

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

TOWN: Rochester COUNTY: Strafford

SURVEY NUMBER: 17

COMMON NAME: F.W. Woolworth Co.

HISTORIC NAME: Dodge Block

LOCATION: NW corner of North Main Street
and Wakefield Street

OWNER: Granite State National Bank

ADDRESS: 3 Elm St., Sommersworth, NH

MAP & PARCEL # : 42/288 121-3710

DATE: C.1902-8

SOURCE: Gladys Redlon notes

STYLE: Panel Brick Commercial

UTM: Z 19 /E 332700 /N 4796300

USGS QUAD: Berwick Quad 15' series

FUNCTIONAL TYPE: Commercial

PRESENT USE: Commercial

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Frank N. Blake

CONDITION: Exc. Good ☒ Fair Poor Ruins

INTEGRITY: Original Site ☒ Moved Date

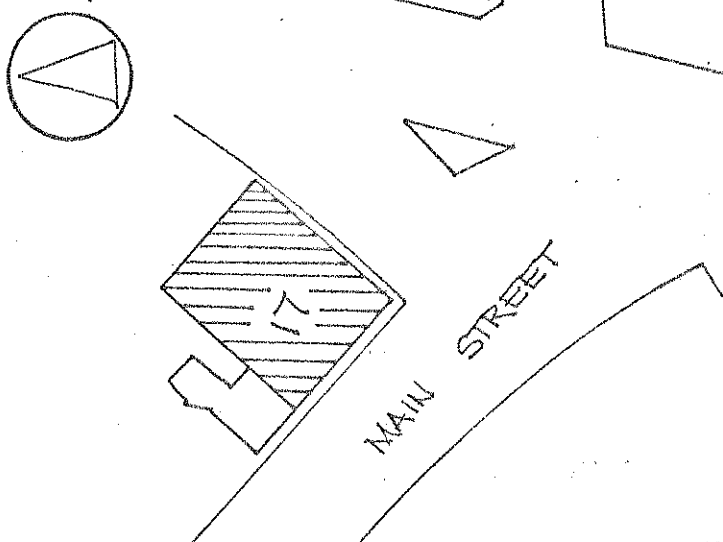
Major Alterations & Date: Removal of
third story-1908.

LEVEL/SIGNIFICANCE: Natl. State Local ☒

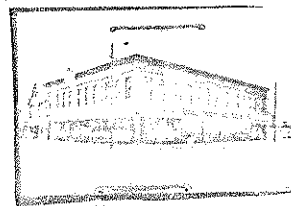
GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Structural System

- # Stories 2 # Bays 10x13 Approx. Dimensions 75'x100' 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 ☒ corner
- FOUNDATION: Random Rubble Cut Granite Brick Concrete Concrete Block
Other ☒ stone
- 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 ☒ composite
- ENGINEERING STRUCTURE:

MAP (Indicate North in circle):



PHOTO



Description of View: South and west
elevations, looking north
Negative File Number: R081/A7-15a-16
Photographer: Roger Brevoort
Negative on file with: SRRC

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL AND STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION;

The Dodge Block is now a two story commercial building, although when constructed in 1902 it was three stories. A tall brick chimney on the NE corner alludes to this former height.

Of nearly rectangular proportions, the building is 10 X 13 bays wide with principal elevations along the south and west sides. Both these walls are faced with glazed brick.

The lower story of the west elevation features a row of display windows, and a recessed entry at the northwest end. On the east elevation, the storefronts and windows have been infilled with brick, although brick piers which originally separated the storefronts, and a section of pressed metal cornice remain. A cast iron pier at the southwest corner allows for a recessed corner entry.

RELATED STRUCTURES AND CONTEXT:

The Dodge Block is one of the major buildings facing Central Square.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Evaluation & Historical Associations):

The Dodge Block commands a prominent position on Rochester Square. Built c.1902 on the site of the Dodge Hotel, the original configuration of the structure was a 3 story commercial/ office building until the third story burned c.1908. (The third story served as the Masonic Hall, its burning was the impetus for the construction of The Masonic Building site #43 on Hanson Street.)

The street level was originally occupied by the Norway Plains Savings Bank until sometime between 1916 and 1920 when Woolworth's moved in. The interior features an original sinage of this popular variety store remain intact as of this survey, lending early 20th century authenticity to the downtown streetscape.

REFERENCES:

Personal notes of Gladys Redlon
Rochester History Advisory Committee

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:

Recorded By: Roger Brevoort

Date: 11/15/80

CONTINUATION SHEET

Description #17

The upper story is characterized by 1/1 windows, with transoms, set in rectangular openings. The windows have rockfaced granite lintels and are joined by a stone sillcourse. They are grouped in threes, each group being within a recessed panel flanked by brick piers, an identifying trait of the Panel Brick style. The upper portion of each panel is highlighted by brick corbelling.

The roofline is marked by a pressed metal cornice with blocks and dentils, giving it a classical apperance.

An inscription stone reading "DODGE BLOCK" is centered on the south elevation, beneath the cornice.

