

(\$ in thousands)

Project Title	Priority Ranking	Funding Source	Project Requests for State Funds		
			2024	2026	2028
Historic Sites Asset Preservation	1	GO	\$ 13,670	\$ 13,700	\$ 12,850
MNHS Facilities Improvements for Collections Care and Visitor Experience - Design (2024)	2	GO	\$ 6,700	\$ 37,000	\$ 47,000
County and Local Historic Preservation Grants	3	GO	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250
Total Project Requests			\$ 21,620	\$ 51,950	\$ 61,100
General Obligation Bonds (GO) Total			\$ 21,620	\$ 51,950	\$ 61,100

(\$ in thousands)

Historic Sites Asset Preservation

AT A GLANCE

2024 Request Amount: \$13,670

Priority Ranking: 1

Project Summary: The Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS) is requesting \$13.670 million in 2024 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 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 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

Individual project will be carried out on an ongoing basis, as listed below.

Other Considerations

2024 ASSET PRESERVATION REQUEST

Fort Ridgely Masonry Stabilization	\$365,000
Fort Snelling Building 17 & Link Interior Preservation	\$2,955,000
Snake River / NW Co Fur Post Security & Fire System Updates	\$150,000
Fort Snelling Building #30 Interior Preservation	\$600,000

Southwestern MN Sites Trail Work	\$700,000
Mayo House Exterior Preservation	\$300,000
Mille Lacs Museum Reroof	\$650,000
Folsom House Interior Preservation	\$200,000
Snake River/NW Co Visitor Ctr & Picnic Shelter Roof Repl	\$1,000,000
Comstock House Foundation Stabilization	\$675,000
Fort Snelling Building 22 Preservation	\$3,000,000
Hill House Gatehouse Interior Preservation	\$325,000
Kelley Farm Outbuilding Exterior Preservation	\$200,000
Fort Snelling Exterior Preservation	\$2,000,000
Statewide, Design for Future Asset Preservation Projects	\$400,000
Statewide, Monuments and Markers	\$150,000
2024 MNHS Asset Preservation Total:	\$13,670,000

2026 ASSET PRESERVATION REQUEST

Mill City Elevator #1 Rehabilitation	\$7,300,000
Forest History Center VC Water Tank Replacement	\$50,000
Lindbergh Hillside Stabilization	\$1,725,000
Forest History Center Logging Camp Renovation	\$750,000
Mille Lacs Trading Post Restroom Remodel	\$200,000
Forest History Center Entrance Road Upgrade	\$150,000
Mill City Feed Elevator Preservation	\$2,975,000
Statewide, Design for Future Asset Preservation Projects	\$400,000
Statewide, Monuments and Markers	\$150,000

2028 ASSET PRESERVATION REQUEST

Mill City East Wall Masonry Project	\$4,475,000
James J Hill Residence Air Conditioning Upgrade	\$1,500,000
Lac Qui Parle Interior Preservation	\$150,000
Split Rock Dwelling & Garage Preservation	\$500,000
Lindbergh Landscape & Drainage Improvements	\$700,000
Forest History Center Logging Camp Restroom Renovation	\$350,000
Snake River/NW Co HVAC Update	\$800,000
Lac qui Parle Landscape Rehabilitation	\$150,000
Fort Snelling Building #30 Exterior Preservation	\$800,000
Folsom House Roof Replacement	\$400,000
Building 17 & Link Exterior Preservation	\$1,500,000

Comstock HVAC Renovation	\$125,000
Mill City Mill Office Preservation	\$850,000
Statewide, Design for Future Asset Preservation Projects	\$400,000
Statewide, Monuments and Markers	\$150,000
2028 MNHS Asset Preservation Total:	\$12,850,000

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 appropriations in recent years

- 2023: \$14.390 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

MNHS Facilities Improvements for Collections Care and Visitor Experience - Design (2024)

AT A GLANCE

2024 Request Amount: \$6,700

Priority Ranking: 2

Project Summary: Through this project, the Minnesota Historical Society will design and construct renovations of MNHS facilities, including the Minnesota History Center, to optimize space usage for collections and enhance visitor services. This work will anticipate the next generation of collections practices and technology, as well as create more welcoming spaces for visitor engagement including exhibits, educational and public programs.

Project Description

The Minnesota Historical Society is requesting funds for the future use of the Minnesota History Center and other facilities. While some physical collections storage areas are nearly full, technology is rapidly changing, creating opportunities for different ways 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.

MNHS has examined its program functions and space needs through a Master Planning process in the last year and is ready for design funding to continue this project.

Project Rationale

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 their own.

As we look to the next 30 years and beyond, the Minnesota Historical Society has assessed its space needs for collections and visitor services in order to best preserve, share and connect all Minnesotans with their history. We are ready to realize the vision for the next 30 years of the Minnesota History Center.

Project Timeline

Design work will take place from July, 2024 through August, 2026 and construction will take place in phases, with the first phase, focusing on collections care occurring between September, 2026 through September 2028 and the second phase focusing on enhancing the visitor experience between September, 2028 and September, 2030.

Other Considerations

N/A

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 matching private donations.

Project Contact Person

David Kelliher

Director of Public Policy

651-259-3103

david.kelliher@mnhs.org

County and Local Historic Preservation Grants

AT A GLANCE

2024 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 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 2020 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 Minnesota); 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 and 2023 appropriations totaling over \$10.25 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

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: 2020: \$750,000 (GO); 2014: \$1,400,000 (GF); 2012: \$750,000 (GO); 2010: \$1,000,000 (GO).

Project Contact Person

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