



## **Downtown Manchester, Connecticut – The Jaffe and Podrove Building**

This historic building at 811 Main Street was built about 1920 as the Jaffe and Podrove building, home of the Manchester Public Market (grocery) in the early-twentieth century. It became the home of the W.T. Grant Store beginning in the 1930s. In 2012, it houses the Main Street Mall. Although altered, it has retained many original architectural features, including interesting patterns of brickwork – vertically placed bricks, or “soldiers,” highlight the windows, and a string of brick edges, or “headers,” runs around the rectangle that houses the name Jaffe & Podrove. The building’s transitional style retains such Colonial Revival features as symmetrically spaced tripartite windows with transoms and a stepped parapet, like a “false front” wall at the top with console bracket bracing the steps. The diamond-shaped cast concrete blocks with floral motifs are decorative elements frequently used by the Art Deco style. This building, along with Manchester’s Downtown, is on the National Register of Historic Places.

*Photo and commentary by Susan Barlow, Manchester Historical Society*