

AUG 13 2001

TITLE: Historical and Cultural Museum on Vermilion
Lake Indian Reservation.

PROJECT MANAGER: Andrew Datko, Community Development Planner
ORGANIZATION: Bois Forte Reservation
MAILING ADDRESS: 1430 Bois Forte Road, Tower, MN 55790
218-753-6400 **E-mail:** andatko@yahoo.com
Fax: 218-753-6404

LEGAL CITATION: ML 1997, Chap. 216, Sec. 15, Subd. 5(f).
Carryover: The availability of the appropriations for the following projects is extended to June 30, 2001. ML 1999, Chap. 231, Sec. 16, Subd. 25 (b).

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$100,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results.

This project entailed the construction of a historical museum and heritage center adjacent to an historic gold mine and fur post site on the Bois Forte Reservation at Lake Vermilion, near Tower, Minnesota. The museum will be a focal point for interpretation and education about the history and culture of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians, with special attention to the historical interaction of the Indians and non-Indians in northern Minnesota. This project will positively contribute to the development of northeastern Minnesota as a tourist destination. This museum will be a primary feature attraction of a Heritage Tourism Route called "the Old Road", that is being developed by various partners in Minnesota and Ontario.

The project has also led to the development of a model of cooperation between a tribal government (Bois Forte) and a non-Indian organization (the St. Louis County Historical Society). The building itself encompasses approximately 6,241 square feet of exhibit and public space on the main level, and an additional 6,241 square feet of storage, research, and meeting space on a lower level. The building will house 11 distinct exhibit areas and an art gallery which will feature Native American art.

Project Results Use and Dissemination.

Information about the museum, the exhibits, and any research related to the adjacent historic sites will be made available on the Internet. This will provide a much greater level of access to these historical resources. A web site has not been established yet, but will be after the museum opens to the public. The museum will be open to the public and will provide educational opportunities to school groups, tourists, neighboring communities, and the Bois Forte people.

Date of Report: July 1, 2001

LCMR Final Work Program Report

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2001

LCMR Work Program Update

I. PROJECT TITLE: **A-18** Historical and Cultural Museum on Vermilion
Lake Indian Reservation.

Project Manager: Andrew Datko
 Community Development Planner
Affiliation: Bois Forte Reservation
Mailing Address: 1430 Bois Forte Road, Tower, MN 55790
Telephone: 218-753-6400 **E-mail:** andatko@yahoo.com **Fax:** 218-753-6404

Total Biennial Project Budget:

\$ LCMR:	\$100,000	Match:	\$ 1,451,666
<u>\$ LCMR Spent:</u>	<u>\$100,000</u>	<u>\$ Match Spent:</u>	<u>\$ 1,215,828</u>
\$ LCMR Balance:	\$-0-	\$ Match Balance:	\$ 235,838 (pending final payments)

A. Legal Citation: ML 1997, Chap. 216, Sec. 15, Subd. 5(f).
Carryover: The availability of the appropriations for the following projects
 is extended to June 30, 2001. ML 1999, Chap. 231, Sec. 16,
 Subd. 25 (b).

Appropriation Language: This appropriation is from the future resources fund to the Minnesota Historical Society resources for an agreement with the Bois Forte Reservation to design and construct a historical museum for cultural interpretation adjacent to an historic gold mine and fur trade post on Lake Vermilion. As an additional condition of acceptance of this appropriation, this facility may not be used in any form of gambling or the promotion of gambling. This appropriation must be matched by at least \$100,000 of non state money.

II. & III. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS:

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IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

The Bois Forte Historical and Cultural Museum building has been completed. The exhibits are being designed and fabricated by Split Rock Studios. The first phase of exhibits will be installed in October 2001, and the second phase will be installed in May 2002.

Result 1: Building design and engineering.

LCMR Budget:	\$ 10,000	LCMR Balance Remaining:	\$0
Match Budget:	<u>\$112,500</u>	Match Balance Remaining:	<u>\$5,855</u>
Total	122,500	(pending final payments)	\$5,855

Completion Date: April 2000 for construction drawings, plans and specifications.
August 2001 for final inspections and project close-out.

The building was designed and has been built according to the project specifications. Everyone who has toured the building thus far has commented on its beauty and how well it blends with its natural environment.

Result 2: Site Utilities.

LCMR Budget:	\$16,000	LCMR Balance Remaining:	\$ -0-
Match Budget:	<u>\$79,603</u>	Match Balance Remaining:	<u>\$-0-</u>
Total	\$95,603		\$-0-

Completion Date: November 2000

Electric, water, sewer and telephone utilities have been extended to the site, and are operational.

Result 3: Building Construction (includes contingencies, furniture, fixtures & equipment).

LCMR Budget:	\$ 74,000	LCMR Balance Remaining:	\$ -0-
Match Budget:	<u>\$1,259,563</u>	Match Balance Remaining:	<u>\$229,983</u>
Total	\$1,333,563	(pending final payments)	\$229,983

Completion Date: August 2001

The building was substantially complete in June. Final sitework and landscaping are underway and final construction contract close-out will occur in August 2001. The building is ready for exhibit installation, and has met or exceeded all expectations on the part of the Bois Forte Community. Even prior to the museum's public opening, it has generated substantial positive community interest, both on the part of members of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, but also from the neighboring non-Indian communities and tourism organizations. This project has already led to a partnership in progress with the Grand Portage Band of Chippewa, the Rainy River First Nations, and numerous other partners in Canada and northeastern Minnesota to develop and promote a cultural tourism route called "The Old Road". This initiative will bring more tourists, both domestic and international, into northeastern Minnesota to experience a variety of cultural and historic sites and attractions.

A site manager was hired in July, and the Museum Curator will begin work in August. A photo of the museum is attached, as well as the final exhibit floor plan. The details and content of the final exhibits are under development.

V. DISSEMINATION

Information about the museum, the exhibits, and any research related to the adjacent historic sites will be made available on the Internet. This will provide a much greater level of access to these historical resources. A web site has not been established yet, but

will be after the museum opens to the public. The museum itself will obviously be open to the public, and efforts made to especially provide access for children and students.

VI. CONTEXT

A. Significance. The museum will be adjacent to an historic gold/silver mine and fur post site. The project sponsor has recently had archival research of the sites conducted. These sites date to the early and mid-19th century, a period of tremendous change in northern Minnesota. The fur trade, and later the mineral exploration and development of the Vermilion Iron Range greatly accelerated the interaction between the native Chippewa and European cultures.

There was also an Indian boarding school located nearby, which was part of the Federal government's attempts to "educate and civilize" the native population. Historical research related to that boarding school is being conducted in 2001-2002, under funding from a Historic Preservation Grant from the National Park Service. Historical information about the boarding school will be included in the museum, as well as in a travelling exhibit that will be developed for loan to other institutions and organizations.

The Lake Vermilion area was a major trade route used by the native Chippewa, and later the French, British, and Americans. It was also an important area for mineral exploration and development. The Lake Vermilion gold rush of the mid-1860s brought hundreds of mineral prospectors into the area. While no significant gold or silver were found, iron ore was discovered. The first iron mine in Minnesota was subsequently located only a few miles from these sites.

Archival evidence suggests that the fur post site may date to 1822 when defectors from the Hudson's Bay Company built an American Fur Company Post. In 1847 an independent post was established at the site by the voyageur Vincent Roy, Sr. at the request of Henry Rice. In 1854 another independent trader, Francis Roussain, established a post at the site. In 1858 the Bureau of Indian Affairs established a Blacksmith shop there.

In 1866 the New York Gold Mining Company brought a steam boiler and stamp mill (quartz crusher) to the site. They excavated a substantial shaft mine and set up an operation to crush the mined quartz and extract gold and silver using a mercury process. Written evidence suggests that up to 30 men worked at the mine site and several houses were constructed there. It is also interesting to note that the Governor of Minnesota at the time, Stephen Miller, was a stockholder in the New York Gold Mining Company. The gold rush lasted until 1869. While no significant gold deposits were found, the rush did have the effect of accelerating the Federal Government's attempts to remove the native Indians from the area and relocate them to Nett Lake.

The Bois Forte Band of Chippewa have a long and rich history, with important traditions and teachings that have value to Indian and non-Indian alike. The museum will house 11 distinct exhibit areas that will explore and present this history and culture, and an art gallery which will feature Native American art. This museum will ensure that the rich culture and history of the Bois Forte Band and the lessons that they teach are preserved and accessible for present and future generations.

B. Time. The museum construction project was substantially completed on or before June 30, 2001.

C. Budget Context.

This project falls within a larger context involving the development of a historic museum and cultural heritage center and the research of, preservation, and possible restoration of two historic sites on the Vermilion Lake Reservation.

	<u>7/95 to 6/97</u> <u>Prior Expend. (est.)</u>	<u>7/97 to 6/30/01</u> <u>Project Period</u>	<u>7/1/01 to 9/30/2001</u> <u>Future Expend. (est.)</u>
LCMR	\$ -0-	\$ 100,000	\$ -0-
Other State	-0-	-0-	-0-
Non State Cash	10,200	1,215,838	235,838
Non-State In-kind	<u>13,500</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>
Total	\$ 23,700	\$ 1,315,828	\$ 235,838

LCMR \$ BUDGET

Personnel	\$ -0-
Equipment	-0-
Acquisition	-0-
Development	100,000 (construction, A&E)
Other	<u>-0-</u>
Total	\$ 100,000

VII. COOPERATION

The Minnesota Historical Society, the St. Louis County Historical Society have provided substantial technical assistance during the development of the museum.

No LCMR funds are associated with these cooperators.

- Minnesota Historical Society - MHS administered the LCMR funds and provided technical assistance in regards to museum design and interpretation programs, and site preservation activities. David Nystuen, Field Programs, was the individual involved.
- St. Louis County Historical Society - They have and continue to provide substantial technical assistance in regards to museum design and interpretation programs and site preservation activities. Bois Forte and the St. Louis County Historical Society (SLCHS) have jointly funded a museum curator position. That individual will split their time between the Bois Forte museum and the SLCHS's Native American Gallery in Duluth. We are also working cooperatively with the SLCHS on an internship program which will train and place people interested in museum operations in Native American museums in northeastern Minnesota. This relationship has developed into a positive model of cooperation between Tribal government and a non-tribal organization.
- The "Old Road" Initiative. This initiative was started by the Grand Portage Band of Chippewa and the Rainy River First Nations (in Ontario) to develop a circle tour of Native cultural and historic sites in northeastern Minnesota and northwestern Ontario. Participation is being sought from the Minnesota Office of Tourism, the Northern Lights Tourism Association, Tourism Canada, Old Fort William, the SLCHS, the Great Lakes Aquarium, the International Wolf Center, Iron World Discovery Center, and others. The Bois Forte museum will be a participant and will be one of the primary sites along this tour. This effort will lead to increased international tourism to northeastern Minnesota.
- Bureau of Indian Affairs - The BIA, through its Area Archeologist Richard Berg, will provide future technical assistance regarding interpretation of the historic gold mine and fur post sites.

VIII. LOCATION (See maps previously submitted).

IX. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

This report is the final report to the LCMR for this project.



Split Rock Studios
MUSEUM OUTFITTERS

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Bois Forte Museum
VERMILION LAKE INDIAN RESERVATION
TOWER, MINNESOTA

DRAWN BY _____
DATE _____
SCALE SHOWN

PROJECT NUMBER
2026

DRAWING DESCRIPTION
EXHIBIT FLOORPLAN
DRAWING NO.
A.1

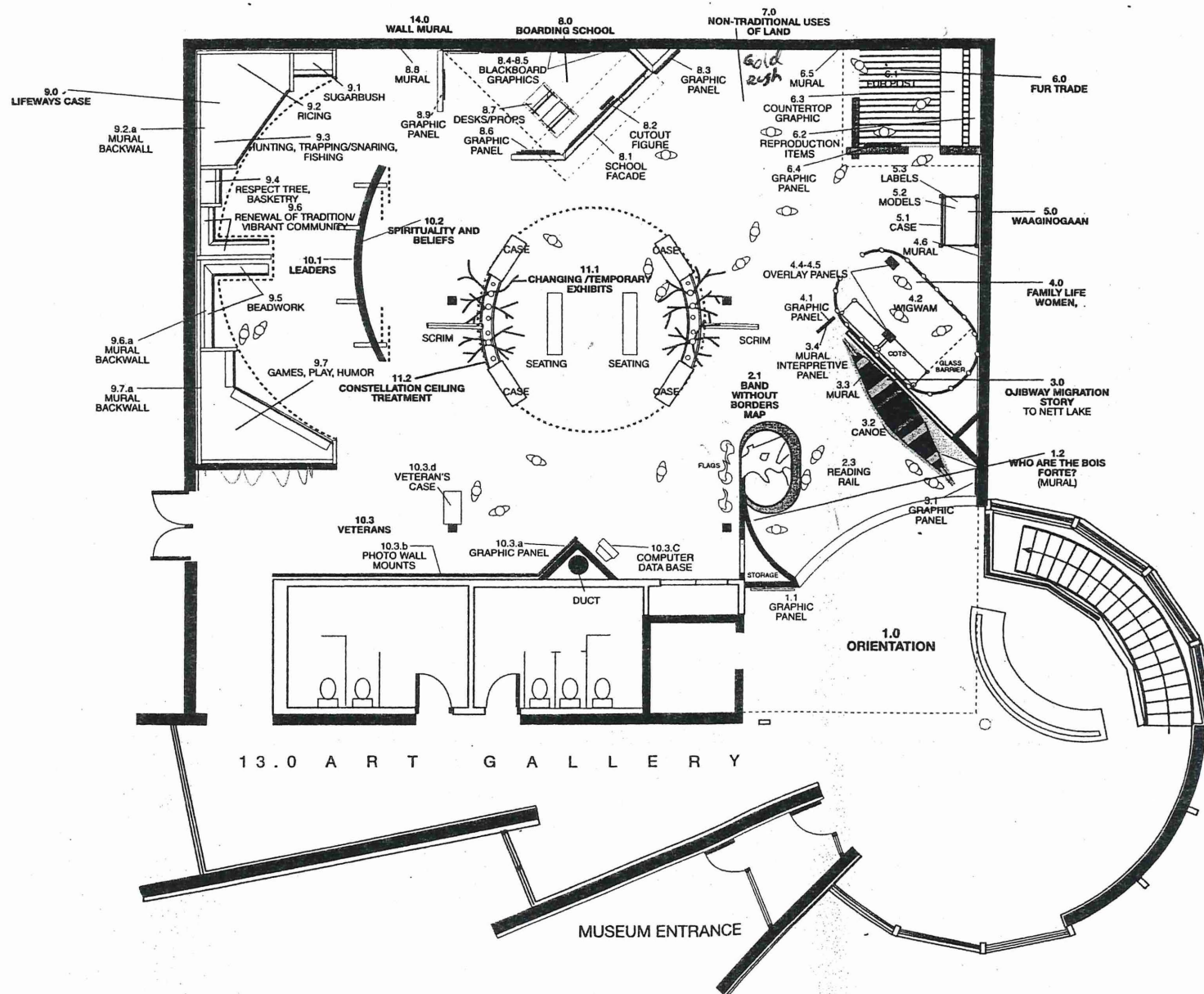


EXHIBIT FINAL DESIGN FLOORPLAN

Bois Forte Reservation Cultural Museum and Heritage Center

SCALE: 3/32"=1'0"

Bois Forte Heritage Center

