

(\$ in thousands)

| Project Title  | Priority Ranking | Funding Source | Project Requests for State Funds |                  |                 |
|--|------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
|  |                  |                | 2020                             | 2022             | 2024            |
| Historic Sites Asset Preservation                            | 1                | GO             | \$ 9,578                         | \$ 9,640         | \$ 5,600        |
| County and Local Historic Preservation Grants                | 2                | GO             | \$ 750                           | \$ 750           | \$ 750          |
| Minnesota History Center Enhancements - Predesign and Design | 3                | GO             | \$ 0                             | \$ 500           | \$ 3,500        |
| <b>Total Project Requests</b>                                |                  |                | <b>\$ 10,328</b>                 | <b>\$ 10,890</b> | <b>\$ 9,850</b> |
| <b>General Obligation Bonds (GO) Total</b>                   |                  |                | <b>\$ 10,328</b>                 | <b>\$ 10,890</b> | <b>\$ 9,850</b> |

**Historic Sites Asset Preservation**

**AT A GLANCE**

**2020 Request Amount:** \$9,578

**Priority Ranking:** 1

**Project Summary:** The Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS) is requesting \$9.578 million in 2020 for the preservation and restoration of historic structures, landscapes and building systems in the 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 three 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." The Society's Facilities and Risk Management Department is 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 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**

Since asset preservation funding is comprised of multiple projects, each project will have a separate timeline. Project planning and design will commence soon after final approval of funding, and construction will begin for each project after completion of design.

### **Other Considerations**

(dollars in thousands)

#### **2020 ASSET PRESERVATION REQUEST**

Mill City Museum  
Mill City Train Shed & East Engine House Preservation  
\$ 325

Hill House  
Hill House Masonry Preservation  
\$1,425

Mill City Museum  
Mill City Conveyors and Tunnel Rehabilitation  
\$800

Split Rock  
Split Rock Lighthouse Accessibility  
\$650

Comstock House

Comstock House Foundation Stabilization  
\$550

Mill City Museum  
Mill City Wheel House Rehabilitation  
\$75

Ramsey House  
Ramsey House Preservation  
\$650

Mill City Museum  
Mill City Elevator #1 Rehabilitation  
\$1,050

Kelley Farm  
Kelley Farm Farmhouse Interior Preservation  
\$125

Historic Fort Snelling  
Historic Fort Snelling Round Tower Exterior Repairs  
\$600

Forest History Center  
Forest History Center VC Roof Replacement  
\$150

Lower Sioux  
Lower Sioux Exterior Preservation  
\$75

Split Rock  
Split Rock Dwelling #3 Interior Preservation  
\$228

Historic Fort Snelling  
Historic Fort Snelling Building #30 Interior Preservation  
\$600

Mill City Museum  
Mill City Feed Elevator Preservation  
\$625

Mille Lacs  
Mille Lacs HVAC Upgrades  
\$600

Fort Ridgely  
Fort Ridgely Masonry Stabilization  
\$175

Lower Sioux  
Lower Sioux Warehouse Preservation  
\$200

Folsom House  
Folsom House Interior Preservation  
\$125

Statewide  
Design for Future Asset Preservation Projects  
\$400

Statewide  
Monuments and Markers  
\$150

**2020 Total: \$9,578**

**2022 REQUEST**

Hill House  
James J. Hill Residence Air Conditioning Upgrade  
\$1,500

Mayo House  
Mayo House Exterior Preservation  
\$225

Split Rock  
Split Rock Lighthouse Moisture Mitigation  
\$325

Sites

Southwestern Site Trail Work  
\$700

Harkin Store  
Harkin Store Exterior Envelope Rehabilitation  
\$375

Historic Fort Snelling  
Historic Fort Snelling Building 22 Preservation  
\$3,000

Historic Fort Snelling  
Historic Fort Snelling Wall Stabilization  
\$360

Forest History Center  
Forest History Center Entrance Road Upgrade  
\$150

Lac Qui Parle Mission  
Lac Qui Parle Mission Interior Preservation  
\$75

Folsom House  
Folsom House Roof Replacement  
\$275

Mille Lacs  
Mille Lacs Trading Post Restroom Remodel  
\$125

Hill House  
Hill House Gatehouse Interior Preservation  
\$325

Snake River Fur Post  
Snake River Fur Post Visitor Center & Picnic Shelter Roof Replacement  
\$775

Lindbergh House  
Lindbergh House Historic Garden Restoration  
\$250

Forest History Center  
Forest History Center VC Water Tank Replacement  
\$50

Split Rock  
Split Rock Swelling & Garage Preservation  
\$330

Kelley Farm  
Kelley Farm Farmhouse Exterior Preservation  
\$250

Statewide  
Design for Future Asset Preservation Projects  
\$400

Statewide  
Monuments and Markers  
\$150

**2022 Total: \$9,640**

**2024 REQUEST**

Hill House  
James J. Hill House Landscape Rehabilitation  
\$250

Forest History Center  
Forest History Center Logging Camp Restroom Renovation  
\$225

Lindbergh House  
Lindbergh House Landscape & Drainage Improvements  
\$500

Comstock House  
Comstock HVAC Renovation  
\$125

Kelley Farm  
Kelley Farm Outbuilding Exterior Preservation  
\$200

Lac Qui Parle  
Lac Qui Parle Landscape Rehabilitation  
\$150

Snake River Fur Post  
Snake River Fur Post HVAC Update  
\$800

Fort Snelling  
Fort Snelling Building #30 Exterior Preservation  
\$700

Mill City Museum  
Mill City Mill Office Preservation  
\$425

Historic Fort Snelling  
Building 17 & Link Exterior Preservation  
\$1,350

Forest History Center  
Forest History Center Gun Club Rehabilitation  
\$325

Statewide  
Design for Future Asset Preservation Projects  
\$400

Statewide  
Monuments and Markers  
\$150

**2014 Total: \$5,600**

### **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. In 2018, this activity received \$8 million; in 2017, it received \$2.5 million; in 2014, it received \$1.44 million; in 2012, it 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.

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**County and Local Historic Preservation Grants**

**AT A GLANCE**

**2020 Request Amount:** \$750

**Priority Ranking:** 2

**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 program provides grants 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 2014 were spread 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 Society’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, and 2014 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.

### **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 Statutes 138.665, while sharing the cost with the State of Minnesota.

### **Project Timeline**

The Minnesota Historical Society anticipates an initial grant round in mid to late 2020 if funds for this grant program are appropriated in the 2020 Session. Depending on the level of funding provided, there could be an additional grant round in 2021.

### **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 three most recent appropriations have been: 2014: \$1,400,000 (GF); 2012: \$750,000 (GO); 2010: \$1,000,000 (GO).

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**Minnesota History Center Enhancements - Predesign and Design**

**AT A GLANCE**

**2020 Request Amount:** \$0

**Priority Ranking:** 3

**Project Summary:** Through this project, the Minnesota Historical Society will complete predesign and design for renovations of the Minnesota History Center to optimize space use for collections and visitor services. This work will anticipate the next generation of collections practices and technology, as well as visitor engagement including exhibits, educational and public programs.

**Project Description**

The Minnesota Historical Society is requesting funds to plan for future use of the Minnesota History Center. While some physical collections storage areas are nearly full, technology is rapidly changing, creating an opportunity for a different way of approaching collections. At the same time, we must examine the best ways to reach today’s and future in-person visitors to the History Center. The MNHS will examine its program functions and space needs through a Master Planning process in the next several months and years, and by the 2022 Capital Budget cycle, anticipates readiness for pre-design funding to plan for optimal usage of space.

**Project Rationale**

In 2017, the Minnesota History Center marked its 25th anniversary. Since its opening, the History Center has been the place where millions of Minnesotans and guests from around the world have discovered our history, and where collections have been preserved for future generations. Guests have celebrated special occasions, remembered our heroes and learned about our neighbors, whose background may be different from their own. As we look to the next 25 years and beyond, the Minnesota Historical Society will assess its space needs for collections and visitor services in order to best preserve, share and connect Minnesotans with their history.

**Project Timeline**

Beginning in mid-2020, the MNHS will begin master planning work to assess space needs for its facilities for collections and public usage, including museum and public program activity. Once that step is complete, the next task in the sequence is to conduct predesign work to identify size, characteristics and adjacencies of space needs, then design work to begin the implementation process. It is anticipated that MNHS would request predesign funding in the 2022 Capital Budget cycle and design funds in the 2024 cycle.

**Other Considerations**

n/a

**Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

To be determined through the master planning and predesign 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 matching private donations.

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