

PREFACE



Turn-of-the-century photograph (from left to right) of the YMCA Building (1885) at 304 Division Street, the old City Hall (with bell tower) (1876) at 302, the John Sitze building (1886) at 300, and the Nutting Block (1893) at 220 Division Street.

The City of Northfield is pleased to present the City of Northfield Downtown Preservation Design Manual. This publication provides building preservation and rehabilitation information for property owners within the downtown Northfield Historic District.

One of downtown Northfield's greatest resources is its unique concentration of historic and architecturally interesting buildings. This manual is designed to demonstrate how using guidelines can often uncover and preserve a building's hidden historic or architectural value.

The Northfield Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) and City Staff have answered many questions from property owners about improvements or repairs to their buildings since the establishment of the Northfield HPC, ranging from the proper treatment for doors and windows, awnings, and signs, to painted or deteriorating masonry. The written guidelines and visual examples within this manual are meant to aid those desiring to reuse or recycle an historic property. The illustrations, comprehensive in nature, represent the ideal. At times, because of financial constraints, a property owner may incorporate only part of the plan or undertake long-term phasing of the plan.

This guide is part of a continuing effort to encourage downtown building improvements. It provides information on programs designed to encourage the rehabilitation and preservation of Northfield's commercial architecture. The City has resources available, such as the "Preservation Briefs," National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior to assist property owners with restoration and rehabilitation projects. Additional programs and financial assistance may be available. For more information, contact the Northfield Planning Office at (507) 645-3056 and visit the HPS (Heritage Preservation Services) website of the National Park Service at: www2.cr.nps.gov/tps