

CITY OF NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA
HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION RESOLUTION HPC #2025-005

A RESOLUTION BY THE HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF
NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA, APPROVING A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS
FOR 305, 307, and 309 WATER ST

- WHEREAS, the applicant, David Hvistendahl (the “Applicant”), is seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness (“COA”) from the City of Northfield Heritage Preservation Commission (“HPC” or “Commission”) for painting a portion of the buildings as more particularly described in Exhibit A, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference (the “Work”), for certain property owned by David Hvistendahl located at 305, 307, and 309 Water St. in the City of Northfield (the “Property”); and
- WHEREAS, the Property is located within a designated historic district, the Northfield Commercial Historic District, a locally designated district and a district on the National Register of Historic Places; and
- WHEREAS, according to Northfield City Code (the “City Code”), Chapter 34, Section 8.5.8 (A), unless otherwise exempted in Section 7.8.3 or unless otherwise provided in Section 8.5.8, a COA is required for construction, exterior alteration or rehabilitation, moving or demolition of a building or structure on a city-owned or privately owned heritage preservation site; and
- WHEREAS, according to City Code, Chapter 34, Section 8.5.8 (A), unless otherwise provided in City Code, no zoning certificate or building permit shall be issued before a COA has received approval; and
- WHEREAS, according to City Code, Chapter 34, Section 8.5.8 (A)(1), the proposed Work is classified as Major Work requiring the Type 3 review procedure as established in Section 8.4.6, Type 3 Review Procedure (Heritage Preservation Commission Decision); and
- WHEREAS, according to City Code, Chapter 34, Section 8.5.8 (D), for proposed new construction, as well as alteration, remodeling, rehabilitation, relocation or addition to an existing building, structure or historic object, the HPC, based upon the above review procedure, shall consider the following in evaluating an application for a COA, and shall make written findings regarding approval or denial of the same by resolution (Criterion (a) below must be met and criteria (b) through (g) shall be considered, if applicable to an application):
- (a) For all applications, the proposed action fully complies with all applicable requirements of this LDC;
 - (b) That the proposed action is in harmony with the intent purpose of the H-O district for sites located in the H-O district;

- (c) That the proposed action would complement other structures within the H-O district for sites located in the H-O district;
- (d) That the proposed action is consistent with the Downtown Preservation Design Guidelines for sites located in the H-O district, and consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties for sites located within or outside the H-O district;
- (e) Consideration should be given to the amount and quality of original material and design remaining in the building or structure when applying criteria, guidelines and standards;
- (f) For new construction, the building or addition should be compatible with:
 - (i) scale, texture, materials, and other visual qualities of the surrounding buildings and neighborhoods;
 - (ii) the height, width, depth, massing and setback of the surrounding buildings; and
 - (iii) the amount of solid wall to window and door openings, and the replacement of window and door openings, should be proportional to that of the surrounding buildings and neighborhood; and
- (g) Consideration shall be given to clear cases of economic hardship or to deprivation of reasonable use of the owner's property.

; and

WHEREAS, according to City Code, Chapter 34, Section 8.5.8 (D), the Applicant bears the burden of proof of meeting the foregoing criteria; and

WHEREAS, according to City Code, Chapter 34, Section 8.5.8 (E), this decision of the HPC shall be final unless timely appealed to the City Council by filing a written notice of appeal with the City Clerk no later than ten (10) days after the date of the HPC's decision; and

WHEREAS, the Commission held a duly noticed public meeting on June 4, 2025, to consider testimony from the Applicant and the public regarding the COA, and has considered such testimony and reviewed the requested COA on the Property according to the above criteria.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA, that the Commission has duly considered the required criteria contained in City Code as applicable to the above-requested COA regarding the Property, and hereby adopts the findings of fact contained in the staff report regarding the same, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as Exhibit B, along with the above recitals hereto.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the requested COA is hereby approved based upon the above-referenced adopted findings.

PASSED by the Heritage Preservation Commission of the City of Northfield, this 4th day of June 2025.

Chair

Member

VOTE: ____ CLARK ____ MACHACEK SHONKA ____ JARMAN
 ____ MEEHAN ____ STANGLER ____ BEIMERS ____ STREET

EXHIBIT A

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WORK

Painting the front lower façade of 305, 307, and 309 Water St. S. to match the colors on the adjacent State Bank Building located at 311 Water St. S. Paint colors are Clark + Kensington “Shine Through” and Benjamin Moore “White Down.”

EXHIBIT B

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Northfield city ordinances outline in Chapter 34 – Land Development Code (LDC), Section 8.5.8 the Heritage Preservation Commission’s Certificate of Appropriateness process and approval criteria. The HPC shall consider the following in evaluating an application for a certificate of appropriateness for a zoning certificate and/or building permit. Criterion (A) below must be met and criteria (B) through (G) shall be considered:

Criteria A. For all applications, the proposed action fully complies with all applicable requirements of the LDC;

Findings: The proposed site improvements and building repairs comply with the LDC.

Criteria B. That the proposed action is in harmony with the purpose of the H-O district for sites located in the H-O district;

Findings: The proposed action is in harmony with the intent of the H-O district. Within the LDC Section 2.5.3, Historic Overlay District (H-O) purpose is defined “(a) Safeguard the heritage of the city by preserving sites and structures which reflect elements of the city's cultural, social, economic, political, visual or architectural history; (b) Protect and enhance the city's appeal to residents, visitors and tourists and serve as a support and stimulus to business and industry; (c) Foster civic pride in the beauty and notable accomplishments of the past; and, (d) Promote the preservation and continued use of historic sites and structures for the education and general welfare of the people of the city.”

- a) The applicant is proposing maintenance and investment to preserve the building and site.
- b) The proposed painting enhances the building’s appeal to residents and visitors.
- c) The proposed painting will not adversely impact the beauty of the building and will foster pride in the building’s history.
- d) The proposed painting promotes the continued use of the historic building.

Criteria C. That the proposed action would complement other structures within the H-O district for sites located in the H-O district;

Findings: The changes will complement other structures within the H-O district. The proposed painting is limited to neutral colors, consistent with the City’s Design Guidelines.

Criteria D. That the proposed action is consistent with the Downtown Preservation Design Guidelines for sites located in the H-O district, and consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties for sites located within or outside the H-O district;

Findings: The painting is consistent with the Downtown Preservation Design Guidelines. The guidelines state that it is appropriate, even recommended, to paint wood to protect it from the elements. Regarding colors, the guidelines state, "... there is no clear rule for paint colors in a stylistically mixed group of buildings like those in the district, other than to avoid bright or unusual colors."

Criteria E, Consideration should be given to the amount and quality of original material and design remaining in the building or structure when applying criteria, guidelines and standards;

Findings: The proposed painting does not remove, replace, or drastically alter original materials. The bulkheads and doors are not original, and no materials are proposed to be replaced as part of this project.

Criteria F, For new construction, the building or addition should be compatible with: (i) scale, texture, materials, and other visual qualities of the surrounding buildings and neighborhoods; (ii) the height, width, depth, massing and setback of the surrounding buildings; and (iii) the amount of solid wall to window and door openings, and the replacement of window and door openings, should be proportional to that of the surrounding buildings and neighborhood;

Findings: Not applicable.

Criteria G, Consideration shall be given to clear cases of economic hardship or to deprivation of reasonable use of the owner's property.

Findings: Not applicable.