

JUN 30 1999

**TITLE:** PROTECTING RURAL HISTORIC LANDSCAPES IN HIGH DEVELOPMENT  
**PROJECT MANAGER:** Britta L. Bloomberg  
**ORGANIZATION:** Minnesota Historical Society  
**ADDRESS:** 345 Kellogg Blvd. W.  
St. Paul, MN 55102  
**WEB SITE ADDRESS:** www.mnhs.org  
**LEGAL CITATION:** ML 1997, [Chap. 216], Sec. 15, Subd. 5(b)  
**APPROPRIATION AMOUNT:** \$80,000

### Statement of Objectives

The project objectives were two-fold: 1) to survey and document two historic agricultural landscapes within the St. Cloud-Twin Cities-Rochester growth corridor to serve as a model for evaluation of this type of resource throughout the corridor and throughout the state and 2) to develop management plans for comprehensive protection of agricultural historic landscapes, for use in land use planning in the corridor and throughout the state.

### Overall Project Results

- The project surveyed and evaluated four areas in the corridor: southern Stearns, northern Hennepin, southern Carver, and eastern Rice-western Goodhue Counties (Mead and Hunt Phase I and II reports). An area in western Goodhue County along the Little Cannon river was evaluated as potentially eligible to the National Register of Historic Places, and a detailed registration form with 193 contributing resources was completed (see Mead and Hunt Phase II report) for the Nansen Agricultural Historic District. All survey information is integrated into the SHPO statewide inventory. Digital data layers were prepared for use in future Geographic Information System (GIS) analysis of the project area.
- Workshops and open houses were held in the Nansen area (10/29/98, 2/23/99, 3/13/99, and 4/20/99), with a total attendance of 140 citizens, elected officials, and agency staff. In addition, a workshop for related statewide programs was held on 4/13/99, with 30 in attendance. These workshops resulted in two planning documents, one with specific recommendations for education, incentive, and management actions for the Nansen area, and one for use in planning for agricultural historic landscape throughout the state.

The project results have shown:

- Rigorous survey and analysis are necessary to distinguish "undeveloped" agricultural landscapes from those with legitimate historical integrity. The project provides a good model, and has pinpointed issues in landscape documentation that need more work.
- Preservation of agricultural historic landscapes is encouraged by an innate appreciation of landscape qualities and by a range of incentive and regulatory programs; existing programs need to incorporate more specific information on historic landscape features in order to be effective in protecting them.
- Any regulatory programs need to be carefully thought out so that they do not hamper ongoing agricultural operations, since those operations are historically the foundation of an agricultural district's economic base.

### Project Results Use and Dissemination

In addition to the workshops discussed above, presentations on the project were made at the 1998 North Dakota History Conference in Bismarck (9/25/98), the 1999 Hiawatha Valley Resource Conservation and Development Association Annual Meeting in Rochester (1/25/99), and the 1999 State Preservation Conference in St. Peter (5/15/99). An article is in preparation for an upcoming issue of Minnesota Monthly.

Most importantly, both the Nansen plan and the statewide plan will be integrated into the ongoing agenda of the State Historic Preservation Office, and routinely made available as models for survey and planning projects throughout Minnesota. A follow-up meeting has already been scheduled for 7/6/99 in Nansen with a possible fall workshop on barn preservation, identified as a need in the plan, being considered. The SHPO staff expects to continue working with local residents as various elements of the plan recommendations are considered for implementation.

The statewide plan, "Inventorying, Managing and Preserving Agricultural Historic Landscapes in Minnesota" (BRW, 1999) and the survey report, "Minnesota's Historic Agricultural Landscapes, Phase II Report" (Mead & Hunt, 1998) are being made available on the MHS Web site.

**Date of Report:** July 1, 1999  
**LCMR Final Work Program Update Report**

JUN 30 1999

**Date of Next Status Report:** June 30, 1999  
**Date of Workprogram Approval:** June 23, 1997  
**Project Completion Date:** June 30, 1999

LCMR Workprogram 1997

**I. PROJECT TITLE:** Protecting Rural Historic Landscapes in High Development Areas

**Project Manager:** Britta L. Bloomberg  
**Affiliation:** Minnesota Historical Society  
**Mailing Address:** 345 Kellogg Blvd. W.  
St. Paul, MN 55102  
**Telephone Number:** (612) 296-5471  
**Fax:** (612) 282-2374  
**Web Page address:** www.mnhs.org  
**E-Mail:** britta.bloomberg@mnhs.org

**Total Biennial Project Budget:**

<b>\$ LCMR:</b>	\$ 80,000.	<b>\$ Match:</b>	N/A
<b>- \$ LCMR Amount Spent:</b>	80,000.	<b>- \$Match Amount Spent:</b>	
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<b>= LCMR Balance</b>	\$ 0.		N/A

**A. Legal Citation:** ML 1997, [Chap. 216], Sec. 15, Subd. 5(b).

**Appropriation Language:** This appropriation is from the trust fund to the Minnesota Historical Society to document resources and prepare a management plan for historical agricultural landscapes in the St. Cloud-Rochester growth corridor.

**B. Status of Match Requirement:** Not applicable.

**II. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS:**

Minnesota's St. Cloud-Twin Cities-Rochester growth corridor still retains vast expanses of a rich agricultural landscape. Some portions of this landscape retain significant features reflecting the state's agricultural history - fields, windbreaks, barns, farmhouses. These features may illustrate the evolution of farming practices, the types of buildings constructed by a particular ethnic group, or the particular settlement patterns of a particular locality. These landscapes need to be identified and considered for protection within the land use planning process. The project will (1) survey and document two areas with historic agricultural landscapes within the St. Cloud-Twin Cities-Rochester growth corridor; (2) develop a management plan for protecting these landscapes; and (3) conduct two workshops with local and state land use planning agencies to explore ways to implement the plan.

### III. PROGRESS SUMMARY: July 1, 1999

#### **Result 1 (\$50,000; Balance: 0)**

"Minnesota's Historic Agricultural Landscapes Phase II Report" was submitted by project consultants Mead and Hunt at the end of June 1998. The report, along with the accompanying inventory materials, documents two agricultural historic landscapes in Carver and Goodhue Counties, and recommends that a Goodhue County landscape in the Sogn Valley was selected for further documented to National Register standards. The survey data has been integrated into the SHPO statewide inventory. While two landscapes were documented, because a second district which clearly met National Register criteria was not identified and the detail required for the Goodhue County area took more effort than anticipated, only one district is being proposed for nomination.

During the summer of 1998 consultants Mead and Hunt completed detailed field work throughout the proposed historic district. SHPO staff made several field inspections, and an intern from Sweden assisted with the individual farm documentation. After analysis of the field data, boundaries were drawn and a National Register Registration Form has been completed which meets the requirements for nomination to the National Register through the National Park Service.

#### **Result 2 (\$25,000; Balance: 0)**

Major work on the management plan component commenced in the fall of 1998. A contract with BRW was executed for preparation of two plans - one specific plan for the Nansen District in Goodhue County, and one more general plan for use throughout the state by those who have an interest in rural historic districts. The consultants also prepared digital data layers for use with a GIS system to further refine rural landscape features for the planning process.

Working extensively with residents and local officials in a series of four workshops (10/29/98, 2/23/99, 3/13/99, and 4/20/99), a management plan for the Nansen District, "Managing a Working Landscape: A Protection Strategy for the Nansen Agricultural Historic District" was completed that outlines various means to preserve the area. Initiatives are grouped under educational, incentive, and management/regulatory categories. The plan incorporates existing programs which might be tapped to help preserve the area, as well as recommends new initiatives where gaps exist.

A statewide management plan was completed in June 1999, "Inventorying, Managing and Preserving Agricultural Historic Landscapes in Minnesota," which introduces the concept of rural agricultural historic districts, and discusses the process of documentation, evaluation, and protection. This plan serves as an introduction and reference for planners, agency officials, and citizens interested in applying the concept in local growth management and is being made available on the MHS Web Site ([www.mnhs.org](http://www.mnhs.org)) to broaden its distribution. A workshop held in St. Paul, featuring Elizabeth Watson, co-author of *Saving America's Countryside*, involved several state, private, and local programs, and served as the basis for this plan.

#### **Result 3 (\$5,000; Balance: 0)**

These workshops were incorporated in the development of both the plans discussed under Result 2. A special workshop for a general audience was presented at Vang Church in the

Goodhue County area in late October 1998 which attracted nearly 70 people including a range of residents, agency officials, and interested people from around and outside the state and received visible attention in the press. Additional workshops were held in the spring, with the findings presented to residents in the Sogn Valley in April 1999. The dialog with area residents will continue over the next several months in an effort to implement the plan. One of the recommendations that came out of the local workshops was the need to conduct oral histories of several long-time area residents; a pilot project was initiated in the spring on 1999 in coordination with the Society's Oral History Office that will continue over the summer months.

#### IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

○**Result 1:** Resource Documentation. Two areas with historic agricultural landscapes - one between the Twin Cities and St. Cloud and one between the Twin Cities and Rochester - will be surveyed and documented to the standards of the National Register of Historic Places (U.S. Department of the Interior).

LCMR Budget:	\$50,000	Balance:	\$ 0
Match:	N/A	Match Balance:	N/A
Completion Date:	December 1998		

Priorities and goals for Result 1:

Utilizing site data from the SHPO statewide inventory and input from local organizations, a team of SHPO staff members will select two candidate areas for documentation. In addition to the inherent historical characteristics and significance of the candidate areas, consideration will also be given areas where there is current planning activity that might form the framework for the landscape management plan (Result 2). (One potential such area would be the Land Stewardship Project's proposed green corridor in Washington and Chisago Counties.)

Following selection of the areas, a consulting historian will be retained to complete field surveys, document the landscape components and processes (land uses, spatial patterns, natural environment response, cultural traditions, circulation networks, boundary demarcations, vegetation related to land use, buildings/structures/objects, clusters, archaeological sites, and/or small scale elements. The documentation will follow the National Park Service's standards, including National Register Bulletin #30, "Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes". Documentation on each area will include inventory forms, maps, photographs, and a survey report.

The goal for this first project component is to complete inventory documentation of two historic agricultural landscapes following the federal National Park Service standards.

○**Result 2:** Management Plan. Various protective strategies for these landscapes will be identified and analyzed. These strategies will link with local and state level land use planning mechanisms, and will include investigation of GIS technologies as a management tool.

LCMR Budget:	\$25,000	Balance:	\$0
Match:	N/A	Match Balance:	N/A

Completion Date: May 1999

**Priorities and goals for Result 2:**

The survey documentation of the two landscape areas (Result 1) will identify the patterns and features that are most characteristic of each location. With this information as a basis, an analysis of the types of land use planning strategies and mechanisms best suited to help protect these features will be completed. A management plan for each area will outline the strategies and mechanisms. The management plans will place a high priority on integration with existing programs, ordinances, and guidelines. In addition, the Minnesota Department of Transportation's MnMODEL project, which currently is developing a GIS-based archaeological predictive model for planning purposes, will be consulted to explore ways to incorporate landscapes into the structure of a GIS planning system.

The goals are threefold for the management plan project component: to complete a management plan for each landscape, to explore use of GIS technologies as a management tool for this resource type, and to develop recommendations for application to agricultural landscapes in other areas in the state.

**Result 3: Implementation Workshops.** Two workshops with local and state land use planning agencies will explore the documentation reports and the management plan, with implementation of various aspects of the plan as a goal.

LCMR Budget:	\$ 5,000	Balance:	\$ 0
Match:	N/A	Match Balance:	N/A
Completion Date:	June 1999		

**Priorities and goals for Result 3:**

During the formulation of the Management Plans (Result 2), contact will be established with the agencies best suited to carry out protective landscape strategies and mechanisms. When the management plans are completed, it will be necessary to present information on the nature and value of the historic landscapes to members of these agencies, and to explore how various programs might implement elements of the management plan to promote landscape preservation.

The goal for the workshops is to promote the integration of historic landscape values into land use planning processes.

**V. DISSEMINATION:**

Information regarding this project will be made available on the department's Web page. During project development, feedback will be solicited from users. The project will also be promoted through Society newsletters and at department hosted field workshops and conferences.

**VI. CONTEXT**

**A. Significance:** The National Register of Historic Places Bulletin, "Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes," which appeared in 1990, defines a

rural historic landscape as a geographical area that historically has been used by people, or shaped or modified by human activity, occupancy, or intervention, and that possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of areas of land use, vegetation, buildings and structures, roads and waterways, and natural features. The Bulletin contains detailed guidance for defining, identifying, and documenting these landscapes, whose more subtle qualities are often missed in land use planning processes that more easily focus on individual historic buildings or archaeological sites. Virtually no historic agricultural landscapes have been systematically documented in Minnesota; good case examples of such documentation are clearly needed, not only as a means of recognizing these specific areas, but also to serve as models for local governments, state agencies, and preservation organizations. Furthermore, effective protective strategies for rural landscapes go beyond the more familiar territory of individual historic buildings and districts because broader land use issues are relevant. Models of protective strategies, which will involve alliances with other rural land use mechanisms, will help to set the pace for other efforts throughout the state. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture's "Reinventing the Agricultural Land Preservation Program" and the Land Stewardship Project's "New Models for a Natural Resources Corridor" are among the programs which have potential to link with efforts to recognize and preserve historic agricultural areas.

**B. Time:** The project will be completed within the biennium.

**C. Budget Context:** This program builds on earlier survey work funded by the LCMR which identified individual geographic features of historical and cultural significance (refer to brochure "Grand Views and Imposing Vistas; 5 well-known geographic features in Minnesota").

	July 1995- June 1997	July 1997- June 1999	July 1999- June 2001
	<u>Prior expenditures on this project</u>	<u>Proposed expenditures on this project</u>	<u>Anticipated future expenditures on this project</u>
1. LCMR	\$	\$ 80,000	\$
2. Other State	\$	\$	\$
3. Non State Cash	\$	\$	\$
<b>Total</b>	\$	\$ 80,000	\$

**BUDGET:**

Prof. Services	\$ 73,000
Film/processing/travel	\$ 7,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 80,000</b>

**VII. COOPERATION:**

The project will involve ongoing participation from at least five professional staff members in the Society's State Historic Preservation Office:

Scott Anfinson, National Register Archaeologist

Dennis Gimmestad, Government Programs and Compliance Officer  
Michael Koop, Historic Preservation Program Specialist  
Susan Roth, National Register Historian  
Tom Cinadr, Survey and Information Management Coordinator

LCMR project dollars will not cover any regular staff salary costs. Their participation demonstrates in-kind commitment to the project.

**VIII. LOCATION:**

Ecological classification location: M,R,S,V,W (two of the above). The attached map shows potential areas for survey and documentation.

**IX. Reporting Requirements:** Periodic workprogram progress reports will be submitted not later than June 30, 1998 and December 31, 1998. A final workprogram report and associated products will be submitted by June 30, 1999, or by the completion date as set in the appropriation.

**X. For Research Projects:** Not applicable.