

APPENDIX D

Significance of Use as a Passenger Depot

As a passenger depot, the 1888 Depot

- served as a passenger transportation resource for a long, significant period, 1888 to 1969,
- provided passenger transportation related services to various segments of the community, and
- was a communication/social center for the community in diverse ways.

Photo examples below (with exception of Eisenhower photo) are those within the period of significance, 1888-1944, and provide evidence of some of the activities that took place at the 1888 depot. The photo credits are indicated in superscript after photo date.

In addition to the usual passenger travel of Northfield citizens and the generations of college students who used the train as the primary mode of transportation, the depot

- served the college community in other ways:
 - local travel and extra-curricular off-campus college activities
 - service needs, e.g., mail processed in 1888 depot including laundry boxes



at depot in Northfield, Minn. St. Olaf students going visiting in Minneapolis & St. Paul. 1904

1904.¹ St. Olaf students gathered at depot for a trip to Minneapolis and St. Paul.



1904.¹ St. Olaf choir started and ended their world wide tours at the depot (send-off by well wishers in video clip above).



1916.² Carleton football fans welcomed the team home in their undefeated 1916 season



Mail collected in the 1888 depot and placed on passenger trains included college student laundry boxes.

Northfield resident, Bob Will, (above with a laundry box) recalls using a laundry box while a student at Carleton; dirty clothes were sent home, and clean clothes and goodies were returned.

Photos used in Appendix D with the permission of the following:

- ¹ = St. Olaf College Archives
- ² = Carleton College Archives
- ³ = Northfield Historical Society
- ⁴ = Northfield VFW

- served community residents:
 - provided convenient transportation to and from the Twin Cities and beyond
 - served as a “Window to the World”, e.g., several presidential candidates made campaign tour stop speeches at the depot



Taft was greeted by a large crowd including a young woman, Mildred Ware (teenage daughter of the mayor), wrapped in stars and stripes, and riding a massive elephant..

According to the *Minneapolis Journal*, Taft noted, "I am pleased to see this beautiful emblem of party victory. I should like to mount the animal myself, but I am afraid there isn't time to rig a derrick to get me on there."

- *Minneapolis Journal*, Sept. 27, 1908.

1908.¹ William Howard Taft



1912.³ Theodore Roosevelt Whistle Stop



1952.² Dwight D. Eisenhower greeted by local leaders; he later spoke at Carleton.

- was the site of the many departures and later reunions of soldiers serving in wars (Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II)



1898.² Spanish-American War. At the Time, it was reported to be the largest crowd to ever gather in Northfield.



1941, Feb.⁴

World War II

- Served as a gathering place for events and social functions for citizens.



Northfield citizens often congregated around the depot to - meet trains, witness mail and parcel deliveries, get the latest news from the teletype, and converse with fellow townsfolk.¹

- Supported economic development of various groups: Farmers, Developers, and Downtown Businesses.

Sales men used the depot when arriving in Northfield with their wares to sell to the downtown businesses (some set up their displays for the Northfield businesses in the small rooms on the first floor of the hotel).



1898.² Milk cans (on platform shown above) were processed in depot and traveled twice a day on the scheduled passenger trains to the Twin Cities and near-by creameries.



1933. Geodetic Elevation Disk installed in depot west wall, one of three in Northfield at the time to assist in planning developments. Decommissioned after depot move. National Geodetic Survey has requested to install a new, additional disk in current depot location.