

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

PROPERTY LOCATION	
Property Name: Scofield Building	Inventory No.: RC-NFC- 284
Address: 102 E. 5th Street, Northfield, MN	PIN: 2206225086
QTR/QTR/T/R/S: NW NW Section 6 T111N R19W	
USGS Quad: Northfield, Minnesota	Plat: Original Town Block 48 Lot 6
UTM Z 15 487281E 4922421N NAD 83	

PROPERTY INFORMATION	
Construction Date: 1868	Style: Italianate
Historic Use: commercial	Current Use: commercial
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 southeast



ca. 1978

Description

The two-story, flat-roofed Scofield Building occupies the southeast corner of Division and E. 5th Streets. The south wall exposes a small portion of the original limestone rubble party wall. The canted corner bay has one window, the elevation facing Division has three, and the E. 5th Street elevation has eight windows.

The flat-roofed building has a bracketed sheet metal cornice with a prominent pediment and name plaque accenting the corner bay; "1878" and "STORE" are displayed in raised letters. Volutes frame the plaque. At the ground level, a shallow cornice shelters the entry, which is framed by a pair of cast-iron columns with Corinthian columns. The display windows flank the door. The west facing elevation is clad in cream brick. The windows are set in segmental-arched openings with prominent red brick voussoirs and corbel stops. Each window has a stone still that surmounts a decorative brick panel. The sash has one-over-one lights. The entire north elevation is parged with stucco and the windows have painted sills. A steel stair system accesses two upper story entries.

History

The Scofield Building occupies the site of the city's first hotel, the Jenkins Tavern (1856). Originally constructed of limestone like the Bjoraker Building at 422-24 Division, the building housed the drugstore

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of its builder, Dr. John L. Scofield, with a print shop above. An 1878 fire destroyed most of the building, and it was rebuilt in brick with cast iron columns and a sheet metal cornice. Following occupancy by a variety of uses including variety and shoe store and an upper-level rooming house, it was occupied by the Corner Bar in 1942. The business, now J. Grundy's Rueb 'N' Stein, expanded into the Kelly Building (1907) in 1969, and into the Henderson Building (1890) in 1988. John L. Scofield (1811-1892) was a native of Connecticut. He arrived in Northfield in 1856 and served as the town's only physician for a number of years. He was in the Minnesota State Legislature 1877-78 and was a founding trustee of Carleton College (Neill 1881:433).

Significance and Evaluation

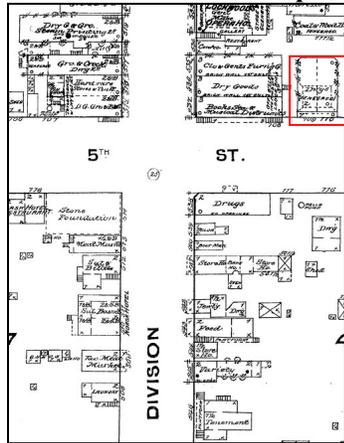
This building is associated with the earliest period of Northfield's commercial development, ca. 1856-1880, and with John L. Scofield, a prominent early physician. It is associated with the Northfield historic context, "Commerce, 1856-1945" (Northfield Preservation Plan, 1992).

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

References

- "Northfield Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1979.
- Edwins, Steve, ed. *Northfield Downtown Guidebook*. Northfield Heritage Preservation Commission, 1982.
- Northfield News. *All About Northfield, Minn: Directory of Name and Business Firms, Information in Regard to the City*. Northfield: Northfield News, 1889.
- Neill, Edward D. *History of Rice County*. Minneapolis, 1881.
- 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., 1884.



USGS: Northfield 1984.