

FINAL REPORT

OCT 09 2001

1999 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2001

TITLE: Gibbs Farm Museum New Interpretation Implementation, Years II, III

PROJECT MANAGER: Priscilla Farnham

ORGANIZATION: Ramsey County Historical Society

ADDRESS: 323 Landmark Center; 75 West 5th Street; St. Paul, MN 55102

WEB SITE ADDRESS: www.rchs.com

FUND: Minnesota Future Resources Fund

LEGAL CITATION: ML 1999, Ch. 231, Sec. 16, Subd.005c

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$ 150,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The key objective: to build and furnish replica structures and to recreate land use of the Dakota and pioneers. Assure authenticity by using paintings, observations from the era (Seth Eastman, Samuel Pond, Frank Mayer) and museum originals as models.

- Dakota bark lodge (15ft. X 20ft.) and drying rack: outdoors in a prairie setting, inviting visitors inside. The only historic site in the state allowing visitors to experience the inside of a Dakota bark lodge.
- Two canvas tipi (26 feet diameter), encourage visitor entry.
- Furnishings, 52 + articles as hands-on teaching tools. Furnishings are all hand made replicas. Articles include, men's and women's clothing such as leggings, shirts, skirts, garters, capotes, bison robes and furs. Tools include two sets of utensils for starting fires; sewing; hoeing gardens (all pre-contact/post-contact). One of the best comparisons is the large buffalo shoulder-bone hoe with the post-contact metal hoe.
- Prairie Restorations, Inc. restored 1.3 acres of prairie using Francis Marschner's interpretation of the original land survey notes of 1847. 174 species of plants include grasses like Big and Little bluestem, Switch grass, Indian grass, and wildflower species like Butterfly weed, Yellow coneflower, Prairie onion and Prairie rose.

The significance of a positive, hands-on perspective of a culture that is part of Minnesota's heritage is enormous. Most contemporary people know of Dakota people only through tales of war and deprivation. The Dakota culture is here represented at its best – not just in decline and despair. Some of the most effective learning occurs outside the classroom when a person experiences life in another era. It's the only site in Minnesota showing a period of friendship and cooperation between the in-coming pioneers and the indigenous peoples. It serves as a beacon of hope for cross-cultural understanding for all peoples.

Attendance has increased over last year (20,000); our new marketing plan anticipates reaching its goal of 30,000 visitors.

LCMR Minnesota Future Resources Fund
Ramsey County Historical Society

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The information gathered during the project has been research focused on building the various structures, their furnishings and use. This information has been used to build the lodges, create furnishings, and implement the plantings of prairie and period landscape.

This information in turn has been disseminated to the public in a number of ways:

- 1) The museum currently offers stand-alone Dakota tours (sometimes paired with pioneer tours). Experiencing the actual structures i.e. being able to enter a Dakota bark lodge or tipi, is a powerful way of understanding the way the Dakota lived. This experience is unique to the Gibbs Museum. No other historic site in the state allows visitors to enter its Dakota bark lodge.
- 2) Museum interpreter training. The interpreters transmit the information to the visiting public using inter-active and hands-on techniques. The interpreters tailor their presentations to visitors based on age, level of attention, and ability to understand. Since 70% of our visitors are youth and school groups, this is a formative period of time for learning, and museum visits are a powerful tool for learning.
- 3) Printed information distributed at the site in forms of museum visitor's guides, and signage with titles in both Dakota and English.
- 4) The society also publishes a quarterly magazine, which often carries articles on the Dakota culture, and features photographs of the replicas. Examples include "The Two Worlds of Jane Gibbs and the Santee Dakota" Ramsey County History, Vol. 35 #1 or "The Life and Times of Cloud Man" Ramsey County History Volume 36, #1. These are sent to members as a benefit, and available for sale in the museum gift shop and downtown Landmark Center site. (see attached).
- 5) Prairie Restorations Inc. submitted a report summarizing the site history, design considerations, restoration history, planting process, details of the species of plants used, and the long term maintenance requirements. This information is available to the public through interpretive programs, and printed material on the prairie that will be on going for years. In addition, the report is available to the public on request.
- 6) The society's web site has a Dakota section where viewers can access information about the structures, their furnishings, and the Dakota life style. In the near future the society has plans to include specific information on the Gibbs prairie and heritage trees and landscaping on its web site.
- 7) Future plans for programming the Dakota Encampment include a Dakota Day Camp that will use the bark lodge, the tipi, the furnishings, demonstrations (including Dakota games) and the

demonstration areas to present the seasonal Dakota life style and culture.

- 8) Additional future plans include an intensive marketing plan. The society has recently completed a marketing plan that focuses on the Gibbs Museum, and the society plans to implement it for the 2002 season. It includes a new name for the museum (the Gibbs Museum of Pioneer and Dakota Life) and plans for a new logo for the museum that is part of a pro bono contribution by one of the nation's leading design firm, Duffy Design Inc.

Document 1**Date of Report: July 1, 2001****LCMR Final Work Program Report****LCMR Work Program 1999 H22****Total Biennial Project Budget: \$ 150,000**

\$ LCMR:	\$ 150,000.00
- \$LCMR Amount spent	<u>\$ 150,000.00</u>
= \$LCMR Balance	\$ 0

Legal Citation: ML 1999 (Chap.231), Sec. (16), Subd. 005c**Appropriation Language:** Gibbs Farm Museum Interpretation

\$150,000 is from the future resources fund to the Minnesota Historical Society for an agreement with Ramsey County Historical Society to build and furnish replica structures of historic lifestyles and land use of the Dakota and pioneers.

I. PROJECT TITLE: Gibbs Farm Museum New Interpretation Implementation, Years II, III**Project Manager:** Priscilla Farnham**Affiliation:** Ramsey County Historical Society**Mailing Address:** 323 Landmark Center; 75 West 5th Street; St. Paul, MN 55102**Telephone:** (651) 222-0701 **E-Mail:** admin@rchs.com **Fax:** (651) 223-8539**Web Page Address:** www.rchs.com**II. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY (abstract)**

The key objective: to build and furnish replica structures and to recreate land use of the Dakota and pioneers. Assure authenticity by using paintings, observations from the era (Seth Eastman, Samuel Pond, Frank Mayer) and museum originals as models.

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IV OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS

The final results are as follows:

A. Replica of the Gibbs' original dugout sod house

LCMR Budget: \$ 0

B. Establish a prairie

LCMR Budget:	\$ 20,375
Spent to Date:	\$-19,525
Re-allocated to BL	\$ - 700
Balance remaining	\$ 150
Re-allocation req.	\$ + 2,700 (26 March 2001)
New Balance (3/31)	\$ 2, 850
Spent	\$ - 2,850
Final Balance	\$ 0

C. Reestablish oak savanna

LCMR Budget:	\$ 11,500
Spent to date:	\$- 3,385
Balance:	\$ 8,115
Re-allocate BkL	\$- 8,115
Balance:	\$ 0

D. A replica of a Dakota bark lodge & drying rack,

REVISED Budget: \$81,980 (including staff supervision)

LCMR Budget:	\$ 55,975	\$55,975
Spent to date	\$-45,480	
Balance	\$10,495	
<u>+ Re-Allocations:</u>		
LCMR Budget:	\$ 700 (re-allocation from prairie supervision)	
LCMR Budget:	\$ 8,115 (re-allocation from oak savanna)	
LCMR Budget:	\$ 6,575 (re-allocation from tipi furn.)	
LCMR Budget:	\$ 5,375 (re-allocation from extern. signage)	

LCMR Budget:	\$ 4,865 (re-allocation from orchard)	
LCMR Budget:	\$ 375 (re-allocations from prog.devel)	
Re-Allocation Total:	\$ 26,005	<u>\$+26,005</u>
 TOTAL LCMR	 \$ 81,980	 \$ 81,980
Spent to date:	\$ 81,980	
Final Balance:	\$ 0	

LCMR Minnesota Future Resources Fund

E. Furnish tipi

LCMR Budget:	\$ 10,075
Re-allocated to BL	\$- 6,575
Balance:	\$ 3,500
Spent to Date:	\$ - 798
Difference in total	\$ 2,702
Total budget	\$ + 98
Balance 3/1	\$ 2,800
Spent	\$ 2,,800
Final balance	\$ 0

F. Create exterior signage – complete. Funded from non-LCMR sources. Signs all have stations identified in Dakota and in English.

G. Establish heritage apple orchard

LCMR Budget:	\$5,375
Spent to date:	\$ 510
Balance:	\$4,865
Re-allocate to BL	\$4,865
Balance:	0

H. Develop Programming

LCMR Budget:	\$ 41,227
Re-allocate to BL	\$ 375
Spent To Date 3/1	\$ 21,614
Re-allocate	
To prairie	\$ 2,700
Balance 3/1	\$ 16,538
Spent	\$ 16,538
Final Balance	\$ 0

I. Recreate Indian Trail

LCMR Budget: \$0,000

Balance: \$ 0

Funding for the Indian trail has been secured from non-LCMR sources. The trail is complete.