



Bridge Square

Northfield Historic Preservation Commission Meeting

December 6, 2023



Archaeological Potential

- Grist Mill
 - Built in 1856
 - Included machine shop and mill office buildings
 - Along the Cannon River, overlaps Project Area
 - Demolished by 1922
- Mill Square / Bridge Square
 - Present on 1884 historic maps
 - Noted as market, watering area for horses, loading zone
 - Originally unpaved, in 1890s frequent 'paving' with stones and packed dirt began

Phase I Archaeological Survey Results



Figure 4

Next Steps

- Construction Plans/Proposed Depth
 - Proposed depth within intact portions of Mill/Bridge Square: 1.5 ft
 - Utilities may require deeper disturbance
 - Grist Mill appears previously disturbed, but intact pockets may exist
- Archaeological Construction Monitoring within:
 - Paved areas not previously tested
 - Areas of intact archaeological resources
 - Proposed depth above intact resources
 - Areas of greatest depth of proposed development
 - Proposed depth equal to or greater than resources

Architectural History Design Review

Bridge Square (RC-NFC-400)

- Contributing to the Northfield Commercial Historic District
 - Period of Significance: 1856-1966
- 2 Contributing Sites
 - Bridge Square
 - Riverside Park
- 1 Contributing Structure
 - Civil War Monument
- 1 Non-Contributing Structure
 - Sculpture

Character Defining Features of a Cultural Landscape

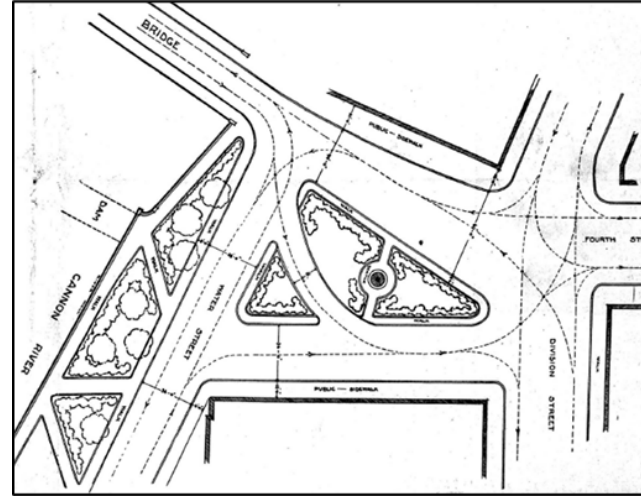
- Spatial Organization
- Topography
- Vegetation
- Circulation
- Water Features
- Structures, site furnishings, and objects

Design Evolution



Northfield Historical Society

19th C. Mill/Bridge Square



1916 Wyman Design



1938



1979



2023

60% Design Review

SHPO 30% Recommendations

- "Gentler edges and geometry...softening the amphitheater area into a gentler curvilinear shape to follow existing edges and simplifying the pergola."
- "Retain the evolved 'teardrop' shape and characteristic informal openness of Bridge Square's perimeter...avoid overly designed formal planting beds..."
- "The paving and landscaping features and materials proposed throughout the park should be kept to a minimum. Areas and paths created by paving materials...should be kept simple and minimal."

60% Design Adjustment

- Geometry of Riverside Park is softened; sweep is retained to emphasize the curve of Water Street; pergola is no longer included
- Central, paved area references 1916 teardrop design; extant of the ca.1975 extension retained as lawn, planting beds, and part of circulation system; planting beds at east end of Bridge Square are no longer included
- Removal of extant curbs to create more free-flowing circulation will be balanced by planting bed walls that protect pedestrian traffic; planting will be lawn or low massing vegetation

60% Design Review

- Spatial Organization
 - Maintains Water Street and Contributing sites; Emphasizes evolved teardrop design; Echoes current geometry
- Topography
 - Maintains slope to the river; minimal grading
- Vegetation
 - Retains extant trees; Removes some planter beds for lawn; beds have low-massing plants
- Circulation
 - Proposes similar circulation patterns; free-flowing access at east end
- Water Features
 - Maintains relationship with Cannon River
- Structures, site furnishings, and objects
 - Retains Contributing structure; new structures will be complimentary in material and color, minimal, distinguished from old, and removable