

September 9, 2021

MEMO TO: Northfield Preservation Commission Members
Mikayla Schmidt, City Planner



RE: Review of proposed sign and order board

First, we want to thank you for your past guidance and for your recent recommendation to the City Council in support for the reassessment of the 1888 depot as a Local Historical Site.

During the rehabilitation process, *Save the Northfield Depot* sought guidance from the HPC during our decision making period in 2015, 2016 and 2017. We now have two additional requests for approval of adding documented features of the 1888 Depot (see attachment).

- 1) The addition of a NORTHFIELD sign on the north and south ends of the depot. We have been able to determine the approximate size and style from the archival photos, i.e., ~ 7'10"x 13" with a raised border and sans serif lettering. We have checked with the Milwaukee Rd. Historical Society and confirmed that the lettering would have been painted on and not raised.
- 2) The addition of an Order Board that extends towards the tracks from the station master bay. We were able to determine that there was such an order board from the archival photo. A member of the Milwaukee Rd. Historical Society arranged to donate an order board that was in disrepair. There were other depots that sought the piece, but because we were the only depot with an image indicating there was one, the piece was donated to us. A volunteer refinished the paddle and lantern, and built a new wooden case (the original wood casement was not useable).

Note: The red signal paddle and lantern with red and green glass lenses served as a means of communication between the station master and the approaching train engineer; a red light indicated the train should stop and pick up an order received at the depot by teletype from the dispatcher.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Rob Martin, Chair

Clark Webster, Treasurer

Alice Thomas, Secretary

ATTACHMENT

1) Archival Photos of NORTHFIELD sign



North side



South side



2) Archival Photo of Order Board, 1896



Restored order board