

### 1993 Project Abstract

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 1995

This project was supported by MN Future Resources Fund.

**TITLE:** National Register Grants Program  
**PROGRAM MANAGER:** Britta Bloomberg  
**ORGANIZATION:** Minnesota Historical Society  
**LEGAL CITATION:** M.L. 93 Chpt. 172, Sect. 14, Subd. 10(v)  
**APPROPRIATION AMOUNT:** \$165,000

### Statement of Objectives

This primary project objectives were to preserve and interpret the Pickwick Mill, the Sibley County Courthouse in Henderson, the Wendelin Grimm Farmstead, the Tugboat Edna G in Two Harbors, and several other historic resources in Minnesota.

### Overall Project Results

Significant restoration measures were accomplished and restoration and interpretation planning achieved for the Pickwick Mill in Winona County, the Sibley County Courthouse in Henderson, the Wendelin Grimm Farmstead in Carver County, and the Tugboat Edna G in Two Harbors; all involved a wide range of cooperating organizations. These properties were included in the original proposal because they were highly visible and among the state's most significant resources. The LCMR funding moved important restoration efforts at Pickwick and Henderson towards completion and provided much needed seed money to literally "rescue" the two properties imminently at risk--the Grimm Farmstead and the Tugboat Edna G--because of their deteriorated condition. The projects created new vision in their communities regarding the value of these resources and their interpretation and educational potential. Restoration and maintenance plans as well as interpretation plans are in place, and the organizational infrastructure and cooperating partnerships needed to implement the plans are being formed if not fully in place.

The funds available in the emergency grant category assisted an additional eleven National Register properties in the need of emergency repairs. The funds were directed towards properties at risk where modest grant funds could save a threatened resource. Critically needed planning and stabilization were the types of work to be funded under this emergency grant category. A total of \$49,402 was documented in match from the recipient organizations.

### Project Results Use and Dissemination

These projects were highly visible and widely publicized throughout the biennium. Public presentations and a host of community events have kept them in the public eye for the duration of the projects. Added benefits include the strengthened capacity of the local organizations involved and the models created for comprehensive restoration and interpretation planning. The latter will benefit many additional historic properties throughout the state as the State Historic Preservation Office continues its work in partnership with the local organizations that own and administer so many of these sites. The people of Minnesota and visitors alike will benefit in years to come through the preservation of these important sites and the quality of the interpretive programs.

July 1, 1995

LCMR Final Workprogram Update Report

I. Project Title: R8-12 National Register Grants Program

Program Manager: Britta Bloomberg  
Agency Affiliation: Minnesota Historical Society  
Address: 345 Kellogg Blvd. West  
St. Paul, MN 55102-1906  
Phone: (612) 296-5471

A. Legal Citation: M.L. 93 Chpt. 172, Sect. 14, Subd. 10(v)

Total Biennial Budget: \$165,000  
Balance: \$ 0

Appropriation Language as Drafted 7/27/92: This appropriation is from the future resources fund to the Minnesota state historical society to assist in the preservation of outstanding historical properties such as the Pickwick Mill (1854-58), Sibley County Courthouse (1879), Wendelin Grimm Farmstead (1896) and Tugboat Edna G (1896), and other emergency needs of properties of national or statewide historic significance.

B. LMIC Compatible Data Language: Not Applicable

C. Status of Match Requirement: Not Applicable

II. Narrative: This program would provide critically needed funds to assist in completing the preservation of outstanding historical properties such as Pickwick Mill (1854-58), Sibley County Courthouse (1879), Wendelin Grimm Farmstead (1876) and Tugboat Edna G (1896), and other emergency needs of properties of national or statewide historic significance.

III. Statement of Objectives: This project will preserve the Pickwick Mill, the Sibley County Courthouse in Henderson, the Wendelin Grimm Farmstead, the Tugboat Edna G in Two Harbors, and several other historic resources in Minnesota.

IV. Objectives:

A. Title of Objective: Preservation of Pickwick Mill in Winona County.

A1. Narrative: The objective is to continue the restoration and interpretation of the Pickwick Mill located in Pickwick, MN in Winona County.

A2. Procedures: Priority needs at Pickwick Mill include the restoration of the wheel house and bringing the property and its programs into compliance with the requirements of

the Americans With Disabilities Act. Project planning will include review of the Pickwick Mill Association's restoration and interpretation plan, development of the scope of work for this phase of restoration, and obtaining competitive bids for the work. Bids and specifications will be reviewed by the Society's State Historic Preservation Office for compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects, and Society staff will monitor the work throughout the duration of the project.

A3. Budget: \$45,833  
Balance: \$ 0

a. Amount Budgeted: Restoration: \$41,667  
Expenses: \$4,166

A4. Timeline: 7/93 1/94 6/94 1/95 6/95  
Planning xxxx  
Restoration xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
Interpretation xxxxxxxx

A5. Status:

The Pickwick Mill has been restored to an improved condition whereby a replica of the twelve foot diameter waterwheel which powered the mill from 1858-1880 can be reinstalled by the fall of 1995. It is planned that within a year, the waterwheel power system can be activated and used for the grinding of grains by stones.

The work conducted under this restoration program resulted in extensive excavation and removal of soil and debris deposits on the mill site from a major flood in 1980 which destroyed the operating capacity of the mill. Longstanding deposits of water and high moisture in the lower levels of the mill were eliminated by this work. The excavation work subsequently led to repairing and rebuilding the original wheelhouse. Pickwick Mill Association chose to restore the mill to the 1858-1880 period of the waterwheel rather than to the later turbine period. The turbines were removed from the wheelhouse and will be refurbished for display in combination with other milling equipment. A comprehensive cleanup of all mill equipment and power system components from the 1858-1980 period was conducted.

The wheelhouse restoration was designed by a registered structural engineer and reviewed and approved by the historical architect of the Minnesota Historical Society. Qualified contractors from the Winona and La Crosse areas performed the work. The waterwheel design was developed by a mill consultant from New York. The research undertaken for this restoration project is also being used to reshape the interpretive program conducted at the mill. The

complete restoration and interpretive plan for the mill has been compiled in a Master Development Plan.

A6. Benefits: This project has had strong community support through the Pickwick Mill Association. They have completed a restoration and interpretation plan. Funding now will keep the project moving towards completion. It is an important economic resource to the community.

B. Title of Objective: Restoration and Interpretation of the Sibley County Courthouse in Henderson.

B1. Narrative: This project involves the restoration and interpretation of the 1879 Sibley County Courthouse in Henderson, now used as a community center and listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

B2. Procedures: This project involves developing a restoration and interpretation/program plan for the building and the restoration of the second floor. Accessibility will be an important element of the plan. The restoration plan will guide the scope of work. Bids and specifications will be reviewed by the Society's State Historic Preservation Office for compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects, and Society staff will monitor the work throughout the duration of the project.

B3. Budget: \$18,334  
Balance: 0

a. Amount Budgeted: Restoration: \$16,667  
Expenses: \$1,667

B4. Timeline: 7/93 1/94 6/94 1/95 6/95  
Planning xxxxxxxx  
Restoration xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
Interpretation xxxxxxxx

B5. Status: The City of Henderson and the Sibley County Historical Society engaged in a cooperative project to prepare a restoration and management plan for the 1879 Sibley County Courthouse and to plan the development of the second floor of the courthouse as a historical interpretive center. Planning for the building restoration was achieved through the preparation of a structural-engineering report and a Historic Structure Report. The latter documented the building's history and developed a comprehensive building restoration plan and a phased restoration budget.

The process confirmed the appropriateness of a mix of city offices and community meeting rooms on the first floor and an interpretive center organized around the historic themes

involving the Minnesota River and Henderson's founder and early Minnesota statesman, Joseph R. Brown, on the second. An exhibit design for the interpretive center was developed for the project by an exhibit consulting firm and in March, 1995, a research library established for materials relating to the Minnesota River and Joseph R. Brown.

The plan for the project was presented on May 6, 1995 in a "1879 Courthouse - Joseph R. Brown Seminar." Attendees to this seminar agreed to form the Joseph R. Brown Heritage Society to continue the efforts to restore the courthouse and develop the interpretive center. A Master Plan for the project containing summaries of the planning efforts was published and presented to the Henderson City Council on June 12, 1995.

Effective July 1, 1995, an LCMR recommended appropriation from the Minnesota Legislature of \$75,000 will become available for the restoration project; along with a \$5,000 appropriation from the City of Henderson these funds will make possible the first phase of the courthouse restoration as outlined in the Historic Structures Report.

B6. Benefits: The center is widely used by the community and restoration funds will assure its continued use.

C. Title of Objective: Planning/Restoration of the Wendelin Grimm Farmstead.

C1. Narrative: This project involves stabilization, restoration, planning and interpretation for the Wendelin Grimm Farmstead in Carver Park Preserve in Carver County. The property has strong local support. It is listed in both the National Register and State Register. Funding would assure that this significant farmstead is stabilized and that a restoration plan is initiated. Its park setting in a rapidly developing region of Carver County makes its interpretation potential particularly rich.

C2. Procedures: This project includes stabilizing the building and developing a restoration and interpretation/program plan for the property. Stabilization and security are the most pressing needs and will be addressed first, but planning for the building's use in the park and developing a restoration and interpretation plan are equally as important. A reuse study for the property is a likely concurrent project to be cooperatively completed by the Society's State Historic Preservation Office, the Carver County Historical Society, and the Carver Park Preserve. Bids and specifications for restoration work will be reviewed by the Preservation Office for compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects, and Society staff will monitor the

work throughout the duration of the project.

C3. Budget: \$36,666  
Balance: \$ 0

a. Amount Budgeted: Restoration: \$33,333  
Expenses: \$3,333

C4. Timeline: 7/93 1/94 6/94 1/95 6/95  
Stabilization xxxxx  
Planning xxxxxxxxxxxx

C5. Status: A cooperative planning process was initiated in early 1994 to determine options for the future restoration and use of the property. The planning and restoration project involved the Suburban Hennepin Regional Park District which owns the Carver Park Reserve District, the Carver County Historical Society, and the Minnesota Historical Society.

A study to examine potential uses of the Grimm Farmstead was conducted during the summer and fall of 1994. The recommendations from this study were adopted by the Board of Directors of Suburban Hennepin Regional Park District and used as a guide for undertaking a building stabilization project on the Grimm farmhouse between December 1994 and March 1995. The project focused on emergency stabilization measures -- eliminating water, wind and vandal penetration to the house and repair to the walls and roof areas.

Concurrent with the building restoration project, a historical education committee began work on a plan for developing the forty acres of the Grimm Farm as an educational and interpretive facility. Future public programming at the farm will be carried out in conjunction with related nature study and environmental programming offered by Lowry Nature Center. This will cover such topics as 19th Century Farming, German farm family life, changes in the "Big Woods" portions of Minnesota due to agriculture, and the development of Grimm Alfalfa as the first winter-hardy alfalfa in North America. The results of the planning for future restoration and maintenance of the site and educational programming are documented in a site development plan.

C6. Benefits: The park is widely used by the community and restoration funds for the farmstead will assure its preservation and interpretation. The park setting makes the interpretation potential particularly rich. Stabilization of the building and developing a restoration and interpretation plan will assist in leveraging additional funding to carry out the restoration. The

building is currently vacant and threatened.

D. Title of Objective: Restoration and Interpretation of the Tugboat Edna G in Agate Bay in Two Harbors.

D1. Narrative: This project involves the restoration, and interpretation of the Tugboat Edna G in Agate Bay. The property is owned by the City of Two Harbors and is a strong local attraction. Funding would assure that this significant link to the region's iron ore and shipping history is preserved and interpreted in its location in the bay.

D2. Procedures: This project includes both planning and restoration work for the tugboat. A restoration and interpretation/program plan will be developed as a critical first step. Accessibility will need to be addressed as part of this plan as well as long-term maintenance and management for a most unusual type of historic property. The plan will guide the scope of work for the restoration work to be completed under this project. Bids and specifications for restoration work will be reviewed by the Preservation Office for compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects, and Society staff will monitor the work throughout the duration of the project.

D3. Budget: \$18,334  
Balance: 0

a. Amount Budgeted: Restoration: \$16,667  
Expenses: \$1,667

D4. Timeline: 7/93 1/94 6/94 1/95 6/95  
Planning xxx  
Restoration xxxxxxxxxxxx  
Interpretation xxxxxxxxxxxx

D5. Status: The City of Two Harbors and the Lake County Historical Society participated in a twenty-one month project to research and document the history of the *Edna G*. Tugboat, undertake historically accurate restoration, and plan for its educational and visitor attraction uses within the historic iron ore and lumber shipping waterfront of Two Harbors.

The project began in October 1993 following a cooperative study by the Minnesota Historical Society, the City of Two Harbors and the Lake County Historical Society to examine the future use of the 1896 tugboat. Options appeared to be to transfer the tugboat to another organization, move it onto land as a mounted display, or leave it in the water

and make it suitable for visitation. The latter option was chosen by the Two Harbors City Council despite the lack of a permanent mooring site.

The LCMR funds for this project, a \$4,000 capital emergency grant from the 1993 Legislative bonding bill, and over \$200,000 of city funds were used to undertake a major restoration of the tugboat at Fraser Shipyard in Superior, Wisconsin. Over 90% of the restoration was funded by the City of Two Harbors. In June 1994, a major refurbishing of the tug was complete and the *Edna G.* was returned home to Two Harbors which welcomed it back with a major community celebration. Additional refurbishing and replacement of the wooden portions of the tug was performed by a local boat builder over the summer of 1994. Tours of the tug were offered to the public during the summer of 1994, the first time since 1984 that such visitation was permitted.

The research was expanded and architectural drawings of the tug's original design and subsequent modifications were compiled into a Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) Report which was submitted to the National Park Service for archival recording.

Early in the project a study of the educational and interpretive opportunities relating to the *Edna G.* and the variety of historic uses of the Two Harbors waterfront area was also initiated. This resulted in the development of "A Two Harbors Living Heritage Plan" which was formally presented to the Two Harbors City Council and the Lake County Historical Society Board of Directors in June 1995.

Planning for the future location and use of the *Edna G.* Tugboat led to the design of a museum and exhibit gallery which would be located next to the permanent dockage for the tug. Community interest in finding a location for the *Edna G.* led the City of Two Harbors to begin planning with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the development of a "Harbor of Refuge Marina" in Agate Bay which would include a permanent dock for the *Edna G.* and a location for the *Edna G.* Tugboat Museum.

Over the course of the project, the community of Two Harbors experienced a renewed interest in its heritage. This led the Two Harbors City Council to create a Harbor Town Vision and Heritage Commission which combines long range planning with heritage preservation. In the Spring of 1995, the commission conducted an extensive survey of community residents. A community vision with an emphasis on preserving the historic qualities of the community was developed and presented to the Two Harbors City Council on June 26, 1995.

D6. Benefits: The tugboat is widely appreciated by community residents and visitors alike. Restoration funds will assure that the property is preserved and made accessible in its Agate Bay location.

E. Title of Objective: Emergency Grant Program

E1. Narrative: This program will provide a modest amount of funds to National Register properties in the need of emergency repairs such as the Thomas Veblen Farmstead in Rice County and the Sherburne County Courthouse in Elk River.

E2. Procedures: This project will involve first developing criteria, identifying where emergency grant funds are needed the most, and publicizing the availability of funds. The funds will be directed towards properties at risk that are of statewide significance where modest grant funds could save a threatened resource. Critically needed planning and stabilization will be among the types of work to be funded under this emergency grant category. Once grants recipients are identified, the Society's State Historic Preservation Office will work with local organizations involved to plan the scope of work. Bids and specifications for restoration work will be reviewed by the Preservation Office for compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects, and Society staff will monitor the work throughout the duration of the project.

E3. Budget: \$45,833  
Balance: \$ 0

a. Amount Budgeted: Restoration: \$41,667  
Expenses: \$4,166

E4. Timeline: 7/93 1/94 6/94 1/95 6/95  
Project selection xxxxx  
Restoration xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

E5. Status: Criteria for eligible projects were developed, and the first grant was awarded in March 1994. The balance of the emergency funds were awarded in the summer of 1994 after a competitive application process. The projects were completed during the 1994-95 construction season. While individual grants were modest in size, the funds provided much needed emergency assistance for a wide range of historic properties in the state. It was also possible to achieve excellent statewide distribution in making the awards. A total of eleven emergency grants were awarded as listed, alphabetically by county, below. Applicant match is shown in parentheses following the listing; a total of \$49,402 was documented as match to these projects.

BROWN COUNTY, Brown County Historical Society, \$1,129 for roof repair to the NEW ULM POST OFFICE, New Ulm (\$1,129)

FARIBAULT COUNTY, Faribault County Historical Society, \$1,729 for porch roof repair to the JAMES B. WAKEFIELD HOUSE, Blue Earth (\$1,729)

HENNEPIN COUNTY, Metropolitan Cultural Arts Center, \$5,000 for a new boiler in the MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC LIBRARY, NORTH BRANCH, Minneapolis (\$12,500)

KOOCHICHING COUNTY, Koochiching County, \$2,329 for a historic structures report/reuse study for the SCENIC HOTEL, Northome, (\$2,329)

PINE COUNTY, City of Sandstone, \$3,600 for foundation repair to the MINNEAPOLIS TRUST COMPANY BUILDING, Sandstone, (\$3,774)

POPE COUNTY, Terrace Mill Foundation, \$7,500 for a historic structures report on the Key-Stone Arch Bridge in the TERRACE MILL HISTORIC DISTRICT, Terrace, (\$7,500)

REDWOOD COUNTY, Lamberton Area Historical Society, \$3,500 for roof and window repair to the CITY BLACKSMITH SHOP, Lamberton, (\$3,500)

REDWOOD COUNTY, Redwood County Historical Society, \$3,300 for an electrical system at GILFILLAN, Paxton Township, (\$3,300)

SIBLEY COUNTY, Gibbon Restoration Society, \$6,500 for tower and parapet repair to the GIBBON VILLAGE HALL, Gibbon (\$6,500)

ST. LOUIS COUNTY, Sacred Heart Memorial Center, \$6,000 for brick repair to the SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL, Duluth, (\$6,000)

ST. LOUIS COUNTY, Sisu Heritage, \$1,080 for roof repair to the calfbarn/sauna on the GREGORIUS AND MARY HANKA FARMSTEAD, Embarrass Township (\$1,141)

- E6. Benefits: Emergency funds will prevent the loss of significant historic resources and enable matching fund raising efforts to be more effective. This grants program will enable the Society to respond to emergency needs as they develop. In changing economic times, historic properties are becoming increasingly threatened. This category of project will allow meaningful response to emerging needs.

V. Evaluation: The success of the project will be evaluated by (a) the

completion of each restoration project; and (b) verification by the Minnesota Historical Society's Historical Architect that the work conforms to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects.

VI. Context:

- A. The properties included in this proposal are among the state's most significant. They are of high visibility and funding will move the restoration efforts towards completion. Pickwick Mill is one of the state's earliest industrial sites and contains much original machinery. Local citizens and the Pickwick Mill Association strongly support its restoration. The City of Henderson and the Sibley County Historical Society have worked with the Minnesota Historical Society in restoring the 1879 Sibley County Courthouse; local citizens strongly support the continued restoration of this well-used community resource. The Wendelin Grimm Farmstead in Carver County is widely recognized for Grimm's contributions in the agricultural history of the state. The development pressures in rural Carver County make the preservation and interpretation of this resource particularly urgent. The Carver County Historical Society is willing to work with the Minnesota Historical Society and Carver Park Preserve to ensure the property's preservation. The Tugboat Edna G is owned by the City of Two Harbors; funds are needed to assist in making this property accessible in its Agate Bay location. Many other significant National Register properties are in need of emergency funding. The Minnesota Historical Society would identify worthy recipients of the emergency funds and would ensure that restoration processes are carried out in accordance with the appropriate standards for all of these historic properties.
- B. This program will result in the preservation of some of our state's most important historical resources, and will result in the raising of additional private funds as well as match federal funds available for these purposes under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.
- C. Strong cooperative relationships exist between the Minnesota Historical Society, local groups and communities, the Department of Natural Resources, local and county historical societies, and the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior for this program. In the case of Pickwick Mill, the DNR has assisted in repair of the dam. The Minnesota Historical Society assisted the Pickwick Mill Association in developing an appropriate restoration plan. Local communities have provided matching funds for restoration efforts on a 50% match basis for both state and federal grants. The Minnesota Historical Society has assisted the City of Henderson in the restoration of the Sibley County Courthouse; the city provided match to two grants in 1989 and 1990. The Wendelin Grimm Farmstead received a federal preservation grant in 1980 on a

§ matching basis. The Tugboat Edna Greene received a grant from the Minnesota Historical Society in 1984; the Society's staff have worked with local residents and the City of Two Harbors recently to find a means to preserve the property without removing it from its Agate Bay location. None of these projects have received funding through the LCMR in the past.

Project Director.

VIII. Reporting Requirements: Semiannual status reports will be submitted not later than Jan. 1, 1994, July 1, 1994, Jan. 1, 1995, and a final status report by June 30, 1995.

VII. Qualifications:

1. Program Manager

- a. Program Manager Britta Bloomberg is Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer and heads the Society's Historic Preservation, Field Services and Grants Department. She is experienced in administering the federal Historic Preservation Fund program for the Society and has worked in the department for a total of seven years and has fifteen years experience in the field.
- b. Minnesota Historical Society, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer and Head, Historic Preservation, Field Services, and Grants Department.

2. Cooperators/Other Investigators

- a. Minnesota Historical Society staff member Charles Nelson, Historical Architect for the State Historic Preservation Office, will be responsible for assisting in the oversight of this project and in reviewing the plans and specifications for all work for conformance to the appropriate standards as well as monitoring the work throughout the project's completion. Nelson has over twenty years experience with the Society's historic preservation program. His qualifications are certified by the National Park Service.

Minnesota Historical Society staff member Larry Granger, National Register Grants Project Director, will assist in planning and managing the project by providing technical assistance to grants recipients, monitoring projects, and handling coordination with other grants programs administered by the office. Granger is an experienced community development and education consultant with specialties in environmental education, historic interpretation, tourism, and long range planning. During 1992-3 he directed the North West Company Fur Post Planning and Research Project for the Society.

- b. Minnesota Historical Society, Historic Preservation, Field Services, and Grants Department, Historical Architect.

Minnesota Historical Society, Historic Preservation, Field Services, and Grants Department, National Register Grants