

**Minnesota Historical Society**

**Projects Summary**

(\$ in Thousands)

Project Title	2014 Agency Priority Ranking	Agency Project Request for State Funds (\$ by Session)				Governor's Recommendations 2014	Governor's Planning Estimate	
		2014	2016	2018	Total		2016	2018
Oliver Kelley Farm Historic Site Visitor Center	1	\$9,857	\$0	\$0	\$9,857	\$0	\$0	\$0
Historic Sites Asset Preservation	2	6,820	4,600	3,247	14,667	0	0	0
Historic Fort Snelling Pre-Design	3	500	25,317	0	25,817	0	0	0
Minnesota History Center Pre-Design	4	500	8,000	8,000	16,500	0	0	0
County & Local Historic Preservation Grants	5	1,500	1,500	1,500	4,500	0	0	0
Split Rock Lighthouse Facility Enhancements		0	200	2,000	2,200	0	0	0
<b>Total Project Requests</b>		\$19,177	\$39,617	\$14,747	\$73,541	\$0	\$0	\$0

## Oliver Kelley Farm Historic Site Visitor Center

2014 STATE APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$9,857,000

AGENCY PROJECT PRIORITY: 1 of 5

### Project At A Glance

This request provides for design completion and construction of the Oliver H. Kelley Farm Historic Site Visitor Center including major renovation of the site's visitor center and other essential visitor services and site operations facilities. A 2008 capital budget appropriation has provided for the Pre-design and initial Design steps for this project. This request will fund completion of design and construction.

The Minnesota Historical Society has completed a Comprehensive Interpretive Planning process, Cultural Landscape Report, Audience Research, and Interpretive Program Visioning Report. These studies and reports will direct both the comprehensive physical revitalization and historic site's public educational programming for the next ten years. As a result of these processes, including extensive input from external stakeholders, the story of Minnesota's agriculture from the pioneering period will expand to include modern farming, farm life, food and the vital impact of agriculture on our economy, environment and culture for our present future generations of Minnesotans.

The project will create a LEED-certified building that will use energy at current cost levels (for a larger building), and has been designed with operational flexibility and revenue potential to support any additional operating costs.

### **Project Description**

**The Project** The Oliver Kelley Farm Historic Site project consists of a LEED-certified renovated visitor center, and support buildings, including a maintenance building, picnic shelter and additional programmatic buildings. The Oliver Kelley Historic Site will then give all Minnesotans an opportunity to experience the compelling story of Minnesota's farming, agricultural, and food ways and their impact on our economy, culture and environment.

**Background** Located on the east bank of the Mississippi River, the Oliver H. Kelley Farm was homesteaded by Kelley in 1849. He lived and farmed the site for the next twenty years. Kelley devised the idea to create a nationwide agricultural organization to assist farmers financially and socially as well as to help implement the most modern farming and marketing techniques available. In 1867, the Patrons of Husbandry, better known as The Grange, was founded. The national Grange organization later acquired the Kelley Farm property and managed it until 1961 when it was donated to the Minnesota Historical Society. The site, 189 acres of farm fields, prairie and woods, became a National Historic Landmark in 1964. The Society operated the farm site on a limited basis until construction of the site's Visitor Center in 1981, when it also developed the current living history program of an 1860s era farmstead.

This long-range plan for the Oliver Kelley Farm Historic Site tells the important story of agriculture in the state of Minnesota beyond the "pioneering" period of farming and explores economic, social and environmental impacts on agriculture today and into the future. Today, two percent of Minnesotans actually farm the land, yet agriculture and agricultural industries represent over 20 percent of the state's overall economy. In Minnesota's rapidly urbanizing society, it is vital that we understand and appreciate where our food comes from, how it is grown and processed and how central farming and agriculture is to our lives.

To better understand the importance of Minnesota's agricultural past, present and future, the Minnesota Historical Society launched a Comprehensive Interpretive Planning (CIP) process (completed in 2007). Experts from tourism, education, farm organizations, agricultural industries, state agencies including the Department of Agriculture, legislators and local and regional communities participated in forums, including a forum convened by the Commissioner of Agriculture, to help provide initial direction of the educational plans for the Kelley Farm. This public planning process identified the need for this activity, and is a guide to the current and future revitalization and public educational programming for the OK Agricultural Center.

In 2008, the legislature appropriated and the Governor approved a \$300,000 capital budget request for Pre-design and Design for the Kelley Farm Visitor Center. Those funds allowed the Society to move the project forward, and

## Oliver Kelley Farm Historic Site Visitor Center

work more deeply with external stakeholders. In conjunction with the Pre-design and initial design process, the Society has completed extensive Audience Research, Interpretive Planning Visioning Report, and a Cultural Landscape Report. To date, these have supported the successful completion of the Pre-Design and Schematic Design process.

**Impact on Agency Operating Budgets (Facilities Notes)**

In planning for the Oliver Kelley Farm Visitor Center, the Society has been mindful of the challenges that the state faces in this fiscal environment. During the planning process, sustainability and cost minimization have been primary goals. While the Visitor Center and support buildings increase the space available for public use, operating costs have only increased slightly due to optimizing energy efficiency. Further, in applying lessons learned from recent historic sites projects, we have developed an operational model that can be adapted and scaled based on changing visitation patterns. In summary, while the Society would wisely use and appreciate additional operating funding, which is shown within this request, we recognize current state fiscal challenges, and believe that the slightly increased operating costs for the Visitor Center could be absorbed through increased earned revenue as well as a flexible operating model.

**Previous Appropriations for this Project**

\$300,000 -- 2008 Capital Budget Appropriation for Pre-Design and Design for the Oliver Kelley Farm Visitor Center and operations facilities.

**Other Considerations**

Today, the site serves between 25,000 and 30,000 visitors a year, of which 40 percent are school children from throughout the state. While attendance is currently below the physical carrying capacity for the entire farm site, these attendance levels vastly exceed the Visitor Center's capacity. Visitor amenities in the 1981 visitor center, such as restrooms and classrooms, are very inadequate. The prime motivation for the Oliver Kelley Farm Historic Site Visitor Center is to tell the complete and ever changing story of Minnesota's agricultural past, present and future. Given its prime location in the fast growing northwestern suburbs with ready access to 3 million residents, and an educational message of universal interest and planned

marketing enhancements, the Society believes that visitation numbers can grow to approximately 50,000 following the project's completion date.

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## Historic Sites Asset Preservation

**2014 STATE APPROPRIATION REQUEST:** \$6,820,000

**AGENCY PROJECT PRIORITY:** 2 of 5

**Project At A Glance**

The Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) is requesting \$ 6.82 million for the preservation and restoration of historic structures, landscapes and building systems in the State Historic Sites Network and for monuments located statewide. This request is for work that is critical to the preservation and maintenance of these important historic resources, which are a state responsibility in Minnesota Statutes 138.661. Preservation of historic structures, by definition, meets the state's goal of funding sustainable, high-performance buildings, since historic structures preserve previous energy and financial investments.

**Project Description**

Over the past three decades more than 21 million students, families, and tourists have visited the 141 landmark buildings, trails and museums of the State Historic Sites Network. MHS is committed to keeping these extraordinary properties open and accessible to the public now and for future generations. Although most of the historic structures are now more than one hundred years old and holding up remarkably well, age and modern visitation do take their toll. While keeping pace with the impacts of visitor traffic and continuous aging of the historic structures is always one of our chief concerns, we also must keep up with changes in life/safety systems, environmental issues, security, infrastructure upgrades and renovations necessary to support building use. In addition to the necessary work on historic structures, many of the modern visitor centers erected 20 to 30 years ago are now in need of renewal or are reaching the end of their useful life. The asset preservation investment for such a vast network of varied structures is an indispensable complement to the Society's repair and replacement funding in the operating budget.

In recognition of the integral part that these buildings and landscapes play in public education, the people of Minnesota have invested significantly in the State Historic Sites Network. Maintaining these resources is expensive, but it is a good cost-benefit ratio for the people of Minnesota and the nearly 600,000 visitors each year. As non-renewable social and cultural resources, historic buildings require a high standard of care. The skills of specially qualified architects, engineers and contractors are required to assess, design and implement repairs, maintenance, and systems improvements. The cost of high-quality materials increases every year. The investment is well rewarded by the educational benefits and public appreciation for preserving the state's precious heritage.

The Historic Sites Network also serves as a showcase for the principles and techniques of historic preservation, setting a standard for the state. These structures are learning resources used by students of Minnesota history, by students and practitioners of architecture, and by the traditional building trades. Preservation of historic structures, by definition, meets the state's goal of funding sustainable, high-performance buildings, since historic structures preserve previous energy and financial investments. It has been said that "the greenest building is the one that is already built."

The Society's Historic Properties Office is responsible for all 141 of the structures in the Historic Sites Network. Every year the staff typically manages five or six large projects each totaling over \$1 million and dozens of small projects scattered across the state. Staff prioritizes work projects based upon long-range planning, building analysis, and structural conditions. Working in consultation with preservation architects and specialty engineers, cost estimates are prepared for appropriation requests. Each of the projects named below are part of the State Historic Sites Network, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, 138.661, and have strong local and regional support from the areas in which they are located. Local citizens, businesses, and support group members have assisted these sites with volunteer hours, in-kind contributions, and grass-roots leadership. Minnesotans are rightfully proud of the sites.

The historic buildings, artifacts, and landscapes within the State Historic Sites Network are of national and state significance. They fulfill the mission given by the Territorial Legislature to the Society to collect and preserve

**Historic Sites Asset Preservation**

evidence of human culture in the state, and to teach Minnesota history in all its academic, technological, and social diversity. Failure to maintain these cultural treasures will result in irreversible loss of material and intellectual culture.

**2014 Asset Preservation**

Historic Fort Snelling	Buildings 17 & 18 Exterior Rehabilitation	\$1,600,000
Historic Forestville	Exterior Rehabilitation	\$500,000
Mill City Museum	Mill Ruins Preservation	\$750,000
Oliver Kelley Farm	Farmhouse Interior Restorations	\$250,000
Folsom House	Preservation & Rehabilitation	\$300,000
Mayo House	Exterior Preservation	\$200,000
Marine Mill	Ruin Stabilization and Trail Rehabilitation	\$500,000
Historic Fort Snelling	Buildings 17 & 18 Interior Stabilization	\$2,000,000
Statewide	Statewide-Design for Future Asset Preservation Projects	\$570,000
Statewide	Statewide – Monuments and Markers	\$150,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>6,820,000</b>

**2016 Asset Preservation**

Statewide	Statewide Fire and Security Systems Replacements	\$500,000
James J. Hill House	House-Energy Efficient Air Conditioning	\$3,000,000
Folsom House	Site Landscape Preservation	\$150,000
Ramsey House	House-Interior Restoration	\$250,000
Statewide	Statewide - Trail and Interpretive Marker	\$150,000

	Replacement	
Statewide	Statewide - Design for Future Asset Preservation Projects	\$400,000
Statewide	Statewide - Monuments and Markers	\$150,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$4,600,000</b>

**2018 Asset Preservation**

Split Rock Lighthouse	Site Facilities and Enhancements	\$1,400,000
Lac Qui Parle	Drainage mitigation, Trail and Interpretive Marker Replacement	\$150,000
James J. Hill House	Site Landscape Preservation & Site Feature Restoration	\$350,000
James J. Hill House	Gatehouse Restoration	\$347,000
Historic Forestville	Interior Restorations	\$250,000
Lac Qui Parle	Landscape Preservation	\$150,000
Lower Sioux Agency	Landscape Preservation	\$150,000
Statewide	Statewide - Design for Future Asset Preservation Projects	\$300,000
Statewide	Statewide - Monuments and Markers	\$150,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$3,247,000</b>

**Impact on Agency Operating Budgets (Facilities Notes)**

Generally, not applicable. There may be some minor savings from energy efficiencies.

**Previous Appropriations for this Project**

Appropriations for asset preservation of the state Historic Sites Network have been made in every capital budget bill since 1990. In 2012, this activity

## Historic Sites Asset Preservation

received \$2.5 million, in 2011 it received \$1.9 million, in 2010 it received \$3.4 million; in 2009 it received \$2.165 million; and in 2008 it received \$4 million.

**Other Considerations**

These asset preservation requests allow the Society to maintain the State Historic Sites Network of structures and landscapes for the educational benefit of Minnesotans. The capital budget is the primary and traditional source of funding for all of the preservation needs of these irreplaceable state resources, since the Society's current repair and replacement budgets (through the operating budget) are inadequate in size and scale to meet asset preservation needs within the state's Historic Site Network.

A six-year total of \$14.667 million is requested through the year 2018 (see tables). This figure will likely increase as additional challenges are discovered in historic structures, the buildings increase in age, costs rise through inflation, and the required skills and materials become more and more difficult to find.

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## Historic Fort Snelling Pre-Design

**2014 STATE APPROPRIATION REQUEST:** \$500,000

**AGENCY PROJECT PRIORITY:** 3 of 5

**Project At A Glance**

This request provides for pre-design for facilities to support visitor services and history programs at Historic Fort Snelling. The goal of the project is to improve public service, interpretation and operations at this National Historic Landmark in order to increase access, services and use of current assets. Previous studies all identify specific project goals within Historic Fort Snelling. These studies have examined building condition and space assessments; reuse studies; audience and program analysis. Predesign will use these findings in the master plan to further explore and determine locations for development, identify facilities, project scope, cost and schedule. This work will prepare Historic Fort Snelling for a comprehensive development project, to better serve visitors, which will be requested in 2016.

**Project Description**

Fort Snelling is an integral part of Minnesota, and it holds a place in the collective memory of the state's people. From its location at the center of the Dakota homeland, to its governmental role in managing the development of the state itself, to its place in the memory of WWII veterans in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, it has a deep and complex history that resonates with almost every Minnesotan. It carries the meeting of many worlds over many centuries, and offers the opportunity to explore and understand our place in those and today's worlds.

The 30 year-old underground visitor center continues to age poorly, and the time has come to determine once and for all whether critical visitor services should remain there or should be moved into one or more of the historic buildings on the site. This center is uninviting to the visitor, and has suffered from leaks over much of its lifetime. Furthermore, programmatic spaces throughout the historic fort are in need of modernization or completion. Building upon current assets, comprehensive audience research and identified program needs, the master plan will guide this pre-design project toward development of the Fort Snelling complex into a vibrant visitor experience worthy of its role in the state.

The predesign phase of this project will help further define the scope and scale of further building renovation work, exhibit replacement, and platforms for more innovative programs. Examples of this include: creating a new initial visitor contact experience that has amenities, orientation, and program support expected by 21<sup>st</sup> century visitors; finding programmatic and/or business partners to help us fully use the historic structures at the site to their fullest potential; creation of a new large-scale signature exhibit/media piece in the commissary building within the historic fort, as well as support exhibits throughout the rest of the site.

**Project Background** Historic Fort Snelling is Minnesota's first National Historic Landmark, the highest designation given to historic places by the federal government. This recognizes the site's key role in the nation's development as well as the state of Minnesota. The original fort site was restored and opened to the public in 1965, and a visitor center was completed in 1983.

While the site continues to serve 85,000 visitors each year, it is not reaching its full potential due to limited facilities and decades-old exhibits. Much work has been done in recent years to begin this process of reinvestment and renewal. The physical infrastructure of the historic buildings is now in good to excellent shape, thanks to consistent state investments in asset preservation over the past eight years. We now have new roofs, better infrastructure, and a solid base from which to work. Additional asset preservation funds are requested in that portion of the capital budget to continue this important work on preservation of historic structures within the site.

In recent years, MHS has also made great strides in development of the interpretive program at the site. After a comprehensive study of both visitors and non-visitors to the site, we now have an excellent grasp of what Minnesotans want and need from Historic Fort Snelling. There is widespread appreciation for what we are doing now, but also a hunger for more stories to be told, more amenities to improve a visit, more orientation and wayfinding. In response to public demand and desires, we are changing the interpretive program incrementally year by year, within the abilities of the current facilities. Broader stories are now told. These include the Dakota Indian history at the site, such as their history here before contact with Europeans; the era of treaties and statehood, and the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862. The fascinating history of African-Americans in early Minnesota is now coming to light for Minnesotans, as they learn about the existence of slavery in this free territory, and how Dred and Harriet Scott's time at Fort Snelling became one

## Historic Fort Snelling Pre-Design

of the sparks for the Civil War. But more dramatic investment is needed for this history to be properly handled.

**Impact on Agency Operating Budgets (Facilities Notes)**

The predesign process will have no impact on the operating budget, and it is unknown at this point what the ultimate project impact will be. However, similar to other work we have done in recent years, including the Kelley Farm project, the planning assumption is that operating cost increases should be minimized as much as possible, and any unavoidable increases should be covered with earned revenue rather than state appropriations.

**Previous Appropriations for this Project**

While there have been numerous concepts and proposals for making Historic Fort Snelling a more popular destination, recent appropriations have focused on the preservation of historic structures at the site, in preparation for an enhanced visitor destination and to take care of basic preservation responsibilities. Work funded by these appropriations include reroofing most of the buildings in the historic fort, rehabilitation of the Long Barracks to include HVAC mechanicals, electrical, plumbing and gas, restored extensive carpentry and masonry throughout the historic fort including the half moon battery, round tower and significant portions of the fort's wall, replacement of the roofs on buildings 17 & 18 and rebuilding storm sewer/drainage and pathways throughout the historic fort.

**Other Considerations**

At its peak in the 1970s, the site served over 150,000 visitors annually. While competition is ever fiercer for people's leisure time, the site enjoys a 99% awareness rate of all Minnesotans and has a central location within minutes of the airport and therefore tourists from around the world. As a result, the numbers from forty years ago should be a bare minimum base to build up from if the site's full potential is realized.

Significant momentum is also building on development projects at the Upper Post of Fort Snelling, adjacent to the historic fort: A base camp facility has

been built by the regional Boy Scout organization; a charter school is in progress; light rail has driven development in the area of the Whipple Building; and places like the Minnesota Air and Space Museum are working hard to get established. All of this is finally creating a sense of synergy that is making the broader Fort Snelling area a full-fledged destination for all sorts of activities. An attractive and functional Historic Fort Snelling should and will be the hub of this activity.

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## Minnesota History Center Pre-Design

**2014 STATE APPROPRIATION REQUEST:** \$500,000

**AGENCY PROJECT PRIORITY:** 4 of 5

**Project At A Glance**

This request provides for pre-design for the redevelopment of the Minnesota History Center, the public investment in which will ultimately expand the public service, use and longevity of this property. Pre-design will identify the requirements of all architectural spaces, equipment, and special needs (parking, telecommunications, and security) outlined in the master plan and to be included in the eventual design for renewal of the facility. This work will prepare the Minnesota History Center for comprehensive development that will be requested in 2016.

**Project Description**

As the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) approaches the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the History Center, and looks to the next 25 years of public service in the building, this milestone presents an opportunity to review the needs for updating the building, for addressing collections storage needs and for public programming needs. At the time of construction of the History Center, an “expansion space” of approximately 9,500 square feet was built into the footprint of the building. That unfinished space lacks fire and security systems by design, but now presents an opportunity for collections storage expansion or other program uses. The MHS is now taking this opportunity to evaluate that unfinished space, along with other History Center space and programming needs, with the goal of optimizing the use of this magnificent public asset. This pre-design request will provide the resources to allow the MHS to prepare for a comprehensive package of building updates and enhancements, to be requested in 2016.

**Background** The Minnesota Historical Society is a dynamic and widely recognized educational organization that is a trusted resource for state history. It is highly valued for its historical resources, educational impact, service, advocacy and leadership. The vision of the MHS is to maximize the power of personal and community stories and shared history to enrich and transform lives.

The Minnesota History Center is a 483,300 square foot structure that opened in 1992 and sits on 10 acres in St. Paul’s Capitol Complex area. Adjoining the main facility are two parking lots; a small service lot at the rear loading dock area and a 310-vehicle parking lot at one of the building’s two public entrances. Home to an interactive museum with both permanent and changing exhibits, the History Center has an annual visitation of 250,000. The building hosts concerts, lectures, family days and other special events throughout the year. It is also home to the Society’s library and archives, a research destination for schoolchildren, family historians and academics. Two retail stores flank the first floor main lobby in addition to a public restaurant.

There are numerous meeting spaces, conference rooms and classrooms in addition to staff offices on five of the building’s six floors (two, underground). More than half of the Society’s 715, full and part-time staff work in the History Center.

Tied to the mission, and part of the long-range plan for the Minnesota History Center, is bringing state-of-the art services and programs to Minnesota citizens and visitors from throughout the world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. When the History Center was completed 21 years ago, it represented the best of all museum facilities, but today it lacks adequate collections storage, public spaces, fire detection, security and technological capacity. The goal of the project is to increase operational capacity, sustainability and efficiencies in order to meet current public service, educational programming and building needs. Building condition and space assessments, and an analysis of program and operational functions, will identify specific goals within a master plan. These will guide pre-design in defining facilities expansion, project scope, cost and schedule. This work will prepare the Minnesota History Center for comprehensive development that will be requested in 2016.

**Impact on Agency Operating Budgets (Facilities Notes)**

The pre-design process will have no impact on the operating budget, and it is unknown at this point what the ultimate project impact will be. However, similar to other work we have done in recent years, the planning assumption is that operating cost increases should be minimized as much as possible,

## Minnesota History Center Pre-Design

and any unavoidable increases should be covered with earned revenue rather than state appropriations.

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**Previous Appropriations for this Project**

The major appropriation for construction of the Minnesota History Center was made in 1987, with no significant Capital Budget appropriations since that time. Some structural updates and improvements, such as roof replacement and window repair and replacement, have been made in cooperation with the Department of Administration's Plant Management Division, and have been made largely with operating dollars.

**Other Considerations**

The Minnesota Historical Society / History Center is a leader in energy conservation and sustainability among buildings in the Capitol Complex, as well as within the larger group of state organizations. Early conservation initiatives have significantly improved energy usage at the History Center. From its status as the highest energy consumer on the Capitol Complex in 2005, the History Center reduced energy use by 50% within a six year period. These improvements targeted controls systems and equipment repairs and upgrades; however, the initiatives go beyond building improvements to engaging employees' practices and activities in order to create a sustainable organization. The History Center is now recognized as one of the leaders in energy conservation among Capitol Complex buildings, and the organization's sustainability efforts have been featured as case studies in a number of national publications, including the most recent version of *The Green Museum: A Primer on Environmental Practice* by Sarah Brophy and Elizabeth Wylie. Recognizing that sustainability is a long-range effort, the Minnesota Historical Society is currently examining further options for energy, water, and resource conservation projects and practices at the History Center. Sustainability has been and will continue to be a central focus for the next twenty-five years of public service at the History Center.

**Project Contact Person**

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## County &amp; Local Historic Preservation Grants

**2014 STATE APPROPRIATION REQUEST:** \$1,500,000

**AGENCY PROJECT PRIORITY:** 5 of 5

**Project At A Glance**

This project provides funding, on a competitive matching basis, for county and local historic preservation projects. This project will allow local communities to preserve their most significant historical resources.

**Project Description**

Grant-in-aid funds are made available on a local match basis to preserve historic assets owned by public entities. These properties are historically significant structures, with priority given to those that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This program is one of the most successful of its type, with relatively small amounts of money leveraging vast sums of local funding and volunteer efforts. Since recipients of county and local preservation grants are required to fully match state funds, this project provides the best possible return on the state's investment. Funds appropriated between 1994 and 2012 were spread across Minnesota on a competitive grant basis, with requests more than double the funds available.

This project has the effect of reducing the state's overall share of investment in preserving historic resources while fulfilling the state's statutory commitment to preserving elements of the state's inventory of historic resources (according to M.S. Sec. 138.665). Some states, for example, attempt to preserve 125+ historic sites at the state level. In Minnesota, we have limited the state's historic sites network to 32 sites, allowing the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) to concentrate on its mission of interpreting historic sites of statewide significance. Minnesota's grant-in-aid program, initiated in 1969, encourages local organizations to take on such preservation projects.

Since 1969 more than 2,400 capital and operating grants have been awarded to qualified historical organizations in all 87 counties, resulting in the preservation of the evidence of Minnesota's past. In recent rounds of grants, 219 grants from the Society's capital bond-funded grant program have assisted in preserving and making accessible such projects as historic

county courthouses (52 grants to 26 different courthouses); historic city halls (29 grants to 17 different city halls); and historic library buildings (20 grants to 16 different libraries). In addition, grants have helped to preserve publicly owned historic structures that provide a unique lens on our state's history.

Types of historic structures preserved with grants funds include depots, senior and community centers, schools, bridges, theaters, park buildings, museums, water towers, and township halls. Specific examples include Norman County Courthouse Preservation (Norman County); the Andrew Volstead House roof replacement (City of Granite Falls); the Olof Swensson House roof replacement (Chippewa County); the O.G. Anderson and Company Store restoration (City of Minneota); the Anna and Mikko Pyhala Farm Restoration project (Town of Embarrass); the Mahnomen City Hall Restoration; Winona Masonic Hall/Senior Center (City of Winona); the Rensselaer Hubbard House restoration (City of Mankato); Robbinsdale Branch Library restoration (City of Robbinsdale); and the Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery Preservation.

From a financial perspective, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2012, appropriations totaling over \$8.5 million have leveraged at least an equal amount in local match funding, as well as countless hours of volunteer effort.

Other accomplishments include:

- Grants for historic preservation have stimulated local economies. Local matches used to implement projects have more than doubled the nearly \$8 million in state funds. Tourists coming to visit these historic resources bring new dollars to Minnesota communities.
- Professional standards and expertise were increased among staff and volunteers at county and local historical organizations receiving grants because of the technical assistance that accompanies them.
- Many projects made possible by these grants enabled communities, most commonly through county and local governments and historical organizations, to reach out beyond their traditional constituencies and attract new audiences, including significant new volunteer activities. In summary, this grants program has enabled many organizations throughout the state to preserve significant historic places and other priceless evidence of the past at very modest cost to the state.

## County &amp; Local Historic Preservation Grants

**Impact on Agency Operating Budgets (Facilities Notes)**

The funding of this program will not impact operating budgets.

**Previous Appropriations for this Project**

Appropriations for this grant program were made in 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2012. In 2012, this project received \$750,000; in 2010, \$1 million; in 2008 it received \$1.6 million; and in 2006, \$1 million.

**Other Considerations**

Against a backdrop of economic challenges and heightened concern for the environment, historic preservation has a proven track record in stimulating local economies and revitalizing local communities, large and small. It has been said: "the greenest building is the one that is already built." Continuation of funding for this grant program leverages local resources and helps to preserve the built environment, thereby conserving the resources already put into these buildings and further the efforts to contribute to a sustainable future.

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County & Local Historic Preservation Grants

COUNTY AND LOCAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANTS  
2014 STATE APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$1,500,000  
AGENCY PRIORITY: 5 OF 5

