

The Mystery of State Historic Preservation Office and the nonprofit (aka MN History Society)
Understanding the Senate's Article 2 Sections 68, 69, and others

May 6, 2021

Hello Senator Kiffmeyer, Representative Nelson and 2021 Conference Committee on State Government HF1952 Conferees,

My name is Stephanie Chappell and my testimony will explain how changes proposed in the Senate version of the Omnibus to State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS) roles will continue to serve Minnesota and create transparency of records for state-owned historic sites. The changes have created a lot of alarm from the state office and nonprofit. Simply, the Senate proposal fixes a problem created in 1993 when Chapter 138, Minnesota History, underwent a gigantic reorganization. Much attention is placed on the differentiation of ownership of historic sites within the historic network. Ownership was identified in 1992 Statutes in a streamlined entry format for every site.

In 2016, MNHS Director and CEO Stephen Elliot reminded legislators historic sites are the state's responsibility. MNHS is a nonprofit and protected by nonprofit statutes.

There are other complications that may have been forgotten when considering MNHS's relationship to the state and the public. Chapter 138 set out guidelines for MNHS as a quasi or semi state agency in its duties to the state. Chapter 138 changes dependent on the needs of the state and nonprofit. This year's proposed changes reflect needs to unify the roles of each and ensure state-owned historic site protection and preservation.

There is quite a bit of history and points to highlight to understand how the changes are logical, natural, and part of a continuing process to improve the state's duty to Minnesota residents and visitors. Please glance through the following pages to learn more about how times have changed and require refinement in Chapter 138. 2021 Omnibus **sections are highlighted** when mentioned to guide your search and I'm available to consult for more information, too.

Chapter 138 underwent several changes in 1993. The creation of the State Historic Site Network reclassified the historic sites. The only historic sites involved in the proposed change are the 32 listed in 138.662 (the State Capitol is not included in the changes). Each site's ownership was listed in 1992 statutes but was not included in the new language. Please see the table at the end for more detail on the ownership.

The way we were.

[Historic sites were listed by ownership in 1992's statute section](#) title; where needed each subdivision further clarified the site's ownership. 138.53 was titled State Historic Sites, Registry and its subdivision 1 clarified the ownership of the successive properties as "a registry of state historic sites situated on property owned by the state, its governmental subdivisions, the Minnesota historical society, the board of regents of the University of Minnesota, and county historical societies" The successive subsections of the section include the location within the section heading:

138.55 state owned lands administered by the department of natural resources
 138.56 lands owned by the cities and counties of Minnesota
 138.57 federally owned lands
 138.58 privately owned lands
 138.581 lands owned by governmental units outside the state

Like 1992's 138.53, [sections 138.55, and 56](#) further clarify ownership within each subdivision.
 138.53 example:

Subd. 18. Minnehaha Depot, owned by the Minnesota historical society, is in Hennepin...
 Subd. 20. Jeffers Petroglyphs, owned by the Minnesota historical society, is in Cottonwood...
 Subd. 21. Lower Sioux Agency, owned by the Minnesota historical society and the state, is in...
 Subd. 22. Mayowood, owned by the Olmsted county historical society, is in Olmsted county...
 The same structure follows in .55 and .56:
 Subd. 3. Blue Mound, owned by the state, is in Rock county and is located within the...
 Subd. 8. Ramsey Mill, owned by the city of Hastings, is in Dakota...
 Subd. 15. Kensington Runestone Discovery, owned by Douglas county, consisting...
 Subd. 17. Old Crossing Treaty Site, owned by Red Lake county, located in Section 33...

2021's Omnibus State Government Senate version [sections 68 and 69](#), listed on [page R37-A2 of the Side By Side](#), restores the locations that were already in statute language. Unfortunately, ownership was not included in the 1993 revision of the chapter.

New language doesn't mean MNHS loses all rights to state-owned sites. Currently, MNHS has free reign under the state's current agreement to manage all state-owned sites. MNHS is not a state agency. Instead it is a nonprofit created before Minnesota statehood. The state designates (and pays) MNHS to manage the sites. In turn, MNHS earns revenue in a few ways:

1. The State pays the nonprofit to manage the sites.
2. The nonprofit gets to keep the admission fees (per statute).
3. The nonprofit gets to use the sites for its own research and benefit (promotion of the nonprofit's other activities like books and programming) in addition to maintaining places for the public as part of heritage tourism and outdoor recreation.

The biggest consideration that is often lost in translation is the state has no control over a nonprofit. Putting SHPO in charge of Minnesota's state-owned historic sites in the network (138.662) gives the nonprofit, in this case Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS), a state department/office to turn to for guidance and consultation when state-owned properties are involved. In return, Minnesota retains records, accountancy, and access to documentation related to the sites. Currently, nonprofit statutes apply to all information held by MNHS. The Department of Administration has a duty and responsibility to taxpayers and a shift from MNHS to SHPO will open that avenue to public review of the financial management of the sites and other related information.

State-owned historic sites should not be used as a platform for any nonprofit. However, MNHS has incorporated other nonprofits in the development, promotion, and message of some state-owned sites. MNHS has used Historic Fort Snelling to advance nonprofit interests since 2011.

[The website for Historic Fort Snelling](#) is developed, managed, and maintained by MNHS. MNHS, a nonprofit, has attached the reputation of Historic Fort Snelling to another nonprofit – [International Coalition of Sites of Conscience](#).

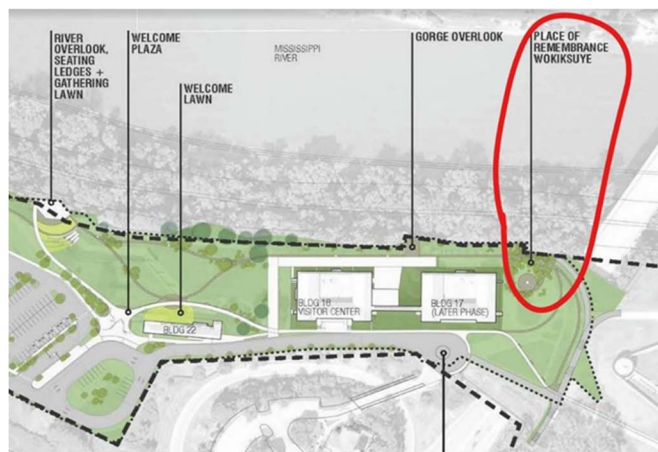


It is unknown what revenue or contractual agreements MNHS has generated for itself by promoting Historic Fort Snelling as a member of

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC). It is also unknown what state funds, budget, or Legacy, have been spent to support this partnership.

Historic Fort Snelling’s appearance as a member of ICSC may have influenced the Legacy funds MNHS has used in developing programs and maintaining the site. Millions have been given to MNHS to use for the benefit of Minnesota history. Since the Fort’s membership in ICSC, the Fort has been [used for a demonstration to honor two Dakota men convicted of murder](#) of unarmed citizens. MNHS selected and hosted 100 Dakota stakeholders at Historic Fort Snelling after visitor hours. The site has continued to be used by Dakota tribes for “Truth Telling” in the first days of May, led by Kate Beane, the nonprofit’s Director of Native American Initiatives, also outside of regular public visitor hours. MNHS has not offered input on the political effects placed on the Fort due to its membership with ICSC. The 106 Group, often a partner in MNHS’s interpretive reports notes, “Sites of conscience are easily politicized.” [October 2013](#)

Legacy funds beyond the demonstration hosted by MNHS may have been utilized in the design and construction of the only memorial to be erected at the site in the \$30+ million dollar renovation. The site duplicates a memorial installed in 1987 as part of the Year of Reconciliation as proclaimed by the governor.



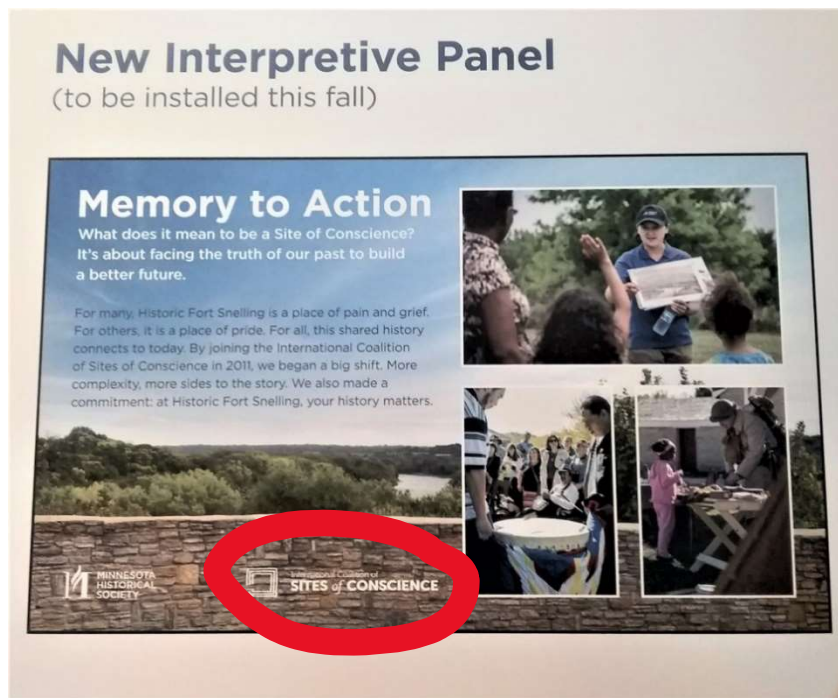
The memorial to be installed at Historic Fort Snelling uses the same Dakota words and is dedicated to two Dakota men, Shakopee and Medicine Bottle, infamous for their participation in the U.S. – Dakota War of 1862 when they killed at least a dozen unarmed citizens. While MNHS testified to the Senate Capital Investment Committee in April 2018 that there would be no memorial, designs have continued to include the memorial in the same area atop an 1853 stable that has not been explored. Damage

to the unearthed stable is likely due to the weight and growth of trees planted inside the

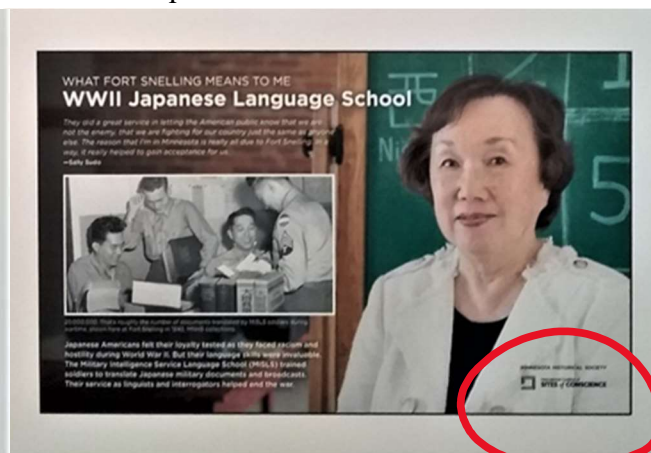
archaeological structure. The memorial also replaces handicapped parking. The connection of this memorial may be an element of the Fort’s membership in ICSC.

The placement of Minnesota’s state-owned historic site as a member of another nonprofit known to infuse political opinions is disturbing. One wonders what negative effects will shadow Minnesota’s first national historic landmark and flagship of historic sites.

The tag on Historic Fort Snelling’s website isn’t the first appearance of ICSC on the part of MNHS. The nonprofit’s logo was introduced on new signage scheduled for installation as part of MNHS’s revitalization of Fort Snelling. These signs are part of the \$15 million taxpayers will finance and, in so doing, promote ICSC with its logo displayed as shown at a public comment session in October 2019.



In 2018, MNHS was granted \$15 million as part of that year’s bonding bill with the requirement of \$12 million matched. Yet, requests for MNHS to produce the financial information have not been answered. It is possible that MNHS has used its designation as a nonprofit to deny Minnesota taxpayers the right to follow the funding. Previous requests under Minnesota Data



Practices Act related to public fund expenditures and historic site data were

denied by numerous staff citing the organization’s nonprofit status when I have asked over the past few years.

Minnesota needs an office that will keep track of public funds and be able to share them with the general public. With SHPO at the helm, MNHS need not be bothered with inquiries from the public asking about state funding or Legacy funds.

SHPO's role as the supervisory state office will undoubtedly improve the fiscal report availability to all interested parties. There will be an added level of division to allow MNHS to maintain separation between its nonprofit checkbook and what it receives and uses for state purposes. This may be uncomfortable but change can be...at first. The role MNHS plays in state government has become entangled with MNHS's role as a nonprofit.

Another example of the entanglement can be seen in the MNHS's development of the Dakota Community Council (DCC) in 2017. MNHS's [media release 9690](#) documents the DCC's official partnership with MNHS and includes the task of "land accessibility" to be part of the ethnic group's tasks. This partnership evolved from the Legacy funded demonstration held to honor Shakopee and Medicine Bottle at Fort Snelling. The DCC was given privilege to design the renovation of Historic Fort Snelling. In its own [media release 7958](#), MNHS claimed veterans' organizations, Ojibwe people, and other ethnic group partnerships were to be formed and included in the Fort Snelling Revitalization design, construction and interpretation, MNHS never created any. This is likely why there is a visible absence of military history, Ojibwe and Ioway Native American history, and authentic American history in the revitalization.

New construction walkways are difficult for sensory and mobility impaired walkers because they are loose gravel/rock and not paved at the DCC's demand: "Collaboration between project designers and members of the Dakota Community Council (DCC) has identified key values to protect...trails and outdoor spaces for contemplation and connection to the landscape, and usage of Dakota language...DCC stressed minimization of pavement in the landscape." Bjornberg, Marais (MNHS) and Quinn Evans. *Ninety Percent Design Description and Preliminary Assessment of Effects for the Proposed Revitalization Project for the Lower Post of Fort Snelling at Bdote*. March 2020. Page 1.16.

All Minnesota residents, including the disabled, should have been represented in site design. Unfortunately, there was little consideration for sensory and mobility impaired people. This, too, is an example of why SHPO, as a supervisor of MNHS, needs to be involved. MNHS does not have the connections with state departments. Further, SHPO will allow a reevaluation of the state funded Fort Snelling project to ensure that state-owned property includes all visitors and promotes Minnesota's values in addition to the values and partnerships MNHS identified for its nonprofit goals.

A discussion is also missing from the current \$30+ million revitalization project. An update provided by MNHS since August 2020, has revealed the nonprofit's decision to name a state-owned structure. There has been no public comment period involved in renaming a state historic structure at Minnesota's first national historic landmark.

The only historic building (titled as Building 18 since 1904) renovated in current plans has been renamed Plank Museum and Visitor Center by the nonprofit MNHS. Renaming historic



MNHS dedicated Plank Hall in the History Center, in honor of Raymond Plank's contributions to library, archives, and collections.

[the Historic Fort Snelling website](#). The current designation MNHS holds as the manager of state-owned historic sites permits MNHS to control any and all groups reserving and using the state-owned site. At this time, not SHPO nor the state, has any say or control over who rents this state-owned property. Comparatively, DNR controls camp site rentals of state-owned state parks. Changing management of state-owned historic sites to SHPO will align state-owned historic sites with state departments rather than nonprofits. If this does not happen, MNHS could unintentionally rent the site to an organization with ties to anti-military, land reclamation, vigilante, or anti-Asian roots and see the site's destruction.

2021 has already experienced attempted destruction of historic sites. SHPO, and the state, needs to be involved in state-owned historic site reservations. Historic Fort Snelling continues to be a target of activists.

Take down the fort movements exist in MNHS collections. The nonprofit's collection includes a [bumper sticker](#) from 2006, "Take down the fort an icon of American imperialism" and [t shirts](#) with a picture of Fort Snelling (now rising in popularity since introduction at a May, 2010 rally that resulted in several arrests and required State police protection of the Fort). Youtube shows the 2010 arrests and hostilities of protesters. The movement continues to be encouraged by former MNHS employee and current MNHS employee family member, [Bruce M. White](#) through repeated discussion and citation in academia. June Kuoch's 2020 dissertation demands Asian Americans in the Fort Snelling Take Down the Fort Campaign, "Asian Americans must initiate their decolonial methodologies from a contextual anti-imperial lens." ([page 118](#))

Federally recognized tribes continue to show contempt for the site and have [been investigated by the FBI for verbal threats](#) made at a Winona State University speaking engagement. Upper Sioux Indian Community tribal government passed a resolution, [027-FY2006](#), (Waziyatawin, Ph.D. *What Does Justice Look Like?*. 2008) demanding return of Historic Fort Snelling historic site.

structures removes their historic character, integrity, and significance. The Plank name has ties to MNHS and the nonprofit's exhibits and interpretations including MNHS's action to designate Plank Hall at the state-owned Minnesota History Center in [FY17](#). In the same document, Raymond Plank, a figure of the [Twin Cities Chapter of the national Japanese American Citizens League](#), is listed as a \$1 million+ donor for "special projects." It is unknown what, if any, financial agreements MNHS has made with stakeholders involved in the Fort Snelling Revitalization project, but anything that the nonprofit has done is not representative of the state. Minnesota's first national historic landmark's visitor center was named the Visitor Center.

MNHS has already advertised the [Plank Museum and Visitor Center as a rental venue on](#)

These threats have not dissipated under MNHS's management of state-owned historic sites. Due to the increasingly negative climate, including a Facebook group entitled [Takedownthefort](#), SHPO needs to resume a role in the Fort's future for protection and preservation of Minnesota's historic site and to represent the general public in decisions affecting the site that could be misconstrued by some or used in a legal action against the state.

Another thought comes to mind. Currently, under statute MNHS keeps the revenues generated by reservations. Should a nonprofit reap the benefit of a new venue overlooking the Mississippi River that was paid for by state taxpayers? Many groups are already salivating for the chance to hold their event at Historic Fort Snelling and that includes weddings. The nearby DNR managed chapel offers a complete package. Taxpayers should have the opportunity to recoup its investment before a nonprofit.

Any rental will be disappointing to groups geared toward older members. The width of walkways and narrow stone cut seating area is no longer inviting. The contract MNHS created between itself and the DCC ended in 2020 when construction began with the demolition of the visitor center at Historic Fort Snelling. Sadly, none of the \$15 million taxpayers fronted will be used on any part of the Fort. Construction, the loss of handicapped accessible parking, and the pandemic have kept the design flaws out of public view.

Site closures make this is an excellent time to implement this second phase of improvement for Minnesota history. MNHS has already made the decision to keep several historic sites closed. Generally, historic sites are busiest between Memorial Day and Labor Day. [April 9th, MNHS announced historic site opening plans for sites](#) listed in 138.662; others will remain closed.

MNHS has the option to continue operations under the Senate's proposals. There is nothing in the new language that says MNHS cannot operate the state-owned sites. Rather, MNHS needs to cooperate with SHPO as the office in charge of Minnesota's historic sites. It is up to MNHS to present a package that maintains the integrity and historic quality that traverses Minnesota's state-owned historic sites.

There is reason for MNHS to not be in favor of the change. Money. The state pays MNHS for site management and operations; it's part of the base budget MNHS receives each biennium. Should MNHS decide not to involve itself with state-owned historic sites, it would lose any funds the state budgets for that. Again, it has to do with the checkbook and instead of a blank check, MNHS may need to submit requests or receipts rather than have access to a bank of public funds. This step is necessary to continue to implement the move of SHPO from the nonprofit to a state office.

1993 was the last time there were major changes to the responsibility expected of MNHS concerning Minnesota's historic resources. That's a lot of time between audits and evaluations. 2018 saw the move of SHPO and 2021 is the next phase. There will be need for more as the roles and duties evolve.

For example, SHPO focuses on maintaining accurate and up to date records of the state historic register and the national register. In order to complete that work, SHPO relies on historic surveys. Presently, the budget for those statewide historic surveys remains with MNHS. SHPO's work ceases until those reports are completed. SHPO has more knowledge of what

priorities the survey budget needs to be used for. There are other areas that are part of the fine tuning and growing process.

Site closures offer time for budget reviews, individual site revenues and expenses to be evaluated by SHPO. It is an opportunity to audit what has been spent, take stock, and move forward.

The altered historic site season will give SHPO and MNHS a chance to update one another on the big ticket items. There is the recent transaction made by MNHS to convey state purchased land to an Indian Tribe and design changes at Fort Snelling that MNHS has mentioned but not revealed. Communication needs to be often and in the same language. Last summer, I visited the Fort Snelling construction site to get photos of an unanticipated archaeological discovery next to Plank Museum and Visitor Center, formerly Building 18. While there I realized other historic structures had been unearthed and removed without any notification to stakeholders, SHPO included.

Discussions regarding the centuries old porch footings made clear there was a lack of communication. My photographs were the only proof SHPO had. However, photos were taken too late. The structures had already been removed and MNHS determined they were not important to site history. The porch footings were the basis of the grand white porch for



buildings along Taylor Avenue the parade route and main road to the Historic Fort. The whereabouts of the handmade structures are unknown.

In other events of the renovation, a change in design needed to be made to avoid disruption of more archaeological structures related to the fort's civil war days. I asked MnDOT be consulted due to the close right of way and the upcoming Riverview Corridor Transit station being designed by Ramsey County and Met Council. It was not done. SHPO may be able to provide more structured and complete

dialogues with other state departments that have projects that may be impacted by MNHS's intentions for state-owned property.

The advent of light rail has been discussed before as neighbor to the Fort. However, there were misinterpretations of boundaries that were caught in time by a private citizen and saved the site. Now more than ever, SHPO and other state departments need to be involved in transportation design in the Fort Snelling Historic District.

Federally, \$3 million has already been assigned to Met Council and Ramsey County for them to conduct environmental studies of the area. All state departments need to be aware of the significant and delicate situation Fort Snelling and its adjacent archaeological areas offer to Minnesota history. It is not a situation the state would want to put a nonprofit in as a director. The project requires numerous specialties and attention that MNHS may not be able to afford or not want to be held accountable for in place of state departments or administration.



While it seems this is unrelated to the changes in the Senate version of 2021's Omnibus State Government affecting MNHS and SHPO, it isn't. The future was somewhat unknown in 2018 yet it was the best time for SHPO to move to state administration.

MNHS does not interpret every state-owned historic site. Instead, MNHS contracts with other groups. Last summer (FY20), under a contract created by the nonprofit, MNHS paid the Lower Sioux Indian Community \$42,000 ([page 76 of the pdf](#)) to operate the Lower Sioux Agency historic site, included in 138.662. MNHS was a sort of middleman since it receives designated funds for operating all of the sites and MNHS turned around and subcontracted the responsibilities to another entity. However, MNHS publicly claims it interprets all historic sites.

This contract is another reason SHPO needs to be involved in the overall management of historic sites. The contract MNHS entered into with the Lower Sioux Indian Community (LSIC) states it is permitted under 138.669. MNHS has misinterpreted the statute. 138.669 permits the nonprofit to contract for historic site management with [“a county, municipality, or a county or local historical society.”](#) LSIC is none of those; it is an Indian tribe. The technicalities may appear insignificant however it is the statute and statutes are written for a reason. A state office needs to review contracts that affect state-owned historic sites for the benefit of the general public and Minnesota taxpayers. The contract may be connected to other state funds or actions associated with MNHS's recent participation in conveyance of state-owned land to the LSIC.

Initially, there will be more work. That will settle. As it does, pathways will appear where budget allowances need to be moved from MNHS to SHPO or possibly to the State Archaeologist. This state office needs to be the decision maker when it comes to licenses for historic sites. Yes, Minnesota has no control over archaeological licensing. Licensing is addressed in [138.36](#) and begins as a combined effort between MNHS and the State Archaeologist to “formulate and issue such provisions for licenses...” But the remainder of the section only refers to the “director of the historical society” meaning the director, currently Kent Whitworth,

holds the key to any professional archaeologist's future in Minnesota. The director, under the statute, is empowered to issue and renew licenses. So, there are more areas to address.

I noticed an item on the Side By Side where the state is left out of any input regarding federal funds. I refer to page [R35-A2 House sec 38 and Senate sec 63](#). The two differ regarding Department of Administration and Minnesota Historical Society. The House wants to change the administration of federal control from the state to MNHS. That presents some trouble for the state and adds additional burdens to MNHS. If MNHS takes over the federal funds, the state has no control. A step further – MNHS need not share any of the information because it is a nonprofit and not accountable to Data Practices requests. Also, MNHS would need to provide security to the state so the state wouldn't be held accountable for an ESP (Error Some Place). It would present extra duties that the state is assuming a nonprofit can handle. It looks better to leave the financial control of federal administration in the hands of the state. That way, Minnesota and its citizens are protected and can rest assured the state will use its resources to audit federal provisions.

Continuing with the Side By Side – Senate lines 62.1 through 62.11 add SHPO to the parties for reports from the State Archaeologist. This ties into SHPO's need for records so it can maintain the state's register of historic sites and the state's places on the National Register. It's one of those updates due to the movement of SHPO to the state. Since SHPO isn't part of MNHS any longer, SHPO needs its own copy of reports.

Next on the Side By Side is [sections 68 and 69](#). There are 32 properties involved. [Sec. 68](#) replaces language that was in statute prior to the 1993 overhaul of chapter 138. It puts the ownership of the properties back into statute. The DNR language was already there and carried over from previous sessions when the state transferred control of some historic sites to MNHS. An example is moving Fort Ridgely from DNR to MNHS even though the historic site is in the middle of Fort Ridgely State Park.

[Section 69](#) does the same thing as far as the other sites are concerned and puts ownership back into the statutes like it was prior to 1993. It doesn't mean MNHS no longer can interpret the site. At the same time, it doesn't mean SHPO has to take control of each site and the maintenance and operation. All [section 69](#) does is bring the site's ownership back into statute, the way it was.

[Section 70](#) seems similar. The Senate adds words to clarify conveyance of state-owned lands is a qualifying act. There has been confusion over MNHS's conveyance of property purchased with federal funds that were secured by the state in the mid-1960s. I have asked MNHS for clarification and received no answer. In trying to figure out the situation, I've discovered maps that do not match the legal land description stated by MNHS and statute [86A.055](#) that prohibits the sale of sites. Anyway, that could be why the Senate language is added. It makes it clear that an event like conveyance of a historic site meets the guidelines for mediation in chapter 138.

The other part the Senate alters is deleting the words "who is not an employee of MNHS" and that really does open the door for more objective mediation at the table. Someone not tied to a paycheck from MNHS is more inclined to offer honest and unreserved options.

The Senate adds a flag requirement in **section 73**. That makes sense and is needed. Minnesota is proud of its history and a flag represents the pride and privilege historic sites provide Minnesota and its visitors.

The Senate makes a change in **section 74**. I mentioned a contract item earlier. This change from MNHS to SHPO protects MNHS and the state from legal issues that could develop with an oversight on a contract, right down to missed dates in contracts from one year to the next.

Change always brings excitement. That's why changes happen in phases. This is another phase intended to preserve and protect Minnesota's historic sites for the future. It updates statutes with ownership data that was lost in amendments made in 1993. The language reflects changes needed as part of the state's role in records maintenance of sites and finances. Also, the changes allow MNHS to continue to focus on its nonprofit endeavors in a separate manner, giving SHPO the responsibility of accounting for state funds.

To compare, I wouldn't want the Red Cross to be the only issuer of medical licenses, nor would I want the Red Cross to regulate how the state pays hospitals. It's the same with historic sites.

Since SHPO's move to the state, there's a realization that the state needs to be more responsible

in its historic sites and history. This is a step in the right direction – and it's all on paper. MNHS CEO and Director, Stephen Elliot, pointed this out in 2016.

Finally, the following table was created from a comparison between a MNHS staff member's Facebook entry and 1992 statutes. Five sites were identified differently by the two sources; those appear in red in the table. Several sites have changed names but have not been updated in statute. It was a bit hairy to find the correct site and some required research beyond the statute. It would make the search for a site much easier if statute [138.667](#) (name changes) were followed by everyone involved with historic sites.

Thank you for your time and dedication. Please put Minnesota's voice back in the conversation that determines, defines, preserves, and protects Minnesota history. I am open to your questions and more conversation,

The Fort Snelling historic site is a **state responsibility** as a place listed in the Historic Sites Network, as defined in statute. It is also worth re-emphasizing that this project has not only statewide, but **national significance**:

- The site contains the **oldest structure in the state** - the Round Tower; and Minnesota's **oldest residence**, the Commandant's House;
- What happened at this site formed the basis of what has happened in our state for decades and centuries, as this area evolved from Dakota homeland to part of a Territory and then a State;
- Fort Snelling was **Minnesota's first National Historic Landmark**, the highest designation conferred by the US Department of the Interior;
- And, most recently, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, a national non-profit group, designated the Fort Snelling area as a "**National Treasure.**"

Remarks of MNHS Director and CEO Stephen Elliot to the Minnesota House and Capital Investment Conference Committee June 14, 2016

Sincerely,

Steph Chappell, District 18;18B

State Owned 19	MNHS Owned 11	Jointly Owned 2	Statute Year Ownership Listed	MNHS Staff Claims	Notes
	Alexander Ramsey House		1992	MNHS	
Birch Coulee Battlefield			1992	State	
Charles A. Lindbergh House			1992	State	
Camp Coldwater			1992	Not addressed	
Fort Renville			1992	Not addressed	
Fort Ridgely			1992	State	
Folsom House			1992	State	
Forest History Center			1992	MNHS	Conflicted Statute says State, Staff claims MNHS
Grand Mound			1992	MNHS	MNHS acted on behalf of the State to acquire and State put the funds used to acquire back into MNHS for the site. Ch 138.025 Sub. 6 "Moneys heretofore..." Conflicted Statute says State, Staff claims MNHS
	Harkin Store		1992	MNHS	
Historic Forestville			1992	State	
Historic Fort Snelling			1992	State	
Itasca Headwaters			1992	Not addressed	
	James J. Hill House		1992 "Privately Owned"	MNHS	138.58 subd. 22 pdf page 24
	Jeffers Petroglyphs		1992	MNHS	
Lac Qui Parle Mission			1992	State	
		Lower Sioux Agency	1992	Joint	Staff states, "visitor center and trails are MNHS"
	Mille Lacs Indian Museum			MNHS	1992 listed with no ownership details
	Marine Mill		1992, Privately Owned	MNHS	Conflicted, 1992 138.58 subd. 26 "Site of First Commercial Sawmill"
	Minnehaha Depot		1992	State	Conflicted, Statutes read MNHS, Staff says State. (Subd. 18)
Morrison Mounds			1992	State	
		North West Company Fur Post	1992	Joint	MNHS calls this Snake River Fur Post
	Oliver H. Kelley Farm		1992	MNHS	
Stumne Mounds			1992	State	
Split Rock Lighthouse			1992	State	
	Solomon G. Comstock House		1992	MNHS	
Sibley Historic Site				State	Sibley was given to the State in 1997 by DAR
Traverse des Sioux			1992	State	
Upper Sioux Agency			1992	State	
Trail Along Railroad Right-Of-Way			1992	Not addressed	This is part of Fort Snelling Historic District, a railroad corridor below the Fort.
	William W. Mayo House		1992	MNHS	
	Washburn Crosby Complex (Mill City Museum)			MNHS	Conflicted. National Register cites owner is "Riverside Industries"