

Historic Designation Request Form

This City form is for requesting the local designation of sites within the City of Northfield as Historic Sites. The form utilizes topics and criteria similar to those on the Registration Form for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, adapted for the purpose of local designation only. This form is not to be used for nomination to the National Registration for Historic Places. Each topic lists instructions for completing the form. Each numbered section can be expanded as needed with relevant and applicable information. Supplemental information can be referred to in the form and included by attached section continuation pages.

1. **Name of the Site** (a Site may be a district, property, building, landscape feature, or object)

Current name:

418 College St. Residence

Historic name:

Norton House

Other

Lawrence House (by community sometime after/during Lawrence lived at the house between 1913-1942)

2. **Location**

Street address:

418 College St.

Other:

City:

Northfield

State:

MN

Zip Code:

55057

County:

Rice

GPS (if available):

3. **Ownership and Contact**

Current owner:

Alice and Bruce Thomas

Street Address:

418 College St.

City:

Northfield

State:

MN

Zip Code:

55057

Telephone number(s):

507-645-8482

Owner Representative or Contact:

na

Telephone Number(s)

4. **Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) Recommendation**

HPC received this Request Form on:

Reviewed Request on:

The HPC recommends Approval of local designation (any qualifications are to be attached)

he HPC recommends Denial of local designation at this time (any qualifications are to be attached)

Signature of HPC Chair or designee

date of signature

Name - printed

Note: Applicant may appeal HPC recommendation directly to the City Council.

5. **City Council Certification**

City Council received this Request on:

and reviewed Request on:

The City Approves this local designation (qualifications may be attached)

The City Denies this local designation (reasons are to be attached)

Signature of HPC Chair or designee

date of signature

Name - printed

ATTACHMENTS:

6. Historic Site Data

Enter information for each category below

| Ownership of Property . (Check as many as needed) | Category of Property (Check only one box) | List number of resources by Category: |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| X___ private | ___ district | |
| ___ public - local | X___ building(s) | |
| ___ public - state | ___ site or landscape | |
| ___ public- US | ___ structure(s) | |
| | ___ object | total of <u> 1 </u> |

Property Dimensions and/or Area: 3,328 SF

Date of Original Construction: 1877-78

7. Historic Site Description

| a. Historic or Original Functional Uses: (List Uses chronologically if known) | Recent and Current Functional Uses: (List chronologically if known and appropriate) |
|--|--|
|--|--|

1878-1909 Private Residence – A. W. Norton , prominent business man and Carleton Treasurer
1909-1913 Residence of Carleton President Cowling
1913-1945 Private Residence – Carleton Professor Lawrence
1944-46 Carleton College Men’s Dormitory
1946-47 Carleton College Women’s Dormitory
1947-51 Carleton College Men’s Dormitory
1951-1953 Carleton duplex rental for non-Carleton employees
1953-1956 Carleton duplex rental for Carleton employees
1956 – 1969 Private Residence – Carleton employee, Ellefson; after death son on 1st floor; rental unit on 2nd floor
1969 - present Private Residence – Carleton Emeritus Professor Thomas

b. Describe Architectural Features and Characteristics

See Attachment A

c. Describe Historic/Original and Current Materials

See Attachment B

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable Local Designation Criteria

Indicate the criteria applicable to the property that qualify it for Local Designation as an Historic Site.

More than one Criterion for Significance may be selected. Selected Criteria must be supported by information provided.

| | |
|--------------|--|
| _____ | A. The site is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local history. |
| <u> X </u> | B. The site is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past |
| <u> X </u> | C. The site embodies the distinctive characteristics of a building type, time period, or method of construction; or the site represents the work of a master or possesses high artistic values; or the site represents a significance and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. |
| _____ | D. The site embodies distinctive characteristics that are representative examples of a local historic contexts, and/or its developmental history, and thereby important for continued public understanding of our heritage. |
| _____ | E. The site has yielded or is likely to yield information important to pre-history or history. |

Description of Significance

Complete the following descriptions of Significance utilizing expanded space for each, or by Section 8 Continuation pages so indicated.

- a. Type of Use and its Significance
- b. Time or Period of Significance
See Attachment C.
- c. List Significant Persons and/or Events associated with the site
See Attachment D.
- d. Architect and/or Builder

- e. Narrative Statement of Significance
(Describe the significance expanding on the above summary items, and additional topics of interest.)

In addition to the significance included in the attachments, the context of the house is also relevant and of interest - in several ways. First, the house is in a block adjacent to Central Park. When John North platted Northfield in 1855, he designated the square block bounded by Third Street, Independence (now College), Fourth Street and Winona as a “public square.” The park was used to lay out the town with the Minneapolis architect placing a stone at the four corners of the square with which to make future surveys.

Secondly, the house is located in the old neighborhood of the community and is only one of many houses in the area east of the downtown that have been well maintained. Together they create an aesthetic and cultural history to connect the neighborhood to the past and to those who contributed to its growth and development.

Thirdly, Norton had a brother who built even a larger house adjacent to the college three blocks away from this house. It was eventually purchased by Carleton and demolished. Together the Norton brothers made a significant contribution in the development of this community.

9. Important Bibliographical References

Include bibliographical references in the Historic Significance narrative as part of Section 8.

Primary locations of this property and historical data used for this request:

- ☒ City of Northfield HPC Files
- ☒ Northfield Historical Society ☒ Rice County Historical Society
- ☐ Northfield Public Library
- ☒ Carleton College Library and Archives
- ☐ St. Olaf College Library and Archives
- ☐ State Historical Society Archives ☐ State Historic Preservation Office

10. Property/Site Graphics

This information may be included as part of the Historic Significance narrative as part of Section 8

Illustrations of the site are required to include: historic, developmental, and current. Indicate those included:

- ☒ Historic Photographs
- ☐ Historic site drawing and/or plat map location
- ☒ Photographs of key developmental changes to the property or site, if any
- ☒ Current photographs
- ☐ Current site plan and/or plat map location
- ☐ Drawings or renderings of the original site, property, building, or object (if available)

Appendix A: Architectural Features and Characteristics

Italianate Features (see current photos below and archival photos in Appendix C):

- Hip roof
- Wood clapboard
- Balanced, symmetrical, rectangular shape
- Wood quoins at building corners
- Wide overhanging eaves
- Decorative cornice
- Detailed corbels
- Moulded window caps
- Side bay windows
- Insert wooden panels in bay
- Decorative porch woodwork
- Tall and thin porches
- Square porch posts
- Tall windows
- Moulded door trim with transom
- Soft gray paint color and earth tones for detail contrast



Current Photo (after 2007 removal of asbestos siding, reconstruction of porch, and painting).
See photos of each side and close-up details on following pages.



South View



East View



West View



North view (east end)



North view (west end)



Features (original): Wood clapboard, Wide overhanging eaves, Wide cornice with decorative band and detailed corbels, Moulded window caps. Color: Soft gray (matched to original) and earth tones for detail contrast.



Close-up of detailed corbel and cornice.

All original wood except maroon “knobs”; only three had survived on the house. Dimensions were taken from the three. Paint outline of the originals were evident on all centers of the routed semi- circles on the cornice.



Tall and thin porch; Decorative porch woodwork (reflects woodwork on original small side porch; see photo below); Square porch posts (shadow of half post on right was used to replicate the original posts); Tall windows. Original size of door opening revealed after removal of siding; moulded door trim; uncovered and restored transom (transom frame was in-tact). Local glass artisan created new leaded glass windows for transom and sidelight.

Two additional exterior doorways with original doors, transoms and moulded door trim.



Side porch entrance



Entrance to kitchen



1998 screened in porch addition using existing doorway. Retained original cornice, corbels, moulded trim and wooden floor-to-ceiling slat vent (interior room was originally a fruit and vegetable bin).



Close up of bay wooden panel

Side bay windows; insert wooden panels in bay. All original wood including storm windows with old glass. The original brackets on this bay were used to replicate the brackets on the reconstructed porch in photos above.

Appendix B: . Historic/Original and Current Materials

Original materials (see above photos):

Most of cedar clapboards are original; some in poor condition were replaced in 2007 when asbestos siding covering the lap boards was removed.

All large corbels are original; small corbels on small side porch and back porch are original; small corbels on restored wrap-around porch were newly hand crafted in 2007 to match original small corbels.

Window and door caps are original; some repaired.

Limestone foundation is original.

Water table is original; small area replaced on north side of house in 2007.

Chimney for the three fireplaces is original.

Original color of gray paint used; mixed to match original color found on boards.

Most of the windows in the house have old wavy glass window panes.

Most of the first floor wooden storm windows have wavy glass window panes.

A storm window with a window pane door are both in the original kitchen on the north side of the house, and the current kitchen built about 1888 on the south side of the house.

Current materials;

Wrap-around porch was restored in 2007 with new materials; original design pattern and measurements used for decorative posts; spindles hand crafted to match spindles on existing side porch; all materials are wood except the composite material porch flooring (see photos above and below).

A new, screened-in porch was added in 1997 to a back entrance using an existing doorway. Original cornice and corbels on exterior wall were retained. A venting panel used in the exterior wall of the original fruit and vegetable room was found under asbestos siding and retained (see photo above).

New decorative wood cylinder “knobs” were crafted and added to the cornice band; size and shape were matched to the three that had survived (see photos above).

Two kitchen windows were shortened in 1971; retained original window frames and most of glass panes.

In the early 1900s a dining room doorway to a small stoop was removed and made into a window. Note: Newspaper insulation added to the cavity below the new window was from a July 1922 newspaper (see photos below).

The color of the new paint on the clapboard was matched and formula identified by a local paint store. An original painted board was located under a boarded up area and used for matching (see photo below). The archival photos showed that the window frames were painted a dark color. A dark color was chosen for the repainting (see photo below).



Before restoration: Original porch removed in the 1950s and replaced with concrete slab steps; variegated metal roof and wrought iron posts; exposed electrical wire for porch light.



After restoration: Porch restored with original height, size and style of pillars, size and style of doorway, decorative spanner and corbels to match those on the original side porch on right.



Original exterior door in center of dining room. Removed in early 1900s.



Early 1900s conversion of the doorway into a center window.

Paint used on Clapboards



New paint on area inside of encircled area ↑ The remaining area of board is the original paint ↑

Paint used for window frames and cornice trim

Benjamin Moore



Hale Navy - HC-154

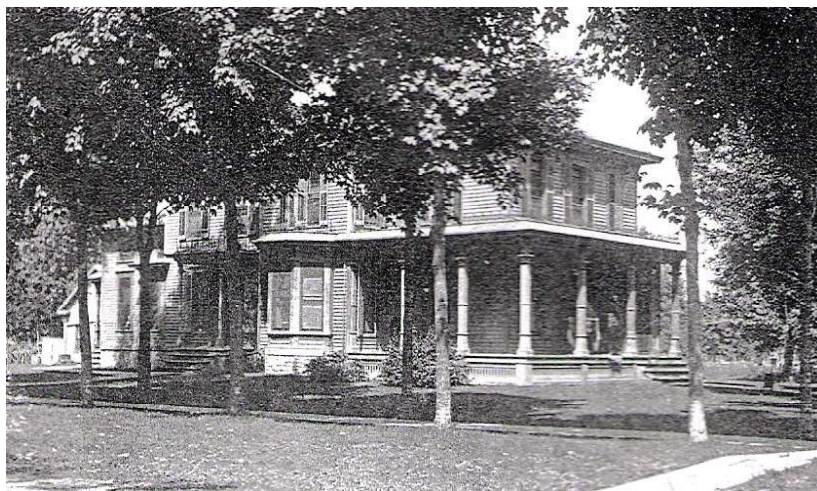
(has more blue than shown in web chip above, see photos of house above)

Appendix C: Time or Period of Significance

In the 1840s to 1890 Italianate architecture was very popular in the United States. The years 1878 – 1888 is the period of architectural significance since the house serves an example of the specific Italianate architectural style at that time and has largely retained its materials, spaces, and features. The 1878 is the date the house was completed and 1888 is the approximate date that an addition was made (current kitchen on first floor, a room on the second floor (previous owners believed it was for the maid listed in a 1890 census) and a second floor room above the original kitchen. The addition employed the same architectural style and details as the original.



Date: unknown (approximately between 1888 and 1899) Source: Charles Norton relatives
The circa 1888 addition included the small section on the left with two small windows on the second floor. A portion of the attached small porch on the left is partially visible in the above and below photos.



Date: 1899 Source: Northfield Historical Society



Date: Unknown Source: Northfield Historical Society

This west side view of the house was taken before additions on the west and north sides were made about 1888.

Appendix D: Significant Persons and/or Events associated with the site

The Site. When Ann and John North sold the lots, 1, 2 and 4 in Block 31 in 1856 to David Frost, the deed included the following: “conditional that no intoxicating drinks be sold or in any manner furnished as a beverage on said premises and in case the foregoing condition shall be violated by the party of the second part or any subsequent grantee, then this conveyance shall be void”.^{1a} Lots 1 and 2 were purchased in January 1877 by Mary Strong, the mother/mother-in-law of Hattie (Strong) Norton and A. W. Norton,^{1b} who were the first occupants.

Significant House Occupants. The early residents from 1878 – 1945 were prominent members of the Carleton College community and/or the larger Northfield community. The dates in which they occupied the house and those residents are below.

1878² – 1909³. A. W. Norton (b. 1852)

Building on the house started in 1877⁴ and was completed in 1878. It was occupied by the A. W. Norton family until 1909.



The Norton Family in front of their home. Left to right: A.W., Gertrude, Harriet (“Hattie”), Willis, Charles, and Marcus

-Source Charles Norton relatives

A.W. Norton, a native of New York, came to Northfield in the fall of 1869 and attended Carleton Academy for a year. He became a prominent business man and community servant as indicated below.⁵

Positions:

- Worked for the Lee & Hitchcock store on Bridge Square for four or five years.
- Elected cashier in 1878 of the Citizens Bank of Northfield where he served as a cashier or President of the bank for 23 years.

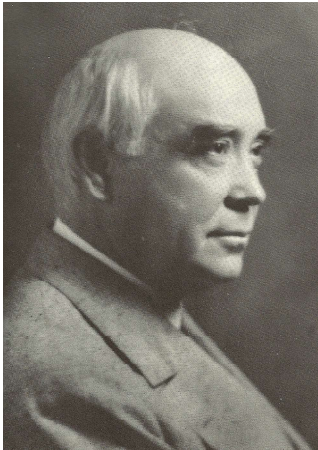
- Was a member of the executive committee of Carleton College and served as treasurer for many years.
- Involved in the establishment of the Northfield Independent, a weekly newspaper and precursor to the current Northfield News.
- Worked with other Northfield citizens and local bank to organize the Great Northern Bank of Minot in Minot, N.S., in 1897.
- Owned an insurance business which he sold in 1906.

Community Service

- Three terms (non-consecutive) as mayor of Northfield.
- Two terms as Chair of the Board of Education.
- Sought the Republican nomination for representation in the state legislature in 1902.
- President of the Northfield Business Commercial Club in 1905.

The local business career for A.W. Norton ended in bankruptcy; he sold his property to Fred. B. Hill to serve as housing for the incoming Carleton president.

1909⁶-1913⁷. President Donald J. Cowling, Carleton College



President Donald J. Cowling

Source: Headley & Jarchow, *Carleton: The First Century*, p. 371

Donald J. Cowling, at age of 26 with three advanced degrees, spent the first four years of his thirty-six year tenure as the president of Carleton College in the Norton House. He moved into the house with his wife and the first of their four daughters upon their arrival in July 1909. His significant accomplishments as the third president were critical to the institution, particularly in the development of the campus and plant that would support the academic goals which charted “a wise course for the future”.⁸

*Seldom has an organization been so closely identified with a person, other than its creator, as was Carleton College with Donald J. Cowling. The institution was the substance of his soul. He was the soul of its substance.*⁹

President Cowling also provided significant leadership outside the college to most of the sixty educational, religious, international, and social organizations in which he was a member including president of the Association of American Colleges, and the American Council on Education.¹⁰

1913¹¹ - 1945¹². Frederick L. Lawrence, Professor of Music, Carleton College



Source: Carleton Voice, 2016

Professor Lawrence had first served on the music faculty of Carleton College from 1898 - 1901 before returning in 1912. He rented the house in 1913 before purchasing in 1917.¹³ Professor and Mrs. Lawrence had three sons: Merrill, James and Frederick (“Fritz”).

Lawrence had studied in Leipzig and Berlin, Germany, taught in various conservatories, and was a widely known composer and teacher of music.^{14, 15} The scope of his professional work while at Carleton included the following:

- Taught piano and composition
- Composed numerous works for piano, organ, choir, anthems and instrumental sections
- Served as chairman of the department for several years
- Resurrected the college orchestra that was often supplemented with Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra members.
- Directed the choir.¹⁶

It was in this latter position, in a close association over 25 years, that he most endeared himself to his students. To them he was always “Daddy” Lawrence – the “beloved friend and teacher of Carleton students” After composing a number of chorales, anthems and instrumental selections in addition to teaching, he retired in 1937 with a total of 28 years at the College.¹⁷

His reputation also included his “culinary accomplishments” and his gifts to friends of recipe books.¹⁸ His frequent guests in the house often included international musicians.¹⁹ F.L. Lawrence lived in the house until his death.²⁰

Note: Although Professor Lawrence had passed away in 1945, neighbors and other community members still referred to the house as “the Lawrence House” of “Daddy Lawrence” when the current occupants moved into the house in 1969.

Fall 1946 – Spring 1951²¹. Post-war Carleton dormitory

The widow of Professor Lawrence sold the property to Carleton College in May 1946.²² The house was one of five in the neighborhood that addressed an important housing need for Carleton College in the post-WWII years.²³ The return of the soldiers created a housing shortage on campus which led the college to purchase the house and use as a women's dorm the first year, 1946-47. As noted by the Resident Head in her 1946-47 Annual Report²⁴, there were twenty-three junior female students who lived in the house the first year as a dormitory.



Left: Six students outside house near bay window.
Above: Same six students in study space in living room bay area.

Source: Alumnae Patricia Sallade, one of the six students

The house was a men's dorm from 1947-1951.²⁵ One of the male students, Hartley Clark, returned to the college later in 1955 as a faculty member. For several years, Carleton used the house for rental by employees that included faculty and staff (Carleton Riding Stable hostler, Building and Grounds worker, plumber, and carpenter).²⁶

Appendix D Summary:

Significant Persons: All early residents were highly active and well known in the local as well as larger community.

- Norton (Treasurer of Carleton, Entrepreneur (insurance, bank president, newspaper co-founder) and community servant (school board, mayor, business club president).
- Cowling (President of Carleton, provided key leadership to stabilize and strengthen future for the college, and leadership to sixty educational, religious, international, and social organizations).
- Lawrence (Professor of Music, national and internally known musician with broad range of mediums; beloved by colleagues and students)

Use of the Site: Since built in 1878 the house has been owned and/or occupied by individuals and families connected to Carleton College – possibly related to its size and proximity to the college. Occupants have included Carleton

- administrators (Norton, Treasurer; Cowling, President);
- faculty (Lawrence, Music Dept.; Thomas, Physics Dept.)
- staff (Buildings and Grounds, Housekeeping, Riding Stable hostler, Maintenance (plumber, and carpenter)) and
- students (men and women after soldiers returned from the war).

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- ¹ County of Rice, State of Minnesota (1856). Abstract Title, 1856 Entry #14 (1a) and 1879 Entry #21 (1b).
- ² Rice County Real Estate Records, County Recorder's Office, "Year Built" for 418 College. <https://beacon.schneidercorp.com/?site=RiceCountyMN>.
- ³ County of Rice, State of Minnesota (1856). Abstract Title, 1909 Entry #23.
- ⁴ Staff (1877, June 10). A.W. Norton's new dwelling is underway. Rice County Journal, p. 3
- ⁵ Staff (1902, September 13). Republican Candidates: Sketches of District and County Candidates to be Voted for next Tuesday. Northfield News, p. 1.
- ⁶ Staff (1909, July 1). President and Mrs. Cowling have arrived. Northfield Independent, p. 1, c.2.
- ⁷ Staff (1913, July 4). Cowling family moving. Northfield Independent, p. 5, c. 5.
- ⁸ Headley, L. A. & Jarchow, M. E. (1966). Carleton: The First Century (p. 55) . Northfield, MN: Carleton College.
- ⁹ Headley, L. A. & Jarchow, M. E. (1966). Carleton: The First Century (p. 99) . Northfield, MN: Carleton College.
- ¹⁰ Headley, L. A. & Jarchow, M. E. (1966). Carleton: The First Century (pp. 101-103). Northfield, MN: Carleton College.
- ¹¹ Staff (1913, August). Cowling moves out. F. L. Lawrence family occupies. Northfield News.
- ¹² County of Rice, State of Minnesota (1856). Abstract Title, 1946 Entry #29.
- ¹³ County of Rice, State of Minnesota (1856). Abstract Title, 1917 Entry #26.
- ¹⁴ Scott, F.W. (ed.), (1918). The Semi-centennial Alumni Record of the University of Illinois (p. 906). R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company: Chicago.
- ¹⁵ Cutter, W. R., (1915). New England Families, Genealogical and Memorial, Vol. III, p. 1350. Lewis Historical Pub. Co.: New York.
- ¹⁶ Headley, L. A. & Jarchow, M. E. (1966). Carleton: The First Century (p. 386) . Northfield, MN: Carleton College.
- ¹⁷ Headley, L. A. & Jarchow, M. E. (1966). Carleton: The First Century (p. 203-205). Northfield, MN: Carleton College.
- ¹⁸ Staff. (1972, October 26). House "warmed" in 1879, Northfield News, p. 15.
- ¹⁹ Fritz Lawrence (son of Frederick, personal communication, Fall 1969).

- ²⁰ Hoekstra, J (Fall 2016). Faculty Legends: 150 Years of Great Carleton Teachers, Carleton College Voice . Northfield, MN: Carleton College.
- ²¹ Pollock, B., Vice President and Treasurer, Carleton College (various memos between Pollock and staff on May 17, 1946; December 18, 1948; January 13, 1949 and June 13, 1951). Carleton College Archives.
- ²² County of Rice, State of Minnesota (1856). Abstract Title, 1946 Entry #33.
- ²³ Headley, L. A. & Jarchow, M. E. (1966). Carleton: The First Century (p. 52) . Northfield, MN: Carleton College.
- ²⁴ Stoddard, S. L., Lawrence House Proctor (1947). Annual Report, Lawrence House, 1946-1947. Carleton College Archives.
- ²⁵ Pollock, B., Vice President and Treasurer, Carleton College (various memos between Pollock and staff on May 17, 1946; December 18, 1948; January 13, 1949 and June 13, 1951). Carleton College Archives.
- ²⁶ 1953-54 Carleton Directory, Carleton College Archives.