



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Mississippi National River and Recreation Area
111 E. Kellogg Blvd., Ste 105
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1256

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Fort Snelling (Upper Post) 8A4

March 7th, 2013

Dear Interested Party:

On September 13, 2012, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requested the National Park Service (NPS) re-deed a 141 acre parcel of Fort Snelling's Upper Post from the Federal Lands to Parks program to the Historic Surplus Property program. The reason for this request is to allow for a greater range of possible uses. The terms of the Federal Lands to Parks (FLP) program require that properties be used only for public park and recreational use. This has restricted interest in the buildings and has contributed to their deterioration. The Historic Surplus Property (HSP) program allows for more uses and for revenue-generating activities. The NPS agrees that the program change is needed and is seeking input on this undertaking per Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

Both Federal programs are administered by the NPS and are designed to provide for the long-term use and preservation of properties listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Fort Snelling has long been identified as an important cultural resource to the state and nation. It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1960 and automatically listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1966. The Fort Snelling Upper Post parcel was transferred out of Federal ownership to the State of Minnesota in 1971.

As part of re-deeding request, the DNR and NPS have prepared a Draft Program of Preservation and Utilization (PPU). The PPU accompanies the deed and is a binding element of the deed that must be approved by the NPS. The Draft PPU addresses the treatment and possible uses for the historic property. A copy of the Draft PPU is provided on our website at www.nps.gov/miss/parkmgmt/.

The terms and conditions of Federal property disposal require that the Secretary of the Interior, through the NPS, enforce compliance with the terms of the Final PPU in perpetuity. Any potential lease agreements involving use, occupation and treatment of the historic resources must be first reviewed and approved by the NPS. The NPS must review and approve any corrections

or amendments to the disposal instrument. Failure to comply with the Final PPU could result in reversion of the property to the federal government.

Pursuant to Section 106 at Section 800.4, the NPS has determined that the area of potential effect includes the current boundary of Fort Snelling's Upper Post, the Lower Post (managed by the Minnesota Historical Society) and the West District historic properties located west of Bloomington Avenue and east of the light rail line. (See the attached map.)

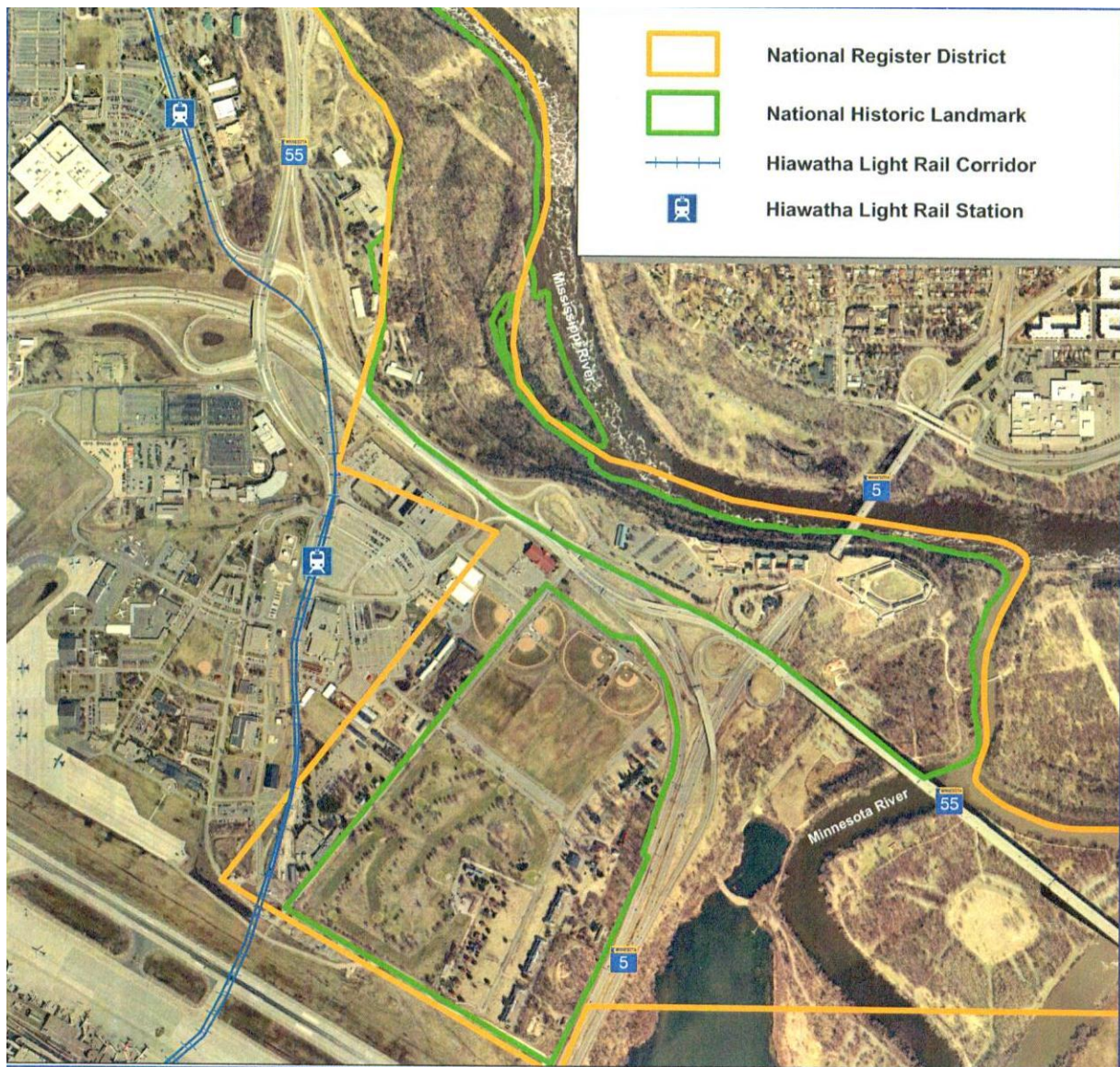
The Final PPU will require that all actions on the property meet the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring and Reconstructing Historic Buildings* (Secretary's Standards). Still, the potential for actions that would diminish the property's historic character exists, and we will have to deal with individual proposals for adaptive reuse and new construction in the near future. Therefore, the NPS plans to complete a Programmatic Agreement (PA). The PA will address the program change and establish a programmatic review process for future developments that occur on the Upper Post under the PPU. The PA will also allow for expedited reviews and actions where there is no potential for adverse effects or no adverse effects. A Draft PA for your review and comments is posted on our website at www.nps.gov/miss/parkmgmt/.

We ask that you review the accompanying documents and provide us with your comments within 30 days. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact John O. Anfinson of my staff at john_anfinson@nps.gov or call him at 651-293-8432.

If you wish to be removed from our mailing list for Fort Snelling Upper Post please contact our office at 651-290-4160 or at miss_info@nps.gov. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Paul Labovitz, Superintendent



Fort Snelling Upper Post and Surrounding Area Historic Districts (prepared by Hennepin County Department of Housing, Community Works & Transit)