

Northfield Commercial Historic District  
Name of Property

Rice, Minnesota  
County and State

**6. Boston Shoe Store, 17 Bridge Square, 1879 (RC-NFC-269) 1 contributing building**

This two-story, flat-roofed, Italianate style building faces south on Bridge Square. It is clad in painted cream brick. The sheet-metal cornice has five prominent brackets, stamped rosettes, and egg-and-dart and rope-beaded detail. Three round-arched windows at the upper story have arched windows with filled-in transoms; replacement sash is double-hung with one-over-one lights. Early photographs of show a central hinged window to allow loading of goods, and evidence remains in the wood infill below the window. The recessed ground-floor entry has a single-leaf door and is flanked by windows and transoms. A single-leaf wood door in the side entry has a glazed transom. There is a tin ceiling, apparently historic, at the entry and at the store interior. The building appears to have had recent exterior painting.

**7. Aldsworth Building, 19 Bridge Square, 1893 (RC-NFC-268) 1 contributing building**

This two-story, flat-roofed, Italianate style building faces south on Bridge Square. The exterior is painted cream brick and the exposed west-facing party wall is cream brick. The roofline is finished with a bracketed wood cornice. At the second story a shallow corbel course edges the slightly recessed brick panel that frames four arched windows. Each window has brick voussoirs and rusticated stone sills and a decorative brick course below the sill. The sash has 9-over-9 lights. A metal panel with star anchors surmounts the traditional ground-level storefronts. The storefront is framed by brick piers and the single-door entries have wood trim. The building was restored to its current appearance in 1997 by the Commercial National Bank.

**8. Northfield National Bank, 25 Bridge Square, 1966 (RC-NFC-318)  
1 contributing building**

This one-story, flat-roofed Modern style bank occupies the northwest corner of Division Street and Bridge Square. It was designed by the Northfield firm Sovik, Mathre and Madson. The building has a raised concrete plinth above the foundation, and the exterior concrete columns support a heavy roof band decorated with cast-concrete vertical ribs. The band surmounts recessed tinted plate glass windows that wrap the building. A one-story wing connects to the Aldsworth Building (1893).

**9, 10. Bridge Square, 1856- includes: 1 contributing structure (monument)  
Riverside Park 1916- 1 non-contributing structure (sculpture)  
RC-NFC-400 2 contributing sites (square and park)**

Bridge Square is bounded by the street also known as Bridge Square on the north and south, Division Street at the east, and Water Street and Riverside Park at the west. The asymmetrical triangular perimeter of the easternmost portion, commonly called Bridge Square, is framed by historic commercial buildings, including the Scriver Block Building (1868, NRHP) and the Central Block (1893). The main portion of Riverside Park, which dates from 1916 and is edged by a concrete-parged retaining wall that supports a modern steel railing at the water's edge,

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frames the park at the west. Both the square and small park both retain perimeter features from the 1916 plan by Minneapolis landscape architect Phelps Wyman as well as features from the 1970s and 1999 plans that introduced hardscape and additional plantings. Both areas include planted lawn and concrete plaza areas and concrete walkways. Bridge Square features a gray and pink St. Cloud Granite Civil War monument, dedicated to "The Soldiers and Sailors who Saved the Union, 1861-1865." The granite bench and main slab are surmounted by a polished granite globe and a bronze eagle. Dedicated in 1921, it was designed by Charles Watson of the P. N. Peterson Granite Co. of Minneapolis (contributing structure).<sup>3</sup> Immediately to the west, the Sheldahl Anniversary Fountain, by Raymond I. Jacobsen of Northfield (1921-2012), dates from 1980 (non-contributing structure due to date).

**11. Bridge No. 1232, 4th Street Bridge over the Cannon River (Water Street Bridge, Cannon River Bridge), 1914, 1986 (RC-NFC-365) 1 contributing structure**

Bridge No. 1232 carries 4th Street over the Cannon River. The Classical Revival style structure was designed by C. A. P. Turner. The superstructure is angled east-west and consists of two concrete-arch spans supported on two reinforced concrete abutments and one reinforced concrete pier.<sup>4</sup> The bridge is 166 feet long, with a 30.8-foot deck. The longest span is 76.1 feet. The abutments are flanked by concrete and coursed limestone retaining walls at each side of the river. Bridge improvements in 1986 retained the concrete surfaces with recessed panels in the spandrels of the arch. The original concrete balustrade, set between concrete piers, and historic lighting have been replaced with compatible steel railings and lighting. Despite the loss of the historic concrete balustrade and other features the structure continues to retain enough historic integrity to be contributing to the district.

**12. Northfield Dam, 1919 (RC-NFC-406) 1 contributing structure**

The Northfield Dam on the Cannon River is located immediately south of the 4th Street Bridge. The angled east-west concrete structure is 6' high and 164' long. It has a fish barrier but has no hydroelectric purpose. It is framed by two parged concrete retaining walls at the east and west ends. In 1855, Northfield founder John W. North (1815–1890) erected a wood dam and an east-side sawmill and a west-side flour mill. In 1865 both mills were operated by Jesse Ames (1808-1894). By 1877, the flour milling business was one of 15 operating along 20 miles of the river between Faribault and Northfield. The mill was converted to steam power in 1879. In 1919 the dam was rebuilt in concrete during the ownership of the Theobald Flour Mill Company of

<sup>3</sup> "Order Placed for Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument," *Northfield News* 24 Sept 1920:1; "City's Finances Reach Low Stage," *Northfield News* 10 Sept 1920:10; "Final Statement from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Fund Association," *Northfield News* 3 June 1921:4.

<sup>4</sup> Collins Engineers, "Underwater Bridge Inspection Report, Structure No. 1232." Prepared for the Minnesota Department of Transportation, May 23, 2012.