

**MINNESOTA HISTORY / ARCHITECTURE INVENTORY FORM**  
**NORTHFIELD COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT**  
Rice County, Minnesota

PROPERTY LOCATION	
<b>Property Name:</b> Archer House <b>Historic/Others:</b> Manawa, Hotel Ball, Stuart Hotel	<b>Inventory No.:</b> RC-NFC-264
<b>Address:</b> 210-14 Division Street	<b>PIN:</b> 2231350025
<b>QTR/QTR/T/R/S:</b> 15 SW SW Section 31 T112N R19W	
<b>USGS Quad:</b> Northfield, Minnesota	<b>Plat Name</b> Original Town <b>Block</b> River Lots <b>Lot</b> 10
<b>UTM Z NAD</b> 83 487292E, 4922743N	

PROPERTY INFORMATION	
<b>Construction Date:</b> 1877, 1895, 1986	<b>Style:</b> Second Empire
<b>Historic Use:</b> Hotel, stores	<b>Current Use:</b> commercial
<b>Property Type:</b> commercial	<b>Historic Context:</b> "Commerce, 1856-1945"
<b>Architect/Builder</b>	<b>Survey Name:</b> Northfield Historic District Survey Revision Project, 2016
<b>Previous NRHP Status:</b> Contributing to Northfield Commercial Historic District	<b>NRHP Recommendation:</b> Contributing to Northfield Commercial Historic District
<b>Form Prepared by:</b> C. Zellie Landscape Research LLC	<b>Survey Date:</b> 3/2016



2016, looking northwest



1900

### Description

The Archer House is comprised of an original two-part, mansard-roofed building dating from 1877, a flat-roofed north addition dating from 1895, and a 1986 neo-mansard-roofed addition at the north. It also has a modern stucco-clad addition at the west elevation that houses a four-story elevator. The building is clad primarily in brick, with various treatments and existing conditions. The historic mansard roofs are clad in composite shingles; the flat-roofed addition could not be seen, and the north roof is clad in standing-seam metal.

The 1877 block is four stories including a dormered attic story and the flanking wings. The five-bay central façade has a sidelit central entry. The arched window openings have deep brick hoods, with dogtooth coursing between rows of brick headers. Incised wood with a foliate motif infills the lintel below each arch. The central bay is filled with paired sash with one over one lights; the other bays have single units. The dormers have round-arched windows. A central portico sheltered the main entry, with short flanking porches on each bay. The porches were carried by slender chamfered wood posts that rested on tall plinths. The north addition is variegated cream brick, with modern windows of various types. It warps around the flat-roofed section of the building.

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### History

Built by James Archer as a 50-room hotel, the building's public spaces were often the focus of social and political events. Archer sold the building to A.W. Dampier in 1878, who leased it to J.A. Lawrence. An addition of 1895 provided a dining room and additional rooms. The success of the hotel business accompanied Northfield's growth as a small industrial and trade center. Between 1889 and 1900 the hotel was owned by the Kahler Family of Rochester, and next by Col. E. B. Gaff, John Tripp and then J.R. Phillips, who added electrical service. It was sold many times over the next decades, acquiring the names Manawa, Ball, and Stuart. During the Depression it served as a boarding house and a part was devoted to the Jefferson bus depot. In the late 1970s Dallas Haas began an extensive remodeling, which included construction of a wood porch along the length of the building. The building currently houses a hotel and retail businesses. A large livery was originally located at the rear of the hotel, and a washroom connected to the rear of the building.

### Significance

This building is associated with the earliest period of Northfield's commercial development, ca. 1856-1880, as well as the period from ca. 1880 to 1945 when it passed through many owners and operators. It is associated with the Northfield historic context, "Commerce, 1856-1945" (Northfield Preservation Plan, 1992).

### Evaluation

This property was listed on the NRHP in 1979 as contributing to the Northfield Commercial Historic District. The building exterior continues to retain enough historic significance and integrity to be contributing to the district.

### References

Edwins, Steve, ed. *Northfield Downtown Guidebook*. Northfield Heritage Preservation Commission, 1992.  
"Maggie Digs up More History on the Archer House," *Northfield News*, June 23, 2006.  
"Northfield Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1979.  
Northfield Historical Society. Photograph and research files. Northfield, Minnesota.  
Sanborn Map & Publishing Company, New York. Northfield plates, 1886-1943.  
Zellie, Carole. "Northfield Heritage Preservation Plan." Prepared for the Northfield Heritage Preservation Commission, Northfield, Minn. by Landscape Research, 1992.

### Sanborn and USGS Maps



Sanborn Map and Publishing Co., 1930, updated to 1943.



USGS: Northfield 1984.