

Historical Society**Projects Summary**

(\$ in thousands)

Project Title	Rank	Fund	Project Requests for State Funds			Gov's Rec	Gov's Planning Estimates	
			2026	2028	2030		2028	2030
Preservation and Access to History (PATH) - Facilities Improvements for Collections Care	1	GO	23,160	0	0	0	0	0
Historic Sites Asset Preservation	2	GO	22,235	13,625	14,510	3,500	3,500	3,500
		GF	650	0	0	0	0	0
County and Local Historic Preservation Grants	3	GO	1,250	1,250	1,250	0	0	0
Total Project Requests			47,295	14,875	15,760	3,500	3,500	3,500
General Obligation Bonds (GO) Total			46,645	14,875	15,760	3,500	3,500	3,500
General Fund Cash (GF) Total			650	0	0	0	0	0

AT A GLANCE

- The Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS) preserves and provides access to Minnesota's past
- MNHS averages more than 1 million in-person customers each year including visitors to historic sites, museums, and the History Center - Gale Family Library; visitation is recovering from lower levels in COVID years, most recently approximately 825,000
- MNHS hosts 4,300,000 visits each year to its award-winning website
- MNHS preserves more than 1,000,000 items in the collection:
 - 342,182 photographs
 - 503,477 publications
 - 6,846 works of art
 - 249,325 objects
 - 51,514 cubic feet of manuscripts
 - 2,732 recorded oral histories
 - 65,000 cubic feet in State Archives, plus 100 terabytes of born-digital records
 - 6.6 million pages of digitized Minnesota newspapers

PURPOSE

Created in 1849 by the Minnesota Territorial Legislature, the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS) serves as the repository of state archival, documentary, photographic, archaeological, and museum collections, and as a center for research. MNHS also preserves and operates the statutorily-defined historic sites network, consisting of 26 sites throughout the state. As an educational organization, MNHS uses collections and sites to engage, inform, and inspire the people of Minnesota. These efforts, as well as MNHS' partnerships in heritage preservation, support the MNHS mission:

We serve all the people of Minnesota by creating powerful engagement with history to cultivate curiosity and foster a more inclusive, empathetic, and informed society.

By sharing the stories of our state's past, MNHS's goal is to create community for all Minnesotans, whether new arrivals or those whose families have been in Minnesota for generations. MNHS supports the goal of having a well-informed citizenry that understands how people and events of the past have shaped the Minnesota of today.

STRATEGIES

- Collect and preserve Minnesota's cultural heritage for today and future Minnesotans.
- Maintain and operate a statutorily-defined network of historic sites and museums across the state to reach Minnesotans and visitors in order to share history where it happened.
- Provide resources and training for teachers, and support and inspire students through participation in programs like National History Day and the Northern Lights MN Studies textbook.
- Engage with diverse communities throughout Minnesota and reflect the diversity of Minnesotans in MNHS collections, programs, staffing, and governance.
- Advance new efforts to collect and preserve digital materials that document the state's history and culture.
- Serve as a customer-oriented and accessible repository of state archival, documentary, photographic, archaeological, and museum collections.

The MNHS Mission, Vision and Values can be found at: <https://www.mnhs.org/about/mission>.

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 138 provides guidance for administration of Minnesota's history and historical organizations. (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=138&view=chapter>).

AT A GLANCE

The Minnesota Historical Society's governing board, staff and stakeholders have worked to develop a path to the future of Minnesota's history. The result of this strategic planning process has been the development of an updated mission statement, revised statements of vision and values and the following Strategic Imperatives:

Transforming Access

- Transform our programs and services to better leverage and incorporate technology, creating innovative technological programs that blend onsite and online experiences to engage existing audiences in more meaningful ways, attract new audiences, and remove barriers to accessing MNHS content and programming.

Reenvisioning Space

- Push history to all corners of Minnesota, beyond the confines of our existing properties.

Expanding Authority and Expertise

- Partner with communities and organizations to seek, acknowledge, elevate, and share hidden histories, diverse stories, and non-traditional expertise.

Creating a Sustainable Future

- Build out and support the infrastructure needed to achieve programmatic objectives in alignment with our financial and human resources.

Additional information about the Strategic Plan elements can be found at:

<http://www.mnhs.org/about/mission/>

Factors Impacting Facilities or Capital Programs

The Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS) is responsible for facilities statewide, including the Minnesota History Center and historic sites. Since these are statutorily mandated educational facilities, it is important that the State of Minnesota prioritize taking care of its own assets in the capital budget process. The MNHS works to preserve educational / historical properties through Asset Preservation requests, as well as through requests to enhance existing facilities. In addition, the Minnesota Historical Society is responsible for preserving several million collections items that it has acquired since the mid-19th century. It is essential to provide proper storage spaces for these irreplaceable reflections of Minnesota's history. The following trends describe the context of the Society's work to preserve and present history to Minnesotans and visitors from near and far.

Strategic Priorities

In MNHS's Strategic Plan, two of the strategic imperatives are: *Creating a Sustainable Future* and *Reenvisioning Space*. To fulfill these strategic imperatives, MNHS will manage its facilities, including historic structures and more modern facilities, to ensure long-term viability of these irreplaceable resources. In addition, we will examine how space in various facilities, particularly historic sites, will best serve MNHS's and Minnesotan's needs for the next several decades.

Historic Sites

Historic sites are recognized by MN Statutes as important public resources worth preserving. The "Minnesota Historic Sites Act" (M.S 138.661-138.669), first passed by the legislature in 1965, sets up the state historic sites

network as a state responsibility, and confers upon MNHS the control and responsibility for preserving, developing, interpreting, and maintaining the sites for public use and benefit.

Asset Preservation

Historic resources are like natural resources in that if lost, they cannot be replaced. Without a carefully planned capital investment strategy, Minnesota's historic resources will not survive to be enjoyed by future generations. MNHS's 26 historic sites include land, trails, buildings, infrastructure, and exhibits; they are textbook examples of the problems associated with unmet facilities needs. The factors contributing to this challenge are magnified in the sites network, not only because of age, but also because of the long-term environmental effects on construction materials and techniques used at the time these structures were built.

Public Demand and Attendance

The state historic sites network is in its sixth decade of heavy use by patrons. Over successive budget challenges in recent years, the upkeep and repair of more than 150 structures at the 26 state historic sites have suffered. Operating budget appropriations for repair and replacement have helped with facilities needs, but the historic sites network still has many significant unmet needs. Limited financial resources have forced the deferral of important restoration activities. Heavy public use (averaging over 600,000+ annual visitors over time across the network) coupled with ongoing environmental factors have created visible and substantive wear and tear on the structures within the state historic sites system. Asset preservation appropriations have helped with larger preservation projects, but regular and periodic maintenance has suffered.

Heritage Tourism and Economic Impact

Visiting historic sites is one of the primary reasons that tourists travel in Minnesota and across the nation. A recent survey by the Travel Industry Association of America found that 49 percent of U.S. adult travelers included a cultural, arts or historic activity to their travels, and of these activities, visiting a historic community or building was the most popular cultural activity listed on the survey. In addition to the educational benefits of heritage tourism, communities across the state experience economic benefits from tourism, including the significant number of visitors to historic sites and museums who are from out of state. Explore Minnesota Tourism estimates that tourism is a \$16 billion industry in Minnesota. Heritage tourism plays a significant part in this important element of our state's economy.

Self-Assessment of Agency Facilities and Assets

MNHS estimates the total scope of its deferred maintenance/ asset preservation/ capital improvement needs for the next six years to be approximately \$50.420 million for Asset Preservation needs within a total request of \$77.33 million in future facilities requests over the six-year planning period.

Historic Site Facilities

Since the enactment in 1965 of the state's historic sites program, the Society has pursued a planned approach to acquiring, developing, interpreting, and preserving historic sites. The Society owns or administers a network of 31 sites, including five archaeological sites held for preservation, comprising over 150 significant historical structures and contemporary buildings, totaling 793,000 square feet of interior space. The very nature of more than 150 varied facilities, many of which are over 100 years old, makes it challenging to provide a single assessment of "physical condition, suitability and functionality" of the entire historic sites network. Nevertheless, many challenges exist in preserving a statewide network of historic structures, and the financial challenges are great.

The historic relevance and importance of the state's historic sites coupled with their educational value cannot be disputed, but century old buildings are in need of a range of substantive levels of stabilization, restoration and preservation. Some components of the historic sites network are in constant need of cosmetic and surface attention, which may range from paint and carpeting to window repair; while other components may require immediate structural repair, such as roofs, foundations, support members, egress routes and utility access.

Without that attention, these historic resources will deteriorate beyond repair. Preserving historic facilities that contain unique and expensive architectural features or period-specific construction techniques (such as the Forestville Historic Site or Hill House copper gutters or log structures) require capital funds that are greater than the need of contemporary buildings, even as visitor centers built in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s are now in need of new roofs and improved or replaced HVAC systems.

Minnesota History Center and Adjunct Storage Facilities

The 1992 opening of the History Center, with 483,300 square feet on nine acres of land in the Capitol Complex, provided Minnesotans with a facility to showcase, preserve, and use the state's historic resources. Since opening, over four million individuals have visited the History Center. The History Center provides state of the art museum exhibits, workshops, lectures, and public programs designed for visitors of all ages and diverse interests. A broad range of educational and entertaining programs tells the story of Minnesota's people from earliest times to the present. Programs for over 100,000 school children each year are further enriched by hands-on activities in specially designed classrooms. In the library, visitors enjoy access to the state's archives and to the manuscript, newspaper, audio-visual, map, art, and artifact collections. Environmentally controlled storage facilities enable staff to care for and preserve the collection of over three million artifacts (including 2.5 million archaeological artifacts and 260,000 historical artifacts).

While the History Center contains large amounts of storage space, additional space will be needed in the near future since many areas are nearly full. The need for additional space was envisioned in the building's original design – a 9,500 square foot unfinished expansion space was constructed within the History Center's walls.

A request for design and construction to address collections space needs is included in this six-year capital budget; MNHS has completed master planning and is currently undertaking pre-design to determine space needs and opportunities at the Minnesota History Center as well as at a state-owned storage facility located on the East Side of St. Paul.

Sustainability

As a citizen of our community, the Society recognizes its responsibility to conserve our resources for the next generations. As an organization dedicated to preserving the past for the future, we have put this into practice in our daily work. Specific to the Capital Budget, we put these priorities to work in our efforts to preserve the historic buildings of the historic sites network. It has been said that "The greenest building is the one that is already built" and the Society puts this goal to work in our efforts to preserve the state's most significant structures for future generations. Another important aspect of sustainability is the ability to fund a network of facilities across the state. MNHS will continue to analyze capital and operational financial needs and funding streams in the coming years.

Agency Process for Determining Capital Requests

The process that the Society's leadership team used to develop these requests began with the identification of facilities needs by staff, including the Historic Sites & Facilities and Capital Planning Departments' restoration and construction staff. This review used facility condition audits, as well as a matrix for Asset Preservation projects, which factors in life safety, historical significance, cost, and sustainability. A series of meetings was held with senior staff to further develop and refine this information including cost information. These individual requests were then put in priority order then reviewed and approved by the MNHS leadership team and its governing board, the Executive Council.

Major Capital Projects Authorized in 2024 and 2025

2025 1st Special Session CH 15: \$4 million (GO) for Historical Sites Asset Preservation

2025 1st Special Session CH 15: \$1 million (GO) for County and Local Historic Preservation Grants

Preservation and Access to History (PATH) - Facilities Improvements for Collections Care**AT A GLANCE****2026 Request Amount:** \$23,160**Priority Ranking:** 1**Project Summary:** Through this project, the Minnesota Historical Society will design and construct renovations of MNHS facilities, including the Minnesota History Center and the Storage Warehouse at 1500 Mississippi Street in St. Paul, to optimize space usage to protect and preserve collections. This work will ensure the long-term safety, security and access to collections for future generations.**Project Description**

The Minnesota Historical Society is requesting funds to enhance spaces at the Minnesota History Center and other facilities. Specifically, the 2026 Capital Budget request is to design and construct renovations to existing space at the Minnesota History Center and an adjunct facility in St. Paul to care for collections. Work at both facilities will provide upgrades to facility systems and sustainability best practices. MNHS has examined its program functions and space needs through a Master Planning process in 2023 and is undergoing predesign currently in order to be ready for design and construction funding to continue this project.

Project Rationale

One of the Minnesota Historical Society's core responsibilities is to house, care for and share collections that chronicle our state's unique history and culture for use today and by future generations. MNHS began collecting, preserving, and sharing Minnesota's history even before Minnesota became a state. Over 1,000,000 items are cared for in the collections at MNHS. These collections range from paper archives to the outfit Prince wore in "Purple Rain" to the 28th Virginia battle flag captured at the Battle of Gettysburg to the "Yankee Girl" sailboat. A significant component of these collections is the preservation of historically significant records of state and local government, a statutory responsibility carried out by MNHS State Archives. These collections are housed at the Minnesota History Center and other off-site facilities. One of the main off-site facilities, located on the East Side of St. Paul has significant deterioration. In addition, some collections storage areas in the MN History Center are reaching capacity.

Collections needs will be met through renovating space in the History Center, including an unfinished expansion space within the walls of the building, as well as through the renovation of the off-site facility to address critical needs. Museum collections storage areas require specialized security systems, environmental controls (HVAC) and storage systems (shelving and cabinets) to accommodate collections items of all sizes.

Collections include:

- 250,000 three-dimensional objects (furniture, clothing, tools, flags, inventions, contraptions,

mementos),

- 6,700 works of art,
- 300,000 photographs,
- 50,000 cubic feet of manuscripts (family archives, business records, political and campaign collections, letters),
- 50,000 cubic feet of state archives,
- 500,000 books and other printed works,
- 2,000 moving images and 3 million feet of news film,
- 2,000 hours of catalogs oral histories, and
- 2.25 million archaeological artifacts that span more than 10,000 years of human history.

Similarly, an important component of MNHS's mission is to share Minnesota's history with all Minnesotans and visitors. Updating these facilities will ensure that MNHS has the proper spaces to continue utilizing collections to create powerful engagement with history and provide learning opportunities for all Minnesotans.

Project Timeline

Timeline of the project is anticipated as follows, pending appropriation of funding for design and construction during the 2026 Legislative Session:

- 2023 Completed Master Planning for project
- 2025 Initiate Predesign
- 2026 Predesign/Schematic design commences (assuming 2026 Capital Budget/bonding bill appropriation) Assessments (Hazmat, Structural, Etc.)
- 2027 Design Development/Construction Documents, and Construction
- 2028 Construction
- 2029 Construction

Other Considerations

In 2024, MNHS marked its 175th anniversary and in 2022, the Minnesota History Center marked its 30th anniversary. Since its opening, the History Center has been the place where millions of Minnesotans and guests from around the state, nation and world have discovered our history, and where collections are preserved for future generations. Guests have celebrated special occasions, remembered our heroes, and learned about our neighbors, whose background may be different from our own. As we look to the next 30 years and beyond, the Minnesota Historical Society has assessed its space needs for collections in order to best preserve, share and connect all Minnesotans with their history.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets

To be determined through the planning process.

Description of Previous Appropriations

The Minnesota History Center opened in the Fall of 1992 and was funded through major State of Minnesota Capital Budget appropriations made in the late 1980s, as well as significant private donations.

Project Contact Person

David Kelliher
Director of Public Policy
651-259-3103
david.kelliher@mnhs.org

Governor's Recommendation

The Governor does not recommend capital funding for this request.

Historical Society**Project Detail**

(\$ in thousands)

Preservation and Access to History (PATH) - Facilities Improvements for Collections Care**PROJECT FUNDING SOURCES**

Funding Source	Six Prior Years	FY 2026	FY 2028	FY 2030
<i>State Funds Appropriated and Requested</i>				
General Obligation Bonds	\$ 0	\$ 23,160	\$ 0	\$ 0
<i>State Funds Pending</i>				
<i>Non-State Funds Already Committed</i>				
Non-Governmental Funds	\$ 500	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
<i>Non-State Funds Pending</i>				
TOTAL	\$ 500	\$ 23,160	\$ 0	\$ 0

TOTAL PROJECT COSTS

Cost Category	Six Prior Years	FY 2026	FY 2028	FY 2030
Property Acquisition	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Predesign Fees	\$ 500	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Design Fees	\$ 0	\$ 2,700	\$ 0	\$ 0
Project Management	\$ 0	\$ 180	\$ 0	\$ 0
Construction	\$ 0	\$ 19,200	\$ 0	\$ 0
Relocation Expenses	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
One Percent for Art	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Occupancy Costs	\$ 0	\$ 1,080	\$ 0	\$ 0
Inflationary Adjustment	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$ 500	\$ 23,160	\$ 0	\$ 0

IMPACT ON STATE OPERATING COSTS

Cost Category	FY 2026	FY 2028	FY 2030
IT Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Operating Budget Impact (\$)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Operating Budget Impact (FTE)	0	0	0

SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS

	Amount	Percent of Total
General Fund	\$ 23,160	100 %
User Financing	\$ 0	0 %

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements will apply to projects after adoption of the bonding bill.

Has the project owner requesting state funds reviewed and agree to meet the applicable capital requirements listed in the “Statutory Requirements” below and in the “Capital Budget Requirements” section of the MMB Capital Budget Instruction documents?	Yes
Is this project exempt from legislative review under M.S. 16B.335 subd. 1a?	No
Predesign Review (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 3):	
Does this request include funding for predesign?	No
Has the predesign been submitted to the Department of Administration?	No
Has the predesign been approved by the Department of Administration?	No
Will the project design meet the Sustainable Building Guidelines under M.S. 16B.325?	Yes
Will the project designs meet applicable requirements and guidelines for energy conservation and alternative energy sources (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 4 and 16B.32)?	Yes
Have Information Technology Review Preconditions been met (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 5 & 6)?	N/A
Will the project comply with the targeted group purchasing requirement (M.S. 16C.16 subd. 13)?	Yes
Will the project meet public ownership requirements (M.S. 16A.695)?	Yes
Will a use agreement be required (M.S. 16A.695 subd. 2)?	No
Will program funding be reviewed and ensured (M.S. 16A.695 subd. 5)?	N/A
Will the matching funds requirements be met (M.S. 16A.86 subd. 4)?	N/A
Will the project be fully encumbered prior to the Cancellation Deadline (M.S. 16A.642): December 31, 2030?	Yes
M.S. 16A.502 and M.S. 16B.31 (2): Full Funding Required	Yes
M.S. 473.4485: Guideway Project	
Is this a Guideway Project?	No
Is the required information included in this request?	N/A

Historic Sites Asset Preservation**AT A GLANCE****2026 Request Amount:** \$22,885**Priority Ranking:** 2**Project Summary:** The Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS) is requesting \$22.885 million in 2026 for the preservation and restoration of historic structures, landscapes and building systems in the statutorily-defined State Historic Sites Network and for monuments located statewide. Due to deferred maintenance needs of historic structures outpacing appropriations, the state of facilities in the historic sites network is reaching a critical level.**Project Description**

Funding for the Minnesota Historical Society's Historic Sites Asset Preservation request will help to preserve some of the state's most significant historic structures, which are preserved for the education and enjoyment of our citizens.

Over the past five decades, more than 24 million students, families, and tourists have visited the 150+ landmark buildings, trails and museums of the State Historic Sites Network. MNHS is committed to keeping these extraordinary properties open and accessible to the public now and for future generations. Although many 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, accessibility, infrastructure upgrades and renovations necessary to support building use. In addition to the necessary work on historic structures, many of the modern visitor centers constructed 30 to 40 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 component of operating the Historic Sites Network for the people of Minnesota.

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 over 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."

MNHS's Historic Sites & Facilities Operations and Capital Planning Departments are responsible for all 150+ of the structures in the Historic Sites Network. Every year the staff typically manages five or six large projects 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.

Projects in this request 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, since historic sites are an important component of our state's tourism economy. 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 Minnesota Historical Society, to collect and preserve 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.

Project Rationale

This request is for work that is critical to the preservation and maintenance of important historic resources, which are a state responsibility under Minnesota Statutes 138.661, the authorizing statute for the State Historic Sites Network. Preservation of historic structures, by definition, meets the state's goal of funding sustainable, high performance buildings, because historic structures preserve previous energy and financial investments.

Project Timeline

After funding becomes available, MNHS project managers will oversee design for each project, then commence construction. Since each project contains unique individual components, timelines will be different for each asset preservation project. All asset preservation projects will be completed by the required funding expiration date.

Other Considerations

2026 Asset Preservation Request - Project List

Mill City Conveyors & Tunnel Rehabilitation	\$ 2,300,000
Split Rock Dwelling #3 Preservation	\$ 325,000
Fort Snelling Building #17 Interior Preservation	\$ 2,955,000

Mayo House Exterior Preservation	\$ 350,000
Mille Lacs Museum Reroof	\$ 650,000
Mill City Elevator #1 Rehabilitation	\$ 7,300,000
Mill City East Wall Masonry	\$ 4,475,000
Fort Ridgely Masonry Stabilization	\$ 365,000
Southwestern Site Trail Work	\$ 390,000
Fort Snelling Exterior Preservation	\$ 3,000,000
Lac Qui Parle Preservation	\$ 225,000
Statewide, Design for Future Asset Preservation Projects	\$ 400,000
Statewide, Monuments & Markers	\$ 150,000
2026 MNHS Asset Preservation Total:	\$ 22,885,000

2028 Asset Preservation Request

Lindbergh Landscape & Drainage Improvements	\$ 700,000
Forest History Center Logging Camp Renovation	\$ 750,000
Fort Snelling Building #22 Preservation	\$ 3,000,000
Forest History Center Logging Cmp Restroom Renovation	\$ 350,000
Hill House Gatehouse Interior Preservation	\$ 425,000
Split Rock Dwelling & Garage Preservation	\$ 600,000
Folsom House Interior Preservation	\$ 200,000
Fort Snelling Building #30 Interior Preservation	\$ 600,000
Fort Snelling Building #30 Exterior Preservation	\$ 800,000
Forestville Visitor Center Rehabilitation	\$ 400,000
Folsom Roof Replacements	\$ 400,000
NW Co Fur Post Security & Fire System Updates	\$ 150,000
Mill City Feed Elevator Preservation	\$ 2,000,000
Fort Snelling Building #17 Exterior Preservation	\$ 1,750,000
Statewide, Design for Future Asset Preservation Projects	\$ 400,000
Statewide, Monuments & Markers	\$ 150,000
2028 MNHS Asset Preservation Total:	\$ 13,625,000

2030 Asset Preservation Request

Mill City Mill Office Preservation	\$ 850,000
Forest History Center VC Water Tank Replacement	\$ 50,000
Comstock HVAC Renovation	\$ 125,000
Hill House Air Conditioning Upgrade	\$ 1,500,000
Lindbergh Hillside Stabilization	\$ 1,725,000
Ramsey House Roof Replacement	\$ 2,000,000

Forest History Center Entrance Road Upgrade	\$ 150,000
Fort Snelling Bluff Wall Stabilization	\$ 360,000
Mille Lacs Trading Post Restroom Remodel	\$ 200,000
Fort Snelling Masonry Rehabilitation	\$ 7,000,000
Statewide, Design for Future Asset Preservation Projects	\$ 400,000
Statewide, Monuments & Markers	\$ 150,000
2030 MNHS Asset Preservation Total:	\$ 14,510,000

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets

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

Description of Previous Appropriations

Appropriations for asset preservation of the state Historic Sites Network have been made in most major capital budget bills since 1990. MNHS has received the following general obligation bond appropriations in recent years

2025: \$4 million

2023: \$14 million

2020: \$2.350 million

2018: \$8 million

2017: \$2.5 million

Project Contact Person

David Kelliher

Director of Public Policy

651-259-3103

david.kelliher@mnhs.org

Governor's Recommendation

The Governor recommends \$3.5 million in general obligation bonds for this request. Also included are budget estimates of \$3.5 million for each planning period for 2028 and 2030.

Historical Society

Project Detail

(\$ in thousands)

Historic Sites Asset Preservation

PROJECT FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Source	Six Prior Years	FY 2026	FY 2028	FY 2030
<i>State Funds Appropriated and Requested</i>				
General Obligation Bonds	\$ 11,300	\$ 22,235	\$ 13,625	\$ 14,510
General Fund Cash	\$ 9,390	\$ 650	\$ 0	\$ 0
<i>State Funds Pending</i>				
<i>Non-State Funds Already Committed</i>				
<i>Non-State Funds Pending</i>				
TOTAL	\$ 20,690	\$ 22,885	\$ 13,625	\$ 14,510

TOTAL PROJECT COSTS

Cost Category	Six Prior Years	FY 2026	FY 2028	FY 2030
Property Acquisition	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Predesign Fees	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Design Fees	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Project Management	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Construction	\$ 20,690	\$ 22,885	\$ 13,625	\$ 14,510
Relocation Expenses	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
One Percent for Art	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Occupancy Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Inflationary Adjustment	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$ 20,690	\$ 22,885	\$ 13,625	\$ 14,510

IMPACT ON STATE OPERATING COSTS

Cost Category	FY 2026	FY 2028	FY 2030
IT Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Operating Budget Impact (\$)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Operating Budget Impact (FTE)	0	0	0

SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS

	Amount	Percent of Total
General Fund	\$ 22,235	100 %

SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS

	Amount	Percent of Total
User Financing	\$ 0	0 %

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements will apply to projects after adoption of the bonding bill.

Has the project owner requesting state funds reviewed and agree to meet the applicable capital requirements listed in the “Statutory Requirements” below and in the “Capital Budget Requirements” section of the MMB Capital Budget Instruction documents?	Yes
Is this project exempt from legislative review under M.S. 16B.335 subd. 1a?	Yes
Predesign Review (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 3):	
Does this request include funding for predesign?	N/A
Has the predesign been submitted to the Department of Administration?	N/A
Has the predesign been approved by the Department of Administration?	N/A
Will the project design meet the Sustainable Building Guidelines under M.S. 16B.325?	Yes
Will the project designs meet applicable requirements and guidelines for energy conservation and alternative energy sources (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 4 and 16B.32)?	N/A
Have Information Technology Review Preconditions been met (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 5 & 6)?	N/A
Will the project comply with the targeted group purchasing requirement (M.S. 16C.16 subd. 13)?	Yes
Will the project meet public ownership requirements (M.S. 16A.695)?	Yes
Will a use agreement be required (M.S. 16A.695 subd. 2)?	No
Will program funding be reviewed and ensured (M.S. 16A.695 subd. 5)?	N/A
Will the matching funds requirements be met (M.S. 16A.86 subd. 4)?	N/A
Will the project be fully encumbered prior to the Cancellation Deadline (M.S. 16A.642): December 31, 2030?	Yes
M.S. 16A.502 and M.S. 16B.31 (2): Full Funding Required	Yes
M.S. 473.4485: Guideway Project	
Is this a Guideway Project?	No
Is the required information included in this request?	N/A

County and Local Historic Preservation Grants**AT A GLANCE****2026 Request Amount:** \$1,250**Priority Ranking:** 3**Project Summary:** This project provides funding, on a competitive matching basis, for county and local historic preservation projects. This program will allow local communities to preserve their most significant historical resources.**Project Description**

The county and local historic preservation grant program provides funding 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 in the National Register of Historic Places. This program is one of the most successful of its type, with relatively small amounts of money leveraging 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 2025 were distributed across Minnesota on a competitive grant basis, with requests more than double the funds available.

This project also 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 (MNHS) 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, 248 grants from the MNHS's capital bond-funded grant program have assisted in preserving and making accessible such projects as historic county courthouses (62 grants to 27 different courthouses); historic city halls (29 grants to 17 different city halls); and historic library buildings (20 grants to 16 different libraries). 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); the Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery Preservation, and the Norenberg Estate Water Tower (Hennepin County [Grantee is Three Rivers Park District]), and Bemidji Carnegie Library (City of Bemidji).

From a financial perspective, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2020, 2023 and 2025 appropriations totaling over \$11.25 million have leveraged at least an equal amount in local match funding, as well as countless hours of volunteer effort.

Project Rationale

The county and local historic preservation grants program enables city and county government to fulfill their obligations to preserve historic structures, under MN Statute 138.665, while sharing the cost with the State of Minnesota.

Project Timeline

N/A

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.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets

None.

Description of Previous Appropriations

Funding for the County and Local Historic Preservation Grant program has been included in most major capital budget bills since 1994. The four most recent appropriations have been: 2025: \$1 million (GO); 2023: \$1 million (GO); 2020: \$750,000 (GO); 2014: \$1,400,000 (GF)

Project Contact Person

David Kelliher
Director of Public Policy
651-259-3103
david.kelliher@mnhhs.org

Governor's Recommendation

The Governor does not recommend capital funding for this request.

Historical Society

Project Detail

(\$ in thousands)

County and Local Historic Preservation Grants

PROJECT FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Source	Six Prior Years	FY 2026	FY 2028	FY 2030
<i>State Funds Appropriated and Requested</i>				
General Obligation Bonds	\$ 2,750	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250
<i>State Funds Pending</i>				
<i>Non-State Funds Already Committed</i>				
Other Local Government Funds	\$ 2,750	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250
<i>Non-State Funds Pending</i>				
TOTAL	\$ 5,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500

TOTAL PROJECT COSTS

Cost Category	Six Prior Years	FY 2026	FY 2028	FY 2030
Property Acquisition	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Predesign Fees	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Design Fees	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Project Management	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Construction	\$ 5,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Relocation Expenses	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
One Percent for Art	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Occupancy Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Inflationary Adjustment	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$ 5,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500

IMPACT ON STATE OPERATING COSTS

Cost Category	FY 2026	FY 2028	FY 2030
IT Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Operating Budget Impact (\$)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Operating Budget Impact (FTE)	0	0	0

SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS

	Amount	Percent of Total
General Fund	\$ 1,250	100 %
User Financing	\$ 0	0 %

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements will apply to projects after adoption of the bonding bill.

Has the project owner requesting state funds reviewed and agree to meet the applicable capital requirements listed in the “Statutory Requirements” below and in the “Capital Budget Requirements” section of the MMB Capital Budget Instruction documents?	Yes
Is this project exempt from legislative review under M.S. 16B.335 subd. 1a?	Yes
Predesign Review (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 3):	
Does this request include funding for predesign?	N/A
Has the predesign been submitted to the Department of Administration?	N/A
Has the predesign been approved by the Department of Administration?	N/A
Will the project design meet the Sustainable Building Guidelines under M.S. 16B.325?	N/A
Will the project designs meet applicable requirements and guidelines for energy conservation and alternative energy sources (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 4 and 16B.32)?	N/A
Have Information Technology Review Preconditions been met (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 5 & 6)?	N/A
Will the project comply with the targeted group purchasing requirement (M.S. 16C.16 subd. 13)?	Yes
Will the project meet public ownership requirements (M.S. 16A.695)?	Yes
Will a use agreement be required (M.S. 16A.695 subd. 2)?	N/A
Will program funding be reviewed and ensured (M.S. 16A.695 subd. 5)?	Yes
Will the matching funds requirements be met (M.S. 16A.86 subd. 4)?	Yes
Will the project be fully encumbered prior to the Cancellation Deadline (M.S. 16A.642): December 31, 2030?	Yes
M.S. 16A.502 and M.S. 16B.31 (2): Full Funding Required	Yes
M.S. 473.4485: Guideway Project	
Is this a Guideway Project?	N/A
Is the required information included in this request?	N/A