

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

TOWN: Rochester	COUNTY: Strafford
SURVEY NUMBER: 8	
COMMON NAME: National Farmers & D.C. Grocery	
HISTORIC NAME: Colman Block	
LOCATION: NE corner of North Main and Union Streets.	
OWNER: Capodestria Realty Co.	
ADDRESS: 6 Union St., Rochester, NH	
MAP & PARCEL # : 42/255 121-368	
DATE: C.1925	
SOURCE: Inspection	
STYLE: Commercial Georgian Revival	

UTM: Z 19 /E 339500 /N 4796400
USGS QUAD: Berwick Quad 15 series
FUNCTIONAL TYPE: Commercial
PRESENT USE: Commercial
ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Willard M. March
CONDITION: Exc. Good Fair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Poor Ruins
INTEGRITY: Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved Date
Major Alterations & Date:
LEVEL/SIGNIFICANCE: Natl. State Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Structural System**

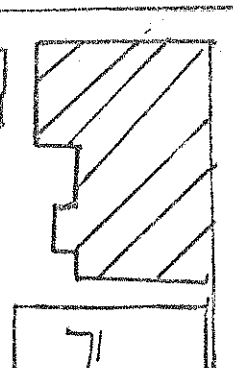
- # Stories 1 # Bays 3 Approx. Dimensions 60'x60' Window Sash  
Roof Style: Gable Hip Gambrel Flat ☒ Shed Mansard Jerkinhead  
Monitor Sawtooth Other  
Appendages: Porches Towers Dormers Bay Windows Ells Chimneys  
Wings Cupolas Sheds Garage Other  
Entry Location: Center Sidehall Other ☒ Storefront
- 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
- ROOF SHEATHING: Wood Shingle Asphalt Shingle Standing Seam Tin Slate  
Pressed Metal Sheet Metal Rolled Asphalt Gravel Other ☒ Composition
- ENGINEERING STRUCTURE:

MAP (Indicate North in circle):



UNION STREET

8A



MAIN STREET

PHOTO



Description of View: Looking Northeast

Negative File Number: R-80-A1-31

Photographer: Roger Brevoort

Negative on file with: SRRC

## ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL AND STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Characteristic of its period, the Colman Block is a vernacular Georgian Revival one-story commercial building constructed C.1925. The main articulation is seen on the facade which consists of three original storefronts with wood-framed plate glass windows flanking recessed central entrys. Wood panels remain beneath each window. All three storefronts are joined by a common pressed metal architrave and cornice which spans the facade and east elevation along Union Street.

A stepped parapet centered over the facade punctuates the roofline and contains a concrete inscription stone reading "Colman Block".

There is another intact storefront at the northeast corner of the building.

## RELATED STRUCTURES AND CONTEXT:

The Colman Block stands on the northwest corner of North Main and Union Streets at the edge of the central business district.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Evaluation & Historical Associations):

The Colman Block was built C.1925 for Charles D. Colman, a local merchant. It is a typical example of 1920's commercial architecture, the stepped parapet over the facade being a very common design feature of that period. The large plate glass display windows and storefront design remain intact, contributing to the building's architectural integrity.

The corner store once housed a small A&P, and urgeon outfitters, a shoe store whose painted wall sign is still visible on the rear elevation. Charles Colman originally operated a grocery store in the building.

## REFERENCES:

Rochester History Advisory Committee  
Personal notes of Gladys Redlon, Rochester Historian

## MAP DATA:

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Open Land\_\_\_Woodland\_\_\_Scattered Bldgs\_\_\_Moderately Built Up\_\_\_  
Densely Built Up\_\_\_Residential\_\_\_Commercial\_\_\_X\_\_\_Industrial\_\_\_Agricultural\_\_\_  
Roadside Strip Development\_\_\_Other\_\_\_

BOUNDARY AND ACREAGE DESCRIPTION: (LOT SIZE) 75 X 108

Recorded By: Roger Brevoort

Date: 11/13/80

CONTINUATION SHEET

Description

The entrances to the stores, and into the building are grouped within a recessed entry at the center.

On the northeastern elevation, the third story window treatment and roofline detailing is carried to the two front bays.

