

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

PROPERTY LOCATION	
Property Name: Scriver Building	Inventory No.: RC-NFC-275
Address: 408 Division Street, Northfield, MN	PIN: 2206225019
QTR/QTR/T/R/S: NW NW Section 6 T111N R19W	
USGS Quad: Northfield, Minnesota	Plat Name: Original Town
UTM Z 15 487236E, 4922512N NAD 83	

PROPERTY INFORMATION	
Construction Date: 1868	Style: Italianate
Historic Use: commercial	Current Use: institutional
Property Type: commercial	Historic Context: "Commerce, 1856-1945"
Architect/Builder	Survey Name: Northfield Historic District Survey Revision Project, 2016
Previous NRHP Status: Contributing to Northfield Commercial Historic District	NRHP Recommendation: Contributing to Northfield Commercial Historic District
Form Prepared by: Landscape Research LLC	Survey Date: 3/2016



2016, looking southwest



ca. 1875

Description

The flat-roofed, two-story Scriver Building occupies the southwest corner of Bridge Square at its intersection with Division Street. The structure rests on a Platteville limestone foundation and is clad in gray limestone that has been partially parged with a thin layer of stucco. The east half of the six-bay north façade, housing the Northfield Historical Society, faces Bridge Square. It retains original surfaces and details, including exposed limestone cladding, a wood cornice, round-arched windows with flat limestone sills, and a recessed central entry placed between slender cast-iron columns. The lower-story transoms are filled with multi-paned glass. The west half of the Bridge Square elevation, now a retail business, has a ca. 1930 modernized façade, with brick-trimmed rectangular windows, brick piers and beltcourses, stucco parging, and a modern storefront with large glazed windows. The current east-facing Division Street facade is the result of restoration and rehabilitation to near-historic (1868) condition. Restoration of the historic former bank bay at the south corner and removal of a peaked roof (1888) and dormers (1893) are among work completed since 1976. The existing exterior wood stair replaced an iron stair shown in historic photographs, which replaced the original wood stair. The brick-trimmed rectangular windows remaining on the Division Street elevation date from the 1930s-era remodel.

History

Hiram Scriver (1830-1890), a native of Canada, was a pioneer Northfield merchant and served as the City's first mayor (1875). He was also a founder of Carleton College. In 1868, with Dr. E. Lathrop, he

Historic photographs: Northfield Historical Society

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completed this prominent multi-purpose building at the head of Bridge Square, then still a dusty hay market at the foot of the Cannon River Bridge. In addition to Scriver's hardware store, tenants included the First National Bank and Lee and Hitchcock Dry Goods. Offices were located at the second level. The James-Younger Gang bank raid on September 7, 1876 brought national attention to the building. The Northfield Post Office, the Jesse James Café and the Chamber of Commerce were among later tenants, as were upper-story apartments. In 1976 the Northfield Historical Society occupied the building, and began restoration and rehabilitation efforts.

Significance and Historic Context(s)

A prominent landmark at the head of Bridge Square, the Scriver Building is associated with the first period of Northfield's commercial development, from ca. 1856 to 1880, when 29 of the 65 historic district buildings were constructed. 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. It is also individually listed on the NRHP (1978). The building exterior continues to retain excellent historic significance and integrity and rehabilitation and restoration projects have followed historic photographs and other documents. The building remains contributing to the district.

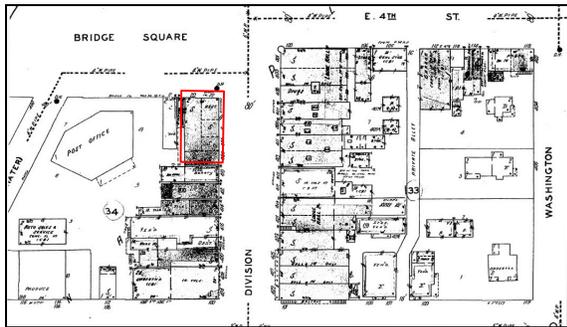
References

Dunwiddie, Foster. "Scriver Block Building." National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 1978. Listed 5/5/1978.

"Northfield Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1979.

Northfield Historical Society. Photograph and research files. Northfield, Minnesota.

Zellie, Carole. "Northfield Heritage Preservation Plan." Prepared for the Northfield Heritage Preservation Commission, Northfield, Minn. by Landscape Research, 1992.



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



USGS: Northfield 1984.



ca. 1935

Historic photographs: Northfield Historical Society