

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM - STRAFFORD ROCKINGHAM REGIONAL COUNCIL
One Water Street, Exeter, New Hampshire 03833 Phone: (603)778-0885

TOWN: Rochester COUNTY: Strafford

SURVEY NUMBER: 83

COMMON NAME: The Scenic Theater

HISTORIC NAME: The Scenic Theater

LOCATION: 14 North Main Street

OWNER: John W. Chick & Thomas Whittier

ADDRESS: 70 Church Street
Conic, NH

MAP & PARCEL #: 42/5 121-10

DATE: C.1912

SOURCE: Inspection

STYLE: Georgian Revival

UTM: Z 19 /E 339640 /N 4796 220

USGS QUAD: Berwick Quad 15' series

FUNCTIONAL TYPE: Theater

PRESENT USE: Theater

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Frank N. Blake

CONDITION: Exc. ___ Good ___ Fair ☒ Poor ___ Ruins ___

INTEGRITY: Original Site ☒ Moved ___
Date: _____

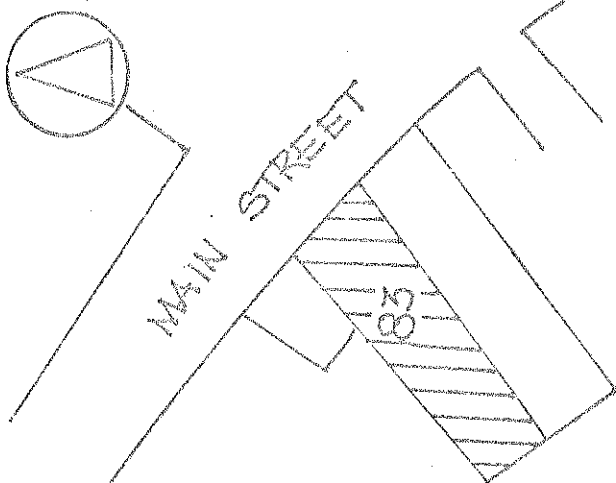
Major Alterations & Date: _____

LEVEL/SIGNIFICANCE: Natl. ___ State ___ Local ☒

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Structural System

- # Stories 3 # Bays 5 Approx. Dimensions 50' Window Sash 1/1
Roof Style: Gable ___ Hip ___ Gambrel ___ Flat ☒ Shed ___ Mansard ___ Jerkinhead ___
Monitor ___ Sawtooth ___ Other ___
Appendages: Porches ___ Towers ___ Dormers ___ Bay Windows ___ Ells ___ Chimneys ___
Wings ___ Cupolas ___ Sheds ___ Garage ___ Other ___
Entry Location: Center ___ Sidehall ___ Other ___
- FOUNDATION: Random Rubble ___ Cut Granite ___ Brick ☒ Concrete ___ Concrete Block ___
Other: _____
- WALL STRUCTURE:
Wood Frame: Post & Beam ___ Balloon Frame ☒ Other ___
Load Bearing Masonry: Stone ___ Brick ___ Concrete Block ___ Other ___
Metal: Iron ___ Steel ___ Other ___
- WALL COVERING: Clapboard ___ Wood Shingle ___ Board & Batten ___ Shiplap ___
Aluminum ___ Novelty ___ Stucco ___ Stone ___ Brick ☒ Sheet Metal ___ Asphalt Shingles ___
Vinyl ___ Asphalt Sheeting ___ Composite Board ___ Other ☒ brick venner
- ROOF SHEATHING: Wood Shingle ___ Asphalt Shingle ___ Standing Seam tin ___ Slate ___
Pressed Metal ___ Sheet Metal ___ Rolled Asphalt ___ Gravel ___ Other ___
- ENGINEERING STRUCTURE: _____

MAP (Indicate North in circle):



PHOTO



Description of View: Looking west

Negative File Number: R-20-A5-36

Photographer: Roger Brevoort

Negative on file with: SRRC

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL AND STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The Scenic Theater is a 3 story brick structure faced with rough-textured brick, a rather unusual treatment for commercial architecture. The most prominent detail is a pressed metal block cornice typical of its period. The windows have 1/1 sash, topped by brick splayed lintels, articulated on the second story by raised keystones.

RELATED STRUCTURES AND CONTEXT:

The Scenic Theatre is part of a commercial streetscape facing Central Square.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Evaluation & Historical Associations):

The Scenic Theatre is a small early twentieth century building that fits comfortably into the adjacent commercial streetscape. Its facade is notable for the use of rough-textured brick which gives the building an "antique" appearance. This treatment was common on early twentieth century houses, but is rarely seen on commercial buildings.

The Scenic Theatre was built to accomodate both plays and movies in 1912. This date is uncommonly early for a movie theatre. The presence of the theatre at this time substantiates the fact that Rochester was an important cultural center in the early twentieth century. This was largely the result of Rochester's economic vitality in the early twentieth century which enabled the population to support new cultural facilities.

REFERENCES:

Ruth Howland - Rochester History Advisory Committee

MAP DATA:

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Open Land___Woodland___Scattered Bldgs___Moderately Built Up___
Densely Built Up___Residential___Commercial___Industrial___Agricultural___
Roadside Strip Development___Other___

BOUNDARY AND ACREAGE DESCRIPTION:

(LOT SIZE) 49 X 160

Recorded By:

Roger Brevoort

Date:

11/25/80

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM - STRAFFORD ROCKINGHAM REGIONAL COUNCIL
One Water Street, Exeter, New Hampshire 03833 Phone: (603)778-0885

CONTINUATION SHEET

Significance

The Theatre was initially leased to Edward and Louis DeNault of Lowell, Massachusetts, who may have been its promoters. It was constructed by Frank N. Blake, a local Rochester builder. The building also contained a store.

