

FINAL REPORT

**1999 Project Abstract**

For the Period Ending June 30, 2002

**TITLE:** Historic Site Land Acquisition

**PROJECT MANAGER:** John Crippen

**ORGANIZATION:** Minnesota Historical Society

**ADDRESS:** Fort Snelling History Center  
St. Paul, MN 55111

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**FUND:** Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

**LEGAL CITATION:** ML 99, Chap. 231, Sec. 16, Subd. 5(b).

**APPROPRIATION AMOUNT:** \$175,000

The primary project result is the purchase of 80 acres of land adjacent to the Jeffers Petroglyphs site in Cottonwood County. It will better protect the site from possible development or commercial activity nearby, and it will enhance the site experience for 10,000 visitors each year. Over the next several years, the use of the land will revert from agricultural to restored prairie. The land is also adjacent to the site's large collection of the endangered Prairie Bush Clover, and it is hoped that this acquisition will provide expansion space for that plant. Although the full appropriation amount was not spent, staff members working on the project also made positive steps towards reaching a future agreement about land acquisition near the Oliver Kelley Farm in Sherburne County.

SEP 12 2002

Date of Report: July 1, 2002  
LCMR Final Work Program Report

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2002

## LCMR Work Program 1999

### I. PROJECT TITLE: Historic Site Land Acquisition

**Project Manager:** John Crippen  
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St. Paul, MN 55111  
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**Web Page Address:** www.mnhs.org

### Total Biennial Project Budget:

<b>\$ LCMR:</b>	175,000	<b>\$ Match:</b>	N/A
<b>- \$ LCMR</b>		<b>- \$ Match Amount</b>	N/A
<b>Amount Spent:</b>	139,994.50	<b>Spent:</b>	
	35,005.50	<b>= \$ Match Balance:</b>	N/A

### A. Legal Citation: ML 99, Chap. 231, Sec. 16, Subd. 5(b).

**Appropriation Language:** \$87,000 the first year and \$88,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the Minnesota Historical Society to purchase land adjacent to the Lower Sioux Agency, Jeffers Petroglyphs, and Oliver Kelley Farm sites to protect the historic resources. Allocation of dollars between the three sites shall be determined based on the willingness of sellers and reasonable purchase prices at the respective sites. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2002, at which time the project must be completed and final products delivered, unless an earlier date is specified in the work program.

### B. Status of Match Requirement:

## II. and III. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY

The primary project result is the purchase of 80 acres of land adjacent to the Jeffers Petroglyphs site in Cottonwood County. It will better protect the site from possible development or commercial activity nearby, and it will enhance the site experience for 10,000 visitors each year. Over the next several years, the use of the land will revert from agricultural to restored prairie. The land is also adjacent to the site's large collection of the endangered Prairie Bush Clover, and it is hoped that this acquisition will provide expansion space for that plant. Although the full appropriation amount was not spent, staff members working on the project also made positive steps towards reaching a future agreement about land acquisition near the Oliver Kelley Farm in Sherburne County.

#### **IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:**

**Result 1:** Purchase of land at Jeffers Petroglyphs, Lower Sioux Agency, or the Oliver Kelley Farm. Specific acres at each site will be based the willingness of sellers and reasonable purchase prices. Given the amount of funds available, it is unlikely that we will be able to purchase land at all three sites.

The relatively large remaining balance in for this project is due to the particular combination of willing sellers and available purchase prices. Early in the project, we abandoned the possibility of purchasing the Lower Sioux Agency property because the landowner decided that this was not the right time to sell. At the Kelley Farm, we knew that purchase of land was not likely for amount available in the project funding. However, we made some good headway towards solidifying a relationship and possible future deal with the adjacent landowner, without any cost to the project. At Jeffers Petroglyphs, one of three possible landowners was a willing seller, but the fair purchase price did not use the entire amount of project funds.

The significance of the land that was acquired is substantial. It will serve three purposes—to protect the southern edge of the site from possible development or quarrying activity, to allow a restoration of prairie plants, and to allow expanded program or ceremonial uses of the site.

LCMR Budget:	\$175,000.00
Prof/Tech. Expense	(4,549.00)
Acquisition Expense	<u>(135,445.50)</u>
Remaining Balance:	\$35,005.50
Completion Date:	June 30, 2002

#### **V. Dissemination:**

The Society will announce the additions to the public to the extent that the new land is incorporated into the interpretive program. We will also use our web page, address [www.mnhs.org](http://www.mnhs.org), to announce the additions.

## **VI. CONTEXT:**

### **A. Significance:**

#### **Jeffers Petroglyphs**

This state historic site contains some of the oldest evidence of human habitation in the state. The site is also a prime location for virgin and restored native prairie grass (some of the restored prairie is funded through LCMR) as well as endangered plant species. In particular, during site preparation for the new visitor center, a large concentration of Prairie Bush Clover was discovered on the southwest corner of the site. DNR officials believe that it is one of the largest concentrations of this species in the country. The addition of land to the south of the site will provide further protection and expansion space for this plant species.

The recently finished visitor center and the exhibit program that is under construction will encourage visitors to appreciate both its 5,000 years of human development and also its tremendous natural beauty. The land under consideration to the west and south of the current site is threatened by possible expansion of a nearby rock quarry, and by current cattle grazing on the land. This addition of land will also expand those opportunities, and increase the scope of environmental and historical preservation in this part of the state.

#### **Lower Sioux Agency**

The ability to protect the site of the Redwood Ferry crossing on both sides of the river would greatly enhance the story that this site tells. This state historic site is well known as the location of one of the first major engagements in the U.S.-Dakota Conflict of 1862, but we are just now starting to make people understand why it happened at this particular place. Historically, the site was located here because of its strategic place on the Minnesota River. The river was the highway to St. Paul, and the ferry crossing allowed people from each side of the river to interact with each other. On August 18, 1862, the ferry crossing first served as the means for people to cross the river to get on the road to Fort Ridgely, and later in the day it was the site of an engagement between Dakota and United States forces. There are stone markers in this area, dating from the turn of the century. The new Heritage Trails take visitors down the bluff to this critical part of the site.

#### **Kelley Farm**

The Oliver Kelley Farm is both a state historic site and a National Historic Landmark. It holds historic importance as the birthplace of the Grange Movement, and today it helps people remain connected to their agricultural heritage. In recent years, commercial and residential development has proceeded at an astounding pace along the Highway 10 corridor. As this development continues, the Kelley Farm will increasingly become a green island in the middle of urban sprawl. By adding acres to the site, views of urban development will be shielded from the historic farmstead (as they now are on the east side of the property with current land ownership) and from newly built nature trails.

#### **Significance--Budget Context**

As indicated below, no dollars have yet been spent on this particular project. Nevertheless, significant LCMR and non-LCMR funds have recently been invested in these sites, and the land expansion will enhance those improvements. The LCMR Heritage Trails project spent \$99,301 for trails at these three sites, which was augmented by \$178,000 from capital bond and ISTEAF funds; the Lower Sioux Agency trail runs directly past the Redwood Ferry Site, and the trails at the Kelley farm are adjacent to the land under consideration there. A current LCMR project totaling \$125,000 is being implemented to assess the environment and to restore some of the prairie at the Jeffers Petroglyphs. Finally, capital bond funds totaling \$851,000 were recently used to build a new visitor center at the Petroglyphs.

#### **B. Time:**

This project should be complete within the three-year time frame.

### **C. Budget Context:**

#### **ACTUAL SPENDING:**

Personnel	\$4,549.00
Robert Hobart, DNR	
Equipment	
Acquisition	\$135,445.50
Development	
Other	

\*DNR fees for work  
on title, deed,  
appraisal,  
negotiations

Total	<hr/> \$139,994.50
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### **VII. COOPERATION:**

The Minnesota Historical Society contracted with staff from the DNR's Division of Lands and Minerals to successfully complete this project.

### **VIII. LOCATION:**

Cottonwood County (Jeffers Petroglyphs)  
Renville County (Lower Sioux Agency)  
Sherburne County (Kelley Farm)

### **IX. Reporting Requirements:**

Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than March 1, 2000, June 1, 2000, January 31, 2001, June 1, 2001, and January 31, 2002. A final work program report and associated products will be submitted by June 30, 2002, or by the completion date as set in the appropriation.

<b>Attachment A Deliverable Products and Related Budget</b>		
LCMR Project Biennial Budget	Objective/Result	
	Result 1	
Budget Item	Land Acquisition	
	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Wages, salaries & benefits— Be specific on who is paid \$		
Space rental, maintenance & utilities		
Printing and Advertising		
Communications, telephone, mail, etc.		
Contracts		
Professional/technical	\$16,500	\$4,549
Other contracts		
Local automobile mileage paid		
Other travel expenses in Minnesota		
Travel outside Minnesota		
Office Supplies		
Other Supplies		
Tools and equipment		
Office equipment & computers		
Other Capital equipment		
Other direct operating costs		
Land acquisition	\$158,500	\$135,445.50
Land rights acquisition		
Buildings or other land improvement		
Legal fees		
COLUMN TOTAL	\$175,000	\$139,994.50