



204 3rd St., W. P.O. 486
Northfield, MN 55057
www.northfielddepot.org

December 2, 2020

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

RE: Re-assessment of 1888 Depot as a Locally Designated Historic Site

This memo provides some background for the attached document, Historic Designation Request Form with attachments.

Local Designation. The 1888 Depot was designated a Northfield Heritage Preservation Site in a 1980 City Council Resolution #80-160 (see Memo Attachment A). The authorizing ordinance, criteria and assessment of the depot accompany the resolution. The HPC again addressed the depot in 2009 when there was concern that the railroad might destroy the depot. At the request of the HPC, the City sent a letter to the railroad reminding them it was a locally designated historic site.

National Designation. In 1980, the HPC also requested that the depot be assessed at the state level for national designation. No documentation has been located indicating that occurred. In 2016 *Save the Northfield Depot* was encouraged by the State Preservation Office to apply for a small Legacy grant to cover the cost of such an assessment. The grant was received, and the evaluation completed and sent to the state office. The state office deemed the report was incomplete and suggested it be resubmitted when more work had been completed on the depot. Resubmission will be considered in the near future.

HPC Consultation. During the rehabilitation of the depot, *Save the Northfield Depot* provided updates and/or sought guidance from the HPC during our decision making period in 2015, 2016 and 2017. We received approval for major decisions: reconstructing the station master bay, restoring doors that had been converted to windows, installing cottage style windows, creating templates to replicate missing brackets, reusing brick and limestone, reconstructing chimney and roof cresting (decided not to add the cresting) and considering cleaning treatments for the brick (decided not to remove paint on bricks other than graffiti spray paint).

We recognize that the documents are quite lengthy but given the situation with the inability of the total group to meet at the depot, the abundance of photos seemed prudent. Of course, individuals can visit the site and see the depot exterior at any time. We are happy to answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Rob Martin, Chair

Clark Webster, Treasurer

Alice Thomas, Secretary

