes)**

None

Governor's Recommendations (To be completed by the Department of Finance at a later date)

Previous Appropriations for this Project

Appropriations have been made for the 130 structures in the Historic Sites Network in every capital budget bill since 1990.

Other Considerations

These asset preservation requests will allow the Society to maintain the state's Historic Sites Network of structures and landscapes. In addition to the necessary work on historic structures, many of the visitor centers erected 20 to 30 years ago are now in need of renewal or are reaching the end of their useful life. Increasingly, this list will include appropriation requests to replace worn out infrastructure, such as HVAC or septic systems, or to conduct assessments for future projects now visible on the horizon.

The capital budget is the primary source of funding for all of the preservation needs of these irreplaceable state resources.

The Society's current repair and replacement budgets are inadequate to meet asset preservation needs within the state's Historic Sites Network. A total of \$14.519 million is requested through the year 2012 (see table). This figure could increase as additional problems are discovered, the buildings increase in age, the required skills and materials become more and more difficult to find.

Project Contact Person

David Kelliher
Legislative Liaison
Minnesota Historical Society
History Center
345 Kellogg Boulevard
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102
Phone: (651) 259-3103
Fax: (651) 296-1004
E-mail: david.kelliher@mnhs.org

County and Local Historic Preservation Grants

2008 STATE APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$2,000,000

AGENCY PROJECT PRIORITY: 3 of 5

PROJECT LOCATION:

Project At A Glance

This project provides funding, on a competitive matching basis, for county and local historic preservation projects. In addition, this project will allow local communities to preserve their most significant historical resources to mark the state's sesquicentennial commemoration in 2008.

Project Description

Grant-in-aid funds are made available on a local match basis to preserve historic assets owned by public entities. This program is one of the most successful of its type with relatively small amounts of money leveraging vast sums of 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 2006 were spread across Minnesota on a competitive grant basis, with requests more than double the funds available.

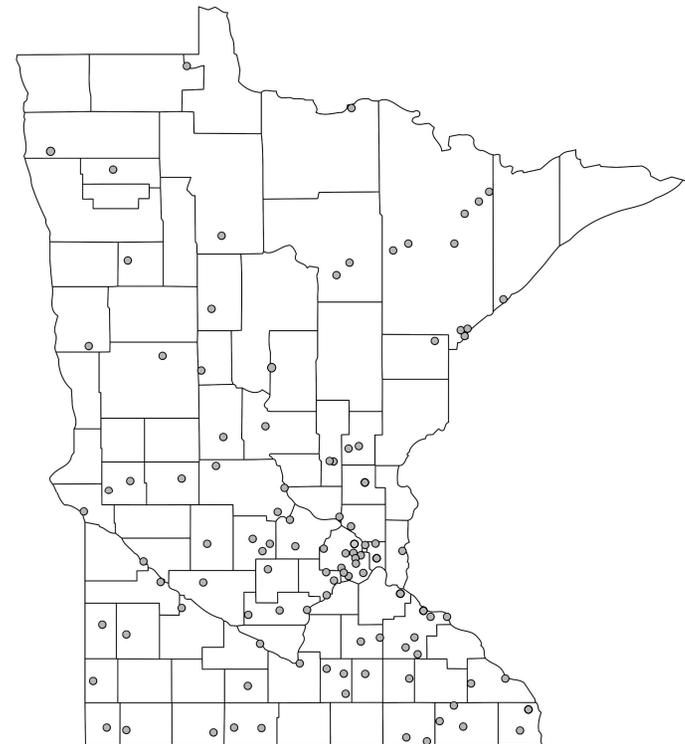
This project has the effect of reducing the state's overall share of investment in preserving historic resources while fulfilling the state's statutory commitment to preserving elements of the state's inventory of historic resources (according to Minnesota Statute 138.665). Some states, for example, 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 (MHS) 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 rather than depend on the state to fund both their capital and operating costs.

Since 1969 more than 1,000 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,

the Society's capital bond-funded grant program has assisted in preserving and making accessible such projects as the Pine Island City Hall, the New Ulm Post Office, the Washington County Courthouse, the Koochiching County Courthouse, the Hubbard House in Mankato, the Glensheen Mansion in Duluth, the Universal Laboratories Building in Dassel, Hibbing High School Auditorium, the Paramount Theater in St. Cloud, and the Thief River Falls Depot.

As Minnesota approaches the sesquicentennial of its statehood in 2008, it is important for communities across the state to be prepared to celebrate the state's heritage through each community's most treasured historic resources.

County and Local Historic Preservation Grant Locations 1994-2006



County and Local Historic Preservation Grants

From the financial perspective, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, and 2006 appropriations totaling \$5.025 million, will leverage at least an equal amount in local match funding, as well as countless hours of volunteer effort. Additionally, this project helps to fulfill two goals identified in the Society's long-range strategic plan: serving larger audiences, and increasing its services outside the metropolitan area.

Other accomplishments include:

- ⇒ Grants for historic preservation have stimulated local economies. Local matches used to implement projects have more than doubled the \$5 million in state funds. Tourists coming to visit these historic resources bring new dollars to Minnesota communities.
- ⇒ Professional standards and expertise were increased among staff and volunteers at county and local historical organizations receiving grants because of the technical assistance that accompanies them.
- ⇒ Many projects made possible by these grants enabled communities, most commonly through county and local governments and historical organizations, to reach out beyond their traditional constituencies and attract new audiences, including significant new volunteer activities.

In summary, this grants program has enabled many organizations throughout the state to preserve significant historic places and other priceless evidence of the past at very modest cost to the state.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets (Facilities Notes)

The funding of this program will not impact operating budgets.

Previous Appropriations for this Project

Appropriations for this grant program were made in 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, and 2006.

Other Considerations

Grants to preserve the evidence of Minnesota's past have been and will be used to make a wide variety of historic resources available to the public. Examples include preservation of the Edna G. Tugboat in Two Harbors, and Alberta Teacherage in Stevens County. Over the ten-year history of the

bond-funded grant program, the Society has received over \$9 million in requests for \$5.025 million available. This clearly demonstrates the statewide needs for historic preservation funding as well as the ability and willingness of local groups to leverage state dollars.

Project Contact Person

David Kelliher, Legislative Liaison
Minnesota Historical Society
History Center
345 Kellogg Boulevard
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102
Phone: (651) 259-3103
Fax: (651) 296-1004
E-mail: david.kelliher@mnhs.org

Governor's Recommendations (To be completed by the Department of Finance at a later date)

Kelley Farm Revitalization

2008 STATE APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$1,500,000

AGENCY PROJECT PRIORITY: 4 of 5

PROJECT LOCATION:

Project At A Glance

This request will provide pre-design and design funding for the revitalization of the visitor center and support facilities of the Oliver H. Kelley Farm Historic Site.

Project Description

A) Project History:

Kelley homesteaded the Oliver H. Kelley Farm in 1849 on the east bank of the Mississippi River, where he lived and farmed the site for the next twenty years. Kelley became very successful as a farmer, and he began to dabble in land development and politics. While on a land speculation trip through the post-Civil War rural South, Kelley devised the idea to create a nationwide agricultural organization to financially and socially assist farmers. The organization would promote the implementation of the most modern farming and marketing techniques available in order to achieve this goal.

Kelley's organization, the Patrons of Husbandry (also known as The Grange) was founded in 1867. Later, they acquired the Kelley Farm property and managed it until 1961. During that year, the property was donated to the Minnesota Historical Society. The site, which includes 189 acres of farm fields and woods as well as Oliver Kelley's home, became a National Historic Landmark in 1964. The Society operated the farm site on a limited basis until 1981, when a Visitor Center was built and the agricultural Living History program was developed to better support the Public Education program.

B) Project Overview:

The long-range plan for the Kelley Farm includes helping Minnesotans to better understand the important story of agriculture in the state of Minnesota. Today, only 2% of Minnesotans actually farm the land. However, agriculture and agricultural industries represent 20% of the state's overall economy. It is

vital to the state of Minnesota to tell the broad story of how our society, the economy, and the environment have impacted agriculture and will continue to do so in the future.

During the fall of 2006, the Minnesota Historical Society launched a Comprehensive Interpretive Planning (CIP) process, which assisted in researching new ideas and methods to share the story of Minnesota's agriculture in the past, present, and future. Now completed, the CIP sought input from a wide range of external stakeholders; including experts from tourism, education, local farm organizations and agricultural industries, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, legislators, and local and regional communities. These experts participated in a number of forums to help direct the new educational plans for the Kelley Farm. This public planning process, successfully used by the Minnesota Historical Society to revitalize the Forest History Center, will guide the current and future revitalization and public educational program for the Kelley Farm over the next ten years and beyond. The Kelley Farm will closely examine the compelling story of Minnesota's farm and agriculture history as it has impacted the present and future of our economy, culture and environment; using that extensive research and information to present Minnesota's unique story to the people of Minnesota.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets (Facilities Notes)

Inevitably, the magnitude of this project will require additional operational dollars. Ongoing investments in historical programming and intensive marketing will be required to deliver new and creative services to help Minnesotans understand the historic aspects of agriculture, and learn how they and their children fit into the story of farming and agriculture in the state today. As a result of the Kelley Farm revitalization, the Minnesota Historical Society believes there will be additional earned income through admissions and museum store sales. For example, to date FY '07 attendance at Kelley Farm is up 35% over that of FY '06 - illustrating a strong desire by visitors to learn about the history of agriculture and farming in our state. Further, as part of the CIP process and engagement with external stakeholders, ongoing enhancement support will be sought from private sources.

Previous Appropriations for this Project

None

Kelley Farm Revitalization

Other Considerations

The prime motivation for the revitalization is to tell the complete and ever-changing story of Minnesota agriculture past, present, and future to a larger audience. Today the Oliver H. Kelley Farm serves about 24,000 visitors a year, of which 40% are school children from across the state. But this level of visitation exceeds the capacity of the current Visitors Center and its support facilities. With the requested funding, the Society will design a facility that can accommodate 50,000 visitors and tell the full story of Minnesota agriculture.

Project Contact Person

David Kelliher, Legislative Liaison
Minnesota Historical Society
Minnesota History Center
345 Kellogg Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55102
Phone: (651) 259-3103
Fax: (651) 296-1004
E-mail: david.kelliher@mnhs.org

Governor's Recommendations (To be completed by the Department of Finance at a later date)

Heritage Trails

2008 STATE APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$894,000

AGENCY PROJECT PRIORITY: 5 of 5

PROJECT LOCATION:

Project At A Glance

This request is to develop educational interpretive trail systems at the Fort Ridgely and Upper Sioux Agency historic sites, in order to enhance visitor experiences at historic sites throughout the state.

Project Description

The project requested for 2008 will constitute Phase 2 of the Fort Ridgely trail project, as well as provide funding for a trail at the Upper Sioux Agency historic site. (Phase 1 research, trail planning, and interpretive marker design and fabrication for the Fort Ridgely Trail was completed with a 2003 Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) appropriation. This request will complete the project by constructing a 1.25-mile trail at Fort Ridgely state historic site, which is located seven miles south of Fairfax, Minnesota in Ft. Ridgely State Park.)

The Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) operates a network of state historic sites that help visitors experience "history where it happened." These sites help to convey a wide variety of historical themes, ranging from history of the lumber industry to life in a turn-of-the-century village. While many of these sites interpret a particular part of Minnesota history through exhibits at a visitor center or historic house, often where history happened was outside - near a natural feature or at an archaeological site.

Since 1995, the MHS has been developing trails at historic sites to expand opportunities for visitor use, appreciation, and enjoyment of the state's cultural resources. The purpose of this request is to expand the Heritage Trail system to two historic sites: Fort Ridgely, and the Upper Sioux Agency.

Trails at Fort Ridgely will immerse visitors into the life of a frontier fort during the mid-nineteenth century, and describe the role that the Fort played in the

U.S.-Dakota Conflict of 1862. Through narrative, photographs, and artist sketches, visitors will discover the stories of people who lived and worked at this place, which was established in 1852 as a means to keep the peace while new settlers flooded over lands formerly controlled by Dakota Indians. Fort Ridgely became a training ground for Civil War volunteers and withstood several attacks during the U.S.-Dakota Conflict of 1862.

Twice during the six-weeks of the 1862 Conflict, Dakota Indians attacked the fort. The Dakota felt that the fort was the key to controlling the Minnesota River valley during the war. The tenacity of the fort defenders, along with the artillery pieces stationed there, prevented the Dakota from overtaking the fort during those attacks. Dakota losses at Fort Ridgely contributed to a quick conclusion to the conflict.

The fort complex originally consisted of 15 buildings on 40 acres of land. Today, six original foundations have been excavated and stabilized, and visitors can see the reconstructed and restored commissary building and one of the powder magazines. Phase 1 of the trail project replaced the old interpretive markers with new markers that interpret a broader, more complete history of the site as a typical mid-19th century military outpost, as well as tell visitors of the role that the fort played in the U.S.-Dakota Conflict of 1862.

Phase 2 funding will provide for all of the associated costs to construct an eight-foot wide Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant trail that will start at the parking lot, guide visitors to the reconstructed commissary, and around the original main fort complex. It will then extend into areas of the fort managed by the state park in order to more fully explain the events of the battles of 1862.

The request for the development of a trail at the Upper Sioux Agency includes architecture/engineering, research, planning, archaeological investigations, design and construction drawings, construction oversight and construction of an approximately 3/4 mile long, eight foot wide, ADA compatible trail. Interpretation will include research/writing, design and fabrication, and the installation of interpretive markers and kiosks. Approximately fifteen markers and two kiosks will be included. These will interpret the history of the site, location and design of buildings, as well as the importance of the site to the events of the U.S.-Dakota Conflict of 1862.

Heritage Trails

Only one original building on the complex remains, but the location of many other original buildings is known. The trail would tie the existing building to the rest of the site, provide a better understanding of what the original agency looked like, and interpret the history of the site to help people better understand the importance of the site.

Governor's Recommendations (To be completed by the Department of Finance at a later date)

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets (Facilities Notes)

The project will add a small amount for maintenance to the operating budget.

Previous Appropriations for this Project

2003 Legislative Commission on Minnesota resources (LCMR) appropriation for Fort Ridgely Trail Project, Phase 1.

Other Considerations

This request reflects the Society's effort to interpret Minnesota's history at the maximum level within available resources. The Heritage Trail system will have only minimal operating cost increases. The development of Heritage Trails will fulfill the public's desire to enjoy outdoor recreation, while simultaneously serving an educational function.

Since 1995, the MHS has managed four appropriations totaling \$884,000 to develop or enhance trails at seven historic sites. These trails have significantly expanded public access to historic properties.

Project Contact Person

David Kelliher
Legislative Liaison
Minnesota Historical Society
History Center
345 Kellogg Boulevard
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102
Phone: (651) 259-3103
Fax: (651) 296-1004
E-mail: david.kelliher@mnhs.org