Historic Sites Overview

Hortman Memorial State Park Working Group

November 4, 2026

Historic Sites (and State Parks) Overview

- Statutory Authorization for Historic Sites and State Parks
- Examples of Adjacent Historic Sites and State Parks
- Minnesota Historical Society Role in Minnesota State Capitol

Historic Sites Overview

Minnesota Statutes 138.661-6691 -

“Minnesota Historic Sites Act”

Minnesota Historic Sites Network



Historic Sites Network (MS 138.662)

Alexander Ramsey House, Saint Paul

Birch Coulee Battlefield, Morton

Charles A. Lindbergh Historic Site, Little Falls

Comstock House, Moorhead

Folsom House, Taylors Falls

Forest History Center, Grand Rapids

Fort Ridgely, Fairfax

Harkin Store, New Ulm

Historic Forestville, Preston

Historic Fort Snelling, Saint Paul

James J. Hill House, Saint Paul

Jeffers Petroglyphs, Comfrey

Lac qui Parle Mission, Watson

Lower Sioux Agency, Morton

Marine Mill, Marine on St. Croix

Mill City Museum, Minneapolis

Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post, Onamia

Minnehaha Depot, Minneapolis

Minnesota History Center, Saint Paul

Minnesota State Capitol, Saint Paul

Oliver H. Kelley Farm, Elk River

Sibley Historic Site, Mendota

Snake River Fur Post, Pine City

Split Rock Lighthouse, Two Harbors

Traverse des Sioux, Saint Peter

W.W. Mayo House, Le Sueur

Historic Sites Overview

- **Minnesota Statutes 138.661-6691**
  - *"The sites are significant state resources that the Minnesota Historical Society is **preserving, developing, interpreting, and maintaining for public use, benefit and access** during open hours."*
  - *"The Minnesota Historical Society shall exercise the administration and control of the sites in section 138.662, other than the Minnesota State Capitol..."*

Historic Sites (and State Parks) Overview

- State Parks guided by Minnesota Statutes,

  Chapter 85 (Parks) &
  Chapter 86A (Outdoor Recreation Act)

Historic Sites (and State Parks) Overview

- Examples of Adjacent Historic Sites and State Parks

Minnesota Historic Sites and State Parks

- Historic Fort Snelling and SP
- Lindbergh HS and SP
- Forestville HS and SP
- Fort Ridgely HS and SP
- Split Rock Lighthouse HS & SP



Minnesota Historic Sites Act

"The authority of the commissioner of natural resources to administer and control the historic sites enumerated in section 138.662 is withdrawn, and is conferred upon the Minnesota Historical Society. The commissioner of natural resources shall continue to administer and control the state parks enumerated in this section excepting the portions designated as historic sites, the administration and control of which is by this section vested in the Minnesota Historical Society."

MS 138.661, Subd 2

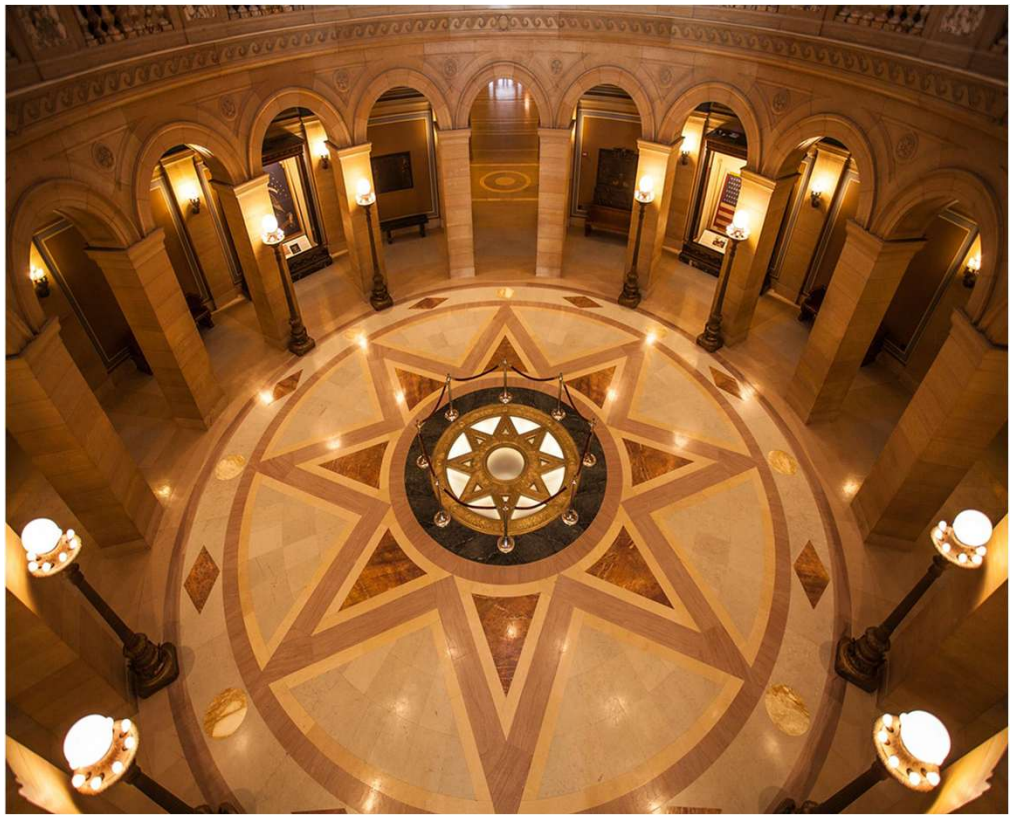


State Capitol Roles and Responsibilities

MN Statutes 138.67-70

- MNHS responsibility primarily inside Capitol building

- Preservation and Education



Considerations:

Desired public program(s)

Funding

Facilities

Law Enforcement jurisdiction

Creating statutory alignment with historic sites and state parks (exemptions)

Boundaries



