



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Mississippi National River
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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 10, 2009

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Discover the history and future of Fort Snelling's once grand Upper Post

What: Open House

When: Sunday, June 14 Noon – 4pm

Where: Fort Snelling Upper Post

Get a behind the scenes look at one of the Midwest's most important historic forts. Guides from the National Park Service, Department of Natural Resources and Minnesota Historical Society will lead visitors behind the fences for a rare look into the Upper Post's backyard and illustrious history. Visitors will discover the stories of the people who worked and lived within the Upper Post while learning about the Fort's role in American conflicts from the 1880s through World War II.

From 1879 to 1946, the Army established and expanded the Fort Snelling Upper Post around and to the south of the well-known frontier fort. Today more than 30 historic buildings occupy the Upper Post. Without desperately needed preservation and reuse, many of these buildings will not last much longer. The Quartermaster's Building has already collapsed.

Free tours will be offered every half-hour between noon and 4pm with beginning from the Headquarters building located at the intersection of Taylor and Colville/Minnehaha Avenues. Visit with a Japanese-American veteran of the Military Intelligence Service Language School and the daughter of one of its graduates. Learn about the African-American buffalo soldiers who were stationed at the post 1882 and 1888 and about the many other soldiers and activities the fort once supported.

The open house will focus not only on the site's storied past but on its future as well, and will give visitors the opportunity to talk to those working to save the Upper Post. Combine your visit to the Upper Post with a visit to the frontier fort, as the Minnesota Historical Society is sponsoring a World War II Weekend at Historic Fort Snelling on June 13-14, 2009 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The open house is sponsored by the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, in partnership with Fort Snelling State Park, the Minnesota Historical Society, Hennepin County, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Mississippi River Fund.

Information at: <http://www.nps.gov/miss/parknews/upperpostopenhouse.htm>

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