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# MINNESOTA HISTORY CENTER



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1985

PROJECT  
SUMMARY

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# MISSION STATEMENT

It shall be the purpose of the Minnesota Historical Society to nurture among people a knowledge of and appreciation for the history of Minnesota. To realize this objective, the Society shall collect and preserve the materials and records of human culture relating to Minnesota and Minnesotans, serve as an information center on and for the state, and, through research and interpretation, illuminate the human story. It shall counsel and assist organizations, institutions, units of government, and individuals in identifying, preserving, and interpreting the cultural resources of Minnesota. Among the official state historical functions accepted by the Society and defined by statute are those of serving as a free public research library, overseeing the preservation of the State Capitol, and administering the state's historic preservation, public records, archaeology, and folklife programs.

For the cultural enrichment of people everywhere, the Society shall make the collections confided to its care accessible, conduct and encourage scholarly research, and, through these efforts, continue to illuminate the Minnesota story.

Through fostering a sense of history among all Minnesotans, the Society enriches the state's cultural environment and enables people everywhere to draw strength and perspective from the past and impart purpose to the future.



# MINNESOTA HISTORY CENTER

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## PROJECT SUMMARY



FOUNDED IN 1849

# MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

690 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101 • (612) 296-6126

TO : Members of the 1985 Minnesota Legislature

FROM: Russell W. Fridley, Director  
Minnesota Historical Society

DATE: January 3, 1985

RE : History Center Project Summary

The need for a new facility to house the state's history program has been long recognized. It will best be met, I believe, in a single building in which Minnesotans can experience their past first hand.

The History Center will offer Minnesotans an appropriate state historical museum and centralized access to the state's extraordinary historical collections. Above all, this facility will provide Minnesota's people with an adventure into their heritage.

Assisted by the State Legislature and the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board, the Historical Society has considered every aspect of the proposed building program and developed a detailed plan for a cost-effective and efficient operation. Located on the site of the former Miller Hospital, the History Center will be the pride of Minnesota.

We are ready to move forward and ask your support for this project.





**There is a need for improved storage conditions for the state's historical collections.**

The History Center will provide safe storage and well-equipped conservation areas to ensure the survival of the collections.



**There is a need for improved public access to the state's historical collections.**

The History Center will provide comfortable study areas where visitors may focus their attention on all the collections --library, archival, and museum--related to the subject they are researching.



**There is a need for a suitable state museum.**

The History Center will include inviting exhibition galleries plus behind-the-scenes service from a loading dock, a freight elevator, and adequately sized doorways and halls to allow the presentation of large museum artifacts.

# THE NEED

There are compelling reasons to construct a new History Center. Since 1849, when the Minnesota Historical Society was chartered by the first territorial legislature, the Society has acted vigorously to fulfill the public trust. It has acquired priceless collections unique to Minnesota and has developed a rich and varied interpretive program. These accomplishments have brought Minnesota national recognition. Today, however, the Society is severely constrained by obsolete and inadequate facilities that jeopardize the survival of the collections and limit their use.

With the guidance and support of the State Legislature, the Society has responded to these needs by planning an efficient and dynamic History Center. The building concept provides a central location for the Society's museum, library, and archival programs and their support spaces. It also specifies the environmental systems necessary to preserve historical collections. These solutions will improve public access to the state's heritage and ensure effective collections care. By implementing the History Center concept, the state will enable the Society to fulfill its mandated responsibilities and bring cultural, educational, and economic benefits to all Minnesotans.

# HISTORY CENTER PROGRAM

The History Center includes six basic program elements that will enable people to see, use, and participate in the state's heritage. Minnesotans of all ages will find a constantly changing array of interpretive and educational programs, including exhibits, demonstrations, workshops, lectures, publications, and tours.

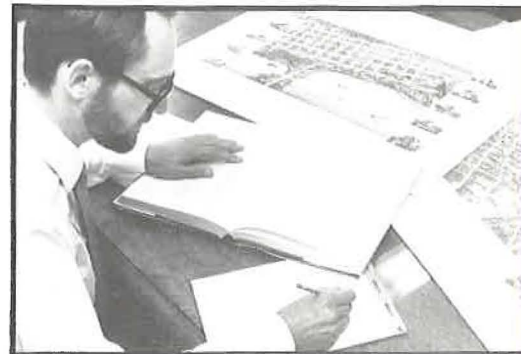
The History Center exhibition galleries will tell the story of Minnesota's people from the prehistoric era to the present day. These galleries will attract thousands of visitors, including school children whose special needs will be served in classrooms and a studio for hands-on activities. The gallery program will be supported by behind-the-scenes areas for safe storage of artifacts not currently on display.

To encourage the use of its collections, the Center will provide in one convenient location information about all of the Society's diverse holdings. Visitors will have opportunities to study the Society's extensive library and archival resources as well as its rich museum collections. These materials will be stored in nearby secure areas.

The History Center will house the Minnesota Historical Society Press and an associated research program, whose staffs research,



**GALLERIES,  
EDUCATION,  
AND MUSEUM  
COLLECTIONS**



**REFERENCE  
SERVICES AND  
LIBRARY/  
ARCHIVAL  
COLLECTIONS**



**PUBLICATIONS  
AND RESEARCH**



**COLLECTIONS  
SERVICES**



**VISITOR  
SERVICES**



**ADMINISTRATIVE  
SUPPORT**



write, publish, and disseminate authoritative publications on regional history for scholarly, student, and general audiences.

Spaces have been planned for receiving, registering, cataloging, and preserving the state's irreplaceable historical collections. In these spaces, rarely seen by the public, unique collections will be preserved to ensure that future generations of Minnesotans can enjoy and better understand the state's heritage.


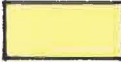




The public will be served with such conveniences as a pleasant reception area with an information desk, coatrooms, dining areas, an auditorium, and a museum shop well stocked with books and high-quality gift items representative of Minnesota.

The History Center will also serve visitors wishing to consult with Minnesota Historical Society staff members responsible for the efficient management of the Society's programs and operations.

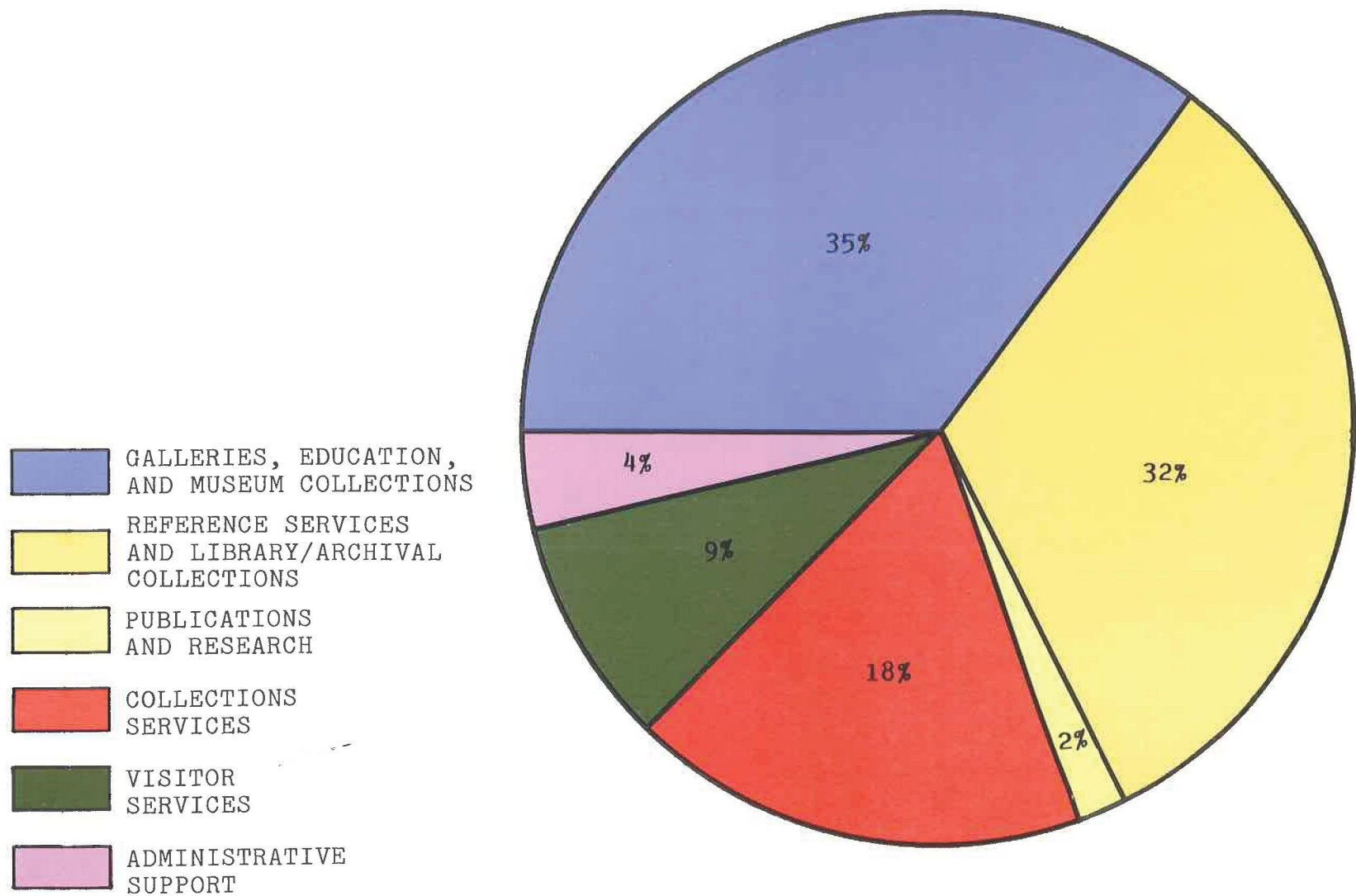


# PROGRAM ELEMENTS AND SQUARE FOOT REQUIREMENTS

The History Center program and space allocation are summarized in the table below and in the diagram opposite. NSF figures include all functional areas. GSF figures include functional areas plus circulation space, mechanical rooms, and thickness of walls and partitions.

	<b>GALLERIES, EDUCATION, AND MUSEUM COLLECTIONS</b>		<b>95,070 NSF</b>
	Museum Galleries	42,460 NSF	
	Education	6,560 NSF	
	Museum Collections	46,050 NSF	
	<b>REFERENCE SERVICES AND LIBRARY/ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS</b>		<b>86,760 NSF</b>
	Reference Services	24,740 NSF	
	Library/Archival Collections	62,020 NSF	
	<b>PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH</b>		<b>5,050 NSF</b>
	Publications and Research	5,050 NSF	
	<b>COLLECTIONS SERVICES</b>		<b>48,620 NSF</b>
	Library/Archival		
	Collections Management	14,630 NSF	
	Museum Collections Management	5,990 NSF	
	Laboratory	19,690 NSF	
	Shipping/Receiving	8,310 NSF	
	<b>VISITOR SERVICES</b>		<b>26,290 NSF</b>
	Visitor Services	26,290 NSF	
	<b>ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT</b>		<b>12,245 NSF</b>
	Administration and		
	Business Operations	8,325 NSF	
	Staff Facilities	3,920 NSF	
<hr/>			
	<b>TOTAL NET SQUARE FEET</b>		<b>274,035 NSF</b>
	<b>TOTAL GROSS SQUARE FEET</b>		<b>385,800 GSF</b>

# SUMMARY OF HISTORY CENTER SPACE ALLOCATION



# EACH SPACE IN THE HISTORY CENTER HAS BEEN CAREFULLY DEFINED BY THE MHS PROGRAMMING TEAM



- A** Space Number - A control number for data processing purposes.
- B** Name of Space - shorthand description of the major activity occurring in the space.
- C** Cluster - A group of spaces having related activities and requiring proximity to each other.
- D** Purpose - a general description of the activity to be conducted within the space.
- E** Net Sq. Ft. - the total area assigned to the space.
- F** Height of Space - the minimum ceiling height required from floor to finished ceiling - standard unless otherwise noted.
- G** Needs - requirements for temperature, humidity, and air quality; electrical service; plumbing; HVAC; floor loading; security; and other special design and engineering considerations.

MHS HISTORY CENTER PROGRAM  
August, 1984  
Dober and Associates, Inc.

Space Number B-8

## ROOM LIST B. REFERENCE SERVICES AND COLLECTIONS

SPACE NUMBER	NAME OF SPACE	SPACE DESCRIPTIONS
B-8	Museum Artifacts Study Area	
<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b> CLUSTER: Reference Services
		<b>D</b> PURPOSE: For studying three-dimensional museum objects, sculpture, and archaeological artifacts. Includes 1 work station for Reference staff; secure cabinets for temporary storage of items being used; tables and seating accommodations.
		<b>E</b> NET SQ. FT.: 900
		<b>F</b> HEIGHT OF SPACE: Standard.
		<b>G</b> NEEDS: Environment: Standard for reference area. (See "Environmental Requirements" in Facility Program Report.)
		Security: Design should ensure unobstructed view of researchers by staff.
		Other: Sound-absorbing acoustics.



# TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS AND PLANNING PROCESS

Planning of the History Center has been a complex undertaking spanning several years. Minnesota Historical Society staff members were organized as a programming team and served as experts in their own areas of competence. They also gave constant consideration to the needs of the public who will visit the Center. When appropriate, outside specialists were consulted on state-of-the-art issues and technologies.

The programming team studied the Society's needs and determined how they could best be met in the History Center. It prepared a Facility Program that describes each space in the proposed Center as to function, size, physical characteristics, and special design and engineering requirements. A sample page from the Facility Program appears opposite. In describing these spaces the programming team not only considered the Society's immediate needs but also planned for long-term flexibility.

The Society's program requires that the History Center's constituent spaces be organized as an interlocking network to provide efficient public service and cost-effective operation. The programming team has carefully analyzed the relationships among spaces. It provided information about activities conducted within groups or clusters of spaces and described necessary circulation patterns to bring people and collections together.

The History Center has been planned meticulously. With the publication of the History Center Facility Program in October, 1984, Minnesota received national acclaim and set a new standard for the planning of cultural facilities.



"The History Center built alongside John Ireland Boulevard will face the Capitol and be a continuing reminder to those of us in government of the importance of our history as we deal with Minnesota's current problems and guide its future development." --Governor Rudy Perpich, November 15, 1984

# HISTORY CENTER SITE

The Miller Hospital site was chosen for the History Center on October 18, 1984, by the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board and the Minnesota Historical Society. Located in a parklike setting within a mile of the State Capitol, the History Center will become a prominent landmark on the state's horizon.



## SITE CHARACTERISTICS

- large area allowing design flexibility
- room for visitor parking
- improves over-all image of the Capitol Area
- excellent regional accessibility and visibility
- improves vista from the Capitol
- improves Summit Avenue approach to the Capitol



# PROJECT BUDGET

STATE OF MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE				
1986-87 CAPITAL BUDGET AND SIX YEAR PLAN — PROJECT DETAIL REQUEST				
AGENCY: MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY	FACILITY: STATE HISTORY CENTER		AGENCY PRIORITY: 1	
PROJECT TITLE: STATE HISTORY CENTER	PREVIOUS SIX YEAR PLAN: 1984		BIENNIUM REQUESTED: 1986-87	
<p><b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION:</b>            This project involves land acquisition, design and construction of the State History Center and construction of on-site parking. A design competition, based on the Minnesota Historical Society's Facility Program Plan, will determine the final design. Design engineering and construction will begin in 1985.</p> <p><b>PROJECT RATIONALE:</b>            This project fulfills a long-standing need for a State History Center to serve the public in telling the story of the state's history and to preserve rare collections. The Center will have a major economic impact on the state and also serve as an attraction for Minnesotans and tourists. The Center will bring together most of the Society's activities and services, except those which, by their very nature, must be elsewhere, and house them in a facility that will serve the public with safety, efficiency, and dignity, and properly preserve and interpret the state's rich historical collections. The Center will involve the construction and equipping of 385,800 gross square feet of space, and on-site parking for 600 vehicles.</p> <p>The Center is proposed to be located on the "Miller" Hospital site. See the next two pages for site specific detail. Costs have been segregated into four categories -- acquisition, site preparation, parking, and costs relating to the building program. The development costs shown for this project include the following:</p>				
<u>Cost Category</u>	<u>Acquisition</u>	<u>Site Preparation</u>	<u>Parking Space</u>	<u>Building Program</u>
1. Site Acquisition	\$ 4,000,000	\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ ---
2. Demolition of buildings on site	---	500,000	---	---
3. Site work - 293,400 sq. ft. @ \$1.50/sq. ft.	---	440,100	---	---
4. Relocate existing site utilities	---	54,000	---	---
5. Other - Parking ramp construction for 300 cars and surface parking for 300 cars, and bus holding area	---	---	2,700,000	---
6. Architectural fees - estimated at 6.5%	---	---	---	2,500,000
7. Construction -- 385,800 G.S.F.	---	---	---	40,496,000
8. Building equipment	---	---	---	500,000
9. Artwork - 1% construction	---	---	---	405,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 994,100</b>	<b>\$ 2,700,000</b>	<b>\$ 43,901,000</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL - Items 1 thru 9</b>				<b>\$ 51,595,000</b>

The City of St. Paul is proceeding to acquire two parcels of land which are a part of this site. The land acquired by St. Paul is dedicated to the State History Center. This very significant contribution by St. Paul is not reflected in the project costs as displayed in this request.

The construction timeline would be to begin construction in late 1985, and complete the project in 1988. Funding is requested for the total cost of this project.

**OPERATING EXPENSES PREPARED BY:**  
John J. Wood

**CHANGES IN OPERATING EXPENSES**

**BUILDING OPERATIONS:**

SALARIES .....	\$ 100
UTILITIES .....	\$ 560
OTHER .....	\$ 560
COMPLEMENT .....	4

**PROGRAM OPERATIONS:**

SALARIES .....	\$ 475
EXPENSES .....	\$ 500
COMPLEMENT .....	19

**DEVELOPMENT COSTS PREPARED BY:**  
John J. Wood

**DEVELOPMENT COSTS**

LAND ACQUISITION .....	\$ 4,000
CONSTRUCTION .....	\$ 40,496

**NON-BUILDING COSTS:**

ARCHITECT FEES .....	\$ 2,500
EQUIPMENT .....	\$ 500
SITE WORK .....	\$ 994
ART WORK (1%) .....	\$ 405
OTHER .....	\$ 2,700

**TOTAL PROJECT COST .....** \$ 51,595

**COST/ASSIGNABLE SQUARE FOOT .....** \$ --

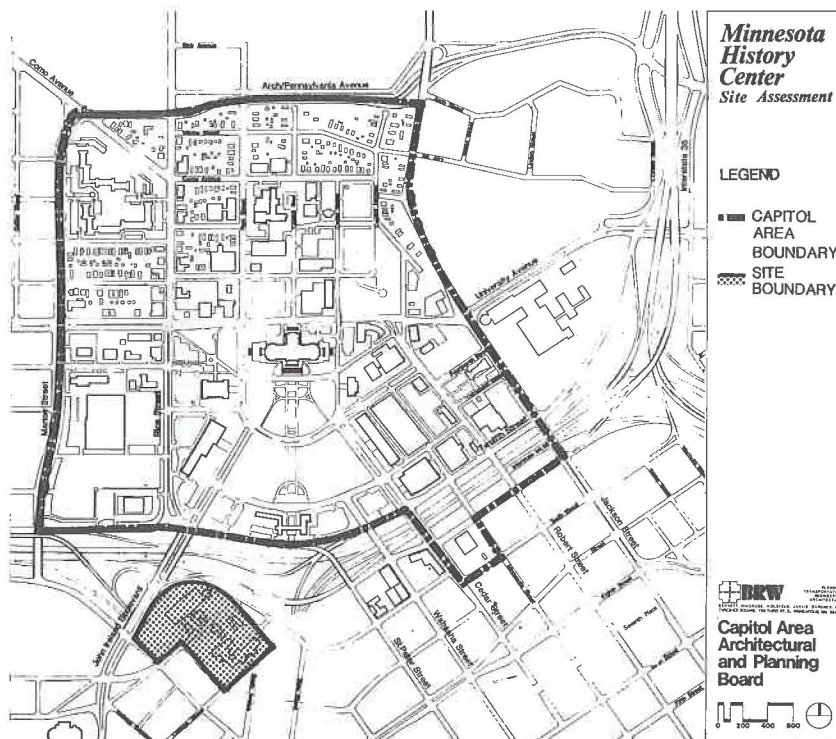
**COST/GROSS SQUARE FOOT .....** \$ 105

**TOTAL FOR THIS REQUEST ONLY .....** \$ 51,595

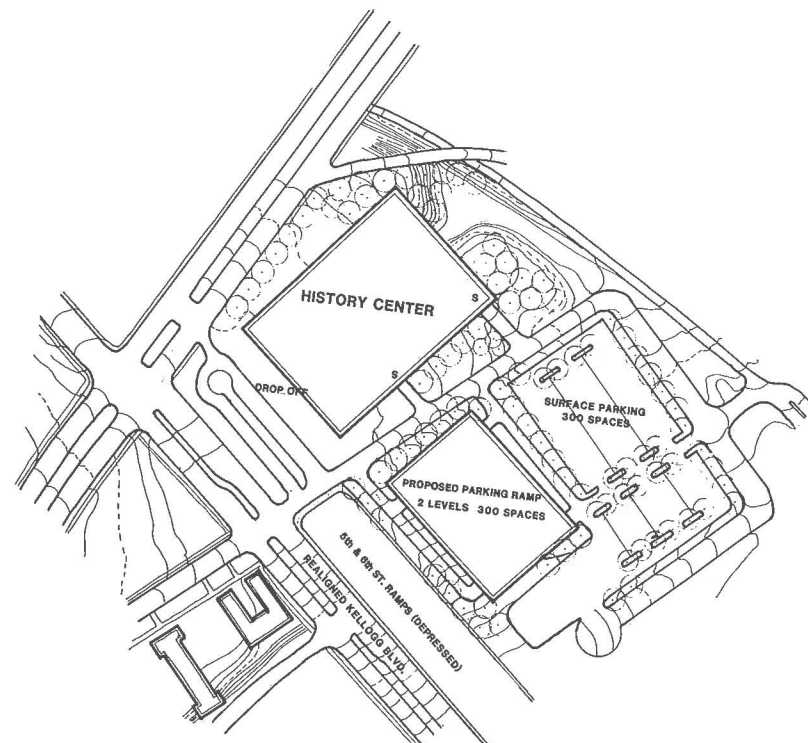
Page from Minnesota Historical Society 1986-87 Capital Budget request detailing History Center costs.

# HISTORY CENTER SITE MAPS

## SITE LOCATION



## PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN



Maps prepared by BRW: Bennett, Ringrose, Wolsfeld, Jarvis, Gardner, Inc.



Minnesotans enjoy a superior quality of life attributable as much to our cultural organizations as to our 10,000 lakes and 90,000 corporations. History plays a vital role. The state's founders recognized the importance of history when they established the Minnesota Historical Society. The vision and support provided by today's leaders will enable the History Center to yield significant benefits to the state's cultural, educational, and economic life.





# THE BENEFITS

**CULTURAL:** The History Center will offer a unique cultural experience. Located near the State Capitol, the History Center will give Minnesotans a sense of participation in, and identity with, their state. Within the larger metropolitan area the History Center will complement other cultural opportunities offered by such organizations as the Science Museum of Minnesota, the Minnesota Zoo, and the Guthrie Theatre. The Center will also function as a resource for Minnesota's more than 300 county and local historical organizations that depend on the Society's capabilities to provide preservation technology and other forms of assistance.

**EDUCATIONAL:** The History Center program will be a major educational resource for Minnesota's student and adult populations. Minnesotans will come to the Center to find a coherent picture of their past. In this respect the History Center focuses on the most basic of all subjects.

**ECONOMIC:** The History Center will contribute significantly to the state's economy by attracting more than 500,000 visitors each year. Recent scientific surveys show that heritage resources are a determining factor in the travel plans of many people. Located at the crossroads of Minnesota, the History Center will be a major tourist destination. After enjoying an informative, pleasant experience at the History Center, visitors will be encouraged to explore other cultural and natural resources across the state. Hotel/motel, restaurant, retail, and travel/transportation operations will gain direct benefits from the History Center. A 1980 national study found that ten cultural institutions in the Twin Cities area added more than \$86 million a year to the region's economy. This bright picture can only improve with the development of the History Center.