



Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission

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Members of the House: Anne Claflin (DFL – 54A); Tony Jurgens (R – 54B) **Members of the Senate:** David Senjem (R – 25); Patricia Torres Ray (DFL – 63) **State Agency Appointees:** Paul Hugunin – Agriculture, Open – Transportation, Lisa Havelka – Explore Minnesota Tourism, Grant Wilson – Natural Resources, David Kelliher – Historical Society **Regional Appointees:** Sally Fineday – Lake Itasca to Grand Rapids, Megan Christianson – Grand Rapids to Brainerd, Karl Samp – Brainerd to Elk River, Cordelia Pierson – Elk River to Hastings, Open – Hastings to Iowa Border **Member at Large:** Anne Lewis

August 24, 2020

Mississippi River Parkway Commission
701 E Washington Avenue, #202
Madison, WI 53703

Re: Itasca County Historical Society Interpretive Center Nomination

The Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission is pleased to recommend the Itasca County Historical Society for addition to the Network of Great River Road Interpretive Centers. MN-MRPC members were involved with development and review of this nomination.

This museum is in the heart of downtown Grand Rapids, Minnesota – a Minnesota Great River Road destination area “anchor” community. Visitors learn about Itasca County's rich and vibrant past through compelling displays. The museum tells the unique stories of the Mississippi River in this Northwoods locale – including the connection of indigenous peoples to the river; development of communities in the area born from the river; steamboats; river related industry; and scenic beauty drawing visitors from far and wide.

The museum is visible from the Great River Road and a perfect jumping off location for riverfront and downtown activities in Grand Rapids. The riverfront offers walking trails, a new pedestrian/bicycle bridge, local art, and events.

The MN-MRPC looks forward to the Itasca County Historical Society's selection as a National Great River Road Interpretive Center, and to helping promote this worthy attraction to travelers from all Mississippi River states and beyond.

Sincerely,

Sen. David Senjem, Chair