

March 18, 2022

Revée Needham
Assistant City Planner
City of Northfield
801 Washington St.
Northfield, MN 55057

RE: Local designation of the Norton House, 418 College Street, SHPO Referral Number 2022-0632

Dear Ms. Needham,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced local designation. It has been reviewed pursuant to Minnesota Statute §471.193, subd. 6., and Section 8.5.7 (3) (a) of the City of Northfield Code of Ordinances.

The A.W. Norton House is a two-story, rectangular, wood frame Italianate style residence sheathed with clapboard siding. The house has tall, narrow double hung sash windows on the first and second floors, and a low pitch hip roof with wide eaves supported by large brackets. There is an open porch that wraps around the east and south elevations with a hip roof supported by massive turned posts with spindles along the frieze.

Constructed in 1878 with a ca.1888 addition, the Norton House is historically significant for its association with several prominent Northfield residents, including the original owner, A.W. Norton, who was president of the Citizens Bank of Northfield and a multi-term mayor of Northfield. Subsequent owners were Donald J. Cowling, who served for 36 years as president of Carlton College, and Frederick L. Lawrence, professor of music at Carlton College. The Norton House gains additional significance as a well-conserved example of the Italianate style, illustrated by the low roof pitch, bracketed cornice, and long, narrow windows. For these reasons, we concur that the A.W. Norton House is a good candidate for local designation under Criteria B and C.

If you have any questions regarding our assessment of this property, please contact me at 651.201.3291 or michael.koop@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,



Michael Koop
State Historic Preservation Office

cc: Barbara Evans, HPC Chair