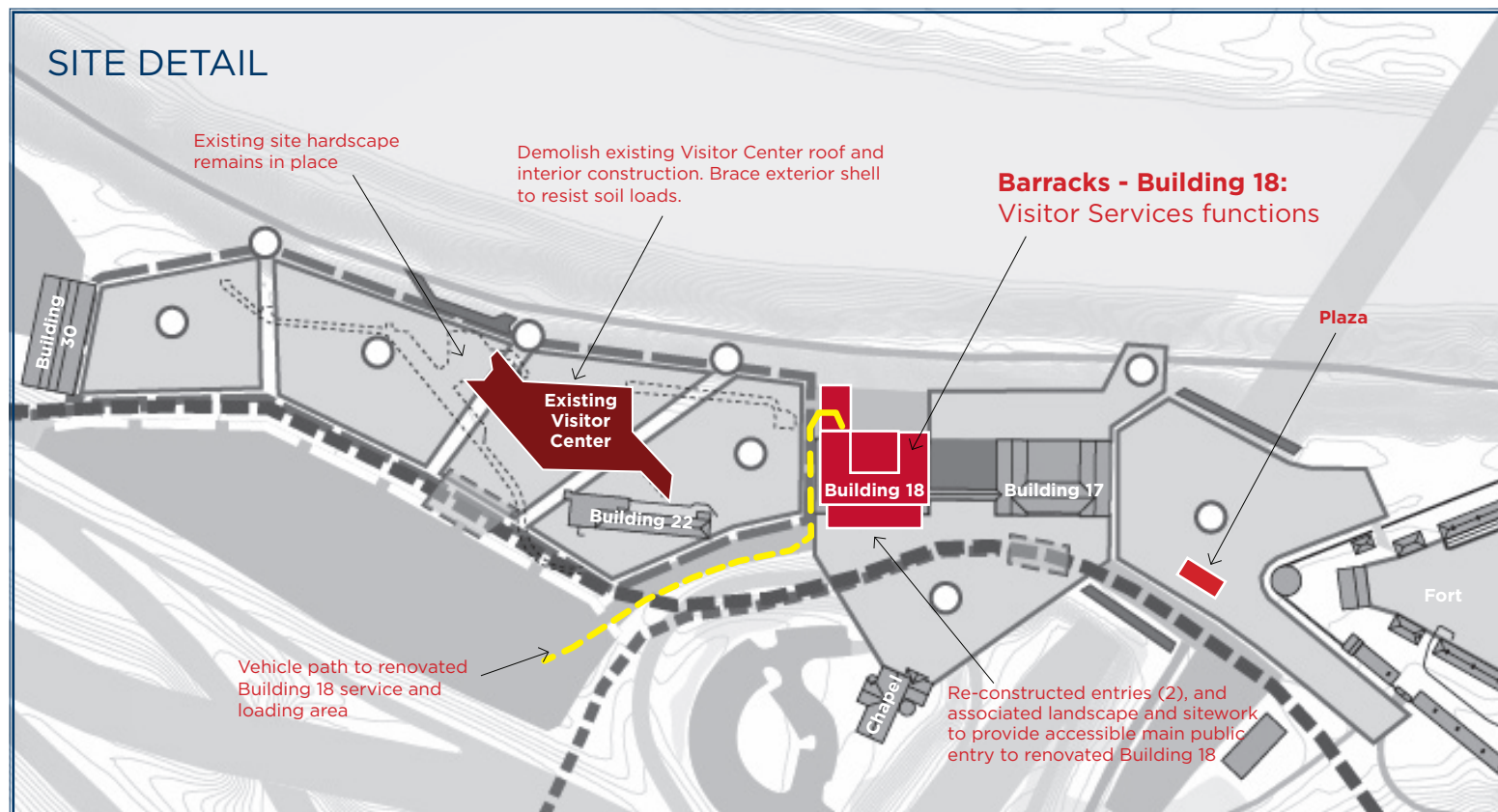


Situated on the bluff overlooking the meeting of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers, Historic Fort Snelling has been a place of central importance for generations of people, a place whose history evokes both pride and pain. Oil painting of Fort Snelling and Pike Island by Henry Lewis, ca. 1850. MNHS collections.



**A new era for Historic Fort Snelling begins in 2020**

2020 marks the bicentennial of the building of Fort Snelling, Minnesota's best-known landmark. As we approach this milestone, the Minnesota Historical Society is poised to make a major investment in the first phase of a ten-year master plan to fulfill the site's potential as a true public commons with restored natural beauty.

Our vision is that Historic Fort Snelling—with support from the State of Minnesota and generous private funders—will become a national destination that presents the fort's many faces over hundreds of years of history. The landscape surrounding the fort will take better advantage of its bluff-top vista and be easy and pleasant to navigate. Diverse communities will gather to commemorate the fort's mosaic of stories. Historic buildings will be adaptively restored so that visitors of all ages and backgrounds can come together to explore history and the shared experiences that bind us together as a community.



## Expanded programming and broader historical interpretation

Our vision for the fort broadens and expands its interpretive focus to explore larger historic themes of our national narrative still relevant today: conflict and the struggle for power, human rights, and the yearning for freedom.

Historic Fort Snelling means many things to many people. To the Dakota people, the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers, above which the fort sits, is homeland. Many Dakota believe it to be the sacred place of origin of their people. The fort also represents U.S. expansion into Dakota and Ojibwe homelands, eventually becoming a place of imprisonment and removal of Dakota people after the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862.

Among the enslaved people who lived at Fort Snelling, Dred and Harriet Scott used their residence there to champion freedom, playing a pivotal role in the national struggle over slavery. As a transportation crossroads, the area was a portal through which generations of immigrants passed on their way to making Minnesota their home. Here soldiers mustered to engage in national and global conflicts of the 19th and 20th centuries.

To expand the audience and voices at the fort, we will work with many communities. The new fort provides an opportunity for a comprehensive telling of the experiences of Minnesota's First Peoples.

Historic Fort Snelling's rich stories will be shared through a dynamic, inclusive visitor experience featuring new exhibits with leading-edge multimedia technology. Programming will range from special events and living history to films, temporary exhibits, and guided and self-guided experiences that allow visitors to examine differing perspectives and many aspects of the site's stories.

## New vision to build upon historic structures, create meaningful experiences

Historic Fort Snelling, Minnesota's first National Historic Landmark, is a critical link among nearby destinations of Minnehaha Falls, Coldwater Spring, and Fort Snelling State Park. The Minnesota Historical Society, as steward of the historic fort, seeks to tell many stories while ensuring the highest level of visitor experience. The vision informing the master planning process now under way:

- Knits together site elements to create connections and re-enliven spaces.
- Creates a park-like experience and better sense of arrival at the fort by taking advantage of the bluff-top location.
- Establishes a new visitor center with improved amenities by adaptively reusing historic cavalry barracks that we are charged to preserve.
- Creates places for private reflection and public commemoration.
- Improves wayfinding and clarifies pedestrian and vehicle circulation at the fort site and throughout the district.

### It has been nearly 40 years since the last major improvement to visitor facilities at the fort.

Investment in Historic Fort Snelling for its bicentennial will capitalize on improvements being made by our partners in other parts of the greater Fort Snelling area, including veterans housing at the Upper Post, the Boy Scouts' Base Camp facility, and trail connections from the light rail station. Ensuring a strong Historic Fort Snelling will provide momentum for continued redevelopment of this important area.

*Now is the time to preserve and share Historic Fort Snelling in a manner befitting its importance and potential. A rejuvenated fort will become a major destination for national and international visitors to learn about Minnesota's American Indians and the site's important role in American history and the development of the West.*



## PROJECT SCHEDULE

Based on studies and planning, we have determined what can be achieved in time to capitalize on Historic Fort Snelling's 2020 bicentennial. This first step will lay the groundwork for the long-term plan.

### PRE-DESIGN AND DESIGN

2015 request: \$4.4 million

### PHASE I—BY 2020

- Renovation of historic cavalry barracks (Building 18) to create new visitor center and home for archaeology collections
- Demolition of the current visitor center and landscaping the vacated space
- Enhanced wayfinding
- Creation of memorial plaza
- Exhibits, furniture, fixtures, and equipment

2016 State Capital Budget request: \$30 million

### PRIVATE FUNDING

As Historic Fort Snelling is so well-known and valued by Minnesotans, we believe that in tandem with an investment by the State of Minnesota, a number of private citizens will be willing to invest their funds toward improving this nationally significant landmark. Together, private and public investments will allow us to seize the moment to position Historic Fort Snelling for its third century.

\$12 million for Phase I

### PHASE II—AFTER 2020

- Adaptive reuse of cavalry barracks (Building 17) to present comprehensive story of the First Peoples of Minnesota
- Build upon Phase I's wayfinding improvements and landscaping to create enhanced paths and river views

