

LCMR FINAL STATUS REPORT

I. Fur Trade Research and Planning, Recreation 45

Program Manager: Donn Coddington
Minnesota Historical Society
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A. M.L. 91 ch.254 Art. 1 Sec. 14 Subd: 3 (k) Appropriation: \$250,000
Balance: \$ -0-

Fur Trade Research and Planning: This appropriation is to the Minnesota Historical Society to plan and design the visitor center at the Northwest Company Fur Post Historic Site, and for site improvements at that site. No more than \$100,000 may be spent for site improvement.

B. Compatible Data: (not applicable)

C. Match Requirement: (not applicable)

II. Narrative:

The Northwest Company Fur Post is reconstructed on the original location excavated by the Minnesota Historical Society in the 1960s. It is the only winter trading post extant and interpreted for the public in the state. While other major sites in our system have fine interpretive centers and visitor services, this site has no center and offers few services. The request is for funds to plan a visitors' center and appropriate landscaping, parking, exhibit, etc.

III. Objective:

A. Document the site and Minnesota fur trade period.

A.1. Narrative: The objectives of this phase are to review all documentation of the site and subject area and perform additional archaeology or archival research as necessary to enable us to fully tell the story of the site and the fur trade.

A.2. Procedure: A research historian will survey published materials to discover what work has already been performed in this area, then supplement that work with additional archival research. In addition, further archaeological work on the site may be necessary.

A.3. Budget:

	<u>LCMR Funds</u>	<u>Matching Funds</u>
a. Amount Budgeted:	\$50,000	N/A
b. Balance:	\$ -0-	

A.4. Timeline Products/Tasks: July91 Jan92 June92 1993 June93

Review of material and research
Archaeology

A.5. Status: The research component of this project proceeded in a three part manner designed to guide the location of the education building, the exhibit program and the educational activities to take place both on and off site.

Archaeology surveys were conducted in the summer of 1992 and the spring of 1993 at potential locations for site improvements and the proposed education building. Shovel tests at fifteen meter intervals were negative with no upper soil surface horizons or cultural materials found. Structural designs for buildings proceeded in accordance with these findings. An archaeology survey of the location identified as a burial mound on the site will be conducted during the Spring of 1993.

The program related research was conducted around nine educational themes which relate to the historical and ecological character of the site.

1. Ojibwe culture of the early 1800s.
2. Ojibwe view of the natural world.
3. Ojibwe view of the global fur trade.
4. The natural environment of the Snake River watershed.
5. The North West Company Fur Post.
6. The North West Company Fond du Lac District.
7. European views of the natural world.
8. The global fur trade.
9. The interaction between Europeans and the Ojibwe.

All nine of these themes were researched and described in a research report titled "Nanda - Wendji - Gewin Looking For Ways to Envision and Interpret the Ojibwe-European Fur Trade in the Minnesota Area." The report was prepared by a senior archaeologist/historian of the Institute for Minnesota Archaeology.

Four of these themes (nos. 1,2,3,9 above) were researched and described by an Ojibwe cultural perspective in a report titled "Angwaamas - (Its' About Time) A Research Report on the Ojibwe-European Fur Trade Relations From an Ojibwe Perspective."

This collective research was utilized in developing:

1. An expanded on site multi-cultural interpretation at the North West Company Fur Post Historic Site.
2. A comprehensive education strategy that coordinates all educational experiences at the historic site including interpretation, education programs and exhibits.
3. The design of an exhibit program on the theme of "Where Two World Meet."

This design included the development of a traveling education case for use by schools throughout Minnesota. The education case materials carry out the theme of "Where Two Worlds Meet - The Interaction of European Fur Traders and Dakota Indians."

- 4. The development of curriculum units for grades 5-12 for use in Pine City area schools and other schools which make visits to the historic site.

The research program was overseen by the project manager and an education team which included representatives from the Minnesota Historical Society organizational units of education, historic sites and exhibits.

COMPONENT SIGNIFICANCE. The multiple perspective research conducted under this project was unique in the planning for historic sites operated by the Minnesota Historical Society. The outcome is that interpretation and education programs will be possible from the perspective of fur traders, voyagers and Ojibwe Indians. This research approach and the Ojibwe research report "Angwaamas" were well received by the Indian Advisory Committee of the Minnesota Historical Society.

- A.6. Benefits: A survey of published materials will obviate the necessity of repeating that research. Additional research and archaeology will fill in the information for the stories we need to tell.

B. Development Plan

- B.1. Narrative: In this phase, we would review and revise the master plan, then create a site development plan and an interpretive center plan. This would include developing plans for interpreted and service areas of the site, architectural plans for an interpretive center and exhibit plans.
- B.2. Procedures: A revised master plan for the site will be created after the research phase has been completed. Architects and exhibit designers will be engaged to accomplish all design work for site improvements, an interpretive center building, and exhibits. The interpretive program will be planned and training materials will be developed for interpreters at the site; exhibit and audio/visual scripts will be completed.

B.3. Budget:

	<u>LCMR Funds</u>	<u>Matching Funds</u>
a. Amount Budgeted:	\$200,000	N/A
b. Balance:	\$ -0-	

B.4. Timeline for Products/Tasks: July91 Jan92 June92 Jan93 June93

Review master plan				
Design for site, interpretive center and exhibit				
Exhibit and A/V scripts				
Training materials				

- B.5. Status: The development (master) plan for the North West Company Fur Post Historic Site was expanded and revised during the project period under direction of a fourteen member project team and a project manager. Seven professional consultants were used during the project and three building contractors.

- 1. Two needed improvements were undertaken and completed to the 1804 reconstructed fur post. A wooden floor was installed in all rooms of the fur post; a historically accurate element which had not been previously installed due to cost considerations and the need to verify the nature of wooden floors in such structures as the fur post.

The log construction of the exterior walls and structures of the fur post with logs inserted directly into the ground necessitates replacement of the logs approximately every twenty years. The north bastion and stockade were replaced with dried and pressure treated logs during the project period. In addition, a picnic shelter for visitors and school groups was designed to relate to the features of the proposed education building and constructed during the project period.

- 2. A comprehensive education strategy which examined the appropriate programming location for nine educational themes relating to the fur post was developed by an education team comprised of representatives from the education, historic sites, and exhibits organizational units of the Minnesota Historical Society. This strategy plan was used in several ways within the project planning process.
 - a. To aid in the design of the exhibits components.
 - b. To develop the nature of the educational programming to take place both on- and off-site as relates to these educational themes.
 - c. To guide the development of a grade 5-12 fur trade curriculum for use in Pine City area schools in combination with on-site visits and statewide in combination with a traveling fur trade education case and display developed as part of the exhibit program.
 - d. Developing a series of research questions that were addressed by the independent research projects described in A5.

- 3. A comprehensive exhibit program for the Fur Post Education Building was designed through the design development stage as part of the project. This design includes seven major exhibits, three minor exhibits, a portable display on the Fur Post and a traveling education case. The latter two items were fully developed during the project period and placed in immediate use.
- 4. An Operations, Programming and Marketing Manual was developed during the project period. This manual presents, in a coordinated manner, the programming and marketing activities required for the site with or without a

building and the operating requirements for the education building.

5. An expanded Interpreters' Manual was developed for use by interpreters at the historic site in formal training sessions, self-study and in the preparation of special programs. This manual was prepared by the site manager utilizing the research and educational planning undertaken within the project.
6. An expanded site use plan was prepared by a landscape architect during the process of designing an educational building/visitor center. This site plan was guided in its development by the comprehensive education strategy developed for the project, the recommendations of the site staff and suggestions from community residents obtained at a number of community meetings and review sessions.
7. An architectural design for a 14,600 square foot education building/visitor center was developed through the design development stage by the project architect (the firm of Winsor-Faricy of St. Paul). This design was based upon criteria described in the project's building program, the comprehensive education strategy, recommendations from the project's education team on desirable features of buildings at other historic sites in Canada and the U.S., consultation with the exhibits and collections staff of the Minnesota Historical Society, recommendations from site staff and comments and suggestions from citizens within the Pine City area at ten community meetings.

The building design fully responded to building program criteria calling for skillful integration of the building into the site in a manner that would not detract from the Fur Post. Neither the Fur Post nor the education building are in the site line of the other and natural materials were used throughout the building to blend with the physical characteristics of the site.

The space allocation and interior features of the building reflect the program planning which suggested flexible, multi-use education spaces throughout the building. This was achieved within the multi-purpose/classroom space, lobby, theater and exhibit area and a variety of year round programming will be possible within the building and will be responsive to visitors and students even when weather conditions do not permit site visitation.

The specifics of the building design are described on a series of architectural drawing and specification booklets, a project poster illustrating site, building and exhibit features and a descriptive booklet.

SIGNIFICANCE OF MASTER PLAN UPDATE---The development/master plan updating process conducted through this project has produced the planning for the construction, operation and programming of an education building at a significant historic site that can proceed immediately upon financial resources being made available for the project. With the building and exhibit designs completed through the design development stage, construction drawings can be immediately developed. All building and site development and programming features can proceed simultaneously. This approach which has been guided throughout by a

coordinated education strategy, represents an improved process for historic site planning. It will also lead to a facility and program at the North West Company Fur Post Historic Site that will be able to serve a wide range of youth and adult audiences in more complete and interesting ways than ever before.

On a long term basis, the project was able to illustrate and model the use of a VISION STATEMENT as an organizing element for a historic site development and management. A 21st Century Vision Statement was developed for the North West Company Fur Post early in the project by the project team and shared with the citizens of the Pine City area at a community meeting in March of 1992. This vision statement as modified by community comments then became part of the building program and a guide in undertaking further planning, particularly for education and marketing approaches.

- B.6. Benefits: This planning state will build on the research phase and is essential to accomplish the implementation of the project.

IV. Evaluation:

The products of this project can be evaluated by 1.) the completion of research reports and their review by qualified historians; 2.) the completion of a revised master plan; 3.) the completion of a site landscape plan; 4.) the completion of plans, specifications, and text for the interpretive center, exhibit, and audio/visual program components; 5.) the completion of a site interpretive manual; and 6.) a review of the exhibit plans and site manual by competent professionals in the field.

V. Context:

- A. The current master plan for the North West Company Fur Post was done in the early 1970s. It needs to be updated. Much research has been completed and some published on the North West Company Fur Post site and the fur trade, in general. All of this material needs to be reviewed and evaluated for its completeness and to make it usable for the present project. Additional research may be necessary to answer new research questions. Since no plan currently exists for an interpretive center and exhibits at the site, it is not possible to develop such a center until after this project has been completed. Additional materials must be generated to train the staff to interpret the site.
- B. This planning process will assist in developing a site already operating within our State Historic Sites Network. The site is currently open to the public and serving about 13,000 people annually. This project will prepare us to build a center that could serve more than double that number annually and interpret the entire fur trade history in the state.
- C. The Minnesota Historical Society's Historic Sites Department serves over a million visitors biennially at its historic sites. It is the primary means by which the general public learns about the history of the state, particularly at locations that have historic significance. During the previous biennium, the Historic Sites Department received LCMR funding for developing an heirloom seeds program at the Oliver Kelley Farm and a heritage trail program at Lower Sioux Agency. Future needs of this particular site would include funding to implement the construction of the interpretive center.

D. N/A

E. 1992-1993 Budget System Program Title and Budget: not available at this time.

VI. Qualifications:

1. Program Manager: Donn Coddington
Assistant Director and Division Manager
Historic Sites & Field Programs
Minnesota Historical Society

Mr. Coddington has been associated with the Minnesota Historical Society for over twenty-two years. He has directed the activities of the Historic Sites and Field Programs for over fifteen years.

He is being assisted on this project by Project Manager, Larry Granger, who has a wide variety of experience in program management and education and by Patrick Schifferdecker, Site Manager of the North West Company Fur Post, who is an interpretive specialist on the North American Fur Trade.

John Ferguson will assist Mr. Coddington, Mr. Granger, and Mr. Schifferdecker in the coordination of the planning for the new center. Mr. Ferguson has been associated with the Minnesota Historical Society for twenty-one years as the head of the Historic Sites Department and currently as manager of restoration and construction. Prior to working for the Historical Society, Mr. Ferguson was an engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers.

Paul Martin will assist Mr. Coddington, Mr. Granger, and Mr. Schifferdecker in the development of exhibits for the new center. Mr. Martin was recently hired as head of the Exhibits Department. Prior to working for the Historical Society, Mr. Martin worked at the Field Museum in Chicago and the Minnesota Science Museum.

2. Major Concerns:

Due to applicable procurement requirements, major cooperators cannot be named at present. Requests For Proposals (RFP) will be completed for obtaining proposals from qualified consultants at the beginning of the project. Cooperators must meet the professional qualification requirements of, and be carefully evaluated by, the Minnesota Historical Society.

VIII. Reporting Requirements

Semi-annual status reports will be submitted no later than January 1, 1992, July 1, 1992, January 1, 1993, and a final status report by June 30, 1993.

Fur Trade Research and Planning Project - 1991-1993 - ABSTRACT

M.L. 01 ch__ Sec.__ Subd: <u>3</u> (K)	Appropriation:	\$250,000
	Balance:	\$ -0-

Project Objectives: (expanded from LCMR work plan consistent with intent)

1. To conduct expanded research from the viewpoint of both European Fur Traders and Ojibwe Indians on their 1804-1805 interaction at the North West Company Fur Post on the Snake River near Pine City, Minnesota.
2. To undertake needed site improvements to the reconstructed fur post and improve the visitor service facilities on the site.
3. To develop an education and research focused approach to updating the master plan for the historic site that will provide for expanded program use of the site, the design of an education building and exhibit program, development of both on- and off-site education programs for grades K-12 and preparation of an Operations/Programming and Marketing Manual for management of the site.

Overall Project Results:

The project has produced a revised and expanded master plan for an important historic site in Minnesota that can be immediately implemented upon provision of funding for improvements including an education building and an exhibit program. The planning process was conducted in close cooperation with the citizens of the Pine City area which developed considerable community support for the project.

Designs for a 14,600 square foot education building and an exhibit program have been completed through the design development stage (the second of three stages leading to construction) from which construction drawings can be developed.

Comprehensive education planning has been conducted to provide for both expanded and coordinated programming between the fur post and Ojibwe encampment interpretation, exhibits, trail signage and on- and off-site education programs.

Planning for the operation of the expanded site with an education building was completed which included the development of a formal visitor marketing plan. This plan was developed around close and ongoing promotional efforts with the Pine County Tourism Association and area historical and environmental organizations.

Significant new research was completed regarding the fur trade and Ojibwe life of the early 1800s in the Snake River area. The project research document, "Angwaamas (It's About Time) - A Research Report on the Ojibwe/European Fur Trade Relations From An Ojibwe Perspective" has provided a way to tell the stories of the site from a multiple perspective which is done at only a few historic sites in North America.

Project Results Use and Dissemination: - The products of this planning project are being used to manage the current historic site and will become the guide to managing the expanded site with a building.