

Howard County

# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Fayette Area Heritage Association

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Fayette Opera House	Fayette	yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Grand Theatre		yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alamo Theatre		yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Fayette Opera House	Fayette	yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Grand Theatre		yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alamo Theatre		yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Fayette Opera House	Fayette	yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Grand Theatre		yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alamo Theatre		yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? \_\_\_\_\_

NONE

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

\_\_\_\_ books about specific theatres  
\_\_\_\_ photographs  
\_\_\_\_ newspaper articles  
\_\_\_\_ scrapbooks  
\_\_\_\_ county or town histories  
\_\_\_\_ other, please specify

Central Methodist College Library  
Fayette Public Library  
Democrat-Header  
Unknown  
County Court Hse Records

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

No

What days and times is your library open to the public?

Smiley CMC Library 1:30-10:00 Fayette Public 12-5

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

No

Who is the best person to contact for more information? John Kelly CMC Drama Dept.

**Thank you for your assistance.**

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203

Howard County

# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Glasgow Area Historical and Preservation Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Library Hall	Glasgow	yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Opera House		yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Library Hall	Glasgow	yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Opera House		yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Library Hall	Glasgow	yes	no	
Opera House		yes	no	

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area?

Plays were performed at the Lewis Library as part of the College. Lewis Library is still an active + Community Library. The only other Theatre was downtown - The Electric Theatre. It is no longer in existence.

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

books about specific theatres	
photographs	
newspaper articles	
scrapbooks	
county or town histories	
other, please specify	

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

No

What days and times is your library open to the public? Due to Renovation, it has not reopened yet but should be in the near future.

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

Who is the best person to contact for more information? Judy Bentley, Pres.  
Glasgow Lewis Library  
Board - 660-338-2955

Thank you for your assistance.

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203



11/20/97

Dear Becky,

I apologize that it took so long getting back with you, but your letter went to City Hall & I just received it from them yesterday. The Historical Society does not have documentation about theatres in Glasgow's past but you might check with Judy Bentley, Pres. of the Library board. I included her phone number on the questionnaire.

Sincerely,  
Melba Meyer

P.S. Another source would be Maxine <sup>worp</sup>  
Freemonth - 660-338-2316 - ~~home~~  
or 660-338-2757 - home



## South Howard County Historical Society

P.O. Box 234

September 6, 1997

Becky L. Snider  
1008 Sunset Drive  
Columbia, Mo. 65203

Dear Ms. Snider,

New Franklin, as far as I can determine, Had only two movie theaters in the past, the Princess and the Roxy. Probably both have been closed since the 1940's or early '50s.

I have sent copies of your letter and questionnaire to the following area people whom I feel can best help you in information about Armstrong, Fayette and Boonville. Boonville has an outstanding old theatre building still used for cultural and other community events - Thespian Hall.

Armstrong: William A. Markland  
103 W. Seminary  
Armstrong, Mo. 65230

Fayette: Mrs. Charles Coutts  
300 County Road 407  
Fayette, Mo. 65248  
(If Mrs. Coutts isn't able to help you I think she will refer you to someone who can)

Boonville: Judy Shields  
Friends of Historic Boonville  
614 E. Morgan  
Boonville, Mo. 65233

I hope this is some help to you. Best wishes on your dissertation.

Sincerely,

Doris D. Markland,  
Secretary

# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

SW-AS-036-024

1. NO. <u>16</u>		4. Present Local Name(s) or Design. <u>Grand Theater</u>	
2. COUNTY <u>Howard</u>		5. OTHER NAME(S) <u>Alamo Theater</u>	
3. Location of Negatives <u>City Hall</u>			
6. Specific Legal Location Township <u>50N</u> Range <u>16W</u> Section <u>11</u> If City or Town, Street Address <u>117 N. Main</u>		21. Original Use, If Apparent <u>Movie Theater 08</u>	31. Wall Construction <u>brick</u>
7. City or Town If Rural, Vicinity <u>Fayette</u>		22. Present Use <u>Being demolished</u>	32. Roof Type & Material <u>flat PR</u>
10. Site ( ) Structure ( ) Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Object ( )		23. Ownership Public ( ) Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	33. No. of Bays Front <u>3</u> Side <u>0</u>
11. On National Yes ( ) Register? No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12. Is It Yes ( ) Eligible? No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		24. Owner's Name and Address If Known <u>Commercial Trust Co.</u> <u>Fayette, MO 65248</u>	34. Wall Treatment <u>common bond</u>
13. Part of Estab. Yes ( ) Hist. District? No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 14. District Yes ( ) Potential? No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		25. Open To Public? Yes ( ) No ( )	35. Plan Shape <u>rectangle</u>
15. Name of Established District <u>n/a</u>		26. Local Contact Person or Organization <u>Lew Wallace Jacobs III</u>	36. Changes Addition ( ) (Explain in Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. 42) Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
16. Thematic Category <u>RECREATION/CULTURE</u>		27. Other Surveys In Which Included <u>None</u>	37. Condition Interior <u>poor</u> Exterior <u>poor</u>
17. Date(s) or Period <u>1913</u>		28. No. of Stories <u>2</u>	38. Preservation Yes ( ) Underway? No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
18. Style or Design <u>Spanish Pueblo</u>		29. Basement? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No ( )	39. Endangered? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> By What? No ( )
19. Architect or Engineer <u>Unknown</u>		30. Foundation Material <u>concrete</u>	40. Visible From Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Road? No ( )
20. Contractor or Builder <u>Unknown</u>			

42. Further Description of Important Features

See No. 42 on supplemental sheet

43. History and Significance

See No. 43 on supplemental sheet

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings

See No. 44 on supplemental sheet

45. Sources of Information

46. Prepared By  
M. H. McVicker

47. Organization  
City of Fayette

342:  
101/21/02

## Building #16-Question #42

By the time this survey is completed, this building will have been demolished for an addition to the adjacent bank (#15). The style of this building has been called Mission, but it mixes a number of themes to the romanticized Old West.

### Front Facade:

The central section of the facade is slightly higher than the two flanking bays and gives just of nod to the style of the Alamo in Texas. The cornice is plain, capped by the ubiquitous thick tiles found on many commercial buildings in Fayette. The plain, flat central section has two small, narrow windows in the middle which may or may not have been intended to look like gun embrasures on the famous fort. The flanking sections have flat, slightly projecting brick hoods over the windows which were probably meant to look "Indian." They do resemble an armless figure with a tiny head, sitting atop the window frame and dangling its feet to either side. It could also be based upon a simple, label lintel with brickwork above. On either side of this composition, a simple strip of brick "hangs down" from the cornice, ending with two individual bricks. Most of the front facade has been painted white, leaving a plain brick strip straight across the top, and accenting these decorative strips and "figures."

There are two entrances flanked by spaces for locking poster frames into permanent panels outlined by the same dark brick as in the second story level. An Art Deco canopy in a triangular shape with rounded front point covers the first floor central section. The word "GRAND" was lit in neon on both sides of the canopy and three rows of horizontal neon lights filled the space between while the entire bottom of the canopy contained another three rows of neon lights. Beneath this canopy is a centered ticket booth which is flanked by the two entrances.

### Right, Left, and Rear Elevations:

The building abuts buildings to the right and left. The rear was already undergoing demolition at the start of this survey and its original appearance could not be determine.

### Interior:

The Indian figured motiff is repeated in the interior, along with several other Native American motiffs painted on the wooden ceiling beams. These beams were probably intended to resemble a frontier building or the timbers visible in Southwestern pueblo construction. The building had carbon arc projectors. These projectors and the word Grand from the canopy were moved down the street in June 1992 to the new movie house.



Supplemental Sheet for Inventory Form 16

43. At the time of the 1885 Sanborn map, this lot is occupied by an L-shaped one-story frame dwelling with a back porch, placed snugly against the corner of Davis and Main Streets. It had one small outbuilding, well back on the lot. By 1889, its lot was drawn showing two equal lengthwise portions, with the house encroaching a couple of feet onto the south lot, and it looks exactly the same on the 1894 map. By 1902, the house has become a business, showing an addition on the southern block. Starting on the north end, the rooms are labeled "Dress'g Rm, Off., Storge, Poultry and Ir Clo" with the final room marked with an "X" from corner to corner, indicating a stable, according to the map key. These two rooms, the "Ir Clo" and the stable, constitute the addition. On the January 1910 Sanborn map, the building has been enlarged again, and is marked "Produce." The lot line has been redrawn to reflect the existing line formed by the end wall of the building. Paul Chenoweth recalls that this lot was occupied by a home and feed store, before construction of the Alamo Theater building. The Alamo Theater building occupied this lot, Number 54 of the Original Town, from 1913 until the summer of 1992, when it was demolished to make way for an addition to the Commercial Trust Bank (Survey No. 15).

In "Walks and Talks about Fayette," in T. Berry Smith's History, the two gentlemen note that "the site of the Shafroth home is occupied by some modern buildings, including the Commercial Bank erected in 1910 and the 'Alamo' built in 1913."

"The Shafroth home" referred to in the "Walks and Talks" belonged to John Shafroth. John Shafroth was a Swiss immigrant, born in 1810, who came to the United States as a young man, and lived in St. Louis for three years, and Rochepot for one year, before coming to Fayette. The 1883 History includes a biography, somewhat short on facts, that is mostly a Victorian effusion on his blameless life: "Such were the measures of a well-spent life -- from birth to marriage and to death. But how little they tell ---nothing-- of the real life he had!" It says he was "for 25 years a leading merchant of Fayette," which would indicate a date of about 1841 for his entry into business. Since he was married in November of 1840, this could make 25 a reasonable figure. John Shafroth died in 1866. The property on which the Alamo sat was distributed in a lawsuit in 1869 to Sophia F. Hale, wife of Hiram F. Hale. Its value was given as \$700. William Shafroth, John's oldest son, then bought the land back from his oldest sister. William was a leading businessman of Fayette. In 1873, he went into partnership in the grocery business with Mortimer A. Boyd. Boyd & Shafroth occupied the southeast corner on the south side of the Square (Survey No. 79). One photograph on page 123 in Picturesque Fayette was taken in 1873 from the balcony of this building. Boyd & Shafroth's store was involved in the 1882 fire which destroyed much of the south side of the Square, but survived. That building apparently succumbed to another fire in 1893, after which the present building on the site was constructed. Boyd and Shafroth joined with J. H. Armstrong in 1889 to

build the Fayette Roller Mill, which appears on the 1889 Sanborn map on the south side of the railroad tracks at the foot of Watts Avenue. Interestingly, it is shown on the 1894 map as "Armstong, Boyd & Shaforth's Fayette Roller Mill," a misspelling of Shafroth's name which occurs in other sources. A history of this enterprise is included in Picturesque Fayette on page 34. Shafroth eventually bought out his partners and formed a stock company in 1903. By the time of the 1923 History, Shafroth is no longer listed as an officer. His youngest brother is mentioned in Picturesque Fayette as having moved to Denver, Colorado, in 1879 and being elected a Congressman there. He gained national attention for resigning his seat in the House, "acknowledging that his election had been tainted by fraud." William's youngest sister, Carrie, married Dr. Uriel Wright in 1873 and died in 1889. Another sister, Mary Louisa, married J. H. Bradley, who became president of the Roller Mill.

A copy of a letter to the Fayette Democrat-Leader from H.B. Watts (from the files of T. Berry Smith) states that "Between the Griffith (tailor) shop and John Shafroth's residence, where now stands the Commercial Bank, were vacant lots owned by Shafroth and utilized for a family garden." This empty lot is the present location of the Alamo Theater building.

In October of 1884, William Shafroth granted John A. Talbot & Company the right to build a wall on the property line which bordered the garden, with one half of the wall to be on Lot 54. They agreed that if Shafroth (or his assigns) ever erected a building using that wall, he would pay Talbot \$8.75 per thousand brick (that is, half the price of the wall.)

Lot 54 was still vacant in 1894, when it was described in a deed of trust to secure a note.

On July 11, 1913, William Shafroth gave a 99-year lease on the property to C.E. Givens and Thomas R. Moore, including the use of the brick wall. The rent was to be \$300 a year, with all taxes to be paid by the lessee. If the taxes were not paid, the lessor could reclaim the property in one year, including the improvements. On September 24, 1913, Moore and Givens sold their lease for \$4,000 to J.W. Givens "together with the brick building erected thereon." This was surety for a loan, later repaid.

As for the movies shown, the advertisement for the first show to be presented at the "Alamo" does not give the actual title of the evening's offering. The opening night was Thursday, October 16, 1913, charging 10 cents for adults and 5 cents for children. The advertisement in the newspaper for the opening touted "the most up-to-date pictures ever shown in the city. We will cater to the ladies and children, and while our entertainment will be a place of amusement, it will also be educational and instructive. We have our own heating and lighting plant and our chairs are regular opera chairs. The building is perfectly ventilated and the safety, comfort and convenience of our patrons will always be looked after."

Continuation of No. 43 for Inventory Form No. 16

In April of 1914, just sixth months after opening, A.W. Bell acquired the Moore interest in the lease and rented Givens half-interest "with the building and fixtures and appurtenances, for the purpose of conducting a moving picture and vaudeville theater." A.W. Bell paid \$50 a month to Givens for three years. The documents spelling out the deal between Bell and Moore mention a debt of \$6,000 for improvements. Bell then sold his half of the 99-year-lease to Monte Crews in 1917 for \$4,500. Monte Crews in turn sold it for \$9,700 to a group of Slater investors: Leonard R. Stroud, Melvin L. Stroud, George R. Stroud, and Linwood R. Stroud. George R. Stroud then bought out the other Strouds September 21, 1923, for \$7,500 and then bought C.E. Givens share for \$5,000 in October, 1923. The lease then passed to Sallie B. Allison of Slater on September 3, 1927, for \$20,000. She then leased the Alamo and its land for ten years to Thomas D. Block of Odessa in August of 1928 for \$150 per month in advance. She agreed to erect a 4 x 18 foot marquee, wired with no less than 24 electric globes, as a condition of the lease. Block agreed to purchase the fixtures and assume all of the film contracts already signed. The fixtures included: one Photo Player No. 35B, all chains, fans, 2 simplex machines, rewinds, all booth equipment, all advertising boards, printing press, velvet curtain, daylight screen, all office fixtures including two cabinets, one roller top desk, one safe, and one coal oil stove. For all of this, he paid \$3,800. Sallie died, and her executor sold the underlying lease to Miles and Nanna Skillman on August 28, 1929.

In 1968, Miles and Nanna Skillman obtained the 20 quit claim deeds needed to get clear title to the land from the heirs of William Shafroth. On September 23, 1975, Miles Skillman sold the entire lot to the Commercial Trust Company. The Skillmans have also leased the business to a number of operators since 1929. Johnny Griggs of Boonville has been the most recent lessee, and has relocated the business at 105 North Main (Survey No. 19) under the name, "Grand Theater." It is not known when the name changed from the "Alamo" to the "Grand," or if there were other intermediate changes.

According to a letter from Gerald Lee Gilleard to H. Denny Davis, dated September 13, 1988, "A quick review of theaters listed on the National Register of Historic Places and in the book **The Front Row, Missouri's Grand Theatres**, by Mary Bagley, has revealed no theaters in Missouri older than Fayette's Grand Theater, built expressly for the presentation of motion pictures. ...my office's survey to locate properties eligible for listing on the National Register contains approximately 60% of the state's historic theaters. When this percent (sic) is compared to less than 5% of the total number of historic buildings surveyed statewide, it adds credence to your rumor of the Grand being the 'oldest' movie theatre west of the Mississippi, at least in Missouri."



Continuation of No. 43 for Inventory Form No. 16

In 1991, Commercial Trust announced plans to tear down the Alamo building, and expand the bank to the south. The bank planned to use a style and materials compatible with the original bank building's Renaissance Revival design. Behind the building, on a formerly vacant lot, the bank is also constructing a new drive-up facility. Special buttressing is being constructed to strengthen the north elevation of Survey No. 17, the Talbot Building, which developed a lean in the late 1880's, and which will be pressing against the addition when completed. This is the wall in which William Shafroth had the half-interest, created in 1884 when the Talbot building was constructed, and which he conveyed with the original 99-year-lease on Lot 54.

44. Before its demolition, the Alamo building faced South Main Street, and shared walls with the Talbot Building (Survey No. 17) on the south and the Commercial Bank Building (Survey No. 15) on the north. Behind the Alamo, on the east side, is an alley. There are/were no outbuildings.

45. Sanborn maps of 1885, 1889, 1894, 1902, 1910 and 1925.

Letter by Gerald Lee Gilleard to H. Denny Davis, dated September 23, 1988, and filed at the offices of the Fayette Advertiser.

Notes taken by H. Denny Davis in 1988 from the property's Abstract in preparation for an article commemorating the 75th anniversary of the theater, filed at the offices of the Fayette Advertiser.

1905 Picturesque Fayette, pp. 34, 49, 103, 123

1883 History of Howard and Cooper Counties, pp 181, 252, 261-262, 351, 406-407, 424

1923 T. Berry Smith's History of Howard and Chariton Counties, pp. 100, 202, 365, 401

Letter to the Fayette Democrat-Leader from H.B. Watts, from the files of T. Berry Smith.

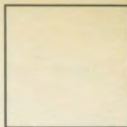
Advertisement from the October 14, 1913, issue of the Fayette Advertiser for opening night







Captain William Becknell of Franklin, Father of the Santa Fe Trail with four companions led the first organized trade expedition to Santa Fe September 1, 1821. One of the great highways of the world stretched nearly 1,000 miles from Franklin, MO to Santa Fe, NM.



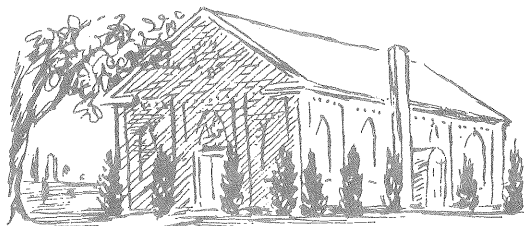
HOWARD COUNTY was created in 1816 and included the whole Boone's Lick area to the Osage Treaty line. It was named for Benjamin Howard the territorial Governor. Daniel Boone's sons, Nathan and Daniel M. began salt-making operations here in 1809 which began the town of Franklin. The location at the base of a huge loop in the Missouri River made the area important for Western Exploration.

THE COOPERS.. One of 4 forts built by early settlers was also the home of Capt. Sarshel Cooper. Here he was killed by Indians. He and his descendants are buried at the Joseph Cooper Cemetery. Benjamin Cooper was the first white man to live permanently in Howard County. Cooper County was named for these pioneers.

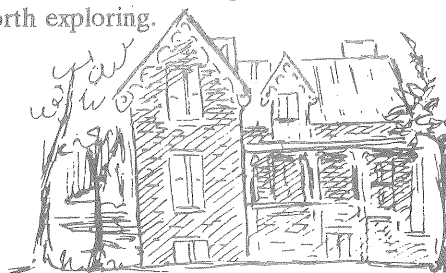
CEDAR GROVE.. was begun by Nicholas Amick in 1824, with later additions by Horace Kingsbury in 1856. Federal architecture with Greek Revival typical of Southern taste moving into the West. Santa Fe Trail marker at roadside. Chains in stone wall for hitching horses.



CLARK'S CHAPEL.. was built in 1879 on site of an earlier Methodist Church. One of Quantrell's men who turned renegade and had to be shot is buried in the old cemetery. The panorama of the river plain and ancient tombstones are worth exploring.



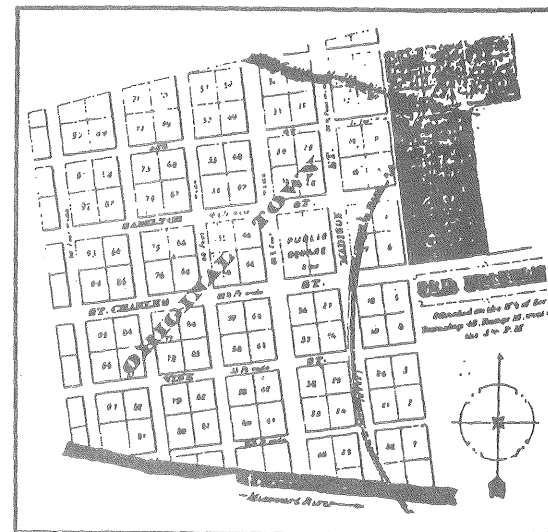
SUNNYSIDE.. was built by Wesly Jefferson Smith in 1857 who came from Virginia by way of Kentucky to farm the fertile valley. Slave cabins once fronted the property. Note the 3 story construction and the original tin roof. The porch gallery has been altered for stairs.



HICKMAN HOUSE..located on the grounds of the University of Missouri Horticultural Center. Built by Col. Thomas Hickman, an early settler from Bourbon Co., Kentucky in 1819. He was a farmer and merchant in Franklin. He and his wife, Sarah Prewit are buried on the grounds. Fort Hempstead was near this site.



RIVERCENE..was completed in 1869 by riverboat Captain Joseph Kinney of brick and cypress with marble mantles brought from New Orleans. Boonslick Road ran in front of the mansion.



THE HISTORIC CITY OF FRANKLIN at the height of its glory was much larger than the visitor can imagine. It was the final destination of the Boonslick Road, one of the first thoroughfares in Missouri Territory, and the first trading expedition to Santa Fe started from the city center in 1821.

The stone marker (#11 on the trail map) represents the town square before it washed away in the floods on the 1820's. Situated on the River (which was 600' north of the present channel) a series of docks and warehouses the base for a Wester trade. The first steamboat arrived in 1819.

Franklin boasted the first newspaper west of St. Louis, the "Missouri Intelligencer"; was home to Kit Carson, 4 governors, 3 Supreme Court Justices, and Missouri's first senator. The Government Land Office and Postal Station had a busy traffic.

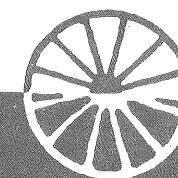
The above plat was prepared in 1876 when the M.K.T. Railroad crossed the River and established a depot at New Franklin.

# South HOWARD COUNTY



## TRAIL CROSSROADS

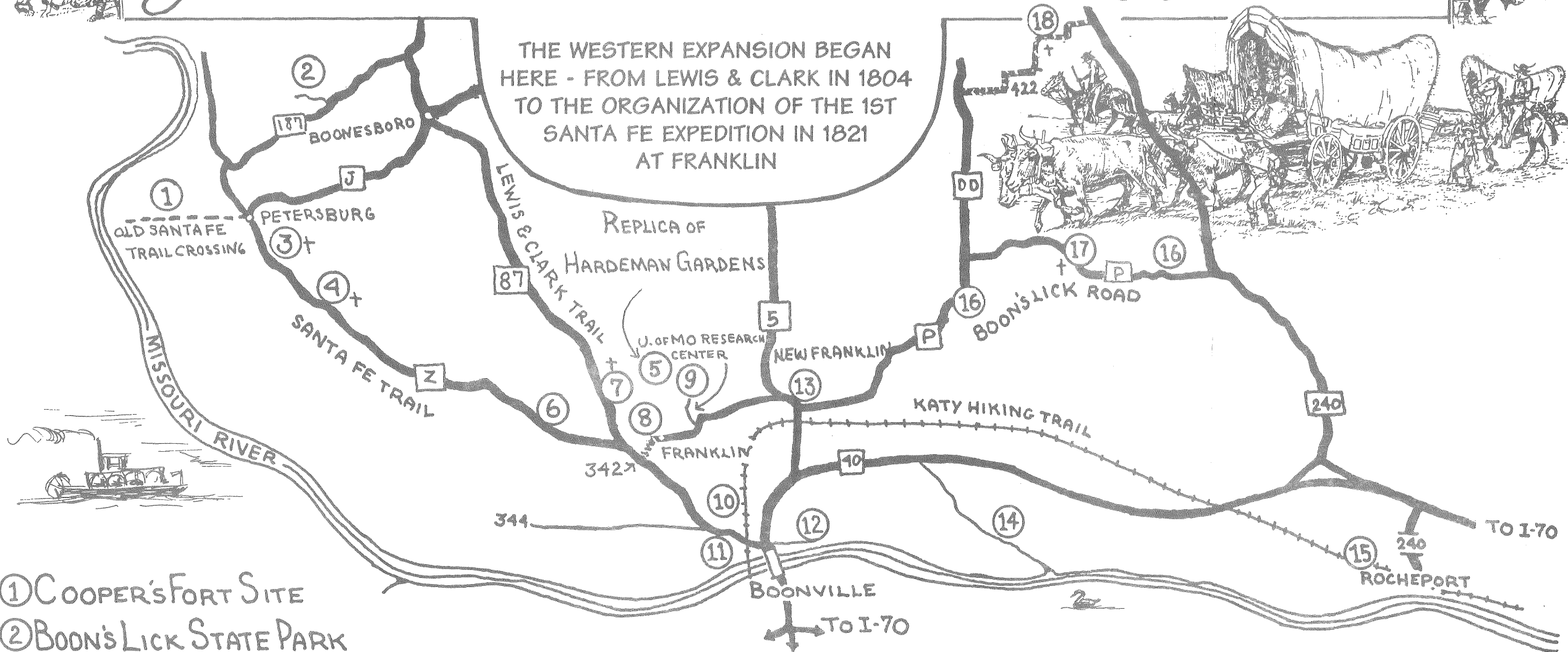
- \* Lewis & Clark Trail
- \* Boonslick Road
- \* Santa Fe Trail
- \* Katy Hiking Trail



South Howard County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 201 101 East Broadway  
New Franklin, Missouri 65276



# South HOWARD COUNTY & TRAIL CROSSROADS



- ① COOPER'S FORT SITE
- ② BOON'S LICK STATE PARK
- ③ BENJAMIN COOPER CEM.
- ④ JOSEPH COOPER CEMETERY
- ⑤ SITE OF HARDEMAN GARDENS
- ⑥ CEDAR GROVE - 1825-1856

- ⑦ CLARK'S CHAPEL - 1879
- ⑧ SUNNYSIDE - 1857
- ⑨ HICKMAN HOUSE - 1819
- ⑩ KATY TRAIL HEAD

- ⑪ HISTORIC FRANKLIN MARKER
- ⑫ RIVERCENE - 1869
- ⑬ TOURIST INFORMATION
- ⑭ FRANKLIN WILDLIFE AREA

- ⑮ M.K.T. TUNNEL - ROCHEPORT
- ⑯ BOON'S LICK ROAD
- ⑰ SALT CREEK CHURCH & CEM.
- ⑱ MT. ZION CHURCH - BEGUN 1817

## 100-Year-Old Building Gives View of Fayette's Olden Days



Photo by Grigsby

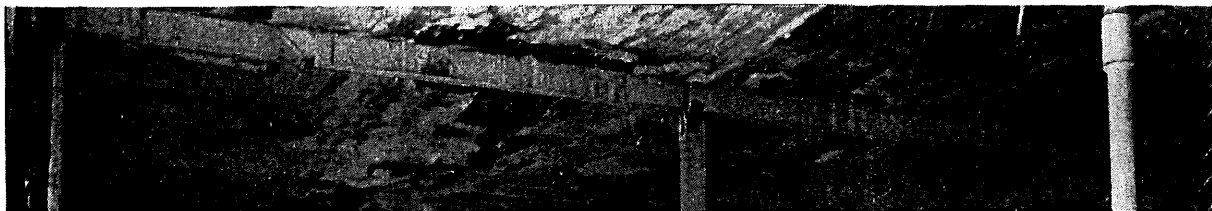
Built by W. J. Megraw, Fayette, Mo.

### THE NEW OPERA HOUSE BLOCK

This building stands on the corner formerly occupied by the old opera house which was destroyed by fire on the evening of January 10, 1902.

SCENE IN "PICTURESQUE FAYETTE 1905" shows opera house, now the Faith Family Fellowship Building, at southeast corner of courthouse square, little changed from when it was built about 1904, except for storefront

façades. Note window-well in front of nearest display window; dirt streets with graveled walkways; present newspaper office, columns and all, at left background. Portion of clothing store sign can still be seen on side of opera house.



THE DEMOCRAT-LEADER  
P. 4 Fayette, MO Dec. 31, 1994

### From Opera House to Recording Studio

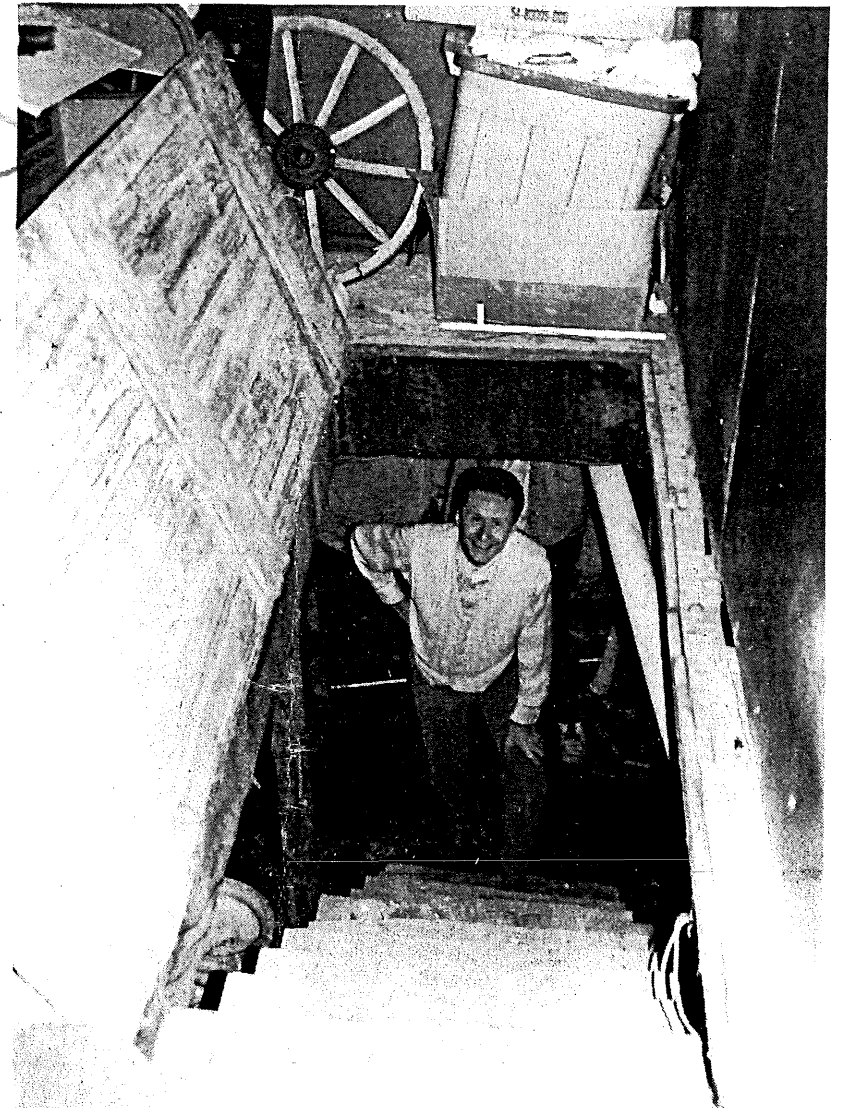
Some call it the Faith Family Fellowship Building. Others say Ayres Building; or the Armory; or the Old Opera House. It was built in 1903, to house an "opera house" upstairs and retail stores at street level and in the basement.

Few if any operas were presented. The term "opera house" was popular in small towns, as a name for a theatre, to overcome religious and moral objections to stage performances. Commonly plays and vaudeville were presented.

With the 1913 advent of the Alamo Theatre, for both movies and stage presentations, on the east side of the square the opera house probably lost favor. One didn't have to climb so many stairs at the street-level Alamo.

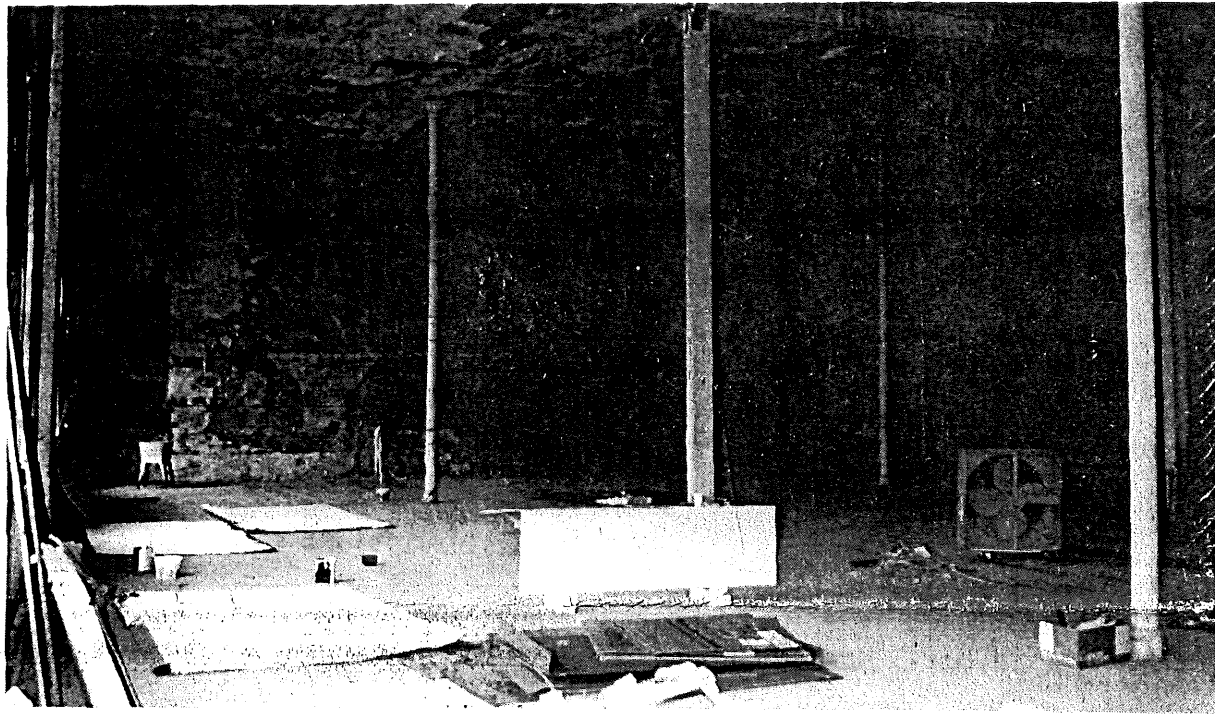
Sometime after World War I, the upstairs theatre became a National Guard Armory. The stage, the proscenium, the seats were ripped out. Members of Company M, 138th Infantry Regiment, 35th Division, drilled in the armory a few hours each month. Many were college students.

In 1940, the guardsmen went to the armory, put on their khaki wool shirts and pants, wrapped their puttees around their lower legs, formed up outside on Main Street, and marched to the depot. They boarded a troop train. They were



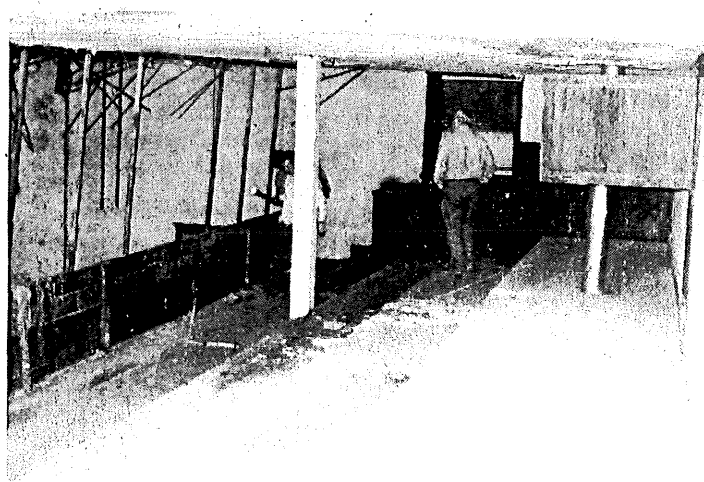
TRAP DOOR IN FLOOR of unused portion of present church space, leads to a basement area, 100 feet long by 18 feet wide, originally finished off for use as shops. On stairs is the Rev. Jamie Page of Faith Family Fellowship.





**OPERA HOUSE INTERIOR** is of awesome proportions. Ceilings are 20 feet high; seating area is nearly 60 feet wide. View is looking east from near Main-Morrison intersection. In background is where stage once was. Round columns in

background and at right foreground are original and were meant to be seen. Erected only a few years after Eiffel built his Tower in Paris in 1889, building proudly boasted decorative steel supports.



puttees around their lower legs, formed up outside on Main Street, and marched to the depot. They boarded a troop train. They were told they would be "home in a year." But World War II came. Most did not come home for five years; some never.

The armory remained a popular site for dances. Down front, where the stage used to be, a "caller" (often a local auctioneer) would chant the steps for the square dancers. Behind him fiddlers provided the music.

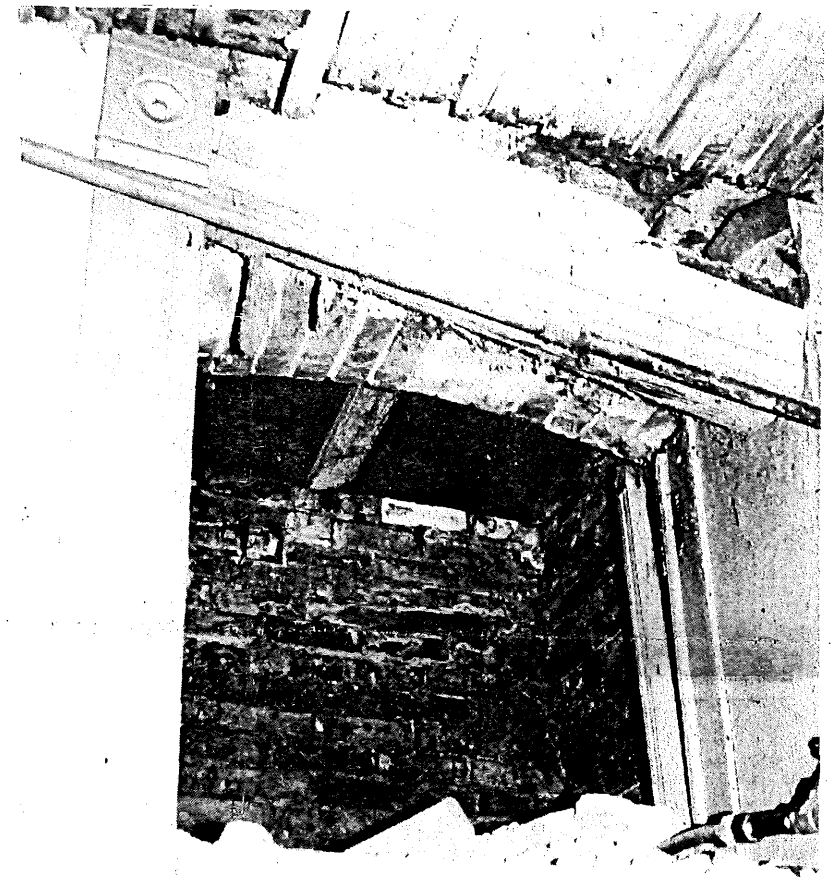
After the war, Company M never re-organized. The armory was the site of a pants factory for a few years. Since then it has stood vacant. A few years ago, Jamie Page opened Front Page Music on the upper floor. He restored the lobby, offices and restrooms, not the theatre proper, the old armory.

Downstairs, the spaces have seen a succession of prosperous retailers. Old timers remember Poole & Creber Grocery; those a little younger remember Ayres Dry Goods Store. Now it houses the sanctuary and ancillary activities of Faith Family Fellowship.

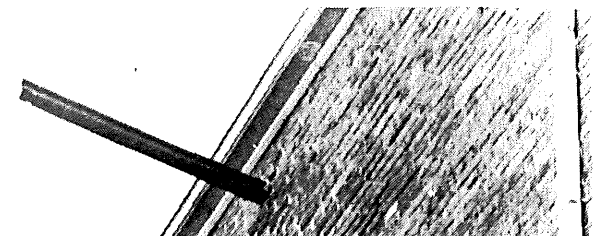
The basement contains three large chambers, with the same dimensions as the three storefronts above. The one along East Morrison was originally finished off elegantly for shops, with outside access. A soft drink bottling works, a bakery were among the businesses there at various times. The Fayette Bottling Works sign can still be faintly seen on the brick wall outside. A deposit-bottle with the company name cast in the glass is now a collector's item. For many decades these spaces have been unused, except for storage.

The other two basement were, and remain, cavernous dirt-floored chambers, each 19 feet wide and 100 feet long. At the front, window wells, with iron grates over them, originally admitted light. These were concreted over long ago.

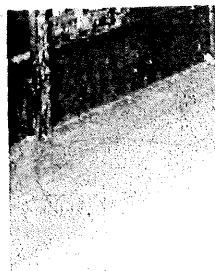
So the attic, theatre and basement have remained frozen in time. This



**ORIGINAL WINDOW-WELL**, underneath sidewalk on South Main Street, long ago was covered with concrete. Brick arch and "bullet molding" at top of window indicate basement was meant for public use.

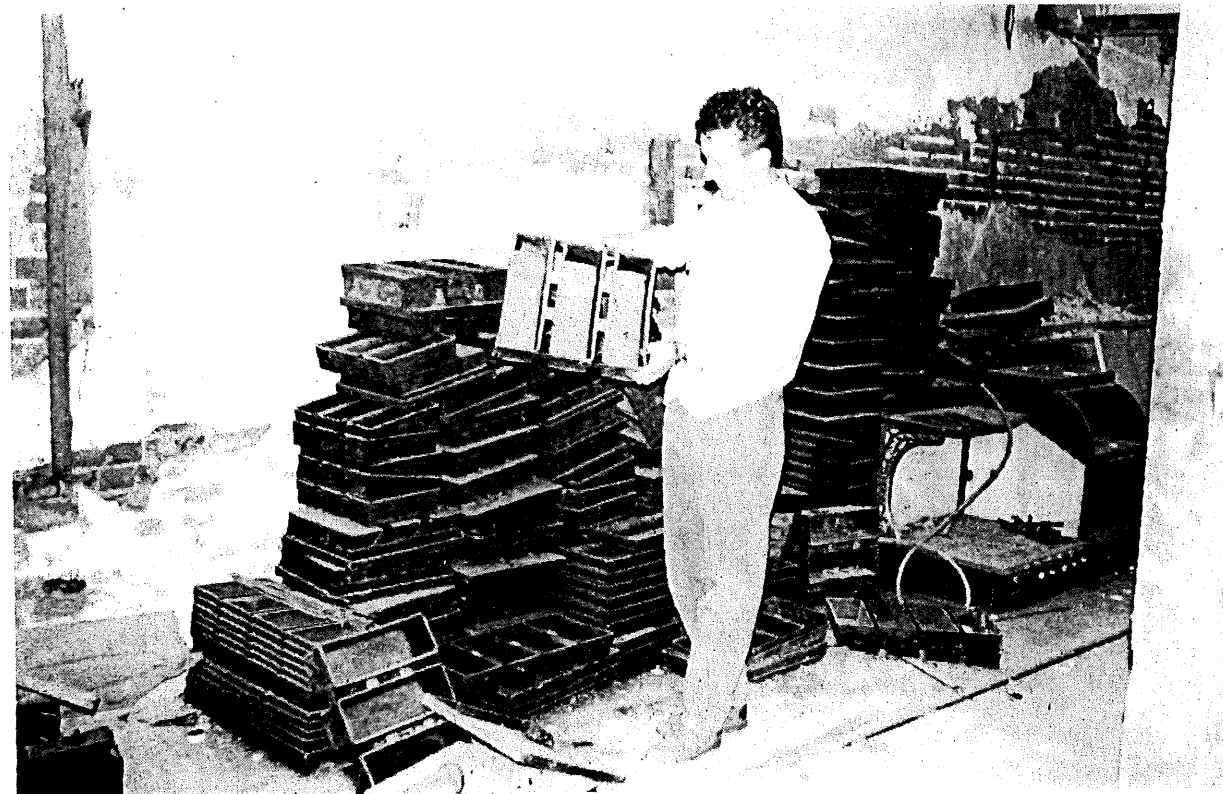






**BALCONY IS STILL INTACT** in old opera house. Seats have been removed. View is looking south from Morrison Street side. At right, half

door opens for projection booth. Arc-lamp, or perhaps limelight, illuminated performers on stage nearly 100 feet away.



**BREAD MOLDS FROM LONG-AGO BAKERY** are stacked in basement of building. Huge quantity— several dozens— give idea of size of

business, in days when every town had its own commercial bakery. Here the Rev. Jamie Page examines one set of three forms.

been unused, except for storage.

The other two basement were, and remain, cavernous dirt-floored chambers, each 19 feet wide and 100 feet long. At the front, window wells, with iron grates over them, originally admitted light. These were concreted over long ago.

So the attic, theatre and basement have remained frozen in time. This month, Rev. Page graciously led visitors on a tour of the undisturbed spaces. The relics found, the stories told, the questions raised, are shown in this picture essay.—HDD

THE DEMOCRAT-LEADER  
(USPS 153-200)  
H. Denny Davis  
Editor & Publisher  
Second Class Postage PAID  
at Fayette, Missouri 65248

Published Every Saturday at 202 East Morrison St., P.O. Box 32, Fayette, MO 65248-0032, Telephone 816-248-2235.

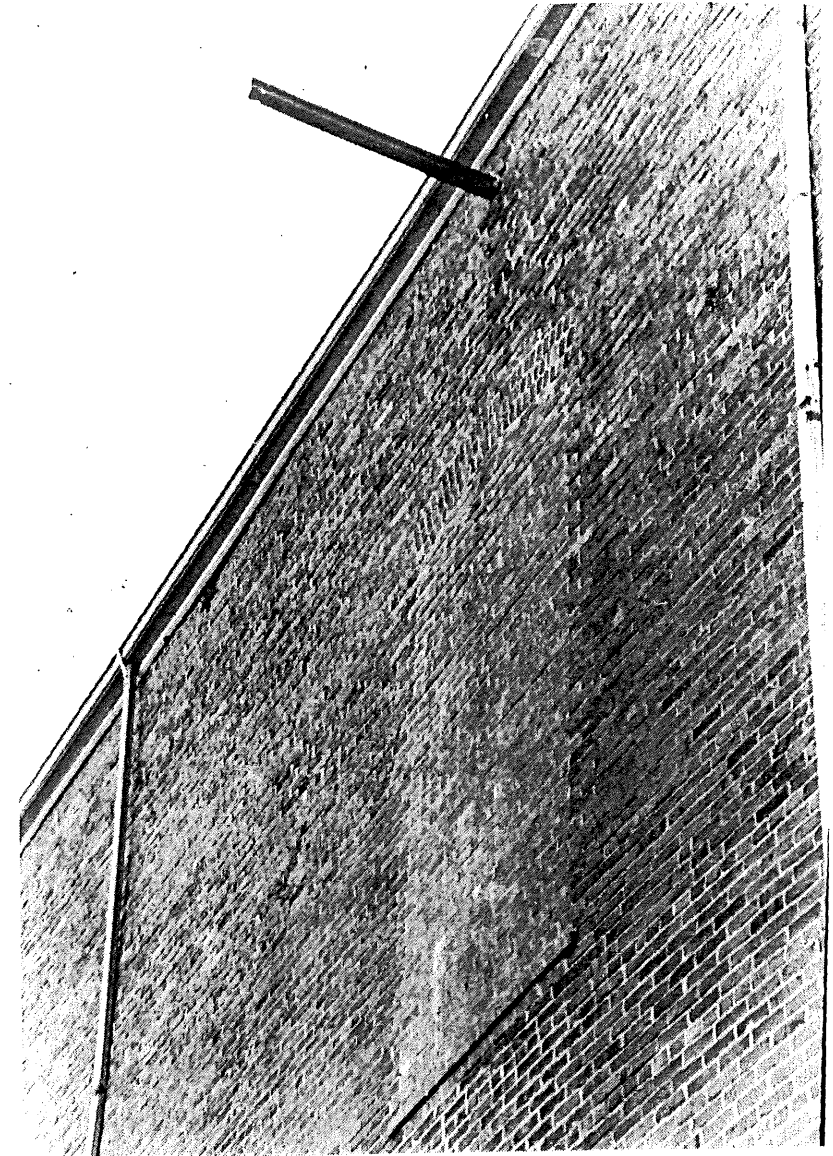
**Vol. 120, #53—December 31, 1994**

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES** in club with The Fayette Advertiser in Howard County, or to a Harrisburg, Higbee or Rocheport mailing address: One year total \$19.00 total (including \$6.17 postage and 81¢ sales tax); six months, total \$12.00 (including \$3.09 postage and 56¢ sales tax). Elsewhere in Missouri: one year, total \$28.00 (including \$15.17 postage and 81¢ sales tax); six months, total \$18 (including \$7.59 postage and 66¢ sales tax). Outside Missouri, inside USA, one year, total \$32.00 (including \$19.98 postage).

The Democrat-Leader if taken alone, in Howard County or to a Harrisburg, Higbee or Rocheport mailing address: one year, total \$12.00 (including \$3.09 postage and 56¢ sales tax); elsewhere in Missouri, one year, total \$18.00 (including \$7.59 postage and 66¢ sales tax). Outside of Missouri, inside USA, one year, total \$21.00 (including \$9.99 postage).

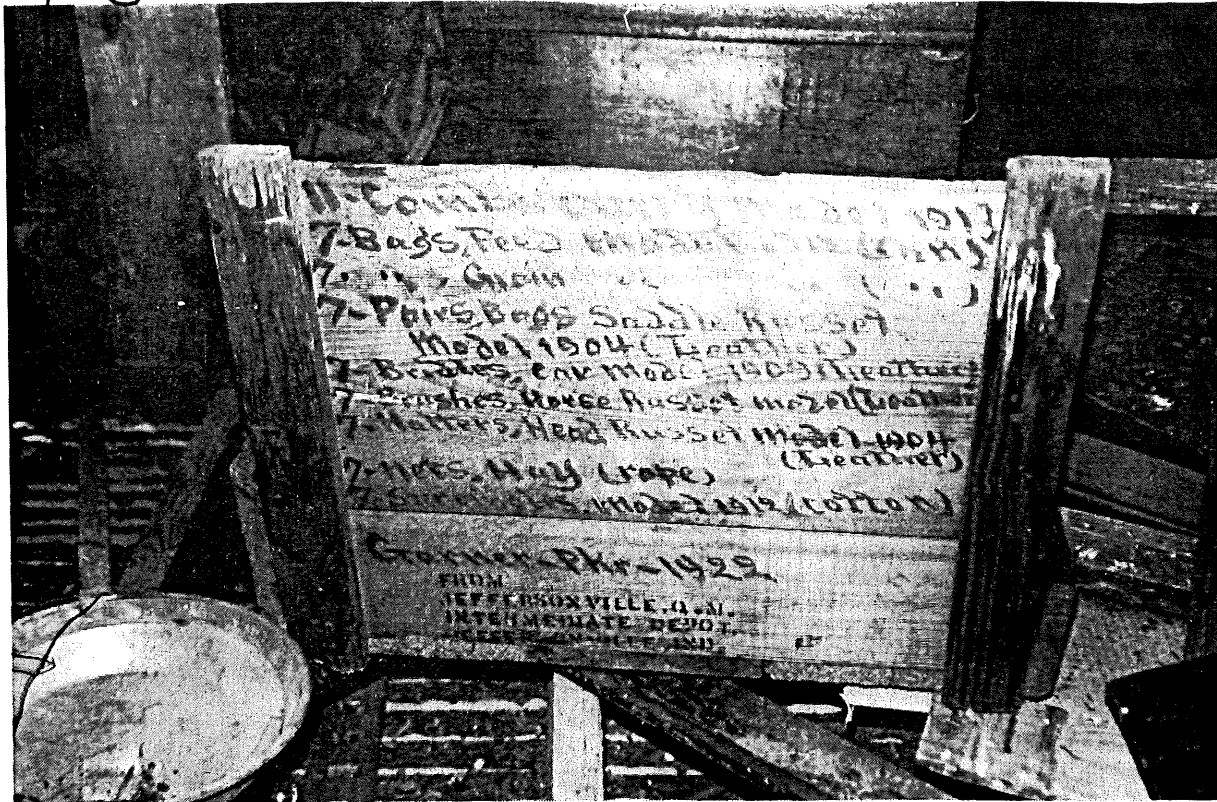
Ownership of this copy of the newspaper passes to the subscriber, when the copy leaves the newspaper office.

Single copy price, 25 cents (including 2 cents sales tax). Mailing not included.



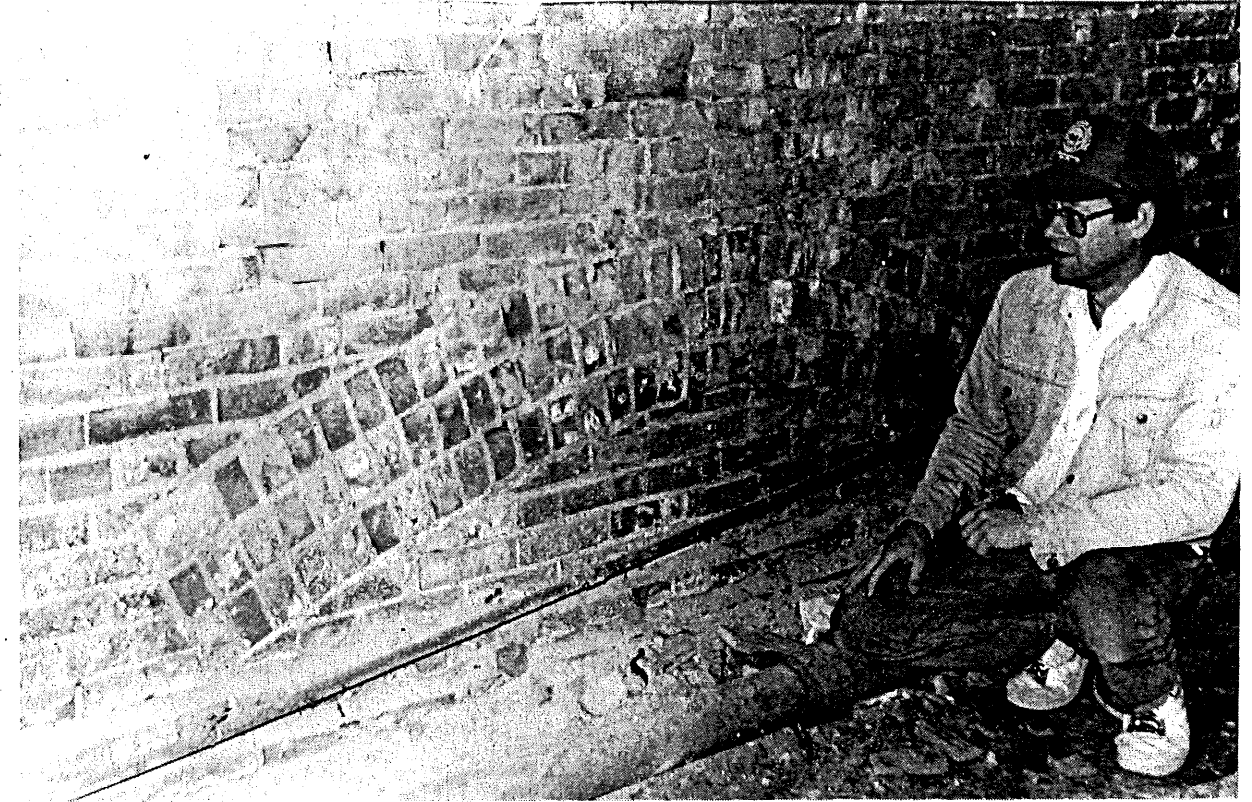
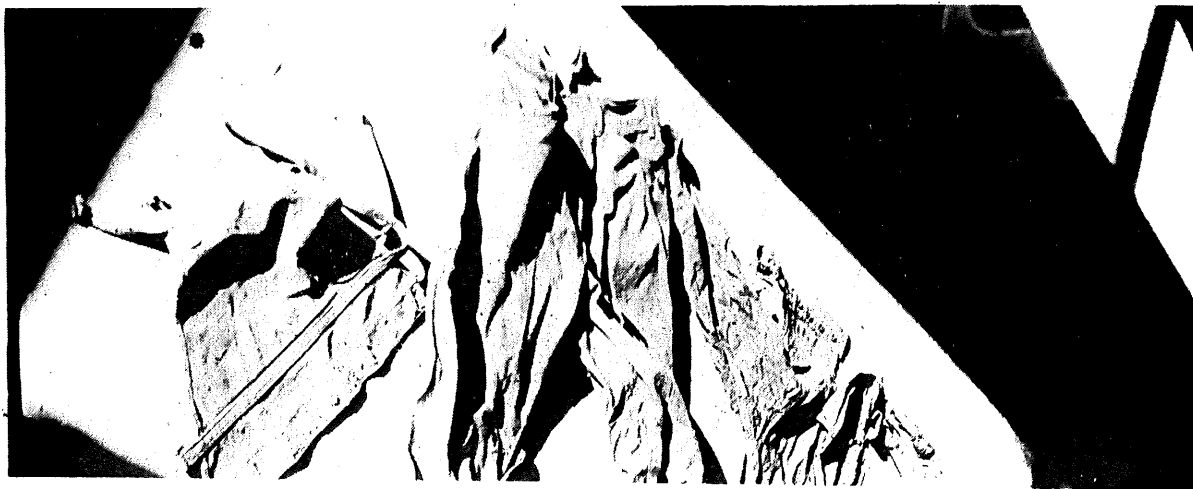
**HOW SCENERY WAS HOISTED TO THE STAGE** of the old opera house, is shown by this steel beam still projecting out over alley at rear of building. Big double-door has been bricked up. A rope-and-pulley on the projecting beam made it easy to hoist large items.





WHAT IT TOOK TO MOVE AN ARMY in the old days, is preserved in writing on end of this National Guard crate in the attic. It dates from before World War II. It says: "11 combs, curry, model 1913; 7 bags, feed, model 1912; 7 same, grain; 7 pair bags, saddle, russet, model 1904,

leather; 7 bridles, cav. model 1909, leather; 7 brushes, horse, russet, mozel leather; 7 halters, head, russet, model 1904, leather; 2 nets, hay (rope); 7 Sureiagles (?), Model 1919, cotton. Garner, packer, 1922. Jeffersonville, IN, quartermaster depot." Crate, alas, is empty.

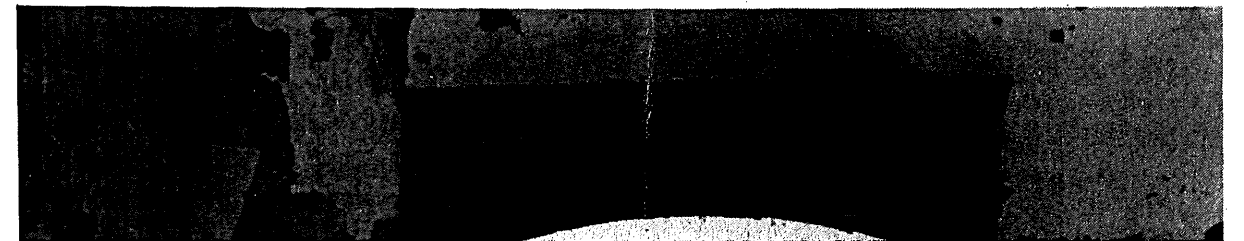


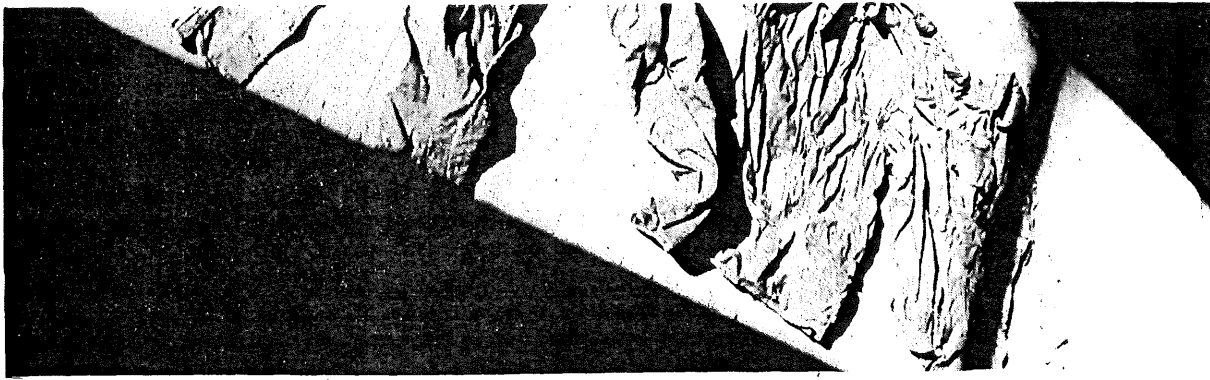
MYSTERIOUS ARCH THAT LEADS NOWHERE, is examined by Mike Holtwick, Glasgow plumber who discovered it while making repairs. It is near floor-level in basement, under

southernmost store space. Did it lead to a subbasement in an adjoining building? It was bricked up long ago.

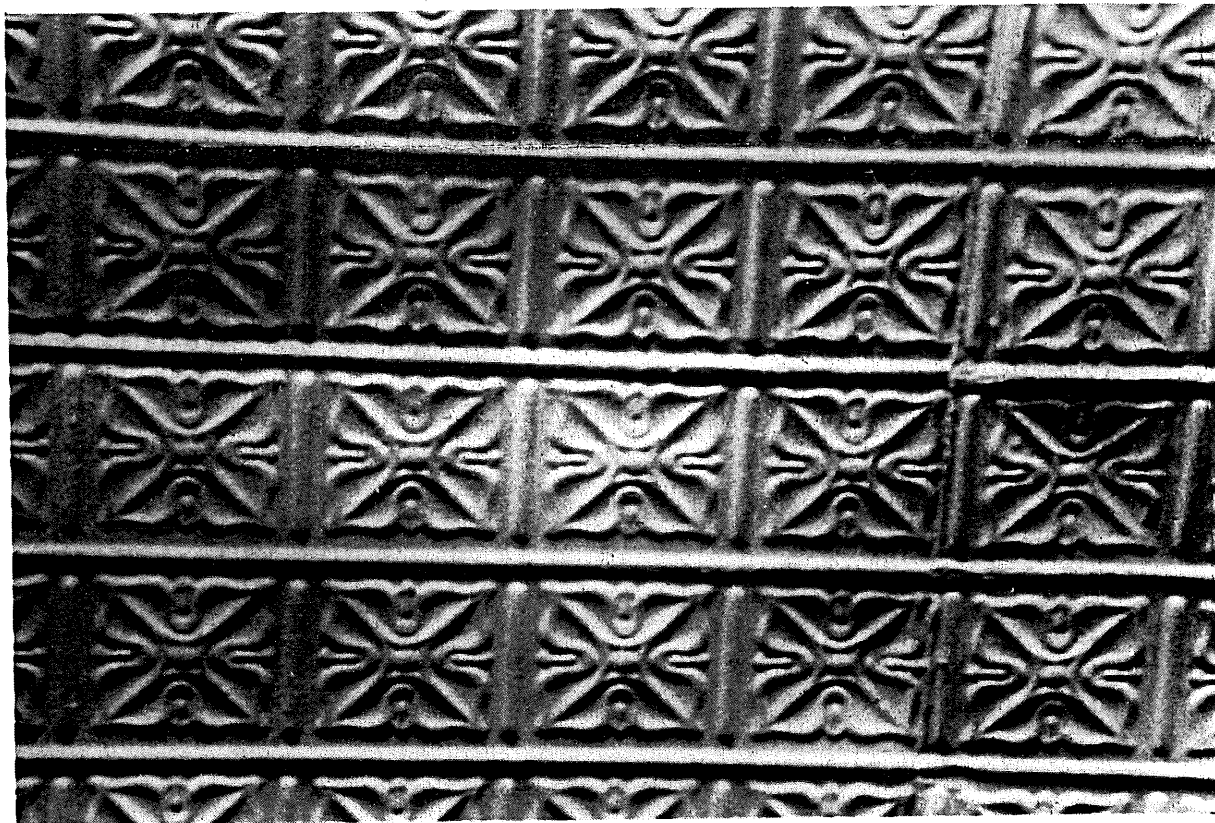
*By 1900, the Katy Railroad, the college, and a booming farm economy, had combined to make Fayette a prosperous trade center. From 1870 to 1900, the population grew from 815 to its present size. Clearly, the growing town deserved an elegant new opera house.*

THE DEMOCRAT-LEADER  
P. 5 Fayette, MO Dec. 31, 1994

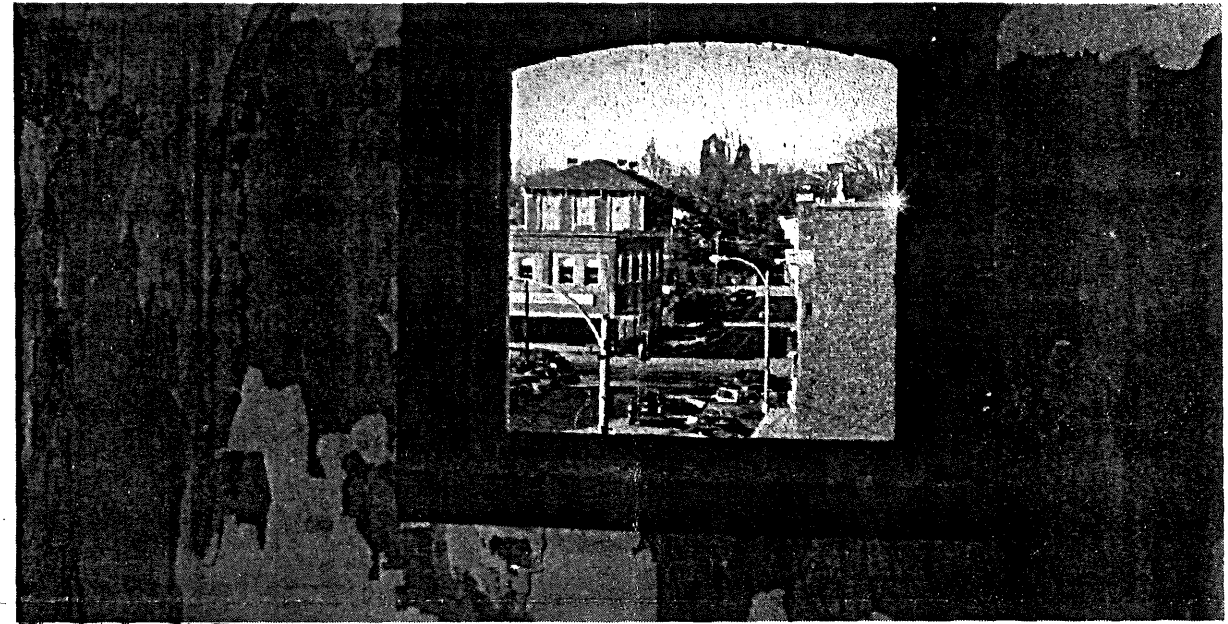




ARMY LEGGING, JODHPURS AND BLOUSE dating from before World War II are among reminders of long-ago National Guard unit. These items were found in attic.



PRESSED METAL CEILING is typical of state-of-the-art commercial building design at turn of century. This is one of the finest restorations in Fayette. It is in sanctuary of Faith Family Fellowship.



BIG WINDOW ON THIRD FLOOR, gives picturesque view of downtown Fayette, with college towers in background. This area apparently was originally used as refreshment stand and lounge area for opera house patrons. Later it was quartermaster's supply store and offices for Missouri National Guard Company M.



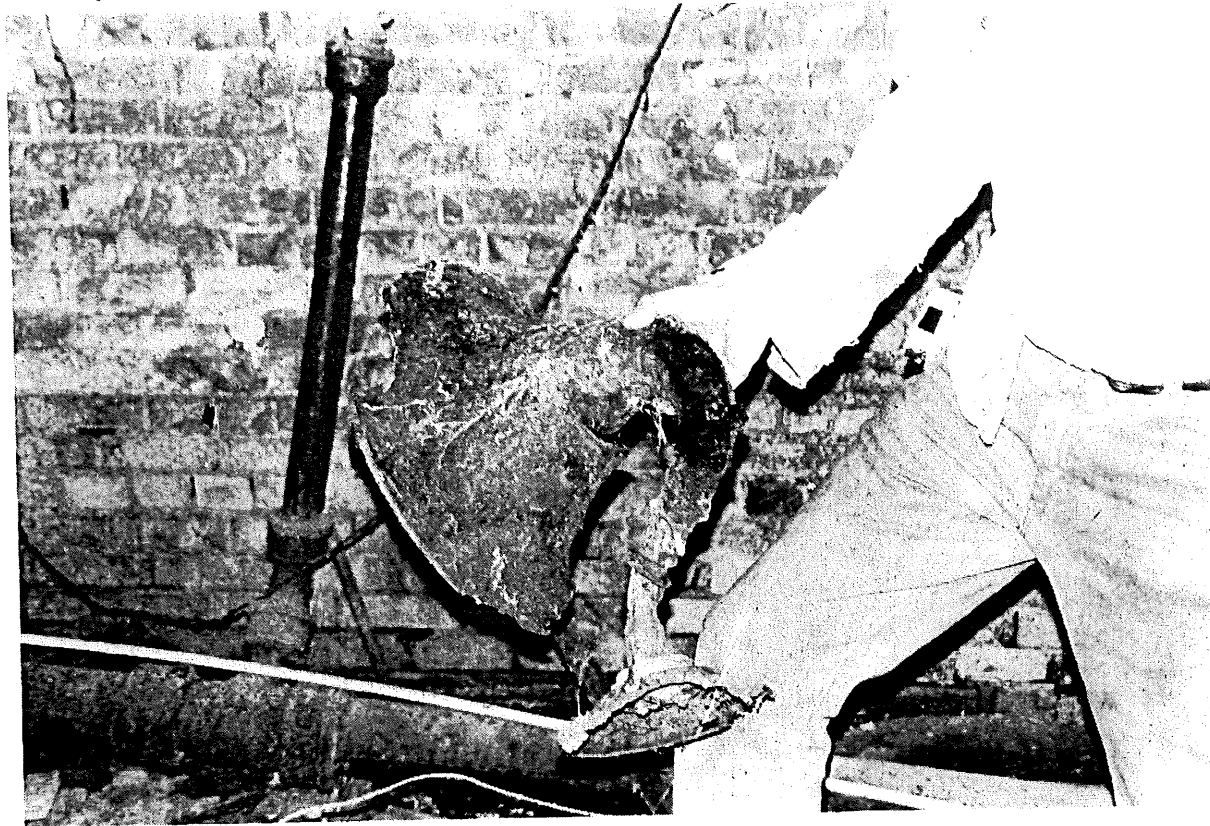
THIRD FLOOR ROOM





PRESSED METAL CEILING is typical of state-of-the-art commercial building design at turn of century. This is one of the finest restorations in

Fayette. It is in sanctuary of Faith Family Fellowship.



WHEN A SPEAKER WAS SOLD SEPARATELY FROM A RADIO or phonograph (making it unnecessary to use earphones), this was an elegant

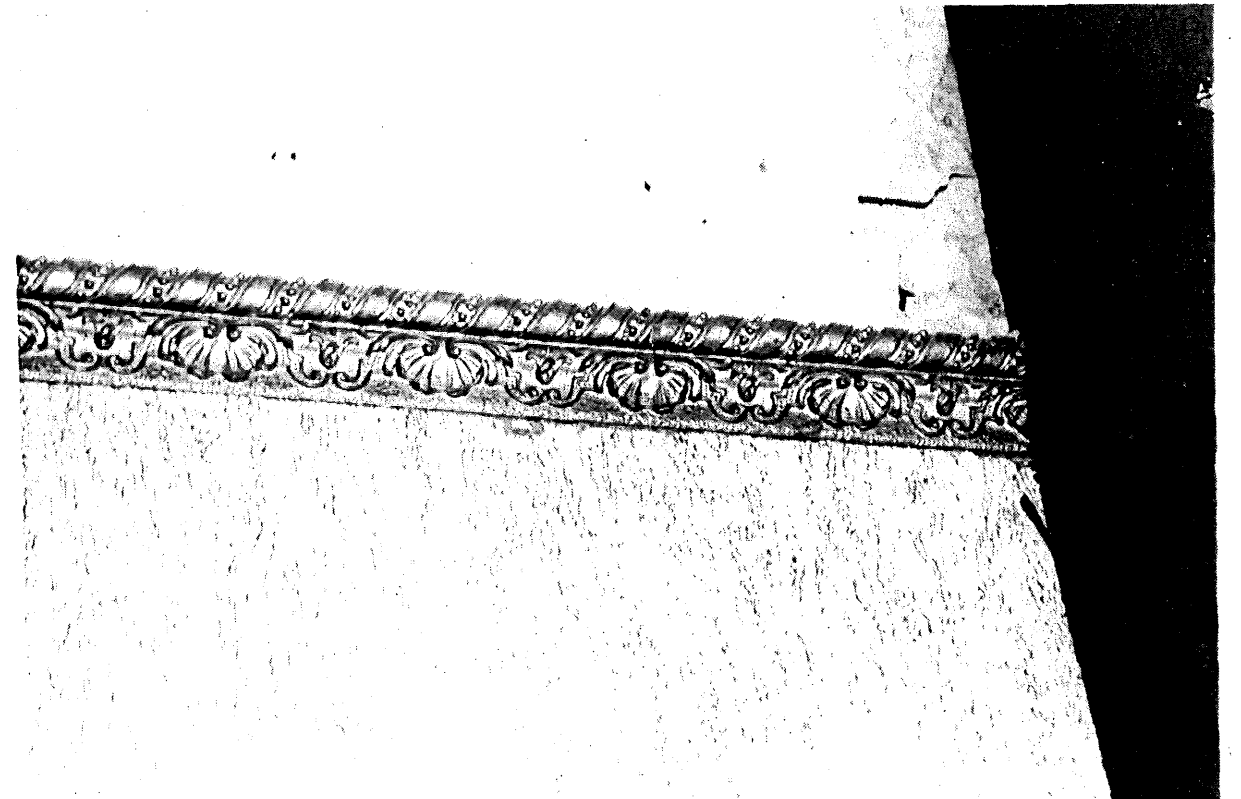
item. It is designed to sit atop the instrument. Bell shape amplified sound.

*The Democrat-Leader thanks the Rev. Jamie Page, the congregation of Faith Family Fellowship, and Front Page Music, for their coöperation in the preparation of this photographic essay.*



THIRD-FLOOR ROOM, NOW UNUSED, was apparently a lounge for balcony patrons. It offers a commanding view of downtown Fayette. In days

before air-conditioning and modern lighting, big windows were a must. View is looking north from top of stairs.



DETAIL OF PLASTER MOLDING on a third-floor wall shows elegance of the "New Opera House" when it was erected in 1903-4. No detail

was neglected, to give Fayette one of the finest theatrica! houses in the area.

MAY 03 1992 8/2/1992

yette, Howard County, Missouri 65248 (USPS 153-200) VF: Fayette, Mo



PRESSED SHEETMETAL AND GLASS store-fronts on Fayette's courthouse square reflect the state of the art in the 1880s. Progress in glass-making permitted big, single-pane, inviting display windows downstairs and single-pane sashes upstairs, making apartments or offices better lighted and better ventilated. Development of stamping process led to the ornate metal store-fronts (and also to pressed metal ceilings inside the

stores). Top photo, building on east side of square, housing New Grand Theatre (left) and half of Miller's IGA. Bottom, building on east side housing Holtwick Chiropractic and Alsop & Graham Drug Store. Note "mortar & pestle" at top. Such stamped-metal fronts could be ordered by mail; and shipped to Fayette by rail. They are described in today's architectural article.



# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Howell County and Local History Room

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Catron Opera House	West Plains	yes _____	no <u>✓</u>
Johnson Opera House		yes _____	no <u>✓</u>

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Catron Opera House	West Plains	yes _____	no <u>✓</u>
Johnson Opera House		yes _____	no <u>✓</u>

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Catron Opera House	West Plains	yes _____	no <u>✓</u>
Johnson Opera House		yes _____	no <u>✓</u>

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

_____ books about specific theatres	_____
_____ photographs	_____
_____ newspaper articles	_____
_____ scrapbooks	_____
_____ county or town histories	_____
_____ other, please specify	_____

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

What days and times is your library open to the public? Public Library 9:00 - 5:00pm  
Genealogy Library Tuesday + Saturday 9:00 - 12:00 noon

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

Who is the best person to contact for more information? \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your assistance.**

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203

*Dennis K. Von Allmen*

County Clerk

Room 001, Howell County Courthouse  
West Plains, Missouri 65775

417-256-2591

September 15, 1997

Becky L. Snider  
1008 Sunset Drive  
Columbia, MO 65203

Dear Ms. Snider:

We are returning the completed questionnaire.

We are enclosing a pamphlet from the West Plains  
Genealogical Society.

We also are returning your \$2.00 bill that was sent  
with your letter of August 31, 1997.

If our office can be of further service to you, please  
do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

*Evona Adkisson*

Evona Adkisson  
Deputy Clerk



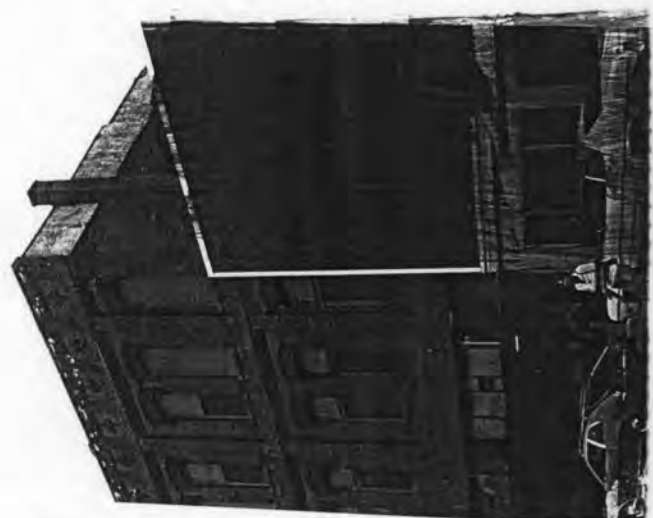
# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

## ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

SW-AS-036-025

1. NO. <div style="text-align: center;">20</div>		4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) <div style="text-align: center;">Theatre - Sales</div>	
2. COUNTY <div style="text-align: center;">Howell</div>		5. OTHER NAME(S)	
3. LOCATION OF NEGATIVES			
6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP _____ RANGE _____ SECTION _____ IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS <div style="text-align: center;">201 Second</div>		16. THEMATIC CATEGORY	
7. CITY OR TOWN IF RURAL, VICINITY		17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD	
8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION		18. STYLE OR DESIGN	
		19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER	
		20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER	
		21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT	
		22. PRESENT USE <div style="text-align: center;">Sales</div>	
		23. OWNERSHIP PUBLIC ( ) PRIVATE ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> )	
		24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS IF KNOWN <div style="text-align: center;">Gary Holloway</div>	
9. COORDINATES LAT _____ LONG _____		25. OPEN TO PUBL.	
10. SITE ( ) STRUCTURE ( ) BUILDING ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ) OBJECT ( )		26. LOCAL CONTACT <div style="text-align: center;">Judy Freem</div>	
11. ON NATIONAL REGISTER? YES ( ) NO ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> )		27. OTHER SURVEY	
12. IS IT ELIGIBLE? YES ( ) NO ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> )			
13. PART OF ESTAB. HIST. DISTRICT? YES ( ) NO ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> )			
14. DISTRICT POTENTIAL? YES ( ) NO ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> )			
15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT			
42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES			
43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE <div style="text-align: center;">None</div>			
44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS			
45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION			

28. NO. OF STORIES	3
29. BASEMENT?	YES ( ) NO ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> )
30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL	Cement
31. WALL CONSTRUCTION	Brick
32. ROOF TYPE AND MATERIAL	Flat
33. NO. OF BAYS	FRONT _____ SIDE _____
34. WALL TREATMENT	
35. PLAN SHAPE	
36. CHANGES (EXPLAIN IN NO. 42)	ADDITION ( ) ALTERED ( ) MOVED ( )
37. CONDITION	INTERIOR <div style="text-align: center;">Good</div> EXTERIOR <div style="text-align: center;">Good</div>



RETURN THIS FORM WHEN COMPLETED TO: OFFICE OF HIS  
P.O. BOX 176

# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Iron County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

119 N. Main - Current Location of Valley Auto Parts                      Ironton                      yes \_\_\_\_ no X

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

119 N. Main - Current Location of Valley Auto Parts                      Ironton                      yes X no \_\_\_\_

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

119 N. Main - Current Location of Valley Auto Parts                      Ironton                      yes \_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? \_\_\_\_\_

None

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

<input type="checkbox"/> books about specific theatres	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> photographs	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> newspaper articles	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> scrapbooks	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> county or town histories	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, please specify	_____

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

yes

What days and times is your library open to the public? by appointment

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

yes

Who is the best person to contact for more information? Elizabeth Holloman

HCR 69 Box 154

Ironton, MO 63650

**Thank you for your assistance.**

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203



1. NO.		2. COUNTY		4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S)	
0.		T-40		Valley Auto Parts <i>Movie Theater</i>	
COUNTY Iron		5. OTHER NAME(S)		0203	
LOCATION OF NEGATIVES C.O.S.		16. THEMATIC CATEGORY 030		28. NO. OF STORIES 1 1/2	
SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP RANGE SECTION		17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD ca. 1930		29. BASEMENT? YES ( ) NO (x)	
F CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS 119 N. Main		18. STYLE OR DESIGN 69		30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL concrete 65	
TY OR TOWN IF RURAL, VICINITY Ironton		19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER		31. WALL CONSTRUCTION red granite WD	
DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION see reverse map		20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER		32. ROOF TYPE AND MATERIAL flat/asphalt FT PR	
COORDINATES UTM		21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT theater 08A		33. NO. OF BAYS FRONT SIDE 63	
LAT		22. PRESENT USE automotive parts		34. WALL TREATMENT plaster 41	
LONG		23. OWNERSHIP PUBLIC ( ) PRIVATE (x)		35. PLAN SHAPE rectangular	
SITE ( ) STRUCTURE ( ) BUILDING (x) OBJECT ( )		24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS IF KNOWN Harold & Virginia Alcorn		36. CHANGES (EXPLAIN IN NO. 42) ADDITION ( ) ALTERED ( ) MOVED ( )	
ON NATIONAL REGISTER? YES ( ) NO (x)		25. OPEN TO PUBLIC? YES ( ) NO (x)		37. CONDITION INTERIOR EXTERIOR excellent	
12. IS IT ELIGIBLE? YES (x) NO ( )		26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION		38. PRESERVATION UNDERWAY? YES ( ) NO (x)	
PART OF ESTAB. YES ( ) NO (x)		27. OTHER SURVEYS IN WHICH INCLUDED		39. ENDANGERED? BY WHAT? YES ( ) NO (x)	
14. DISTRICT POTENTIAL? YES ( ) NO ( )				40. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD? YES (x) NO ( )	
NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT				41. DISTANCE FROM ROAD 10 feet	
FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES Genuinely noteworthy as an example of a 1930's, small-town movie theater. With its exterior walls of random-coursed ashlar, capped battlements, and almost primitive proportions, it is a splendid manifestation of Robert Venterri's "decorated shed" classification. Evoking images of Medieval castle and the Alamo, hundreds must have passed through its doors into the more irrepressible fantasy worlds of Robert Gilbert.				5. OTHER NAME(S)	
HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE Operated as a theater until ca. 1970.				6. TOWNSHIP	
DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS Ironton Municipal Building is on the north, and an alley in the rear.				RANGE	
SOURCES OF INFORMATION Harold Alcorn, and on site inspection				SECTION	
TURN THIS FORM WHEN COMPLETED TO: OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION P.O. BOX 176 JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102 PH. 314-751-4096				46. PREPARED BY L.M.	
ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED, AT SEPARATE SHEET(S) TO THIS FORM.				47. ORGANIZATION C.O.S.	
				48. DATE 7-16	
				49. REVISION DATE(S)	



face west



I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Address		
10917 East Winner Road		
B. District	Code	
C. Building Type		
Theater and Offices		
D. Listed on Heritage Commission List of 6/24/75	Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

II. NOTES

Two-story stucco exterior walls with maroon tile "wainscotting"; flat roof; windows and parapet edged in limestone; V-shaped glass window at west of door; stainless steel marquee.

ENGLEWOOD THEATER

70 69  
030  
120

2  
LID  
61  
70 43  
Ft PR  
77  
01  
R1 AW  
RC

III. PHOTOGRAPH



A. View	B. Roll	C. Frame
Northeast	14	21
North	14	22

IV. SURVEYOR/DATE

MAS RJC JAR	11-20-75	BF JAR	11-28-75
-------------	----------	--------	----------

V. EVALUATION

Approved for Further Research	Yes	No	Date
-------------------------------	-----	----	------

The preparation of this survey was financed in part through a comprehensive planning grant from the Dept. of H. U. D., under the provision of Section 701 of the Housing Act of 1954, as amended.

# PRELIMINARY SURVEY FORM Form I

INDEPENDENCE HISTORICAL SURVEY for the  
HERITAGE COMMISSION, INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI by  
M. A. SOLOMON/R. J. CLAYBAUGH, ARCHITECTS, INC. and  
BERND FOERSTER, A.I.A.



Jasper County

# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Joplin Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Fox Theatre	Joplin	yes	no	Some
Haven Opera House		yes	no	little
Joplin Memorial Hall		yes	no	Some
Joplin Opera House		yes	no	little
New Club Theatre		yes	no	Some
New Joplin		yes	no	✓
Perkin's Hall		yes	no	✓
The Empress		yes	no	✓
Hippodrome Theatre		yes	no	✓

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Fox Theatre	Joplin	yes	no	✓
Haven Opera House		yes	no	✓
Joplin Memorial Hall		yes	no	✓
Joplin Opera House		yes	no	✓
New Club Theatre		yes	no	✓
New Joplin		yes	no	✓
Perkin's Hall		yes	no	✓
The Empress		yes	no	✓
Hippodrome Theatre		yes	no	✓

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Fox Theatre	Joplin	yes	no	✓
Haven Opera House		yes	no	✓
Joplin Memorial Hall		yes	no	✓
Joplin Opera House		yes	no	✓
New Club Theatre		yes	no	✓
New Joplin		yes	no	✓
Perkin's Hall		yes	no	✓
The Empress		yes	no	✓
Hippodrome Theatre		yes	no	✓

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

books about specific theatres	_____
photographs	_____
✓ newspaper articles	_____
scrapbooks	_____
✓ county or town histories	_____
other, please specify	_____

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area? No

What days and times is your library open to the public? open by special appointment only

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times? yes \_\_\_\_\_ no ✓

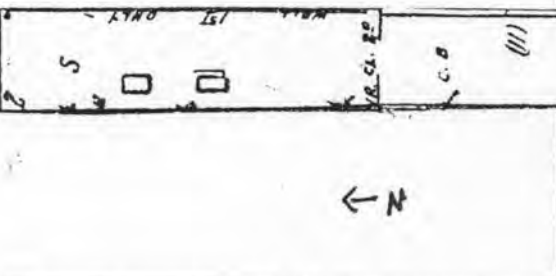
Who is the best person to contact for more information? BRAD BELL

Thank you for your assistance. Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203



Office of Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101  
**HISTORIC INVENTORY**

SW-AS-036-028

1. No. 13		4. Present Name(s) Wagner Jewelers	
2. County Jasper		5. Other Name(s) W.P. Miller Building	
3. Location of Building Carthage Public Library			
6. Specific Location 110 East Fourth Lot 11, Block 25		16. Thematic Category	
7. City or Town If Rural, Township & Vicinity Carthage		17. Date(s) or Period 1887	
8. Site Plan with North Arrow		18. Style or Design see below	
		19. Architect or Engineer	
		20. Contractor or Builder	
		21. Original Use, if apparent commercial	
		22. Present Use commercial	
9. Coordinates UTM Lat Long		23. Ownership Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/>	
10. Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>		24. Owner's Name & Address, if known Mr. Page Wagner NW of city	
11. On National Register? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		25. Open to Public? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
12. Is It Eligible? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		26. Local Contact Person or Organization	
13. Part of Estab Hist Dist? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		27. Other Surveys in Which Included	
14. District Potent'l? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
15. Name of Established District		28. No. of Stories 2	
		29. Basement? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		30. Foundation Material stone	
		31. Wall Construction brick iron store front	
		32. Roof Type & Material flat	
		33. No. of Bays Front / Side	
		34. Wall Treatment	
		35. Plan Shape rectangular	
		36. Changes (Explain in #42) Addition: <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	
		37. Condition Interior good Exterior good	
		38. Preservation Underway? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		39. Endangered? By What? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		40. Visible from Public Road? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
		41. Distance from and Frontage on Road	
42. Further Description of Important Features This is a handsome building, almost intact, with a facade of cast iron, with pilasters adorning the windows, an ornate facade and cornice. The 1905 City Directory refers to this as the Miller Bldg., In 1909 a Dr. Kenneth Baker had his offices here, which he kept for many years. Cassaday Block - housed commercial college.			
43. History and Significance 1909 City Directory; 1923-1924 City Directory of Carthage. 1888 and 1905-06 City Directories show this and building next door as Cassaday block. In 1909 the Delphus Theater was listed here in the Directory.			
44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings  See Inventory-Nomination Form.			
45. Sources of Information City Directories, 1888, 1905-06, 1909.		46. Prepared by Deborah Ray & C. MacMorra	
		47. Organization Carthage Historic Preser	
		48. Date 7/30/79 49. Revision Date(s)	



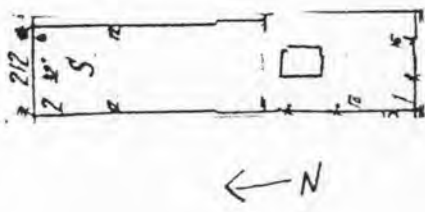

## HISTORIC INVENTORY

1. No. 16		4. Present Name(s) Belk Simpson Dept. Store	
2. County Jasper		5. Other Name(s) Cahn Bros. Clothing House- Opera House	
3. Location of Negatives Carthage Public Library			
6. Specific Location Lot 8, Block 25  136 East Fourth		16. Thematic Category	28. No. of Stories 2
7. City or Town If Rural, Township & Vicinity Carthage		17. Date(s) or Period Before 1884	29. Basement? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
8. Site Plan with North Arrow  ← N		18. Style or Design Italianate	30. Foundation Material stone
		19. Architect or Engineer	31. Wall Construction brick
		20. Contractor or Builder	32. Roof Type & Material flat
		21. Original Use, if apparent <del>residential</del> commercial	33. No. of Bays Front 2 Side
		22. Present Use commercial	34. Wall Treatment
		23. Ownership Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	35. Plan Shape
		24. Owner's Name & Address, if known Belk-Simpson Co. Box 440, Greenville, S.C.	36. Changes (Explain in #42) Addition <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/>
9. Coordinates UTM Lat Long		25. Open to Public? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	37. Condition Interior OK Exterior Good
10. Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>		26. Local Contact Person or Organization	38. Preservation Underway? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11. On National Register? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		27. Other Surveys in Which Included	39. Endangered? By What? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12. Is it Eligible? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			40. Visible from Public Road? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
13. Part of Estab. Hist. Dist.? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			41. Distance from and Frontage on Road
14. District Potent.? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
15. Name of Established District			
42. Further Description of Important Features <p>The Belk Simpson store is one of Carthage's most interesting buildings still surviving on the Square. /The 1884 map shows the Grand Opera House upstairs, with stores at the street level. There is a stereo view of the building as an opera in the Carnegie Library files.</p> <p>The building had lost its lovely veranda, store front, and top ironwork. However, it is still a lovely building and worthy of restoration. Belk Simpson, a chain department store with its headquarters in Camden, S.C., owns the building and a Mr. Nichols is the manager. Mr. Nichols was a negative person who assured me storefronts were very cheap and that in his estimation Belks needed one. Recently I have learned that Belks officials have decided to renovate the exterior of the building and the Carthage Chamber of Commerce has shown them restoration drawings made by a local architect, Mr. Dick Locarni. They were enthused by the drawings, and it is hoped the building will be restored in a manner suitable to its original design. See Inventory - Nomination form.</p> <p>1909 Photo shows it as Turner Carriage and Furniture Store. M. Matthews</p>			
43. History and Significance		46. Prepared by Deborah Ray & C. MacMorran	
44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings		47. Organization Carthage Historic Preservation	
45. Sources of Information 1888 City Directory; stereo view in library files; Carthage Press 10/29/53; 12/3/53; 10/6/55; 5/2/57; 5/24/56; 9/5/57. Personal interview with Mr. Nichols, manager 1912 photo of 4th St. Carthage City directory, 1905 -06, 1909 Carthage Press Jan. 25, 1964.		48. Date 7/30/77 49. Revision Date(s) 8/79	



## HISTORIC INVENTORY

SW-AS-036-030

1. No. 35		4. Present Name(s) William D. George, M.D.	
2. County Jasper		5. Other Name(s) Lempe Building	
3. Location of Negatives Carthage Public Library			
6. Specific Location 214 East Fourth Lot 45, Block 42		16. Thematic Category	
7. City or Town If Rural, Township & Vicinity Carthage		17. Date(s) or Period c. 1900	
8. Site Plan with North Arrow		18. Style or Design Commercial	
		19. Architect or Engineer	
		20. Contractor or Builder	
9. Coordinates UTM Lat Long		21. Original Use, if apparent brewery	
10. Site: I Building: X Structure: I Object: I		22. Present Use Commercial/professional	
11. On National Register? Yes I No X		23. Ownership Public I Private X	
12. Is It Eligible? Yes I No X		24. Owner's Name & Address, if known Ruby & James McClellan 214 E. 4th, Carthage, MO.	
13. Part of Estab Hist Dist? Yes I No X		25. Open to Public? Yes X No I	
14. District Potent? Yes X No I		26. Local Contact Person or Organization	
15. Name of Established District		27. Other Surveys in Which Included	
42. Further Description of Important Features This is a very monumental building, designed in a very proficient manner and fitting in with typical Square architecture. It was originally a saloon and brewery operated by Lempe Bros. Brewing in St. Louis.			
43. History and Significance In the 1920's this Eureks Theater was here			
44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings See Inv.-Nom. Form			
45. Sources of Information Mr. Bennett Wilson, on history Assessor's Office; City Directories, 1888, 1905-06, 1909, 1923-24; 1925-26		46. Prepared by Deborah C. MacMorran, & M. Mat 47. Organization Carthage Historic Preservation 48. Date 8/6/79 49. Revision Date(s)	



# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

## ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

SW-AS-036-031

1. NO. <b>126</b>		4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) <b>JOPLIN MEMORIAL HALL</b>	
2. COUNTY <b>JASPER</b>		5. OTHER NAME(S)	
3. LOCATION OF POST ART NEGATIVES <b>MEMORIAL LIB.</b>			
6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP RANGE SECTION IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS <b>212 WEST 8TH</b>		16. THEMATIC CATEGORY <b>COMMERCIAL</b>	
7. CITY OR TOWN IF RURAL, VICINITY <b>JOPLIN</b>		17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD <b>1924</b>	
8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION		18. STYLE OR DESIGN <b>RENAISSANCE REVIVAL</b>	
		19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER <b>AUGUST MICHAELIS</b>	
		20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER <b>A.S. GREENWELL</b>	
		21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT <b>OPERA HOUSE/CONVENTION</b>	
		22. PRESENT USE <b>ENTERTAINMENT</b>	
		23. OWNERSHIP PUBLIC ( ) PRIVATE (X)	
		24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS IF KNOWN <b>CITY OF JOPLIN 623-3254</b>	
		25. OPEN TO PUBLIC YES(X) NO ( )	
		26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION	
		27. OTHER SURVEY IN WHICH INCLUDED <b>NONE</b>	
9. COORDINATES UTM LAT LONG		28. NO. OF STORIES <b>TWO</b>	
10. SITE ( ) STRUCTURE ( ) BUILDING (X) , OBJECT ( )		29. BASEMENT YES (X) FULL NO ( )	
11. ON NATIONAL YES ( ) REGISTER NO (X)		30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL <b>ASHLAR STONE</b>	
12. IS IT YES (X) ELIGIBLE NO ( )		31. WALL CONSTRUCTION <b>BRICK/STEEL FRAME</b>	
13. PART OF YES ( ) ESTAB. DISTRICT NO (X)		32. ROOF TYPE & MATERIAL <b>FLAT/GABLE</b>	
14. DISTRICT YES (X) POTENTIAL NO ( )		33. NO. OF BAYS FRONT SIDE	
15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT		34. WALL TREATMENT <b>STONE/BRICK</b>	
		35. PLAN SHAPE <b>SQUARE</b>	
		36. CHANGES ADDITION ( ) (EXPLAIN IN ALTERED (X) NO. 42) MOVED ( )	
		37. CONDITION INTERIOR <b>GOOD</b> EXTERIOR <b>GOOD</b>	
		38. PRESERVATION UNDERWAY YES ( ) NO (X)	
		39. ENDANGERED YES ( ) BY WHAT NO (X)	
		40. VISIBLE FROM YES (X) PUBLIC ROAD NO ( )	
		41. DISTANCE FROM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD <b>40' / 40'</b>	

42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES

43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

**AL JOLSON ONCE PERFORMED IN AUDITORIUM.**

44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS

45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

46. PREPARED BY  
**LAURA J. DERRICK**

47. ORGANIZATION  
**BCCW/CASEY A/E**

RETURN THIS FORM WHEN COMPLETED TO: OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED, ATTACH P.O. BOX 176  
SEPARATE SHEET(S) TO THIS FORM JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102

48. DATE **12/15/87** 49. REVISION  
DATE(S)






# JOPLIN HISTORIC SURVEY - INVENTORY SHEET

1. Inventory Number 19 (N.A.) 80
2. County Jasper
3. (N.A.)
4. Present Local Name(s) or Designation(s):  
Joplin Memorial Hall
5. Other Historic Name(s) or Event(s):  
Memorial

6. Specific Location - Street Address:  
623 Joplin (212 W. 8th)

7. City Joplin State Missouri

8. Description of Location:  
Sketch the plan of the structure; indicate out-buildings and relationships to street; place X at main entrance, show porches, lightly shade one-story elements
- 

9. (N.A.)
10. Site ( ) Building ☒ Structure ( ) Object ( )
11. (N.A.)
12. (N.A.)
13. Part of Proposed District? yes ☒ no ( )
14. (N.A.)
15. Name of Proposed District Joplin Downtown

16. Thematic Category - Commercial ( ) Railroad ( )

Mining ( ) Other ☒ Mem. Hall

17. Date of Construction 1924

Period of Construction (N.A.)

Cost of Construction \$250,000

18. Overall Architectural Aspect:

Style (N.A.)

- Is this type of structure common in the area now?  
yes ( ) no ☒

- Was this type of structure common in the area in the past? yes ☒ no ( )

19. Architect or Designer August Michaelis

20. Contractor/Builder A.S. Greenwell

21. Original Use Opera house, convention hall

Subsequent Use Memorial hall

22. Present Use - First Floor attractions

Other Floors offices

23. Present Ownership - Public ☒ Private ( )

24. Original Owner City of Joplin

Present Owner City of Joplin

Address/Phone \_\_\_\_\_

25. Accessibility - Open to Public yes ☒ no ( )

Restricted yes ( ) no ☒

26. Local Contact Person or Organization:

Phone: 623-3254

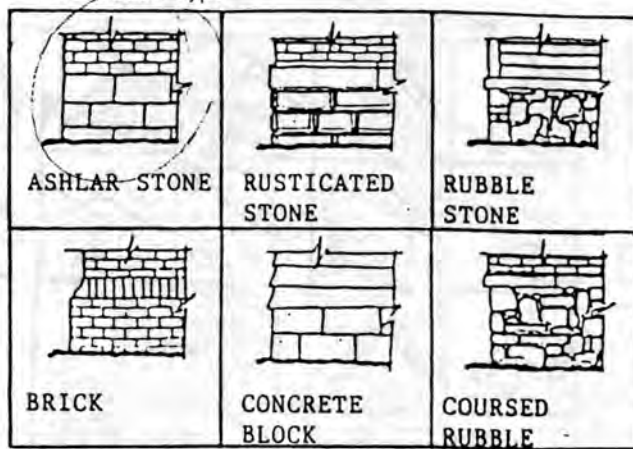
27. (N.A.)

28. Number of Stories - 1 ( ) 2 ☒ 3 ( ) 4 ( )

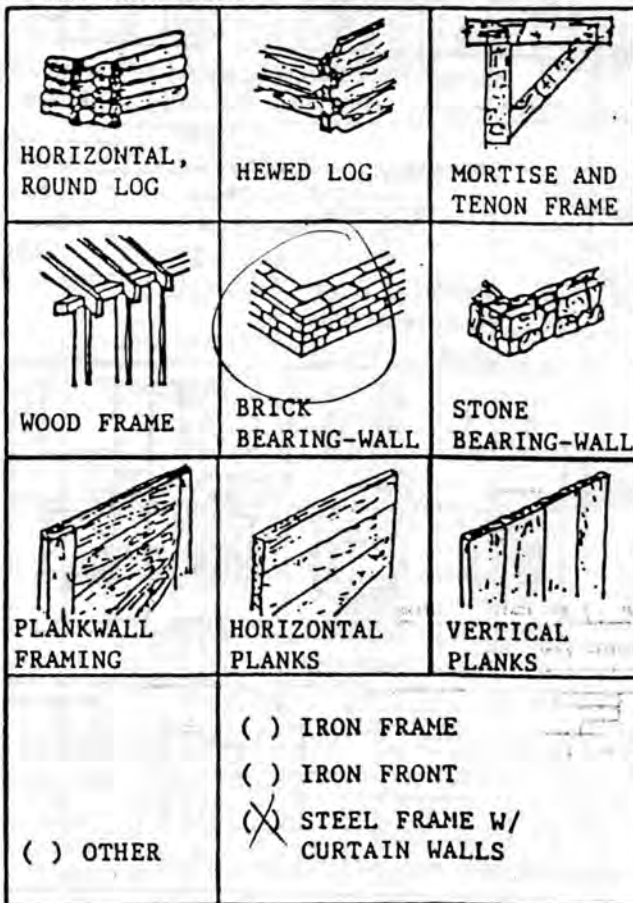
29. Basement - Full ☒ Crawl Space ( ) Partial ( )  
None ( )

publicly says 2 1/2

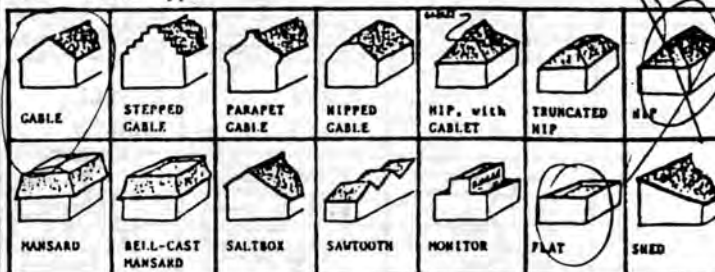
30. Foundation Type - SW-AS-036-031



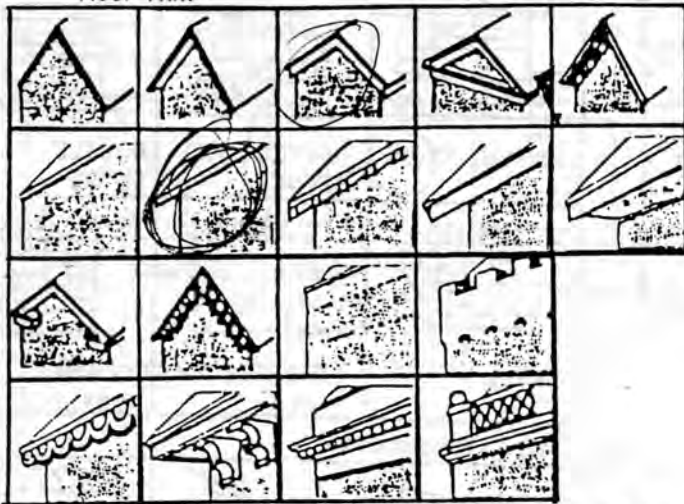
31. Wall Construction -



32. Roof Type -



# Roof Trim -

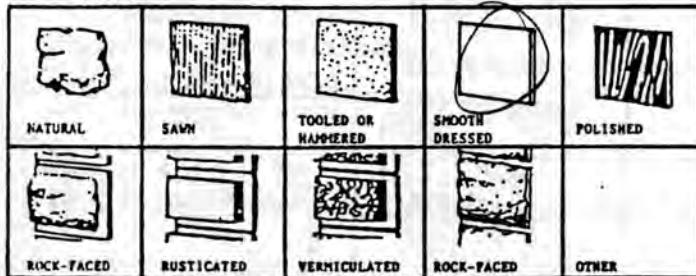


Multiple Roof Forms-Towers ( ) Metal Cresting ( )  
Cupola ( ) Finials ( )  
Other ( )

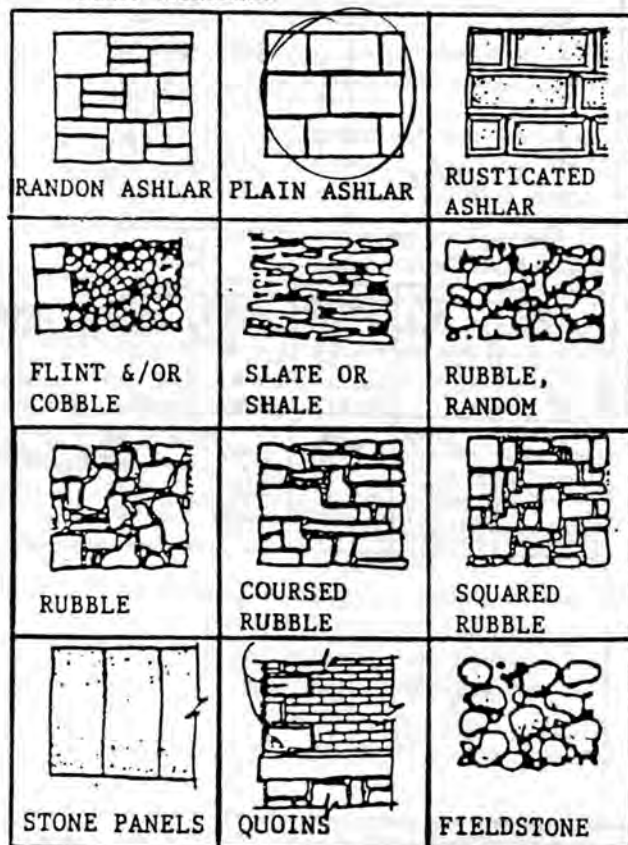
Chimney - Straddle Ridge ( ) Center ( )  
Front Slope ( ) Side ( )  
Side Slope ( ) Back Slope ( )  
Interior ( ) Exterior ( )

33. Number of Bays - Front   2   Side   1  

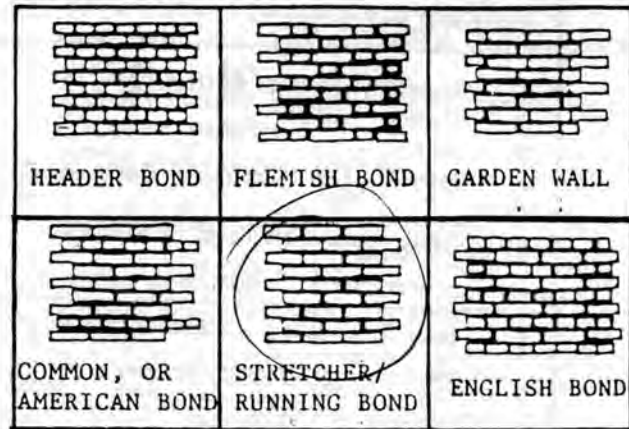
34. Wall Treatment:  
Stone



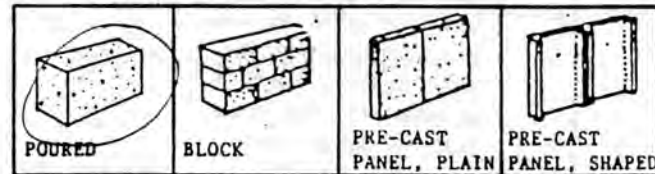
# Stone Treatment



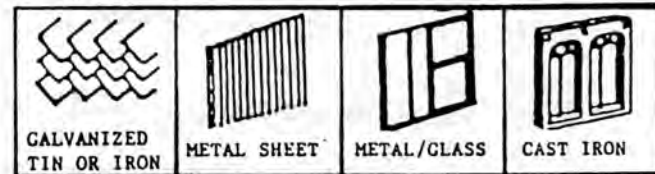
# Brick Patterns - Color tan



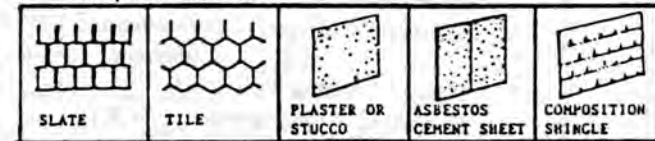
# Concrete



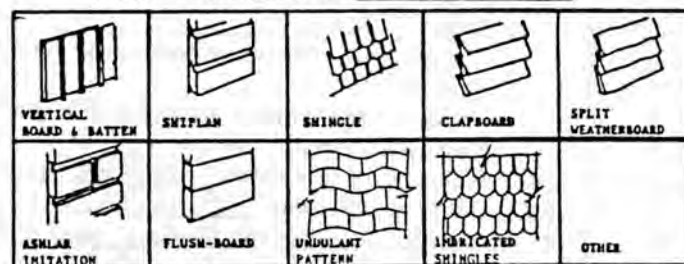
# Metal



# Composition Tile

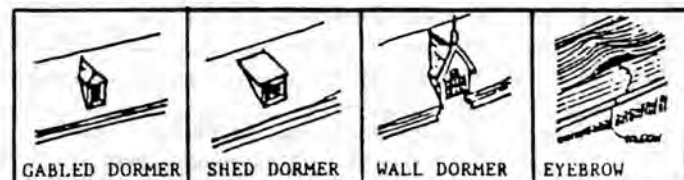


# Wood - Painted Color

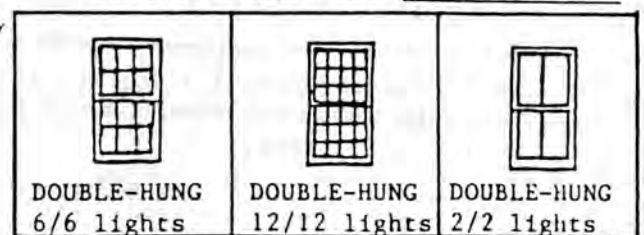


# Dormers:

Hipped ( ) Decorated ( ) Facade ( ) Sides ( ) Rear ( )



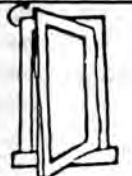
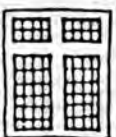
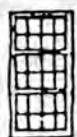

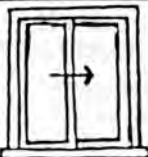




# Windows - Painted Color brown



cont.




























		
AWNING	HOPPER	CASEMENT
		
MULLION w/ TRANSOM	TRIPLE-HUNG 8/8/8 lights	ORIEL
		
HORIZ. SLIDE	PALLADIAN	FRIEZE










Surrounds - Plain ☒ Decorated ( ) Arch ( )  
 Pediment ( ) Shaped Lintel ( )  
 Placement - Regular ☒ Irregular ( )  
 Projecting Bays or Orrels ( )  
 Stained Glass yes ( ) no ☒  
 Modern Storm Windows yes ☒ no ( )

Doors:  
 Straight ☒ Arched ( ) Plain ☒ Decorated ( )  
 Modern Storm Doors yes ☒ no ( )  
 Typical Storefront yes ( ) no ( )  
 Unusual Treatment \_\_\_\_\_















#### Window and Door Treatments

				
PLAIN STONE LINTEL	SHAPED LINTEL	CARVED STONE w/ BRACKETS	WOODHOLD, DRIPSTONE, or LABEL	
				
ENTABLATURE	TRIANGULAR PEDIMENT	SEGMENTAL PEDIMENT	BROKEN PEDIMENT	LANCET
				
SEMI-CIRCULAR or ROUND ARCH	TUDOR ARCH	POINTED ARCH	OGE ARCH	SEGMENTAL ARCH
				
SEMI-ELLIPTICAL ARCH	STILTED ARCH	FLAT ARCH	FANLIGHT	TRANSEMED
				
CONTINUOUS SILL	PLAIN SLIP SILL	PLAIN LUG SILL	CARVED & BRACKETED LUG SILL	DECORATED SLIP SILL

#### Building Form Treatments

		
ARCHADING	BUTTRESSED WALL	ARCADED CORBEL TABLE
		
FULL PORTICO	CENTRAL PAVILION	PIERS/SPANDREL
		
PILASTER	RECESSED PANELS	HORIZONTAL WOOD

#### Miscellaneous

		
EXPOSED RAFTERS	BRACKETED CORNICE	BOX CORNICE
		
BRACKET or DRIP	FINIAL	URN
		
BATTEMENTS	HOOD over door	CRESTINGS
		
DORIC	COMPOSITE	CORINTHIAN
		
IONIC	TUSCAN	

Other Exterior Detailing - Decorative Panels ☒

Balconies ( ) Quoins ( )











Date Stone ☒ Porch ( )

String or Belt Course ☒

- Where were the materials used for construction obtained: (i.e. Local brick-yards, quarries, out-state suppliers, etc.)



## 35. Plan Shape

				
RECTANGULAR	SQUARE	L-SHAPED	T-SHAPED	U-SHAPED
				
CREEK CROSS	LATIN CROSS	CIRCULAR	OCTAGONAL	IRREGULAR

## 36. Changes - Addition

Alteration YES - front facade  
 Moved NO

## 37. Apparent Condition - Exterior:

- ☒ Excellent  
☐ Good  
☐ Fair  
☐ Deteriorated  
☐ Ruins  
☐ No Visible Remains

Interior: ☐ Excellent  
☒ Good  
☐ Fair  
☐ Deteriorated  
☐ Ruins  
☐ No Visible Remains

38. Renovation Underway yes ( ) no ☒

Preservation Underway yes ( ) no ☒

Future Plans for Property \_\_\_\_\_

39. Endangered yes ( ) no ☒ By What? \_\_\_\_\_

## 40. (N.A.)

41. Distance From Road 40' Frontage on Road 40'  
on 8th

## 42. Further Description of Important Features:

small square near roofline  
that caters to colored + 10 eagle w/  
2 colored, 3-0 others

## 43. Is this property associated with persons, events, development, movements, etc., significant to the history of the community, state, or nation?

Briefly Explain: Yes, several  
multi-purpose center for the  
community

## 44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings:

Is property integrally associated with any vistas, parks, landscapes? yes ( ) no ☒ If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Environment - ☒ Densely Built UP  
☐ Scattered Development  
☐ Open Land

Surrounding Buildings - ☐ Similar Period  
☒ Later Period ☒ Earlier Period  
☒ Institutional ☒ Commercial  
☐ Industrial ☒ Residential  
☒ Other School

## 45. Documentation:

Indicate what legal records, county histories, maps, etc., were used to document facts about the property:

☐ Court Records (chain of title or abstract, etc.)

☐ County Histories

☒ Old Photographs - Location \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approx. Date \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Newspaper Clippings - Location 4/22/1958; 3/17/198  
 Date 5/30/1986

☒ City Directories - Location \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Maps (plats, atlases) - Location \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

46. Prepared By: Gardner, Snow Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

47. Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

48. Date \_\_\_\_\_

49. Date of Revision \_\_\_\_\_

Any Other Comments or Observations:

*Concrete ramp in front of main  
 sidewalk in part of wall  
 has concrete blocks  
 and stone*

*stone remains to wall  
 dead on Tyndin and Wall  
 street sides*

Built to seat 4,110 - largest stage in  
 Joplin. Al Jolson performed there.

1976 - renovated as part of Bicentennial  
 project. Added handicapped access ramp  
 from glass doors to ceiling. Remodeled  
 interior & auctioned off original furniture.  
 Sandblasted exterior. Spent  
 \$1.3 million.

Built "In Memory of Our National  
 Defenders."

*from hell during construc*

# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

SW-AS-036-032

1. NO. <b>108</b>		4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) <b>VARIOUS RETAIL</b>	
2. COUNTY <b>JASPER</b>		5. OTHER NAME(S) <b>JOPLIN CLUB THEATRE</b>	
3. LOCATION OF NEGATIVES <b>POST ART MEMORIAL LIB.</b>			
6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP _____ RANGE _____ SECTION _____ IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS <b>402-408 JOPLIN</b>		16. THEMATIC CATEGORY <b>COMMERCIAL</b>	28. NO. OF STORIES <b>1</b>
		17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD <b>1891</b>	29. BASEMENT YES( ) NO( )
7. CITY OR TOWN IF RURAL, VICINITY <b>JOPLIN</b>		18. STYLE OR DESIGN <b>COMMERCIAL</b>	30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL <b>BRICK</b>
8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION		19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER	31. WALL CONSTRUCTION <b>BRICK BEARING</b>
		20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER	32. ROOF TYPE & MATERIAL <b>FLAT</b>
		21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT <b>THEATRE/DANCE HALL</b>	33. NO. OF BAYS FRONT _____ SIDE _____
		22. PRESENT USE <b>RETAIL</b>	34. WALL TREATMENT <b>SHEET METAL</b>
		23. OWNERSHIP PUBLIC ( ) PRIVATE (X)	35. PLAN SHAPE <b>SQUARE</b>
		24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS IF KNOWN <b>RAY FERGUSON REALTY 623-4378</b>	36. CHANGES ADDITION( ) (EXPLAIN IN ALTERED (X) NO. 42) MOVED ( )
9. COORDINATES UTM LAT _____ LONG _____		25. OPEN TO PUBLIC YES(X) NO ( )	37. CONDITION INTERIOR <b>GOOD</b> EXTERIOR <b>GOOD</b>
10. SITE( ) STRUCTURE( ) BUILDING( X ) OBJECT( )		26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION	38. PRESERVATION YES( ) UNDERWAY NO(X)
11. ON NATIONAL YES( ) REGISTER NO (X)	12. IS IT YES( ) ELIGIBLE NO(X)	27. OTHER SURVEY IN WHICH INCLUDED	39. ENDANGERED YES( ) BY WHAT NO(X)
13. PART OF YES( ) ESTAB. DISTRICT NO(X)	14. DISTRICT YES( ) POTENTIAL NO(X)		40. VISIBLE FROM YES(X) PUBLIC ROAD NO( )
15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT			41. DISTANCE FROM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD <b>10 / 150</b>

42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES  
**2ND & 3RD LEVEL & TOWER REMOVED, NEW SHEET METAL AND ALUMINUM STOREFRONT  
FACADE.**

43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE  
**Once one of Joplin's most important auditoriums.  
Entertainers such as Eddie Cantor & John Philip Sousa performed there.  
Miners could pay with ore if they didn't have cash.**

44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS

45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION	County Histories Old Photographs - 1895 Newspaper - 1/26/1891 City Directories/Maps	46. PREPARED BY <b>LAURA J. DERRICK</b>
		47. ORGANIZATION <b>BCCW/CASEY A/E</b>
RETURN THIS FORM WHEN COMPLETED TO: OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED, ATTACH P.O. BOX 176 SEPARATE SHEET(S) TO THIS FORM JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102		48. DATE <b>12/15/87</b>
		49. REVISION DATE(S) <b>6/20/88</b>





# JOPLIN HISTORIC SURVEY - INVENTORY SHEET

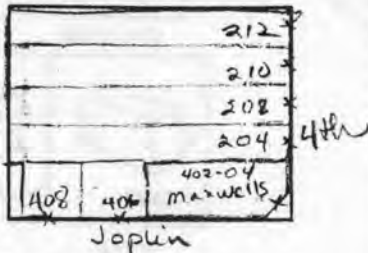
1. Inventory Number 18 (N.A.)  
 2. County Jasper  
 3. (N.A.)  
 4. Present Local Name(s) or Designation(s):  
SEE NOTES ON BACK PAGE  
 5. Other Historic Name(s) or Event(s):  
JOPLIN CLUB THEATER

6. Specific Location - Street Address:  
402-408 JOPLIN & 202-212 W 4TH

7. City Joplin State Missouri

8. Description of Location:

Sketch the plan of the structure; indicate out-buildings and relationships to street; place X at main entrance, show porches, lightly shade one-story elements



9. (N.A.)  
 10. Site ( ) Building ☒ Structure ( ) Object ( )  
 11. (N.A.)  
 12. (N.A.)  
 13. Part of Proposed District? yes ☒ no ( )  
 14. (N.A.)  
 15. Name of Proposed District Joplin Downtown

16. Thematic Category - Commercial ☒ Railroad ( )  
 Mining ( ) Other ( )

17. Date of Construction 1890  
 Period of Construction (N.A.)  
 Cost of Construction

18. Overall Architectural Aspect:

Style (N.A.)  
 - Is this type of structure common in the area now?  
 yes ( ) no ☒  
 - Was this type of structure common in the area in the past? yes ☒ no ( )

19. Architect or Designer

20. Contractor/Builder

21. Original Use THEATER / DANCE HALL  
 Subsequent Use DANCE HALL

22. Present Use - First Floor OFFICE / CAFE  
 Other Floors TORN DOWN

23. Present Ownership - Public ( ) Private ☒

24. Original Owner  
 Present Owner RAY FERGUSON / REALTY  
 Address/Phone 623-4378

25. Accessibility - Open to Public yes ☒ no ( )  
 Restricted yes ☒ no ( )

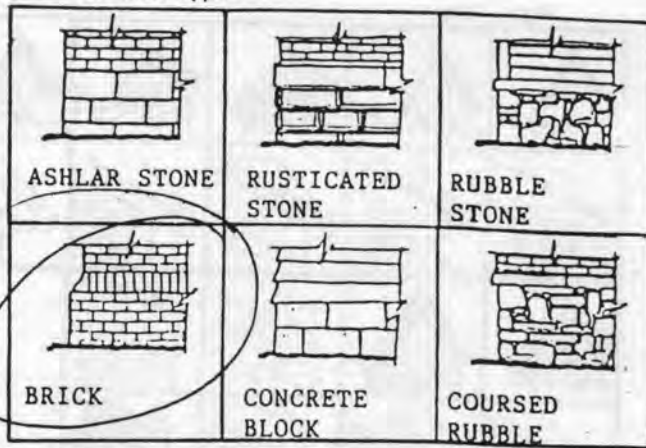
26. Local Contact Person or Organization:  
RAY FERGUSON Phone: 623-4378

27. (N.A.)

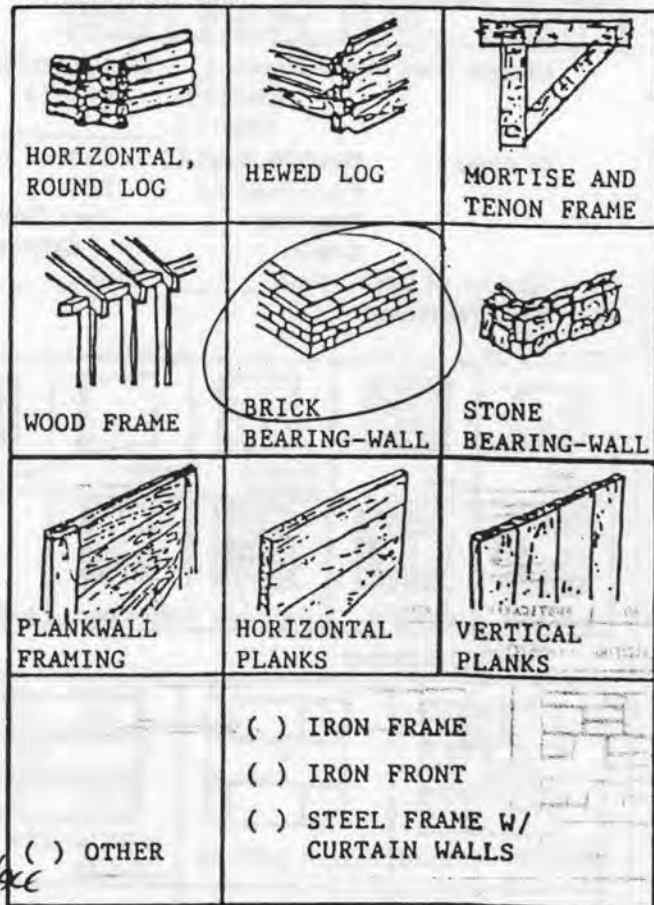
28. Number of Stories - 1 ☒ 2 ( ) 3 ( ) 4 ( )  
 29. Basement - Full ( ) Crawl Space ( ) Partial ( )  
 None ( )

REMARKS - UNDERGROUNDED TUNNELS?  
originally 3 story with towers

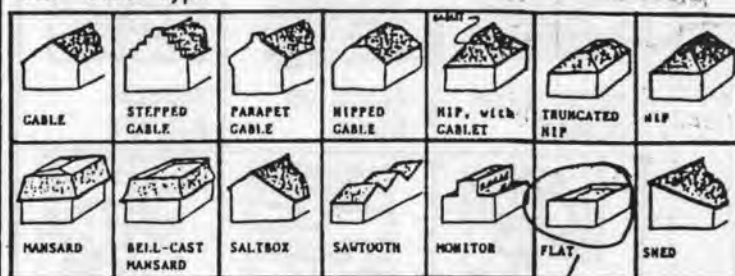
30. Foundation Type - SW-AS-036-032



31. Wall Construction -



32. Roof Type -

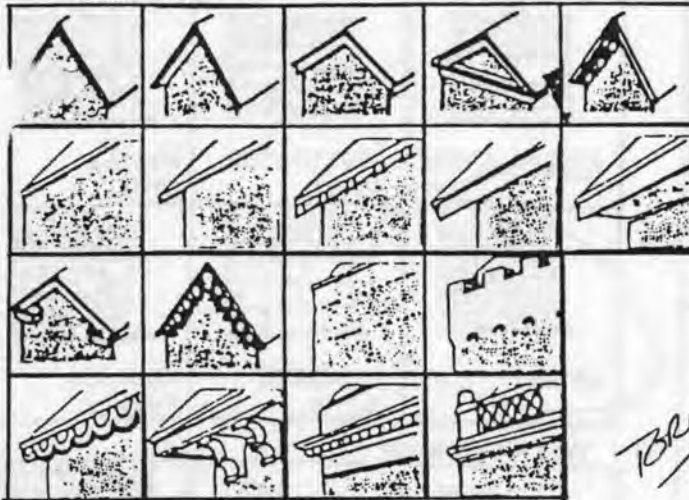


① EMPIRE DISTRICT  
 ② CASSIAT OFFICE SYSTEMS  
 ③ EMPIRE DISTRICT  
 ④ WESTERN UNION  
 ⑤ MAXFIELD'S CAFE

USSD 1086  
 3 STORY  
 STAIRS REMOVED



# Roof Trim -

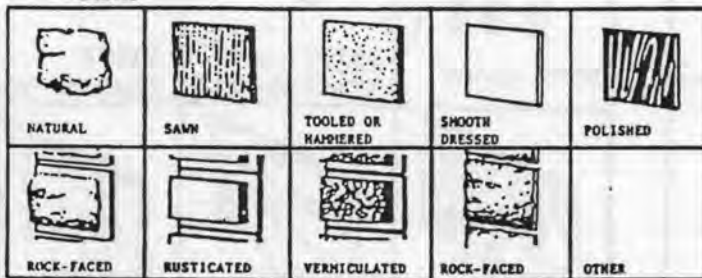


Multiple Roof Forms-Towers ( ) Metal Cresting ( )  
 Cupola ( ) Finials ( )  
 Other ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chimney - Straddle Ridge ( ) Center ( )  
 Front Slope ( ) Side ( )  
 Side Slope ( ) Back Slope ( )  
 Interior ( ) Exterior ( )

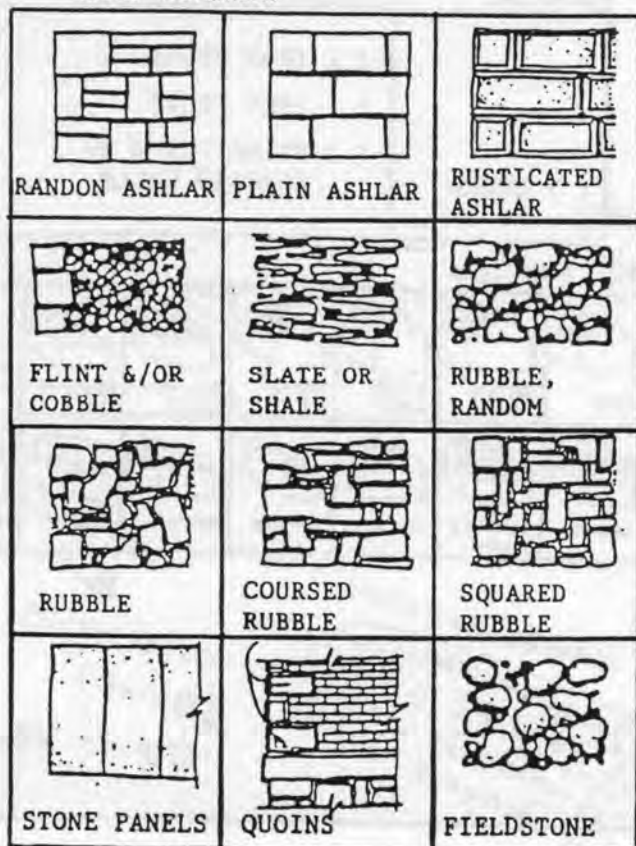
33. Number of Bays - Front \_\_\_\_\_ Side \_\_\_\_\_

34. Wall Treatment:

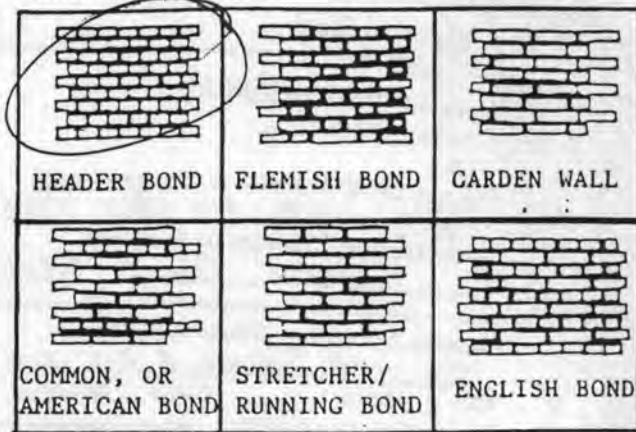
Stone



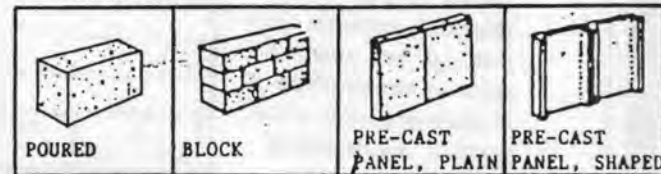
# Stone Treatment



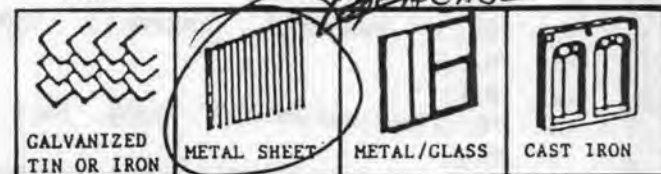
# Brick Patterns - Color Painted And Red



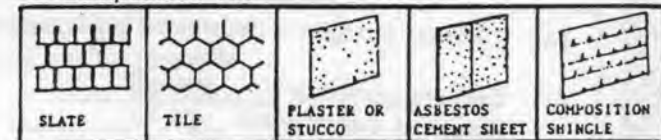
# Concrete



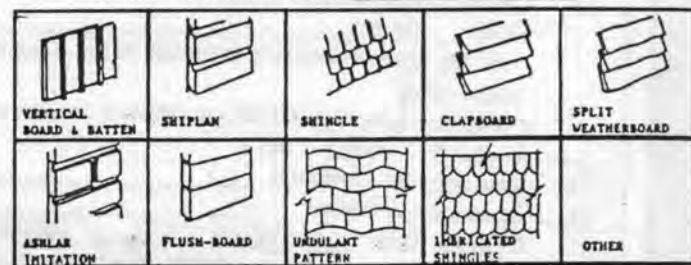
# Metal



# Composition Tile

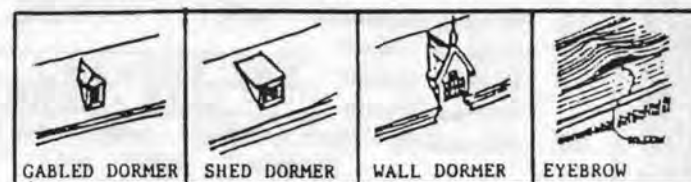


# Wood - Painted Color

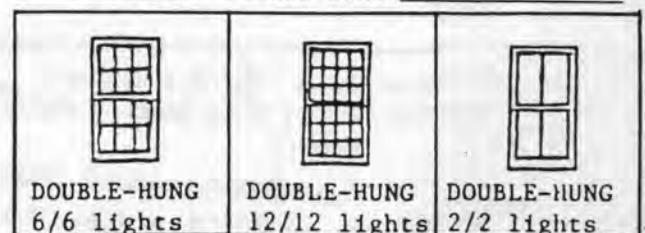


# Dormers:



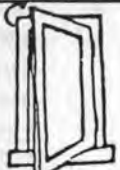
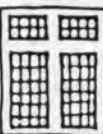


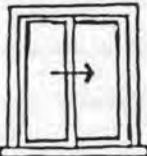


Hipped ( ) Decorated ( ) Facade ( ) Sides ( ) Rear ( )



# Windows - Painted Color



cont.

		
AWNING	HOPPER	CASEMENT
		
MULLION w/ TRANSOM	TRIPLE-HUNG 8/8/8 lights	ORIEL
		
HORIZ. SLIDE	PALLADIAN	FRIEZE

Surrounds - Plain ☒ Decorated ( ) Arch ( )

Pediment ( ) Shaped Lintel ( )

Placement - Regular ☒ Irregular ( )

Projecting Bays or Oriels ( )

Stained Glass yes ( ) no ☒

Modern Storm Windows yes ( ) no ☒

Doors:


























Straight ☒ Arched ( ) Plain ( ) Decorated ( )

Modern Storm Doors yes ( ) no ☒










Typical Storefront yes ☒ no ( )

Unusual Treatment \_\_\_\_\_














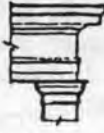

#### Window and Door Treatments

				
PLAIN STONE LINTEL	SHAPED LINTEL	CARVED STONE w/ BRACKETS	HOODHOLD, DRIPSTONE, or LABEL	
				
ENTABLATURE	TRIANGULAR PEDIMENT	SEGMENTAL PEDIMENT	BROKEN PEDIMENT	LANCET
				
SEMI-CIRCULAR or ROUND ARCH	TUDOR ARCH	POINTED ARCH	OGE ARCH	SEGMENTAL ARCH
				
SEMI-ELLIPTICAL ARCH	STILTED ARCH	FLAT ARCH	FANLIGHT	TRANSEATED
				
CONTINUOUS SILL	PLAIN SLIP SILL	PLAIN-LUG SILL	CARVED & BRACKETED LUG SILL	DECORATED SLIP SILL

#### Building Form Treatments

		
ARCHADING	BUTTRESSED WALL	ARCADED CORBEL TAB
		
FULL PORTICO	CENTRAL PAVILION	PIERS/SPAND
		
PILASTER	RECESSED PANELS	HORIZONTAL

#### Miscellaneous

		
EXPOSED RAFTERS	BRACKETED CORNICE	BOX CORNICE
		
BRACKET or DRIP	FINIAL	URN
		
BATTEMENTS	HOOD, over door	CRESTINGS
		
DORIC	COMPOSITE	CORINTHIAN
		
IONIC	TUSCAN	

Other Exterior Detailing -Decorative Panels ( )



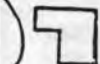







Balconies ( ) Quoins ( )

Date Stone ( ) Porch ( )

String or Belt Course ( )

- Where were the materials used for construction obtained: (i.e. Local brick-yards, quarries, out state suppliers, etc.)

# 35. Plan Shape

				
RECTANGULAR	SQUARE	L-SHAPED	T-SHAPED	U-SHAPED
				
GREEK CROSS	LATIN CROSS	CIRCULAR	OCTAGONAL	IRREGULAR

# 36. Changes - Addition

Alteration 3rd story removed  
Moved 2 new facades

# 37. Apparent Condition - Exterior:

- ( ) Excellent  
(X) Good  
( ) Fair  
( ) Deteriorated  
( ) Ruins

of original (X) No Visible Remains

# Interior:

- ( ) Excellent  
(X) Good  
( ) Fair  
( ) Deteriorated  
( ) Ruins

of original (X) No Visible Remains

# 38. Renovation Underway

yes ( ) no (X)

Preservation Underway yes ( ) no (X)

Future Plans for Property SOME

# 39. Endangered

yes (X) no ( ) By What? ACREAGE

# 40. (N.A.)

# 41. Distance From Road 10 Frontage on Road 150'

# 42. Further Description of Important Features:

ALL REMOVED

# 43. Is this property associated with persons, events, development, movements, etc., significant to the history of the community, state, or nation?

Briefly Explain: YES FORMER CLUB THEATER  
(See added sheet)

# 44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings:

Is property integrally associated with any vistas, parks, landscapes? yes ( ) no (X) If yes, explain:

Environment - (X) Densely Built UP  
( ) Scattered Development  
( ) Open Land

Surrounding Buildings - (X) Similar Period - all remodeled  
( ) Later Period ( ) Earlier Period  
( ) Institutional (X) Commercial  
( ) Industrial ( ) Residential  
( ) Other

Property is prominent within environment - yes (X)  
no ( )

(USED TO BE)

# 45. Documentation:

Indicate what legal records, county histories, maps, etc., were used to document facts about the property:

( ) Court Records (chain of title or abstract, etc.)

(X) County Histories

(X) Old Photographs - Location

Approx. Date 1945

(X) Newspaper Clippings - Location

1126/1891 Date 1-1945

(X) City Directories - Location

(X) Maps (plats, atlases) - Location

( ) Other

46. Prepared By: D. MILLER Phone: 781-3005

47. Organization:

48. Date 9/3/87

49. Date of Revision

# Any Other Comments or Observations:

402 JOPUM - MAYFIELD CAFE  
404

406 CHARLEY'S SHOE SERVICE

408 SONOTONE HEARING AIDS

410 RAY'S

202 W 4TH MAYFIELD CAFE

204 " " WESTERN UNION

208 " " EMPIRE DISTRICT

210 " " WESTERN OFFICE EQUIP

212 " " EMPIRE DISTRICT

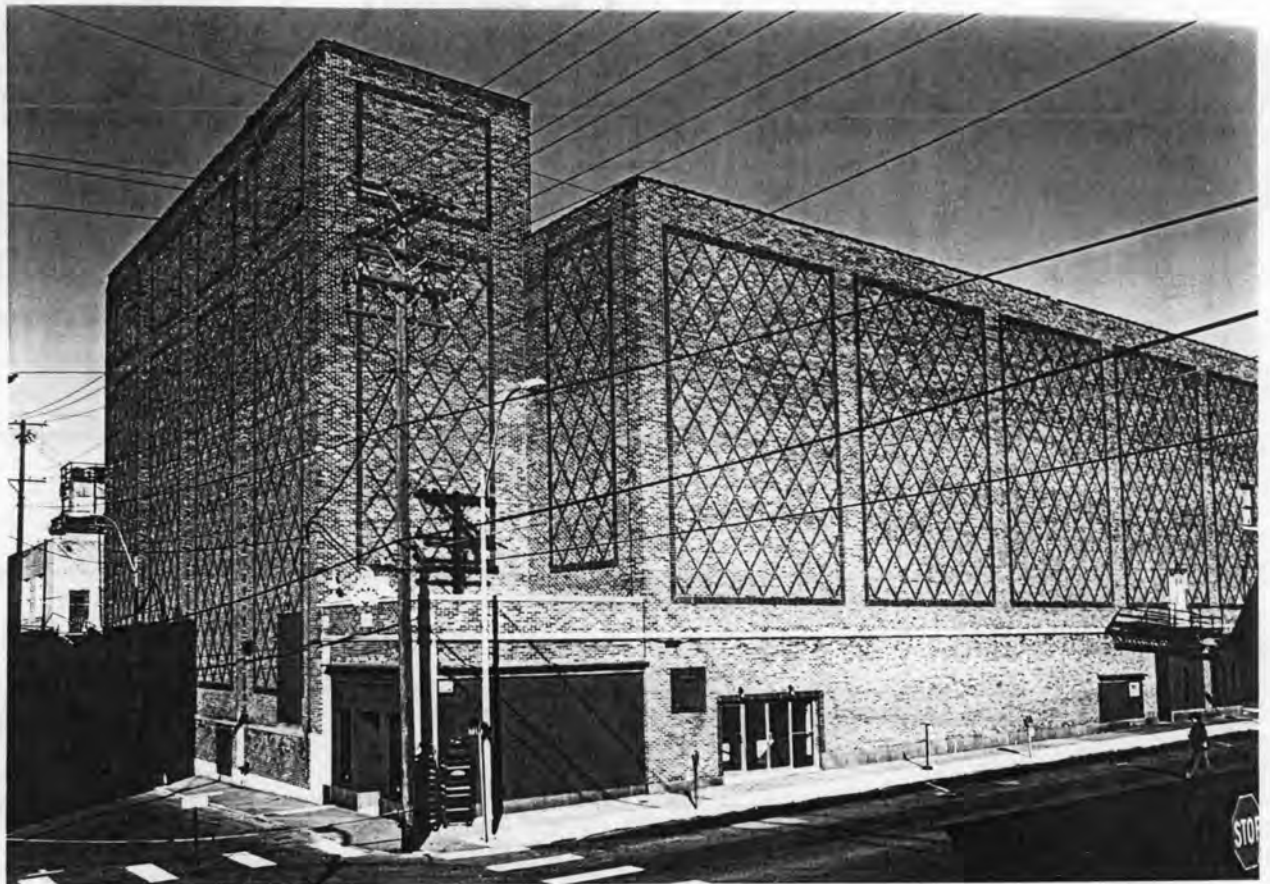
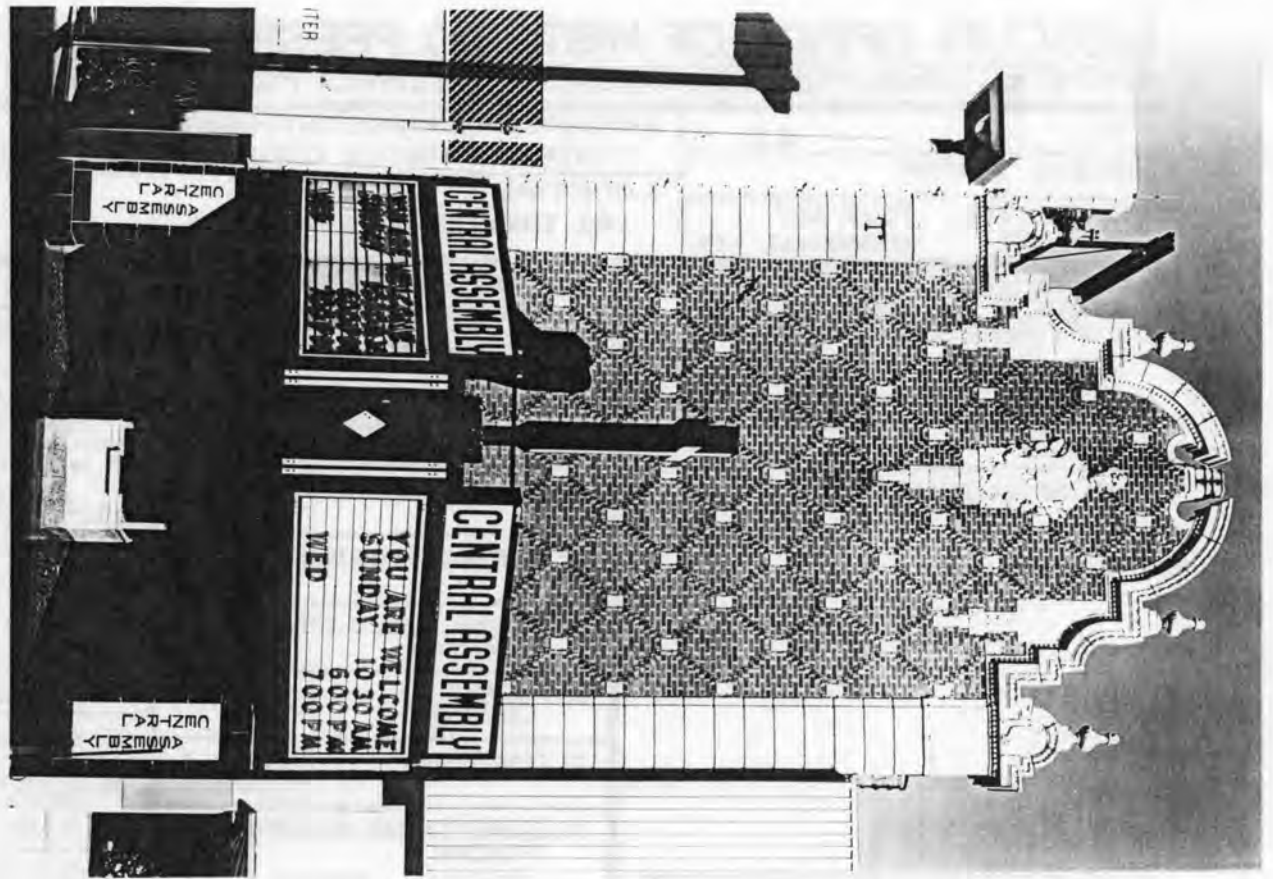
BUILDING COMPLETELY  
RE MUDDLED



# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

## ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

1. NO. <b>62</b>		4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) <b>CENTRAL ASSEMBLY CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER</b>	
2. COUNTY <b>JASPER</b>		5. OTHER NAME(S) <b>FOX THEATRE</b>	
3. LOCATION OF POST ART NEGATIVES MEMORIAL LIB.			
6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP RANGE SECTION IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS <b>415 MAIN / VIRGINIA</b>		16. THEMATIC CATEGORY <b>ENTERTAINMENT</b>	
7. CITY OR TOWN IF RURAL, VICINITY <b>JOPLIN</b>		17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD <b>1930</b>	
8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION		18. STYLE OR DESIGN <b>RENAISSANCE REVIVAL</b>	
		19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER	
		20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER	
		21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT <b>THEATRE</b>	
		22. PRESENT USE <b>CHURCH</b>	
		23. OWNERSHIP PUBLIC ( ) PRIVATE (X)	
		24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS IF KNOWN <b>CENTRAL ASSEMBLY</b> <b>781-5982</b>	
9. COORDINATES UTM LAT LONG		25. OPEN TO PUBLIC YES(X) NO ( )	
10. SITE ( ) STRUCTURE ( ) BUILDING (X) OBJECT ( )		26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION	
11. ON NATIONAL YES ( ) REGISTER NO (X)		27. OTHER SURVEY IN WHICH INCLUDED <b>NONE</b>	
12. IS IT YES(X) ELIGIBLE NO ( )			
13. PART OF YES ( ) ESTAB. DISTRICT NO (X)		28. NO. OF STORIES <b>2</b>	
14. DISTRICT YES(X) POTENTIAL NO ( )		29. BASEMENT YES(X) PARTIAL NO ( )	
15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT		30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL <b>CONCRETE</b>	
		31. WALL CONSTRUCTION <b>BRICK BEARING</b>	
		32. ROOF TYPE & MATERIAL <b>FLAT</b>	
		33. NO. OF BAYS FRONT SIDE	
		34. WALL TREATMENT <b>BRICK/TERRA COTTA</b>	
		35. PLAN SHAPE <b>L-SHAPED</b>	
		36. CHANGES ADDITION ( ) (EXPLAIN IN ALTERED (X) NO. 42) MOVED ( )	
		37. CONDITION INTERIOR <b>GOOD</b> EXTERIOR <b>GOOD</b>	
		38. PRESERVATION YES ( ) UNDERWAY NO (X)	
		39. ENDANGERED YES ( ) BY WHAT NO (X)	
		40. VISIBLE FROM YES(X) PUBLIC ROAD NO ( )	
		41. DISTANCE FROM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD	
42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES <b>MARQUIS CHANGED.</b>			
43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE			
44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS			
45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION <b>Newspaper 3/23/1980</b> <b>City Directories/Maps</b>		46. PREPARED BY <b>LAURA J. DERRICK</b>	
		47. ORGANIZATION <b>BCCW/CASEY A/E</b>	
RETURN THIS FORM WHEN COMPLETED TO: OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED, ATTACH P.O. BOX 176 SEPARATE SHEET(S) TO THIS FORM JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102		48. DATE <b>12/15/87</b>	49. REVISION DATE(S) <b>6/20/88</b>

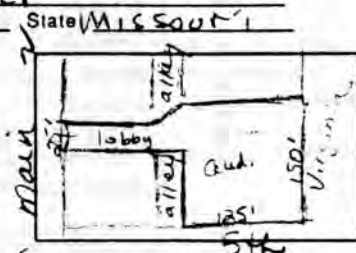


# JOPLIN HISTORIC SURVEY - INVENTORY SHEET

SW-AS-036-033

- Inventory Number 34
- County Jasper
- (N.A.)
- Present Local Name(s) or Designation(s): Central Assembly Christian Life Center
- Other Historic Name(s) or Event(s):

- Specific Location - Street Address: 415 Main Street
- City Joplin State Missouri
- Description of Location: Sketch the plan of the structure; indicate out-buildings and relationships to street; place X at main entrance, show porches, lightly shade one-story entrance.
- (N.A.)
- Site ( ) Building ☒ Structure ( ) Object ( )
- (N.A.)
- (N.A.)
- Part of Proposed District? yes ☒ no ( )
- (N.A.)
- Name of Proposed District

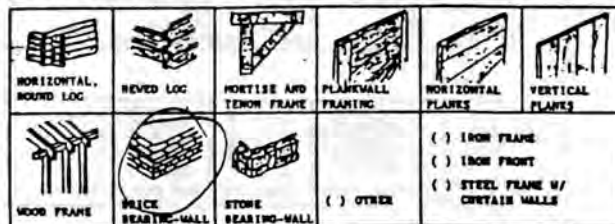


- Thematic Category - Commercial ( ) Railroad ( ) Mining ( ) Other ( ) Theatre
- Date of Construction Nov. 3, 1930 \*see notes
- Period of Construction 3 years
- Cost of Construction \$500,000
- Overall Architectural Aspect: Style Romantic-Gothic see note 4
- Is this type of structure common in the area now? yes ( ) no ☒
- Was this type of structure common in the area in the past? yes ( ) no ☒
- Architect or Engineer
- Contractor/Builder Chickering
- Original Use Theatre
- Subsequent Use Church
- Present Use - First Floor Church
- Other Floors Offices
- Present Ownership - Public ( ) Private ☒
- Original Owner Midland Theatre & Realty Co.
- Present Owner Central Assembly
- Address/Phone 415 Main
- Accessibility - Open to Public yes ☒ no ( )
- Restricted yes ( ) no ☒
- Unrestricted yes ☒ no ( )
- Local Contact Person or Organization: Central Assembly Phone: 781-5982
- (N.A.) Central Assembly purchased in 1974 for \$140,000

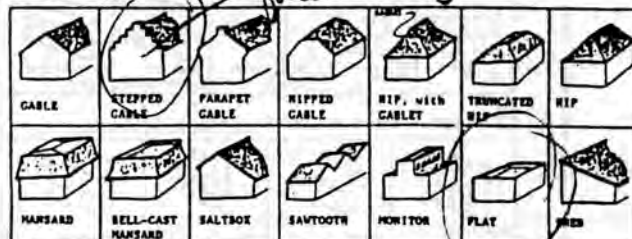
- Number of Stories - 1 ( ) 1 1/2 ( ) 2 3 ( ) 4 ( )
- Basement - Full ( ) Crawl Space ☒ Partial ☒ None ( )
- Foundation Type - Poured concrete



## 31. Wall Construction -



## 32. Roof Type

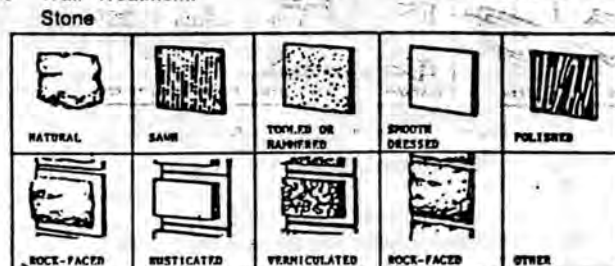


Entrance flat roof Dome Roof, Roof Trim -

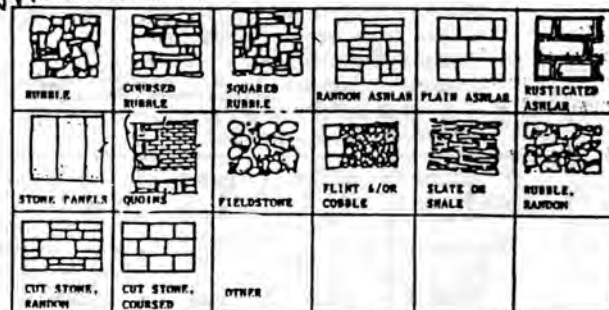


## 33. Number of Bays - Front Side

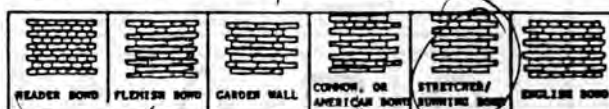
## 34. Wall Treatment:



## NA Stone Treatment



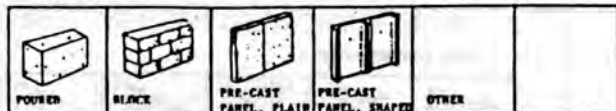
## Brick Patterns - Color Tan - Brown



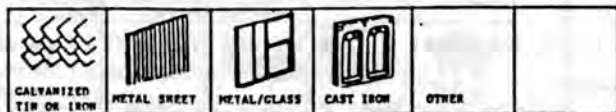
with designs in the brick diamond pattern



## Concrete



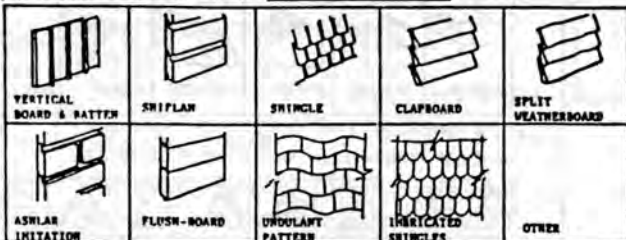
## Metal



## Composition Tile

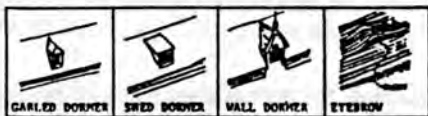


## Wood - Painted Color



## Dormers:

- Hipped ( )  
Decorated ( )  
Facade ( )  
Sides ( )  
Rear ( )



## Windows - Painted Color



Surrounds - Plain ( ) Decorated ( ) Arch ( )

Pediment ( ) Shaped Lintel ( )

Placement - Regular ( ) Irregular ( )

Projecting Bays or Oris ( )

Stained Glass yes ( ) no ( )

Modern Storm Windows yes ( ) no ( )

## Doors:

Straight ( ) Arched ( ) Plain ( ) Decorated ( )

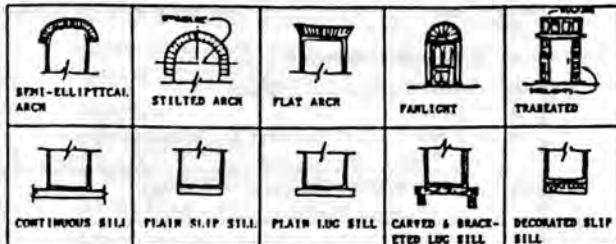
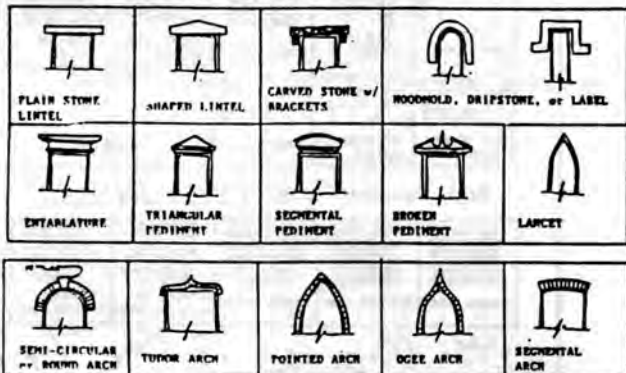
Modern Storm Doors yes ( ) no ( )

Typical Storefront yes ( ) no ( )

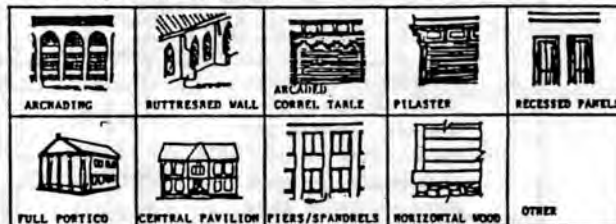
Unusual Treatment *Introcate terra cotta*

*Yes - 4 sub over entrance*

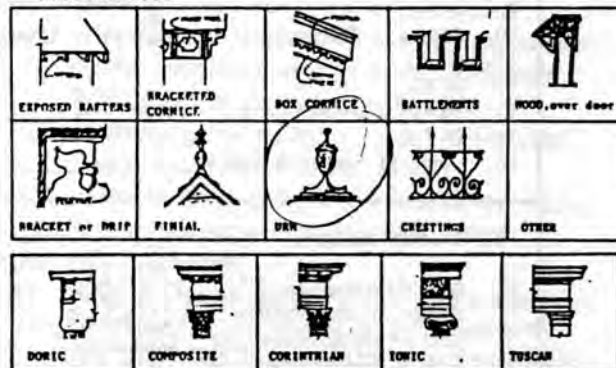
Window and Door Treatments



## Building Form Treatments



## Miscellaneous



## Other Exterior Detailing -

Decorative Panels ☒

Balconies ( ) Quoins ( )

Date Stone ( ) Porch ( )

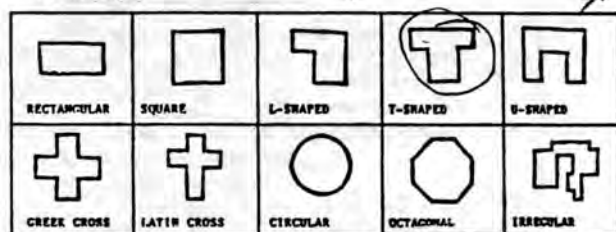
String or Belt Course ( )

Where were the materials used for construction obtained:

(i.e. Local brick-yards, quarries, out-of-state suppliers, etc.)

*Chickering (local contractor) note*

## 35. Plan Shape



## 36. Changes - Addition

Alteration *Offices*

Moved

## 37. Apparent Condition - Exterior:

( ) Excellent

☒ Good

( ) Fair

( ) Deteriorated

( ) Ruins

( ) No Visible Remains

Interior: ☒ Excellent

( ) Good

( ) Fair

( ) Deteriorated

( ) Ruins

( ) No Visible Remains

38. Renovation Underway yes ( ) no (X) Gothic Arches.  
 Preservation Underway yes (X) no ( ) Duplicating Columns  
 Future Plans for Property Update - modernize  
without hurting historic value
39. Endangered yes ( ) no (X) By What? \_\_\_\_\_
40. (N.A.)
41. Distance From Road See map on front Frontage on Road \_\_\_\_\_

42. Further Description of Important Features:  
interior - hand-painted murals, stenciled designs, columns, statuary, etc.

43. Is this property associated with persons, events, development, movements, etc., significant to the history of the community, state, or nation? Briefly Explain: Yes it was the finest theatre in Joplin  
annual beauty contest held there

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings:

Is property integrally associated with any vistas, parks, landscapes? yes ( ) no (X) If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Environment - ☒ Densely Built Up  
☐ Scattered Development  
☐ Open Land

Surrounding Buildings - ☒ Similar Period  
☐ Later Period ☒ Earlier Period  
☐ Institutional ☒ Commercial  
☐ Industrial ☐ Residential  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Property is prominent within environment - yes (X) no ( )

45. Documentation:

Indicate what legal records, county histories, maps, etc., were used to document facts about the property:

- ☐ Court Records (chain of title to abstract, etc.)  
☐ County Histories  
☐ Old Photographs - Location \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. Date \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Newspaper Clippings - Location \_\_\_\_\_

Date Clippings 3/23/90

☒ City Directories - Location \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Maps (plats, atlases) - Location \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

46. Prepared By: Robert E. Smith Phone 781-6171

47. Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

48. Date 3/87

49. Date of Revision \_\_\_\_\_

Any Other Comments or Observations:

1) The entrance on main st. (415) was originally a 2 story brick hardware store, built about 1883.

2) In 1930, this store gutted & became lobby to Fox Theatre. Auditorium itself is on the northwest corner of 5th & Virginia. A covered passageway extends from the lobby over the alley to the huge auditorium.

3) Auditorium originally seated 2000, 81 1/2 ft. stage for live shows & movies

4) Decorated inside in "Spanish Moorish" style

5) Front facade features stepped-gable & diamond pattern brickwork, many decorative peaks.

6) Originally had huge neon marquee 40' high & 7 1/2' wide.

7) 300 workers hired to build (jobs for unemployed during depression years)

8) Helen Chickering (on commission) has 1st ticket purchased at \_\_\_\_\_ night 11/3/30.

L.S. if you need any more about this bldg. let me know)

# JOPLIN HISTORIC SURVEY - DIRECTIVE FOR INVENTORY SHEETS

1. Not Applicable.
2. Given.
3. Not Applicable.
4. Any name the property is known by in the community or building name.
5. Any person or thing associated with the building and events which took place there.
6. Street Address.
7. Given.
8. If property is not located on Sanborn Map, draw general outline following the instructions on the inventory sheet. Also show assumed property lines.
9. Not Applicable.
10. Site - Location of a significant event, historic occupation or activity, building or structure-whether standing, ruined, or vanished; location itself possesses historical, cultural, or archeological value.  
Building - A building such as a house, barn, church, hotel, or similar construction created to shelter any form of human activity.  
Structure - Building constructed for purposes other than creating shelter. (Such as a bridge.)  
Object - Construction which is primarily artistic in nature or is relatively small in scale and simply constructed.
11. Not Applicable.
12. Not Applicable.
13. Is the building being inventoried within the boundaries on the survey map?
14. Not Applicable.
15. Given.
16. Which of these categories describe the building's function?
17. When was the building constructed?  
How much did it cost to build.
18. Not Applicable.
19. Who designed the building?
20. Who built the building?
21. What was the building's original function, what was it used for? (retail, office, etc.)  
What was it used for in the time after initial construction to the present?
22. What is it used for today?
23. Is the building owned by a private individual or a public entity?
24. Names of Owners.

25. Is the building accessible at any time, are parts of it only open certain hours or at all?
26. Who can be contacted to see the building if needed?
27. Not Applicable.
28. How many floors does the building have?
29. What type of basement does it have, if any?
30. Mark the appropriate foundation type.
31. Mark the appropriate wall construction.
32. Mark the appropriate roof type/trim/forms (if any)/chimney(if any).
33. Denote the number of bays between structural columns.
34. Mark the appropriate wall treatment, window/door type/treatment.
35. Mark the appropriate plan configuration.
36. Have there been any changes made to the building since its initial construction?
37. What kind of condition is the building in now?
38. Is the building currently being restored?  
What plans (if any) are being made concerning the building. (i.e. Restoration, Renovation, Remodeling, etc.)
39. Is the building going to be torn down, moved, or inappropriately renovated? Why?
40. Not Applicable.
41. How far is the building from the street curb and what is the length of its frontwall?
42. Are there any other details about the building that should be documented?
43. What is the building's history?
44. How does the immediate area affect the building?
45. Where did the information come from?
46. Who filled out the inventory form?
47. What organization (if any) are they associated with?
48. What date was the inventory started?
49. What date was the inventory amended or revised?

If there are any questions concerning any part of the inventory sheet please contact:

Leslie Simpson	Laura Derrick
Post Art Library	BCCW/Casey Arch.
Joplin Public Library	705 Woodruff Bldg.
782-5419	Springfield, Mo 65806
	869-0719

If there are any comments or suggestions concerning the layout or information on the inventory sheets please let us know so it can be revised.

If some of the information on the sheets is unfamiliar or the answer is unavailable make a note of this on the sheet where the questions occur.



# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

## ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

SW-AS-036-034

1. NO. <b>27</b>		4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) <b>THE EMPRESS</b>	
2. COUNTY <b>JASPER</b>		5. OTHER NAME(S) <b>PHILADELPHIA CANDY/HIPPODROME THEATRE</b>	
3. LOCATION OF POST ART NEGATIVES <b>MEMORIAL LIB.</b>			
6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP RANGE SECTION IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS <b>520 MAIN</b>		16. THEMATIC CATEGORY <b>COMMERCIAL</b>	28. NO. OF STORIES <b>2</b>
		17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD <b>1909</b>	29. BASEMENT YES( ) NO (X)
7. CITY OR TOWN IF RURAL, VICINITY <b>JOPLIN</b>		18. STYLE OR DESIGN <b>COMM. RENNAISS. REVIVAL</b>	30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL
8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION		19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER	31. WALL CONSTRUCTION <b>BRICK BEARING</b>
		20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER	32. ROOF TYPE & MATERIAL <b>FLAT</b>
		21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT <b>CANDY STORE</b>	33. NO. OF BAYS FRONT SIDE
		22. PRESENT USE <b>GIFT SHOP</b>	34. WALL TREATMENT <b>BRICK W/QUOINS</b>
		23. OWNERSHIP PUBLIC ( ) PRIVATE (X)	35. PLAN SHAPE <b>RECTANGLE</b>
9. COORDINATES UTM LAT LONG		24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS IF KNOWN <b>CARDINAL SCALES MWF 10-2 782-1985</b>	36. CHANGES ADDITION( ) (EXPLAIN IN ALTERED ( ) NO.42) MOVED ( )
10. SITE( ) STRUCTURE( ) BUILDING( X ) OBJECT( )		25. OPEN TO PUBLIC YES(X) NO ( )	37. CONDITION INTERIOR EXCELLENT EXTERIOR EXCELLENT
11. ON NATIONAL YES( ) REGISTER NO (X)	12. IS IT YES(X) ELIGIBLE NO ( )	26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION <b>BECKY WHILER-CARVER 782-1985</b>	38. PRESERVATION YES( ) UNDERWAY NO(X)
13. PART OF YES( ) ESTAB. DISTRICT NO(X)	14. DISTRICT YES(X) POTENTIAL NO ( )	27. OTHER SURVEY IN WHICH INCLUDED <b>NONE</b>	39. ENDANGERED YES ( ) BY WHAT NO(X)
15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT			40. VISIBLE FROM YES(X) PUBLIC ROAD NO ( )
			41. DISTANCE FROM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD <b>10 / 25</b>

42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES  
**FRONT ENTRANCE MOVED IN 1978, MAIN FACADE ON FIRST LEVEL COVERED WITH SIDING  
AND EXISTING DOOR/WINDOWS REPLACED.**

43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS

45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

46. PREPARED BY  
**LAURA J. DERRICK**

47. ORGANIZATION  
**BCCW/CASEY A/E**

RETURN THIS FORM WHEN COMPLETED TO: OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED, ATTACH P.O. BOX 176  
SEPARATE SHEET(S) TO THIS FORM JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102

48. DATE  
**12 / 15 / 87**

49. REVISION  
DATE(S)

MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

1. NAME OF HISTORIC PROPERTY: \_\_\_\_\_

2. ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

3. CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

4. COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_

5. STATE: \_\_\_\_\_



6. PHOTOGRAPH OF PROPERTY: \_\_\_\_\_

7. DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH: \_\_\_\_\_

8. PHOTOGRAPHER: \_\_\_\_\_

9. PHOTOGRAPH NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

10. PHOTOGRAPHED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

11. COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

# JOPLIN HISTORIC SURVEY - INVENTORY SHEET

1. Inventory Number 61 (N.A.)
2. County Jasper
3. (N.A.)
4. Present Local Name(s) or Designation(s):  
The Express
5. Other Historic Name(s) or Event(s):  
Philadelphia Candy; Hippodrome Theatre

6. Specific Location - Street Address:  
520 Main

7. City Joplin State Missouri

8. Description of Location:

Sketch the plan of the structure; indicate out-buildings and relationships to street; place X at main entrance, show porches, lightly shade one-story elements



9. (N.A.)
10. Site ( ) Building (☒) Structure ( ) Object ( )
11. (N.A.)
12. (N.A.)
13. Part of Proposed District? yes(☒) no( )
14. (N.A.)
15. Name of Proposed District Joplin Downtown

16. Thematic Category - Commercial (☒) Railroad ( )

Mining ( ) Other ( )

17. Date of Construction 1909? see note

Period of Construction (N.A.)

Cost of Construction \_\_\_\_\_

18. Overall Architectural Aspect:

Style (N.A.)

- Is this type of structure common in the area now? yes( ) no( )

- Was this type of structure common in the area in the past? yes( ) no( )

19. Architect or Designer \_\_\_\_\_

20. Contractor/Builder \_\_\_\_\_

21. Original Use candy store

Subsequent Use theatre

22. Present Use - First Floor gift shop

Other Floors " " "

23. Present Ownership - Public ( ) Private ( )

24. Original Owner Charles Magen? (note 1)

Present Owner Cardinal Scalos

Address/Phone 1211 - 782-1985

25. Accessibility - Open to Public yes( ) no( )

Restricted yes( ) no( )

26. Local Contact Person or Organization:

Becky White - Carver Phone: 782-1985

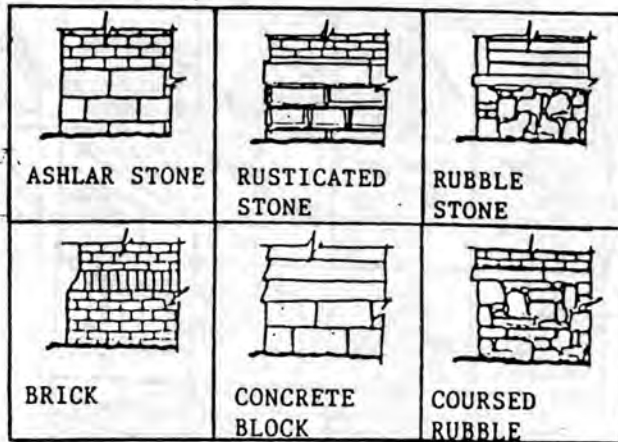
27. (N.A.)

28. Number of Stories - 1( ) 2(☒) 3( ) 4( )

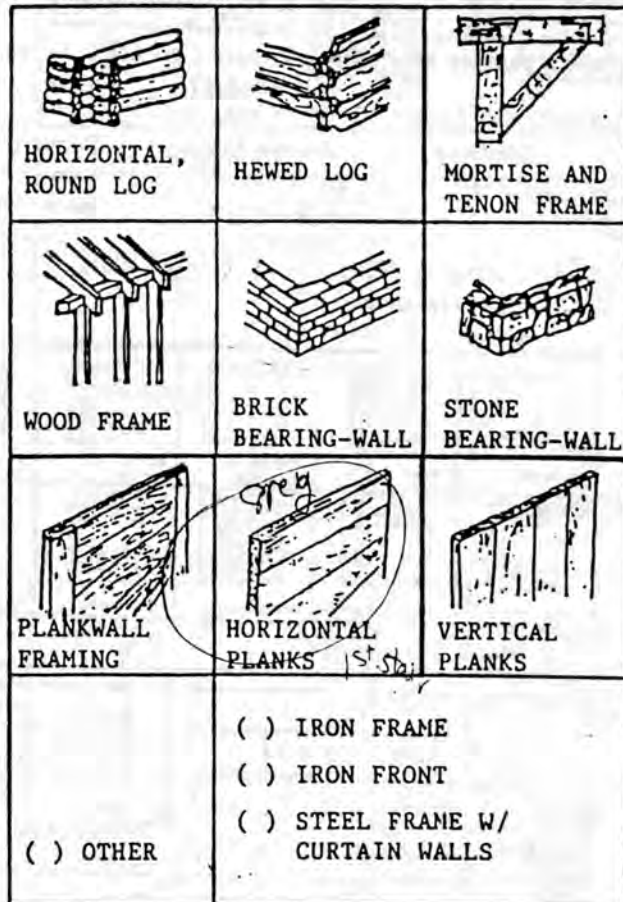
29. Basement - Full ( ) Crawl Space ( ) Partial ( )

None (☒)

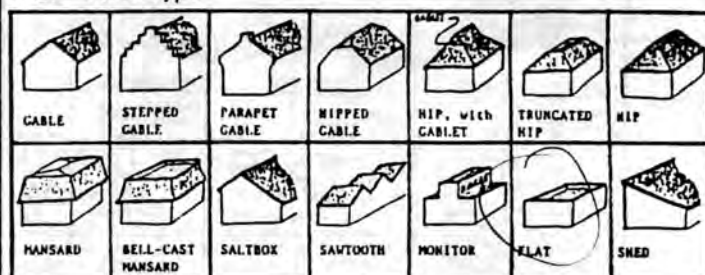
30. Foundation Type - SW-AS-036-034



31. Wall Construction -

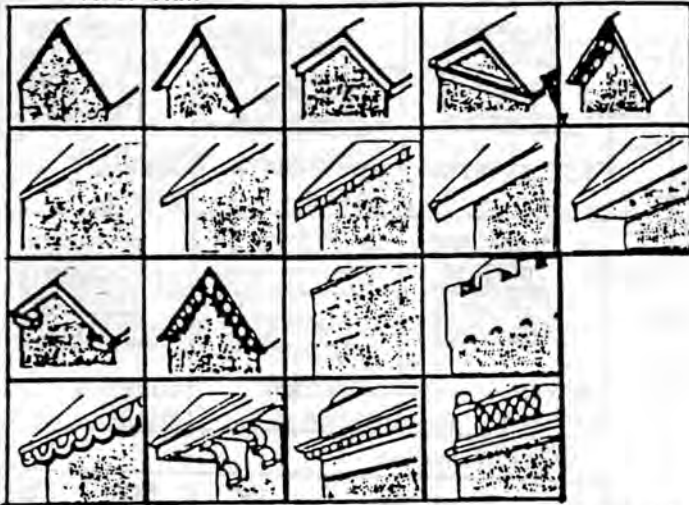


32. Roof Type -





## Roof Trim -



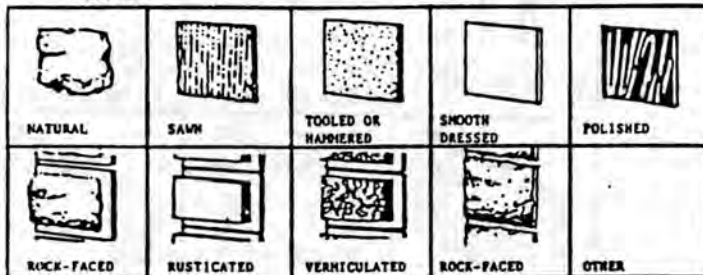
Multiple Roof Forms-Towers ( ) Metal Cresting ( )  
Cupola ( ) Finials ( )  
Other ( )

Chimney - Straddle Ridge ( ) Center ( )  
Front Slope ( ) Side ( )  
Side Slope ( ) Back Slope ( )  
Interior ( ) Exterior ( )

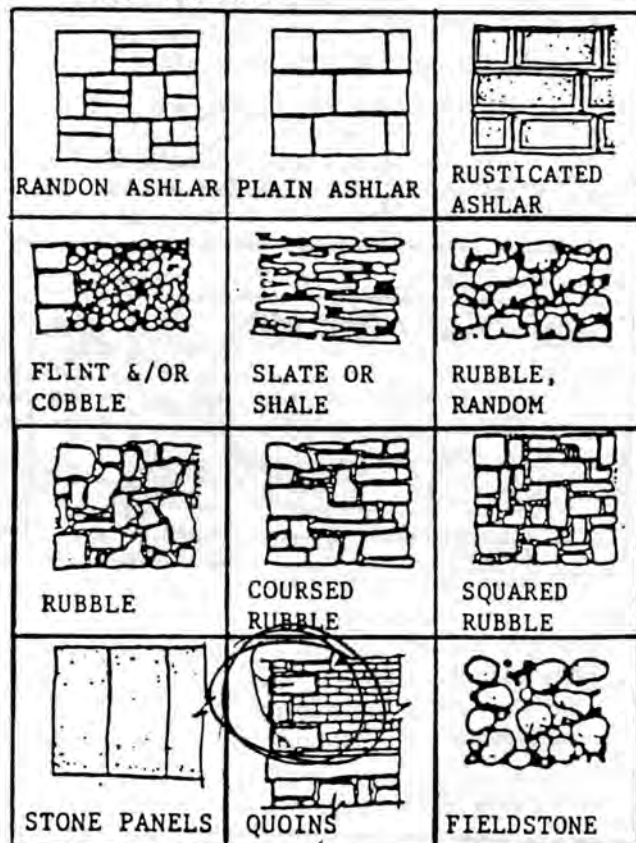
33. Number of Bays - Front \_\_\_\_\_ Side \_\_\_\_\_

4. Wall Treatment:

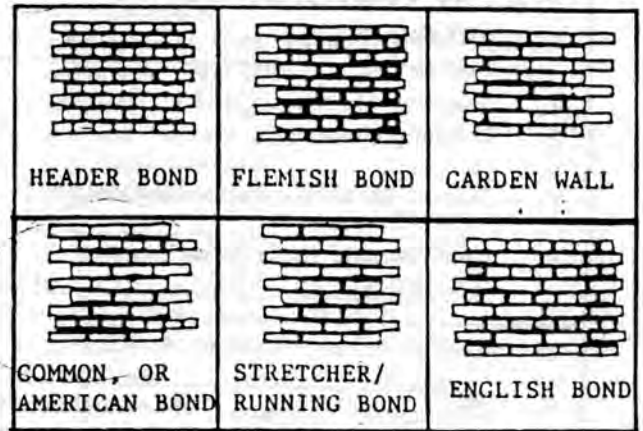
Stone



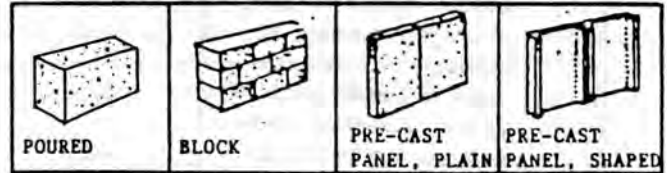
## Stone Treatment



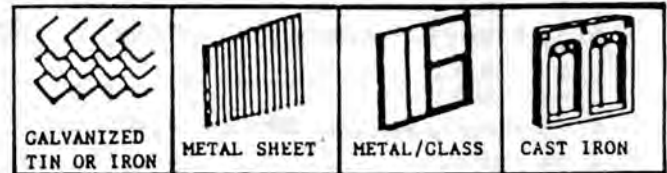
## Brick Patterns - Color dark red-brown bumpy



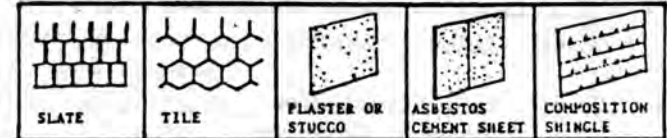
## Concrete



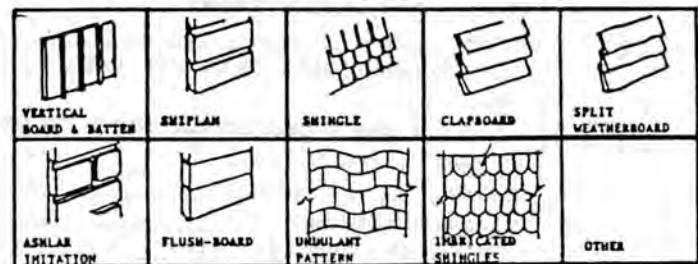
## Metal



## Composition Tile

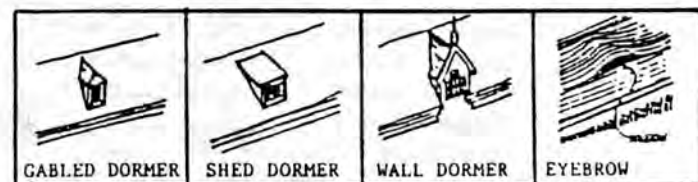


## Wood - Painted Color \_\_\_\_\_

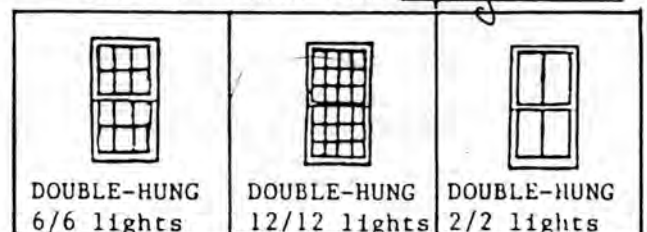


## Dormers:

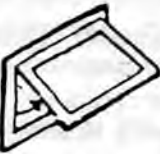


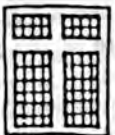
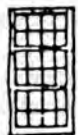




Hipped ( ) Decorated ( ) Facade ( ) Sides ( ) Rear ( )



## Windows - Painted Color grey




























cont.

		
AWNING	HOPPER	CASEMENT
		
MULLION w/ TRANSOM	TRIPLE-HUNG 8/8/8 lights	ORIEL
		
HORIZ. SLIDE	PALLADIAN	FRIEZE

Surrounds - Plain ( ) Decorated ( ) Arch ( )  
 Pediment ( ) Shaped Lintel ( )  
 Placement - Regular ( ) Irregular ( )  
 Projecting Bays or Oris ( )  
 Stained Glass yes ( ) no ( )  
 Modern Storm Windows yes ( ) no ( )

Doors:  
 Straight ( ) Arched ( ) Plain ( ) Decorated ( )  
 Modern Storm Doors yes ( ) no ( )  
 Typical Storefront yes ( ) no ( )  
 Unusual Treatment \_\_\_\_\_










#### Window and Door Treatments

				
PLAIN STONE LINTEL	SHAPED LINTEL	CARVED STONE w/ BRACKETS	WOODHOLD, DRIPSTONE, or LABEL	
				
ENTABLATURE	TRIANGULAR PEDIMENT	SEGMENTAL PEDIMENT	BROKEN BACK PEDIMENT	LANCET
				
SEMI-CIRCULAR or ROUND ARCH	TUDOR ARCH	POINTED ARCH	OGE ARCH	SEGMENTAL ARCH
				
SEMI-ELLIPTICAL ARCH	STILTED ARCH	FLAT ARCH	FANLIGHT	TRANSEATED
				
CONTINUOUS SILL	PLAIN SLIP SILL	PLAIN LUG SILL	CARVED & BRACK- ETED LUG SILL	DECORATED SLIP SILL















front 4 arched windows  
brick

and string window in arched brick windows 5th floor  
side

#### Building Form Treatments

		
ARCHADING	BUTTRESSED WALL	ARCADED CORBEL TABLE
		
FULL PORTICO	CENTRAL PAVILION	PIERS/SPANDRELS
		
PILASTER	RECESSED PANELS	HORIZONTAL WOOD

#### Miscellaneous











		
EXPOSED RAFTERS	BRACKETED CORNICE	BOX CORNICE
		
BRACKET or DRIP	FINIAL	URN
		
BATTEMENTS	HOOD, over door	CRESTINGS
		
DORIC	COMPOSITE	CORINTHIAN
		
IONIC	TUSCAN	

#### Other Exterior Detailing - Decorative Panels ( )

Balconies ( ) Quoins ( )  
 Date Stone ( ) Porch ( )  
 String or Belt Course ( )

- Where were the materials used for construction obtained: (i.e. Local brick-yards, quarries, out-of-state suppliers, etc.)

### 35. Plan Shape

				
RECTANGULAR	SQUARE	L-SHAPED	T-SHAPED	U-SHAPED
				
GREEK CROSS	LATIN CROSS	CIRCULAR	OCTAGONAL	IRREGULAR

36. Changes - Addition \_\_\_\_\_  
 Alteration \_\_\_\_\_  
 Moved \_\_\_\_\_

37. Apparent Condition - Exterior: ☒ Excellent  
☐ Good  
☐ Fair  
☐ Deteriorated  
☐ Ruins  
☐ No Visible Remains  
 Interior: ☒ Excellent  
☐ Good  
☐ Fair  
☐ Deteriorated  
☐ Ruins  
☐ No Visible Remains

38. Renovation Underway yes( ) no(☒)  
 Preservation Underway yes( ) no(☒)  
 Future Plans for Property might remove metal siding from back exterior

39. Endangered yes( ) no(☒) By What? \_\_\_\_\_

40. (N.A.)

41. Distance From Road 10 Frontage on Road 25

42. Further Description of Important Features:  
well decorative brick work

43. Is this property associated with persons, events, development, movements, etc., significant to the history of the community, state, or nation?  
 Briefly Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings:  
 Is property integrally associated with any vistas, parks, landscapes? yes( ) no(☒) If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Environment - ☒ Densely Built UP  
☐ Scattered Development  
☐ Open Land

Surrounding Buildings - ☒ Similar Period  
☐ Later Period ☐ Earlier Period  
☐ Institutional ☒ Commercial  
☐ Industrial ☐ Residential  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Property is prominent within environment - yes( ) no( )

### 45. Documentation:

Indicate what legal records, county histories, maps, etc., were used to document facts about the property:

( ) Court Records (chain of title ro abstract, etc.)  
 ( ) County Histories  
 ( ) Old Photographs - Location \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approx. Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 ( ) Newspaper Clippings - Location \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 ( ) City Directories - Location \_\_\_\_\_  
 ( ) Maps (plats, atlases) - Location \_\_\_\_\_  
 ( ) Other \_\_\_\_\_

46. Prepared By: C.J. Winfrey Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

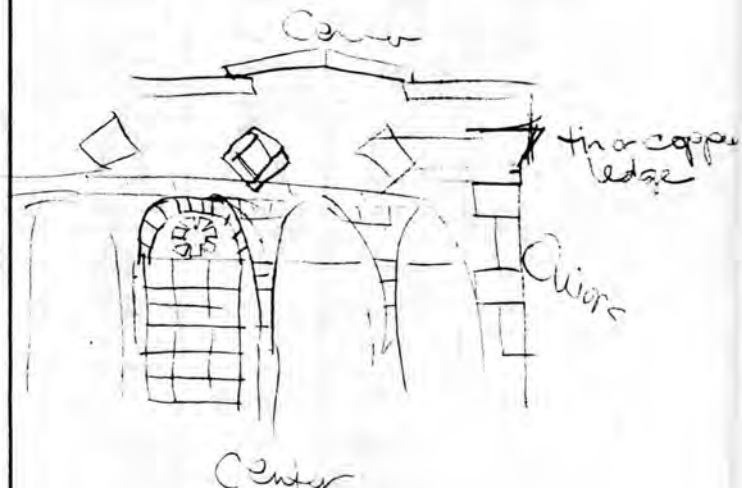
47. Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

48. Date 9-87

49. Date of Revision \_\_\_\_\_

### Any Other Comments or Observations:

1) not on 1906 map. 1st time I could find in directory, 1905-1910 - Philadelphia Candy Co. - Charles Wilson  
 2) Hippodrome Theatre, 1917-1939. 520 Main was looking crossed away to auditorium at 517-523 Joplin St.  
 3) after 1935, miscellaneous retail shops





agreed on any date he set, just so they saw the exhibition. Ti waited until a real cold spell struck and the lake froze over. Then Ti drove that golf ball out across the ice—and it is probably still going!



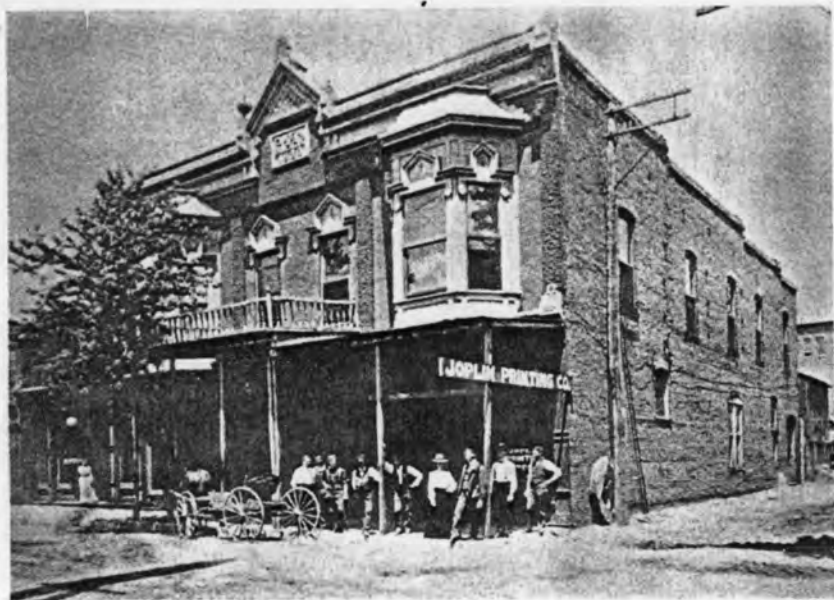
Everyone bet him on that one

### “LOOK MA—TWO HANDS!”

ONE OF JOPLIN'S favorite sons was Percy Wenrich, “the music man” of his generation who helped to link ragtime with the rhythms that later grew out of it. He also was a bridge between the old way of life in the free-swinging mining camp and the fast-moving tempo of modern times, since his life spanned the era from 1880 until 1952.

When he was a teenager, Percy Wenrich became a member of his own “beat” generation—those who believed in the ragtime beat. He played the piano nimbly, and often played sheet music for customers at the old J. Frank Williams music store, the location of Ernie Williamson's store in the 1960's. He and his friend Reuben (Rube) Stone sat at pianos placed back to back and hammered out the melodies on the old uprights. Percy's favorite was “Bunch of Blackberries;” every time he played it, he began humming and felt the urge to write songs of his own.

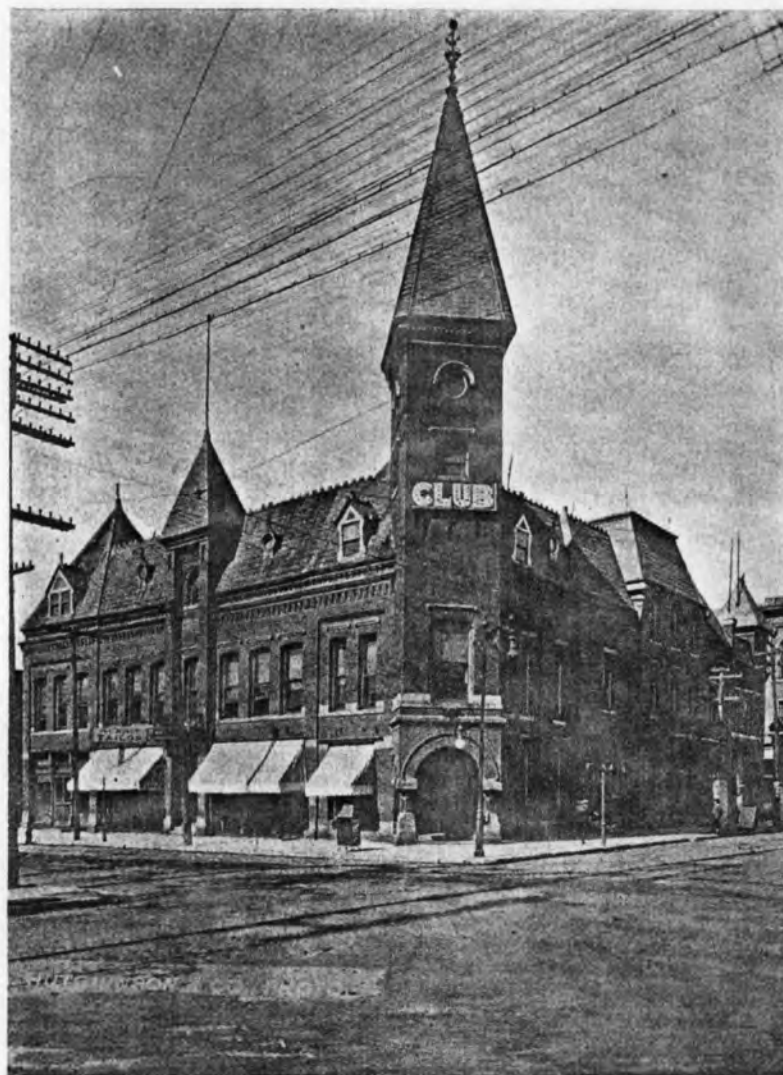
“Rube” Stone was a public entertainer well-known in the mining district. Stone and his friend from Miami, Oklahoma, Holt Hurst, often gave programs at the old Club Theatre at Fourth and Joplin Streets. Percy Wenrich, a more-than-interested bystander, in later years stored a horde of his compositions in the corner tower of that structure. Bob Darch, the rag-time piano player whom Joplin took to its heart in the 1960's, had the old floors and walls



Joplin Printing Co., 5th between Wall and Joplin Streets, in 1890's



James H. Worth Block, showing Keystone Bar and Donehoo Drugstore



Club Theatre, 4th and Joplin

necting the two Main Streets, like old-time fish markets, needed no signs. The odor from stale beer was supplemented by that from Star tobacco boxes used for cuspidors and filled with filthy sawdust, which advertised the occupancy for some distance. Some bars had brass rails for resting feet encased in buckled shoes; and most had back bar mirrors decorated with female figures by some tramp artist. The usual filthy bull-pen was in the rear. A dance room connection was afforded by one, especially, which gave a decided western mining camp atmosphere, where a rough sort of dancing was indulged in.

The Bottoms saloons were not the "genteel" places of today where ladies may sit on stools at the bar and sip highballs; or in dark booths to be served by uniformed waitresses bringing hard drinks; no Siree! True, in a bar or two along Broadway, or in the "tougher" grog shops in East Town or West Town, there were some women who danced with men, some women in rouge and large hats with ostrich plumes and shiny black satin skirts. They were not given the title of "hostesses," but were there for the same purpose—to increase liquor consumption. No self-respecting woman entered such a place or looked that way when she rode by in her buggy or carriage.

#### THE BLACK PEPPER DANCE

The public dance hall on Broadway was of box construction of rough boards. One Saturday night when the pine board floors clattered with the dancing of many feet, several boys, who later became prominent in Joplin, watching through a knot-hole, decided to have

some fun. They secured a gas pipe, filled it with black pepper and inserted the pipe through a knot-hole. The boy with the most wind gave it a blow, and much sneezing ensued. The place was cleared until the pepper settled. Renewed dancing disturbed the pepper and there was renewed sneezing.

#### JOHNSON'S VARIETY SHOW ON BROADWAY

This amusement hall provided a cheap vaudeville show of song and dance numbers. Occasionally a burlesque troupe from St. Louis acted before the brilliant kerosene footlights, replaced later with more brilliant gas jets; burnt cork artists, Indian club swingers, slack rope walkers, banjo pickers and German bands entertained. It was a bad place for decent people, because many women who frequented the vaudeville reddened their cheeks with rouge and penciled their eye brows. They were even seen there in red petticoats or red scarfs, or red basques. It was a "sure sign" if a woman wore bright red in public in the seventies or eighties. As if this were not enough, the "hussies" on the stage, in the amusement emporium, were bold enough to appear in knee length skirts and whirled about showing a glimpse of lace on white muslin undergarments. The wife and mother saw to it that the men folks stayed at home the night the burlesque was billed, because the advertisements showed the stage parade led by a rather husky dame in a disgraceful costume of full-length black tights. Makes one shudder to think of it.

Dutch Em's resort was destroyed by fire in the eighties. A ludicrous story is told of her running out of the building in a Mother Hubbard carrying a pillow and





CHRISTMAN'S DEPARTMENT STORE — 1948

standing collar and ascot tie, or a white bow with pink flowers embroidered at each tapered end. He wore a stiff bosomed shirt, which was pulled over his head, or a pleated bosom shirt with detached cuffs, a fancy vest and sack coat with small lapels. His trousers may have been spring-bottom gray stripe and his shoes high buttoned leather. He wore kid gloves. His hat, a "cadey," or derby, sat at an angle on the southwest corner of his head going north. If he could, and had luck, he grew a cute little mustache, curled and waxed at the ends.

If today you saw a young man and young lady crossing the lobby of the Connor dressed like the above, wouldn't they attract your attention? Such did appear in the lobbies of the Keystone and the old Joplin Hotel.

The sentimental atmosphere of the Nineties was fanned and kept alive, as the melodious sentimental songs were shown on the curtain with colored slides in the Club Theatre. The singer stood beside the curtain and sang each word distinctly. The most popular songs were: *After the Ball*, *Two Little Girls in Blue*, *Just as the Sun Went down*, *Daisy*, or *On a Bicycle Built for Two*, *On the Banks of the Wabash*, *I was Happy Till I Met You*, *The Girl I Left in Sunny Tennessee*, *She Mya Have Seen Better Days*, *In the Good Old Summer Time*, *The Fatal Wedding*, *Kiss and Let's Make Up*, *Won't You Be My Sweetheart*, and *She Was Only a Bird in a Gilded Cage*. Two other popular songs not so sentimental were *There'll Be a Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight* and *Ta Ra Boom Deay*.

Joplin put on long pants about 1917 during World War I. There was a great awakening of civic pride and a desire to do big things in a big way to get away from "small town stuff."

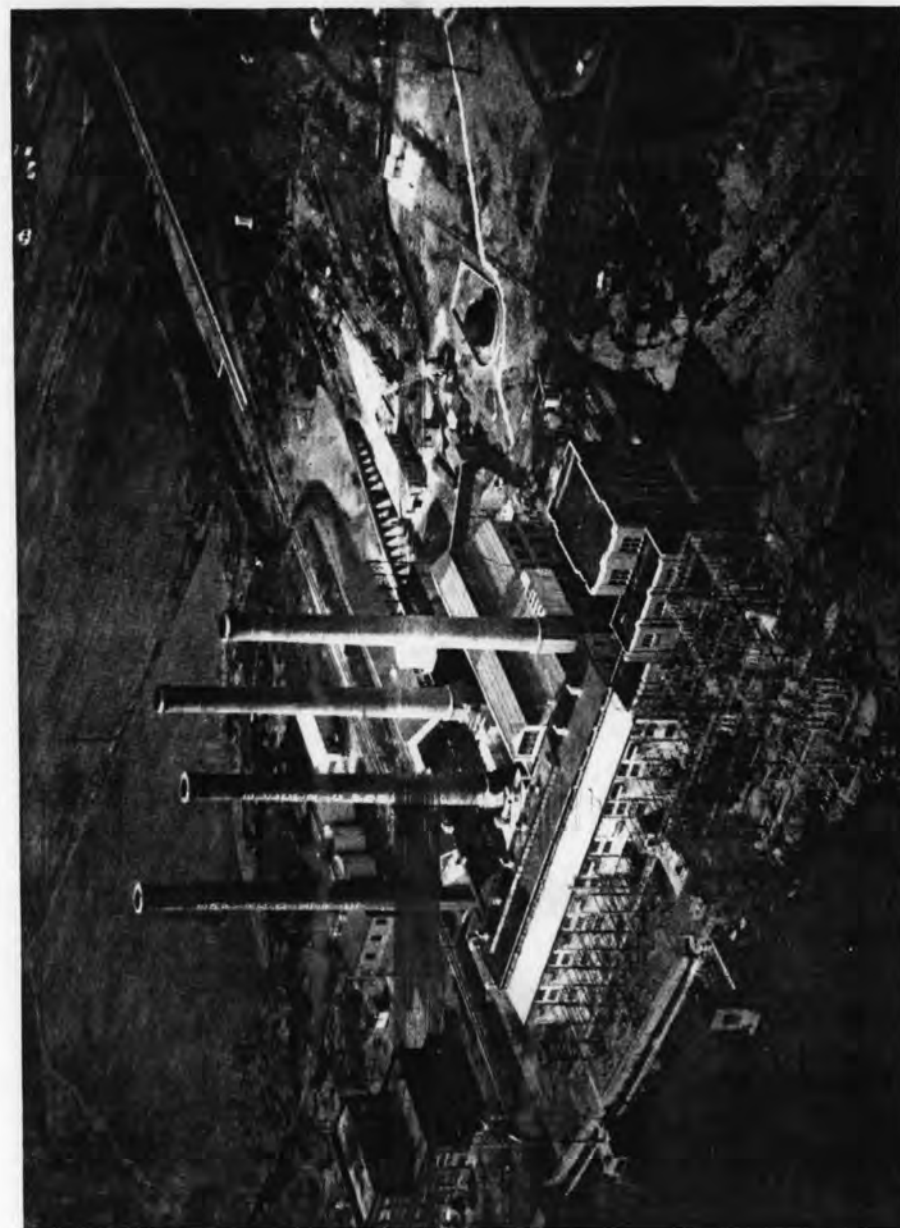
Civic clubs began to appear and train men for civic work; first Rotary, then Kiwanis, Lions, Cooperative the Real Estate Board, Junior Chamber of Commerce and the reorganized Senior Chamber of Commerce.

Women, too, got the civic fever and organized many clubs; notably, the Business and Professional Women, Soroptomists and Credit Women. Each of the men's clubs had a women's auxiliary. Numerous other organizations were active in promoting the best interests of the city, its social life, and its culture, in which all co-operated. It is pleasant to recall that Joplin has grown big enough to have room for all, and work for all; and that there has been no rivalry or ill-feeling the past twenty-five years among these organizations.

The first important job of long pants Joplin was the successful campaign assuring Joplin of a creditable Y.M.C.A. plant, estimated to be worth, at present standards, \$500,000. This was the first big drive for funds for a civic enterprise. From here on success after success followed the launching of campaigns for civic and charity needs, war work and bond drives.

Citizens were responsive in subscribing stock in assuring Joplin of the Fox Theatre, Joplin National Bank office building, Connor Hotel Annex, Joplin's truck-in stock yards and other enterprises.

Several loyal citizens, during the depression, before bank deposit insurance, took over depreciated bank paper, preventing a crisis. One man put up a half



EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY POWER PLANT, WEST OF JOPLIN — 1947

Joplin has had many nicknames since its founding in 1873. It has been called the "Klondike of the Ozarks and the City that Jack Built" because of its humble beginning as a mining camp. But this ramshackle boom town quickly evolved into a cosmopolitan city, known all over the world for its elegant hotels and stately public buildings.

Throughout the first half of the Twentieth Century, Joplin was dubbed the "Crossroads of America," because of the major railroads that intersected it, then later due to its position on the famous highway, Route 66.

The buildings pictured in this coloring book represent several periods in Joplin's history. There are the majestic Keystone Hotel and Jasper County Courthouse, constructed during the 1890s building boom. The first decade of the Twentieth Century brought Classical-Revival architecture as demonstrated by the Elks Building and the Federal Building. Advanced construction techniques made highrises such as the Connor Hotel and the Newman Building possible. The Scottish Rite Cathedral represented the finest in architectural and artistic design. During the era of train transportation, the Union Depot and Frisco Depot bustled with activity. People flocked to the Fox Theater to see their favorite movie stars and drove their new automobiles to Gooch's One-Stop for service.

Main Street Joplin is dedicated to preserving the architectural heritage of the downtown area. Although the Keystone, the Connor, and the Courthouse shown in this book are gone, Joplin has many historic buildings of which it can be proud. We urge you to do your part to encourage their preservation so that future generations can enjoy them as well.

If you wish to learn more about Joplin's history and its buildings, contact Main Street Joplin about the video series, "From the Ground Up: The Story of Joplin."

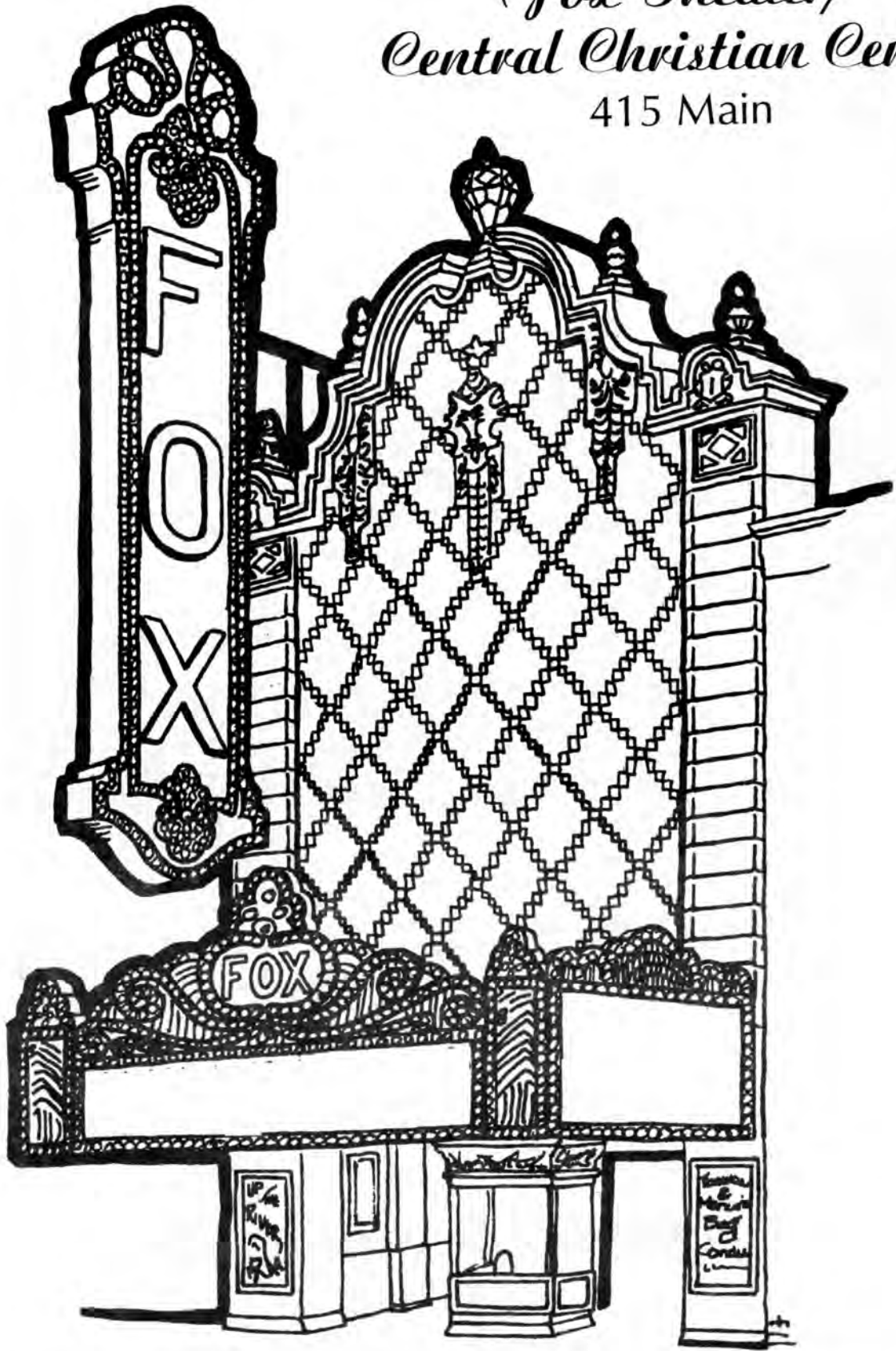
**MAIN STREET™**

**JOPLIN INC.**

P.O. Box 486 • Joplin, MO 64802  
417-624-1060



*Fox Theater/  
Central Christian Center*  
415 Main



The Fox, built in 1930, is one of the finest examples of the architecture of the period. The building fell to disrepair but has been extensively renovated and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, since being purchased by Central Christian Center in 1974.

Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## De Soto Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Crawford's Opera House	De Soto	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
K. P. Entertainment Hall		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Masonic Opera House		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rathburn Hall		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jefferson Theatre		yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Festus Opera House	Festus	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Crawford's Opera House	De Soto	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
K. P. Entertainment Hall		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Masonic Opera House		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Rathburn Hall		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Jefferson Theatre		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Festus Opera House	Festus	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Crawford's Opera House	De Soto	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
K. P. Entertainment Hall		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Masonic Opera House		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Rathburn Hall		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Jefferson Theatre		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Festus Opera House	Festus	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? The "Melba"  
Originally the "Collins" built in the '10s - still operating

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

<input type="checkbox"/> books about specific theatres	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> photographs	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> newspaper articles	<u>See enclosed</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> scrapbooks	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> county or town histories	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, please specify	_____

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

Madame de Tourneville - Countess, The Orpheum Circuit  
 What days and times is your library open to the public? Mon-Fri 9-5 (7:00 on Thurs)  
Sat 9-2

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times? yes ☐ no ☒Who is the best person to contact for more information? DeSoto Public Library - (314) 586-3858

Thank you for your assistance. Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203

The De Soto Historical Society

Post Office Box 513

De Soto, MO 63029

(314) 586-9242

October 3, 1997

Ms. Becky L. Snider  
1008 Sunset Drive  
Columbia, MO 65203

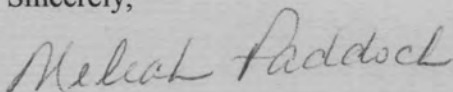
Dear Ms. Snider:

Thank you for your recent donation and research request. I apologize for the delay in my response.

The Historical Society has not yet been able to create our own research center, so all information must be obtained from the Public Library. The Library has an extensive amount of research material, but at this time, much of it is being transferred to micro-film and is unavailable.

However, please find enclosed what little information I have been able to obtain. I will keep your name and address on file and will be happy to forward any additional information as soon as it becomes available.

Sincerely,



Meleah Paddock  
Secretary  
DeSoto Historical Society



## AS YOU WERE by Eddie Miller

### PART ONE

**AUTHOR'S NOTE:** Sometime in the near future, the old armory building on Second Street just south of Boyd will be torn down to make way for a brand new building to house the federal Post Office.

The old armory is a lower portion and a part of a building complex that dominated the De Soto downtown scene for many years from the 1880s to early 1900s. When it is dismantled the last vestige of an era which brought culture and fine entertainment to the citizens of a growing town will have passed into that limbo which we call history.

The next few articles will be an attempt to bring this interesting part of our history into focus, an era in which the entertainment-hungry population of our town and county were very privileged in having first the Crawford Opera House to attend and later the wonderful Jefferson Theatre.

**THE OPERA HOUSE** building was erected in the late 1880s. It was named Crawford's Opera House for the prominent business man who had it erected. When its doors opened De Soto was a very promising, growing town of some 3500 to 4000 citizens.

It was reported at that time that it was an absolutely fabulous theatre for a city of that size -- or for that matter, Southeast Missouri -- or let's say for the State of Missouri in general. It was that impressive! It was a time, before the movies were invented, when successful Broadway plays went on tour of the country, well into the hinterlands to any place that had the accommodations necessary to present these plays.

With the building of the Opera House De Soto joined the circuit that brought these touring companies with their great stars to our very midst. "Theatre," the living stage was a robust business in those years of the "eighties" and "nineties" and there were a thousand or



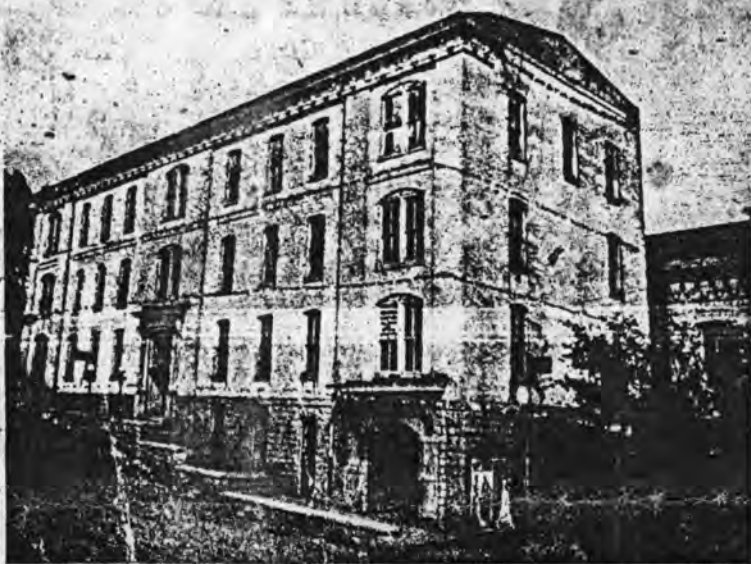
Samuel W. Crawford who had the theater built.

more of these legitimate theaters sprang from coast to coast -- and WE had one!

Most of the earlier plays were light bits of froth such as "East Lynne" and the like, where the heroine was hard put to save her honor through two or three acts but always managed to make it to the final curtain intact. Sometimes they dealt with famous people and glamorized soldiers of the Civil War, as did the play "Shenandoah" with the lead man playing General Phil Sheridan of Union Army fame.

Then along about the turn of the century, 1905, or there-

# The Curtain Goes Up for De Soto



The old Opera House and Post Office, building photographed in 1912. It is now the site of the Wease Building. Facing Easton Street between Main and Second, the entrance to the building proper which contained the Post Office, a newspaper plant, medical,

dental, law and real estate offices and the Kinloch long distance telephone offices. The top floor was a Masonic Hall, which preceded the present building. A WCTU reading room was in the basement. Photo was lent by Ray Kobel.

ache powders which he spooned out of a bottle and wrapped in delicate papers.

These also were the days when medical men had their own apothecaries and dispensed their own drugs. Drug stores were just what the name meant -- no cards, no magazines, no hardware -- nothing but drugs and usually two large bottles, one possibly green and one possibly red hung in the outside windows to mark the spot.

But I stray -- let's get back to the Opera House, itself. To those of us now living who remember the building, and that would include a lot of us since it was demolished in the 1950s, we knew it as the old Post Office building, on Easton Street. When the huge Jefferson Theatre Building was built on to the complex of buildings, the Opera House passed out of existence and the auditorium of the theatre became De Soto's Post Office.

Of the Opera House only the entrance way and the foyer in this building remained, and this was used as the entrance to the newer Jefferson Theatre. All that remained of the Opera House when I was a lad was the fine marble floor of the Post Office and the spaciousness of the building inside.



The Crawford Lumber Yard and Planing Mill was just one of the businessman's many enterprises.

My life spans quite a bit of the Jefferson Theatre's existence, but the Crawford Opera House is of the last century, so I pass on to you what research has revealed.

IT WAS BUILT somewhere around 1888 by Charles H. Hume, a successful contractor and builder of De Soto for Samuel W. Crawford, one of Jefferson County's most eminent men of that day.

The Opera House had a seating capacity of some 800 per-

sons. Its interior was of elaborate dimensions and its equipment of the best. The entire building on Easton Street was of brick, four stories high on the lower side and three stories high as it goes into the hill at Second Street -- a most impressive structure for a town of our size, either then or today. It was heated by hot air furnaces.

The scenery of the theatre was comprised of both shield

and drop curtains. The stage and dressing rooms were properly arranged and the stage was 18 x 20 feet in dimension. The house ceilings were elaborately decorated with dramatic scenic murals and the "aide panels," hall walls and stair case sidings down to the foyer were very appropriately painted.

Leon Herrick, who managed the theatre and this part of the Crawford Enterprises, had an enviable reputation in dealing with the professional people of the stage and was instrumental in getting for De Soto patrons some of the best productions of the Broadway stage. The Crawford remained open the year round.

Thus read a description of the Opera House in an old account published in 1888.

Since businesses and the buildings that house them are the "material solidifying" of what goes on in the creative mind of certain unusually foresighted and progressive men, this story must include something of the life of Samuel W. Crawford, an early De Soto settler and man of finance who lived during a very colorful part of our town's history.

There were others of course who entered into the building

ling of lumber, wood, and wood products during Civil War years.

After the war, during depression and chaos I loved it. Mr. Crawford back to Jefferson Co. bought a farm at Silico a descendant still resided farm he devoted to the of small fruits.

THE YEAR 1871 brought back to De Soto where summed contracting for Mountain Railroad, fuel ties and wood for burning locomotives until the year 1885. Or contracts at that time for the supplying of silicon cross ties for Mountain and Southern

was named then with quarters at Little Rock. It was around this time that the building Opera House and his laidence took place. A rating at this time of Samuel W. Crawford a the most influential and ally substantial of J County's businessmen landed holdings, the blocks of De Soto business estate and the owner of Opera House carrying h

He was instrumental location of the Iron Railroad in our town at the other big men of Fletcher, Rankin and Mr. Crawford was also

aided with practically ev for improvement proj aided our town in its from a village to a an In 1889, a newspaper p by R. M. Denholm, The Facts which became the son County Republican later the Jefferson f was backed by Mr. C

In the early 1900s Mr. Crawford was the P of the Crawford Lumber company with Leon Herrick manager of this interest Kirk Jones as secrets lumber yard and plan buildings which no lon are shown as they s in an old 1905 photo, panning this article.

Samuel W. Crawford the end of his allot in 1916. The writer c as a very small boy se Crawford in his declin sitting on his apartme on Easton Street, ju feet from the entranc of the theatre which brought into being.

Next week: The W Jefferson Theatre.



Interior of the old Post Office in the Opera House building was photographed about 1912. The marble floor and high ceilings are remnants of the earlier opera house. Ray

fir

# AS YOU WERE by Eddie Miller

## PART TWO

JUST AFTER the turn of the century, De Soto theater fans had the time of their lives when the Jefferson Theatre was built to the north of the Opera House building on Easton Street.

The new theater cost all of \$27,000, a fabulous sum in those days; its seating capacity was 1000 persons. It had ten private boxes or loges all decked out in red velvet drapes trimmed with gold rope and tassels. Downstairs under the large stage which measured 60 x 40 feet with an arch opening of at least 40 x 24 feet, were eight dressing rooms for the actors and actresses who came to its stage to entertain Jefferson County theater-goers.

Its large balcony swooped down gracefully over half of the main floor seats and was in two tiers. The higher one was facetiously called the "peanut heaven" because people could crack the shells of the fresh roasted peanuts they had just bought and munch their Cracker Jack in that lofty section, without hindrance or notice.

The Jefferson Theatre was erected by Contractor Fred P. McClure, who came all the way from the windy city of Chicago to build this palace of entertainment in our midst.

The newspapers of the time, the early 1900s, stated that the Jefferson was next to the largest theater in the whole State of Missouri -- and this just could have been absolutely true! Remember, the huge movie palaces were not built until the middle twenties, when the movie industry was riding the crest of popularity and prosperity.

THE JEFFERSON was swank enough to call its program a "programme" on opening night, and the patrons of that earlier day saw such cultural fare as Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" with "Mary, Queen of Scots," with real live Broadway performers from New York. Among these thespians who performed on our stage was the famous Madame de Tournay, She was a French tragedienne who was making her second American tour when she "played" De Soto. Madame de Tournay, judging from the program, must have been a "real cool kitten" in the vernacular of today.

The program goes on to say in so many words that the

# The Curtain Goes Up for De Soto

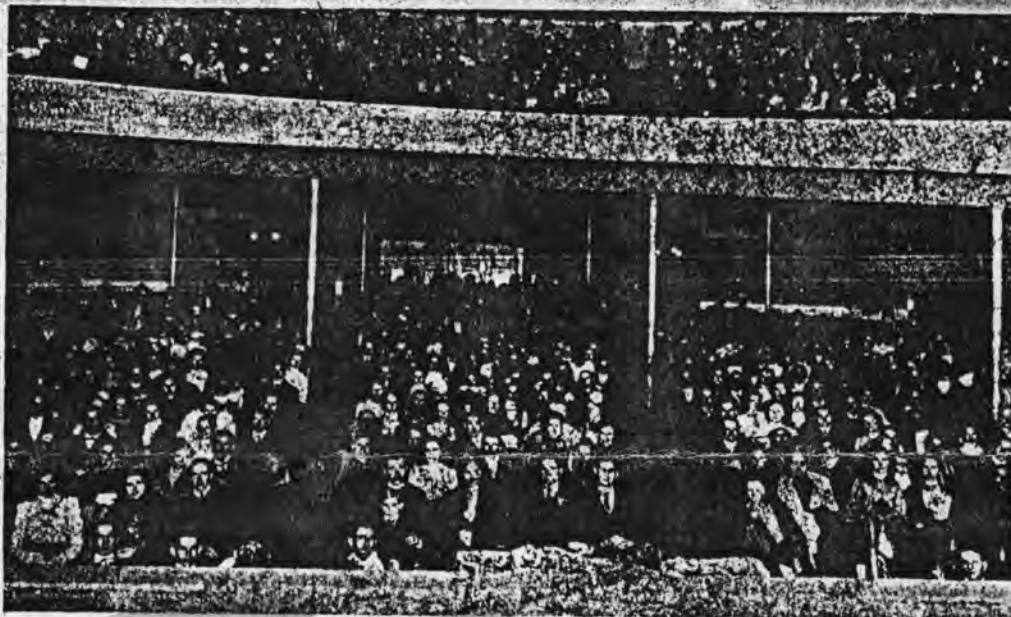


Photo of Jefferson Theatre's interior was taken about 1902 or possibly on opening night. Not shown are the tiered boxes on each side which were draped with red velvet tied back with golden tasseled ropes. There were five boxes on

Countess de Tournay really "knocked herself out" especially as Mary, Queen of Scots in the scene where she laid her beautiful neck on the "chopping block" --- but read it for yourself on the accompanying program.

So, in the way of entertainment, wonderful things were happening at 116 Easton Street in our city in the earlier days of this century.

The entrance to the Jefferson Theatre with its brightly illuminated marquee was placed almost exactly where the entrance to the Wease Candy and Tobacco Co. is today. Entering one of the several doors there was a long foyer which led past the ticket office to a flight of several steps which led up to the theater auditorium.

In this foyer or hallway were several oversize gilt frames containing play bills of coming attractions and portraits of the leading actors and actresses of that day. This foyer extended the full width of the Old Post Office building which was torn down in 1950 to make way for the Wease building of today.

LEST YOU become confused,

the "Opera House" building after the Opera's demise became known as the "Post Office" building because that federal institution went into the vacated theater portion of the building. After the Post Office entered its new building at the present site on Boyd Street in the "teens," the big building on Easton became known as "the Old Post Office Building" until it was torn down. Crystal clear?

The stage of the Jefferson Theatre was quite up to date for its day -- or any other day, for that matter. The stage curtains did not roll up as you have probably seen some do, but were pulled by ropes and pulleys, by a man on a catwalk some 35 feet above the stage, into the loft area. This was the reason for the high mansard roof which arose above the stage section of the building, as I have tried to convey in the accompanying sketch.

Of these curtains there were four complete room settings, a parlor, a kitchen scene and two others. I recall in our Junior Class play which was presented in the Jefferson, we used the kitchen scene which was showing some wear after all of the

each side, three down and two up. For stage plays the boxes had higher prices. The photographer is unknown; possibly it was Gowan; The photo was lent by E. G. Coxwell Sr.

## Programme.

### TONIGHT

## "Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots."

### Cast

MARY STUART, Queen of England ..... MADAME DE TOURNAY.  
ELIZABETH, Queen of England ..... Miss Mabel Van Vleetburg.  
Lady Campbell ..... Adelaide Mumford.  
Margaret ..... Marie Elton.  
Rosedrop ..... Mrs. Tolan.  
Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester ..... Mr. G. H. Hinchey.  
Wm. Cecil, Lord Burleigh ..... Byron Brandt.  
Sir Amias Paulet ..... Karl L. Way.  
Sir Edward Kesteven, his nephew ..... Richard Stewart.  
Sir Andrew Melville ..... Karl L. Way.  
James of the Desert ..... A. E. Robinson.  
Executioner ..... Amos Tamm.

### Synopsis.

ACT I -- Queen Mary's Prison, Castle of Fotheringhay, after eighteen years' imprisonment.  
ACT II -- The Park at Fotheringhay. A beautiful picture. Mary Stuart's delight at being allowed to go into the park. The meeting of rival queens. Mary Stuart's pleading for her life and the approval. Mary's entrance at an end. "I am your faithful servant."  
ACT III -- Reception room of Queen Elizabeth where the death warrant was signed.  
ACT IV -- Queen Mary's prison. Mary's last parting with her servants. Her last words and blessings.  
The beautiful realistic tableaux, never to be forgotten.

### TOMORROW NIGHT

## "Romeo and Juliet."

### Cast

ROMEO ..... MADAME ELAIN DE TOURNAY.  
JULIET ..... Miss Mabel Van Vleetburg.  
Tybalt ..... Adelaide Mumford.  
Lady Capulet ..... Marie Elton.  
Nurse ..... Mrs. Tolan.  
Friar Laurence ..... Mr. G. H. Hinchey.  
Lord Capulet ..... Byron Brandt.  
Paris ..... Karl L. Way.  
Mercutio ..... Richard Stewart.  
Apothecary ..... Karl L. Way.  
Balthazar ..... A. E. Robinson.  
Page ..... Amos Tamm.

### Synopsis.

ACT I -- Scene 1 -- Street in Verona. Entrance in Lord Capulet's residence. Scene 2 -- A wood near Verona. Scene 3 -- Parlor at Capulet's house.  
ACT II -- Scene 1 -- A wood near Capulet's garden. Scene 2 -- Capulet's garden. (The famous balcony scene).  
ACT III -- Scene 1 -- A monastery. Scene 2 -- A street in Verona. Scene 3 -- Juliet's chamber. Scene 4 -- The Friar's cell.  
ACT IV -- Scene 1 -- A street in Verona. Scene 2 -- Friar Laurence's cell. Scene 3 -- Entrance to Lord Capulet's home. Scene 4 -- Juliet's chamber.  
ACT V -- Scene 1 -- Friar Laurence's cell. Scene 2 -- Juliet's chamber. (Famous Poison Speech).  
ACT VI -- Scene 1 -- A street scene in Mantua. Scene 2 -- Monument of the Capulets.

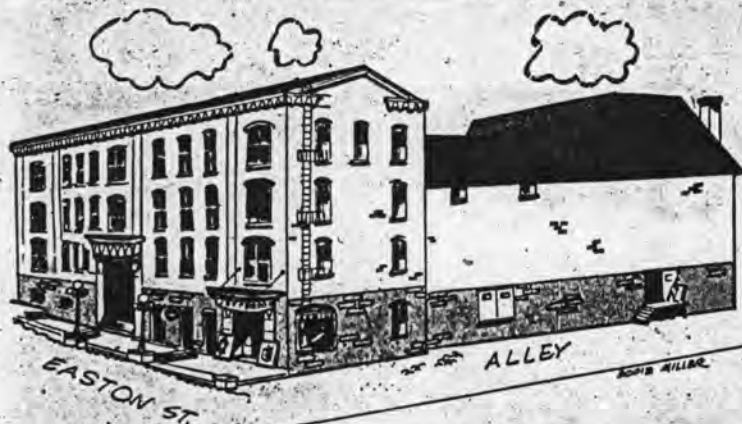
years of "professional" use. There were also three main curtains, a street scene, a corner of a rock house and deep woods in back scene and the "first" curtain which was always down as the patrons filled the seats out front. This one, flooded from the footlights, had advertising of local business firms grouped around a center panel, so you could sort of decide whether you wanted to buy your groceries from John Frech and Sons, or a suit from Henthals "Ole Reliable" while you were waiting for the play to start.

The center scene on this curtain is etched almost indelibly in my memory. It was a

Roman lake scene with a Roman villa-type building to the side, and looked much more romantic than anything De Sotoans of that day had ever seen. I often wonder whatever became of that old curtain. It went up and dropped on a great deal of fine entertainment in our town.

EACH OF the set curtains mentioned had its drop curtain, the ones that come down just part way to hide the top of the setting from patrons sitting in the first few rows of seats. When the main front curtain dropped on a scene during the course of the play, the used set curtain and its drop was pulled up into the loft, and the new set curtain and its drop lowered to stage.

In the center of the stage was



factory now stands, w early balloonist and pa jumper and had given p mances at the St. Louis W Fair, in 1904. A compar this jump, drifted out on Mississippi River and drowned when he came d the water and becan tangled in the ropes and chute cloth.

Later on in life Ed become a billboard post for a local advertising co

The man on the high ce who saw to it that the cu went up and down at the times in the Jefferson T was none other than ou citizen; Vernon Evans, of these curtains even w pulleys and sand bag demanded a lot of musc dexterity to manipulate.

On the Jefferson's at lot of fill-in acts were especially as the theater its gradual change f "legit" house to a movie. Some of these early r were very short and ve technically, so for a whi performers still held for the entertainment "far change from the earlier play productions to a mori vedauville type of a a short movie or so i in for good measure.

THERE ARE quite a fe dots around about so these novelty vaudeville. Some of them were done cal talent as Mr. Wallbe an interest in giving stage struck individuals opportunity to appear on programs.

There was a local E minister's son, I unde who was an exceptional whistler who appeared a times. Then there was the chap from our neighbor of Victoria. He performed tifully on the harmonica, s gave him a big build up the "Medical Clod-hopper Victoria, Missouri."

On the night of his fir very final appearance he out on stage, got a ho case of stage fright, co





## AS YOU WERE by Eddie Miller

### PART THREE

ABOUT THE YEAR 1907, theater people in our nation were beginning to sit up and take notice of a brand new invention. They named it the "movies" and it was the brain child of our foremost inventor of that early day, Thomas Alva Edison. The movies in their infancy were called many unflattering names, such as the "flickering flicks," the "galloping untypes," and one who saw these earlier ones will have to admit they certainly did have a jerky, flickering motion that didn't hold out much hope of ever amounting to anything in the way of lasting entertainment.

The first ones were made by two companies, Biograph and Essanay, and they were made very cheaply, some of the actors and actresses getting as much as \$5 an hour for their efforts.

Almost any businessman who could rent a long hall and buy himself enough chairs could open up a theater to show these early films -- and these earlier



Theodore Walther, De Soto businessman and promoter, was manager of Jefferson Theatre in its earlier years.

movie houses were known collectively as nickelodeons because of the fact that five cents was the price of admission. Such elaborate play houses as our Jefferson Theatre on Easton Street were wont to look down their long noses at this lusty new brat called the movies but they too were destined to change their ways before the new century was very old, or else close their doors.

THE VERY FIRST movies were really nothing much but a pictured episode in motion and were at best just one reel long. There was no semblance of a plot, and it would be about 1910 before any movie began to tell a story. These would be about five reels long and take about an hour to show -- if the film didn't break.

So, at first the programs had to be padded, maybe adding a news reel (Pathé) which was news you had read in the newspaper about three weeks before it appeared on your local screen

# The Curtain Goes Up for De Soto

and a comedy or two, these being at first just one reel in length.

Our Jefferson Theatre being a play house to begin with gave the new "flickering flicks" a try, in conjunction with various "live" vaudeville acts. Vaudeville was to die very slowly, not giving in very readily to the onslaught of these new silent pictures flashing on a silver screen.

A lot of theater patrons at that time certainly didn't take to them at first, either. So manager Theodore Walther of the Jefferson set up his programs using the new media very cautiously. This was taking place about 1910. The Jefferson Theatre was getting a little competition by then, which may or may not have spurred Mr. Walther to make the change.

A DE SOTO businessman by the name of Pink had a high board fence put around the lot now occupied by the Vaughn-Haas Firestone Store at Stone and Main Streets, put up a screen at one end, had some benches built and opened up the first summer as the new Skydome movie theatre. Mr. Pink had one honey of an advertising "gimmick" which read "If You Are Blue, Try Pink's."

Then another movie house opened up in the building now occupied by Hamel-Rowe Hdw. Co. and this one was named the Gem theatre. Still another was built just a few doors down the street and this was a long wood building alongside of the Standard Oil Co. Station of today.

After this one closed Art Ellis would occupy the building which was named the Airdome by the way, for many years as a garage. Although it had a roof on it, the building lived up to its name as it was certainly "airy," especially in the winter.

Mr. Walther of the Jefferson met the challenge. His programs now called for at least one night a week of live plays for the play-goers, and for the balance of the week, the Jefferson presented movies along with vaudeville acts. As time went on the Jefferson would lean more heavily on home talent acts but at first the vaudeville presented on its stage was the regular Orpheum Circuit variety.

These circuit vaudeville acts were sometimes family affairs and they consisted of such entertainment as tight rope walkers, jugglers, magicians, escape artists and the like -- about the same type of thing that Ed Sullivan puts on his Sunday night television shows for the kids.

I recall one time when a show of this type came to the Jefferson in which about eight or 10 chorus girls danced in rather abbreviated costumes. Dubbed a "leg show" by our citizens the town was in an uproar over it, almost as bad as St. Louis is having now over the stage production "Hair."

MOST OF the vaudeville was "family" stuff, magicians pulling yards of silk ribbons out of nowhere and pulling eggs out of local boys' ears, pretty girls were being saved in two, regularly -- but the hypnotists,



The window in Otto Hamel's Drug Store is where a "sleeping beauty" was hypnotized and slept for several days and nights. E. G. Kaufman who operated a confectionary later in this building appears in the photo.



Easton Street in the early 1900s shows the Old Post Office building (as it was called at that time) with the entrance to the Jefferson Theatre on the east corner.

they were the most intriguing of all the performers.

To advertise their show in advance a hypnotist at one time put a beautiful girl to sleep on a couch in Otto Hamel's Drug Store, between Mineral and Easton Streets, and she slept there for three or four nights and days without awakening, until the show came to town for its performances at the Jefferson.

Some De Soto folks were a bit skeptical about all this, but the night watchman who passed the window several times during his nightly rounds said, "No she didn't budge nary an inch all night long."

I've been told there was another -- a man who was hypnotized in a business house window farther on down the street, and he was seated in a rocker. He

rocked back and forth and played a banjo all of the time he was asleep. I can't verify this banjo player, but I can vouch for the drug store "Sleeping Beauty." There are quite a few De Sotans who remember the incident and the writer saw her several times.

As for home talent, it varied as does Ted Mack's Amateur Hour but you can be assured there were lots of "Slide Singers." One of these local singers was a young lad named Gowen, who had a beautiful tenor voice and he sang alongside of the movie screen as colored slides pertaining to the song were projected on it.

This happened to be a national fad in those days and you'll find the Slide Singer mentioned in most every book about the early history of the theatre.

One stunt that outdid all the rest happened on the outside of the Jefferson Theatre and not inside. This one really brought out a crowd on Easton Street. It was named the Human Fly, and it was advertised in the local papers that at a certain time and on a certain date, the Human Fly would appear at the

lot of courage on the part of the ushers to restore order, and provide temporary lighting.

One of these earlier day ushers was a De Sotan of Jewish faith by the name of Sylvan Lederer, a member of a well known family who operated a department store at the south corner of Mineral Street at Main. One of "As You Were's" first fan letters was written by Sylvan, who always had a warm heart for De Soto.

Then, there was our well remembered, De Soto banker of later days, Hobart Walther, and he was the chief projectionist in the projection booth of his father's theatre. There was also among this early crew, Vernon Evans who was assistant projectionist, stage hand and electrician. Mr. Evans tells me that since the balcony swooped out so far in front of the projection booth the screen had to be tilted backward to catch the full picture.

AS SOME younger readers just might not know, music always accompanied the silent movies and this music had to match the changing moods of the picture, even if it meant chopping off a bar to switch over to the progressive action tak-

ing place on the screen a very alert and versatile piano player to do this and the Jefferson had capable ones.

The first I recall was Louise Goza and later Men Theobald who stayed the silent films were. If a "western" was being shown on the screen and all Miss Theobald began to on the keys in a livelier, you just knew that a of Indiana was going over that far hill in the and come "high-mil-lin-ward that "covey" of wagons in the foreground.

Since the screen was Miss Theobald had to oc means of the piano, ten sadness, horror, happy what have you -- and at certainly do just that v music.

There were others of Miller Jefferson Theatre and some of them I missed. There was in to those mentioned Clarence Evans an Farber. It looked as movies were here to the Jefferson and the acting gradually tapers in favor of the silent Continued next week.

## Highway Relocation Assistance Payments \$529,780 in 1970

Relocation assistance payments totaling \$529,780 were made last year by the Missouri State Highway Commission to persons displaced by state highway construction, according to Thomas A. David, director of highways.

The money included supplemental payments to allow families to move into comparable housing which is safe, decent and sanitary; to pay moving costs; or to make supplemental rent payments.

The relocation assistance went to approximately 700 Missouri families, and included a variety of special services in addition to funds.

During the past year, two relocation offices were opened, one in the St. Louis area and one in Kansas City, to provide on-the-spot assistance. Highway personnel provide services such as making personal home

Interviews to determine making listings of rental and sale housing available, assisting in the process of moving expense paid, and getting families to social agency for help.

David predicted that the number of payments by the Commission and other services in 1970 are likely to increase substantially over the year.

Beginning July 1 relocation assistance payments will match federal-state 50-50 on Primary, U.S. Secondary projects, and on Interstate locations. Missouri highway funds will for the state's part in relocation costs.

Federal legislation requires housing for displaced persons to be available construction projects at

The Highway Department field operations in the





# Fifty Years Ago - in De Soto and Elsewhere

## PART SIX

AS SPRING slowly slipped into Summer that year of 1922, De Soto's newly re-organized baseball team was battling them all over the lot. It looked like a "vintage" year. The thirty-year-old institution, (in 1922) was now completely re-vitalized under a new set of officers, namely -- Ward Hamel, president; Frank Clyde, treasurer; H. Bortnick, business manager; Roy Atbot and Ware Evans, team captains; and Roy Sullivan, field manager.

The town's interest in their ball team seemed to be on the up-swing, too, as the season started. The team was looking forward to a great deal of fan support on trips away from home field.

From the very first game on, Sullivan was doing a great job of pitching and one game especially stood out. In a clash with Herculaneon, a formidable rival, McCauley was knocked out of the box. Sullivan took over and held Herky until De Soto could get in the winning run. "Sully" was slowly and surely increasing his deadly hurling ability that had first shown up with the De Soto High School baseball team.

TO ADD a little more zest to our ball fans' fervor, news came up from the South, that our old friend and former De Soto baseball player, Leo Dickerman, had just pitched a winning 13-inning game for his Little Rock ball club, which was setting the Southern League on fire! The elongated hurler from the sand lots of De Soto had pitched his team to victory over Atlanta, 3 to 1, allowing only 7 hits in 13 frames.

Maybe, just for the record, I should mention there was another young man out in the rest of the "States" who was getting a little attention from baseball fans that season of 1922. He was a stocky fellow who had gone to New York from the Red Sox, where he had been a pitcher, but the New York Club saw fit to switch him to outfield. Thereupon, he promptly launched baseball's greatest home-run era and a Yankee dynasty. He went by the "mouster" of Babe Ruth, and by the looks of things early in that season, it was believed he just might have a future in baseball.

A NEWS ITEM came out of Detroit that season, that Ford Motor Company had hit an all-time record in April -- it had produced and sold for that month alone 127,349 cars, with some 40,000 men on the payroll. The American people were taking to motoring like so many ducks to water! Owning an automobile was now fast becoming a necessity and everyone thought they had to have one. It didn't take long for folks to find out that's what banks were for.

For just \$290, at \$5.00 a week on the installment plan, you could have a snappy, shiny Model T runabout. So, what had first been a luxury for the rich now had become an escape hatch for a vigorous restless America.

Automobiles took you to the rivers and lakes, the mountains, parks, favorite picnic spots, to other towns and cities and best of all for nice rural drives on Sunday.

A car made its owner proud and feel like a par with the latest in transportation.

Moralists were busy pointing out that the automobile was also taking the sofa out of the front parlor and into the country and that wasn't at all good for young people! Well, we survived it!

THE ROADS would remain abominable for quite a while after 1922, but to offset this there wasn't any parking problem, at least not around here.

Thus, the motor car caught on and "Old Dobbin" was on the way out. He would linger for awhile pulling express wagons, drayage vans and butcher-shop delivery wagons. The farmer wouldn't make the change too fast, but the horse was definitely on the skids. The barns and sheds became garages to hold this new means of transportation that you didn't have to feed all winter.

JEFFERSON COUNTY LOST one of its well-known and esteemed citizens in 1922. Often spoken of in the earlier days as the "man who built De Soto," he had done just about that!

His name was Charles August Hemme, a contractor and builder, who along with Otto Hermann, another contractor and brick manufacturer in an earlier De Soto, erected well over 100 substantial brick buildings in our town.

Probably the one that could be considered their "masterpiece" was the Opera House and S. W. Crawford's residence and business row on Easton Street between Main and Second.

Others were the old Central School, with its land-mark bell tower, the first Iron Mountain Machine Shop, the many older business houses on Main Street, and many brick homes scattered along Second Street, homes of a distinctive Federal design, which have never been fully appreciated, in my opinion.

Although the writer has not been able to confirm the assumption, the Averswald home on East Pratt and the Cunningham home on South Third Street bear enough resemblance to the others built about that time that I believe they could be safely put in the Hemme-Hermann column.

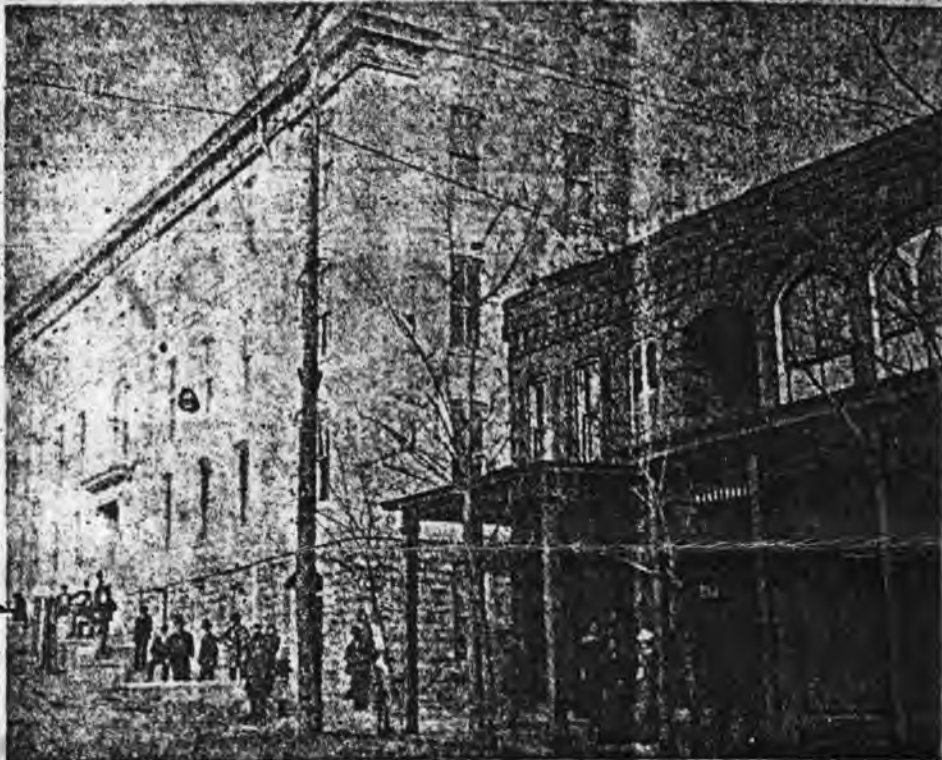
As architect or builder can no more escape HIS STYLE than an artist or writer -- his buildings reveal HIS TOUCH long after he is gone.

A CLUSTER of once fine residences from Perry Street north, some now falling into decay, was once known as "Fletcher Town," a town within a town.

In the eastern United States these buildings would be gobbled up by real estate developers and restored, as they have been in Alexandria, Va., Philadelphia and other cities. But THIS is Middle West, with different ideas of habitation and it appears for sometime to come we will have to experience the proliferation of more and more trailer courts.

Anyway, this skilled man -- Mr. Hemme -- was born on March 15, 1843, in Eindeck, Germany, and was brought by his parents to this country when he was a small lad. They settled in Madison County, Illinois, and there Charles grew up.

Our county was first aware of Charles Hemme when he



DATED 1900, this photograph, probably by Hinchey, shows at left what was De Soto's tallest and largest building, on Easton at Second. It was built by Charles A. Hemme and Otto Hermann, who erected more than a hundred brick structures in De Soto during the later decades of last century.

"As You Were" author believes the old Opera House-Post Office-Masonic Hall building and the Crawford block to the right were erected in the mid-1880's. A photo of De Soto in 1881, used in a previous article, shows the Easton and Second area clearly and the building was not there. Goodspeed's History, 1888, says the Opera House building was in operation, with the Masonic Hall on the top floor. Narrowing it further, Goodspeed also said S. W. Crawford moved his business interests from Silica, where he farmed and sold railroad ties, to De Soto in 1885, indicating construction of the building between 1885 and 1888. Others estimate it between 1881 and 1885.

At the beginning, it contained the Post Office on the first floor, the Crawford Opera House, second floor, and the Masonic Hall, top floor. Other early tenants included the Weekly Facts or Jefferson County Republican, basement level, and various dental, law, and real estate offices. The telephone exchange for long distance calls, which was anywhere outside De Soto, was once in this building.



By 1922, Henry Ford's "Tin Lizzies" were becoming much more prevalent on our rugged local roads. H. C. Knauser, retired department foreman at the former International Shoe plant here, photographed this view of a family car on a road near De Soto.

## AS YOU WERE by Eddie Miller

In the yards of his uncle, Francis Wetman in St. Louis. Then followed a term of business college in Chicago and con-

doing what a lot of us fail to do -- he was the right man in the right place at the right time! His years of building had started.

Miss Margaret Brill, who had been born in Washington County, became his wife, and four children were born -- Laura, Charles, Jr., Lillie and Virgie. The latter daughter is well-known to many De Sotians as Mrs. Charles Hermann, and now resides in California.

The second story floor was of marble squares. The years, a fire escape was added on the high side alley. After the Opera House closed and the J Theatre (former Armory) was built, the door on alley became the entrance and foyer to the J.

The Masonic orders eventually occupied a new Boyd and South Third. About 1917 the Post Office to a new building, Boyd and North Second, and the fine building began its long slide into decay and a process hastened by the automobile age. It was about 1950 and the late Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Weas the present quarters of Weas Candy & Tobacco as Weas Sundries, now operated by the Charles family, on the site.

To the right is a portion of the S. W. Crawford which extended on Easton from the alleyway east Street. The Crawford home was upstairs, over this section was destroyed by a disastrous fire in 1917 was rebuilt directly afterward by Mrs. S. W. Crawford three persons in the picture have been identified -- Mahn, Sam Rapp, and Conrad Miller. The ladies members of the Crawford family. The photograph collection, was donated to City Hall by Mrs. John Bell, Monroe, Louisiana.

## Non-Resident Traffic Toll Is 184 in 1971

Non-residents killed on Missouri streets and highways totaled 184 in 1971, representing 13 percent of last year's total State traffic toll.

Missouri State Highway Patrol reported that these non-resident victims came from 27 other states and France. Last year's non-resident toll included 94 drivers, 80 passengers, and 10 pedestrians.

Illinois had 47 residents killed in Missouri traffic in 1971, and the next highest was the State of Kansas with 25. Twenty Arkansas citizens died in Missouri vehicular mishaps and Iowa 17, and Oklahoma, 10.

Also included in the number of out-of-state motorists killed here in traffic were seven from California, Texas, and Minnesota and Michigan, each lost six residents.

Eighteen other states lost one or more of their citizens in Missouri traffic last year. They

Indiana and Ohio, Pennsylvania, A York, and Wash Louisiana, Virginia, West Virginia, Georgia, Kansas each lost residents in Missouri accidents.

A 30-year old Paris, France, died last year when she was a passing vehicle head-on.

## Entrepreneur Course To Held in A

In April, the Russell and the University of St. Louis will an intensive, short signed to provide needed for a tech preneur to start ness, reports E. rector William field, Hillsboro.

A similar course last spring proved cessful, with about

# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

SW-AS-036-035

1. NO. 51		4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) Western Auto Associates Store; Roberts Furniture & Gifts		0365 MADISON TOWNSHIP (HOLDEN)	
2. COUNTY Johnson		3. OTHER NAME(S) Euglossian Opera House (Euglossian Hall)			
3. LOCATION OF NEGATIVES Show-Me Regional Planning Commission					
6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP 45N RANGE 28W SECTION 11 IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS 117 W. 2nd St.		16. THEMATIC CATEGORY Historic /Architectural		28. NO. OF STORIES 2	
7. CITY OR TOWN IF RURAL, VICINITY Holden		17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD ca. 1880		29. BASEMENT? YES ( ) NO ( )	
8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION  Part of Lot 80 Block 7 Original Town  (Second building west of Market on south side of 2nd Street)		18. STYLE OR DESIGN Italianate		30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL Stone	
		19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER Und.		31. WALL CONSTRUCTION Brick	
		20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER Und.		32. ROOF TYPE AND MATERIAL Flat; composition	
		21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT Public hall and commercial		33. NO. OF BAYS FRONT SIDE	
		22. PRESENT USE Auto parts and furniture store		34. WALL TREATMENT Common bond	
		23. OWNERSHIP PUBLIC ( ) PRIVATE (X)		35. PLAN SHAPE Rectangular	
		24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS Charles Roberts 101 W. 14th St. Holden, Mo.		36. CHANGES (EXPLAIN IN NO. 42) ADDITION ( ) ALTERED (X) MOVED ( )	
9. COORDINATES UTM LAT LONG		25. OPEN TO PUBLIC? YES (X) During business hours NO ( )		37. CONDITION INTERIOR EXTERIOR Good	
10. SITE ( ) STRUCTURE ( ) BUILDING (X) OBJECT ( )		26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION Show-Me RPC		38. PRESERVATION UNDERWAY? YES (X) Maint. NO ( )	
11. ON NATIONAL REGISTER? YES ( ) NO (X)		27. OTHER SURVEYS IN WHICH INCLUDED  None		39. ENDANGERED? YES ( ) BY WHAT? NO (X)	
12. IS IT ELIGIBLE? YES ( ) NO ( )				40. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD? YES (X) NO ( )	
13. PART OF ESTAB. HIST. DISTRICT? YES ( ) NO (X)				41. DISTANCE FROM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD	
14. DISTRICT POTENTIAL? YES ( ) NO ( )					
15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT N/A					

## 42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES

Seven tall, elaborately hooded windows (now paneled over from the inside) under its original bracketed metal cornice dominate the main facade of this Italianate-style building. The centrally placed doorway (with a rope-trimmed arch) is flanked by pilasters. Additional pilasters are at the corners. The lower, partially modernized storefront includes panels of prism windows. A foot-worn stone slab at the threshold is testimony to years of use.



H-4

## 43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

This building was a focus of cultural life in Holden during the late 1880s and through early decades of the 20th century. Known as the Euglossian Hall, it contained (on the upper floor) an opera house/public auditorium. Plays, shows, dances and political rallies were among the activities there. Later, the Lyceum Theater offered silent movies with piano accompaniment. Various owners included Jack Steele, whose father William Steele was president of the Farmers & Commercial Bank. The downstairs had various commercial occupants. In 1885, a drugstore occupied the western half and a clothing store the eastern. In ca. 1915, the druggist was Bob Miller and the clothier was a Mr. Wallace. Apparently the use of the second level as a public hall ceased during the 1920s. The lower floor also has been used as a grocery store.

## 44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS

This building is within a commercial block in downtown Holden.

## 45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Lucille Wilson; "Holden, Town of the Prairie," by Martha Redford p. 11; Sanford maps (1885-1914); site visit.

RETURN THIS FORM WHEN COMPLETED TO: OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
P.O. BOX 176  
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102

46. PREPARED BY  
R. Maserang

47. ORGANIZATION  
Show-Me RPC

48. DATE 5/30/85 49. REVISION DATE(S)

IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED, ATTACH





Western Auto Associates Store  
Euglossian Opera House

117 W. 2nd St.  
Holden, Mo.  
Johnson Co.







Main entrance,  
Western Auto Associates Store;  
Euglossian Opera House  
117 W. 2nd St.  
Holden, Mo.  
Johnson Co.

# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

SW-AS-036-036

1. NO. 64		4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) 0380 Lloyd's Foods, Inc.; VFW Post 5844 (HOLDEN)		MADISON TOWNSHIP	
2. COUNTY Johnson		5. OTHER NAME(S)			
3. LOCATION OF NEGATIVES Show-Me Regional Planning Commission		Holden Auditorium; Missouri Poultry Yards			
6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP 45N RANGE 28W SECTION 11 IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS 106-110 E. 3rd St.		16. THEMATIC CATEGORY Historic /Architectural		28. NO. OF STORIES 2	
7. CITY OR TOWN IF RURAL, VICINITY Holden		17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD ca. 1920s		29. BASEMENT? YES ( ) NO ( )	
8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION Part of Lot 104 Block 11 Original Town  (North side of Third Street between Main and Pine Streets)		18. STYLE OR DESIGN Modernistic or Functional Commercial		30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL Concrete and brick	
		19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER Und.		31. WALL CONSTRUCTION Brick	
		20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER Und.		32. ROOF TYPE AND MATERIAL	
		21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT Community building		33. NO. OF BAYS FRONT SIDE	
		22. PRESENT USE Grocery store		34. WALL TREATMENT Brick and stucco	
		23. OWNERSHIP PUBLIC ( ) PRIVATE (X)		35. PLAN SHAPE Rectangular	
		24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS Vern Lloyd		36. CHANGES (EXPLAIN IN NO. 42) ADDITION ( ) ALTERED ( ) MOVED ( )	
9. COORDINATES UTM LAT LONG		25. OPEN TO PUBLIC? YES (X) NO ( ) During business hours		37. CONDITION INTERIOR EXTERIOR Good/fair	
10. SITE ( ) STRUCTURE ( ) BUILDING (X) OBJECT ( )		26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION Show-Me RPC		38. PRESERVATION UNDERWAY? YES (X) NO ( ) Maint.	
11. ON NATIONAL REGISTER? YES ( ) NO (X)		27. OTHER SURVEYS IN WHICH INCLUDED  None		39. ENDANGERED? BY WHAT? YES ( ) NO (X)	
12. IS IT ELIGIBLE? YES ( ) NO ( )				40. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD? YES (X) NO ( )	
13. PART OF ESTAB. HIST. DISTRICT? YES ( ) NO (X)				41. DISTANCE FROM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD	
14. DISTRICT POTENTIAL? YES ( ) NO ( )					
15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT N/A					

42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES  
Horizontal bands of thin stretcher bricks (placed vertically) are used in the front facade of this two-story building. Some windows and doorways have been sealed and most of the exterior has been stuccoed.



## 43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

I-23

M.L. Golloday was instrumental in promoting this building's construction as the Holden Auditorium during the 1920s. It became the site for various happenings and entertainments (including graduation ceremonies after fire destroyed the high school in 1927). In 1930, it became a hatchery known as the Missouri Poultry Yards, operated by Mr. Grotzen. It also was a skating rink and a fundamentalist Baptist Church, prior to its present incarnation as a grocery store.

## 44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS

There is considerable open space for parking around this building at the southern edge of Holden's main commercial district.

## 45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

(12/12/29; 1/2/30)  
Lucille Wilson; The Holden Progress (12/5/29); site visit.

46. PREPARED BY  
R. Maserang

47. ORGANIZATION  
Show-Me RPC

RETURN THIS FORM WHEN COMPLETED TO: OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
P.O. BOX 176

48. DATE 5/30/85 49. REVISION DATE(S)

IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED, ATTACH

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102



Lloyd's Foods, Inc.; VFW Post 5844  
Holden Auditorium; Missouri Poultry Yards  
106-110 E. 3rd St.  
Holden, Mo.  
Johnson Co.

5/30/85



# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

## ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

SW-AS-036-037

1. NO. 182		4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) POST OAK TOWNSHIP (LEETON)	
2. COUNTY Johnson		5. OTHER NAME(S) Neil Bros. General Store; Leeton Opera House	
3. LOCATION OF Show-Me Regional Planning Commission			
8. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP 44N RANGE 25W SECTION 20		16. THEMATIC CATEGORY Historic /Architectural	
IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS 102 S. Main St.		17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD 1906	
7. CITY OR TOWN IF RURAL, VICINITY Leeton		18. STYLE OR DESIGN Functional Victorian	
6. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION		19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER Und.	
Lot 191		20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER Und.	
Block 23		21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT General merchandise; public hall	
(2nd building south of Fewel on west side of Main)		22. PRESENT USE	
9. COORDINATES UTM		23. OWNERSHIP PUBLIC( ) PRIVATE( X )	
LAT		24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS James Adams Rural Route Warrensburg	
LONG		25. OPEN TO PUBLIC? YES( ) NO( X )	
10. SITE( ) STRUCTURE( ) BUILDING( X ) OBJECT( )		26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION Show-Me RPC	
11. ON NATIONAL REGISTER? YES( ) NO( X )		27. OTHER SURVEYS IN WHICH INCLUDED	
12. IS IT ELIGIBLE? YES( ) NO( )		None	
13. PART OF ESTAB. HIST. DISTRICT? YES( ) NO( X )		14. DISTRICT POTENTIAL? YES( ) NO( )	
15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT N/A		28. NO. OF STORIES 2	
		29. BASEMENT? YES( ) NO( X )	
		30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL Concrete and stone	
		31. WALL CONSTRUCTION Brick	
		32. ROOF TYPE AND MATERIAL Flat; composition	
		33. NO. OF BAYS FRONT SIDE	
		34. WALL TREATMENT Common bond	
		35. PLAN SHAPE Rectangular	
		36. CHANGES (EXPLAIN IN NO. 42) ADDITION( ) ALTERED( ) MOVED( )	
		37. CONDITION INTERIOR EXTERIOR Good/fair	
		38. PRESERVATION UNDERWAY? YES( X ) NO( ) Maint.	
		39. ENDANGERED? BY WHAT? YES( ) NO( X )	
		40. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD? YES( X ) NO( )	
		41. DISTANCE FROM AND FROM	

### 42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES

A parapet contains the words "OPERA HOUSE" and corner projections say "19" and "06" (1906). The letters and numbers appear to have been formed from pieces of brick of a lighter color than the main building. The cornice is made entirely of brick and is fairly elaborate. Upper windows have decorative segmental arches projecting like hood moulds, and stone sills. Round metal posts



### 43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

are used in the lower (altered) storefront. UU-8  
The upstairs of this building was Leeton's Opera House at the turn of the century. After traveling shows (road shows) diminished, it served as the community's first moving picture theater. The first floor was a general merchandise store (Neil Bros. General Store) for a dozen years or so, and then it was operated by various others. It was an office of International Harvester for several years. Later it was the Leeton Cafe, operated by Mavis Beal.

### 44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS

Located in Leeton's main downtown commercial block.

### 45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

J.C. Brown; Porter Baker; Sanborn maps; site visit.

### 46. PREPARED BY

R. MaSerang

### 47. ORGANIZATION

Show-Me RPC

RETURN THIS FORM WHEN COMPLETED TO: OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

P.O. BOX 176

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102

PH. 314-751-4096

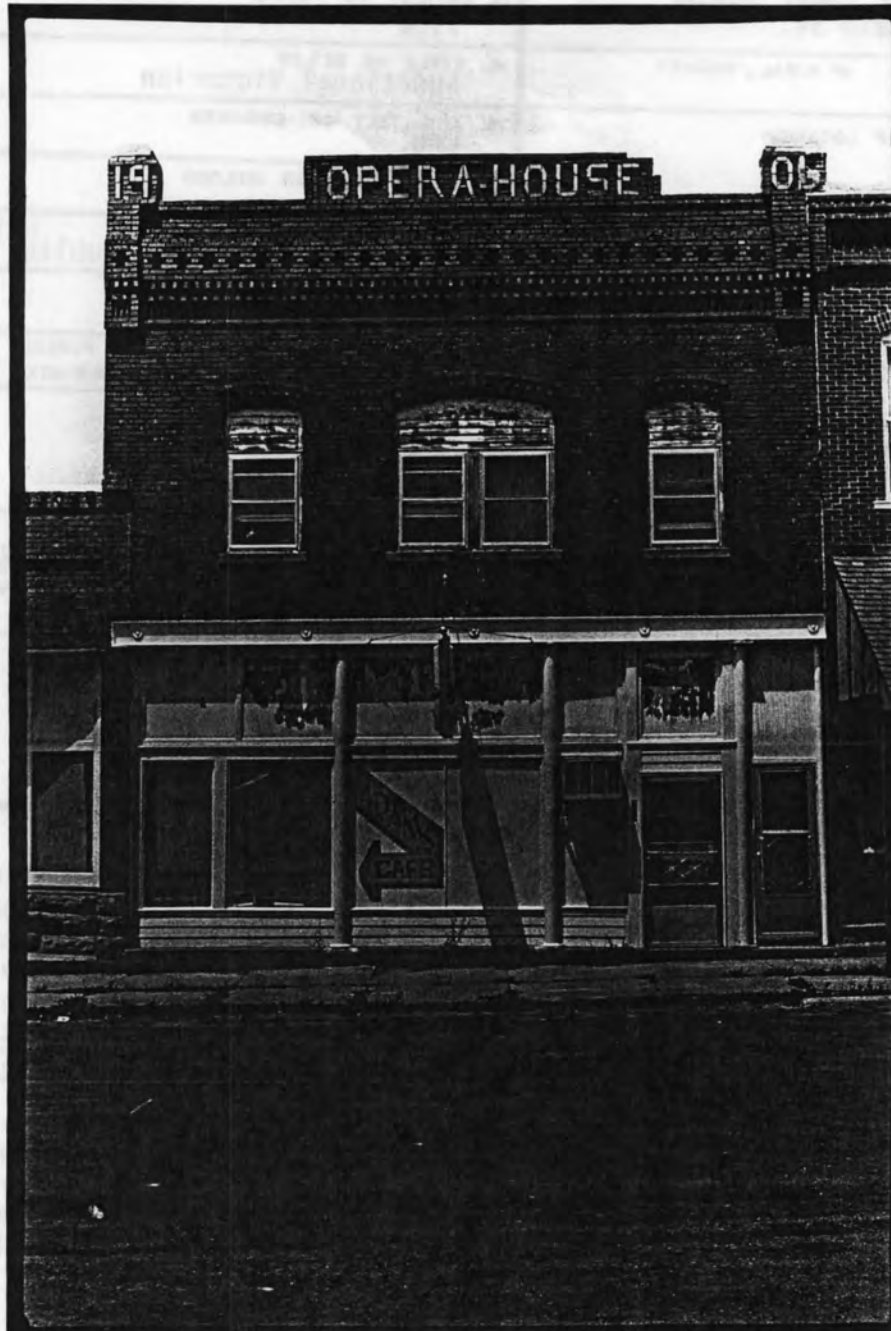
### 48. DATE

6/86

### 49. REVISION DATE

-

IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED, ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET(S) TO THIS FORM



Adam's Cafe  
Leeton Opera House  
102 S. Main St.  
Leeton  
Post Oak Twp.  
Johnson Co.

6/86

# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

## ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

SW-AS-036-038

1. NO. 190		4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) Holdren Funeral Home		POST OAK TOWNSHIP (LEETON)	
2. COUNTY Johnson		5. OTHER NAME(S) Leeton Theater 0198			
3. LOCATION OF POSITIVES Show-Me Regional Planning Commission					
6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP 44N RANGE 25W SECTION 20 IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS 105 S. Main St.		16. THEMATIC CATEGORY Historic /Architectural		28. NO. OF STORIES 1	
7. CITY OR TOWN IF RURAL, VICINITY Leeton		17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD ca. 1920		29. BASEMENT? YES ( ) NO (X)	
8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION Lot 141 Block 24  (3rd building S of Fewel on E side of Main)		18. STYLE OR DESIGN Functional		30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL Concrete	
		19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER Und.		31. WALL CONSTRUCTION Brick	
		20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER Und.		32. ROOF TYPE AND MATERIAL Flat; composition	
		21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT Movie theater		33. NO. OF BAYS FRONT SIDE	
		22. PRESENT USE Funeral home		34. WALL TREATMENT Stretcher & stucco	
		23. OWNERSHIP PUBLIC ( ) PRIVATE (X)		35. PLAN SHAPE Rectangular	
		24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS Holdren Funeral Home Leeton and Warrensburg		36. CHANGES (EXPLAIN IN NO. 42) ADDITION ( ) ALTERED (X) MOVED ( )	
9. COORDINATES UTM LAT LONG		25. OPEN TO PUBLIC? YES ( ) NO ( )		37. CONDITION INTERIOR EXTERIOR Good	
10. SITE ( ) STRUCTURE ( ) BUILDING (X) OBJECT ( )		26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION Show-Me RPC		38. PRESERVATION UNDERWAY? YES ( ) NO ( )	
11. ON NATIONAL REGISTER? YES ( ) NO (X)		27. OTHER SURVEYS IN WHICH INCLUDED  None		39. ENDANGERED? BY WHAT? YES ( ) NO ( )	
12. IS IT ELIGIBLE? YES ( ) NO ( )				40. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD? YES (X) NO ( )	
13. PART OF ESTAB. HIST. DISTRICT? YES ( ) NO (X)				41. DISTANCE FROM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD	
14. DISTRICT POTENTIAL? YES ( ) NO ( )					
15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT N/A					

### 42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES

This building's front facade has been totally altered. Two upper windows have been sealed and the second level has been stuccoed.



### 43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

UU-30

The Leeton Theater was in this building when it was constructed in ca. 1920. The theater was operated by John Stacy. Later, Robert Brauningner acquired the building and converted it into a funeral home. It recently became a Leeton facility of the Holdren Funeral Home, of Warrensburg. Theater and funeral home have been the only two uses of this building, according to Porter Baker of Leeton.

### 44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS

This building is on the east side of Main Street in the main business block of Leeton.

### 45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Porter Baker; Sanborn maps; site visit.

46. PREPARED BY  
R. Maserang

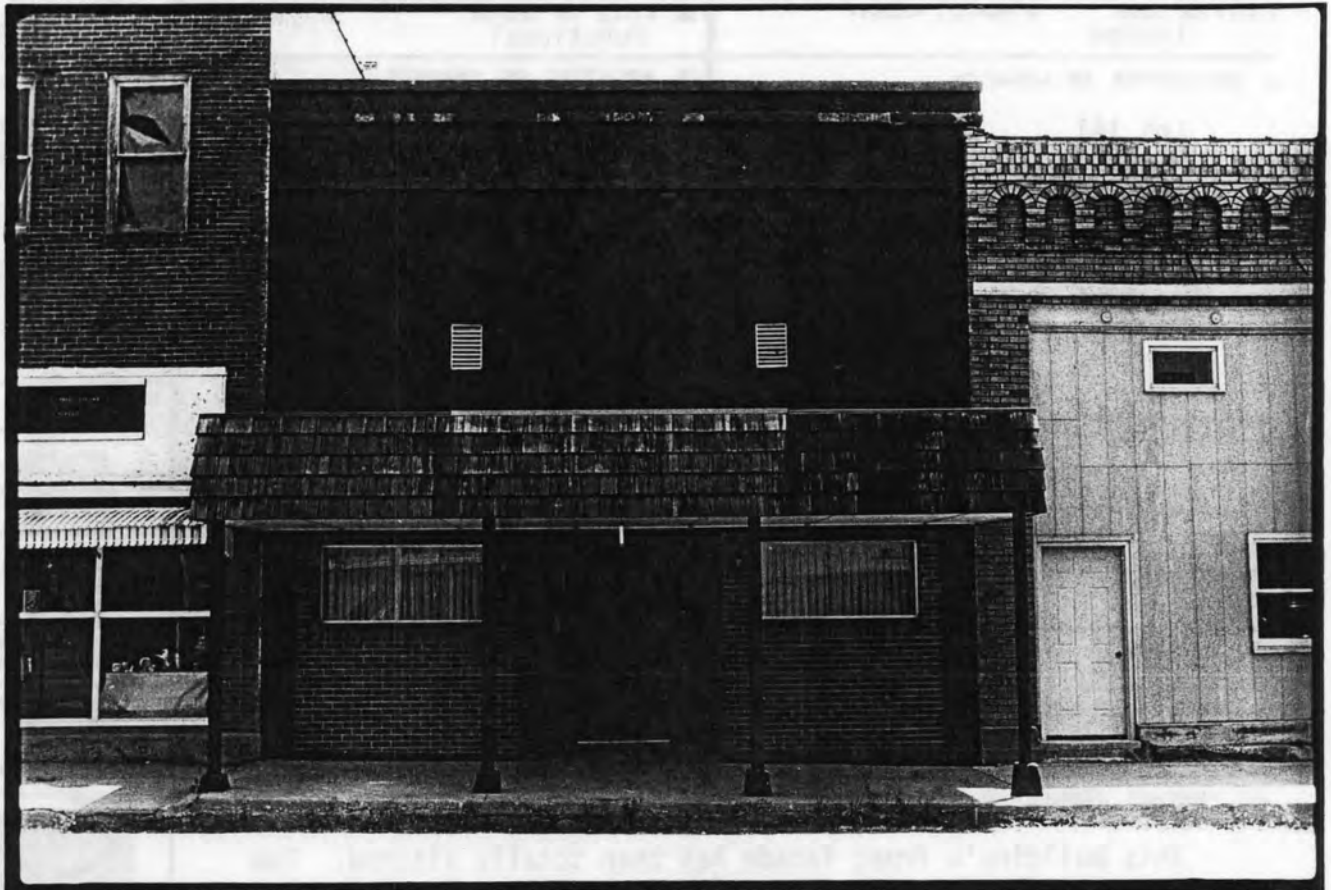
47. ORGANIZATION  
Show-Me RPC

RETURN THIS FORM WHEN COMPLETED TO: OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
P.O. BOX 176  
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102

IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED, ATTACH

48. DATE 6/86 49. REVISION DATE(S) -





Holdren Funeral Home

Leeton Theater

105 S. Main St.

Leeton

Post Oak Twp.

Johnson Co.

---

#41 Leeton Opera House History, 1906-74

The Opera House built in 1906 was above the Bert Neale Store.

This was used for plays given by local talent, travelling medicine shows, school plays and later as a dance hall.

Today it is remodeled into an apartment.

copied 1974

# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

SW-AS-036-039

1. NO. 99		4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) MONTSERRAT TOWNSHIP (MONTSERRAT)	
2. COUNTY Johnson		5. OTHER NAME(S) DUS	
3. LOCATION OF Show-Me Regional Planning Commission		Montserrat Post Office	
6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP 46N RANGE 25W SECTION 13 IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS McKissock Street		16. THEMATIC CATEGORY Historic /Architectural	
7. CITY OR TOWN IF RURAL, VICINITY Montserrat		17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD ca. 1910	
8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION Lot 34 Block D Original Town  (W side of road south of U.S. 50 and Missouri Pacific tracks opposite P)		18. STYLE OR DESIGN Functional Victorian	
		19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER Und.	
		20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER Und.	
		21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT Post office and general store	
		22. PRESENT USE Residential	
		23. OWNERSHIP PUBLIC( ) PRIVATE(X)	
		24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS	
9. COORDINATES UTM LAT LONG		25. OPEN TO PUBLIC? YES( ) NO(X)	
10. SITE( ) STRUCTURE( ) BUILDING(X) OBJECT( )		26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION Show-Me RPC	
11. ON NATIONAL REGISTER? YES( ) NO(X)		27. OTHER SURVEYS IN WHICH INCLUDED	
12. IS IT ELIGIBLE? YES( ) NO( )		None	
13. PART OF ESTAB. HIST. DISTRICT? YES( ) NO(X)		28. NO. OF STORIES 2	
14. DISTRICT POTENTIAL? YES( ) NO( )		29. BASEMENT? YES( ) NO( )	
15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT N/A		30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL	
		31. WALL CONSTRUCTION Brick	
		32. ROOF TYPE AND MATERIAL Flat; composition	
		33. NO. OF BAYS FRONT SIDE	
		34. WALL TREATMENT Common bond	
		35. PLAN SHAPE Rectangular	
		36. CHANGES (EXPLAIN IN NO. 42) ADDITION( ) ALTERED(X) MOVED( )	
		37. CONDITION INTERIOR EXTERIOR Good/fair	
		38. PRESERVATION UNDERWAY? YES( ) NO( )	
		39. ENDANGERED? BY WHAT? YES( ) NO( )	
		40. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD? YES(X) NO( )	
		41. DISTANCE FROM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD	

## 42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES

This is a somewhat generic two-story brick building for its period in the early 1900s, with a moderately ornamental brick cornice and segmentally arched windows. The original storefront had a centered entrance flanked by two windows, apparently. The lower storefront has been obscured by a one-story addition. Rectangular side windows are present. S-ended ties



## 43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

Erected in ca. 1910 as a post office and general store, this building reflects a time when Montserrat was a viable community of perhaps several hundred including itinerant coal miners. (The entire township had a population of 1,183 in 1900 and 965 in 1910, according to census figures.) It ceased to be used as a post office in the 1950s. Residents now are served by the post office at Knob Noster. The upstairs was used as an entertainment hall. Buster Keaton, the silent movie actor, is said to have performed there.

## 44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS

This is the only two-story brick building in Montserrat, a former coal-mining community. A residence is nearby north of the building.

## 45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Article, "Great Changes Undergone by Town," The Kansas City Star June 1, 1976; site visit.

46. PREPARED BY R. Magerang

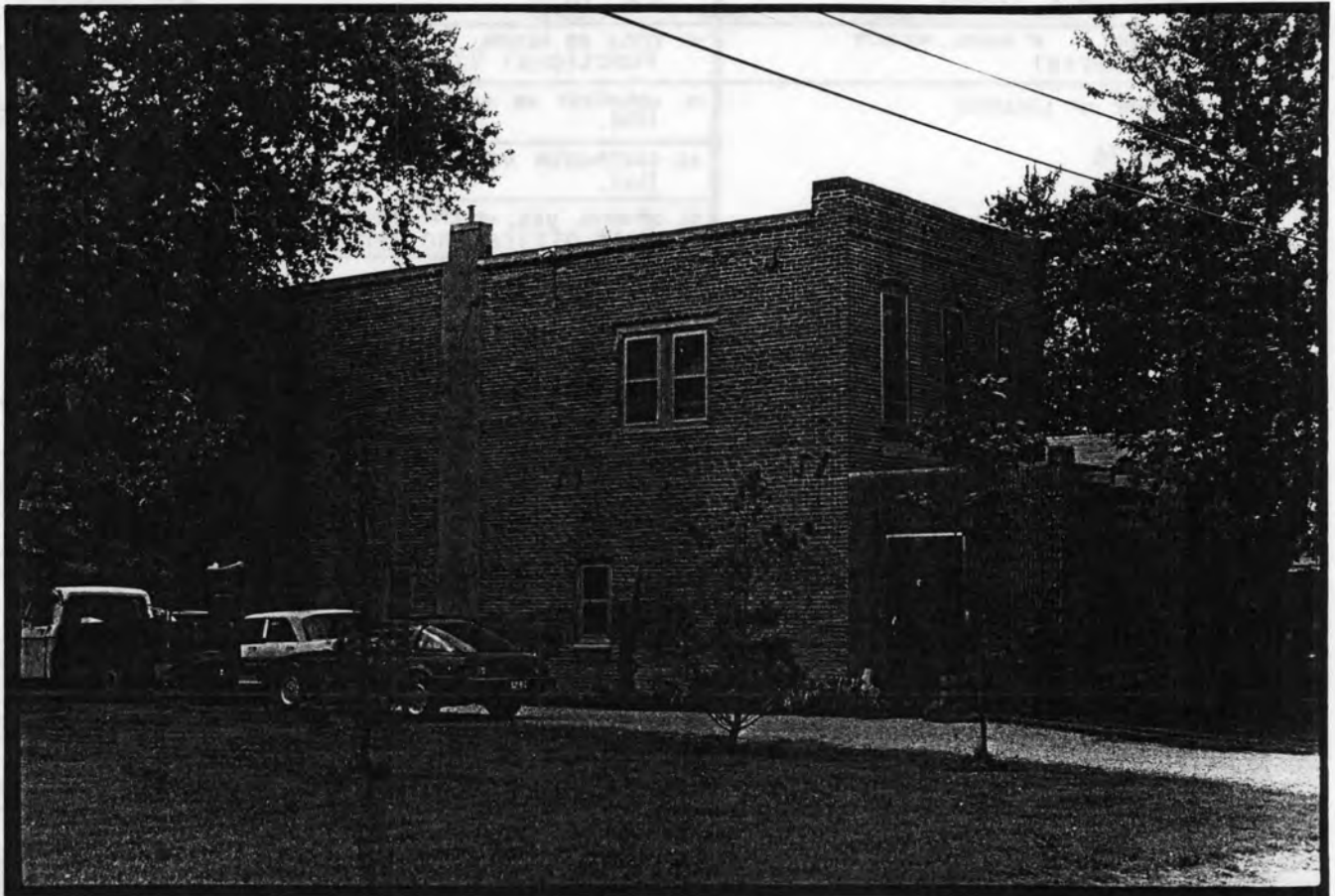
47. ORGANIZATION Show-Me RPC

48. DATE 6/85 49. REVISION DATE(S) -

RETURN THIS FORM WHEN COMPLETED TO: OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION P.O. BOX 176 JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102

IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED, ATTACH





Montserrat Post Office

Montserrat  
Section 13  
Montserrat Twp.  
Johnson Co.

# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

## ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

80 JO 0010

1. NO. <div style="text-align: center;">13</div>		4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) <div style="text-align: center;">Star Theater (Vacant)</div>		SW-AS-036-040
2. COUNTY <div style="text-align: center;">Johnson</div>		5. OTHER NAME(S) <div style="text-align: center;">Gilkeson Dry Goods, Co.</div>		
3. LOCATION OF NEGATIVES <div style="text-align: center;">Show-Me RPC</div>				
6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP _____ RANGE _____ SECTION _____ IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS <div style="text-align: center;">112-114 West Pine Street</div>		16. THEMATIC CATEGORY <div style="text-align: center;">c.a. 1885</div>		28. NO. OF STORIES <div style="text-align: center;">2</div>
7. CITY OR TOWN IF RURAL, VICINITY <div style="text-align: center;">Warrensburg</div>		17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD <div style="text-align: center;">c.a. 1885</div>		29. BASEMENT? YES ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ) NO ( )
8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION  <div style="text-align: center;">Holden's 2nd Addition All of Lot 237 with exception of the East 4 feet Block A</div>		18. STYLE OR DESIGN <div style="text-align: center;">Victorian Functional</div>		30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL <div style="text-align: center;">Brick &amp; Stone</div>
		19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER		31. WALL CONSTRUCTION <div style="text-align: center;">Brick</div>
		20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER		32. ROOF TYPE AND MATERIAL <div style="text-align: center;">Flat+Built-up Tar</div>
		21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT <div style="text-align: center;">Commercial</div>		33. NO. OF BAYS FRONT _____ SIDE _____
		22. PRESENT USE <div style="text-align: center;">Vacant</div>		34. WALL TREATMENT <div style="text-align: center;">Plaster &amp; Panel</div>
		23. OWNERSHIP PUBLIC ( ) PRIVATE ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> )		35. PLAN SHAPE <div style="text-align: center;">Rectangle</div>
		24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS IF KNOWN <div style="text-align: center;">Commonwealth Theaters 112 W. Pine, Warrensburg</div>		36. CHANGES (EXPLAIN IN NO. 42) ADDITION ( ) ALTERED ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ) MOVED ( )
9. COORDINATES LAT _____ LONG _____		25. OPEN TO PUBLIC? YES ( ) NO ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> )		37. CONDITION INTERIOR <div style="text-align: center;">Poor</div> EXTERIOR <div style="text-align: center;">Poor</div>
10. SITE ( ) BUILDING ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> )		26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION <div style="text-align: center;">Show-Me RPC</div>		38. PRESERVATION UNDERWAY? YES ( ) NO ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> )
11. ON NATIONAL REGISTER? YES ( ) NO ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> )		27. OTHER SURVEYS IN WHICH INCLUDED <div style="text-align: center;">None</div>		39. ENDANGERED? BY WHAT? YES ( ) NO ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> )
12. IS IT ELIGIBLE? YES ( ) NO ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> )				40. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD? YES ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ) NO ( )
13. PART OF ESTAB. HIST. DISTRICT? YES ( ) NO ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> )				41. DISTANCE FROM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD
14. DISTRICT POTENTIAL? YES ( ) NO ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> )				
15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT				
42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES <div style="text-align: center;">A large theater front that has been modified several times covers the front of this building. Windows on the rear and a large door have all been bricked in. It is the tallest building on the south side of West Pine Street. The brickwork shows evidence of deterioration.</div>				<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; width: 100px; margin: 0 auto;">             PHOTO MUST  BE PROVIDED           </div>
43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE <div style="text-align: center;">A. H. Gilkeson was the pioneer merchant on West Pine, and he built the first frame building. It was destroyed in the fire of 1866, but he rebuilt after this with a brick building. At the 112 West Pine address he was still running a dry goods operation in 1900, and in 1907 it was still a dry goods store. By 1914, E. S. Wilcox had a General Merchandise store at this address. In 1883 the building was shown on the map as a separate building, smaller, one-story, and it contained a stationery store and the Post Office. By 1888 it was a large two-story building and it had been (Cont'd Page 2)</div>				
44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS <div style="text-align: center;">No outbuildings are associated with this large building.</div>				
45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION <div style="text-align: center;">Warrensburg Sanborn Maps: 1883, 1888, 1893, 1898, 1907, 1914, 1924. Warrensburg City Directories: 1895, 1900, 1912. William E. Crissey, A History With Folklore,</div>				46. PREPARED BY <div style="text-align: center;">Tom Christopher</div>
				47. ORGANIZATION <div style="text-align: center;">Show-Me RPC</div>
				48. DATE [ 49. REVISION DATE(S) ]

#43

combined with the 114 address. The 114 address was a very small building in 1883, containing a meat shop in one half, and a barber in the other half. It too was a one-story building at this time. It was after this that it became Gilkeson's Dry Goods, and was a two-story building. Around 1920, Thomas and Charles Goodnight decided to make it into the Star Theater.



N. FACADE



N. FACADE



S. FACADE



# ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

80J00022

1. NO. 26		4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) Vacant Building		SW-AS-036-041	
2. COUNTY Johnson		5. OTHER NAME(S) Magnolia Opera House - Unitog Manufacturing Co.			
3. LOCATION OF NEGATIVES Show-Me RPC					
6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP _____ RANGE _____ SECTION _____ IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS 145-147 West Pine Street		16. THEMATIC CATEGORY 17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD 1889		28. NO. OF STORIES 3	
7. CITY OR TOWN IF RURAL, VICINITY Warrensburg		18. STYLE OR DESIGN Victorian Functional		29. BASEMENT? YES (X) NO ( )	
8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION  Holden's 2nd Addition Lot 205 Block B		19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER		30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL Sandstone	
		20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER		31. WALL CONSTRUCTION Brick	
		21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT Opera House		32. ROOF TYPE AND MATERIAL Flat	
		22. PRESENT USE Storage		33. NO. OF BAYS FRONT SIDE	
		23. OWNERSHIP PUBLIC ( ) PRIVATE (X)		34. WALL TREATMENT Plaster	
		24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS IF KNOWN Denning Investments Hwy 50 West, Warrensburg		35. PLAN SHAPE Rectangle	
9. COORDINATES UTM LAT LONG		25. OPEN TO PUBLIC? YES ( ) NO (X)		36. CHANGES (EXPLAIN IN NO. 42) ADDITION ( ) ALTERED (X) MOVED ( )	
10. SITE ( ) BUILDING (X) STRUCTURE ( ) OBJECT ( )		26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION Show-Me RPC		37. CONDITION INTERIOR Poor EXTERIOR Fair	
11. ON NATIONAL REGISTER? YES ( ) NO (X)		27. OTHER SURVEYS IN WHICH INCLUDED None		38. PRESERVATION UNDERWAY? YES ( ) NO (X)	
12. IS IT ELIGIBLE? YES (X) NO ( )				39. ENDANGERED? BY WHAT? YES ( ) NO (X)	
13. PART OF ESTAB. HIST. DISTRICT? YES ( ) NO (X)				40. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD? YES (X) NO ( )	
14. DISTRICT POTENTIAL? YES ( ) NO (X)				41. DISTANCE FROM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD	
15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT					

42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES  
The words MAGNOLIA OPERA 1889 are set in square brick recesses near the top of the building. A tin cornice extends around the building. Three stone pilasters extend from the ground to the second story, and continue as brick pilaster strips to the cornice on the south facade. A stone course extends around the building above the upper story windows. Wood with (Cont'd Page 2)

PHOTO  
MUST  
BE  
PROVIDED

43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE  
The Magnolia Opera House was built by W.H. Hartman and Isaac Markward in 1889 at a cost of \$18,000. It was leased by the Quarry City Orchestra and they in turn sub-leased it. It's seating capacity was 800. A cooper shop was on this site in 1883 in a small building. By 1893 the present building was constructed and operas were appearing here. The first floor was vacant except for a cabinet shop in the rear. By 1907, buggies and implements were being stored and sold on the first floor and there was still a cabinet shop in the rear of the building. The operas were still appearing (Cont'd Page 2)

44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS  
This building is on the northeast corner of West Pine Street and Washington Street. Its north facade is on an alley, the west facade faces Washington Street, the south facade faces West Pine Street, and it (Cont'd Page 2)

45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION  
Warrensburg Sanborn Maps: 1883, 1888, 1893, 1907, 1914, 1924. Warrensburg City Directories: 1895. Personal Interview with Leland Markward, August 15, 1980

46. PREPARED BY  
Tom Christopher  
47. ORGANIZATION  
Show-Me RPC  
48. DATE 6/15/80 49. REVISION DATE(S)

#42

scroll work is between the second and third story windows. On the west facade a dock door is located on the north-west corner. This leads to a small mezzanine area between the first and second floors. Double doors are south of this dock door. Large plate glass windows are on the first story of the south facade as are two doors with transom windows. Some brickwork has been done between the first and second story on the south facade. A molded tin belt course extends around the building from the south facade and the west facade at the second story level. The original entrance to the opera house was on the west side through the double doors, but when the building was converted to factory use, the original floor plans were changed drastically and an elevator was added. Currently the interior is undergoing alterations (as of September 1980).

#43

on the second floor. By 1914 the cabinet shop was no longer in operation, but there were still buggies and implements being sold on the first floor. The second floor was still being used for operas through this time. Vitt-Mayes Overall Factory was in this building by 1924. It then evolved into Garrison Overall Factory, Brookfield-Garrison Uniform Factory, Unitog Business Clothing, and is presently being used as storage by The Granary Restaurant.



S.FACADE



W.FACADE



W. & S FACADE

NW ENTRANCE

EARLY PHOTOS FROM LELAND MARKWARD  
COLLECTION

# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

SW-AS-036-042

1. NO. 136		4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP Tenants include: J.H.Service; Pete's Barber Shop; Self Tax & Acctg. (KNOB NOSTER) 048	
2. COUNTY Johnson		5. OTHER NAME(S) Service; Christopher Hodge; etc. City Hall; Kendrick's Garage; Opera House	
3. LOCATION OF Show-Me Regional NEGATIVES Planning Commission			
6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP 46N RANGE 24W SECTION 21 IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS 101-103 S. State		16. THEMATIC CATEGORY Historic /Architectural	
7. CITY OR TOWN IF RURAL, VICINITY Knob Noster		17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD 1915	
8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION  Lots 5 and 6 Block X Railroad Extension  (SW corner of S. State and W. McPherson)		18. STYLE OR DESIGN Functional Commercial	
		19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER Und.	
		20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER Und.	
		21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT Garage and city hall	
		22. PRESENT USE Offices	
		23. OWNERSHIP PUBLIC( ) PRIVATE( X )	
		24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS Jerry L. Hinkle 402 Salem St. Knob Noster	
9. COORDINATES UTM LAT LONG		25. OPEN TO PUBLIC? YES( X ) NO( )	
10. SITE( ) STRUCTURE( ) BUILDING( X ) OBJECT( )		26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION Show-Me RPC	
11. ON NATIONAL YES( ) REGISTER? NO( X )		27. OTHER SURVEYS IN WHICH INCLUDED  None	
12. IS IT YES( ) ELIGIBLE? NO( )			
13. PART OF ESTAB. YES( ) HIST. DISTRICT? NO( X )			
14. DISTRICT YES( ) POTENTIAL? NO( )			
15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT N/A			
		28. NO. OF STORIES 2	
		29. BASEMENT? YES( ) NO( X )	
		30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL Concrete	
		31. WALL CONSTRUCTION Brick	
		32. ROOF TYPE AND MATERIAL Gable; asphalt	
		33. NO. OF BAYS FRONT SIDE	
		34. WALL TREATMENT	
		35. PLAN SHAPE Rectangular	
		36. CHANGES ADDITION( ) (EXPLAIN IN ALTERED( X ) NO. 42) MOVED( )	
		37. CONDITION Fair INTERIOR Fair EXTERIOR Fair	
		38. PRESERVATION YES( ) UNDERWAY? NO( X )	
		39. ENDANGERED? YES( X ) BY WHAT? NO( )	
		40. VISIBLE FROM YES( X ) PUBLIC ROAD? NO( )	
		41. DISTANCE FROM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD	

## 42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES

A stepped parapet with gray stone edging and flat-arched windows provide this two-story brick building with most of its ornamentation. The arches (of vertical stretcher bricks) are outlined for emphasis with protruding layers of header bricks. Upstairs window openings have been sealed. Unlike most area commercial buildings of two-stories, this one has a gable roof. A stone



## 43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE panel at the northwest end says KNOB NOSTER CITY HALL, 1915. G-7

In 1915, Edward F. Kendrick erected this building as a general auto repair garage. Mr. Kendrick also was an agent for Ford. The upstairs was used initially as the Knob Noster City Hall, but within a few years the city offices were elsewhere and the roomy second floor provided space for basketball games, roller skating and other social or athletic functions. Movies were shown upstairs for several years, and school plays have been performed there. The 1922 Sanborn map identifies the second floor as an opera house with a seating capacity of 500. Several other individuals other than Mr. Kendrick operated garages/service stations in this building.

## 44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS

The location of this building is a corner lot on Knob Noster's main business intersection: McPherson and State.

## 45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The History of Johnson County (1918), pp. 666-667; R.H.Utley; W.R.Kendrick; site visit: Sanborn maps.

RETURN THIS FORM WHEN COMPLETED TO: OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
P.O. BOX 176  
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102

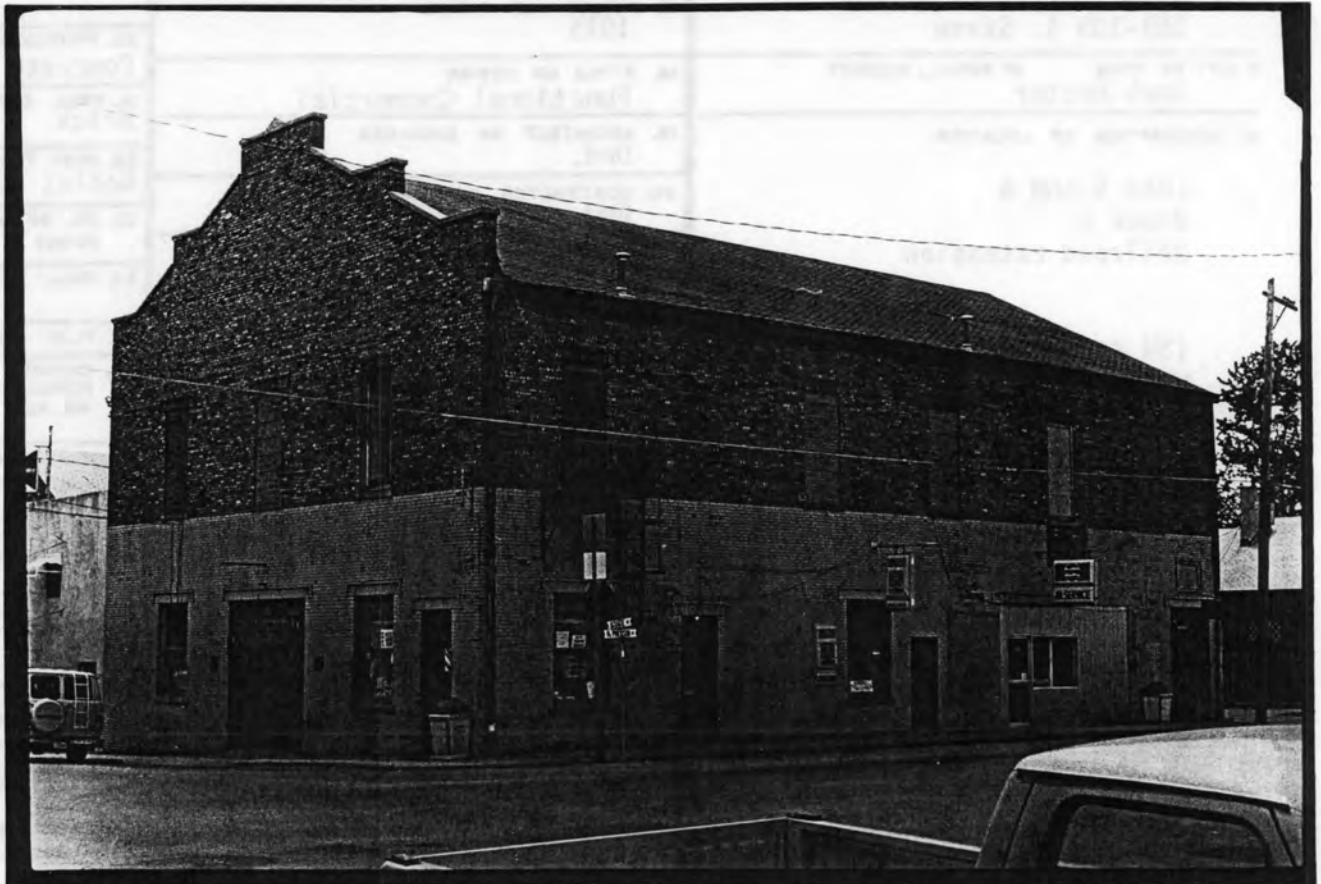
IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED, ATTACH

46. PREPARED BY  
R.Maserang

47. ORGANIZATION  
Show-Me RPC

48. DATE 9/86 49. REVISION DATE(S) -





Kendrick's Garage  
Old City Hall  
Opera House

101-103 S.State St.  
Knob Noster  
Washington Twp.  
Johnson Co.



Monday Eve, Dec. 25th,

At

## CHILHOWEE SCHOOL BUILDING

Prof. P. F. Calhoun, expert violinist will have charge of this entertainment and he guarantees it to be a rare treat.

One-third of the proceeds go to the school.

**Admission** 10c children.  
15c adults.

Prof. Calhoun will probably assist in the Xmas entertainment at the Union church, Saturday, December 23.

CHILHOWEE NEWS

Dec. 22, 1905

### #72 Grand Opening for Opera House

The Leeton opera house opened last Wednesday night with an elaborate scenic production of a southern plantation by a minstrel troupe. The house is under the management of J. H. Elliot, and he is to be congratulated on the splendid opera house he has furnished Leeton. The structure is a splendid reproduction of a rural smithy's shop, only the spreading chesnut tree is missing, and upon entering one loses himself amid a scene of forges, anvils, horse shoes and nail kegs. Pete says the blacksmith trade has lost all its attractions for him. He intends to stage none but the highest class plays that will rank with the Willis Wood in Kansas City. He says he had just as well for if he didn't Willis Wood (would). The opera house company was unfortunate in securing for its first pro-

duction a company that had the blackleg sure enough, but he didn't know it until too late. He says that he feels bad about it for the reason that Charlie Gilchrist and Dick Boston were both there, having purchased box seats several days in advance to avoid the rush and owing to the fact that they were such close scrutinizers of the dancing girls, they are sure to catch it. Then Charlie can't attend to the financial wants of the people nor can Dick teach the young idea how to shoot. Pete is afraid they will sue for damages and take all the proceeds of the first production. He says he will run no risks, but will make a personal examination of the next troupe to be sure they haven't that fatal disease.—Leeton Times,

CHILHOWEE NEWS

Sept. 29, 1905

### #73 Patronage in Poor Taste

Holden is still tolerating "Uncle Tom's Cabin" shows. One showed there last week. The people of Holden ought to follow the example of many other Missouri towns and assess a license of couple of hundred dollars on each and every performance of the play in their city. The Civil War is a thing of the past—over forty years past—and it is an insult to the good people of the South to allow this play, which has so misrepresented the southern people, to show in any town,

"Uncle Tom's Cabin is a book of unassailable literary merit, but it was a prime factor in bringing about the loss of thousands of lives and millions of dollars over a question that would most probably have been settled peaceably in the course of a few years.—Leeton Times.

CHILHOWEE NEWS

Nov. 23, 1906

**The New**  
**LIBERTY** **SUNDAY JANUARY 20**  
*Home of Vitaphone and Movietone* **For One Week**



HEAR Him Sing  
 LISTEN to Him Joke

# AL JOLSON

In The Greatest  
 Picture of The Age

## "The Singing Fool"

You'll Hear Him Sing Nine Songs  
 — He Jokes and Talks — But  
 When He Sings "Sonny Boy",  
 You'll Say Perfect.

SHOWS AT 2:30—7:00—9:00  
 SUNDAY CONTINUOUS

Attend The Matinees

Admission

Sunday 10c and 50c

Week Days

Matinees	Evening
10c-35c	10c-50c

Only Here Can You  
 Hear As Well As See  
 AL JOLSON

STAR JOURNAL - Jan. 17-1929  
 WARRENSBURG, MO.

#92 Empire Hall on N. Holden, Wbg.

## How Well Do You Know Warrensburg?

Answer to Yesterday's Question

The Empire Hall was located  
 over the Rundle & Ream Drug  
 Store, known those days as the  
 Clark Drug Store Co.

Almost every major event of  
 church, lodge or of society in  
 Warrensburg, was held in this hall.

Its popularity included the year  
 1900. It was the 'swanky' place  
 to give dances, turkey dinners,  
 addresses and theatrical perform-  
 ances.

STAR JOURNAL Feb. 14,  
 WARRENSBURG, MO. 1935

#93 Star Theater Shows and Matinees

Nights—7:30 and 9  
**STAR THEATRE**  
 Matinee Daily 2:30, Sat. 2 and 3:30

Tonight—3 Shows for 10c—25c

NO. 1

Alice White  
 Jack Mulhall

NO. 2



With  
 Betty  
 Carter  
 and  
 Stewart  
 Rome

A First National Picture

NAUGHTY  
 BABY

WITH ALICE WHITE AND JACK MULHALL

A First National Picture

She's got lots of "It"  
 He never cared for lots of  
 "it"  
 But she's got lots of "it"  
 That's his weakness now!

Outstanding stars of English  
 stage and screen in a crime  
 and mystery play that defies  
 solution.

This great mystery-melodra-  
 ma has thrilled two conti-  
 nents. Critics hail it as "one  
 of the best murder mysteries  
 ever screened."

## No. 3—Also "The Collegians"

"Naughty Baby" twice tonight at 7:30 and 10 o'clock  
 "Ware Case" once only at 8:45—Collegians once at 9:10

Mat. 2:30 Wed. and Thurs. Nights 7:30 and 9

Buddy Rogers in "Someone to Love"

STAR JOURNAL  
 WARRENSBURG, MO.

Jan. 29, 1929



# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Knox County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Biggerstaff's Opera House	Edina	yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burk's Concert Hall		yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no	<input type="checkbox"/>
Edina Opera House		yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lindina Theatre		yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no	<input type="checkbox"/>

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Biggerstaff's Opera House	Edina	yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Burk's Concert Hall		yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Edina Opera House		yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lindina Theatre		yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Biggerstaff's Opera House	Edina	yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burk's Concert Hall		yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no	<input type="checkbox"/>
Edina Opera House		yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lindina Theatre		yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no	<input type="checkbox"/>

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

<input type="checkbox"/> books about specific theatres	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> photographs	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> newspaper articles	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> scrapbooks	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> county or town histories	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, please specify	_____

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area? \_\_\_\_\_

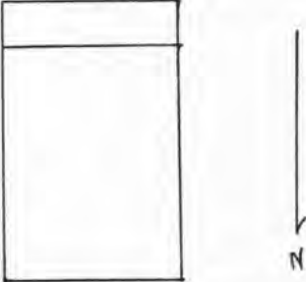
What days and times is your library open to the public? \_\_\_\_\_

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times? \_\_\_\_\_

Who is the best person to contact for more information? Brenton Karloff <sup>yes</sup>

**Thank you for your assistance.** Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203

Office of Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 175, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101  
**HISTORIC INVENTORY** SW-AS-036-043

1 No Ct-17		4 Present Name(s) Federal Crop Insurance Corporation	
2 County Knox		5 Other Name(s) 306 E Lafayette Street Building	
3 Location of Negatives NEMO Regional Planning Comm.		Bank of Edina, Lindina Theater	
6 Specific Location 306 E. LaFayette Block 8, Lot 1 County Addition		16 Thematic Category	
7 City or Town II Rural, Township & Vicinity Edina		17 Date(s) or Period c 1881-1886	
8 Site Plan with North Arrow 		18 Style or Design Vernacular with Italianate affinities 42/64	
		19 Architect or Engineer Algerman 50	
		20 Contractor or Builder P.B. Linville	
		21 Original Use, if apparent Commercial OZE OZA	
		22 Present Use Commercial	
		23 Ownership Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/>	
		24 Owner's Name & Address, if known Joanne Mankopf Memphis, MO	
9 Coordinates UTM Lat Edina Long 15/570505/4446445		25 Open to Public? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
10 Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>		26 Local Contact Person or Organization NEMO Regional Planning Comm.	
11 On National Register? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		27 Other Surveys in Which Included	
12 Is It Eligible? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
13 Part of Estate? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
14 District Potent? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
15 Name of Established District		28 No. of Stories 2	
		29 Basement? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		30 Foundation Material coursed stone 40	
		31 Wall Construction brick 11	
		32 Roof Type & Material pent Ft 31	
		33 No. of Bays Front 3 Side 0	
		34 Wall Treatment common bond 30	
		35 Plan Shape rectangular	
		36 Changes (Explain in #42) Addition <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	
		37 Condition Interior Exterior fair	
		38 Preservation Underway? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		39 Endangered? By What? neglect No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		40 Visible from Public Road? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		41 Distance from and Frontage on Road	

42. Further Description of Important Features The first story has been altered. A single leaf modern door is slightly off center on the front (N) facade. The space appears to have accommodated a double leaf door. To either side are large square windows. Across the entire facade above this the transom area is enclosed. A small narrow rectangular window is next to the door (to the east) and on the west end. Cast iron decorative piers end the building. The kitchen plate area is filled with new brick. Above the transom area is a paneled cornice with painted scroll brackets. The second story brick facade rises from this. Three very elongated (con

43 History and Significance This building was financed by P.B. Linville; the Globe Democrat lists him as the wealthiest man in Edina along with T.J. Lycan. Linville was worth \$100,000 in 1886 & practiced banking & brokering. He used this building as his bank; (see Ct-10 & Ct-16). Mary Fisher inherited the building from the Linville's. Delbert Hawkins purchased the structure from her & established the Lindina Theater which operated until the 1960's. (con

44 Description of Environment and Outbuildings This is the second building from the west end of Block 8. It faces north onto the courthouse square.

45 Sources of Information  
 Globe Democrat 4/22/1886  
 Personal Interview with Brent Karhoff  
 1887 History

46. Prepared by  
 Margaret Keller +  
 47. Organization NEMO  
 Regional Planning Comm.  
 48. Date 5/84 49. Revision Date

42. round arched windows are found here. Heavy hoodmolds top these windows & are trimmed with fancy rosettes. Windows originally were 1/1 but now have the tops enclosed and smaller 1/1 rectangular windows installed below. The building ends with an elaborate wood cornice that maintains a homegeneous pattern to the east end of the block. The area is paneled; scrolled floral brackets are paired & alternate with groups of five smaller brackets. Dentils are also found here. This area is deteriorating. A 1½ story pent addition is to the rear (S) and has two single leaf doors. Above this the back wall of the main building has flat topped windows which have been altered; the tops are filled in and the shape is now a 1/1 square window.
43. Next the building was sold to Joanne Mankopf of Memphis, Missouri.

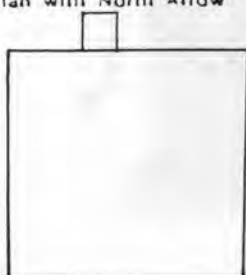
Presently the building is occupied by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. One of their services is Planters All Risk Crop Insurance.





## HISTORIC INVENTORY

SW-AS-036-044

1 NO Ct-25		4 Present Name(s) 326 E Lafayette Dollar General Store & Blue Room Steaks	
2 County Knox		5 Other Name(s)	
3 Location of Negatives NEMO Regional Planning Comm.		Tansil & Grantges, Sandknop's Department Store 0041	
6 Specific Location 322 E LaFayette Blk 8, Lot 5, County Addition		16. Thematic Category	
7 City or Town II Rural, Township & Vicinity Edina		17 Date(s) or Period c 1883	
8 Site Plan with North Arrow 		18 Style or Design Vernacular with Italianate Affinities 69	
		19. Architect or Engineer	
		20. Contractor or Builder Jake Bishoff	
		21. Original Use, if apparent Commercial ODF	
		22 Present Use Commercial	
		23 Ownership Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		24. Owner's Name & Address, if known Mildred & Bill Sandknop & Mrs. Ragland Edina, MO	
9 Coordinates UTM Lat Long 15/570560/4446445		25. Open to Public? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
10 Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>		26. Local Contact Person or Organization NEMO Regional Planning Comm.	
11 On National Register? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		27 Other Surveys in Which Included	
12 Is It Eligible? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
13 Part of Estab. Hist. Dist.? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
14 District Potent'l? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
15 Name of Established District		28. No. of Stories 2	
		29. Basement? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		30. Foundation Material coursed stone 40	
		31. Wall Construction brick LB	
		32. Roof Type & Material pent F 01	
		33. No. of Bays Front 7 Side 6	
		34. Wall Treatment common bond 99	
		35. Plan Shape rectangular	
		36. Changes (Explain in #42) Addition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered: <input type="checkbox"/> Moved: <input type="checkbox"/>	
		37. Condition Interior good Exterior good	
		38. Preservation Underway? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		39. Endangered? By what? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		40. Visible from Public Road? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
		41. Distance from and Frontage on Road	

42. Further Description of Important Features Originally this structure had a front facade that followed the same pattern as the others to the west. (See historic photo.) Windows were very elongated with round arched tops & heavy hoodmolding. The wooden cornice at the roof level had massive brackets & a contrasting color scheme. A cast iron storefront matched the other on the block. Now a metal sheathing covers the entire front facade from the transom area upwards. The hoodmolding protrudes through the siding but all other detailing is obscured. The cornice has been boxed in to form an inverted pyramid shape at the roof. The store-

43. History and Significance (cont)  
R.M. Biggerstaff had this double structure built along with his other building Ct-22. He was the most extensive builder on the south side of the square & employed Jake Bishoff (see Ct-12) as his contractor. P.W. Parker baked the bricks in his kiln. R.M. Biggerstaff was listed as the second wealthiest man in Edina in 1886, his value was ascertained to be \$40,000. Upstairs in this building (Ct-25) was the old Edina Opera

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (cont)  
This commercial structure faces north onto LaFayette Street and is situated at the SW corner of LaFayette and Fourth Streets.

## 45. Sources of Information

Personal Interview with Brent Karhoff  
Edina Sentinel 8/14/1941  
Edina Sentinel Business File  
Globe Democrat 4/22/1886

46. Prepared by Margaret Keller HPC	
47. Organization NEMO Regional Planning Comm.	
48. Date 4/84	49. Revision Date(s)

42. front display area has been completely altered. Four large square storefront windows alternate with modern single leaf entrances. A small rectangular window forms the central bay. A board/batten type siding is used around these openings. On the east side are tall narrow round arched 1/1 windows with metal sills & single rowlock headers. Here the foundation is exposed to a height of 4' & has four small square windows with triple rowlock headers. In the rear (S) a pent roofed vestibule affords entrance to the basement.
43. House. Blind Boone once played piano here to impressed audiences. The county court also located here after the old courthouse burned in 1885. The upstairs was used as the courthouse until the present one was constructed in 1936. Smith Abstract was also upstairs in 1928 & Smith's Law Office was still here in 1966. At one time a bowling alley & roller rink were located here. The basement was McCabe's restaurant. Jim Ragland ran a tavern here for many years. Currently it is the Blue Room Steak House.

Several large department stores have been in the main level. Originally this was a dry goods & clothing store; a subsequent business was the Tansil & Grantges Department Store owned by Mr. Beal. J.H. Sandknop was a prominent Edina businessman, he first was in the grocery trade with Paul Collins on S. Main in 1912-1913. In 1914-15 he bought the Krueger Jewelry Store. By 1916 he had his exclusive ladies ready-to-wear & dry goods store, Sandknop & Grantges, on the west side of the square & remained there in the old A.G. Bostick grocery store (Ct-7) until 1940. Then he moved to this location (Ct-25) & established Sandknops Department Store. After being in business for 35 years in 1947 J.H. Sandknop decided to quit. He sold his stock & rented the building.

In 1975 this store, which for the last 23 years had been operated by Mr. & Mrs. Ben Sandknop, was purchased by Steve Coram & Sam Myers of Edina. P.N. Hirsch was here until this year, 1984, when Dollar General Stores moved in.



# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Laclede County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Lebanon Opera House                      Lebanon                      yes ☒ no ☐

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Lebanon Opera House                      Lebanon                      yes ☐ no ☒

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Lebanon Opera House                      Lebanon                      yes ☐ no ☒

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? None

The Lyric Theatre - now gone - building gone

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

☐ books about specific theatres

☒ photographs

☐ newspaper articles

☒ scrapbooks

☒ county or town histories

☐ other, please specify

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

What days and times is your library open to the public? Mon-Friday 11:30-5:00

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

Who is the best person to contact for more information? Dorothy Calton

417-532-5758

**Thank you for your assistance.**

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203

The old Opera House Building was on the third floor of the old Sam Farrar Building - About 1949-1950 it toppled down and that story and it be removed. The building had many programs (over)



al graduation exercises traveling shows that  
Came through.

# Laclede County Historical Society

Do any of your organizations have information about the following theaters?

Lebanon Opera House      yes ☒ no ☐

Is this theater (theater(s)) still in operation?

Lebanon Opera House      yes ☐ no ☒

If not, does the building(s) where the theater was located still exist?

Lebanon Opera House      yes ☐ no ☒

What other historic theaters were located or are currently located in your area?

None

The Laclede County Historical Society

Please check the specific types of information you have about theaters in your area. Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

books about specific theaters

photographs

newspaper articles

yearbooks

county or town histories

other, please specify

Do you have any information on which theater or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

What days and times is your library open to the public?      Mon-Fri 10-5 Sat 10-4

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

Who is the best person to contact for more information?      Dorothy Caldwell

417-312-2328

Thank you for your assistance.

Please return to: Betty Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203

The old opera house building was in the town  
1941-1950 it topped down as that was  
the old opera house building - 1941-1950  
the old opera house building was in the town  
(1941-1950)

[illegible]



Knights Templar Service at Funeral Opera House June 17, 1899



# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

### Concordia Area Heritage Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Lyric Theater Concordia yes \_\_\_\_ no ✓

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Lyric Theater Concordia yes \_\_\_\_ no ✓

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Lyric Theater Concordia yes ✓ no \_\_\_\_

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? The Lyric had its start in another building before it went into the Iastone - The enclosed articles will explain more.

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

\_\_\_\_ books about specific theatres

\_\_\_\_ photographs

\_\_\_\_ newspaper articles

\_\_\_\_ scrapbooks

\_\_\_\_ county or town histories

\_\_\_\_ other, please specify

Search the microfilms of the Concordian at Concordia Library  
contact Lafayette County Historical Society

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

Information in the articles included -

What days and times is your library open to the public? The Concordia is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tues + Thurs. 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

No

Who is the best person to contact for more information? No

Thank you for your assistance.

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203

Concordia, Mo.  
Sept. 30, 1997

Dear Ms Snider:

I am sorry to be so slow in getting this information to you. Your letter came during Concordia's annual Fall Festival, so it was side lined for a week. Then I needed to get information from our members if anyone else wanted to work with this - no one did.

Gary L. Beissenberg, publisher and editor of The Concordian looked up the earliest piece on The Lyric. The hand written copy by the deceased gentleman. We miss him, because he remembered so much of the early years of Concordia.

The microfilms of The Concordians are available in Columbia by the Missouri Historical Society.

The building in the 500 block of Concordia's Main Street where the first Lyric was is intact. The owners <sup>use</sup> ~~used~~ the top floor for storage.

The building in the 700 block is the Palace Bar, no stairs. What the Lyric <sup>was</sup> upstairs is now an apartment for living purposes.

Your donation was more than

sufficient, since the searching was  
very easy.

The Concordia Area Heritage Society  
has not collected things of this kind,  
because we have no place to store  
it.

I hope this has been some help  
for you.

Yours truly,  
(Mrs.) Nora Hartwig - member  
of the Heritage Society  
205 Sunset Hills Drive #219  
Concordia, MO 64020-9612



# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

### Lexington Library and Historical Association

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Baehr's Hall	Lexington	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Geyer Grand		yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hagen's Opera House		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Leiderkrantz Hall		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
New Grand		yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Turner's Hall		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Wright's Grand		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>

Hagen  
Wright's  
Grand } The same  
at  
Franklin  
? yes

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Baehr's Hall	Lexington	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Geyer Grand		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hagen's Opera House		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Leiderkrantz Hall		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New Grand		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Turner's Hall		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wright's Grand		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Baehr's Hall	Lexington	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Geyer Grand		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Hagen's Opera House		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Leiderkrantz Hall		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
New Grand		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Turner's Hall		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Wright's Grand		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? \_\_\_\_\_

We have some early motion picture theatres, also.

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

<input type="checkbox"/> books about specific theatres	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> photographs	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> newspaper articles	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> scrapbooks	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> county or town histories	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other, please specify	<u>tickets, passes and programs</u>

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

What days and times is your library open to the public? \_\_\_\_\_

Monday through Saturday until 5:00. Open until 8:00 pm on Tues & Thurs

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times? yes ☐ no ☐

Who is the best person to contact for more information? Becky Snider

**Thank you for your assistance.** Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203

LaFayette County

*Lexington Historical Association*

P.O. Box 121  
Lexington, MO 64067

June 10, 1998

Ms Becky L. Snider  
1008 Sunset Drive  
Columbia, MO 65203

Dear Ms Snider,

We received your request last fall for information regarding historic theatres in Lexington. I should probably be addressing you "Doctor" as I've been so remiss in answering your correspondence. Lexington was rich with theatres and opera houses so the information should be readily available. However, this may not be the case. We are an all-volunteer organization and often fall short of time to do the things we really love, which includes helping people like yourself pursue your research.


Our most notorious theatre was the Grand Opera House built in 1879 by Henry Hagan. Hagan built the structure at a cost of \$5,000 and the price of the lot. It was 40' by 100' and seated 800 people. It's opening in 1885 and featured "Othello". The opera house was later known as Wrights Theatre until its destruction by fire in August of 1924. It was located at the corner of what is now 9th Street and Franklin Avenue.

There was an opera house next to Baehr's Cave (the old Cider and Pickling Works at Franklin Ave. and 11th Street). It is now a vacant lot. I've read references to fraternal organizations meeting in a hall *above* Baehr's Cave as well. There may be two locations at question here. There is a picture of it in the old *Atlas of Lafayette County* published in the 1870's and available at our local library.

You probably already have these little shreds of information. We have been without an archivist for a year so I'm not able to supply you with much in-depth research. I would recommend a trip to Lexington. Just give us a little notice and we'll be ready.

Again, my apology for the delay and best of luck with your endeavor. We would love a copy of your work if that's not too presumptuous.

Most sincerely,




Amy Heaven Hildreth  
Vice President  
President

# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

## ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP (CONCORDIA)

1. NO. <div style="text-align: center;">260</div>		4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) <div style="text-align: center;">The Palace Restaurant and Bar      SW-AS-036-045</div>	
2. COUNTY <div style="text-align: center;">Lafayette</div>		3. OTHER NAME(S) Formerly: Thees Martens' Saloon; Lyric Theater	
3. LOCATION OF POSITIVES Show-Me Regional Planning Commission			
5. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP <u>48N</u> RANGE <u>24W</u> SECTION <u>4</u> IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS 735 Main St.		16. THEMATIC CATEGORY Historic / Architectural	
7. CITY OR TOWN IF RURAL, VICINITY Concordia, Mo.		17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD Built ca. 1910s	
8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION  Lot 7 Block F Original Town  (NE corner of Main and Boggs/ 8th Street, in Concordia)		18. STYLE OR DESIGN Victorian Functional	
		19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER Undetermined	
		20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER Undetermined	
		21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT Saloon	
		22. PRESENT USE Restaurant and bar	
9. COORDINATES      UTM LAT LONG		23. OWNERSHIP PUBLIC ( ) PRIVATE (X)	
10. SITE ( )      STRUCTURE ( ) BUILDING (X)      OBJECT ( )		24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS William Webb 514 Gordon St. Concordia, Mo.	
11. ON NATIONAL REGISTER? YES ( ) NO (X)		25. OPEN TO PUBLIC? YES (X) NO ( ) During business hours	
12. IS IT ELIGIBLE? YES ( ) NO ( )		26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION Owner	
13. PART OF ESTAB. HIST. DISTRICT? YES ( ) NO (X)		27. OTHER SURVEYS IN WHICH INCLUDED None known	
14. DISTRICT POTENTIAL? YES ( ) NO ( )			
15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT N/A			

42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES This is a two-story rectangular brick commercial building with a truncated SW corner containing the main entrance. Alterations include the bricking of some window and door openings on the south and east facades, as well as storefront changes. Part of the old wooden storefront has been retained, however. The interior has been remodeled.	 Q-35
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43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE Original owner Thees Martens had this building erected in the 1910s around a frame, gable-roofed saloon he owned. The older saloon apparently remained open for business until construction of the present building was completed, and then was torn down. During the years of prohibition, it became a grocery store and later was used as a restaurant. The Lyric Theater, a movie house, was opened upstairs in the late 1920s or so. (Concordia's first opened in 1909.) The Lyric was there until about 1960. An "opera house" was upstairs for a short time before the movie screen was installed. The 1932 graduating class of Concordia High School was the last to use it. Today the upstairs has been converted into	
--	--

44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS The environment is commercial.	apartments. This building was selected primarily for its local significance, rather than for its architecture. The Lyric was operated for 27 years by Paul Oetting. Earlier, movies were shown in a building
---	--

45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION Mrs. Nora Hartwig; Sanborn maps; site visit; Voight (pp. 49-50).	46. PREPARED BY R. Maserang
--	--------------------------------

RETURN THIS FORM WHEN COMPLETED TO: OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION P.O. BOX 176 JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102 PH. 314-751-4096	47. ORGANIZATION Show-Me RPC 48. DATE 10/30/88
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IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED, ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET(S) TO THIS FORM



# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM (HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

The Palace Restaurant and Bar

Address: 1200 North Broadway, St. Louis, MO 63102



The building is a two-story brick structure with a flat roof. The ground floor features large display windows and a entrance. The second floor has several windows, some of which are arched. A sign on the left side of the building reads "THE PALACE". A car is parked in front of the building on the left. The building is located on a street corner.

Architectural description: The building is a two-story brick structure with a flat roof. The ground floor features large display windows and a entrance. The second floor has several windows, some of which are arched. A sign on the left side of the building reads "THE PALACE". A car is parked in front of the building on the left. The building is located on a street corner.

# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

## ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

1. NO. <u>78</u>		4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) <div style="text-align: right;">Davis Theatre</div>	
2. COUNTY <u>Lafayette</u>		5. OTHER NAME(S) <div style="text-align: right;">Auto Sales Eclipse Livery Stable</div>	
3. LOCATION OF NEGATIVES <u>Show-Me R.P.C.</u>			
6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP <u>49N</u> RANGE <u>25W</u> SECTION <u>6</u> IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS <u>2008 Main</u>		16. THEMATIC CATEGORY <u>030</u> <u>120</u>	
7. CITY OR TOWN IF RURAL, VICINITY <u>Higginsville, Missouri</u>		17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD <u>1885 alt c. 1930</u>	
8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION  <u>Lot 9, Block K, McMeekins Subdivision</u>		18. STYLE OR DESIGN -----	
		19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER <u>None</u>	
		20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER <u>Arch AW</u>	
		21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT <u>Livery DSE 08A</u>	
		22. PRESENT USE <u>Theatre</u>	
9. COORDINATES UTM LAT <u>39:00N</u> LONG <u>93:45W</u>		23. OWNERSHIP PUBLIC ( ) PRIVATE (X)	
10. SITE ( ) STRUCTURE ( ) BUILDING (X) OBJECT ( )		24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS IF KNOWN <u>Mr. Teid White Higginsville, Missouri</u>	
11. ON NATIONAL REGISTER? YES ( ) NO (X)		25. OPEN TO PUBLIC? YES (X) NO ( )	
12. IS IT ELIGIBLE? YES (X) NO ( )		26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION <u>Show-Me R P C</u>	
13. PART OF ESTAB. HIST. DISTRICT? YES ( ) NO (X)		27. OTHER SURVEYS IN WHICH INCLUDED  <u>N/A</u>	
14. DISTRICT POTENTIAL? YES ( ) NO (X)		36. CHANGES (EXPLAIN IN NO. 42) <u>ALTERED (X)</u> <u>MOVED ( )</u>	
15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT <u>N/A</u>		37. CONDITION INTERIOR <u>Good</u> EXTERIOR <u>Good</u>	
		38. PRESERVATION UNDERWAY? YES ( ) NO (X)	
		39. ENDANGERED? BY WHAT? YES ( ) NO (X)	
		40. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD? YES (X) NO ( )	
		41. DISTANCE FROM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD <u>10 ft.</u> <u>40 ft.</u>	

42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES  This is a combination of running and Flemish bond with a tile capped parapet. Four windows now have metal grates and one is boarded over. This once livery stable has undoubtedly been re-bricked from the 1886 era, but maintains the features of an arched doorway. There are modern aluminum doors and windows.	PHOTO MUST See Following Pages BE PROVIDED
---	--

43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

Todays Davis Theater was created as a livery in 1886, listed as Eclipse Livery in 1892, and remained a livery to beyond the year 1909. In 1929 it was listed as auto sales with a capacity for 75 cars. Elmer Morgan, the custodian, recalls it being a garage.

44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS

Located in the center of a block of old moderized buildings. It is surrounded by one and two story old buildings, but first floor stone fronts modified.

45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION <u>Sanborn Maps - 1886, 1892, 1900, 1909, 1929</u> <u>Interviews - Elmer Morgan, Russel Santmeyer</u> <u>References -</u>	46. PREPARED BY <u>V.L. Bielefeldt</u> 47. ORGANIZATION <u>Show-Me R.P.C.</u> 48. DATE <u>9-30-82</u>
	49. REVISION DATE(S) -----



**The final dignity!**

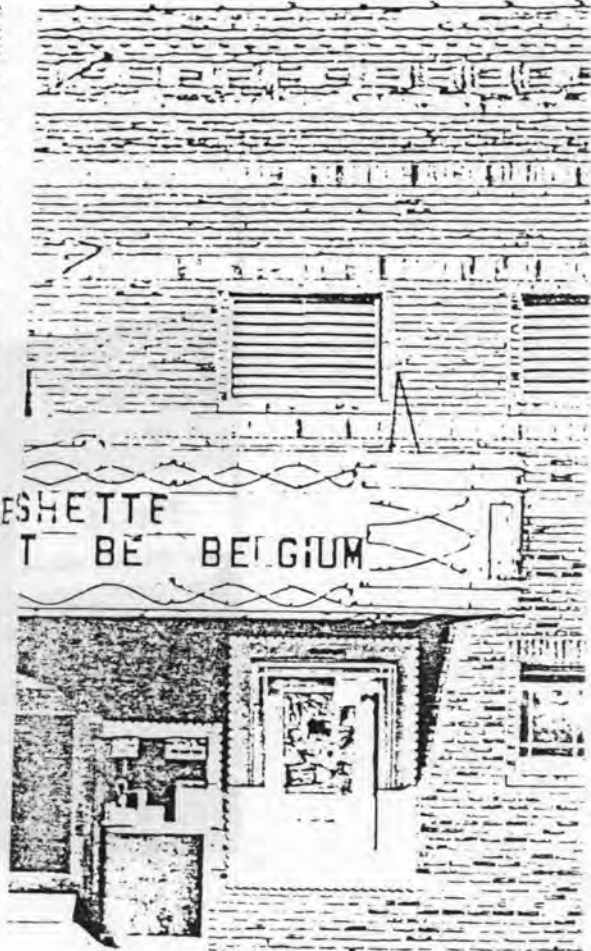
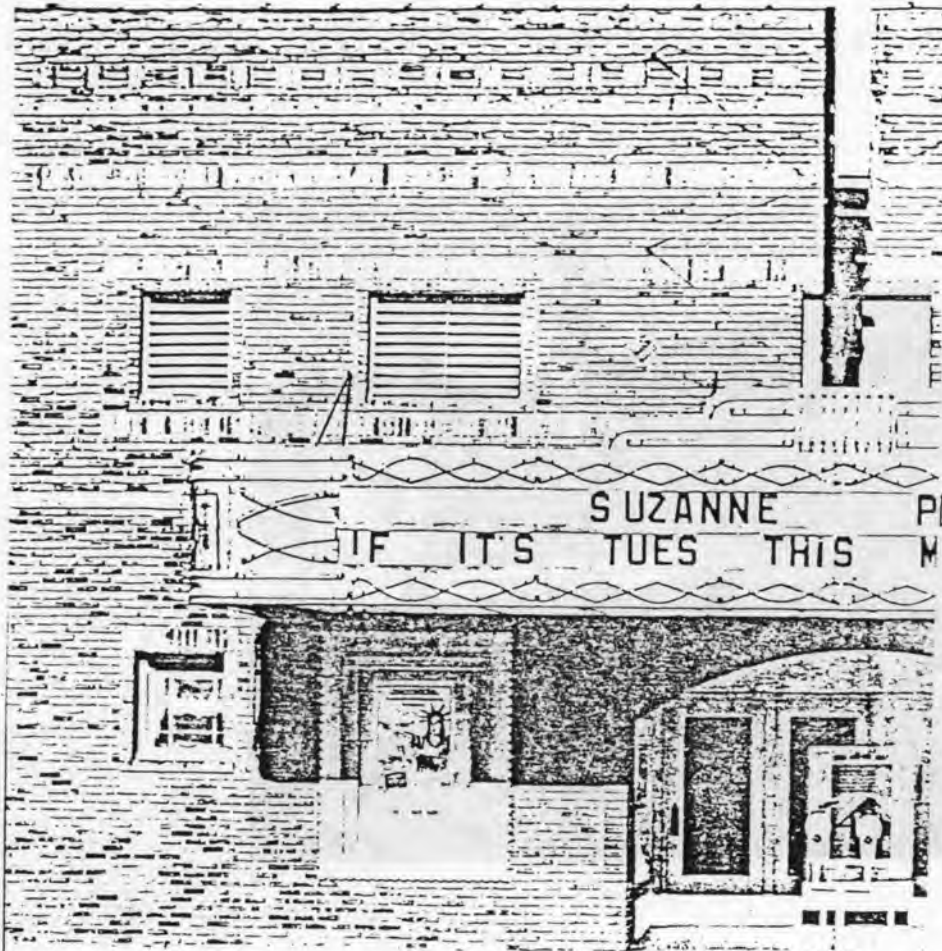
The classic lines of this horse-drawn hearse belonging to Mark Belt, Jr.; the netted funeral horse cloths; the rubber-tired, cut-under chassis of the vehicle; the posture of the driver lend a regal air to the final journey.

The Lewis Stable on Russel Street in the background is now the site of the Davis Theatre, 2008 Main Street, in Higginsville. Bob Blakely later owned and operated this funeral conveyance until 1918.

(Photo courtesy of Mrs. Claribelle B. Webber)







DAVIS THEATRE 2008 MAIN  
1933 to present  
CORBIN SKATING RINK 1933-33  
GLADISH MOTOR CAR COMPANY  
VANIDVER & GALLATIN MOTOR COM/  
USED CAR EXCHANGE 1927  
MODE ANSON IMPLEMENT COMPANY  
MODE ANSON & SONS 1919-1924  
WILL MADE WALKER 1918-1919  
BLAKELY BROS. TRANSFER 1912-  
W. H. LEWIS TRANSFER 1904-1  
PAYNE DOOTHERS LIVERY 1894.



3 July '68

# *Lyric Theater*

Sometime ago Roland Petering wrote about the era of silent movies. I don't remember seeing too many of them. I can recall seeing a Charlie Chaplin comedy or two and a silent movie with the "It" girl, Clara Bow. I

remember her with the "spit curl" bangs.

Being several years younger than Petering makes the difference. When I started dating, the nearby towns with sound tracks were readily accessible by car.



since U.S. 40 and U.S. 65 and Missouri 13 were already routes to these towns. The sound track made its debut in Concordia during 1932 or early 1933.

Prior to talking movies, the Lyric Theater was used for high school plays and graduation exercises. The graduation exercises for the class of 1932 were held in the Lyric. When the senior class of 1933 (my class) were going to have their class play, it had to be presented in the Lutheran school auditorium. Our graduation exercises were held in Central Park.

After the sound track was installed, the Lyric showed first-rate movies. Whatever connections the men in charge of getting the films had, they were excellent. Many times new releases with top Hollywood stars were shown in Concordia before the large theaters in Kansas City such as Lowe's Midland, billed them.

Films starred such Hollywood greats as Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh in "Gone With the Wind," also Gable and Jean Harlowe in "Red Dust," and Shirley Temple captured the hearts of movie goers in all her releases, but especially in "Little Miss Marker."

There were many movies featuring Elizabeth Taylor. The most memorable for me was "National Velvet," also starring Roddy McDowell. Jane Wyman (the first Mrs. Ronald Reagan) had one of her greatest roles in "Johnnie Belinda." One of the unforgettable movies during World War II was "Mrs. Miniver," starring Greer Garson and Walter Pidgeon.

The Bing Crosby movies, of which there were many, were always high caliber entertain-

ment. Crosby and Bob Hope made a series of movies commonly called the "road" movies, because the word "road" appeared in all of the titles.

Westerns featured Gene Autry, Hop-a-long Cassidy, and later Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, and John Wayne in "High Noon."

The "Thin Man" series, with Myrna Loy, or the "Aldrich Family," with Mickey Rooney. Who can forget the comics of "Ma and Pa Kettle" or Lou Costello and Bud Abbot?

We were also introduced to Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall, Carole Lombard, Greta Garbo, Marlene Dietrich, Ingrid Bergman and Lena Horne. This list is endless, but it must include Ronald Reagan. When I saw him on the screen so many years ago, the thought of ever having to make a choice between him and another man to be the President of the United States did not enter my mind. At that time, he was typed as a suave leading man, a character he still plays well.

When you attended a picture show in the Lyric, you saw a newsreel, a comedy and the featured picture. I especially remember one newsreel during World War II. The Concordian published that a newsreel would be shown of one of the South Pacific battles involving a marine company of which a Concordia boy was a member. The battle had been fierce and many young men had lost their lives. The news media had written much about the battle. Our hometown boy was one of the survivors. Needless to say, the Lyric was filled to capacity each night this newsreel was shown. People that

never attended movies were there. Everyone was sure they had caught a glimpse of Elmer, even though there was only a fleeting moment that the survivors appeared on the screen.

The Lyric Theater was above The Palace. Concordia was fortunate that there never was a serious fire at the picture shows. If there had been, it could have been disastrous, since the only exit to the show was a long, steep stairway. It would have been nearly impossible to have kept people from getting seriously hurt or killed.

When I was a teenager, a guy could take his date to the movies and afterwards stop for a hamburger, or tenderloin sandwich, with a milkshake or Coke at

Topsy's or the Favorite Cafe (if he had a car, they went to Shady Rest). The whole evening's entertainment and food for two, could be paid with a five dollar bill. If they were walking, there would be money left over for sure!

During this era, parents were not concerned about the things that were shown. The movies were family entertainment. Comedies were presented with no obscene overtones. About the only criticism was about love scenes being too "mushy," but there was not much danger that the young would look at them for very long, that sort of thing bored them and they lost interest.

When people talk of the good old days, this was part of it.

CHAUTAUQUA...In the first two decades of the century culture came to Concordia in the form of drama and music through the Chautauqua companies. These companies would come to town for five days a year and in a large tent on St. Paul's College Campus, and later in Central Park, draw good crowds at \$1.50 to \$2.00 per season ticket. "Mr. Yankie, field superintendent of the Vawter Chautauqua System said that Concordia was one of the best small Chautauqua towns on their circuit." ("Concordian"). (May 6, 1915). In the winter similar companies would come and present performances of music and drama. This was called "Lyceum." A favorite company that came to Concordia and surrounding towns for many years in the twenties and thirties was the Allen Brothers Tent Show. They presented five or six plays during their week's stay.

MOVIES..."Secco" Brockman, besides his many other accomplishments, is known for bringing the cinema to Concordia. He showed his picture shows upstairs in a building in the 500 block (west side) of Main Street. (This building is now occupied by Curt & Karol's Home Center.) Piano music was furnished by talented local girls. First movies were shown in 1909.

Later 'The Lyric' came into existence in the 700 block south end on east side of the street upstairs). Here "Secco" put up the first electric light sign in town. It had the word "Lyris" on it. When the Lyric presented its last show on August 30, 1959 it closed after 27 years and 3 months of continuous operation by Paul (Gimme) Oetting.

These paragraphs were taken from "Concordia, Missouri

A

Centennial History by

Harry R. Voigt. *deceased*

The book was published for Concordia's 100th anniversary, in 1960, by 1985 the copies were sold and for the 125th anniversary the Concordia Area Heritage Society had reprints made and these are still available at \$10.00 per book, plus postage.



The gentleman That wrote this is deceased

## THE FIRST OPERA HOUSE OR THEATRE. ←

CIRCA 1915-1920.

Printed in  
7-17-91

THIS WAS LOCATED ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE  
FARMER'S BANK BLDG. (BETWEEN BERGMAN'S  
DEPT. STORE AND THE HARDWARE STORE) NOW  
OCCUPIED BY THE ANTIQUE STORE.

IT WAS ARTFULLY DECORATED IN THEATRICAL  
"DECOR", EVEN THE LONG FRONT STAIRWAY.

THE STAGE WAS LOCATED ON THE EAST END,  
AND AS WAS CUSTOMARY THOSE YEARS THE FRONT  
DROP CURTAIN WAS MOSTLY ADVERTISEMENTS  
OF LOCAL MERCHANTS, AND IN THE CENTER WAS A  
SCENERY PICTURE, SOME OF THESE FRONT CURTAINS  
WERE A REAL WORK OF THEATRICAL ART.

THE SEATS WERE FOLDING CHAIRS, AND STRAIGHT  
BACK CHAIRS. THE TICKET SALES PERSON SAT AT  
THE FRONT DOOR AS YOU CAME UP THE FRONT STAIRS.

TRAVELING STOCK COMPANIES USUALLY  
PERFORMED HERE, ONE WEEK AT A TIME, A  
DIFFERENT PLAY EVERY NIGHT.

THE PERFORMERS STAYED AT THE  
"CENTRAL HOTEL" WHICH WAS NEARBY.

IT WAS HERE THAT I HAD MY FIRST TASTE  
OF THE WORLD OF THE "THE-A-TAH", ONE NIGHT,  
WHEN A BOY TRAVELING WITH THE SHOW  
FELL ILL, ~~AND~~ I WAS ASKED TO TAKE HIS PLACE

(MY DIALOGUE AND SALARY I DO NOT —  
REMEMBER.)

IT WAS HERE IN THIS BLOG. THAT THE  
"SILENT MOVIES" WERE INTRODUCED, THE  
PROJECTION MACHINE WAS HAND CRANKED, THE  
LIGHT FOR THE PROJECTOR WAS A CARBON-ARC  
LIGHT, IT WAS AN INTENSE WHITE LIGHT AND  
VERY HOT. (NOW THEY USE "HIGH-INTENSITY LIGHTS.")

THE "REELS" HAD TO BE RE-WOUND  
BEFORE THE NEXT "REEL" COULD BE SHOWN,  
DURING THIS TIME SOMEONE PLAYED THE PIANO.

THIS GAVE THE PROJECTOR A CHANCE TO  
COOL OFF BEFORE THE NEXT "REEL" WAS SHOWN.

THE "MOVIE HOUSE" WAS MOVED TO THE  
CORNER OF 8<sup>TH</sup> & MAIN, UPSTAIRS, BY MR.  
A. F. BROCKMAN ("SECCO") WHO MODERNIZED  
THE WHOLE OPERATION, WHEN HE QUIT, IT  
WAS OPERATED BY "GIMME" OETING FOR A  
LONG TIME. "GIMME" WOULD WALK AROUND  
TOWN, RING A BELL, AND ANNOUNCE THE TITLE  
OF THE SHOW HE WOULD BE SHOWING.

(THE AMERICAN LEGION & AUXILIARY USED  
THE OLD HALL FOR MEETINGS IN THE EARLY "40'S"  
IT WAS MADE INTO APARTMENTS LATER ON.)

WALTER W. ROSEBROCK.

# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Lawrence County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Jones' Theatre	Mount Vernon	yes _____ no _____
Opera House	Pierce City	yes _____ no _____

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Jones' Theatre	Mount Vernon	yes _____ no _____
Opera House	Pierce City	yes _____ no _____

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Jones' Theatre	Mount Vernon	yes _____ no _____
Opera House	Pierce City	yes _____ no _____

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

_____ books about specific theatres	_____
_____ photographs	_____
_____ newspaper articles	_____
_____ scrapbooks	_____
_____ county or town histories	_____
_____ other, please specify	_____

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

What days and times is your library open to the public? \_\_\_\_\_

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

Who is the best person to contact for more information? \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your assistance.**

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203



August 31, 1997

Lawrence County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 406  
Mount Vernon, MO 65712

Dear Lawrence County Historical Society Representative:

I am a graduate student in the Environmental Design Department at the University of Missouri - Columbia working on a PhD in Historic Preservation. My dissertation focuses on historic theatres, halls, and opera houses in outstate Missouri. I am attempting to compile a database of information about the theatrical venues which have existed in Missouri. I am particularly interested in the theatres and opera houses which still exist even if they are no longer functioning as a performance space. Eventually, I hope to produce a book about historic theatres in Missouri.

In your area, I am aware of the following theatres and am interested in any additional information about them that you can provide:

**Mount Vernon  
Pierce City**

**Jones' Theatre  
Opera House**

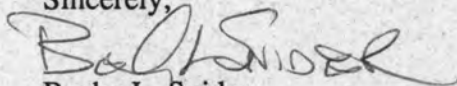
However, there may be or have been other theatres, halls, or opera houses in your area that I have yet to discover. I would appreciate your help in locating information about the theatres and opera houses in your area. I am enclosing a short questionnaire to help guide you to the type of information I am interested in obtaining.

For your convenience, I have enclosed a self-addressed, stamped envelope for you to return the questionnaire to me. In addition, I am enclosing a small donation to your organization

If your organization charges a fee for research inquiries, please advise me of the anticipated cost prior to beginning any searches. I can be reached by phone at (573) 443 - 3241 or you may simply send the information to me in the postage-paid enclosed envelope.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Becky L. Snider  
1008 Sunset Drive  
Columbia, MO 65203

Leader-Journal  
Pierce City, Missouri  
Circulation 941

Date FEB 10 1972

## New Owners for Historic Opera House Building



The three-story brick business building, a landmark in Pierce City, has been bought by Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Peters from the Walton family.

\*\*\*\*\*

The building was bought, Major Peters said, as an investment. Far off plans might involve removal of the third floor and use of the second floor for apartments.

The famous old landmark

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Peters signed a contract Monday for the purchase of the old three-story brick opera house building from the Walton family.

The new owners present plans are to lease the vacant east ground floor to a retail store.

was built here about 1882 at a reported cost of \$30,000 by C.A. Raupp.

It was originally an opera House and famed performers appeared in it, drawing audiences from miles around. Congressional conventions were held here several times because of the commodious building. It was owned by the Raupp family for many years.

Then for many years it was used as an armory for Pierce City National Guard units. It has since housed retail stores.

# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Lewis County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Miller & Starr Opera House	Canton	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Opera Hall		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Condit's Opera House		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Opera House		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Town Hall		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Oyster Opera House	La Grange	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Miller & Starr Opera House	Canton	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Opera Hall		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Condit's Opera House		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Opera House		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Town Hall		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Oyster Opera House	La Grange	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Miller & Starr Opera House	Canton	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Opera Hall		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Condit's Opera House		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Opera House		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Town Hall		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Oyster Opera House	La Grange	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? none

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

<input type="checkbox"/> books about specific theatres	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> photographs	<u>a few</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> newspaper articles	<u>a few</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> scrapbooks	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> county or town histories	<u>Lewis, Clark, Scotland &amp; Knox Cos.</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> other, please specify	_____

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

Information on Chattanooga in area.

What days and times is your library open to the public? Mon thru Fri 9 to 4 or week-ends by appointment

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times? yes ☒ no ☐

Who is the best person to contact for more information? Jean Purvines, Research Librarian 112 N 4th St Canton, Mo. 63435

**Thank you for your assistance.** Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203

(573) 288-5713



## The movies arrive

The Gem became part of a chain of movie houses when purchased in October, 1932, by William A. Collins of St. Louis. In the late 1930's, Collins purchased the Miller-Starr building. It was gutted to the walls, the third floor removed and a completely remodeled

building became the Canton Theater. The decoration was of the latest Art Deco or Moderne design. The use of art glass, color decorative work and neon lighting were especially noteworthy. The newly redone theater opened in November, 1937 with previews on Wednesday and Thursday showing a Jane Withers film, "Forty-five Fathers" and the grand opening on Friday and Saturday. The first regular feature shown was "Double or Nothing" starring Bing Crosby and Martha Raye.

"The new Canton Theater which will have its grand opening on Friday evening, November 12, is one of the newest and most up-to-date show houses in the state of Missouri. The cost of the structure will exceed \$35,000, and no town the size of Canton can boast of such a building, so complete in beauty, comfort and service."

"In this theater you will see the latest pictures at popular prices on a large screen from the most modern equipment and hear it from the latest type of RCA sound system. The theater is modern in every way with rest rooms for both ladies and gentlemen, a modern drinking fountain and everything for the comfort of the patrons."

"In this theater you will see the latest pictures at popular prices on a large screen from the most modern equipment and hear it from the latest type of RCA sound system. The theater is modern in every way with rest rooms for both ladies and gentlemen, a modern drinking fountain and everything for the comfort of the patrons."

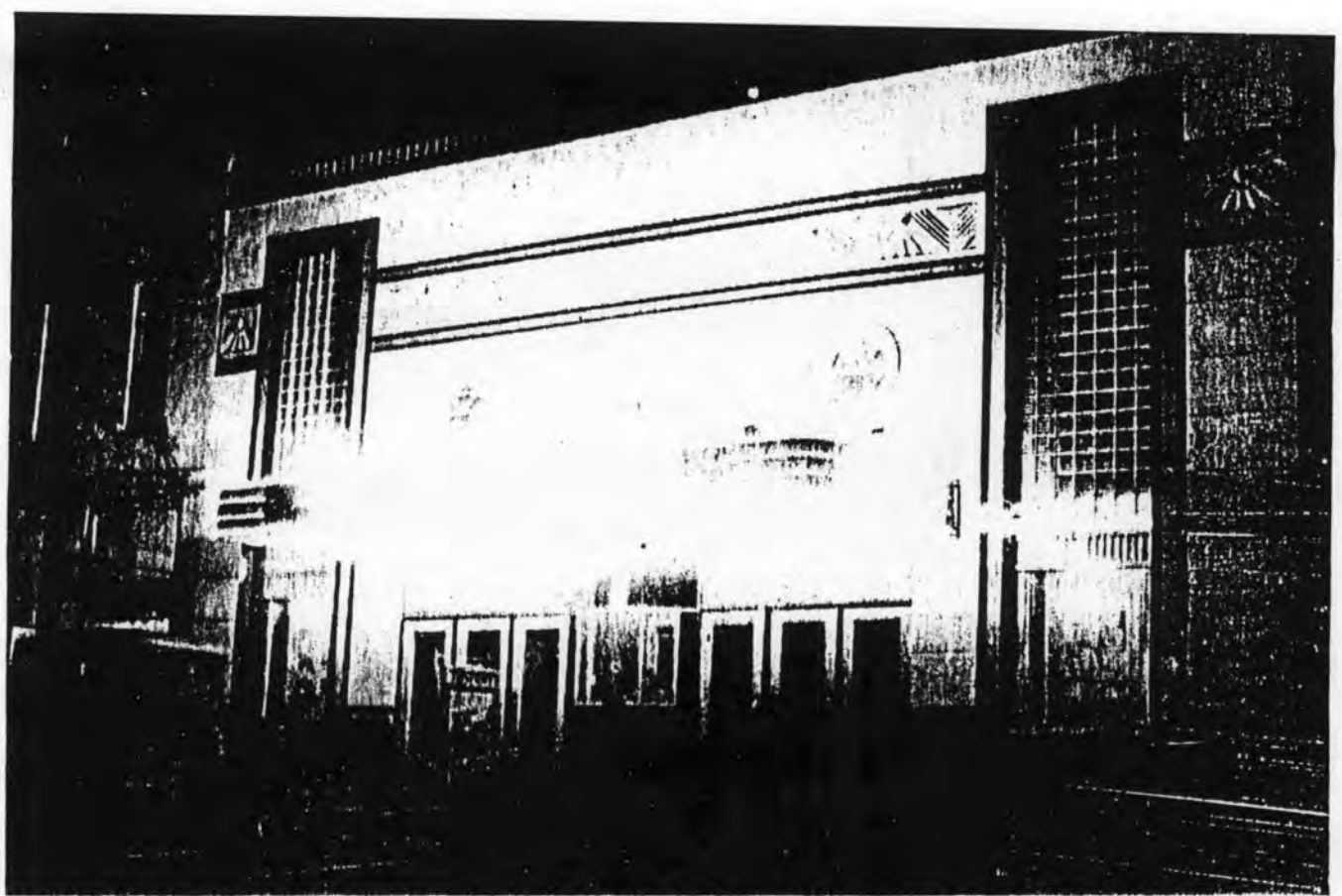
"The entire building is air conditioned, the air is washed by being drawn through sprays of water and then forced into the building. In the winter, the building is heated by a big oil burner"

The theater was quite successful through the late Thirties, Forties and Fifties. Like many other small theaters, the impact of television was too great of competition. Collins sold the operation to Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Walters. It was later owned by Mr. & Mrs. L.L. Parks and then purchased by Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Frye in 1969.

## C-S ownership

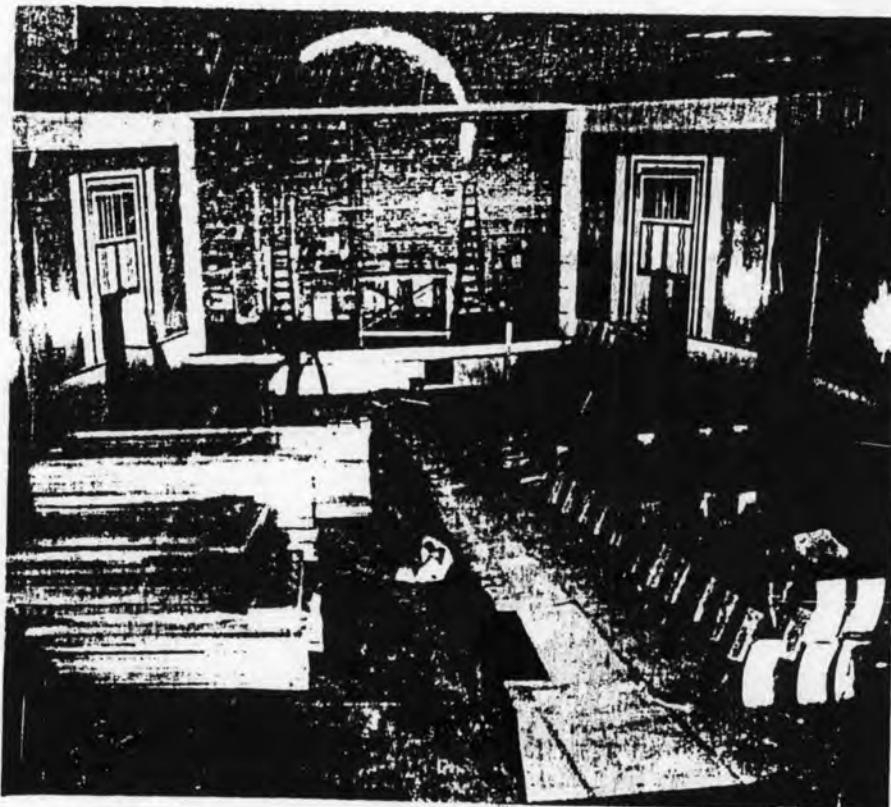
In 1974 an agreement was reached with Culver - Stockton College's Fine Arts Division to run the facility. Culver planned to keep the movie business operating as a service to the students as well as to the community. Plans were developed to also use the theater for live productions. After only three years of operation, the deficit of operating the theater was over \$11,000 and the college could no longer sustain the project. After serving as a place of entertainment for eighty-five years, the building closed its doors to the public in August of 1978.

The building was sold to Standard Machine Company in 1981. The theater seats, and projection equipment were all removed and the building was used for storage.



**Canton Theatre  
in 1938**

After removing the top story of the building, remodeling in the popular art deco style of the period included the installation of a facade that featured state of the arts glass brick, and a neon-lit marquee, the building looked like this in the late 1930s.



In 1981, the theater building was stripped of its last theatrical paraphernalia. Seats, fixtures and marquee canopy were removed and the building used for storage. The front portion of the building was used by The Frame Shop until 1992.



**THE CANTON THEATRE**, built as an opera house and now more than 80 years old, is still open for business. It was purchased by Culver-Stockton College with the aid of special gifts from the community.

## College, Community Join To Preserve Opera House

Once an opera house and later hailed as one of the finest movie theatres in the Midwest, the Canton Theatre appeared destined to go the way of most small town cinemas houses when it closed early in 1974.

Then, that fall, Culver-Stockton College, with the aid of special designated gifts from Canton residents, purchased the building and the county's only remaining motion picture theatre was back in business—preserving and using a local landmark.

Canton Theatre was originally Miller-Star Opera House, built in 1893 with an opera house on the upper floors of the three-story building and W.L. Lockwood Jeweler and Optician and the First National Bank on the ground floor. The opera house was remodeled into a movie theatre in the 1930s and the first motion picture shown was "Snow

White and the Seven Dwarfs."

In the remodeling, the third floor of the building was removed and the original brick covered with colored, decorative glass blocks. Originally arranged with 500 seats, the theatre now has 400 seats and features a wider screen than the original theatre. The building, now air-conditioned, originally was cooled by fans blowing over blocks of ice.

The theatre's stage once was used for talent shows, pageants and special community functions and college plans are to again make it a focal point of the community with live stage presentations and special motion picture series in addition to the regular attractions. The college operates the theatre as a laboratory of practical experience for students studying cinema and small business managements.

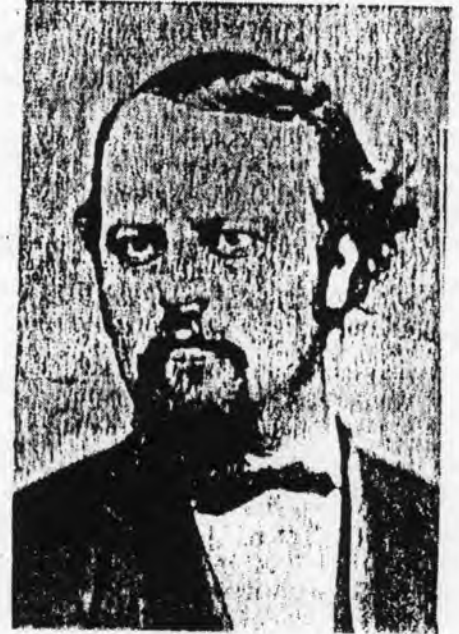


# Miller-Starr Opera House was Canton cultural center



## Canton showplace

The Miller-Starr Opera House as it appeared at the turn of the century. The three-story building had two business houses located on the first floor and two stairways for access to the upstairs opera house. Posters for coming attractions are on kiosk built around telephone pole at left.



AUGUSTUS JULIUS MILLER



N. D. STARR

# Building was later remodeled into moving picture theater

By Dr. Michael Kramme  
For the Press-News Journal

On December 6, 1893, over four hundred Cantonians paid one dollar each to be part of the social event of the year. They attended the grand opening of the Miller-Starr Opera House to see a production of a play entitled "Jolly Old Chums" or "Two Old Cronies". The production had a cast of twelve who also performed a skit entitled "The Indian Opera." The production received mixed reviews, but the new building won rave notices.

The event was chronicled by *The Canton Press*: "The building itself is one of modern pattern and would be a credit to a city of ten thousand inhabitants. It was designed by J.B. Legg & Co. of St. Louis, built under contract by Wm. R. Odor of this place, and finished inside and frescoed by Kansas City parties. Cut stone, pressed brick and ornamental iron pieces give it a harmonious, imposing and attractive front on Lewis street, inside, on an elevated floor and in the gallery are placed over 400 comfortable folding opera chairs, while on either side of the stage are arranged a neat private box. Seven large dressing rooms are placed under the stage and a side entrance is arranged for the players. The stage is 23x60 feet, and is supplied with plenty of sliding scenery and handsome drop and act curtains.

"The entire building is arranged for electric lighting, which will show off the beauty of the house to the best advantage. The building is two stories, 48x72 ft., and as now completed represents an investment of \$10,000, and will stand as a monument to the enterprise of its owners." The building was actually three stories, however the third floor may have been used only for storage.

*The Quincy Merchant and Manufacturer* also commented on the new structure "Canton, Mo., opened its fine new opera house Monday, 4th. It is not for us to say that it was done with proper eclat. Canton may not be a metropolis, but when it comes to doing things up in true metropolitan style it won't take a back seat for any one, and in its new opera house as in many other enterprises, it shows a spirit of progress commanding success."

## Noted nationally

*Julius Cahn's Theatrical Guide* was a book used by traveling companies. The 1906 edition provides additional information about the theater. It states that the seating capacity was 560. The illumination was electricity at 52 volts (This was at a time when several theaters still used gas lighting). The proscenium, or stage opening, was twenty-five feet wide and sixteen feet high. The stage was twenty five feet from the footlights to the back wall. The scenery loft was thirty feet high, and the grooves in which to slide scenery on and off stage could handle scenery sixteen feet high. About eight foot of space was under the stage and one trap door for special effects was located at the center of the stage. The Guide also noted that Canton was served by the Canton, Olive, Parke and Mohse Hotels.

The building was named for its owners, both prominent Canton businessmen. August Julius Miller was a grocer. He also served as mayor of Canton from 1882 to 1883.

He drowned in a fishing accident at the age of eighty five, less than two years after the opera house opened. Captain N. D. Starr owned the first shoe business in Canton, was briefly the editor of *The Canton News* and then in the lumber business as copropriator of The Starr & Zahn Lumber Co. for several years. The building was strictly a business proposition. Miller and Starr left the management of the theater to W.L. Lockwood and Frank H. Gross. The Opera House occupied the second floor of the structure and the bottom floor was originally occupied by W. L. Lockwood Jeweler and Optician on the east and the First National Bank on the west.

Within a few weeks of opening, on January 18, 1894, an announcement proclaimed, "The Fannie Hill Co. presents the brightest features of spectacle, burlesque opera, comedy brilliantly blended." Prior to the performance *The Canton Press* reminded readers, "The Fannie Hill comp'y is the same big company that appears in Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City and other cities. This is surely a treat. Don't miss it."

## Racy show panned

The performance caused a great flurry of discussion and *The Press* editor was somewhat chagrined to report after the performance, "The Fannie Hill Burlesque Co., which showed at the new opera house on Thursday of last week was the rockiest outfit ever seen in Canton and was not a decent show for 'men only.' Not a lady was in the audience or on the stage. One more variety show like Fannie Hill's and the new opera house will never pay expenses. The Quincy papers pronounced it the rottenest show that ever seen in that city, and one declared that the manager ought to be put in the penitentiary."

When it opened, the Miller-Starr was not the only opera house in Canton. Operating at the same time was Condit's Opera House.

Immediately under the announcement of the opening of the Miller Starr was mentioned, "Phoenix Club Co. opened last night at Condit's Opera House to a good audience with the laughable farce comedy, "Aristocracy." The Miller Starr also had other competition. Both the Empire in Quincy and the Grand Theater in Keokuk advertised in the Canton paper regularly.

Undaunted by the early controversy and competition, the Miller-Starr had the following professional attractions within just the first year of operation: The John Thomas Concert Co.; The Paragon Theater Co., which performed a full week of plays; The Frankenstein Orchestra, about whom *The Press* noted: "We like the Frankenstein Orchestra for simple reasons that notwithstanding the prevalence of the grip, none of the instrumentalists are troubled with bad colds or sore throats."

Also performing were The Metropolitan Orchestra; The Lyceum Theater Co., for one full week; John Dillon, an actor of national reputation; Mahara's Minstrels; "A Clean Sweep" by Andy Amann's Ten Comedians; The John Thomas Concert Co.; "For a Million" a musical comedy interspersed with specialties; and The French Co. whose engagement caused *The Press* editor to mention, "Some parties who had money for this have owed for groceries for months, and the merchant who was indulgent enough to let them have goods on credit has not been able to get a cent from them on account of "these hard times."



Paul Alexander Johnstone was advertised as a "reader of unuttered thoughts." Mr Johnstone amazed the local editor who reported "... his performance at the opera house showed he either possesses a powerful influence over the members of the committee he led all over the house blindfolded, or else he could read their minds like a book. Nothing could be concealed from him. He arranged the participants in a duel just as they had been placed by a member of the committee, he found a pinhole in the curtain on the stage, a flower on a lady's hat in the audience; in a mock murder he found the victim, the knife and the murder in different parts of the room; in fact, we believe he could find anything unless it was money in an editor's pocket ... Prof Johnstone came here advertised as a wonder; he left a profound mystery."

In addition to the professional performers, the opera house was host to numerous home talent productions and community events. The High School graduation exercises of 1893 were held in April. Thursday's closing exercises included the following program:

Overture .... Metropolitan Orchestra  
 Recitation... Roy Brooks  
 Song...four little girls  
 Recitation .... Rebecca Miller  
 Song, "What Are You Whispering About?"  
 Ora Henton and Pansy Condit  
 Orchestra  
 Dialogue ..... "Matrimonial Advertisement"  
 Grand Fancy Marching - 38 little girls  
 Recitation...Clifton Lynn  
 Song - "Sweet Nellie Bawn" Ora Henton  
 Orchestra  
 Soliloquy "The Inventors Wife," Peachie Ransom  
 Song - "Fare-Ye-Well, Daisy Bell" Fred Condit  
 Discussion - "Shall Our Mother's Vote?"  
 Song "Parla" (Speak Love) Miss Carrie Asbury  
 Orchestra  
 Song "Newsboys" Masters Gross, Henderson, Goodrich, Worley, Detwiler, McRoberts and Howard  
 Song "The Shaking Quakers" Mr. Wade Short and Misses Werly, Asbury, Wooders, Bourn, Ransom, Lupton and Nelson  
 Orchestra  
 May Pole  
 Goodnight

On the next evening the actual commencement exercises were held, the program for that included:

Overture  
 Opening Address  
 Essay "Give Unto Them Beauty for Ashes" Julia Waters  
 Essay "Memory Pictures" Mell Elizabeth Wooders  
 Essay "Only a Word" Ruby Lane Lupton  
 Essay "The Class of '94" Tillie May Werly  
 Valedictory Tyra B. Gunn  
 Address Pres. Wm. Evans, Bushnell, III  
 Presentation of diplomas with brief address by Prof. A. B. Price

## Local talent featured

Other locally produced events during the first year of operation included: Prof. Rayhill and Miss Julia Scofield "presenting readings and declamations assisted by the best musical talent in Canton." A few weeks later, Prof. Rayhill's class in elocution had a contest for the gold medal prize, the Hopkins Family, Miss Fannie Finley, Mrs. H. H. Barrett and Miss Carrie Smith furnished the music.

The young ladies of the Baptist church presented a pageant which *The Press* reported: "...every number reflected credit to the performers, the special feature was the kinder symphony, rendered by 14 young ladies in costume, telling in the language of music upon eight different instruments, a tale of 'ye olden time.' It was decidedly unique and highly appreciated. The little fairies also, in their carnival, shared the honors with their older sisters, receiving hearty applause. Miss Julia Scofield captivated the audience in her renditions, showing high elocutionary attainments. The receipts were sufficient for the ladies to clear nearly \$50. Later, "Mrs Perry gave an elocutionary entertainment. She has remarkable powers in this line and the training she gave her pupils is thorough as was evidenced by their masterly renditions on that evening. We regret that the audience was so small."

A Canton band, "Our Boys," presented a program that was: "varied and highly entertaining and was greeted by a full house. The mandolin, guitar, piano, horn and human voice, all combined to keep the rapt attention of the audience throughout the exercises. During the three weeks that Prof. Sullivan has been drilling the band boys, they have made such rapid progress that their renditions came as a pleasant surprise and shows that in their instructor they have secured a master artist. The Prof. announces in the six-months course he proposed to make the Canton Military Band the best in the state, and if their progress made so far is any criterion, he will surely accomplish his purpose."

## Public tastes change

Several local talent plays were also presented the first year of operation of the new facility. "Shamus O'Brein" a local talent benefit for the Canton Concert group netted \$25 to buy new instruments. "The Lost Mine" was given by the Canton Dramatic Co. A temperance drama "Ruined by Drink" was given a diplomatic review, "If we were to mention any [of the cast], we would be compelled to go through nearly the entire list of ladies and gentlemen who took part. The characters were well chosen and the piece so well received that owing to urgent request the piece will be repeated next Tuesday evening. A musical "Zanie" was also presented by the College Aid Society.

The Miller-Starr was busy for the first few years of its operation. However, in the early decades of the twentieth century the public's taste began to change. On January 27, 1911, the Gem Theater, a movie house, opened with a three reel film entitled "From the Manger to the Cross." This may have been the first motion picture ever seen in Canton. As the popularity of the motion pictures increased, as well as the development of radio, fewer traveling shows were able to survive on the road. By the late 1920's the opera house was virtually unused.



Lincoln County

November 4, 1997

Becky L. Snider  
1008 Sunset Drive  
Columbia, MO 65203

Dear Ms Snider:

Your letter of August 31 was given to me a week or so ago and I have just now had time to check into it.

THE TROY OPERA HOUSE. In 1890 Mr. L. J. Henry, built a large two story brick building to be known as the Opera House in order that Troy might have the convenience of such a hall. Stairs from the outside lead up to the second story. Mr. Henry was a shoemaker and repairer of shoes. He and his brother moved their business into the first floor. The upper floor became the social center of the town. A stage was provided for the performances of the entertainers, and seating for spectators. Stock Companies and local talent all appeared at the Opera House on various occasions. Plays, socials, balls, parties, carnivals, bazaars, musicals, stage shows along with dinners and church activities were held there. Plays given by local talent, those from neighboring towns and traveling troops all performed at one time or another. Motion picture shows were held with admission of 5 and 10 cents. At first the movies were shown at 2:30 in the afternoon. These early movies were all silent. "Because I Love You" was presented by the Kentucky Club, Elsberry brought their three act play to present to the citizens of Troy, and a traveling troop brought the light operetta, "A Mid Summer Eve." Churches would have fund raising projects there. The ladies of the Christian Church would serve meals, and the ladies of the Methodist Church held their annual Kandy Karnival and Bazaar's where oysters any style were served along with ice cream and cake. Their program consisted of Dickens' "Christmas Carol", Mrs. Spriggs and the Census Man and several quartets. Admission: adults, 10 cents; children 5 cents. The Catholic Church held a Valentine Ball. The Wright City Orchestra played for balls that were held at the Opera House.

The Opera House continued to be the center for social events until 1919 when it was sold to Albert and Lawrence Schaper and R. H. Kennedy, automobiles, for \$8,000. The building still stands and is a parts store for automobiles and small engines.

The first place of historic reference is what was known as an Open Dome Theater. The local watch maker Mr. Cass Stewart had a music and jewelry store located on the northeast corner of Collier and Main Street. He enclosed the east side of the lot with a solid board fence and in the summer operated the Idle Hour Air Dome Theater. During the summer months silent movies were shown on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evenings, with a new program each evening. Admission was 5 cents and 10 cents. On Sunday nights the churches would hold union services there.

With the closing of the Livery Stable on Main Street Mr. Joe Wells and Burt Brown remodeled the building and opened the B. J. Motion Picture theater. On Friday, October 1916 opening night, the all silent movie was Irene Fenwick and Cyril Keightley in THE SPENDTHRIFT, in six reels. Saturday night featured Henry B. Walthall in BIRTH OF A MAN shown in five reels. Admission was adults 10 cents and children over 6 and under 12, 5 cents. Doors opened at 7 shows started at 7:45. I do not know how long this operated.

As early as 1923 adds for the Colonial Theater appeared in THE TROY FREE PRESS. This was located on the northeast corner of Cap-au-Gris and Main Street. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rudolph of St. Louis bought the theater in June 1934. On Christmas day 1939 the building burned. Following this a few movies were shown in Bonfils Auditorium, but for the most part the town was without a motion picture theater until May 6, 1940, when owner Charles Rudolph opened the theater in the Old Hanni building on the southeast corner of Main and Collier. Upon moving the name was changed to the Trojan. This theater continued operating, showing films until 1987. This building still stands

Troy was without a theatre until 1995 when the PLAZA CINEMA 4 opened at #7 The Plaza Troy located off Hwy 47 and is still in operation.

The featured Chatauqua came to Troy beginning with the year 1913. The program resembled those held at Chautauqua, New York, consisting of lectures, home study, concerts, etc. The programs were thoroughly un-denominational and non-political and people of all creeds and parties co-mingled. The first chautauqua to be held in Troy was in 1913. The program ran from August 10 to 16 and was put on by the Mid-West Company of Kansas City. Not only was this for adults, but there was a children's Chautauqua. Advance financing for the guaranteed amount was provided by soliciting business people. In 1916 one of the main speakers on the Chautauqua Circuit was William Jennings Bryan, a well known Democratic figure. In 1929 the chautauqua was held in the newly constructed Bonfils Auditorium. The program was known as the College Circuit, which visited many of the colleges throughout the state. Because of insufficient funding this was the last of the Chautauqua in Lincoln County.

The circus has been an important part of the summer entertainment of the town. In 1906 "The Sells-Floto Circus" the second largest circus in the nation came to town. Usually they did not appear in towns as small as Troy, but in recognition of the home town of owner Mr. Fred Bonfils they visited Troy.

Another large circus to come to town was in 1915 when Gollmar Circus combined Herr Driesbock's Trained Wild Animals with three rings and three stages set up in town.

I am familiar only with the theaters of Troy. However Mrs. Olive Reeves, Historian and Genealogist for the Palmer Library at Elsberry, MO could possibly give you help, as she is more informed about the eastern part of Lincoln County. Write to her c/o the Joseph Palmer Library, Elsberry Mo 63389 and I am sure she will receive it.

As to books about specific theatres and photographs I am not aware of them. We do have newspapers and town history. Most of the above information came from Historical Book on Troy published in 1994. As a person to contact I have probably the most of any one person in Troy. If I can I would be glad to be of further help.

Sincerely,

*Margaret W. Clare*

Margaret W. Clare  
363 S. Lincoln Dr.  
Troy, MO 63379



Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Grand River Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

City Hall	Chillicothe	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Luella Grand		yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Majestic		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Platter's Hall		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

City Hall	Chillicothe	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Luella Grand		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Majestic		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Platter's Hall		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

City Hall	Chillicothe	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Luella Grand		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Majestic		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Platter's Hall		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? NONE

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

<input type="checkbox"/> books about specific theatres	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> photographs	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> newspaper articles	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> scrapbooks	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> county or town histories	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, please specify	_____

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

no

What days and times is your library open to the public? APRIL 1. To OCT. 31 on  
TUESDAY & SUNDAY FROM 1 TO 4 - P.M.

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

YES CALL DR FRANK STARK 660-646-4323

Who is the best person to contact for more information? \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your assistance.**

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203

# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Macon County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Blees Theatre ✓	Macon	yes ✓	no
Logan Theatre ✓		yes ✓	no
Jobson Opera House ✓	<i>Logan &amp; Royal 4 same</i>	yes	no ✓
Royal Theatre ✓	<i>Visible on</i>	yes ✓	no
Wright's Opera House ✓	<i>Building being repaired</i>	yes ✓	no
Forester's Opera House	Bevier	yes	no ✓
La Plata Opera House	La Plata	yes	no ✓

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Blees Theatre (2)	Macon	yes ✓	no
Logan Theatre (3)		yes ✓	no
Jobson Opera House	<i>Royal</i>	yes	no
Wright's Opera House (1)	<i>now carousel</i>	yes ✓	no
Forester's Opera House	<i>Productions perform in the Theatre</i>	yes ✓	no
La Plata Opera House	Bevier	yes ✓	no ✓
	La Plata	yes	no ✓

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Blees Theatre	Macon	yes	no
Logan Theatre		yes	no
Jobson Opera House		yes	no
Wright's Opera House		yes	no
Forester's Opera House	Bevier	yes	no
La Plata Opera House	La Plata	yes	no

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

✓ books about specific theatres	<i>History of Randolph &amp; Macon Co Mo. 1884 P. 777</i>
✓ photographs	<i>News Items -</i>
✓ newspaper articles	
✓ scrapbooks	
✓ county or town histories	
other, please specify	<i>Macon Chamber Sold to Todd Davison 11/1/1991</i>

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area? *9/10/1962*

*Schaffner Players "Toby & Susy" Macon Chronicle-Herald p. 8 9/13/1962*

What days and times is your library open to the public? *Mon, Wed & Fri. 10 AM to 5 PM.*

*Tues, Thurs 12 - 8 PM. Sat. 10 AM to 3 PM.*

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times? yes \_\_\_\_\_ no ✓

Who is the best person to contact for more information? *Todd Davison (660) 385-2555*

*also at Ugly Duckling Antiques or Macon Cinema, Hwy 63N, 385-5550*

Thank you for your assistance.

Madison County

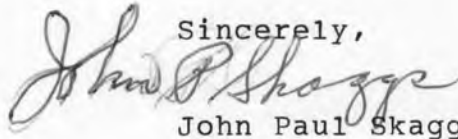
JOHN PAUL SKAGGS  
2 MAPLE COURT  
FREDERICKTOWN, MO 63645

Dear Becky L. Snider,

Your request for information was given to me. There has been no research locally on theatres. We do not have any collected information. Newspaper articles could be collected from the microfilm copies of the local paper. There is still a lot of oral history about theatres.

I have never heard of the New Theatre but the Mercier Theatre was also called the Palace. I know nothing of the AOUW Hall at Marquand but movies were shown in Marquand in the late 30's. The Baird Opera House is familiar, and also the Lyric. The facade of the Mercier Theatre still stands on the Courthouse Square. We had an outdoor theatre on Main Street, called the Airdome. There also was an electric park on West Main where movies were shown. There was a drive-in theatre called the Hi Y Theatre located northeast of Fredericktown. None are in operation now.

I might be able to come up with a picture of the Palace-Mercier Theatre. If I can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

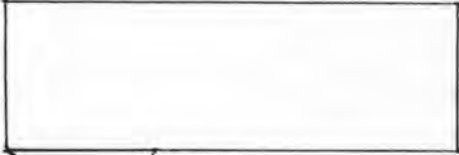
Sincerely,  
  
John Paul Skaggs.



# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

## ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

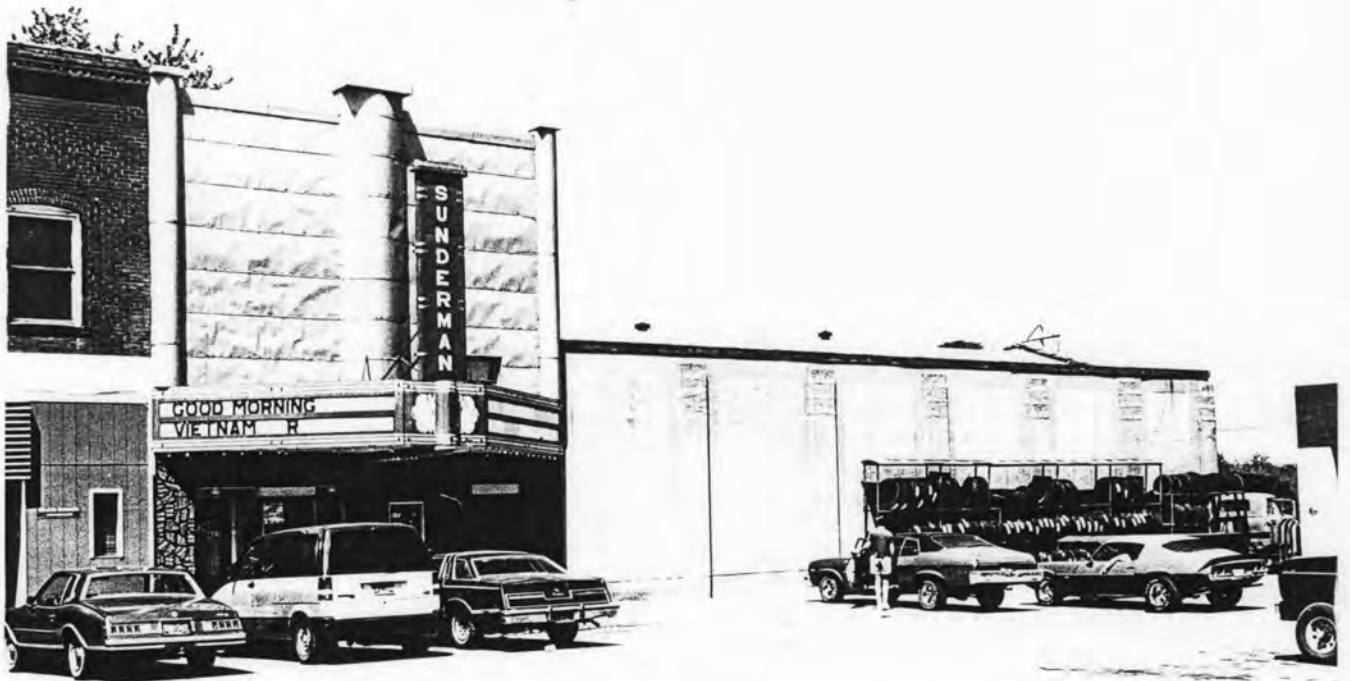
A-26

1. NO.	4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) Sunderman Theater	
2. COUNTY Madison	5. OTHER NAME(S) Bankers Trust Co.'s Bldg, Mercier Theater	
3. LOCATION OF NEGATIVES		
6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP 33N RANGE 7E SECTION 8 IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS Court Square	16. THEMATIC CATEGORY	28. NO. OF STORIES 2
7. CITY OR TOWN IF RURAL, VICINITY Fredericktown, MO 63645	17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD 1908-1927	29. BASEMENT YES( ) NO (x)
8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION  N →	18. STYLE OR DESIGN Art deco	30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL Concrete
 Court Square	19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER	31. WALL CONSTRUCTION Brick
	20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER	32. ROOF TYPE & MATERIAL Low Gable/Asphalt
	21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT movie theatre, bank	33. NO. OF BAYS FRONTDDD SIDE
	22. PRESENT USE movie theatre	34. WALL TREATMENT Stucco/Form Stone
	23. OWNERSHIP PUBLIC ( ) PRIVATE ( )	35. PLAN SHAPE rectangular
24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS IF KNOWN Robert L. Sunderman Court Square	25. OPEN TO PUBLIC YES(x) NO ( )	36. CHANGES ADDITION( ) (EXPLAIN IN ALTERED { ) NO.42) MOVED ( )
26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION H & L Commission	27. OTHER SURVEY IN WHICH INCLUDED	37. CONDITION INTERIOR Poor EXTERIOR Fair
9. COORDINATES LAT LONG	UTM	38. PRESERVATION YES( ) UNDERWAY NO (x)
10. SITE( ) BUILDING(x)	STRUCTURE( ) OBJECT( )	39. ENDANGERED YES( ) BY WHAT NO (x)
11. ON NATIONAL YES( ) REGISTER NO ( )	12. IS IT YES( ) ELIGIBLE NO ( )	40. VISIBLE FROM YES( ) PUBLIC ROAD NO ( )
13. PART OF YES( ) ESTAB. DISTRICT NO (x)	14. DISTRICT YES(x) POTENTIAL NO ( )	41. DISTANCE FORM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD 6 Feet
15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT		
42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES Two story at the project- ion booth. Marquis with name and lights covers sidewalk and tucket book. Walls are covered with an artificial stone of random field		PHOTO MUST BE PROVIDED
43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE First appears on 1908 Sanborn map as part of the Banker's Trust Co. Bldg. The 1914 Sanborn map shows the area as not having any buildings. Douglasses' History of SE Missouri does mention a series of calamities which all but destroyed the business district of Fredericktown. Three occurred prior to its publication in 1912.		
44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS Central Business District - Court Square		
45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION History of Southeast Missouri by Robert Douglas 1912 ; Black Cat Yearbook 1960, Sanborn maps 1908-1914-1927		46. PREPARED BY Denis Moore
RETURN THIS FORM WHEN COMPLETED TO: OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED, ATTACH P.O. BOX 176 SEPARATE SHEET(S) TO THIS FORM JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102		47. ORGANIZATION H & L Commission
		48. DATE 2-22-88
		49. REVISION DATE(S)

42. stone pattern. Above the marquee is a metal covering of an art deco vintage containing a decorative pediment. From the marquee north the walls are covered with a pinkish border - a matte effect.
43. The 1927 Sanborn map shows the current building with some alteration to the 1908 dimensions. These include room for a stage and scenery.

1. NAME OF BUILDING		2. ADDRESS		3. CITY OR TOWN		4. STATE		5. COUNTY		6. ZIP CODE	
7. DATE OF CONSTRUCTION		8. ARCHITECT		9. OWNER		10. PRESENT USE		11. HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE		12. PHOTOGRAPH	
13. MATERIAL		14. STYLE		15. COLOR		16. HEIGHT		17. AREA		18. VOLUME	
19. FOUNDATION		20. ROOF		21. WALLS		22. FLOORS		23. CEILING		24. INTERIOR	
25. EXTERIOR		26. INTERIOR		27. STAIRS		28. ELEVATOR		29. PLUMBING		30. ELECTRICAL	
31. HEATING		32. COOLING		33. LIGHTING		34. SOUND		35. VENTILATION		36. SECURITY	
37. ACCESSIBILITY		38. PARKING		39. TRAFFIC		40. ENVIRONMENT		41. LANDSCAPE		42. SURROUNDINGS	
43. COMMENTS		44. NOTES		45. REFERENCES		46. SOURCES		47. DATES		48. BY	

49. REVIEWED BY		50. DATE		51. REVIEWED BY		52. DATE	
53. COMMENTS		54. DATE		55. REVIEWED BY		56. DATE	






# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

## ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

C-16

SW-AS-036-048

1. NO.		4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) Seabaugh Furniture, Inc.	
2. COUNTY Madison		5. OTHER NAME(S) Schwanner Building	
3. LOCATION OF NEGATIVES			
6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP 33N RANGE 7E SECTION 8 IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS 145 East Main		16. THEMATIC CATEGORY	28. NO. OF STORIES 2
7. CITY OR TOWN IF RURAL, VICINITY Fredericktown		17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD 1890c	29. BASEMENT YES( ) NO( )
8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION 		18. STYLE OR DESIGN commercial	30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL rock/concrete
		19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER	31. WALL CONSTRUCTION brick
		20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER	32. ROOF TYPE & MATERIAL flat/tar
		21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT commercial	33. NO. OF BAYS cont. page FRONT SIDE
		22. PRESENT USE furniture store/apartments	34. WALL TREATMENT stretcher
		23. OWNERSHIP PUBLIC ( ) PRIVATE (x)	35. PLAN SHAPE rectangle
9. COORDINATES UTM LAT LONG		24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS IF KNOWN Bob Seabaugh 301 Williams Fredericktown	36. CHANGES ADDITION( ) (EXPLAIN IN ALTERED NO. 42) MOVED ( )
10. SITE( ) BUILDING(x) STRUCTURE( ) OBJECT( )		25. OPEN TO PUBLIC YES(x) NO( )	37. CONDITION INTERIOR EXTERIOR good
11. ON NATIONAL REGISTER YES( ) NO( )		26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION H. & L. C.	38. PRESERVATION UNDERWAY YES( ) NO(x)
12. IS IT ELIGIBLE YES( ) NO( )		27. OTHER SURVEY IN WHICH INCLUDED	39. ENDANGERED BY WHAT YES( ) NO(x)
13. PART OF ESTAB. DISTRICT YES( ) NO(x)			40. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD YES(x) NO( )
14. DISTRICT POTENTIAL YES( ) NO( )			41. DISTANCE FROM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD
15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT			
42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES Original building with machicolated cornice and rounded arch windows with keystones intact. However, shingle covered pent roofs used as canopies cover the (cont. Page):			PHOTO MUST BE PROVIDED
43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE Built by Carl Schwanner as a grocery, hardware and general store with a millinery store in back. It had a balcony which allowed it to be used as an opera house while still being a store. It also had one of the first elevators in town. It still has the only elevator in town and it still works. Upstairs there was a shirt factory (cont. page)			
44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS In central business district. Located on the corner of State Highway 72 and East Main.			
45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION Photo in H. & L. C. office. Sanborn Maps 1893, 1900, 1908, 1914, 1927. Interviews with Ruth Skaggs, Lucina Kassabaum, Lillian Lacey, 6-15-88.			46. PREPARED BY Denis Moore
RETURN THIS FORM WHEN COMPLETED TO: OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED, ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET(S) TO THIS FORM			47. ORGANIZATION H. & L. C.
P.O. BOX 176 JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102			48. DATE 6-20-88
			49. REVISION DATE(S)

145 East Main  
C-16 Continuation Page

33. wwwdwww,wwwwwww

42. first half of the upstairs windows and a much larger pent roof serves as an overhang for the storefront windows.

43. during the 1920's and 1930's. The 1908 Sanborn Map indicates the "Lyric Theater" on the second floor. The store remained in the family and operated by his sons until the mid 1950's.

# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

C-16

2. COUNTY Madison

4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S)

Seabaugh Furniture, Inc.

5. OTHER NAME(S)

Schwanner Building



STORIES

PRESENT YEAR NO.

CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL

CONSTRUCTION

TYPE &amp; MATERIAL

BAYS cont. page SIDE

TREATMENT

SHIP/Erect angle

 ADDITION ( )  
 MAIN IN ALTERED ( )  
 MOVED ( )

INTERIOR

 DEGRADATION YES ( )  
 REPAIR NO ( )

 DANGERED YES ( )  
 WHAT NO ( )

 REMOVED FROM YES ( )  
 PUBLIC ROAD NO ( )

 13. PART OF YES ( )  
 ESTAB. DISTRICT NO ( )

 14. DISTRICT YES ( )  
 POTENTIAL NO ( )

27. OTHER SURVEY IN WHICH INCLUDED

15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT

41. DISTANCE FROM END FRONTAGE ON ROAD

42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES Original building with machicolated cornice and rounded arch windows with keystones intact. However, shingle covered pent roofs used as canopies cover the (cont. page)

 PHOTO MUST  
 BE PROVIDED

43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE Built by Carl Schwanner as a grocery, hardware and general store with a millinery store in back. It had a balcony which allowed it to be used as an opera house while still being a store. It also had one of the first elevators in town. It still has the only elevator in town and it still works. Upstairs there was a shirt factory. (cont. page)

44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS In central business district. Located on the corner of State Highway 72 and East Main.

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46. PREPARED BY Denis Moore

47. ORGANIZATION H. &amp; L. C.

 RETURN THIS FORM WHEN COMPLETED TO: OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED, ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET(S) TO THIS FORM  
 P.O. BOX 176  
 JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102

48. DATE 6-20-88

49. REVISION DATE(S)



Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire**Heritage Seekers**

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Franklin Theatre	Palmyra	yes _____ no <u>X<sup>3</sup></u>
Hanley's Opera House		yes <u>X</u> no _____

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Franklin Theatre	Palmyra	yes _____ no <u>X<sup>2</sup></u>
Hanley's Opera House		yes _____ no <u>X</u>

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

* Franklin Theatre	Palmyra	yes _____ no <u>X<sup>2</sup></u>
Hanley's Opera House		yes <u>X</u> no _____

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? \_\_\_\_\_

We know nothing about the Franklin Theatre

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

Our local historian says very little is available

- ☐ books about specific theatres  
☐ photographs  
☐ newspaper articles  
☐ scrapbooks  
☐ county or town histories  
☒ other, please specify Corby Jacobs our local historian says there was an auditorium in the Phoenix Hotel - now torn down in the late 1970's

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

Not at handWhat days and times is your library open to the public? Tues 10-11:30, 12:30-7:00 p.m.; Mon, Wed - Fri - 12:30pm - 5:00 p.m.; Sat. 10:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

YesWho is the best person to contact for more information? Mary Carol Lundbloom Librarian, Palmyra Bicentennial Library during library hours 12:30-5<sup>00</sup> M-F over ①**Thank you for your assistance.**

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203

\* Hanley's Opera House - now is  
 Turner Seed Co - Keith Turner owner  
 202 E Main Cross  
 Palmyra, MO 63761

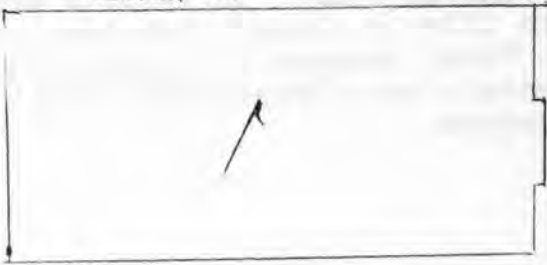
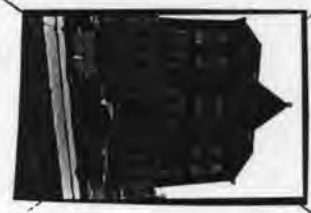
573-69-3027 or 3654 over ②

① I may have material in the basement of the Library in the Pierian Club Scrapbooks there it would take a lot of work to sift it out. May Carol may know of other sources

② Kathleen Wilham of Shelbyville could possibly help you.

Roberta Hagood to Hannibal has historical resources.

State Historical Survey and Planning Office, State Capitol Building, Room B-25,  
**HISTORIC INVENTORY** Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

1 No		4. Present Name(s) Park Theatre		82MA0031	
2 County Marion		5. Other Name(s) Masonic Temple			
3 Location of Negatives Hannibal City Hall					
6 Specific Location 117 N. Fifth Street Lot #4, Block 29		16. Thematic Category		28. No. of Stories 3	
7 City or Town If Rural, Township & Vicinity Hannibal, MO 63401		17. Date(s) or Period constructed 1882		29. Basement? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
8 Site Plan with North Arrow CENTER ST. N FIFTH ST		18 Style or Design		30. Foundation Material rusticated ashlar	
		19. Architect or Engineer David Dubach		31. Wall Construction brick	
		20. Contractor or Builder		32. Roof Type & Material mansard gambrel, comp.	
		21. Original Use, if apparent theater		33. No. of Bays Front 5 Side 7	
		22. Present Use fraternal organization		34. Wall Treatment common bond	
		23. Ownership Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		35. Plan Shape rectangular	
		24. Owner's Name & Address, if known Masonic Temple Assn. of Hannibal, Inc., 117 N. Fifth St., Hannibal, MO 63401		36. Changes (Explain in #42) Addition <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	
9 Coordinates Lat Long		25. Open to Public? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		37. Condition Interior fair Exterior fair	
10 Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>		26. Local Contact Person or Organization		38. Preservation Underway? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
11. On National Register? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		27. Other Surveys in Which Included  none		39. Endangered? By What? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
12. Is it Eligible? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>				40. Visible from Public Road? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
13. Part of Estab. Hist. Dist.? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				41. Distance from and Frontage on Road on street/60'	
14. District Potent'l? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>					
15. Name of Established District					
42. Further Description of Important Features First floor of front is white painted limestone. Projecting center bay is gabled; gable has several decorative courses in brickwork. Center door is flanked by half-columns and hemispheres and has Masonic insignia set in lunette over lintel. Second floor has center lunette formed by brick relieving arch and now filled with two double hung windows set in stucco. Some third floor win-					
					
43. History and Significance The Park Theatre opened with the play <u>Hazel and Kirk</u> . It had a stage 65' long and 45' deep, seating for 1100 including a balcony and a gallery, and an orchestra pit. Hannibal's position as a railroad junction attracted many stars, from Richard Mansfield and Sidney Drew to Wallace Beery and George M. Cohan, and including George Arliss, Maude Adams, Lew Fields, Lillian Russell and					
44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings The building faces Central Park to the east, with churches to the north, south and west.					
45. Sources of Information The Story of Hannibal (1976), pp. 79, 109, 111, 136, 198. Illustrated, Mirror of Hannibal (1905), p. 251.					
46. Prepared by E. Hamilton					
47. Organization Landmarks Comm.					
48. Date 6/79					
49. Revision Date(s)					

Marion

Park Theatre

Masonic Temple  
117 North Fifth



#42. (cont'd)

dows are round-headed, all are partially filled in by grey-painted panelling. On north side almost all openings have been bricked in (many apparently designed to be blind) except for four street level doors. Brickwork on sides has complex pattern of recessions, relieving arches and coffers. Two black-painted fire escapes have been installed on the north side.

#43. (cont'd)

William S. Hart. Ernestine Schumann-Heink sang here and Victor Herbert played the cello. Mark Twain gave out High School Diplomas here in 1902. Built by David Dubach, of a lumbering family, it was operated for many years by John B. Price, who also managed the Park Hotel across Central Park. In 1913, a screen was installed for showing silent movies, and in 1924 it closed, two years after the Orpheum opened a block south. The Masonic Order assumed the property in 1915, and they kept it available for entertainments on a lease basis until 1939 when the interior was remodeled for Masonic purposes.

Office of Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

**HISTORIC INVENTORY**

1 No.		4 Present Name(s) Mozart Hall	
2 County Marion		5 Other Name(s) 80MA0008 82MA0012	
3 Location of Negatives Hannibal Arts Council			
6 Specific Location 407-409 Broadway W 40 5/6 ft. of E 102 ft. Lot 4 W 40 5/6 ft. of E 102 ft of N 2/3		16 Thematic Category	
7 City or Town, Block, Township & Vicinity Hannibal		17 Date(s) or Period constructed c. 1871	
8 Site Plan with North Arrow		18 Style or Design Italianate	
		19 Architect or Engineer	
		20 Contractor or Builder	
		21 Original Use, if apparent commercial	
		22 Present Use commercial	
9 Coordinates UTM Lat Long		23 Ownership Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
10 Site Building Structure Object		24 Owner's Name & Address, if known George J. Rupp, Jr. 407-409 Broadway	
11 On National Register? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		25 Open to Public? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
12 Is II Eligible? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		26 Local Contact Person or Organization PD Tobacco & Grace Baptist Church	
13 Part of Estab Hist Dist? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		27 Other Surveys in Which Included none	
14 District Potent'l? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		28 No. of Stories 3	
15 Name of Established District		29 Basement? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
42 Further Description of Important Features The upper part of the building has been altered: the cornice and frieze replaced by a plain brick parapet; 3rd floor windows paneled shut; 2nd floor windows reduced in size. Windows retain iron surrounds--round on 3rd floor, segmental-arched on 2nd. Rusticated quoins at edges of facade. The street level has largely intact store fronts, with rope moldings & modillioned cornice. The center door, which led to the original hall upstairs, has been replaced.		30 Foundation Material stone	
43 History and Significance William League sold this site to two men, Frank McReynolds and Noah S. Donley (or Donneley) in 1870 for \$4205. In 1871, McReynold's interest passed to W. D. Waller, and he was probably the force behind the creation of the "Mozart Hall", a large meeting hall on the third floor of the building. It was used for a wide variety of cultural and recreational (over)		31 Wall Construction brick	
44 Description of Environment and Outbuildings Lots 3 and 4 of this block have five historic commercial buildings.		32 Roof Type & Material flat	
45 Sources of Information "Bird's Eye View of Hannibal," (1869) Van Sant, Diagram of Hannibal (1875), p. 15. Hannibal Courier Trade Review (Jan. 1879) Hagood, Story of Hannibal (1976), p. 69--wrong location Hannibal Courier Post, Dec. 1910; Feb. 12, 1952		33 No. of Bays Front 5 Side --	
		34 Wall Treatment common bond, painted	
		35 Plan Shape rectangular	
		36 Changes (Explain in #42) Addition <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	
		37 Condition Interior Exterior fair	
		38 Preservation Underway? Yes No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		39 Endangered? By What? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		40 Visible from Public Road? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
		41 Distance from and Frontage on Road on street/40'10"	
		46. Prepared by Esley Hamilton	
		47. Organization Hannibal Arts Council	
		48 Date 1/40 Revision Date 1/80	

43. (cont.) activities; for instance in 1877 a roller skating exhibition was held there. Waller (b. 1845) had a grocery in the same building in partnership with his brother-in-law, H. F. Morris. He was the son of Frederick Waller (1811-1899), a German immigrant and partner of Lot Southard in a shoe store.

45. (cont.) 1850 census; Portrait and Biographical Record (1895), p. 735.



State Historical Survey and Planning Office, State Capitol Building, Room B-25,  
**HISTORIC INVENTORY** Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

1 No		4. Present Name(s) Orpheum Theater		807A0013	
2 County Marion		5. Other Name(s) Triune Cathedral		807A0014 16	
3 Location of Negatives Hannibal City Hall		16. Thematic Category		28. No. of Stories 3	
6. Specific Location 425 Broadway W. 20.5' Lot 5, all Lot 6; E. 42' of N Half Lot 7, BLK25		17 Date(s) or Period opened January 1922		29. Basement? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
7 City or Town If Rural, Township & Vicinity Hannibal, MO 63401		18. Style or Design neo-Classical		30. Foundation Material	
8 Site Plan with North Arrow		19 Architect or Engineer		31. Wall Construction brick and reinforced concrete	
		20. Contractor or Builder		32. Roof Type & Material flat	
		21. Original Use, if apparent movie theater		33. No. of Bays Front 3 Side 12	
		22 Present Use church		34. Wall Treatment Flemish bond	
		23 Ownership Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		35. Plan Shape L-shaped	
		24. Owner's Name & Address, if known Frisina Enterprises, Inc. 425 Broadway Hannibal, MO 63401		36. Changes (Explain in #42) Addition <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	
9 Coordinates UTM Lat Long		25. Open to Public? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		37 Condition Interior Exterior fair	
10 Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>		26. Local Contact Person or Organization		38. Preservation Underway? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
11 On National Register? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		27. Other Surveys in Which Included none		39. Endangered? By What? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
12 Is Eligible? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>				40 Visible from Public Road? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
13 Part of Estab. Hist. Dist.? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				41 Distance from and Frontage on Road on street/20.5'	
14 District Potent'l? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>					
15 Name of Established District					
42 Further Description of Important Features One story entrance wing on Broadway has semicircular marquee of chrome, ticket lobby finished mirrors and non-vitreous tile with faence pattern. Fifth Street side of lobby has five bay blind arcade between end bays of glazed terracotta. Tabernacle like placard cases have palmette decoration; stone columns have glazed terracotta composite capitals. In spandrels are wedgewood like roundels de-					
43 History and Significance According to Sidwell Atlas, construction began 1918. The theater opened January 1922, owned by J. B. Price Theatres, Inc., and seating 1300. The opening presentation was <u>Smiling Through</u> . Although primarily a movie theater, live shows were also presented, including <u>Rain</u> and <u>Abie's Irish Rose</u> . Vaudeville acts included <u>Ed Wynn</u> and the <u>Marx Brothers</u> . In the 1940's, the					
44 Description of Environment and Outbuildings Broadway elevation is scaled to adjacent commercial buildings. Fifth Street looms over neighboring two-story residential structures.					
45 Sources of Information <u>Story of Hannibal</u> (1976), pp. 155, 214.					
46. Prepared by E. Hamilton					
47 Organization Landmarks Comm.					
48. Date 6/79 49 Revision Date(s)					

Marion

Orpheum Theater

Triune Cathedral

425 Broadway

#42. (cont'd)

picting flutists and cymbalists in classical dress. Above these are entablature cornice and parapet. Theater itself faces Fifth Street with three story elevation in Flemish bond with lighter headers, glazed terracotta quoins and band under cornice. Ground floor has double doors under two recently closed lunette Third story has two wedgewood like roundels depicting Orpheus in a lion-drawn chariot. Second story has five windows with glazed terracotta voussoirs, all but south window have been bricked up.

#43. (cont'd)

"Orpheum" was renamed the "Tom Sawyer". After its closing c. 1968, the theater was vacant for a decade until taken over by the present tenants, an independent religious organization. It remains the best preserved and most elaborate building of its kind in Hannibal.



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Office of Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

**HISTORIC INVENTORY**

1 No.		4 Present Name(s) Rialto Theatre		82 MAD 28	
2 County Marion		5 Other Name(s)			
3 Location of Negatives Hannibal Arts Council		603-605 Broadway			
6 Specific Location 603-605 Broadway W 47' 10" of E 1/2 of Lot 4 & of N 1/2 Lot 3, Block 43		16 Thematic Category		28 No. of Stories 2?	
7 City or Town If Rural, Township & Vicinity Hannibal		17 Date(s) or Period Built c. 1906; Facade c. 1937		29 Basement? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
8 Site Plan with North Arrow		18 Style or Design Art Deco		30 Foundation Material Not evident	
		19 Architect or Engineer		31 Wall Construction Brick	
		20 Contractor or Builder		32 Roof Type & Material Flat	
9 Coordinates Lat _____ Long _____		21 Original Use, if apparent Theatre		33 No. of Bays Front irr Side ---	
10 Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>		22 Present Use Retail		34 Wall Treatment paneled	
11 On National Register? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		23 Ownership Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		35 Plan Shape Rectangular	
12 Is It Eligible? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		24 Owner's Name & Address, if known Heck, Robert L. & Susan G.		36 Changes (Explain in #42) Addition <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	
13 Part of Estab. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Hist. Dist? No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		25 Open to Public? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		37 Condition Interior _____ Exterior Good	
14 District Potent'l? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		26 Local Contact Person or Organization Heck Office Equipment, Inc.		38 Preservation Underway? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
15 Name of Established District		27 Other Surveys in Which Included None		39 Endangered? By What? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
42 Further Description of Important Features Former theatre entrance is now enclosed by typical 3-part storefront, but rest of facade is intact, including marquee, outlined in royal blue and turquoise enameled panels. Street level is faced in similar panels, with three aluminum-framed poster windows. Above marquee is a 6-panel vertical stripe, colored (from edge to center) blue, turquoise and yellow. The remaining upper (OVER)		40 Visible from Public Road? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		41 Distance from and Frontage on Road On street/ 47' 10"	
43 History and Significance This property has been owned by descendants of John B. Helm since 1854. The present structure was built by James R. Bozarth, whose wife, the former Mabel Robards, was Helm's granddaughter. It was extensively re-modeled in 1937 for use by the Rialto movie theatre. The Frisinga chain acquired management of the theatre in 1955 but closed it the next year. Since that time the interior has been rebuilt for general retail use.		44 Description of Environment and Outbuildings			
45 Sources of Information Hannibal Courier Post, Sep't. 22, 1904, July 10, 1937 Title abstract; Street Directories		46 Prepared by Esley Hamilton		47 Organization Hannibal Arts Council	
		48 Date		49 Revision Date(s)	



HISTORY  
Of  
MARION COUNTY MISSOURI  
1884

by  
R. I. HOLCOMBE

A REPRINT  
INCLUDING A PROPER NAME INDEX

by  
THE MARION COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
HANNIBAL, MISSOURI  
1979

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MARCELINE, MISSOURI 64658

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--October 24, 1979-- \$22.50

## UP TO 1840.

After the establishment of the county seat the advancement of the town was fairly rapid and prosperous. New stores were opened, small factories of different sorts were established, two large taverns were built, lawyers and doctors came in, and the town had struck into the road that led it on to fortune. In the summer of 1826, Wm. Massie had built a mill on North river, just north of the town a mile, and this was of no little advantage to the place. This mill was a water mill, and the dam was thrown across the stream a hundred yards or more above where the wagon bridge now is. Hundreds of settlers came off the frontiers to this mill, and on the same trip came to the town and purchased supplies.

Goods were brought in either in wagons from St. Louis, or on flat boats up the river to Hannibal or Marion City, and then in wagons out to Palmyra. The stores were pretty well supplied with such goods as the country demanded. Large quantities of merchandise were traded for furs and peltries; but cash was by no means very scarce. The settlers coming in nearly all had money, and some of them had considerable sums.

By the year 1830, there were seven attorneys-at-law in the town, and four doctors. Abram Frye, David Gentry, and Gen. Benjamin Means were tavern keepers. The attorneys are named on another page (See p. 176). Of these perhaps the leading one was Judge Chas. H. Allen—or "Horse" Allen as he was called. In 1831 the building of the court house was begun, but it was not completed until in 1832, and not finished entirely until in 1835.

August 9, 1830, the town was first incorporated. (See page 177.) Since the location of the seat of justice, in 1827, an additional plat had been laid off and recorded by Major Dickerson, south of the original town and west of Main street, and this, together with the seat of justice, was included in the act of incorporation. This year too the squabble over the title to block 21 virtually ended, and preparations were made to begin the erection of the public buildings. By many it had been considered that the title to block 21 was yet in the United States, and the county court refrained from making any improvements thereon, lest it should lose its labor. (See pp. 175-76.)

In the year 1832 the first newspaper was established. It was 18x24 inches in size, and called the *Missouri Courier*. The publishers were Stewart & Angevine. Robert W. Stewart was the editor at first, but

in a year or two Edwin G. Pratt succeeded him. In 1837-8, Hon. James L. Minor became really the presiding genius of the paper. The *Courier* was a Jackson paper, and the "organ" of the Democratic partisans of the county. In the fall of 1837 the *Political Examiner* was established. It was a whig paper. Wm. Carson was the editor and Samuel Haydon the publisher. It lived but a year or two, and was succeeded in 1839 by the *Missouri Whig*, Jacob Sosey's paper. In 1836 the *Marion Journal* (Democratic) was started by its joint owners, Frederick Wise of St. Louis, and Lucian J. Eastin of Palmyra. It was edited by J. Quinn Thornton. It lived only a year or so.

In 1833 and in 1835 the town received a backset from the ravages of the cholera. In 1840, however, it was again prosperous and thriving. Numerous brick buildings were erected, the first being built for a Mr. Shannon. On this Mr. Ziba Calvert, now a resident of Warren township, was employed. The Methodists, Baptists and Presbyterians each built a church during the decade from 1830 to 1840. The Masonic lodge—the blue lodge—was established in 1831.

THE "THESPIANS" AND THE THEATER.<sup>1</sup>

In the fall of 1836, a number of young men, including all professions and occupations (for there were no class distinctions then), met at the court-house and formed themselves into a Thespian Society. There were present among others, Richard H. and Presley C. Lane, Richard C. and Honorie Martin, John J. and Ivor and William R. Campbell, Albert Blakely, James and Willis C. Johnson, Samuel and Robert W. Miles, Dr. John Bowen, General David Willock, Alfred and Wade H. Pollard, Dr. Alfred Buckner, Dr. John C. Wright, Gen. John H. Curd, Robert W. Stewart (Editor of the *Courier*), Thomas C. Harris, William R. Haydon, Lucien J. Eastin, Richard P. Pulliam, James L. Minor, and Al. Stirman.

In the winter of 1836-7 the company opened its doors to the public, in the upper room rented from Thos. J. Wise, a druggist, whose extensive store was two doors west of Frye's (Overton's) tavern, on the east side of Main street. The scenery was painted by Haydon, (a member), and over the drop-curtain, facing the audience, was blazoned in gilt letters the words: "Your Smiles, Our Life." The

The compiler wishes to acknowledge that much of the information in this sketch has been obtained from Hon. James L. Minor, of Jefferson City, and a great portion of the sketch itself was written by him.

first play was Home's tragedy of "Douglas,"<sup>1</sup> and the afterpiece, "The Lottery Ticket," and never had these two pieces been presented to a more appreciative or enthusiastic audience. The actors were perfect in their parts, and the orchestra, consisting of a violin solo, was conducted by Mr. Baum, who remained attached to the company until its close.

All the actors were gentlemen. Female parts were assumed by boys and beardless youths. Though ladies attended the performances, for there was "nothing to offend the most fastidious," public sentiment was against lady "play actors," and it was as much as a young lady's reputation was worth to appear on even an amateur stage. "Lady" performers were Willis Johnson, Pres. Lane, Al. Blakey, Tom Harris, and Charley Campbell (now Hon. John I. Campbell), and as the costume and carriage of these gentlemen had been subjected to the care of their mothers, wives, sisters, and perhaps sweethearts, the disguise was good and the effect simply astounding. Each performer was allowed to dress his character as he pleased, and at his own expense, so that the wardrobes on the stage were grand, flashy or grotesque, according to the taste and means of the wearer.

The original object of the association was to raise funds for enclosing the public burying ground on the eastern limits of the town, but as never a dollar was known to go in that direction, it is presumed that the gross receipts were spent in a favorite saloon where the actors all met, after the play, to enjoy their triumph. So far as receipts were concerned, that was a secondary matter. Those of the audience who couldn't pay generally went in for nothing.

The success of the first winter was so great that in the summer of 1837, an enterprising citizen, William Kelley, offered to build the company a theater, a proposition gladly accepted, and early in the winter of 1837-8, the house, a long frame building, was ready. It was built on the east side of Main street, northeast of the Court House square, and a few doors south of the present People's Mills. It was not a very large building, but answered all purposes. It had a pit, a dress circle and a gallery, and quite a respectable stage, with all of the ordinary appointments, a drop curtain, scenery, wings, flies, etc. Over the stage was the motto of the dramatic association: "*Charity is Our Object; Usefulness Our Aim.*"

The triumph of the winter succeeding the building of the theater was more marked than that of the preceding year. The audiences

<sup>1</sup> Cast of characters: *Lord Randolph*, J. L. Minor; *Glenalvon*, Wm. Hayden; *Norval*, Ivor Campbell; *Old Man*, Robt. Stewart; *Lady Randolph*, Willis C. Johnson.

increased in number, enthusiasm and voluntary attendance; the actors became so dramatically perfect and earnest, that it was fortunate for the town that some enterprising manager didn't turn up and ruin, by theatrical offers, many a Thespian who afterwards achieved professional and mechanical eminence. Alas! however, the company's coffers were as empty and the graveyard as desolate as ever.

Amongst the chief points of attraction were the doggerel verses written by the poet-laureate of the society, Wm. R. Campbell. About that time the town of Marion City was just emerging from the disastrous overflow of 1836. The poet wrote and Wade Pollard sang to the delighted people this verse among others:—

"These Eastern folks came rushing on  
To find this mighty Western town;  
But when they came, upon my soul,  
They couldn't find a lot with a 40-foot pole!"

One of the leading actors was Hon. James L. Minor, who a few years later was appointed Secretary of State, and removed to Jefferson City, where he still resides, a venerable old gentleman, full of years and honors. The "leading lady" for a time was Presley C. Lane, now the old postmaster, grave and gray, with the moustache of an old grenadier, the girth of an alderman, and the aspect of a sage. Imagine Gen. Minor, as *Romeo*, addressing Pres. Lane, as *Juliet*:

But, soft! what light through yonder window breaks?  
It is the east, and Juliet is the sun.  
\* \* \* The brightness of her cheek would shame those stars,  
As daylight doth a lamp; her eyes in heaven  
Would through the airy region stream so bright  
That birds would sing, and think it were not night.  
See, how she leans her cheek upon her hand!  
Oh, that I were a glove upon that hand,  
That I might touch that cheek!

Some of Shakespeare's plays were given—tragedies, comedies, all sorts. Then there were "merry farces" or afterpieces, but the modern style of drama, melo-drama, burlesque opera, and "leg shows" were not then in vogue, or there is no telling to what extent the Thespian Society of 1836 would have gone.

In 1842 a traveling troupe came in and occupied the theater, playing "The Wife," "The Rivals," "The Sisters," "Still Waters Run Deep," etc. By this time the dramatic association had disbanded. The female impersonators had too large beards to perform well. The



old theater was converted into a pork-house, and then, Gen. Minor says, instead of the resounding echoes of the genius of Greece, it sent forth grease of another sort!

IN 1843.

In June, 1843, the year of the hard times, the population of Palmyra was about 1,200. There were eight dry goods stores whose aggregate sales amounted to about \$150,000 annually. There were also two newspapers, the *Whig* and the *Courier*; one drug store, three grocery stores, three tobacco establishments, four blacksmiths, three carriage makers, five carpenters, three cabinet makers, three saddlers, two hatters, three shoemakers, four tailors, one tinner, one silversmith, one coopering establishment, three plasterers, one barber, three brickmasons, thirteen lawyers and six doctors. There were six organized religious congregations of different denominations, and four churches. In two of these services were held every Sabbath; in one three times a month, and in the other occasionally.

There were six teachers in the place, including four that were employed in the public school. In September of this year there was a general withdrawal of pupils from the public school. It had not long been in existence, and there was considerable prejudice against it and in favor of private schools. The public school system, involving the education of the children of poor men (in the same room and by the same teachers) with the children of rich men was not universally popular at that day, being considered too democratic by the would-be aristocrats. The four teachers tendered their resignations to the board of trustees and the school was closed for a season. It was reorganized and started up again after awhile, mainly through the efforts of Capt. Wm. Carson, president of the board.

In the first part of this year, 1843, a military company was organized. Its captain was — Ehrhart; its first-lieutenant Barnabas B. King — the same who was killed at the battle of Shiloh, while serving as major of the 21st Missouri (Union) regiment. The young ladies of Miss Burr's academy made a beautiful flag, which they presented to the rangers in September, 1843. A Miss Morton made the presentation speech; Lieut. King responded.

The theater had passed away and there was a dearth of public amusements or entertainments. In the spring of the year 1843, a Mr. Keith gave a vocal and instrumental concert at the court house which was well attended. An advertisement of this concert, still ex-

tant, shows that Mr. Keith was the sole performer. "He will," said the bill, "sing a number of sacred, sentimental and witty songs, accompanying himself by an accordion, which he plays very sweetly. Admittance 25 and 37½ cents." An entertainment of that sort would scarcely draw a very full house in these degenerate days, though the performer's songs were ever so sanctimonious, and though he played the accordion ever so "sweetly."

#### SOCIAL LIFE, MANNERS, AND FASHIONS IN EARLY DAYS.

Social life in Palmyra at an early day was characterized by much formality and restraint. The circles were distinct, and their boundaries well defined and seldom crossed by interlopers. The "best" families, as those of most wealth and highest position were termed, were generally circumspect, and to some extent exclusive, in selecting friends and only those of equal position with themselves were admitted as familiars. Democracy was not well established; an imitation of aristocracy was the rule. Although there was little or no blue blood in the place, there was an affectation of gentility among some of the families, rather preposterous and ridiculous in its nature, but harmless in its effects. Indeed it may be said that it was beneficial, since it cultivated a self-esteem that forbade any impropriety.

The politeness of the gentle folks was exaggerated and uncomfortable either to practice or observe. When gentlemen were brought into the presence of ladies there was such an amount of bowing and scraping and genuflexion and high-sounding compliments on one side, and so much curtsying and simpering and delicacy on the other that it was painful to witness an interview of that character. On one occasion old "Horse" Allen, who was a veritable Boanerges at any rate and under nearly all circumstances, was being presented to some ladies, when in the midst of a profound bow amounting almost to prostration, and the almost dead silence thought to be requisite to politeness, he let off a tremendous sneeze, which shook the house like the explosion of a bombshell. Seeking to recover himself, and to reassure the ladies, who were staggering from the shock, he let off another, surpassing the first in volume. Then making for the door, he rushed out, swearing like a pirate and roaring like a tempest.

When the Palmyrenes were dressed according to the fashions of say 1835-40, the gentlemen strode along the street with a deliberate manner and stately air. They were arrayed in high, bell-crowned "plug" hats; swallow-tailed coats, made very tight in the waist, with



An early view of Slabside Court, located on Main Street, Noel, Missouri. Mrs. Frank (Laura) Hamilton and Alta Manning Wharton, Laura Earl Wharton's mother, Alta Earl's wife.

for swimming, boating and fishing.

Later owners and operators included Mr. and Mrs. Alf Cope in the 1940's. Drue and Esther Christian in the 1950's, John and Marge VanHouten in the 1960's and Mr. and Mrs. Slaybaugh in later years. Part of the buildings eventually burned and all that remained were demolished.

Submitted by Dorene Stiles

#### EARLY OIL BUSINESS

In the early days A. J. Kyte and his two sons, Roscoe and Ralph, had a wagon, pulled by a mule, delivering oil, kerosene and gasoline. The Kytes lived up the hollow from the James Stauber farm.

In later years Walter Smith had an oil company in Noel, before Melvin Hall.

Submitted by Centennial Book Committee

#### JACK PEW OIL COMPANY

In the early twenties, when automobiles became common in southwest Missouri, Phillips 66 Oil Company felt the need of establishing a gasoline bulk plant at Noel. This was located at its present site of Foster and R. R. Streets. Since the gasoline was brought in by railroad, it was necessary for the Kansas City Southern to run a spur by the plant. The spur remains today even though the gas is now brought in by transport truck. Much of the early pumping equipment is still in possession of the oil company.

Walter Smith was the first Phillips consignee. A few years later, Melvin Hall became the consignee and in 1935 he bought the business and in later years acquired the bulk plants in Neosho, Cassville and Southwest City.

In 1960, Jack Pew, from Kansas City, bought out the Melvin Hall Oil Company. The Pews: Jack, Bobby, Barbara, Judy, and Ross continue to live here. Jack is now retired and Ross, Barbara and her husband Bill Chamberlain continue to operate the business.

Submitted by Jack Pew Oil Company

#### OZARK THEATER

Built in 1920, by Bill Christensen, on west Main Street was the Bijou Theater. It was later renamed the Ozark Theater. In addition to movies, live traveling acts, such as magicians, medicine shows, and musical groups performed on stage there. Presentations of plays by the Noel Dramatic Club, enjoyed an audience during the 1930's. It was purchased by Ray Mathis of Granby from Mr. Christensen, and he sold to the Dickinson chain in 1946. Richard Easter was manager and operator of the machines in the late 1940's. Others were Sam Jolly, Pat Silverio, Mrs. McHattie, Mrs. Neal Hill, Mrs. Otis Cash and James Carroll.



Ozark Theatre from 1920 to 1986 when the building was destroyed by fire. Photo courtesy of McDonald County Press, Noel, Missouri.

Theater managers were cooperative with civic groups in such matters as the special free Christmas show for children each year.

Fire destroyed the building last summer, 1986, which was the loss of a landmark for Noel.

Submitted by Centennial Book Committee

#### GATEWAY DRUG STORE

During the 1920's Florence Munea established the Gateway Confectionary Store on west Main Street near the City Hotel. It is no longer in operation but was a popular gathering place for nearly fifty years. Fancy candies were displayed in glass cases and gifts, drugs and sundries were for sale. The store offered both fountain and lunch counter service. It was later a bus stop for the Greyhound line for many years. A small dance floor, with a Nickelodeon was popular with young and old alike. Mrs. Munea's son, Leo, and family assisted in management after a few years with Leo operating a basement pool hall.

Jimmie and Mamie Hirst became managers about 1954. They had owned and operated the Noel Drug Store on east Main, which they purchased from Ora Hemphill, Jr. in 1951. The Hirsts had many exciting experiences there, among them being the center of teenage activity and having the opportunity to "lend an ear" or to provide a shoulder to cry on. They were very popular business people with the grown-ups too and earned many friendships.

The building was severely damaged during Noel's 1969 railroad "blast" disaster and the Hirsts moved to another building three doors east. During the years, they were collectors for Empire District Electric Company statements. They continued the Gateway business until 1980. Their son, Kenneth, returned to Noel and as a pharmacist took over for about four years before moving to Colorado. The Gateway no longer exists.

Submitted by Centennial Book Committee

#### GATEWAY DRUG STORE - THE POOL HALL GATEWAY KOURT - GATEWAY CHICKEN HOUSE CAFE

The Munea family contributed much to the building and development of Noel. The Muneas owned and operated the Gateway Drug Store, located on Main Street, for many years. Downstairs, below the drug store, was a pool hall and tavern and regular meeting place for the great domino players of the area.

In the early '40s, Muneas purchased the property where the City Hotel had been located and built the Gateway Kourt, Hotel and cabins with kitchens. The brick building just to the east became known as the Gateway Chick House Cafe, which

# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Mercer County Library

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Buren's Hall	Princeton	yes ____ no ____
Grand Opera House		yes ____ no ____

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Buren's Hall	Princeton	yes ____ no <u>X</u>
Grand Opera House		yes ____ no <u>X</u>

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Buren's Hall	Princeton	yes ____ no <u>X</u>
Grand Opera House		yes ____ no ____

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? \_\_\_\_\_

THE LAMBERT MOVIE THEATER BURNED AUG. 15, 1965 & WAS NOT REBUILT. ARBUCKLE'S OPERA  
BUILDING BURNED DEC. 18, 1893. THAT'S ALL THE INFORMATION WE FOUND ON THAT. THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
CRUSADE WAS CELEBRATED AT BUREN'S HALL DEC. 22, 1883.

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

_____ books about specific theatres	_____
_____ photographs	_____
_____ newspaper articles	_____
_____ scrapbooks	_____
_____ county or town histories	_____
_____ other, please specify	_____

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

NO

What days and times is your library open to the public? Monday Thru Fridays 9-5  
Saturdays 9-12

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

Not at this time

Who is the best person to contact for more information? Judy Cox - director of library  
Rosemary Beverage - 900 E. Main Princeton, Mo  
Telephone 816-748-3554

**Thank you for your assistance.**

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203



*Mercer County*

PRINCETON DOES HAVE ONE BUILDING WHERE THE MELODRAMA IS  
HELD DURING OUR CALAMITY JANE DAY CELEBRATIONS. PLAYS ARE  
ALSO HELD THERE DURING THE YEAR. IT IS CALLED COW PALACE,  
BEING CONVERTED FROM A SALE BARN IN 1970

the people of Princeton are opposed to Judge Lynch's methods but forbearance has about ceased to be a virtue."

The lower Tennessee school house was destroyed by fire on the evening of January 20th, 1893. There had been no fire in the place for more than a week and it was supposed to have been set on fire.

The Prairie school house was burned November 27th, 1893.

The Buckeye livery barn and the city hotel across the street, the former owned by Robert Bowsher, the latter by Judge Stacy, were burned February 28th, 1893. A heroic fight was made and the business buildings on the west side were saved from a repetition of former catastrophes. The occupants of the hotel lost most of their personal property and some barely escaped with their lives. With great difficulty some twenty head of horses were removed from the livery barn and while engaged in this work W. H. Boxley was knocked down and trampled upon by one of the animals. He was for a time thought to be fatally injured. Every glass in the front of the Bearden block was broken by the heat and the buildings otherwise damaged. The loss was probably \$4,000. The fire started in the hay in the loft of the barn and its origin was a mystery.

April 8th, 1893, the residence of W. W. Hampshire, ten miles southeast of Princeton was destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of \$4,000.

Following the destruction of the residence of Stanley Arnold at 2 o'clock on the morning of August 21, 1893, the Press said:

"The family had all been away from home and there had been no fire in the house, therefore there was only one way to account for the fire—incendiarism. The crisis requires a heroic remedy. The time has come in the history of our little city when it is absolutely necessary to find and punish the fiends who apply the torch."

### *The West Side Blaze of 1893*

Again on December 18th, 1893, a large portion of the west side was consumed. The blaze was believed to have started in the bakery of Allburn & Sherritt, in the basement of Arbuckle's opera house building. The fire was discovered in time to have been extinguished but the engine and hose were out of order. A large crowd had

assembled and began to carry water in buckets. By hard work the flames were extinguished after having burned the opera house building and the buildings of Jackson Cook and H. J. Alley, leaving standing the Masonic building on the south side of the block and Don Cain's building on the north side. Thus for the fourth time in ten years this block had been either partially or totally destroyed by fire. Again incendiarism was the only plausible explanation. The bakery had not been fired up for more than twenty-four hours and this was the only place in the basement where any fire was kept. D. N. Arbuckle, who owned the opera house building was the heaviest loser. His building and fixtures had cost him something like \$10,000 and he carried but \$3,500 insurance. In a previous fire he had suffered the loss of two buildings without insurance. The following list of losses was given by the Telegraph:

	Loss	Insurance
H. J. Alley, building	\$4500	\$3500
Stanley & Blair, grocers	500	500
Don Cain, building	2000	2000
Jackson Cook, building and fixtures	4500	4000
Allburn & Sherritt, restaurant	1500	1200
Bolster & Steckman, printing and law office	200	200
W. W. White, furniture	4000	2200
F. P. Wynne, jeweler	700	700
Martin Read, law office	25	
Judson & Son, clothing	6000	4500
A. F. & A. M. building	1500	
J. C. Casteel, dry goods	7000	7000
E. B. Wolf, barber shop	100	100
Court House, damage	250	250
W. L. Bearden, photographer	200	200
Mrs. S. R. Bryant, millinery	300	300
Cook & Blachley, restaurant	300	200
H. G. Orton	100	100
W. F. Buren	1000	1000
Sams & Bowman	100	100

John Ashcroft, Lindsey Bros., E. D. Wilcox, J. J. Eberhart, Bank of Mercer county, and Ira B. Hyde & Son also sustained light losses.

The fire was temporarily a serious calamity to Princeton as some of the persons who owned lots were so badly affected financially that they could not immediately rebuild. It was also feared that on account of the repetition of serious fires insurance companies would advance rates on Princeton property.

Mr. Devine, baker for Allburn & Sherritt, had a close call. He was sleeping in a room over Judson & Son's

men convened at Cockrell's hall. The constitution and by-laws styled the institution The Princeton Business Men's Association, showed that its purpose was "to increase trade and encourage beneficial enterprises; guard the sanitary and other interests; promote the general welfare and discourage and remedy as far as practicable all influences detrimental to the interests and good name of the town." The dues were made fifty cents per year. The following signed the constitution and became charter members:

Ira B. Hyde, W. W. Judson, W. A. Loe, William Hiron, W. F. Shaw, W. P. Lindsey, H. J. Alley, H. C. Bowsher, Jesse Trapp, Rush Bowsher, Scott Wright, M. C. Wolf, H. T. Allen, R. W. Steckman, R. C. H. Lindsey, J. A. Tompson, Eli Mullinax, L. W. Brannon, James T. Anderson, F. R. Aufrecht, William Speer, H. W. Moss, J. B. Evans, W. E. Cockrell, C. W. Bolster, J. N. Weaver, Ed Evans, W. A. Presson, W. B. Ballew, J. R. Brown, James Nigh, J. C. Casteel, M. F. Robinson, John Baxter, H. C. Miller, J. R. Bowsher, G. M. Bristow, J. P. Bailey, J. T. Cook, P. C. McDonald, W. H. Wilson, E. W. Judson and F. H. McDougal.

The above organization has disbanded. Four years ago a commercial club, composed of young and enthusiastic men, was organized. A. M. Hyde was the first president. Walter Robinson served in 1908 and Geo. T. Mullinax in 1909. The institution has fostered several public enterprises and held several enjoyable meetings looking to the advancement of the city, including the chautauqua. The present officers are W. P. Brown, president; W. D. Smith, secretary; J. C. Lomax, treasurer.

The commercial club instituted a Clean Up Day in 1907, heartily participated in by many citizens. May 20th was set apart as the time for a general raking of yards, burning of trash and purging of alleys, and the cohorts of citizens were commanded in their efforts by the blasts of the fire whistle.

#### *The Local Militia*

Co. L., Fourth regiment, Missouri National Guard, was organized in Princeton in June, 1905. Arthur Hyde was captain and Herbert Casteel first lieutenant. The boys attended three state encampments and promoted one old soldiers' reunion. After about three years of activity, the institution was disbanded.

#### *Public Halls*

Until the 90s Princeton people held their public meetings indoors, in places of rather primitive appointment.

The Casteel opera house, seating 750 persons and superior in appointment to houses found outside the larger cities, was opened in Princeton in August, 1898. "The Colorado Girl", presented by the Forshap Comedy company, was the opening bill. The house contained boxes and was seated with upholstered opera chairs. Ed C. Hyde made the speech that attended the launching of the new enterprise. This magnificent playhouse, good enough for a city of twice the size of Princeton, was burned in the great west-side fire of 1899.

W. P. Sheets completed his operahouse on Hickland street in the early fall of 1894, and the house opened by a performance of the Spooner Comedy company. This is a one-story-and-basement building, with opera chairs, small balconies, inclined floor and a seating capacity of 500. It is now the best meeting hall in the city and is used for theatricals.

#### *Mercer*

The town of Marion, now Mercer, was not incorporated until 1886, but there was a postoffice there for many years before that, it being established about 1859. The town is ten miles north of Princeton on the Rock Island and five miles south of the state line. A. A. Alley, the founder, laid out the town soon after the building of the railroad in 1871. The company had a switch there, but no trains stopped there until J. H., H. J. and A. A. Alley, three brothers, donated the money and built a station at a cost of \$800. A. A. Alley then had a general store there, and in 1878 his brother, J. H. Alley, purchased it. The town was afterward re-incorporated. From the building of the depot the place began to grow, and it is now the second town of the county in population. The first postmaster was A. A. Alley. The present postmaster is Ed Gloschen. Formerly the mail came by stage from Chillicothe, thence by mounted carrier. The first carrier, P. D. Brown, is still living. Three rural routes now emanate from this point.

Early business men were W. D. Alley, general merchandise; Marion Merritt, drugs and groceries; S. A. Newlin, groceries and hardware. The first officers were: Mayor, S. T. Wilford; marshal, J. M. Snyder; trustees,



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assembled and began to work the flames. The opera house, Cook and H. J. Alley, on the south side, on the north side, this block had been on fire. Again incited. The baker, twenty-four hours, basement where owned the opera. His building and \$10,000 and he caused a fire he had no insurance. The Telegraph:

H. J. Alley, building  
Stanley & Blair, gro  
Don Cain, building  
Jackson Cook, build  
Allburn & Sheritt,  
Bolster & Steckman  
W. W. White, furni  
F. P. Wynne, jewe  
Martin Read, law off  
Judson & Son, cloth  
A. F. & A. M. build  
J. C. Casteel, dry g  
E. B. Wolf, barber  
Court House, dama  
W. L. Bearden, pho  
Mrs. S. R. Bryant,  
Cook & Blachley, 1  
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Sams & Bowman	100	100

John Ashcroft, Lindsey Bros., E. D. Wilcox, J. J. Eberhart, Bank of Mercer county, and Ira B. Hyde & Son also sustained light losses.

The fire was temporarily a serious calamity to Princeton as some of the persons who owned lots were so badly affected financially that they could not immediately rebuild. It was also feared that on account of the repetition of serious fires insurance companies would advance rates on Princeton property.

Mr. Devine, baker for Allburn & Sherritt, had a close call. He was sleeping in a room over Judson & Son's

constitution and by-  
on Business Men's  
is "to increase trade  
guard the sanitary  
al welfare and dis-  
cable all influences  
ame of the town."  
ar. The following  
arter members:

William Hiron, W. F.  
her, Jesse Trapp, Rush  
n, R. W. Steckman, R.  
W. Brannon, James T.  
Moss, J. B. Evans, W.  
ans, W. A. Presson, W.  
l. M. F. Robinson, John  
ristow, J. P. Bailey, J.  
Judson and F. H. Mc-

nded. Four years  
ing and enthusias-  
was the first presi-  
and Geo. T. Mulli-  
ered several public  
meetings looking to  
e chautauqua. The  
lent; W. D. Smith,

Clean Up Day in  
y citizens. May  
general raking of  
alleys, and the co-  
eir efforts by the

tional Guard, was  
Arthur Hyde was  
enant. The boys  
promoted one old  
rs of activity, the

their public meet-  
e appointment.

The Casteel opera house, seating 750 persons and superior in appointment to houses found outside the larger cities, was opened in Princeton in August, 1898. "The Colorado Girl", presented by the Forshap Comedy company, was the opening bill. The house contained boxes and was seated with upholstered opera chairs. Ed C. Hyde made the speech that attended the launching of the new enterprise. This magnificent playhouse, good enough for a city of twice the size of Princeton, was burned in the great west-side fire of 1899.

W. P. Sheets completed his operahouse on Hickland street in the early fall of 1894, and the house opened by a performance of the Spooner Comedy company. This is a one-story-and-basement building, with opera chairs, small balconies, inclined floor and a seating capacity of 500. It is now the best meeting hall in the city and is used for theatricals.

### *Mercer*

The town of Marion, now Mercer, was not incorporated until 1886, but there was a postoffice there for many years before that, it being established about 1859. The town is ten miles north of Princeton on the Rock Island and five miles south of the state line. A. A. Alley, the founder, laid out the town soon after the building of the railroad in 1871. The company had a switch there, but no trains stopped there until J. H., H. J. and A. A. Alley, three brothers, donated the money and built a station at a cost of \$800. A. A. Alley then had a general store there, and in 1878 his brother, J. H. Alley, purchased it. The town was afterward re-incorporated. From the building of the depot the place began to grow, and it is now the second town of the county in population. The first postmaster was A. A. Alley. The present postmaster is Ed Gloschen. Formerly the mail came by stage from Chilli-cothe, thence by mounted carrier. The first carrier, P. D. Brown, is still living. Three rural routes now emanate from this point.

Early business men were W. D. Alley, general merchandise; Marion Merritt, drugs and groceries; S. A. Newlin, groceries and hardware. The first officers were: Mayor, S. T. Wilford; marshal, J. M. Snyder; trustees,





Mercer Band, 1906



Mercer Ball Team Before 1920

## *Mercer Centennial*

July - William Pigg was ordered to collect the poll taxes.

October - Salary for night watchman is \$75.00 per month.

1921: April - Hitchracks were ordered put back on square.

June - City allowed B. F. Fisher 25¢ per hour for work on city street.

October - Motion was made and carried to discontinue the full time city marshal to a weekend marshal; Saturday evening to Monday morning. A full time marshal was started about the first of the year.

Heroic work of a bucket brigade quenched a big blaze after the city hall, the fire engine, opera house, and bakery were destroyed at an early hour on a Saturday morning.

1923: January - Rev. Lawrence Wheeler, pastor of the M. E. Church at Mercer, called the young men of that city together last week and organized an athletic and social club. The south room of the Judge Alley building was



Blacksmith Shop - Clell and Emmett Brummett

1920: February - C. W. Cunningham was appointed as chairman of the committee to find a place and see to the building of the hitchracks.

The American Legion Post of Mercer and Princeton held memorial services on February 22 in memory of the service men who lost their lives during World War I.

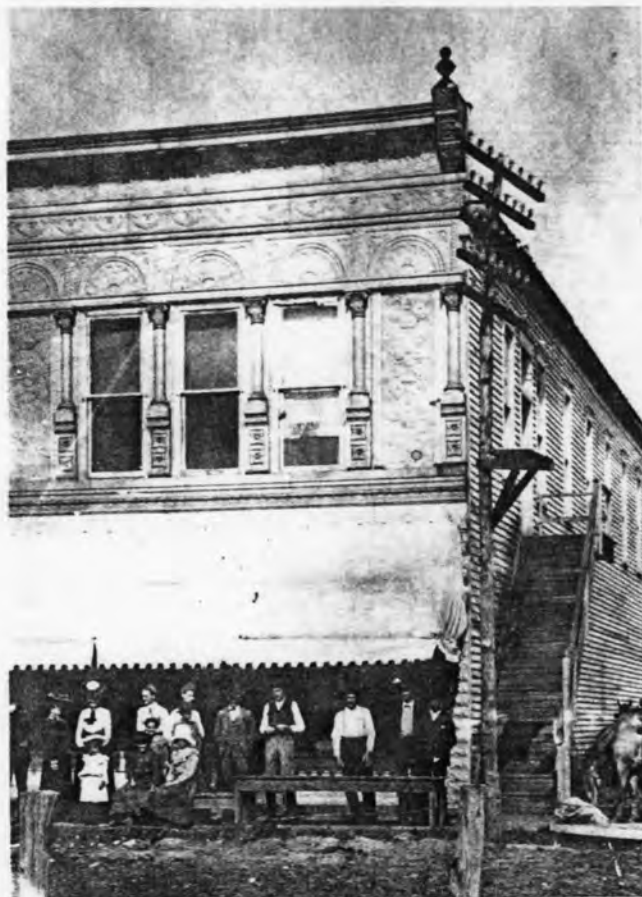
April - The town board turns down payment to O. A. Moore of \$10.95 for disinfecting L. Power and Charles Graham.

June - The town board ordered a poll tax assessment for the year. It is to be two days work, single-handed; or one day with team; or \$5.00 in money on all males between the ages of 21 and 60.



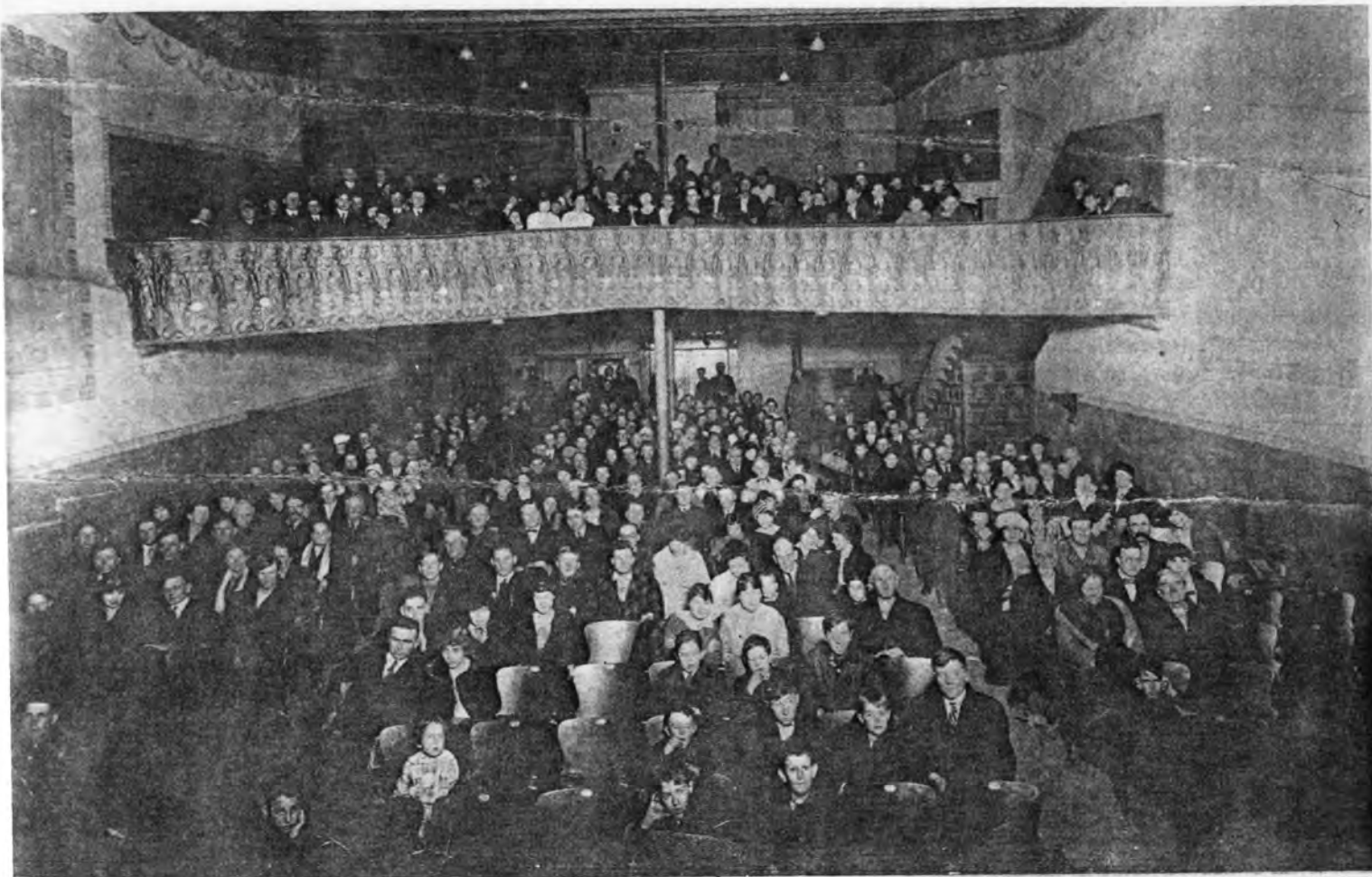
Epidemics were common, but probably the worst was the Spanish Influenza epidemic of 1918-1919. All schools in the county were ordered closed by the County Court and the Board of Health. Citizens were asked not to congregate in large numbers. Churches and the movie theater were closed. In some families, all the members were ill and many deaths occurred. Doctors were in short supply, but the few who were available, worked day and night. Handicapped by lack of antibiotics, hospitals, and nurses, and poor road conditions, they fought a gallant battle.

In January, 1920 Dr. C. P. Pickett left Mercer to practice medicine in Jefferson City. Dr. J. C. Donahue, recently returned from the armed services, arrived to take over the practice. The town acquired an excellent physician, the ball team a dedicated member, and the local hunters an avid hunting companion.



Chapman Building

INTERIOR OF THE GIRDNER THEATER



# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Miller County Historical Society

What historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? I am not  
aware of any in our County -

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

- ☐ books about specific theatres
- ☐ photographs
- ☐ newspaper articles
- ☐ scrapbooks
- ☐ county or town histories
- ☐ other, please specify

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

NO

What days and times is your library open to the public? from Mid-May thru Mid-Sept.  
each Monday, Wed., & Friday from 10 AM - 4 pm

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

yes

Who is the best person to contact for more information? Peggy Hake, Secretary



MRS PEGGY SMITH-HAKE  
RR 1 BOX 52  
ST ELIZABETH MO 65075

**Thank you for your assistance.**

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203



# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Mississippi County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Charleston Opera House	Charleston	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Operator</i>
Loebe's Theatre		yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Simon Foche?</i>
Aycock Opera House	East Prairie	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Simon Foche</i>
			<i>C. B. Aycock</i>

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Charleston Opera House	Charleston	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Loebe's Theatre		yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Aycock Opera House	East Prairie	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Charleston Opera House	Charleston	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Loebe's Theatre		yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Aycock Opera House	East Prairie	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? *In Charleston the new MacCotter*

*Theater (behind a parking lot) stands, owned by Louise Butler, but has been out of business for years. In East Prairie Ted Defield, for years ran the De Ma Theater about where the Opera House was. After he died, about 1975 or '80, Lou Martin tried to keep it open but failed. There was also a Victory Theater on Main St. where the Nutrition Center now is, owned by Ben Pearson. After he closed it, he opened a drive-in northeast of town, but it closed down long ago. There was also a Lyric Theater.*

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

<input type="checkbox"/> books about specific theatres	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> photographs	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> newspaper articles	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> scrapbooks	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> county or town histories	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other, please specify	<i>I got most of this information by talking to Sawanda Douglas, who as a girl sold popcorn at one of the theaters</i>

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

What days and times is your library open to the public? *Mississippi County Library in Charleston is open Mon, Tue, Thur 8-5 Wed 8-8 Sat 8-4 Closed Sunday Telephone (573) 683-6748*

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

Who is the best person to contact for more information? *The Library, Joe Dark, Librarian. On East Prairie theaters, Sawanda Douglas, I also tried to call Mrs. Eugene C. Aycock, whose father-in-law had the Opera House, but she was not at home. Edna Drennon, who used to play piano at the Opera House, now lives in St. Louis and is, I am told, in the phone book.*

Thank you for your assistance.  
Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203

*Bob Moore*  
*Operator*  
*Miss Co Historical Society*

*Over*



Charleston String Band.

By 1879 Bethune's Hall on the north side of West Commercial was the place for balls, musical entertainment and various programs.

Some time later most of the traveling and local theatricals, minstrel groups, drama groups, and high school plays took place in the second floor of a building on the northeast corner of West Commercial and Center Streets, first known as Bridges Hall and later converted to what was known as the Opera House. The lower floor was at one time occupied by Lutz's boot and shoe shop.

A paper of 1891 stated, "The Rutledge Dramatic Company appeared at the Opera House last night to a good audience, in the most thrilling play ever written, entitled "Jack of the Mines". The piece was well presented, and was highly appreciated. The company will remain here the entire week, and will present a complete change of program each night. People's popular prices."<sup>68</sup>

In its heyday, the old Opera House was a community asset, well arranged with a stage, orchestra pit, first floor and gallery. The first moving picture to be seen in Charleston was exhibited in the old Opera House soon after the close of the Spanish American War, showing United States battle ships moving under power and firing salvos. When smoke emerged from a cannon, someone concealed in the wings would give a bass drum a hard and loud beat.

The building is still standing but the old frame stairway on the outside of the east wall is gone and likewise the metal stairway which later replaced the frame stairway. The building is being used as a warehouse at the present time.

S. P. Loebe was one of the first in Charleston to take an interest in the moving picture business and his initial venture was to erect a high wooden fence and bleachers on the lot on West Commercial Street where Economy Furniture Co. is now located. Silent movies were shown in this open air theatre during the warm months.

Soon afterward Loebe moved his theatre, known as the Electric Dome, to the Jecko building which was located on the lot directly west of the now First Security State Bank. Opera seats were installed and silent films of the time shown.

In 1904 a new Opera House was built by Loebe on the corner of Main and Cypress streets on the lot later occupied by Waggener's Sinclair Station. It was one of the leading show houses of the district for many years. It was built, of course, before the advent of motion pictures, and boasted a fully equipped stage, orchestra pit, dressing rooms, and all of the drops and trappings required by stock companies and road shows. Odie Sitzes served as manager for many years.<sup>69</sup>

The following year Carrie Nation gave a lecture at the Opera



THE BROWNS, a Charleston ball team of about 1885, included: Front row, from left, John Russell and Will Ogilvie; second row, Jack Ogilvie, Elbert Shelby, Simon Loebe and Hampton Wade. Back row, George Bridges, Hance Rouse, Morton Brown, George Whitcomb and Everett Weatherly. (Bridges is on left with top hat.)

He also played baseball!

### The Loebe Opera House . . . 1902-1926





House. The local editor was not much impressed with her speech and concluded, "The sale of her souvenir hatchets and her book must have netted her a nice sum". In 1913 Blind Boone and his company performed at the Opera House.

By 1910 Loebe owned Loebe Theatre, Dreamland Picture Show, and The Electric Dome.<sup>70</sup> The Electric Dome was partially destroyed by fire in 1913. It was remodeled and renamed the Airdome.

In 1914 the American Photoplay Theaters Co. of Memphis, Tennessee, bought the Loebe Theaters which were: Gem Theatre, The Airdome, and Loebe's Theatre or Opera House. They closed a deal with Dr. H. S. Reid whereby he was to erect an up-to-date building on the north side of West Commercial Street just opposite the Airdome. It necessitated the removal of the old frame building formerly occupied by Lash and Son as a bakery. The building was to cost about \$7,000 and the company then installed the fixtures and equipment. F. C. Jordan was secured as manager and the American Theatre opened October 15, 1914.

In 1915 another motion picture house at 204 West Commercial was started by Ernest Story and Claude Edwards.

The American Theatre was sold in 1920 to Robert Woods and he in turn a short time later sold it to O. W. McCutchen of Kennett for \$12,000. In 1924 S. E. Pirtle bought it from McCutchen for \$22,000. It was destroyed by fire May 3, 1927.<sup>71</sup>

For a time motion pictures were shown in the Y.M.C.A. building but this was not satisfactory so the "Armory Theatre" as it was called moved to the remodeled I. O. O. F. building on West Commercial.

Within the next two years O. W. McCutchen had once again built a new American Theater in Charleston on East Commercial Street, and the first talking picture to be shown in Charleston was "The Rainbow" on December 15, 1929. In May of 1947 fire destroyed the inside of the building but it was remodeled and again opened.

In 1941 McCutchen built a second theater in Charleston on West Commercial Street for around \$65,000 and with a seating capacity of from nine hundred to one thousand. Clarence Staples was the general contractor. It was named The Gem Theatre and opened on November 13, 1941.<sup>72</sup>

At the present time this building has been purchased by Urban Renewal and in the near future will be razed to make room for a parking lot. The theater on East Commercial is still in operation and is now owned by the Malco Co. of Memphis, Tennessee.

#### *EAST PRAIRIE*

The fourth settlement to become a part of Mississippi County was Hibbard, later to be renamed East Prairie. Around 1840

most of the settlement was a dense forest. Several farm families moved to the network around the settlement.

"Uncle Henry" was a family from the brush from the settlement in 1862. He later moved to D. Hamner's settlement on the Prairie.

Another family from the settlement was James Bayou. Mr. and Mrs. Bayou moved to the settlement.

After some time the settlement on the Island district experienced a severe drought to live there, the lowlands, the settlement afterward and their home was that day, but pride, had a lumber in the settlement and hauled the frame dwelling. Grant that was mill, store, and a

W. W. Bayou which he sold. In 1899 Mr. Bayou said farm was Elmo married the same farm.

In 1846 the settlement followed soon after their families bears their name.

To the east because it was Presson in 18 from Benton the land, built

Franklin the Old Arlington live there in story brick building the entrance home in Virginia garden was

# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Monroe County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Paris Opera House	Paris	yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hay's Opera House	Monroe City	yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monroe City Opera House		yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Madison Opera House	Madison	yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Paris Opera House	Paris	yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hay's Opera House	Monroe City	yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monroe City Opera House		yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Madison Opera House	Madison	yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Paris Opera House	Paris	yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hay's Opera House	Monroe City	yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monroe City Opera House		yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Madison Opera House	Madison	yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

- ☐ books about specific theatres
- ☐ photographs
- ☒ newspaper articles
- ☐ scrapbooks
- ☐ county or town histories
- ☐ other, please specify

*Ruth Alexander 417 W. Locust, Paris, Mo  
660-327-4753 - would be a good source  
to talk to. Also, Bob Majors may have  
information that will help you.*

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

*You may have to search the microfilm.*

What days and times is your library open to the public? \_\_\_\_\_

*M.T.Th.Fr Sat 12-5pm Wed 10-5 Sat 9-1*

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

*Contact Paris Public Library, Paris, Mo.*

Who is the best person to contact for more information? *Bob Majors, 816-672-3285*

**Thank you for your assistance.**

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203

# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Montgomery County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Ferguson's New Opera House	Montgomery City	yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chadwick's Opera House		yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Library Hall		yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jonesburg Opera House	Jonesburg	yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Ferguson's New Opera House	Montgomery City	yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chadwick's Opera House		yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Library Hall		yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jonesburg Opera House	Jonesburg	yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Ferguson's New Opera House	Montgomery City	yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chadwick's Opera House		yes	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Library Hall		yes	no	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jonesburg Opera House	Jonesburg	yes	no	<input type="checkbox"/>

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? 0

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

<input type="checkbox"/> books about specific theatres	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> photographs	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> newspaper articles	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> scrapbooks	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> county or town histories	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, please specify	_____

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

What days and times is your library open to the public? 0 apt only 573 564 2370

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

Who is the best person to contact for more information? yes Marjorie M Miller

115 Sharon Dr Montgomery City 63361  
**Thank you for your assistance.** Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203



Sept. 26, 1997  
112 West 2nd St  
Montgomery City, MO 63361

Becky L. Snider  
1008 Sunse Drive  
Columbis, MO 65203

Dear Becky,

I am answering your letter of Aug. 31 to Montgomery County Historical Society.

I am sorry we have little info. Ferguson's New Opera House and Chadwick's Opera House were both located on the second floors of buildings which are standing today. We have no early stories or pictures about them.

Library Hall and Jonesburg Opera House we are not familiar with.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marj", is positioned above the typed name.

Marjorie M. Miller

# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## New Madrid Historical Museum

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Grand Opera House	New Madrid	yes	no
Majestic	Malden	yes	no

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Grand Opera House	New Madrid	yes	no
Majestic	Malden	yes	no

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Grand Opera House	New Madrid	yes	no
Majestic	Malden	yes	no

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

_____ books about specific theatres	_____
_____ photographs	_____
_____ newspaper articles	_____
_____ scrapbooks	_____
✓ _____ county or town histories	Martha Hunter Librarian
_____ other, please specify	Memorial Library, Mill Street

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

Traveling Vaudeville  
What days and times is your library open to the public? 9-4 Mon - Friday  
Noon Sat

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

yes  
Who is the best person to contact for more information? \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your assistance.

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203

The location of the Grand Opera House was at the corner of Virginia and Main Street.

Most of the vaudevilles were traveling and I do not know the names of these.

We have a theatre "The Dixie" that is still being used for live entertaining by the Dixie Arts players. It is located on the Main Street several shows throughout the year. I think this theatre was built in the early 1900's.

I wish I could be of more help. Good luck with your dissertation.

Joe Halstead



# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Newton County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Neosho Auditorium and City Hall	Neosho	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Opera House		yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Orpheum Theater		yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
The New Dreamland Theater		yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Neosho Auditorium and City Hall	Neosho	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Opera House		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Orpheum Theater		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The New Dreamland Theater		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Neosho Auditorium and City Hall	Neosho	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Opera House		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Orpheum Theater		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The New Dreamland Theater		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? Bard Box,

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

<input type="checkbox"/> books about specific theatres	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> photographs	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> newspaper articles	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> scrapbooks	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> county or town histories	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, please specify	_____

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

some

What days and times is your library open to the public? Wed - Sun 12:30 - 4:30

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

It would probably be difficult

Who is the best person to contact for more information? \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your assistance.**

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203

# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

## ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

SW-AS-036-053

1. NO. 101		4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) Neosho Municipal Auditorium		1. NO.
2. COUNTY Newton		5. OTHER NAME(S) Neosho Auditorium and City Hall		
3. LOCATION OF NEGATIVES				
6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP _____ RANGE _____ SECTION _____ IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS 100 bl. West Main Street		16. THEMATIC CATEGORY		2. COUNTY Newton
		17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD 1936		
7. CITY OR TOWN IF RURAL, VICINITY Neosho		18. STYLE OR DESIGN Art Deco 73 99		4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) Neosho Auditorium and City Hall
		19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER Neal C. Davis 40		
8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION		20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER		
		21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT Auditorium and City Hall 1048 08		
9. COORDINATES UTM LAT _____ LONG _____		22. PRESENT USE Auditorium and meeting rooms		
		23. OWNERSHIP PUBLIC (X) PRIVATE ( )		
10. SITE ( ) STRUCTURE ( ) BUILDING (X) OBJECT ( )		24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS IF KNOWN		
		25. OPEN TO PUBLIC? YES (X) NO ( )		
11. ON NATIONAL REGISTER? YES ( ) NO (X)		26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION Historic Preservation Comm.		5. OTHER NAME(S)
		27. OTHER SURVEYS IN WHICH INCLUDED		
12. IS IT ELIGIBLE? YES ( ) NO ( )		30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL Carthage stone		
		31. WALL CONSTRUCTION Carthage stone		
13. PART OF ESTAB. YES ( ) HIST. DISTRICT? NO (X)		32. ROOF TYPE AND MATERIAL flat/rolled		
		33. NO. OF BAYS FRONT 6 SIDE		
14. DISTRICT POTENTIAL? YES ( ) NO ( )		34. WALL TREATMENT Carthage stone		
		35. PLAN SHAPE rectang.		
15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT		36. CHANGES (EXPLAIN IN NO. 42) ADDITION ( ) ALTERED ( ) MOVED ( )		
		37. CONDITION INTERIOR _____ EXTERIOR _____		
42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES  see continuation sheet		38. PRESERVATION UNDERWAY? YES ( ) NO (X)		6. TOWNSHIP Range
		39. ENDANGERED? BY WHAT? YES ( ) NO (X)		
43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE  see continuation sheet		40. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD? YES (X) NO ( )		SECTION
		41. DISTANCE FROM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD		
44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS  see continuation sheet		PHOTO MUST BE PROVIDED		
45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION  see continuation sheet		46. PREPARED BY		
		47. ORGANIZATION		
RETURN THIS FORM WHEN COMPLETED TO: OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION P.O. BOX 176 JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102 PH. 314-751-5365		48. DATE		
		49. REVISION DATE(S)		

West Main Street--City Hall and Auditorium

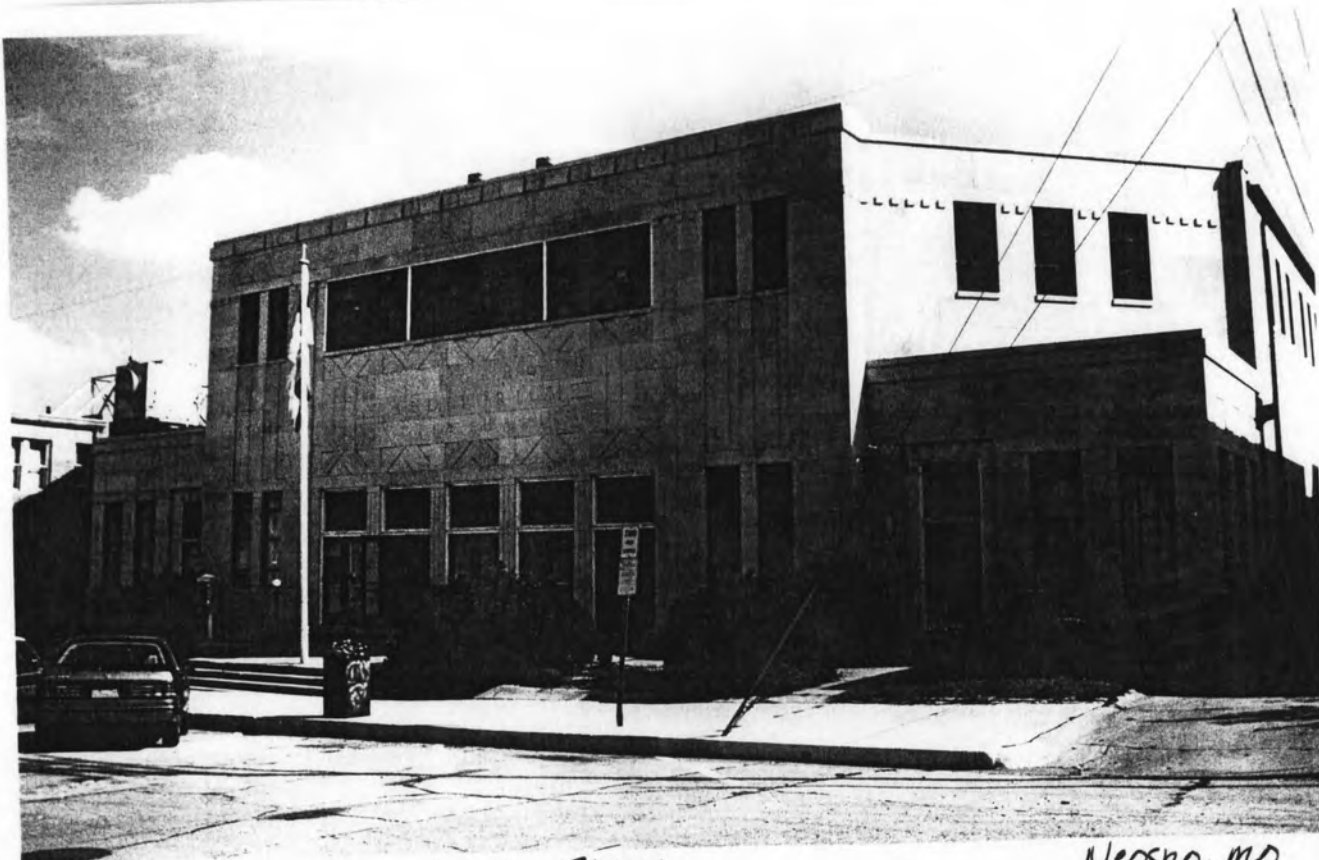
42. Further Description of Important Features: Two-story concrete, six-bay, Art Deco public building completed in 1938. The building has a concrete foundation, flat roof of rolled roofing and exterior of concrete panels. On the main (N) facade are five sets of double doors of single-light glass and wood design. Above the doors are large single-light rectangular transoms with opaque lights. Above the doors are chevron panels and vertical fluted panels. Windows are four-light hopper design. In the second story central bay the window openings have structural glass blocks. At the roofline is concrete zig-zag molding. Located to the east and west of the main section are original one-story wings with single-light glass and wood doors and four-light hopper windows. Inscribed on the main facade is "Neosho Auditorium City Hall".

43. History and Significance: The building was designed by St. Louis architect Neal C. Davis, a native of Newton County, and financed by the Work Projects Administration, project #1302DC. Edward and Charles Haas donated \$15,000 to the project. The citizens of Neosho voted bonds of \$40,000 and the U.S. government matched with \$40,000. Edward Haas also donated 100 books to the library, which was located in the building. The building is a good example of an Art Deco public building of the 1930s and is included in the proposed Neosho Commercial Historic District.

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings: Located one-half block west of the Neosho public square.

45. Sources of Information: Dedication plaque. "The Gathering Place: Neoshoans Remember Auditorium as it was." Neosho Daily News. 1 April 1990.





Auditorium, West Main Street

Neosho, MO

# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

## ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

SW-AS-036-054

1. NO. <u>143 -</u>		4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) <u>True Value Hardware</u>		1 NO	
2. COUNTY <u>Newton</u>		5. OTHER NAME(S)			2 COUNTY  Newton
3. LOCATION OF NEGATIVES					
6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP _____ RANGE _____ SECTION _____ IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS <u>122 East Spring Street</u>		16. THEMATIC CATEGORY  17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD <u>ca. 1920      c. 1970</u>		4 PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S)  True Value Hardware	
7. CITY OR TOWN IF RURAL, VICINITY <u>Neosho</u>		18. STYLE OR DESIGN <u>one-part commercial      65</u>			
8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION		19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER  20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER  21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT <u>commercial      Aw</u>			
9. COORDINATES UTM LAT _____ LONG _____		22. PRESENT USE <u>commercial</u>		5 OTHER NAME(S)	
10. SITE ( ) STRUCTURE ( ) BUILDING ( <u>x</u> ) OBJECT ( )		23. OWNERSHIP PUBLIC ( ) PRIVATE ( <u>x</u> )			
11. ON NATIONAL REGISTER? YES ( ) NO ( <u>x</u> )		24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS IF KNOWN			
12. IS IT ELIGIBLE? YES ( ) NO ( )		25. OPEN TO PUBLIC? YES ( <u>x</u> ) NO ( )		6 TOWNSHIP  RANGE	
13. PART OF ESTAB. HIST. DISTRICT? YES ( ) NO ( <u>x</u> )		26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION <u>Historic Preservation Comm.</u>			
14. DISTRICT POTENTIAL? YES ( ) NO ( )		27. OTHER SURVEYS IN WHICH INCLUDED			
15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT		28. NO. OF STORIES <u>1</u> 29. BASEMENT? YES ( ) NO ( <u>x</u> ) 30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL <u>concrete block</u> 31. WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>brick</u> 32. ROOF TYPE AND MATERIAL <u>parapet/rolled Ft</u> 33. NO. OF BAYS FRONT <u>3</u> SIDE _____ 34. WALL TREATMENT <u>stucco      61      50</u> 35. PLAN SHAPE <u>rectang.</u> 36. CHANGES (EXPLAIN IN NO. 42) ADDITION ( ) ALTERED ( ) MOVED ( ) 37. CONDITION INTERIOR _____ EXTERIOR _____ 38. PRESERVATION UNDERWAY? YES ( ) NO ( <u>x</u> ) 39. ENDANGERED? BY WHAT? YES ( ) NO ( <u>x</u> ) 40. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD? YES ( <u>x</u> ) NO ( ) 41. DISTANCE FROM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD		SECTION	
42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES  <u>see continuation sheet</u>		PHOTO MUST BE PROVIDED			
43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE  <u>see continuation sheet</u>					
44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS  <u>see continuation sheet</u>		46. PREPARED BY		7 DATE	
45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION <u>see continuation sheet</u>		47. ORGANIZATION			
RETURN THIS FORM WHEN COMPLETED TO: OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION P.O. BOX 176 JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102 PH. 314-751-5365		48. DATE <u>1/91</u>			
IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED, ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET(S) TO THIS FORM		49. REVISION DATE(S)			

122 East Spring Street--Johnston's True Value Hardware

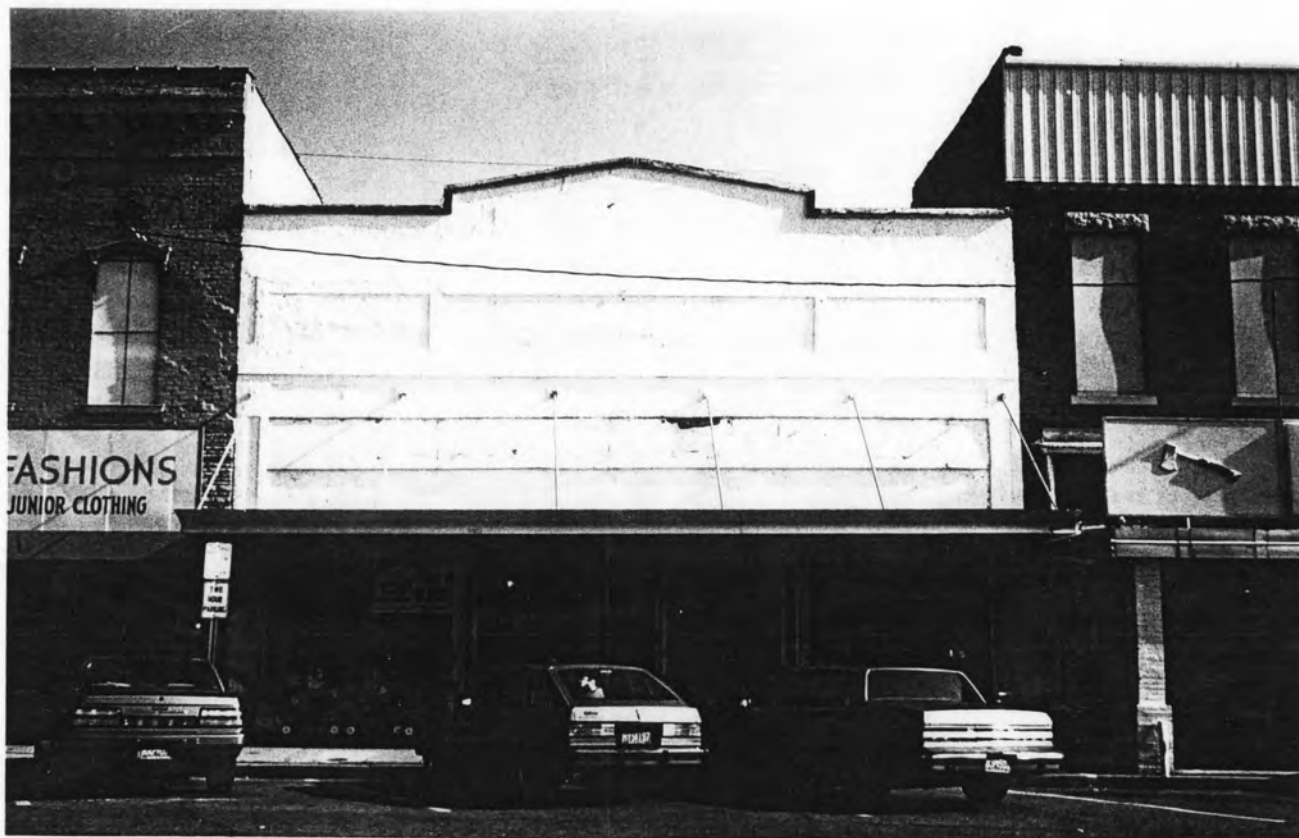
42. Further Description of Important Features: One-story brick, one-part commercial building constructed ca. 1920. The building has a storefront altered ca. 1970 with metal and glass display windows and doors. Across the width of the storefront is a ca. 1980 metal awning. Above the storefront is a transom which has been covered with wood panels. The upper facade is composed of brick with a stuccoed surface. This facade has recessed brick and stucco panels. At the roofline is a stepped parapet.

43. History and Significance: The building is constructed on the site of the 1885 opera house, which was used to show moving pictures in the early part of this century. This building replaced the opera house on the Sanborn Maps between 1916 and 1926. The building is located in the proposed Neosho Commercial Historic District.

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings: Located on the north side of the Neosho public square.

45. Sources of Information: Sanborn Insurance Maps.





122 East Spring Street

Neosho, MO

# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

## ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

SW-AS-036-055

1. NO. 155		4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) Crane's Office Supply		1 NO
2. COUNTY Newton		5. OTHER NAME(S)		
3. LOCATION OF NEGATIVES				
6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP _____ RANGE _____ SECTION _____ IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS 111-115 West Spring Street		16. THEMATIC CATEGORY		2 COUNTY Newton
7. CITY OR TOWN IF RURAL, VICINITY Neosho		17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD ca. 1895		
8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION		18. STYLE OR DESIGN two-part commercial 67		
		19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER 50		4 PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) Crane's Office Supply
		20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER R 1		
		21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT commercial DCE D/B		
		22. PRESENT USE commercial		
		23. OWNERSHIP PUBLIC ( ) PRIVATE (X)		
9. COORDINATES UTM LAT LONG		24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS IF KNOWN		
10. SITE ( ) STRUCTURE ( ) BUILDING (X) OBJECT ( )		25. OPEN TO PUBLIC? YES (X) NO ( )		
11. ON NATIONAL REGISTER? YES ( ) NO (X)		26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION Historic Preservation Comm.		
12. IS IT ELIGIBLE? YES ( ) NO ( )		27. OTHER SURVEYS IN WHICH INCLUDED		
13. PART OF ESTAB. YES ( ) NO (X)		28. NO. OF STORIES 2		
14. DISTRICT POTENTIAL? YES ( ) NO ( )		29. BASEMENT? YES ( ) NO (X)		
15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT		30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL brick		
		31. WALL CONSTRUCTION brick		
		32. ROOF TYPE AND MATERIAL flat/rolled PR		
		33. NO. OF BAYS FRONT 9 SIDE		
		34. WALL TREATMENT stamped metal		
		35. PLAN SHAPE rectang.		
		36. CHANGES (EXPLAIN IN NO. 42) ADDITION ( ) ALTERED ( ) MOVED ( )		
		37. CONDITION INTERIOR _____ EXTERIOR _____		
		38. PRESERVATION UNDERWAY? YES ( ) NO (X)		
		39. ENDANGERED? BY WHAT? YES ( ) NO (X)		
		40. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD? YES (X) NO ( )		
		41. DISTANCE FROM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD		
		42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES		
43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE		PHOTO MUST BE PROVIDED		5. OTHER NAME(S)
see continuation sheet				
44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS				
45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION		46. PREPARED BY		6. TOWNSHIP RANGE SECTION
see continuation sheet		47. ORGANIZATION		
RETURN THIS FORM WHEN COMPLETED TO: OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION P.O. BOX 176 JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102 PH. 314-751-5365		48. DATE 1/91		
IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED, ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET(S) TO THIS FORM		49. REVISION DATE(S)		

111-115 West Spring Street

42. Further Description of Important Features: Two-story brick, two-part commercial building with a pressed metal facade built ca. 1895. The building retains an original storefront at 111 West Spring Street with wood bulkhead panels, copper and glass display windows, and a recessed entrance with a single light glass and wood door. Above the entrance and display windows is a seven light transom. The other two storefronts have been altered in recent years with various materials such as glass and wood display windows and doors and stone veneer. The upper facade retains its original pressed metal front and is divided into four bays. Each bay contains three rectangular one-over-one sash windows. Dividing each window bay are single or paired Ionic motif columns resting on floral panels. Above the windows is a frieze with rosettes and at the roofline is a bracketed sheet metal cornice with modillion blocks and a frieze with round floral designs. At the roofline is a stepped parapet over each bay. The interior of the #111 section retains an original pressed metal ceiling.

43. History and Significance: This building was constructed ca. 1895 with a pressed metal facade. On the 1896 Sanborn map, #111 was a clothing store, #113 a bakery, and #115 was vacant. In 1902, #111 was vacant, #113 as a restaurant, and #115 was a bakery. In 1909, #111 had become an "electric theater", with #113 and #115 remaining as a restaurant and bakery, respectively, through 1916. In 1916, #111 is shown as a pool hall. The building is located in the proposed Neosho Commercial Historic District.

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings: The building is located one-half block west of the public square in the commercial section of Neosho.

45. Sources of Information: Sanborn Insurance Maps.





111-115 West Spring Street

Newno, MD

## MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

## ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

SW-AS-036-056

1. NO. 197		4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) Orpheum Theater		1 NO	
2. COUNTY Newton		3. OTHER NAME(S) The New Dreamland theater			2 COUNTY Newton
3. LOCATION OF NEGATIVES					
6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP _____ RANGE _____ SECTION _____ IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS 204 South Wood Street		16. THEMATIC CATEGORY		28. NO. OF STORIES 2	
7. CITY OR TOWN IF RURAL, VICINITY Neosho		17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD 1916/1917 c. 1970		29. BASEMENT? YES ( ) NO (X)	
8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION		18. STYLE OR DESIGN two-part commercial		30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL concrete	
		19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER G. D. Hall		31. WALL CONSTRUCTION brick	
		20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER Aw		32. ROOF TYPE AND MATERIAL parapet F+	
		21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT Theater 08		33. NO. OF BAYS FRONT 7 SIDE	
		22. PRESENT USE vacant		34. WALL TREATMENT stucco	
		23. OWNERSHIP PUBLIC ( ) PRIVATE (X)		35. PLAN SHAPE rectang.	
		24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS IF KNOWN		36. CHANGES (EXPLAIN IN NO. 42) ADDITION ( ) ALTERED ( ) MOVED ( )	
9. COORDINATES UTM LAT LONG		25. OPEN TO PUBLIC? YES ( ) NO (X)		37. CONDITION INTERIOR EXTERIOR	
10. SITE ( ) STRUCTURE ( ) BUILDING (X) OBJECT ( )		26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION Historic Preservation Comm.		38. PRESERVATION UNDERWAY? YES ( ) NO (X)	
11. ON NATIONAL REGISTER? YES ( ) NO (X)		27. OTHER SURVEYS IN WHICH INCLUDED		39. ENDANGERED? BY WHAT? YES ( ) NO (X)	
12. IS IT ELIGIBLE? YES ( ) NO ( )				40. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD? YES (X) NO ( )	
13. PART OF ESTAB. YES ( ) HIST. DISTRICT? NO (X)				41. DISTANCE FROM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD	
14. DISTRICT YES ( ) POTENTIAL? NO ( )					
15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT					
42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES  see continuation sheet				5. OTHER NAME(S)  PHOTO MUST  BE PROVIDED	
43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE  see continuation sheet					
44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS  see continuation sheet				6. TOWNSHIP  RANGE  SECTION	
45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION see continuation sheet					
RETURN THIS FORM WHEN COMPLETED TO: OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION P.O. BOX 176 JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102 PH. 314-751-5365				46. PREPARED BY	
IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED, ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET(S) TO THIS FORM				47. ORGANIZATION	
				48. DATE 1/91	
				49. REVISION DATE(S)	

204 South Wood Street--Orpheum Theater

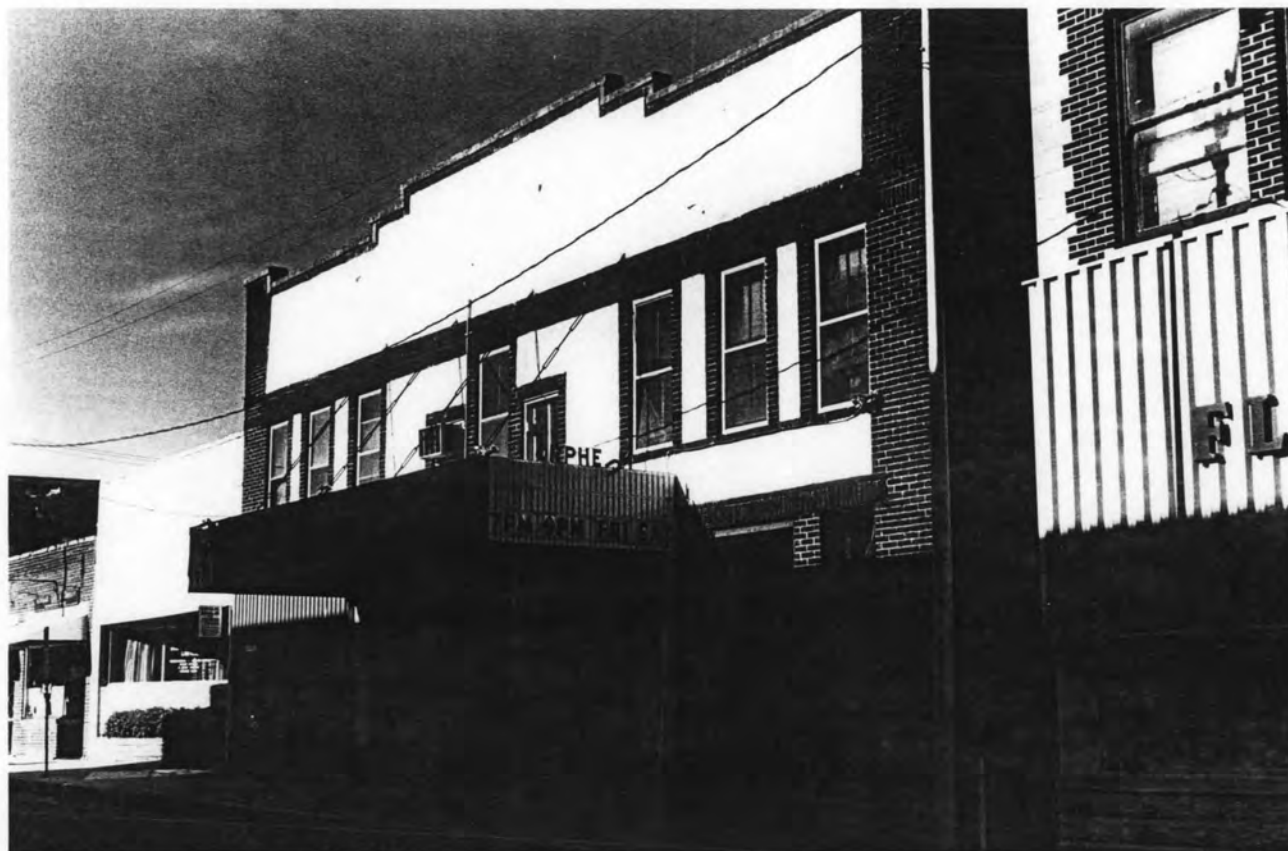
42. Further Description of Important Features: Two-story brick, three-bay, two-part commercial building constructed ca. 1916. The building's storefront has been altered with ca. 1970 metal panels and metal and glass doors. The marquee was either added or altered ca. 1970. The upper facade is original and has three bays of windows. In the north and south bays are three two-over-two rectangular wood sash windows with soldier course lintels and header brick sills. The central bay has three windows in a Paladian motif with the central window larger than the flanking windows. The upper facade has a stuccoed surface and at the roofline is a stepped parapet with concrete coping.

43. History and Significance: G.D. Hall built the theater in 1917 and called it the New Dreamland theater. The seating capacity was 700 on the floor, with 150 in the balcony. The first movies shown were talkies. The opening movies were "Red Hot Rhythm" with Kathryn Crawford singing "My Idea of Heaven", and a Mack Sennett comedy. The name was changed to the Orpheum in 1921 and a cooling system was installed in 1922. A new sound system was installed in 1929, after Hugh Gardner purchased the theater. Several theaters flourished in Neosho during WWII, but the Orpheum is the only theater that remains in Neosho. The building is located in the proposed Neosho Commercial Historic District.

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings: Located one-half block south of the Neosho public square.

45. Sources of Information: Sanborn Insurance Maps. Newton County Historical Society. Neosho, A City of Springs, 139. Osbourn, Mona. "History of Neosho and Newton County, Missouri, 1942." Newton County Historical Museum files.





204 South Wood Street

# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Nodaway County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Empire Theatre	Maryville	yes	no
Opera House		yes	no
Union Hall		yes	no
Grand Opera House	Burlington Junction	yes	no
Opera House		yes	no
Union Opera Hall		yes	no
Ware's Opera Hall		yes	no
Frayne and Jeffers' Opera House	Hopkins	yes	no

*maybe some about a few of these*

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Empire Theatre	Maryville	yes	no
Opera House		yes	no
Union Hall		yes	no
Grand Opera House	Burlington Junction	yes	no
Opera House		yes	no
Union Opera Hall		yes	no
Ware's Opera Hall		yes	no
Frayne and Jeffers' Opera House	Hopkins	yes	no

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Empire Theatre	Maryville	yes	no
Opera House		yes	no
Union Hall		yes	no
Grand Opera House	Burlington Junction	yes	no
Opera House		yes	no
Union Opera Hall		yes	no
Ware's Opera Hall		yes	no
Frayne and Jeffers' Opera House	Hopkins	yes	no

*don't know*

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area?

*renovated this summer (97) in Hopkins ~~theatre~~ Building in Elmo*

*Roxie Theatre just*

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

\_\_\_ books about specific theatres

\_\_\_ ☒ photographs

\_\_\_ ☒ newspaper articles

\_\_\_ scrapbooks

\_\_\_ ☒ county or town histories

\_\_\_ other, please specify

*Some of these sources may have information or photos in them*

*Newspaper + newspaper microfilm would have to be read (Available to you at Glen hi at Stk Hs Soc)*

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

What days and times is your library open to the public? *Tues - Fri. 1-4* ☒ by appointment

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times? yes ☒ no

Who is the best person to contact for more information? *Margaret Kelley - 816-582-8176*

*P.O. Box 324 110 N. Walnut 64408*

**Thank you for your assistance.** Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203

*Thank you for the donation - Margaret Kelley, Heritage Collection coordinator*

# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Historical Society of Oregon County

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Thayer Opera House                      Thayer                      yes ☒ no ☐

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Thayer Opera House                      Thayer                      yes ☐ no ☒

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Thayer Opera House                      Thayer                      yes ☒ no ☐ *only the ground structure*

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

\_\_\_\_\_ books about specific theatres \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ photographs \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ newspaper articles \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ scrapbooks \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ county or town histories \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

What days and times is your library open to the public? *on request*

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

Who is the best person to contact for more information? *Mildred L. McCormack*

*1 (417) 867-3285*

**Thank you for your assistance.**

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203



# Historical Society of Oregon Co.

*Preserve Yesterday; Enrich Tomorrow*

October 6, 1997

Becky Snider  
1008 Sunset Dr.  
Columbia, MO 65203

Re: Thayer Opera House

Dear Becky,

I sincerely wish that I had more information to send to you, concerning the Thayer Opera House. Especially, do I wish that I could have found all of the newspaper clipping.

In the 60's, the town fathers of Thayer decided to remove the upper structure of the old Opera House. The present ground structure houses the offices of City Hall for Thayer.

Many of the elderly citizens were saddened when this renovation took place. In the words of one of our Senior Citizens: "Along the way, Thayer officials lost sight of the importance of historic land marks. They re-did the beautiful Opera House into a plain City Hall, by removing the upper structure. Before, it could be seen for miles around and was famous from Springfield to Memphis. It's hard to understand!"

Wishing you much pleasure and success while you are working on your project.

Sincerely,

*Mildred L. McCormack*

Mildred L. McCormack, Pres.

Route 2, Box 3A

Koshkonong, MO 65692



*Mayer Opera House*

*circa - 1896*



*Opera House*

## Second Street - Back When

This is a reproduction of a picture post card furnished by Gene Blankenship. The picture was made with camera pointed across Chestnut, north on Second street.

It is not known what year the picture was made but there is a frame building on the corner of Chestnut and Second where the Bank of Thayer is now located. There are other frame buildings on Second street where the Post Office is now located. Streets were unpaved and a cow is strolling up Second. Building on left is Davis store building, in which the Beck

- Thayer News Engr.

Theatre is now located.

The streets were covered with a fairly heavy coating of snow when the picture was made.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Martin and Mark of Chicago, Ill. are visiting with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Martin over the Christmas holidays.



*City Hall  
Thayer, Mo.*

just started.

Since the remodeling work began several months ago, there has been considerable speculation as to the age of the building, et cetera.

This week, W.D. (Bill) Thorne loaned us a copy of the Thayer Tribune, dated August 7, 1896, which gives the age of the Old Opera house and some other interesting facts. Below we reprint from Tribune of almost 65 years ago:

**"To The Citizens of Thayer, Mo.**

Your city hall is finished. The total cost of the building was \$673. I received for building house, my first contract price, \$500, extra work on building, \$113 total, \$5563.50, making my loss the job \$471.23 in cash, besides time.

The above does not include the cost of the jail cells nor the lots which the building stands. I wish to publicly express my thanks and appreciation to my bondsmen Messrs. T.J. Boyd, H.J.F. D. and W.N. Carr, who have so kindly assisted me with their support have also received many favors much substantial aid from the Thayer County Bank. Messrs. W. Leland and A.R. Sitton have been especially kind, and I take this method of thanking them for

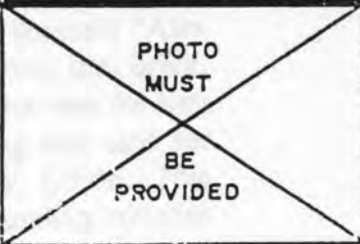
*from the Thayer  
News*



# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

## ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

SW-AS-036-057

1. NO. <u>432</u>		4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S)	
2. COUNTY <u>OSAGE</u>		5. OTHER NAME(S)	
3. LOCATION OF NEGATIVES <u>OCHS</u>		<u>DICKRIEDE STORE</u>	
6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP <u>44N</u> RANGE <u>10W</u> SECTION <u>12</u> IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS <u>Bonnots Mill, Riverview St.</u>		16. THEMATIC CATEGORY	28. NO. OF STORIES <u>2</u>
7. CITY OR TOWN IF RURAL, VICINITY		17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD	29. BASEMENT? YES ( ) NO ( )
8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION  <u>Corner of Riverview Drive and Main St.</u>		18. STYLE OR DESIGN <u>Commercial</u>	30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL <u>stone</u>
		19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER <u>unknown</u>	31. WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>brick</u>
		20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER <u>unknown</u>	32. ROOF TYPE AND MATERIAL <u>flat</u>
		21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT <u>store</u>	33. NO. OF BAYS FRONT <u>3</u> SIDE
		22. PRESENT USE <u>vacant</u>	34. WALL TREATMENT <u>brick</u>
		23. OWNERSHIP PUBLIC ( ) PRIVATE (x)	35. PLAN SHAPE <u>rectangle</u>
		24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS IF KNOWN	36. CHANGES (EXPLAIN IN NO. 42) ADDITION ( ) ALTERED ( ) MOVED ( )
9. COORDINATES UTM LAT LONG <u>Loose Creek</u>		25. OPEN TO PUBLIC? YES ( ) NO (x)	37. CONDITION INTERIOR EXTERIOR <u>fair</u>
10. SITE ( ) BUILDING (x) STRUCTURE ( ) OBJECT ( )		26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION	38. PRESERVATION UNDERWAY? YES ( ) NO (x)
11. ON NATIONAL REGISTER? YES ( ) NO (x)		27. OTHER SURVEYS IN WHICH INCLUDED	39. ENDANGERED? BY WHAT? YES ( ) NO (x)
12. IS IT ELIGIBLE? YES ( ) NO ( )			40. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD? YES (x) NO ( )
13. PART OF ESTAB. YES ( ) HIST. DISTRICT? NO (x)			41. DISTANCE FROM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD <u>5 to 10 feet</u>
14. DISTRICT POTENTIAL? YES ( ) NO ( )			
15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT			
42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES			
43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE			
44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS			
45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION		46. PREPARED BY <u>Gary Kremer</u>	
		47. ORGANIZATION <u>OCHS/MMCOG</u>	
RETURN THIS FORM WHEN COMPLETED TO: OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION P.O. BOX 176 JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102		48. DATE 49. REVISION DATE(S)	

MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

2. PROJECT NAME (SHORT OR LONG-TERM)

2.1

2.2

3. OTHER PROJECT

4. HISTORIC STATUS

5. LOCATION

6. DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH

7. PHOTOGRAPHER

8. PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER

9. PHOTOGRAPH DESCRIPTION

10. PHOTOGRAPH DATE

11. PHOTOGRAPH TIME

12. PHOTOGRAPH LOCATION

13. PHOTOGRAPH SCALE

14. PHOTOGRAPH COLOR

15. PHOTOGRAPH TYPE

16. PHOTOGRAPH SIZE

17. PHOTOGRAPH WEIGHT

18. PHOTOGRAPH PRICE

19. PHOTOGRAPH VALUE

20. PHOTOGRAPH CONDITION

21. PHOTOGRAPH CONDITION

22. PHOTOGRAPH CONDITION

23. PHOTOGRAPH CONDITION

24. PHOTOGRAPH CONDITION

25. PHOTOGRAPH CONDITION

26. PHOTOGRAPH CONDITION

27. PHOTOGRAPH CONDITION

28. PHOTOGRAPH CONDITION

29. PHOTOGRAPH CONDITION

30. PHOTOGRAPH CONDITION

31. PHOTOGRAPH CONDITION

32. PHOTOGRAPH CONDITION

33. PHOTOGRAPH CONDITION

34. PHOTOGRAPH CONDITION

35. PHOTOGRAPH CONDITION

36. PHOTOGRAPH CONDITION

37. PHOTOGRAPH CONDITION

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Building #24: Meyer-Morfeld Milling Company

This c. 1890 building represents two important agricultural and commercial establishments in Bonnots Mill. The first was the Bonnots Mill Elevator, started by Alex Verdot, Theodore Heinen, and John Rutgers who formed a business partnership in 1889. At some later time, the building housed a co-op for the Missouri Farmers Association where feed was sold. The Meyer-Morfeld Milling Company was begun in 1887. Henry Meyer and Adam Morfeld started business in Westphalia in 1878 and moved to Bonnots Mill in 1887. Fred Meyer (a son) purchased the Morfeld interest in 1898, and Henry Meyer (another son) bought out his father's interest in 1917. The Meyer-Morfeld Milling Company is still in operation as the Backes Feed Company, and today operates a feed mixing business in this building.

Building #25: Dieckriede Store

This building was constructed c. 1885 as a general store under the proprietorship of Henry Dieckriede. A description from around this time mentions a basement where sugar and salt were stored, and dry goods and groceries were sold on the first floor. In the rear, farmers could purchase harness, shovels, and other items. Shoes and clothing were available on the second floor. The building was later used as the Bon-Ton Dance Hall (perhaps a corruption of "bon temps", French for "good time"), with a stage on the first floor that was used for community theatre. Upstairs contained the local high school, which operated until the 1940s. The building is currently operated as the Eynard Cabinet Shop.

Building #27: Verdot Store

This building was constructed in 1858 for Felix Bonnot, and housed the original railway ticket and express office. It may also have housed the post office about the same time. Around the turn of the century, the building was owned by Alex Verdot and contained the business "Alex Verdot & Co." which dealt in grain, hardware, farm implements, buggies, wagons, tile, brick, fencing and other products. As motorized transport became popular, Alex Verdot was the first to handle gasoline and petroleum products in Bonnots Mill. Later, the building was used for the "Bonnots Mill Chickery," a chicken hatchery run by Alex Verdot's daughter, Lizzie. This establishment sold baby chicks to the farmers and ranchers of Osage and surrounding counties until the early 1970s. The building now houses M&M Upholstery.

Building #28: Voss Saloon

This building was constructed c. 1890 and operated as the Voss Saloon until 1943, offering rooms to rent upstairs. It then became a restaurant, and at some later period housed a barber shop. The building is still in use and functions now as a residence.

Building #31: Dubrouillet's Store; Eynard Store

This c. 1875 building is thought to be the oldest store in Bonnots Mill. Between the building's construction and 1926, it was owned by J.C. Dubrouillet, Henry Sampson, Herman Gove, and Henry Oidtmann, successively. August and Gertrude Eynard purchased the store from Henry Oidtmann in 1926. The store has been in the Eynard family since then, and is currently owned and operated by Mrs. Irene Mertens, the daughter of August and Gertrude Eynard. Located at the foot of the steep hill entering the town on Highway A, the building has survived three runaway truck crashes in 1973, 1978, and 1983.



# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Pemiscot County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Fenton Opera House	Caruthersville	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>
Grand Opera House		yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kennett Opera House	Kennett	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>

*Sending what I have found*

*Dunklin Co.*

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Fenton Opera House	Caruthersville	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Grand Opera House		yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kennett Opera House	Kennett	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>

*Dunklin Co.*

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Fenton Opera House	Caruthersville	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Grand Opera House		yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>
Kennett Opera House	Kennett	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>

*Probably not  
no one has  
heard of it*

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? *I'm not sure what you want to know. Theatres -- like where movies were shown --*

*If 50 E 3rd St. Liberty Theatre -- later known as Rogers Theatre -- Bldg. Foundation. It was there when I moved to Pemco in 1932. In late 30's - 2 other theatres were built in the city one on corner of E. 11th & one on corner of E. 12th and they showed*

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

- ☐ books about specific theatres
- ☐ photographs
- ☐ newspaper articles
- ☐ scrapbooks
- ☐ county or town histories
- ☐ other, please specify

*I have told you -- you can do research Pem Co. later it is the Democrat-Argus, (quite a bit Democrat) Republican (later was Democrat Journal) for passenger list, also the Herald, State Enterprise & Steele*

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

*NO*

What days and times is your library open to the public? *Archive Room & only open to members -- & by contact previous so someone can be there w/ anyone who use the archives.*

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

*as stated in previous question*

Who is the best person to contact for more information? *Jessie Gallahue 573-*

*I doubt if I can give you any add'l help from our 359-*

*archive Room. 0492*

**Thank you for your assistance.**

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203

*double features & were about half the price of the Rogers Theatre -- the Bldg is used for storage, & one Bldg is standing empty for about 3 yrs or more*

August 31, 1997

Pemiscot County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 604  
Caruthersville, MO 63830

Dear Pemiscot County Historical Society Representative:

I am a graduate student in the Environmental Design Department at the University of Missouri - Columbia working on a PhD in Historic Preservation. My dissertation focuses on historic theatres, halls, and opera houses in outstate Missouri. I am attempting to compile a database of information about the theatrical venues which have existed in Missouri. I am particularly interested in the theatres and opera houses which still exist even if they are no longer functioning as a performance space. Eventually, I hope to produce a book about historic theatres in Missouri.

In your area, I am aware of the following theatres and am interested in any additional information about them that you can provide:

Caruthersville

Fenton Opera House

Grand Opera House — *no Inf.*

Kennett

Kennett Opera House *Heunklein Co.*

However, there may be or have been other theatres, halls, or opera houses in your area that I have yet to discover. I would appreciate your help in locating information about the theatres and opera houses in your area. I am enclosing a short questionnaire to help guide you to the type of information I am interested in obtaining.

For your convenience, I have enclosed a self-addressed, stamped envelope for you to return the questionnaire to me. In addition, I am enclosing a small donation to your organization

If your organization charges a fee for research inquiries, please advise me of the anticipated cost prior to beginning any searches. I can be reached by phone at (573) 443 - 3241 or you may simply send the information to me in the postage-paid enclosed envelope.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

*Becky L. Snider*  
Becky L. Snider  
1008 Sunset Drive  
Columbia, MO 65203

*(over)*

*Thanks for \$2*

*If you think I can help you in any other way, let me know.*

When I moved to Pem. Co. in 1932. There was a Bison Theatre that only operated in the fall (when cotton picking money was available). It looked derelict to me then & was in the block that started at the ~~Street~~<sup>the</sup> Seawall (we are on the M<sup>s</sup> River), at that time the only businesses on the E. side of that St. (it was <sup>BISON</sup> about middle of block) <sup>have</sup> been torn down for yrs) was a saloon, or 2, & a Groc store at the corner of 3rd & Woodward (the main St.) On the W. side of the St. was a couple of old boarding houses & a ~~board shop~~<sup>ice cream shop</sup> (in cotton picking season) -- all these businesses were close to the river at that time - as there ~~was~~<sup>was</sup> lots of river traffic (before Trains came to Gville.)

I asked at the monthly Hist Soc. Mtg & no one knew anything other than they could remember The Bison Theatre & where it was. One member asked a 96 year old (now in N. Home) member & she said it was the same as the Fenton Opera House. She couldn't remember anything else.

I looked in a 1911 History of Pem Co. w/ Luf & lots of adst. & there were no theatres or opera house in it.

There were movie theatres in Hayti, Steele, Woodall, & sometimes during harvest at ~~St~~ Braggadocio, Lamer, all these Bldgs are soon torn down, or burned.

my husband said: "The John & Susie traveling shows" came thru Braggadocio when he was a boy (lives now in 23), & also a man who lived there traveled around with a Tent show - first Silent movies & later Talking movies - & later he put the road & built a small theatre in Braggadocio that didn't last very long.



1910 is the earliest  
editions of Co newspapers  
in our Archives Room,  
I researched thru may +  
these were the advt. I  
found about the FENTON  
all our Co. newspapers <sup>have</sup> ~~been~~  
been filmed by the St.  
Hist Soc. of Mo at Columbia,  
if you want to do earlier  
research on FENTON

CTION ONE.

# EEK DEMOCRAT.

Pemiscot County

ILLE, MO., JANUARY 28, 1910

Old Series No. 15—New Series No 1052

Suppression of facts in connection with coal land claims in Alaska.

Acting as attorney for Clarence Cunningham, whose alleged fraudulent claims for Alaska coal lands are now before his department for action.

Favoring the "interests" as against the people.

#### Lecture Course.

We are delighted to inform our readers that the next number on the season's lecture course will be Brush the magician. It will be remembered by most of our readers that Brush appeared here some three or four years ago and everybody that saw him was delighted with his evening's entertainment of mystery, magic, comedy, humor and illusion. He is one of the best musicians on the American platform and presents tricks in magic that are new and up-to-date. He has no stale tricks. The Fremont (O.) News in commenting on his entertainment says: "One-thousand dollar reward for anyone that was not more than pleased with the Brush entertainment. He is witty, refined and presents no stale tricks. He keeps the audience in a continual uproar of wonderment and laughter."

This attractions is the fourth number on this season's lecture course and is the strongest attraction on the course. The attraction will appear at the opera house, Monday night, February 7th. Those holding season tickets should reserve their seats early, as no doubt there will be a large crowd and the opera house will be filled. Single admission for this attraction will be 35 and 50 cents. You should not fail to see Brush as it is the opportunity of a lifetime to see this great magician and Caruthersville can congratulate herself upon having this great magician appear here.

#### Rare Treat.

Burton Nixon will offer a dramatization of Mary J. Holmes' best novel by Beulah Poynter "Lena Rivers" at the Fenton on February 1. This play has pleased more than a million of people in the last three years, a play that pleases the masses and no saying was more truthful. There is not a situation that is not taken from actual life, and they are not only original, but

## Fenton Opera House

ONE NIGHT ONLY

Tuesday, Feb. 1

THOS. H. SEWELL

PRESENTS

Beulah Poynter's Beautiful Play

LENA RIVERS

From Mary J. Holmes' Novel

#### A PLAY WITH:

The Love Story so dear to Womankind. Romantic, Picturesque and quaint characters. Comedy, Tears and Climaxes. Beautiful Scenery and Costumes.

#### A PLAY WITHOUT

Sensationalism, a Murder, a Wronged Woman, a Blood-thirsty Villian, a Mortgaged Farm, a Railroad Train, a Wrecked Auto, a Headache.

Reserved Seats on Sale at the Gill-Hill Drug Store.

PRICES--25, 35, 50 and 75c

CTION ONE.

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Reserved Seats on Sale at the Call



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## A PLAY

The Love Story so dear to Womankind, picturesque and quaint characters, maxes, Beautiful Scenery and C

## A PLAY W

Sensationalism, a Murder, a Womans thirsty Villian, a Mortgaged Farm, a Wrecked Auto, a Headache.

---

Reserved Seats on  
Hill Drug Store.

---

PRICES--25, 35

---

# FENTON THEATER

---

**THREE NIGHTS**

...COMMENCING...

**Monday, May 2nd**

---

## **Edward Black Stock Company**

...PRESENTING...

**MY DIXIE GIRL**

**A RURAL BLOCKHEAD**

**LIFE OF DORA THORNE**

---

**SPECIALTIES BETWEEN ACTS**

---

**PRICES 10, 20 AND 30 CENTS**

---

**SEATS NOW ON SALE AT GILL-HILL DRUG STORE**

*May 1910* *Twice a week* *Reverat*



# E-A-WEEK DEMOCRAT.

CARUTHERSVILLE, MO., FEBRUARY 22, 1910

Old Series No. 18 - New Series No 1061

**At the Fenton, Thursday, Feb. 24.**

The Buster Brown Amusement Co. presents the  
Great Laugh-Making Show, R. F. Outcault's New

## Buster Brown



With lovable little Master Rice as "Buster," assisted by "Tige," "Mary Jane" and a capable company of 40, including the Buster Brown Poney Ballet. A corking good show. Tinkling and Tuneful. A show for children from 7 to 70. See the big 1910 Feature, "The Billiken Man."

**Everything New but the Name.**

**Reserved Seats now selling at Gill-Hill Drug Store.**



# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Perry County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Electric	Perryville	yes	_____	no	_____
Mercier Theatre		yes	_____	no	_____
Phillips' Opera House		yes	_____	no	_____
Ziegler's Opera House		yes	_____	no	_____

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Electric	Perryville	yes	_____	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mercier Theatre		yes	_____	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Phillips' Opera House		yes	_____	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ziegler's Opera House		yes	_____	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Electric	Perryville	yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no	_____
Mercier Theatre		yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no	_____
Phillips' Opera House		yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no	_____
Ziegler's Opera House		yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no	_____

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? There were  
no other theatres in the area. There were a few other "halls".  
but they were used for dances etc. rather than theatres

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

_____ books about specific theatres	_____
_____ photographs	_____
_____ newspaper articles	_____
_____ scrapbooks	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> county or town histories	<u>Mercier theatre (a picture of) will</u>
_____ other, please specify	<u>appear in A Photographic History of</u>

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area? Perry County 1920-1955 which will be  
published in Nov.

What days and times is your library open to the public? 1st + 3rd Saturdays  
through October.

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

Who is the best person to contact for more information? \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your assistance.**

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203



September 14, 1997

Becky L. Snider  
1008 Sunset Drive  
Columbia, MO 65203

Dear Mx. Snider,

I'm sorry to report that we have little written information concerning theatrical activities in Perry County. However, as indicated on your survey form, all of the buildings you have listed are still here though none of them are used as theatres.

The building that housed Ziegler's Opera House was built in 1879 by A.H. and William Cashion. I believe that John Ziegler bought the building in the 1890's. In Perryville when a new business house was constructed, the second floor was often called a "hall" and used for many different things such as dances, club meetings, lecture halls and as a theatre for local groups to put on a play. When another building was built, its' second floor was the new hall in town and became the "in" place for these activities. John Ziegler had a saloon on the first floor and that was his primary business. My impression (no proof) is that Ziegler's would rarely be used for a professional theatrical performance. I certainly could be wrong. By the way, when the Cashion's owned the building, one of the families lived in the second story and then it was used as a hall and I think it was sometimes called an Opera House. The building now houses the Southeast Missouri Planning Commission. The upstairs was divided into several rooms many years ago. (Sources: Weekly Perryville Union July 1878 and dates before and after)

The Phillip's Opera House is a different story. It was much larger than Ziegler's. I am enclosing an article I wrote for our quarterly earlier this year and it contains everything I know about it. It lasted from 1897 to 1903 when they rented the building to a new business which used the theatre part as a hall or opera house for a few years but took over the space for business purposes later. That business is the Roziers Mercantile Co. (Sources: Perry County Sun and Perry County Republican)

The first home of the Electric Theatre was (I think) an old small building that certainly was not built for a movie theatre. I'm not sure when the first movie was shown in that building but a new building was built beginning in 1913 and they were in it by 1914. The building is still standing but hasn't been used as a theatre since 1934. It is a fairly small building with the gable end toward the street.

I am sending a copy of a newspaper article that was written at the time when the Mercier Theatre closed. It was built in 1934.

(Sources: Perry County Sun and Perry County Republican September and October 1934)

All of the sources are local newspapers. I don't know of any others. You have them close to you at the State Historical Society in the University Library building. They are all on microfilm.

If you plan to come here, please check with us before you come to be sure that there will be someone to let you in our library. You are very welcome but I don't believe we have a single thing that will help you. If you have any questions either write or call me at 573-547-5259 either before 9 a.m. or after 7p.m. If you find anything about the theatres here that we don't have, we would be grateful to have that information.

Good luck on your dissertation.

*Billie R. Mills*

Billie R. Mills  
1301 Kathleen Blvd. L-1  
Perryville, MO 63775



Office of Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101  
**HISTORIC INVENTORY** SW-AS-036-058

<b>1 No</b> <b>2 County</b> Perry <b>3 Location of Negatives</b> City of Perryville	<b>4 Present Name(s)</b> Mercier Theatre <b>5 Other Name(s)</b> 79P40010
<b>6 Specific Location</b> Jackson Street, Courthouse Square	<b>16. Thematic Category</b> Architecture <b>17 Date(s) or Period</b> 1930's <b>18. Style or Design</b> Art Deco. <b>19. Architect or Engineer</b> _____ <b>20. Contractor or Builder</b> _____ <b>21. Original Use, if apparent</b> _____ <b>22. Present Use</b> Movie Theatre <b>23. Ownership</b> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>24. Owner's Name &amp; Address, if known</b> _____ <b>25. Open to Public?</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <b>26. Local Contact Person or Organization</b> _____ <b>27. Other Surveys in Which Included</b> _____
<b>7 City or Town</b> If Rural, Township & Vicinity Perryville, Missouri <b>8 Site Plan with North Arrow</b> 	<b>28. No. of Stories</b> 2 <b>29. Basement?</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Under stage only <b>30. Foundation Material</b> Concrete <b>31. Wall Construction</b> Masonry <b>32. Roof Type &amp; Material</b> Flat w/Builtup Roof <b>33. No. of Bays</b> Front    3    Side <b>34. Wall Treatment</b> Common Bond <b>35. Plan Shape</b> Rectangular <b>36. Changes</b> Addition <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/> (Explain in #42) <b>37. Condition</b> Interior _____ Exterior    Good <b>38. Preservation Underway?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>39. Endangered? By What?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>40. Visible from Public Road?</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <b>41. Distance from and Frontage on Road</b> Approx. 10'/20'
<b>9 Coordinates</b> UTM Lat _____ Long    N/A <b>10</b> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> <b>11. On National Register?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>12. Is It Eligible?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <b>13 Part of Estab. Hist. Dist.?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>14. District Potent'?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <b>15 Name of Established District</b> No District	

**42. Further Description of Important Features** Features of interest in this building include the terra cotta pilaster capitals, coping at top of parapet, double soldier course brick work below coping, herring bone pattern brick work over second story windows, and neon lighting of marquis.



**43 History and Significance** Contributes to historic character of town square.

**44 Description of Environment and Outbuildings**

**45 Sources of Information**

**46. Prepared by**  
 RGW  
**47. Organization**  
 Fischer-Stein Assoc.  
**48. Date**    6/27/79    **49. Revision Date(s)**

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Perry County Historical Society

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Vol. 15, Number 2, 1997

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A publication of the Book Committee

PERRY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P. O. BOX 97, PERRYVILLE, MO 63775



## 100TH BIRTHDAY

We are lucky in Perryville. We have at least six buildings on the square that are one hundred years old and all house active businesses today. There are two on the east side of the square, two on the south side, and two on the west side, plus there is the possibility that there are others under modern facades but finding the exact age of small buildings is a long and difficult process. Maybe one of these days we will discover the age of each of the surviving buildings on the square.

This year, 1997, one of our buildings has reached the century mark. It is the front and first building that now contains Rozier's Department Store. The building is on the northeast corner of St. Marie and Main streets. Unfortunately we don't have a picture of the original building without any additions and we don't have any interior pictures showing the upstairs or the opera house. The story of its construction and opening are told by items from the local papers, the Sun and the Republican.

Perry County Sun  
February 25, 1897

## A \$6,000 OPERA HOUSE To be Built in Perryville

Mr. T.L. Phillips this week let the contract for building a \$6,000 opera house on his property on the northeast corner of the public square. The building is to be 40 x 65, with three business rooms below, one of which will be occupied by the Bank of Perryville, and the other two will be for rent for business purposes. The opera house will have a high ceiling and be provided with a fine stage, and good seats. It will be sufficiently large to seat comfortably 400 people. Work will commence on the building in a few days and will be pushed to completion as soon as possible. The structure is to be as near fire-proof as it can be made. Chas. A. Kiefner is the contractor, which is a guarantee that the work on it will be first-class. Hurrah for Perryville and Tom Phillips.

---

We hear that an amateur dramatic company is being organized among the young people of Perryville. That's right. We are to have a fine opera house, and why not christen it by an entertainment of home talent? Push it along, young people.

March 5, 1897

The old one-story brick that has been an eye-sore to the northeast corner of the square for many years has been razed to the ground within the past week to make room for the new opera house building being erected by Mr. T.L. Phillips.



March 12, 1897

The sound of the saw and hammer, the piles of pressed brick and the number of men at work on the two buildings being erected on the northeast corner of the square, makes that corner look prosperous (sic) and business like.

April 9, 1897

The brick for the new opera house are all on the ground and work on the walls will soon be commenced.

May 7, 1897

The spirit of improvement has struck the northeast corner of the square hard. Mr. Louis Doerr is having his store house repainted, and renovated, and Mrs. Blechle has had her building treated likewise. And Billy Blechle, to keep pace with the van has put in one of the finest refrigerators in the town and his bar remodeled until you would hardly know the place. Will is a hustler.

May 14, 1897

The brick layers commenced work on the opera house Tuesday morning.

June 18, 1897

Boland & Sons who have the contract for doing the brick work on the Seminary annex are pushing that work right along this week. They also have the brick work on the opera house, but that is about completed. They are hustlers and all good workmen.

August 27, 1897

The work on the opera house is now completed except hanging the scenery which will be done next week.

September 10, 1897

### THE NEW OPERA HOUSE

Last Saturday, by the Courtesy of C.E. Kiefner and T.L. Phillips, we were shown through the interior of the new opera house, which is now complete and ready for use. The stage scenery is in position, seats arranged etc. Three hundred and eighty chairs are now in the room, seventy of which are regular folding opera chairs. All are so arranged that they can be removed and the hall cleared for a dance or festival purposes. This latter arrangement will be found very useful in a place the size of Perryville. The scenery

is perfect in arrangement and of a high order of art. Taking it all in all, we believe that our town now has one of the neatest and most convenient opera houses in Southeast Missouri. It is not necessary, for us to say more of the interior, as our friends will soon have the opportunity of inspecting it for themselves. Mr. Phillips will open it to the public next Thursday night with a grand ball, and on the 21st the Colson Dramatic Co. will formerly (formally?) open it as an opera house. The reputation of Mr. Colson is sufficient of itself to draw an immense attendance. The room is well ventilated, and will seat comfortably 600 people, so no one need stay away for fear of being crowded. Mr. Phillips has shown good judgment, we think, in securing so popular a company as Mr. Colson's.

As to the building itself, it is one of the best in town and adds greatly to the appearance of the northeast corner of the square. The bank will occupy the first room on the corner, and there are two large commodious store rooms on the first floor, with cellar under the entire building. Charley Kiefner was the contractor, and it goes without saying that everything is first-class. The brick walk was laid by Boland & Sons of St. Louis, and other work by our local mechanics. Dick Singleton bossed the painting and put the finishing touches to the opera room. Such a building has long been needed in Perryville and Mr. Phillips for his enterprise should receive a liberal patronage.

September 10, 1897

T.L. Phillips received a fine new upright piano Monday for use in the opera house. Felix DeLassus also received one the same day.

September 24, 1897

#### A SOCIETY EVENT

The opening ball at Phillip's new opera house last Thursday night was an event that will long be remembered by the people of Perryville. One could not imagine a more enjoyable time. A large and beautiful hall with the finest floor feet ever rested on in Perryville, and music by the finest orchestra in Southeast Missouri - namely the Perryville Orchestra - all contributed to make the ball the finest and most enjoyable that has ever taken place in our city.

At 9 o'clock p.m. the beautiful stage curtain was raised just as the orchestra began the opening grand march, which drifted off into a waltz, and the whirling mass of humanity and fine costumes that followed was a sight for the gods. Even the old married people could not resist the temptation, and old citizens that are supposed to be limping around with the "rhematics" were out on the floor shaking their feet like professional clog dancers. Mr. Phillips, the proprietor of the hall, and his wife took an active part in the dance.



Waltzes, schottisches, polkas and Quadrilles were kept up incessantly until 2 a.m. when a number of the participants, though not tired, remembered that there was a morrow and henceforth hied themselves to their homes. This seemed to be the signal for a general departure and in a few moments the hall was empty. However, the crowd did not leave until they had sang several old familiar songs that were joined in by every one in the hall and were accompanied by Mrs. Phillips on the new, elegant and sweet-toned piano.

All who attended the dance feel very grateful to Mr. Phillips's for his hospitality and will long remember the event as one of the most enjoyable occasions of their life.

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The opening night of the Colson Dramatic Co., at Phillips Opera House was quite a success, and the house was well filled. The four-act comedy drama Uncle Dan'l was put on for the opening and elicited considerable applause from the audience. Song and dance specialties were introduced by Messrs Richards and Lawrence, and they are both good in their line. Miss Ada Roberts also entertained the audience by the rendition of fine vocal solos. She has a very sweet and flute-like voice. Mr. Colson appeared in the character of Uncle Dan'l and he still possesses the ability to make the audience laugh at his will. Mrs. Colson is as good as ever, and in the character of Clip commanded considerable attention.

September 8, 1897

The Bank of Perryville was moved from its old stand to the opera house building last week. The moving of the safe was quite an undertaking and occupied the greater part of a whole day. The new bank building is a thing of beauty and must be seen to be appreciated.

Perry County Republican

February 18, 1898

Leopold Grabowski who formerly conducted a clothing store in our city has rented a store room from Thom. L Phillips in the Opera House Block and will shortly open for business.

April 28, 1898

Thom. Phillips has had an awning of corrugated iron placed on the Opera House.



May 26, 1898

Chas. Ehrengart & Co. the big cash buyers will move June 1st to Opera House Block.  
Cash for everything. T.E. Brown, Mgr.

---

With this move the Opera House was full, at least for a while. Although Thomas L. Phillips has been part of the Bank of Perryville since its' beginning, the Opera House part of the building seems to be the way people of that time identified it. Phillips built another building in the middle of the north side of the square for the bank and it moved there in 1903 and stayed until the early 1970's. Also in 1903, Litsch & Killian and John Kiefner occupied the downstairs part of the Opera House while their building on the north side of the square was being remodeled to become the first Union Store. In August 1903, a new store that was to become an institution in Perryville, the Roziers Mercantile Co., moved in and stayed.

This building is the second one built by Thomas L. Phillips to survive. On the southwest corner of St. Marie and Jackson street, the building occupied by K & L Sports Locker and Zahner & Associates, Inc. was built in 1885. In a way, the north side of the square is bracketed by the work of Thomas L. Phillips.

#### CROSSTOWN HELP!

If you have already purchased the Menfro book and have enjoyed reading it, maybe you can help with my next project. Do you have anything pertaining to Crosstown, Mo., or surrounding areas such as Red Rock Landing? Photographs, letters, advertisements, church, weddings, funerals, school, home, stores, picnics, family pictures or stories! will all be helpful. I am very interested in talking with you. All photographs will be copied by me in your presence. Please write Trish Moldenhauer Erzfeld, #6 Lakeside Drive, Perryville, MO 63775 or call 573-547-1906. I am also researching Point Rest, MO.

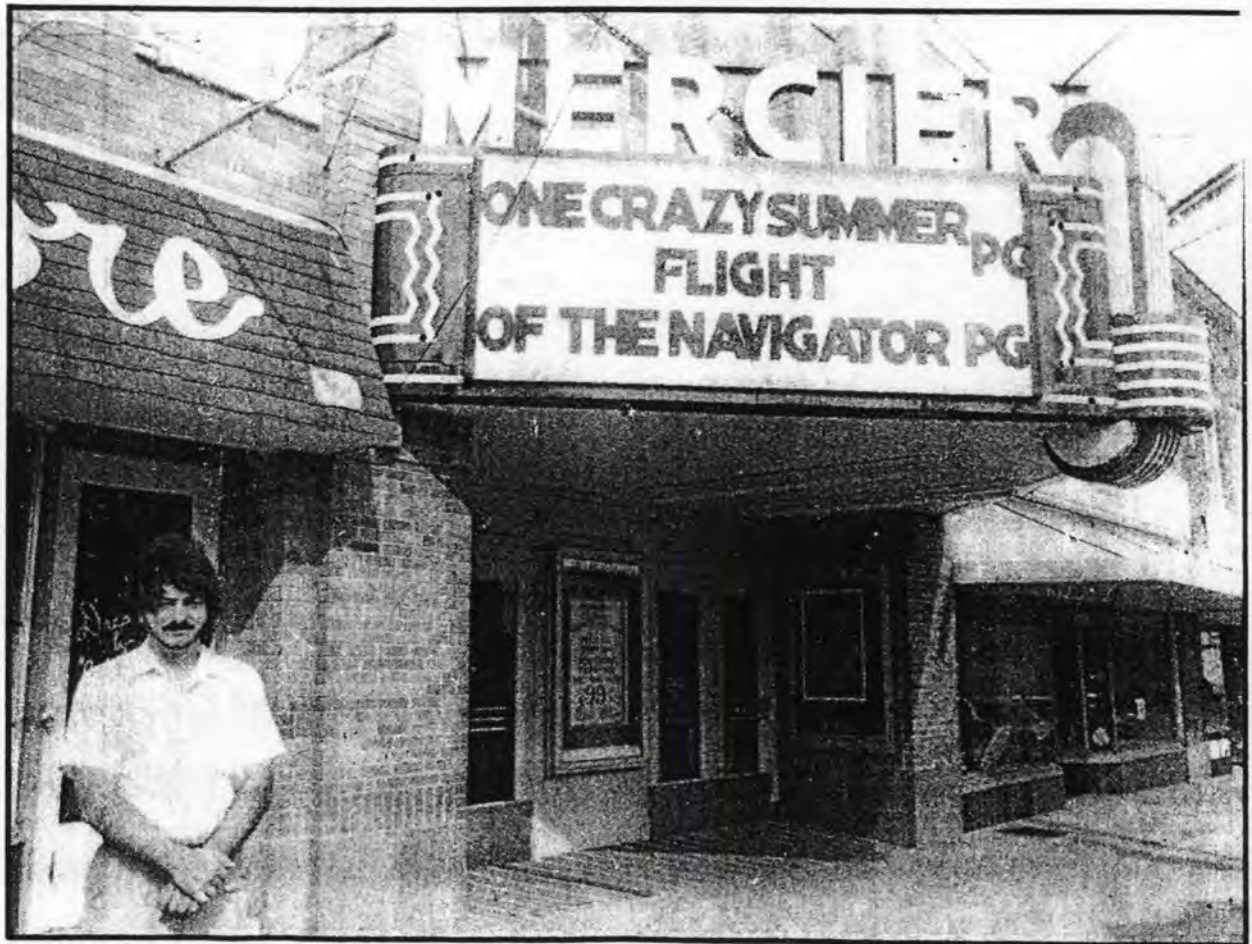
The Monitor

# THE MO

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1986

(USPS — 358880) 35¢ Per Copy

PERRYVILLE,



## THEATRE CLOSES

Mike Brewer, manager of Mercier Theatre for the past 2½ years, stands outside the facility that has served the community well for 52 years.

The closing of the theatre is the end of an era in Perryville. Modern day lifestyles have contributed to the closing, operators say.

The last showing will be tonight, Sept. 11.

(staff photo by Betty Valle Gegg)

# Theatre closing



# Theatre closing signals end of era

It is time for the last picture show in Perryville.

Mercier Theater, operated by Kerasotes Theaters, a large midwestern chain since 1975, will close its doors after tonight's showing of "One Crazy Night" and "Flight of the Navigator."

The Mercier has been a fixture in the local community since its inception in 1934. The local silver screen has rarely been dark. But times have changed too much for the industry to operate in this small town, said company officials. Mike Brewer, who has managed the Mercier for the past 2½ years, will be moving to Dexter to manage the theater there, which is also owned by Kerasotes. Mike said he was "somewhat surprised" last week to receive the call notifying him that the local theater was closing.

"But a smaller town, it's just hard to compete," Brewer said. "Movie going is just not a big thing in Perryville."

Brewer said the trend toward videotape movie rentals for home viewing has been a big factor in the demise of the local theater, however, he feels the theater still has a place in the culture of this area.

"Homes have kitchens, but people still like to eat out," he said.

John Miller, advertising director for Kerasotes, said the company tried for some time to keep the theater open.

"It's just not been doing very well," he said. "We have tried a number of marketing strategies and tried to get people to go to the show, but it's just not working out. We worked at it for a long time."

Miller noted how the price of movie-going has been reduced to 99 cents in hope of attracting crowds.

"But the size of the community has a lot to do with it," Miller said. "Communities of Perryville's size

just have a hard time supporting a theater. I'm real sorry to see it close, but you just can't hang on forever."

The demise of the local theatre signals the end of an era that has been fully experienced by one local man, Kelly Fulton of 712 West North. Kelly was born in Patton some 74 years ago and his family moved to Perryville in 1925 when he was 13.

The young lad took a job working for the late A.C. Mercier at the old "Electric Theatre" located in the present Willowgreen Studio building on the south side of the square. Fulton ran the projector part time and was a janitor and cashier part time. In those days still movies were the rule, giving him the added job of running the player piano.

Stage shows were popular in those days as well.

"One time we had a cowboy music show - cowboys from the 101 Ranch in Texas. And we were on the Lyceum circuit. Every few months they would put on a stage show, a play, and we would have reserved seats. We would have to chalk-mark all the rows of seats."

The movies drew big crowds in early days, despite the condition of the theater. There was no air conditioning, only some electric fans on the side walls. For heating, there was a couple of coal furnaces, one under the stage and another under the auditorium.

But Mercier provided the remedy for the crude situation in 1934 when he built the Mercier Theater now standing. Fulton recalls the move was made after the show one night without interrupting a single night's showing.

"I worked all night with some boys helping me and we had it set up the middle of the afternoon the next day. It was ready for the big opening."

Fulton recalls the new building was very ornate.

"It was the nicest theater between St. Louis and Memphis. Our screen was on the back of the stage. We had velour drapes, velour opening and closing curtains and colored lights. We had big beams across the ceiling and big chandeliers with colored lights in them. At Christmas time, I would change all the bulbs to red and green. It was really an ornate place."

Fulton continued operating the theater for the Merciers, A.C. and son Val, taking a leave only to serve in World War II. Since that time, the theatre has been remodeled several times, so much that its original design is no longer evident.

The first change was bringing the ticket box inside, then the wide-screen was added. The chandeliers had to be taken down because the projector lights would hit them.

The next remodelling included lowering the ceiling to provide better acoustics.

In 1975 Mercier sold both the indoor theater and the Hilltop Drive-In to Kerasotes. He had purchased the Hilltop shortly after it was built in the 40s by the Donze brothers.

Kerasotes converted the Mercier into a twin theater in 1982 and again extensively remodeled the interior. Since then two shows have been offered nightly at the local theater.

But more didn't necessarily mean better.

Attendance fell off as videocassette recorders became popular and the home videotape market boomed. Today some movies are available on cassette less than a year after their run in the theaters. With fewer films and more studios striving for the "blockbusters" small town theater often have the more popular film months after they have opened in metropolitan areas.

In essence the viewing habit

(Cont. to Page A-5)

ont. from Front Page)

customers have changed and the closing of the small-town theaters is a very visible indication of that change.

Ads for the sale of the local theater have been running for some time.

but whether or not the building is sold, the last picture show will tonight.

And going to the "show" on Saturday nights, the scent of popcorn and jubes in air, will be thing of the past.



1. NO. <u>127</u>		4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) <u>Bothwell Hotel</u>		89 PE 000 1	
2. COUNTY <u>Pettis</u>		5. OTHER NAME(S) <u>Cafe</u>			
3. LOCATION OF NEGATIVES <u>Show-Me RPC</u>					
6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP _____ RANGE _____ SECTION _____ IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS <u>4th and Ohio northeast corner</u>		16. THEMATIC CATEGORY		28. NO. OF STORIES <u>7</u>	
7. CITY OR TOWN <u>Sedalia</u> IF RURAL, VICINITY		17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD <u>1927</u>		29. BASEMENT? YES (X) <u>full</u> NO ( )	
8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION  <u>Smith &amp; Martin, 1st add. South 72½' of Lots 11, 12 Block 6</u>		18. STYLE OR DESIGN		30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL <u>concrete</u>	
9. COORDINATES UTM LAT _____ LONG _____		19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER		31. WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>brick</u>	
10. SITE ( ) BUILDING (X) STRUCTURE ( ) OBJECT ( )		20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER		32. ROOF TYPE AND MATERIAL <u>flat-composition</u>	
11. ON NATIONAL REGISTER? YES ( ) NO (X)		21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT		33. NO. OF BAYS FRONT _____ SIDE _____	
12. IS IT ELIGIBLE? YES ( ) NO (X)		22. PRESENT USE <u>Hotel</u>		34. WALL TREATMENT <u>plaster</u>	
13. PART OF ESTAB. HIST. DISTRICT? YES ( ) NO (X)		23. OWNERSHIP PUBLIC ( ) PRIVATE (X)		35. PLAN SHAPE <u>rectangle</u>	
14. DISTRICT POTENTIAL? YES ( ) NO (XX)		24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS IF KNOWN <u>Bill Bilyeu 4th and Ohio</u>		36. CHANGES (EXPLAIN IN NO. 42) ADDITION ( ) ALTERED (X) MOVED ( )	
15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT		25. OPEN TO PUBLIC? YES (X) NO ( )		37. CONDITION INTERIOR <u>fair</u> EXTERIOR <u>fair</u>	
		26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION <u>Show-Me RPC</u>		38. PRESERVATION UNDERWAY? YES ( ) NO (X)	
		27. OTHER SURVEYS IN WHICH INCLUDED <u>None</u>		39. ENDANGERED? BY WHAT? YES ( ) NO (X)	
				40. VIS PUE YES (X) NO ( )	
				41. DIST FRO	

## 42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES

This hotel has about 91 rooms. It has decorative cornicopia designs at the top. It is the tallest building in Sedalia. It was completed in June of 1927 and the cost was about \$410,000.

## 43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

In 1876 W.H. Dakin had the Palace Drug Store at this location. The first building that was here was changed from a two story to a three story between 1883 and 1888. It housed various businesses all through the years including the Iris Theater and the Palace Theater. It went by various building names being known as the Ferguson Building in 1906 and it was known as the Imhause Building by 1920. The current building was completed in 1927. A good description of Mr. Bothwell's business transaction is given in the book "The First One Hundred Years, 1860-1960."

## 44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS

A parking lot is located to the rear (east) of the building. The courthouse square is located across the street to the south of this building.

## 45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Sedalia Sanborn Maps  
Sedalia City Directories  
Giokaris, James D., The Theaters of Sedalia  
The First One Hundred Years

## 46. PREPARED BY

Tom Christopher

## 47. ORGANIZATION

Show-Me RPC

## 48. DATE 5-13-81 49. REVISION DATE(S)



Form # 127  
Page 2  
Bothwell Hotel  
Show-Me RPC





# NATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

SW-AS-036-060

1. NO. <b>274</b>		4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) <b>Fox Theater</b>	
2. COUNTY <b>Pettis</b>		5. OTHER NAME(S)	
3. LOCATION OF NEGATIVES <b>Show-Me RPC</b>			
6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP _____ RANGE _____ SECTION _____ IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS <b>104-106 E. Fifth</b>		16. THEMATIC CATEGORY	
7. CITY OR TOWN IF RURAL, VICINITY <b>Sedalia</b>		17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD <b>1940</b>	
8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION <b>Smith &amp; Martin, 1st addition Lot 2 Block 22</b>		18. STYLE OR DESIGN	
		19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER	
		20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER	
		21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT <b>Grocery</b>	
		22. PRESENT USE <b>Movie Theater</b>	
		23. OWNERSHIP PUBLIC ( ) PRIVATE (X)	
		24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS IF KNOWN <b>Commonwealth/Ghosen Theater 104-106 E. 5th</b>	
9. COORDINATES UTM LAT _____ LONG _____		25. OPEN TO PUBLIC? YES (X) NO ( )	
10. SITE ( ) STRUCTURE ( ) BUILDING (X) OBJECT ( )		26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION <b>Show-Me RPC</b>	
11. ON NATIONAL REGISTER? YES ( ) NO (X)		27. OTHER SURVEYS IN WHICH INCLUDED <b>None</b>	
12. IS IT ELIGIBLE? YES ( ) NO (X)			
13. PART OF ESTAB. HIST. DISTRICT? YES ( ) NO (X)			
14. DISTRICT POTENTIAL? YES ( ) NO (X)			
15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT			

28. NO. OF STORIES <b>1</b>	
29. BASEMENT?	YES (X) NO ( )
30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL <b>concrete</b>	
31. WALL CONSTRUCTION <b>brick</b>	
32. ROOF TYPE AND MATERIAL <b>flat-composition</b>	
33. NO. OF BAYS FRONT SIDE	
34. WALL TREATMENT <b>plaster</b>	
35. PLAN SHAPE	
36. CHANGES (EXPLAIN IN NO. 42)	ADDITION ( ) ALTERED ( ) MOVED ( )
37. CONDITION fair INTERIOR fair EXTERIOR	
38. PRESERVATION UNDERWAY?	YES ( ) NO (X)
39. ENDANGERED? BY WHAT?	YES ( ) NO (X)
40. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD?	YES (X) NO ( )
41. DISTANCE FROM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD	

42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES

This has an aluminum front covering most of the north facade. Typical central entranceway with side advertisements is on this building.



43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

The Fox Theater which is here opened in September of 1940. It seated over 900 when it opened and it cost \$75,000 to build it. It has a balcony area. Before the theater was here this was the site of J.N. Dabby's Grocery in 1888 and it was a three story building. After this it was a furniture store for many years. The third story was sometimes used as a dance hall.

44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS

One story buildings are east of this building. This building is on the south side of E. Fifth St.

45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Sedalia Sanborn Maps  
Sedalia City Directories

46. PREPARED BY  
**Tom Christopher**  
47. ORGANIZATION  
**Show-Me RPC**





The Fox Theater which is here opened in September of 1940. It seated 2,000 when it opened. It cost \$75,000 to build it. It has a balcony above. Before the theater was here the site of J.H. Dancy's Grocery in 1939 and it was a three story building. After this it was a furniture store for many years. The third story was sometimes used as a dance hall.

The story buildings are west of this building. This building is on the corner side of E. Fifth St.

44. Name of person or organization  
 Tom Christopher  
 45. Address  
 500-74 St.

Bedalia Sabour Neph  
 Bedalia Trip Division



# ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

SW-AS-036-061

1. NO. <b>275</b>		4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) <b>Vacant Theater</b>	
2. COUNTY <b>Pettis</b>		5. OTHER NAME(S)	
3. LOCATION OF NEGATIVES <b>Show-Me RPC</b>			
6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP _____ RANGE _____ SECTION _____ IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS <b>105-111 W. Fifth</b>		16. THEMATIC CATEGORY	
7. CITY OR TOWN <b>Sedalia</b> IF RURAL, VICINITY		17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD <b>1920</b>	
8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION <b>Smith &amp; Martin, 1st addition Lot 3 30' east side of Lot 2 Block 21</b>		18. STYLE OR DESIGN	
9. COORDINATES UTM LAT _____ LONG _____		19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER	
10. SITE ( ) BUILDING (X) STRUCTURE ( ) OBJECT (X)		20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER	
11. ON NATIONAL REGISTER? YES ( ) NO (X)		21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT <b>Theater</b>	
12. IS IT ELIGIBLE? YES (X) NO ( )		22. PRESENT USE <b>storage</b>	
13. PART OF ESTAB. HIST. DISTRICT? YES ( ) NO (X)		23. OWNERSHIP PUBLIC ( ) PRIVATE (X)	
14. DISTRICT POTENTIAL? YES (X) NO ( )		24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS IF KNOWN <b>Beatrice Foods 111 W. Fifth</b>	
15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT		25. OPEN TO PUBLIC? YES ( ) NO (X)	
		26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION <b>Show-Me RPC</b>	
		27. OTHER SURVEYS IN WHICH INCLUDED <b>None</b>	

28. NO. OF STORIES <b>3</b>
29. BASEMENT? YES (X) NO ( )
30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL <b>concrete</b>
31. WALL CONSTRUCTION <b>brick</b>
32. ROOF TYPE AND MATERIAL <b>flat-composition</b>
33. NO. OF BAYS FRONT SIDE
34. WALL TREATMENT <b>panel</b>
35. PLAN SHAPE <b>rectangle</b>
36. CHANGES (EXPLAIN IN NO. 42) ADDITION ( ) ALTERED (X) MOVED ( )
37. CONDITION INTERIOR <b>fair</b> EXTERIOR <b>fair</b>
38. PRESERVATION UNDERWAY? YES ( ) NO (X)
39. ENDANGERED? BY WHAT? YES (X) NO ( ) <b>vacancy</b>



42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES

This old theater building has a unique architectural style. Pedimented windows on the second story are on each end of the north facade. These windows also have simulated balconies. Five arched windows with pilasters between them extend across the front of the second story. Decorative discs are above each of these windows. The building is for sale and would make a good office building. ~~The front is of yellow brick.~~

43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

The New Lona Theater was located here in 1920. Before this it had been a livery stable for many years being run by many different owners. It was called the Fifth St. Stables for many years. It seated 1000 and it was entered through a beautifully decorated lobby that was entered through the Hoffman Building on Ohio St. They showed silent films but later it became the Liberty Theater and the first "talkie" was shown here in 1928.

44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS

A vacant lot is west of this building and a two story building is to the east.

45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION <b>Sedalia Sanborn Maps Sedalia City Directories</b>	46. PREPARED BY <b>Tom Christopher</b>
	47. ORGANIZATION <b>Show-Me RPC</b>
	48. DATE [ ] REVISION DATE(S)







1. NO. <b>117</b>		4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) <b>Hudson Jewelry/Uptown Theater/C.P.A.</b>	
2. COUNTY <b>Pettis</b>		5. OTHER NAME(S) <b>81PE0049</b>	
3. LOCATION OF NEGATIVES <b>Show-Me RPC</b>			
6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP _____ RANGE _____ SECTION _____ IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS <b>227 S. Ohio</b>		16. THEMATIC CATEGORY	
7. CITY OR TOWN IF RURAL, VICINITY <b>Sedalia</b>		17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD	
8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION  <b>Original Plat Begin 48' north of 3rd St. 46' across south end of Lots 10, 11, 12 Block 46</b>		18. STYLE OR DESIGN <b>Art deco</b>	
		19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER	
		20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER	
		21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT	
		22. PRESENT USE <b>jewelry/accounting</b>	
		23. OWNERSHIP PUBLIC ( ) PRIVATE (X)	
		24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS IF KNOWN <b>Jack &amp; Mercedes Ghosen 227 S. Ohio</b>	
9. COORDINATES UTM LAT LONG		25. OPEN TO PUBLIC? YES (X) NO ( )	
10. SITE ( ) STRUCTURE ( ) BUILDING (X) OBJECT ( )		26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION <b>Show-Me RPC</b>	
11. ON NATIONAL REGISTER? YES ( ) NO (X)		27. OTHER SURVEYS IN WHICH INCLUDED <b>None</b>	
12. IS IT ELIGIBLE? YES ( ) NO (X)			
13. PART OF ESTAB. YES ( ) HIST. DISTRICT? NO (X)			
14. DISTRICT YES ( ) POTENTIAL? NO (X)			
15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT		28. NO. OF STORIES <b>2</b>	
		29. BASEMENT? YES (X) full NO ( )	
		30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL <b>concrete</b>	
		31. WALL CONSTRUCTION <b>brick</b>	
		32. ROOF TYPE AND MATERIAL <b>flat-composition</b>	
		33. NO. OF BAYS FRONT SIDE	
		34. WALL TREATMENT <b>plaster</b>	
		35. PLAN SHAPE <b>rectangle</b>	
		36. CHANGES ADDITION ( ) (EXPLAIN IN NO. 42) ALTERED (X) MOVED ( )	
		37. CONDITION INTERIOR <b>fair</b> EXTERIOR <b>fair</b>	
		38. PRESERVATION UNDERWAY? YES ( ) NO (X)	
		39. ENDANGERED? YES (X) BY WHAT? NO ( ) <b>need repairs</b>	
		40. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD? YES (X) NO ( )	
		41. DISTANCE FROM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD	

## 42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES

This is an art deco type theater and a good example with a central booth. It has been stuccoed over on a large part but some decoration appears near the top. The jewelry store occupies the northern third and a CPA occupies the southern third.



## 43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

In 1876 J.M. Kulmer Boots and Shoes was here. In 1879 The Boston 99¢ Store was at this location, and after this a very large variety of businesses moved in and out of the building. By 1908 The Electric Theater was here being operated by John Hicks by 1911. The Uptown Theater was opened in the summer of 1936 and was Sedalia's first air conditioned theater. It cost \$50,000 to construct and had 800 seats and a balcony. It had a RCA Victor sound system.

## 44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS

This building is on the east side of the street.

## 45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Sedalia Sanborn Maps  
Sedalia City Directories  
Giokaris, James D., Theaters of Sedalia, 1976

## 46. PREPARED BY

Tom Christopher

## 47. ORGANIZATION

Show-Me RPC

## 48. DATE

## 49. REVISION DATE(S)



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Hudson Jewelry  
Show-Me RPC



This is an art deco type theater and a good example with a central booth. It has been situated over on a large part but some decoration appears near the top. The jewelry store occupies the northern third and a CPA occupies the southern third.

In 1916 L.W. Kuhnert Books and Shoes was here. In 1919 the Boston Shoe Store was at this location and after this a very large variety of businesses moved in and out of the building. By 1908 The Electric Theater was here being operated by John Hines by 1911. The Uptown Theater was opened in the summer of 1925 and was Badalia's first air conditioned theater. It cost \$50,000 to construct and had 800 seats and a balcony. It had a RCA Victor sound system.


This building is on the east side of the street.

Badalia, James D., Theater of Badalia, 1916  
Badalia, James D., Theater of Badalia, 1916  
Badalia, James D., Theater of Badalia, 1916



# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

## ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

1. NO. 89		4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) 87PE0077		
2. COUNTY Pettis		5. OTHER NAME(S) Old LaMonte City Hall; Higgins' Horse Barn		
3. LOCATION OF NEGATIVES Show-Me Regional Planning Commission				
6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP 46N RANGE 23W SECTION 15 IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS West Pine Street		16. THEMATIC CATEGORY Historic/architectural		28. NO. OF STORIES 1
7. CITY OR TOWN IF RURAL, VICINITY LaMonte		17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD ca. 1914		29. BASEMENT? YES ( ) NO (X)
8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION  Part of NE 1/4 of NE 1/4 of Section 15  (West end of Pine Street south of an imaginary extension of Oak Street)		18. STYLE OR DESIGN Greek Revival		30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL Concrete
9. COORDINATES UTM LAT LONG		19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER Und.		31. WALL CONSTRUCTION Brick
10. SITE ( ) STRUCTURE ( ) BUILDING (X ) OBJECT ( )		20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER Und.		32. ROOF TYPE AND MATERIAL Gable; metal
11. ON NATIONAL REGISTER? YES ( ) NO (X)		21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT City hall		33. NO. OF BAYS FRONT SIDE
12. IS IT ELIGIBLE? YES ( ) NO ( )		22. PRESENT USE Horse stable		34. WALL TREATMENT Common bond
13. PART OF ESTAB. HIST. DISTRICT? YES ( ) NO (X)		23. OWNERSHIP PUBLIC ( ) PRIVATE (X)		35. PLAN SHAPE Rectangular
14. DISTRICT POTENTIAL? YES ( ) NO ( )		24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS John Zullig		36. CHANGES (EXPLAIN IN NO. 42) ADDITION (X) ALTERED (X) MOVED ( )
15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT N/A		25. OPEN TO PUBLIC? YES ( ) NO (X)		37. CONDITION INTERIOR EXTERIOR Fair
		26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION Show-Me RPC		38. PRESERVATION UNDERWAY? YES ( ) NO (X)
		27. OTHER SURVEYS IN WHICH INCLUDED None		39. ENDANGERED? YES (X) NO ( ) BY WHAT? Continued deterioration
				40. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD? YES (X) NO ( )
				41. DISTANCE FROM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD

## 42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES

The pilastered main facade of this false-fronted building is dominated by an ornamental metal-trimmed pediment above the segmentally arched entrance. The three main facade arches contain keystones. The entrance originally included a fanlight. Behind the false front, the roof is gabled. The building has been converted into a stable and shows considerable deterioration. On the north side are eight tall, arched windows with lugsills.



## 43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

E-32

Built in ca. 1914, this interesting building served as the LaMonte City Hall and, during construction of the LaMonte high school, provided classroom space (in ca. 1919). With its Greek Revival front, this is a rather unique building in Pettis County. Originally, it contained a stage and was the site of movies, plays, and high school graduations until its conversion into a stable for show horses in the 1930s. It also has been used as a roller skating rink. After the building was sold by the city, it was used by Scott and Jim Higgins who raised and trained show horses, as a stable. A rear addition (constructed later than the main building) has been used as a workshop. We

## 44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS

This building faces downtown LaMonte from what would be the center of Pine Street, except that the street jobs around it.

## 45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Pettis County Plat Book (1916); site visit; Terry and Toots Files.

46. PREPARED BY  
R. Maserang47. ORGANIZATION  
Show-Me RPC

48. DATE 10/87 49. REVISION DATE(S)

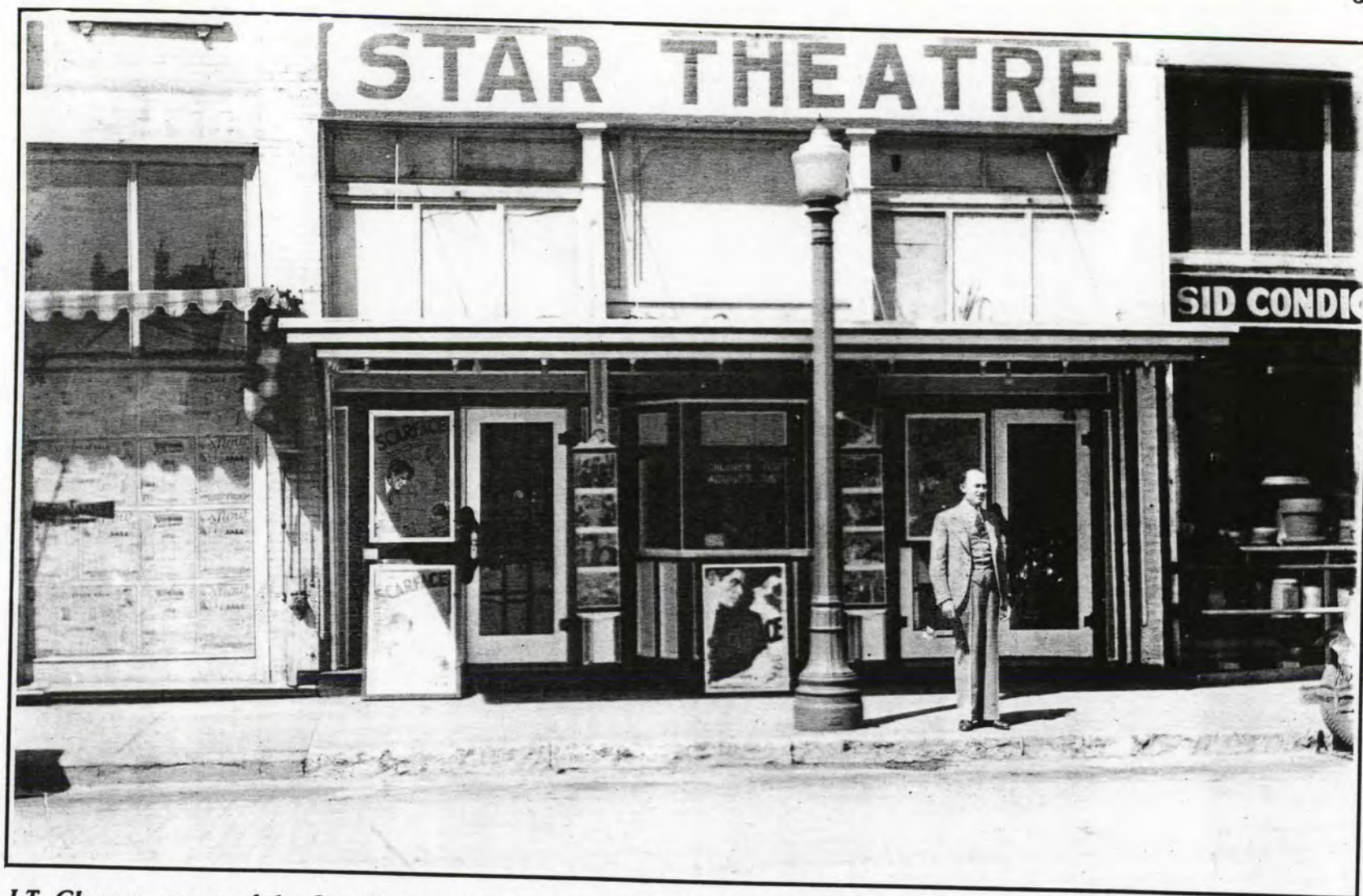
RETURN THIS FORM WHEN COMPLETED TO: OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
P.O. BOX 176  
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102

IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED, ATTACH









*J.T. Ghosen, owner of the Star Theater located in the 100 block of West Second Street, is shown in front of his establishment in 1928. The Uptown Theater on Ohio Avenue was opened by Ghosen about this time.*



# *Life In Pettis County —*

1815 - 1973

*by  
Hazel N. Lang*

Copyright 1975 by Hazel N. Lang

## About the Author

**H**AZEL N. Lang was born in Sedalia, the daughter of Wallace J. and Ora Neff Lang. She attended the old Summit School, the site of the present Washington School, for her elementary school education, and was graduated from the old Sedalia High School in 1922.

In 1925, Miss Lang joined the staff of The Sedalia Democrat and Capital as a proofreader for the news department. Along with her proofreading she wrote items for the paper as her time permitted, and when World War II took part of the news staff into military service, she became a fulltime reporter under Miss Rosemary Burrowes, news editor.

Her beat included the Missouri Pacific Railroad station, the downtown stores, the Chamber of Commerce, meetings of all kinds, and sometimes she would pinch hit for the reporter regularly assigned to the courthouse and police station. In addition she wrote feature stories, a column of humorous happenings in the community, which was called "Pickups," and wrote a poem for the Sunday edition, and other editions during the week, when she was requested to do so.

In reminiscing about her work, she said, "I always seemed to write poetry and one or two were printed while I was still in school, at Rosemary's request. When Carl McIntire became news editor, he asked me to write one for every Sunday edition. He also started me on the Pickups column, and he was the first news editor to give bylines."

W. D. "Buck" Agee was the first news editor Miss Lang worked under, then followed Miss Burrowes, McIntire, Pete Potter and W. D. "Lucky" Hill, in the Democrat building on West Fourth Street.

In 1968 she began her series of historical accounts of towns and communities in Central Missouri. Her first selection was the Glenstead community in Morgan County. It was so well received that she was assigned to secure one a week by Kelly Scruton, night news editor of The Capital, with whom she worked after the company's operation was moved to its present plant at 700 South Massachusetts. She continued the series until her retirement in May, 1970.

In connection with her assignment to the night news staff in 1967, she states, "It never made any difference to me which part of the day I was supposed to be working, I covered anything at anytime when anybody asked me to. I didn't have a car and people would pick me up and take me to meetings and deliver me back home, or the plant afterwards.



Mexican students to Central Business College and from that time on there were many from the Country of Mexico came to Sedalia to attend C. B. C., mostly from well to do families then went back to their country where they held responsible positions.

After the death of Prof. Robbins the business college continued in the building and later, when the old high school building across the street from the college was discontinued as a school, C. B. C. was moved into that building. Atwell Bohling was head of the college and when he died, Mrs. Bohling operated C. B. C. until she sold the building sometime in the 1960s.

## The Queen City Telephone Company

The Queen City Telephone Company was one of the first in the state and people for miles around came to see it. Very few people had telephones and long distance lines all over the state was really something.

Later, there was the Home Telephone Company, and then the Bell Telephone Company with both telephone companies here at the same time. Later they were consolidated as the Bell Telephone Company. This telephone company was located on the east side of Ohio between Third and Fourth, upstairs, before it went into the building on southeast corner of Third and Lamine, which was at that time the Elk's Club building, Elsie Neighbors, now Mrs. Fred Anderson, who was an operator in the building on Ohio completed the first call in the new building. The Bell Telephone Company now occupies its own building on the southwest corner of Fifth and Massachusetts.

The Elk's Club built a new building on the southwest corner of Fourth and Kentucky, and the building on Third and Lamine is now the Moose Club building. On the third floor of this building the Moose Club has clothing which it gives to people in need, authorized by the welfare office. Among the places that the Moose Club gets clothes is through some of the local stores who sometimes give garments they cannot sell.

One day several years ago an old lady was taken up to the third floor by a member of the Moose and tried on a winter coat which fit her perfectly. It was a new coat and the woman began to cry. "This," she said, "is the first new coat I ever had in my life."

## The Opera House and Hotels

When Woods opera house was built in 1887 by Dr. H. W. Wood, it was one of the handsomest modern ground-floor theatres west of St. Louis and in the course of time its fame was far-reaching. There was no city the size of Sedalia in the West that had a ground floor opera house.



*The three story Woods Opera House, Second and Lamine, built in 1887, was one of the largest in the the west. The large stage accommodated the showing of Ben Hur with horses and chariots.*

They were all built on the second floor of business blocks so that revenue could be derived from renting the stores beneath.

The large, three story brick building was built on the Northwest corner of Second and Lamine, with the entrance on Lamine Street. There was an artistic cupola over the entrance.

It was felt that Wood's opera house was too large and too expensively equipped for a city the size of Sedalia. Being between St. Louis and Kansas City, large companies that played in the big cities stopped off here and outstanding theatrical productions were presented. Many famous people or those who became famous later were in the casts that came here.

In 1900 a sum of nearly \$5,000 was spent in remodeling the building, making important improvements and additions, until it ranked with the best in the country.

With the coming of the Missouri Pacific Shops Dr. Wood felt the population of the town would increase to 25 or 30 thousand people, and he had the exterior painted. The interior was beautifully decorated, lobby walls and steel ceiling were redecorated in finest frescoing, and the theatre auditorium was furnished with new chairs. The latest design in drop curtain and scenery were painted and the proscenium arch and space between the girders on the stage widened to make



ample room for the scenery carried by the companies that played Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City and St. Joseph.

This stage was so big that the production of Ben Hur was presented complete with horses in the chariot race.

There were 16 new dressing rooms placed under the stage, elegantly furnished in every respect, with steam heat, hot and cold water. This made a total of 24 dressing rooms enough to accomodate a company of 100 people.

The concert hall on the third floor of the opera house building, built for a Masonic Temple, was one of the largest in Central Missouri. It was also one of the best lighted and ventilated halls, with steam heat, water, and anterooms, steel ceilings and frescoed walls.

Directly across the street East from Wood's opera house, was the Kaiser Hotel which had 20 rooms and a large restaurant.

Joseph Huckins came to Sedalia, purchased the hotel, added a fourth story, removed the part of the cornice that read "Kaiser Hotel" and replaced it with a large rounding piece that said: "Hotel Huckins."

This, too, was a daring venture, but Huckins, who owned the Huckins House in Texarkana, Arkansas and the Hotel Caddo, Shreveport, Louisiana, proposed, right from the first, to run a first class hotel and he did. His hotel was known far and wide as a desirable place to stop for a day, a month or a year. He was a hotel man of long experience and thoroughly acquainted with all details of the business. He was assisted here by his son Paul, who had grown up in the business. The hotel had 75 rooms, a marble floored ballroom on the second floor, an



HOTEL HUCKINS, 2ND AND LAMINE STREETS

elegant dining area, with table service unexcelled, on the first floor. The building had an elevator, steam heat, fire escape; the rooms were beautifully furnished, and 15 had private baths which was quite a feature at the turn of the century.

In the early 1900s, after the New Sedalia Theatre was built, and moving pictures started, with little theatres springing up over town, the Wood's opera house closed.

The Huckins Hotel was then sold to Harve Terry who operated it for many years. The business was good and Terry, who renamed it the Terry Hotel, bought the old opera house building and called it the Terry Annex. An enclosed hallway went across Lamine street from the second story of the hotel to the other building connecting the two.

The large dining room in the Terry Hotel, which had been redecorated, was a place where many banquets and events of various kinds were held with dances in the ballroom.

When the depression years came the Terry Hotel was sold to the Milner chain and became a cheap place to stay for those who needed it.

The Terry Annex became the Terry Hotel and the connecting hall was taken down. Charles Keck, who had worked in a bank in Sedalia where he had grown up, became a desk clerk. The Terrys died but the Terry daughter still owned the building. Her husband came back and opened an attractive lounge in the East part of the first floor.

The once handsome hotel building across the street became empty and deteriorated to such an extent it was finally torn down.

The Terry Annex, which was then the Terry Hotel, had many permanent residents as well as those who were transients. Then, on May 10, 1967, a fire destroyed the building and one young man, who was just stopping there lost his life. Most of the residents escaped with their lives but lost practically everything they possessed.

On the southwest corner of Main and Lamine, across the alley from the Wood's opera house was a two story brick hotel built in 1870 by George R. Smith for his daughters, Martha and Sarah, but they sold it to the Missouri Pacific Railroad and it became the Jay Gould Hotel, named for the president of the railroad. An additional story was added to it in 1881. It had a spacious dining room and in 1882 A. L. Devereant was manager.

Realizing the hotel was to be sold Judge Louis Hoffman let George Buske know and he came to Sedalia and bought it. He was the grandfather of Mrs. T. H. Yount. Buske changed the name of it to The Commercial Hotel and it was a popular place. Being right next to the opera house many of the theatrical people stayed there. Fred Buske, the son, assisted his father in running the hotel.

Carl Lueking, a tobacco salesman, went into the hotel one day and saw a group of four unusually pretty girls, one a little older than the others, sitting at a table. He inquired about them and found out the one a little older was the mother of the other three, she was Barbara



WESTERN  
HISTORICAL  
MANUSCRIPT  
COLLECTION

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of the  
University of Missouri  
and the  
State Historical Society  
of Missouri*

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Tel: (573) 341-4874  
e-mail: whmcinfo@umr.edu  
www: <http://www.umr.edu/~whmcinfo>

*Columbia*

*Kansas City*

*Rolla*

*St. Louis*



16 September 1997

Becky L. Snider  
1008 Sunset Drive  
Columbia, MO 65203

Dear Ms. Snider:

I am answering your letter addressed to the Phelps County Historical Society regarding historic theaters and opera houses in Missouri.

We know of most of the theaters you mention, but I am sorry to report that we have nothing on file regarding them. Probably your only avenue for research will be the Phelps County newspapers at the State Historical Society of Missouri in Columbia.

Of those you listed in your letter, only the Opera House in Newburg still stands. It is still used for summer productions. I will try to get a copy of your letter to the folks who stage the productions there.

Hardy's theater I am not familiar with, but another theater, not on your list, was Shaw's Opera House in the Grant building on the northwest corner of Eighth and Pine Streets in Rolla. It was located on the third floor of the Grant Hotel, operated by Hiram Shaw and his family. The building no longer stands.

Sorry not to be of more assistance. I am returning your donation to the Society, but we appreciate the thought.

Good luck with your research.

Sincerely,

John F. Bradbury, Jr.  
Senior Manuscript Specialist  
Rolla

(Treasurer, Phelps County  
Historical Society)



Office of Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

# HISTORIC INVENTORY

1 No. <b>200</b>		4 Present Name(s) Newburg Opera House	
2 County Phelps		5 Other Name(s) Lyric Theater building	
3 Location of Negatives (3,4)			
6 Specific Location  On front street facing railroad tracks		16 Thematic Category	
7 City or Town If Rural, Township & Vicinity Newburg, Missouri		17 Date(s) or Period Circa 1918	
8 Site Plan with North Arrow		18 Style or Design	
		19 Architect or Engineer	
		20 Contractor or Builder	
		21 Original Use, if apparent Theater building	
		22 Present Use Opera house	
		23 Ownership Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/>	
		24 Owner's Name & Address, if known J.J. Turley	
9 Coordinates UTM Lat Long		25 Open to Public? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
10 Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>		26 Local Contact Person or Organization J.J. Turley	
11 On National Register? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		27 Other Surveys in Which Included	
12 Is It Eligible? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
13 Part of Estab Hist Dist? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
14 District Potent'l? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
15 Name of Established District		28 No. of Stories	
		29 Basement? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		30 Foundation Material Concrete	
		31 Wall Construction Brick	
		32 Roof Type & Material Built up asphalt	
		33 No. of Bays Front 3 Side none	
		34 Wall Treatment Brick; plaster	
		35 Plan Shape Rectangle	
		36 Changes (Explain in #42) Addition <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	
		37 Condition Interior Fair Exterior Fair	
		38 Preservation Underway? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
		39 Endangered? By What? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		40 Visible from Public Road? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
		41 Distance from and Frontage on Road 10 feet front street	
42 Further Description of Important Features The doorway is surmounted by a semi-circular archway. The window openings, set slightly back from the doorway, are also decorated by slightly rounded segmental arches. The building is about 35 feet wide by about 60 feet long. The facade is stepped three times to the center.			
43 History and Significance Built from the bricks salvaged from the first railroad round house at Newburg, (when a new round house was built). The theater was purchased during the Great Depression by Helen Houston and several other Newburg businessmen, who hired a projectionist and operated it six years as a theater. The bicentennial book of Newburg (continued on next page....)			
44 Description of Environment and Outbuildings This building is located on Front street facing the railroad tracks. Built from bricks salvaged from the first roundhouse at Newburg, it is next to the two-story Newburg Hotel, now being remodeled into apartments.			
45 Sources of Information Hello From Newburg, by Mary Alice Beemer (a Bicentennial book describing Newburg and its history). Sharon Bergloff, local property owner.		46 Prepared by Bob Bowman	
		47 Organization MRPC	
		48 Date 5/18	
		49 Revision Date(s)	

Photo

43. (continued from previous page)

has a curious statement about the next phase of the building's existence:

"With the start of the building at Fort Wood (about 1942), they (the businessmen who owned it) thought it would be a nice gesture to give it to the City as a fund-raising enterprise for the town. The Mayor and Council promptly sold it to Everett Affolter who uses it for lumber storage."

That was written in 1976. The current owners of the building are B.B. and J.J. Turley. It has been partially restored to its original use, as stage plays put on by local talen are performed in the building.



# PHELPS COUNTY SURVEY

REPORT NO. 200



## NEWBURG OPERA HOUSE

Front Street

Newburg, Mo.



## MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION / INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

1. NAME St. James Leader Journal

HISTORIC Dellacella Opera House

AND / OR COMMON

## 2. LOCATION

STREET &amp; NUMBER 125 West Springfield Street

CITY, TOWN St. James

VICINITY OF

STATE Missouri

CODE 29

COUNTY Phelps

CODE 161

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

## CATEGORY

☐ district☒ building(s)☐ structure☐ site☐ object

## OWNERSHIP

☐ public☒ private☐ both

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ in process☐ being considered☒ N/A

## STATUS

☒ occupied☐ unoccupied☐ work in progress

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ yes: restricted☐ yes: unrestricted☐ no

## PRESENT USE

☐ agriculture☒ commercial☐ educational☐ entertainment☐ government☐ industrial☐ military☐ museum☐ park☐ private residence☐ religious☐ scientific☐ transportation☐ other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Robert D. Snair

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN St. James

VICINITY OF

STATE Missouri

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Assessor's Office  
Phelps County Courthouse  
Rolla, Missouri 65401

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE (None)

Determined Eligible?

Yes

No

Federal

State

County

Local

## 7. DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

☒ excellent☐ good☐ fair☐ deteriorated☐ ruins☐ unexposed

## CHECK ONE

☐ unaltered☒ altered

## CHECK ONE

☒ original site☐ moved

Date November, 1985

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Dellacella Opera House is constructed in the Renaissance Revival style of architecture. The building has a stone foundation and shed roof. The front of the building has two centered entries with large plate glass windows on each side of these doors. Transom lights are over both of these windows and also the entries.

A front side entry (southeast side) leads to the second floor. It also has a transom. Most of the other windows have one over one lights and are framed with brick segmental relieving arches. A large brick cornice crowns the front facade. The art glass of the second floor windows has been removed but fragments of the glass have been preserved. A one story porch and balcony once fronted the building. The original turned porch post have now been replaced with square post and the balcony is now a second level screwed porch. With the exception of this screwed porch and the removed art glass windows and porch posts, the building looks very much as it did when first completed.

# 8. SIGNIFICANCE - Phelps County Survey - Dellacella Opera House

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE - CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology - prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology - historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social / humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration / settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics / government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

SPECIFIC DATES 1906

BUILDER / ARCHITECT J.L. Welch

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (IN ONE PARAGRAPH)

**Architecture:** Oldest opera house building (still standing) in St. James, Mo.

(See attached history).

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

St. James Journal, December 7, 1923  
 St. James Journal, April 13, 1906  
 St. James Journal, May 11, 1906  
 St. James Journal, September 28, 1906

St. James Journal, January 22, 1897  
 St. James Journal, March 3, 1905  
 St. James Journal, August 17, 1906  
 St. James Journal, October 5, 1906

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY Approx. 6,000 sq. ft. QUADRANGLE NAME Maramec Spring SCALE 1:24000  
 UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	5	6	2	1	5	5	0	4	2	0	6	1	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

The Dellacella Opera House is located at 125 West Springfield Street, St. James at the above referenced UTM coordinates. This location recognizes the commercial building and the parameters of the ground on which it rests.

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Earl Strebeck - Field Researcher

ORGANIZATION Meramec Regional Planning Commission

ADDRESS 101 West Tenth Street, Rolla, Missouri 65401

DATE November, 1985



# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION / INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

(Phelps County Survey)

CONTINUATION SHEET Dellacella Opera House

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

## THE DELLACELLA OPERA HOUSE

(History)

by

Earl Strebeck

Stephen A. Dellacella was born in Italy, October 4, 1847, and came to America before the Civil War. During that war, he served in Co. E, 14th Ill. Inf.. An active worker in the Grand Army of the Republic organization, he was one of a body of delegates whose untiring efforts located the Federal Soldiers Home (now Missouri Veterans Home) at St. James.

In January of 1897 he traded his lease of the New Everitt House in St. Louis to E.M. Pinto for eighty acres of land northwest of the Soldiers Home in St. James and moved to St. James the same year.

In St. James he was a farmer, businessman and politician. Captain Dellacella as he was called, ran for Mayor of St. James about ten times; being elected to that office once in 1906. In 1905 he bought lot 10 of block 7 on West Springfield Street and announced that he would build a two story brick building and that the lower floor would be a restaurant and the second floor an opera house. The building was constructed in 1906 and was opened to the public in October of that year. The interior wall paper was designed especially for the building at a firm in St. Louis. The exterior sported art glass windows in the upper sashes of the front (south side) on the second level. The St. James Journal described the new building, "a thing of beauty and a joy forever".



PHELPS COUNTY SURVEY

REPORT NO. 61



DELLACELLA OPERA HOUSE

125 West Springfield Street

St. James, Mo.



7860 11 SW  
(SAFE)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

91°37'30"  
38°00'

621 8 68 1.4 MI. TO U.S. 63  
0.4 MI. TO U.S. 66

623000m.E.

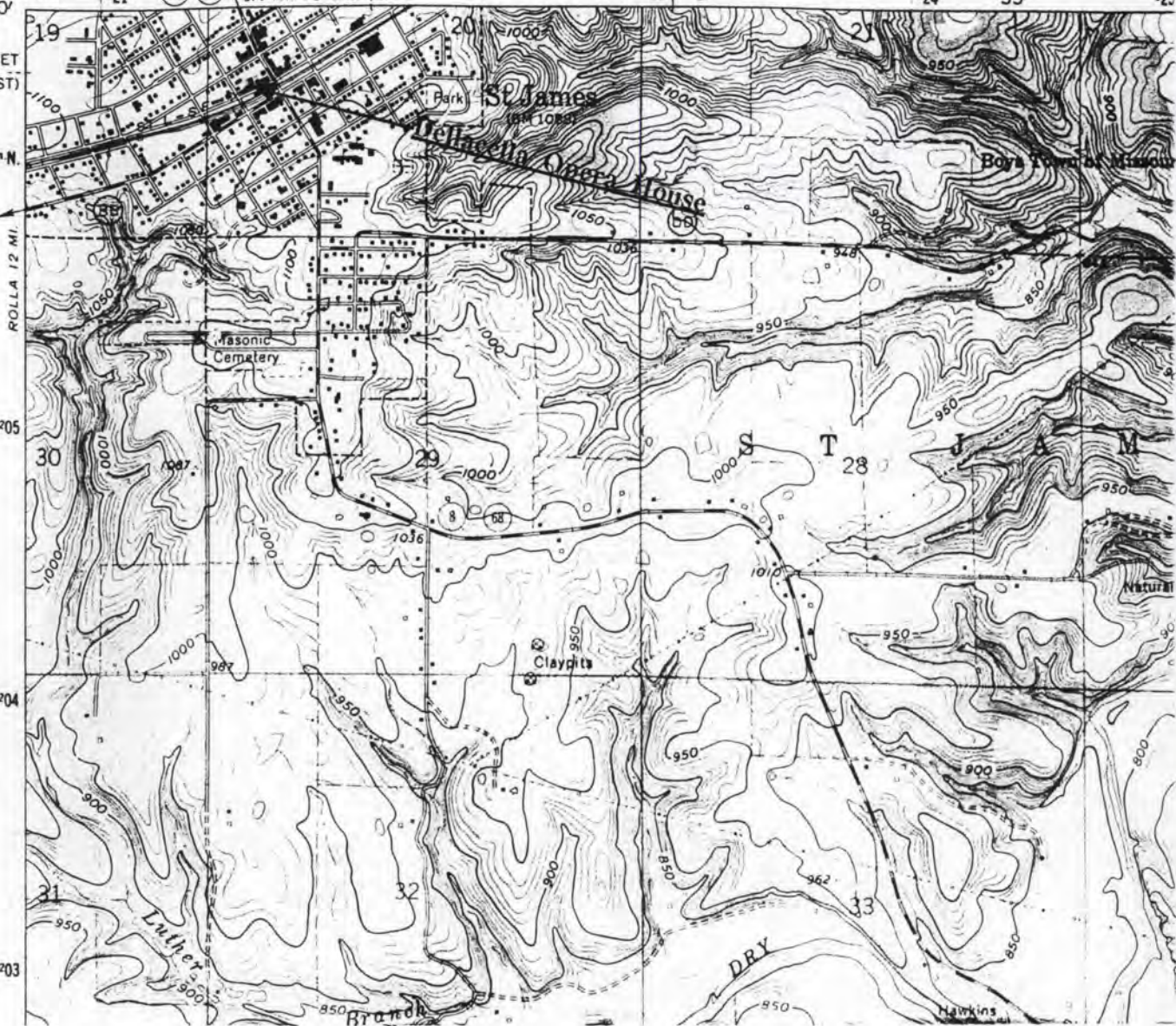
624

35'

625

790 000 FEET  
(EAST)

4206000m.N.



DELLACELLA OPERA HOUSE  
St. James, Mo.

(Phelps County Survey)

U. S. G. S. 7.5 Minute Topographic Map  
Maramec Spring Quadrangle  
Scale: 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES  
Zone: 15  
Easting: 621550  
Northing: 4206100

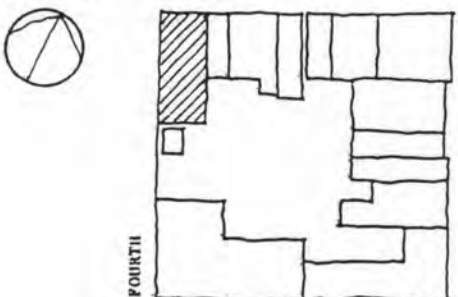



# HISTORIC INVENTORY

SW-AS-036-066

53

post 1931  
remodel or is blinding all of facade?

1 No <b>16</b> <b>75</b>		4 Present Name(s) <b>Clark Theatre</b>		1 No
2 County <b>Pike</b>		5 Other Name(s) <b>W. 1st 228 540</b>		
3 Location of Negatives <b>URDC</b>		6 Specific Location <b>320 Georgia Street</b>		
7 City or Town if Rural, Township & Vicinity <b>Louisiana, MO</b>		16 Thematic Category <b>Theatre</b>		2 County
8 Site Plan 		17 Date(s) or Period <b>c. 1885 - Rebuilt 1930</b>		
9 Coordinates Lat <b>UTM</b> Long		18 Style or Design <b>Art Deco</b>		
10 Site: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Object: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		19 Architect or Engineer		
11 On National Register? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		20 Contractor or Builder		
12 Is it Eligible? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		21 Original Use, if apparent <b>Music Hall</b>		
13 Part of Estab Hist Dist? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		22 Present Use <b>Movie Theatre</b>		
14 District Potent'l? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		23 Ownership Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
15 Name of Established District		24 Owner's Name & Address, if known		
42 Further Description of Important Features <b>Facade was completely remodeled in 1930 in a psuedo-art deco motif.</b>		25 Open to Public? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
43 History and Significance <b>Moderate contribution to street wall through its mass and height and corner location.</b>		26 Local Contact Person or Organization <b>Pike Co. Historical Society</b>		
44 Description of Environment and Outbuildings <b>Central Business District commercial area.</b>		27 Other Surveys in Which Included		
45 Sources of Information <b>1885 Sanborn Insurance Map Pike County Historical Society</b>		28 No. of Stories <b>2 1/2</b>		
		29 Basement? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
		30 Foundation Material <b>Masonry/Stone</b>		
		31 Wall Construction <b>Masonry</b>		
		32 Roof Type & Material <b>Gable/Asphalt Shingle</b>		
		33 No. of Bays Front <b>3</b> Side <b>6</b>		
		34 Wall Treatment <b>Brick</b>		
		35 Plan Shape <b>Rectangle</b>		
		36 Changes (Explain in #42) Addition: <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/>		
		37 Condition Interior <b>Fair</b> Exterior <b>Good</b>		
		38 Preservation Underway? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
		39 Endangered? By What? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
		40 Visible from Public Road? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
		41 Distance from and Frontage on Road <b>8'/42'</b>		
				5 Other Name(s)



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Georgia Street  
Historic District Item number 7 Page 10

53. 320 Georgia: Two story brick movie theater in Art Deco style with the original neo-marquee and two-toned carrara glass sheathing at the first story. The wall rises to a patterned parapet with case concrete coping. The building is actually much older constructed as a music store and opera house between 1890 and 1895. The Art Deco facade dates to ca. 1935.

54. 400-402 Georgia: One-story brick Italianate style commercial building built ca. 1890 as two storefronts with a wooden projecting cornice and brick pillars supported the iron beams over the storefronts. The simple storefronts are essentially intact.

- name  
address 55. 406 Georgia Street Building c. 1880 alt. c. 1900 vernac. 69  
02E  
016 406 Georgia: Two-story brick commercial building built ca. 1880 as a dwelling and cobbler shop. The entire facade was remodeled ca. 1900 with concrete lintels added over the voids.

stairs 2  
Succ. 40  
ext. 30  
other mat  
65  
plan

56. 408 Georgia: Two-story brick Italianate style commercial building constructed ca. 1880 as a 2nd class hotel and saloon. Brick corbeled cornice. Pressed metal string course over iron support beam on brick pillars. The first story has had only slight alterations.

57. 414 Georgia: Two-story brick Italianate style building constructed ca. 1880 and used as city hall in the decade of the 1880s, used later as a buggy manufactory. The original pressed metal cornice is missing below which is a dentiled and corbeled brick pattern above the five-bay window openings of the second story with segmental shaped brick arches. The first story storefront has been extensively altered.

58. 418-422 Georgia: Two-story brick commercial buildings in a Spanish Mission Revival style built ca. 1935 reusing part of the brick walls of an earlier building gutted by fire in 1930. The facade rises to a pedestaled parapet with an ogee-shaped center section with scrolled cast concrete coping. The flanking bays -- separated by brick pilasters -- have ceramic tile pent roofs supported on false through joists. The storefront was modernized ca. 1950.

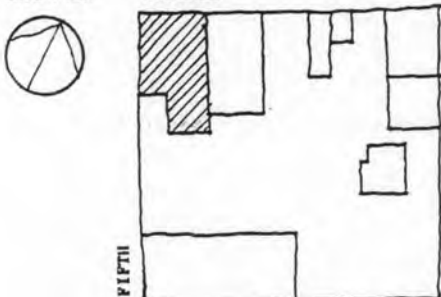
59. 500 Georgia: Ca. 1960 one-story brick and glass gas station.  
NON-CONTRIBUTING.

60. 522 Georgia: Single story brick post office in the Neo-classical style built in 1905 and designed by architect Raymond Lavercombe. Parapet wall with heavily accented smooth stone faced pedestals above a projecting stone moulded and dentiled cornice with a broad frieze and architrave supported on brick pilasters which separate the center three bays. Flanking first and fourth bays are actually slight projecting wings. Entry in center bay with Greek key moulded surround, dentil cornice and three part transom. All openings have segmental shaped brick arches with keystones. The single story is



Office of Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

**HISTORIC INVENTORY**

1 No <b>11</b>		4 Present Name(s) <b>Sizemore Home Furnishings</b>		1 No
2 County <b>Pike</b>		5 Other Name(s)		
3 Location of Negatives <b>URDC</b>				
6 Specific Location <b>418-422 Georgia St.</b>		16 Thematic Category <b>Commercial</b>		2 County
7 City or Town If Rural, Township & Vicinity <b>Louisiana Mo</b>		17 Date(s) or Period <b>c. 1900</b>		
8 Site Plan 		18 Style or Design <b>1920 Commercial</b>		
		19 Architect or Engineer		4 Present Name(s)
		20 Contractor or Builder		
		21 Original Use, if apparent <b>Movie Theater, Retail</b>		
22 Present Use <b>Retail/Residential 2nd fl.</b>		28 No. of Stories <b>2</b>		
23 Ownership Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		29 Basement? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
24 Owner's Name & Address, if known <b>Eugene and Meltha Sizemore Louisiana, MO</b>		30 Foundation Material <b>Masonry</b>		
25 Open to Public? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		31 Wall Construction <b>Masonry</b>		
26 Local Contact Person or Organization <b>Pike Co. Historical Society</b>		32 Roof Type & Material <b>Flat/Composition</b>		
27 Other Surveys in Which Included		33 No. of Bays Front <b>6</b> Side		
28		34 Wall Treatment <b>Brick/Stucco</b>		
29		35 Plan Shape <b>Rectangle</b>		
30		36 Changes (Explain in #42) Addition <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/>		
31		37 Condition Interior <b>good</b> Exterior <b>good</b>		
32		38 Preservation Underway? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
33		39 Endangered? By What? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
34		40 Visible from Public Road? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
35		41 Distance from and Frontage on Road <b>8/54</b>		
36				
42 Further Description of Important Features  <b>Facade has been altered c. 1920</b>				
43 History and Significance <b>Although altered from its original design, this building contributes to the street-sc�pe through its mass, height, color, materials, and fenestration.</b>				
44 Description of Environment and Outbuildings  <b>Central Business District</b>				
45 Sources of Information  <b>1896 Sanborn Insurance Map</b>				
46 Prepared by <b>KLI/MFB</b>				
47 Organization <b>URDC/PCHS</b>				
48 Date <b>5/79</b>				
49 Revision Date(s)				



Facade post Jan 1931

1931 two buildings originally  
Hollow 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

1917 Musical Instruments 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

1902 Opera House on 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

1896 Ibid.

1890 only the entrance on West 1/2 of building  
present

1885 "

check 1885

construction

Frame or brick





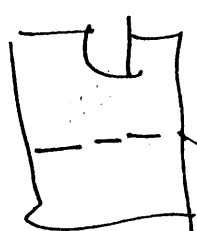
Judy: FROM BARBARA

11-11-85

THESE ROUGH (THOUGH TO SCALE) FLOOR PLANS CAN:

ASSIST YOU IN INVENTORY OF SEATS  
FUTURE PLACING OF AND SPACING OF SEATS  
TAKE-OFFS FOR CONTRACTORS FOR BIDDING  
TO SHOW BANK WE ARE WORKING  
(TO XEROX AND SEND ALONG TO ACTS  
FOR BOOKINGS.

CHECK DRESSING AREA - IF MAY BE DRAWN TO BIG



MAY ACTUALLY BE HALF THIS BIG

IF SO SHOULD BE

ENLARGED FOR NOW

PROBABLY MOVED IN FUTURE TO GIVE MORE  
ROOM TO STAGE.

TOILETS IN BASEMENT MUST BE UPDATED IMMEDIATELY  
MUST SURELY BE UNDERSIZED FOR TODAY'S CODE

IS THERE A WAY TO GET TO BASEMENT FROM STAGE  
AREA.

NEEDED IS A "GREEN ROOM" USED BY ACTORS AS A  
WAITING ROOM -

NEEDED IS A TOILET ROOM FOR STAGE AREA -

OR

A LEAST A TOILET ROOM/GREEN ROOM ELSEWHERE

ONE THOUGHT I HAD: INTERMEDIATE OR FUTURE  
SEE PLAN 'A' & 'B'  
PUT A GREEN ROOM/TOILET ON BALCONY FOR NOW  
(THIS MAY BE IMPRACTICAL BECAUSE OF SLOPING FLOOR,  
AND MOVING TOILETS UP - & ENLARGING  
INTERMISSION ROOM & MEET THE PERFORMERS  
AREA (LEAVING BASEMENT ALONE - 1<sup>ST</sup> FL & BALCON  
AREA IS 6500 <sup>sq</sup> ft - A HUGE AREA TO RESTORE)  
THIS PLAN WOULD LOSE ~~THE~~ SEATS (90 SEAT)

AT LEAST FOR NOW.

CLEAN -

REMOVE BROKEN SEAT (REPLACE W/ FOLDING CHAIRS,

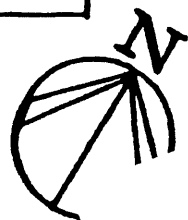
PUT A TOILET NEAR STAGE

UPGRADE TOILETS - ADD PARTITIONS

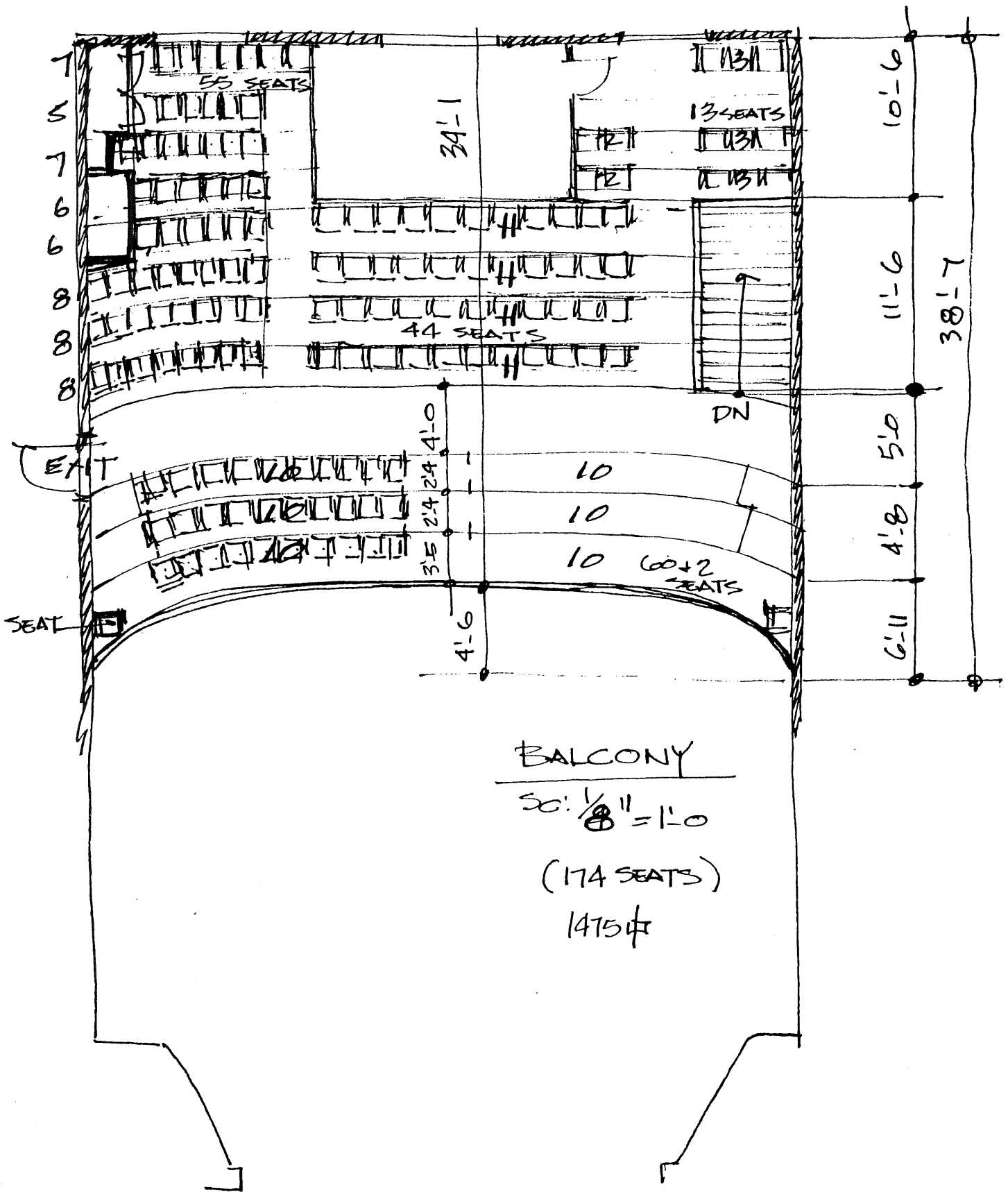
ADD MIRRORS  
ADD FIXTURES

SO IF 90 SEATS ARE SHOT NOW

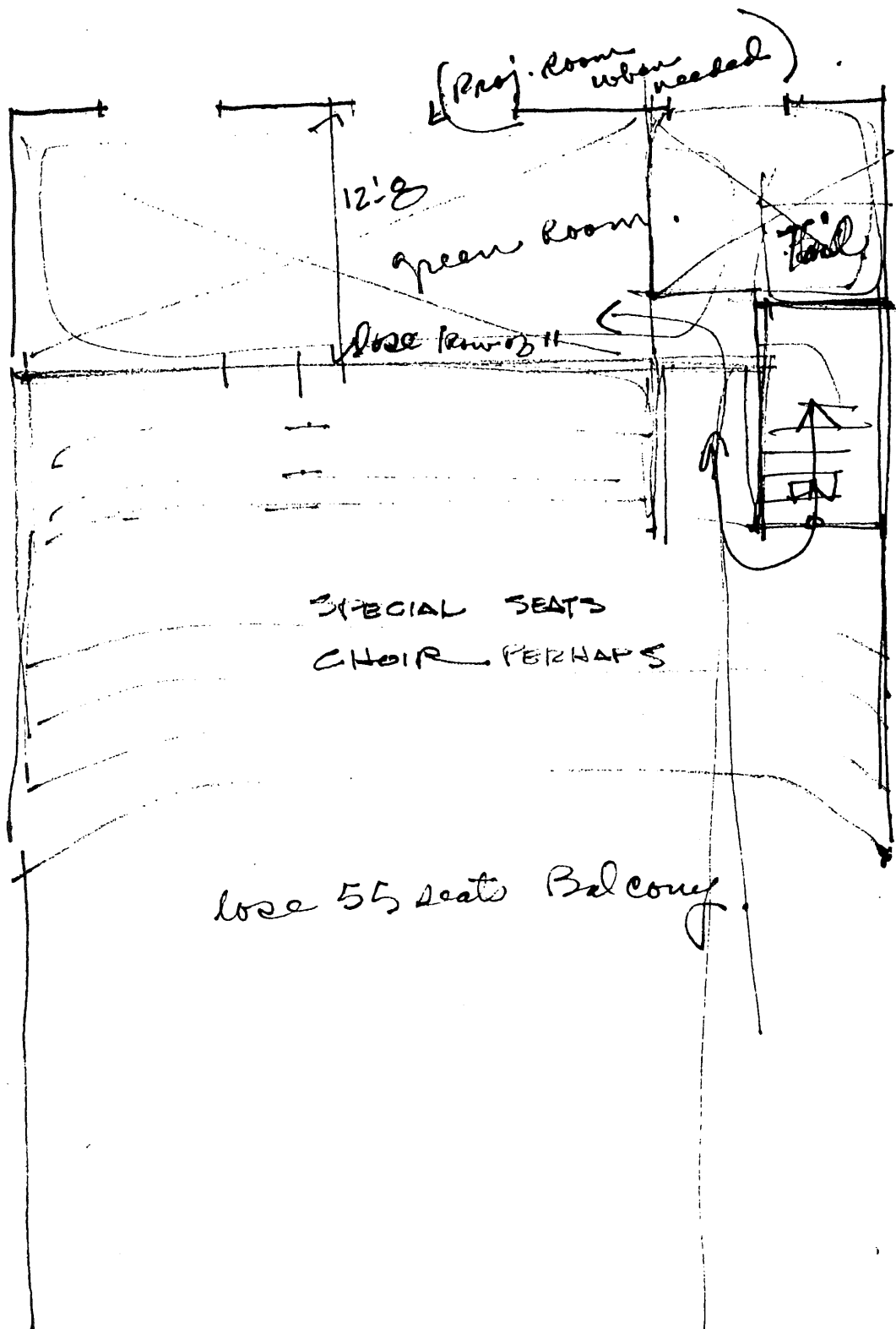
THIS PLAN WOULD WORK  
ALSO NEED WHEELCHAIR SEATING







6475 TOTAL  
 (without Balcony)  
 POLYESTER

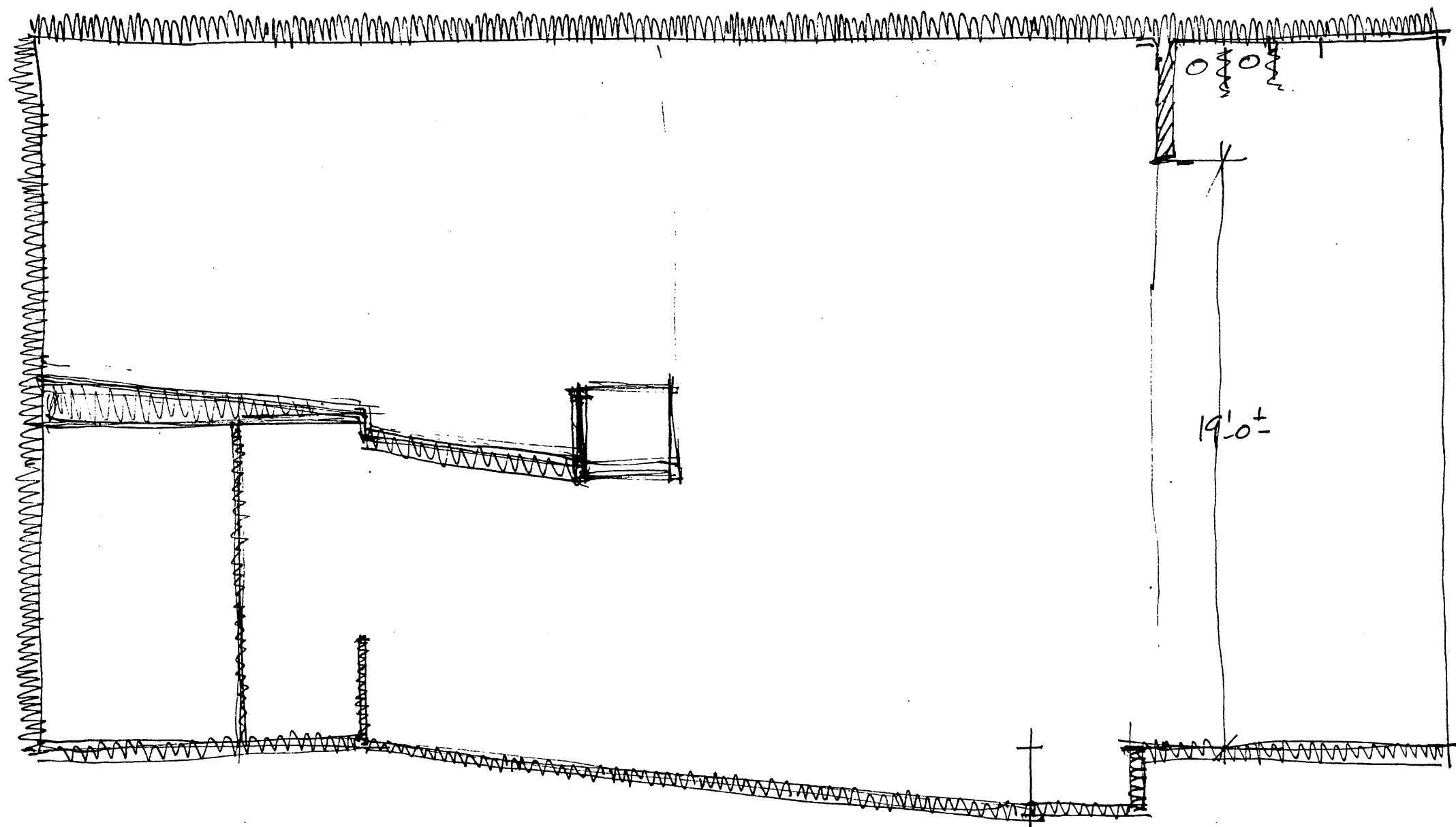


62C  
 6. 11 13  
 6. 11 13  
 1  
 5  
 7  
 31 11 13  
 31  
 11  
 13  
 55  
 55

1/2 Rhs

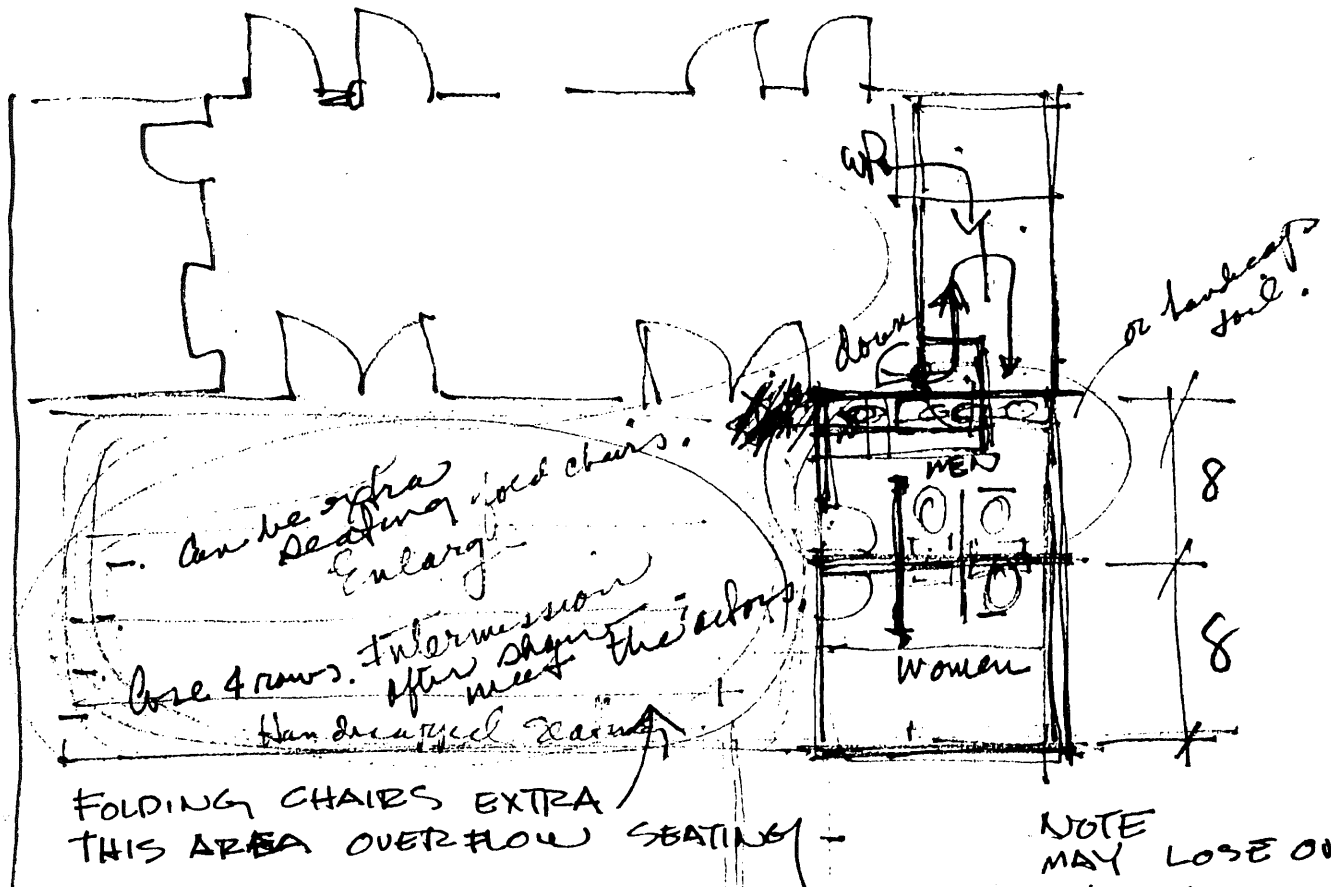
Balcony

500  
 155  
 345



## SECTION

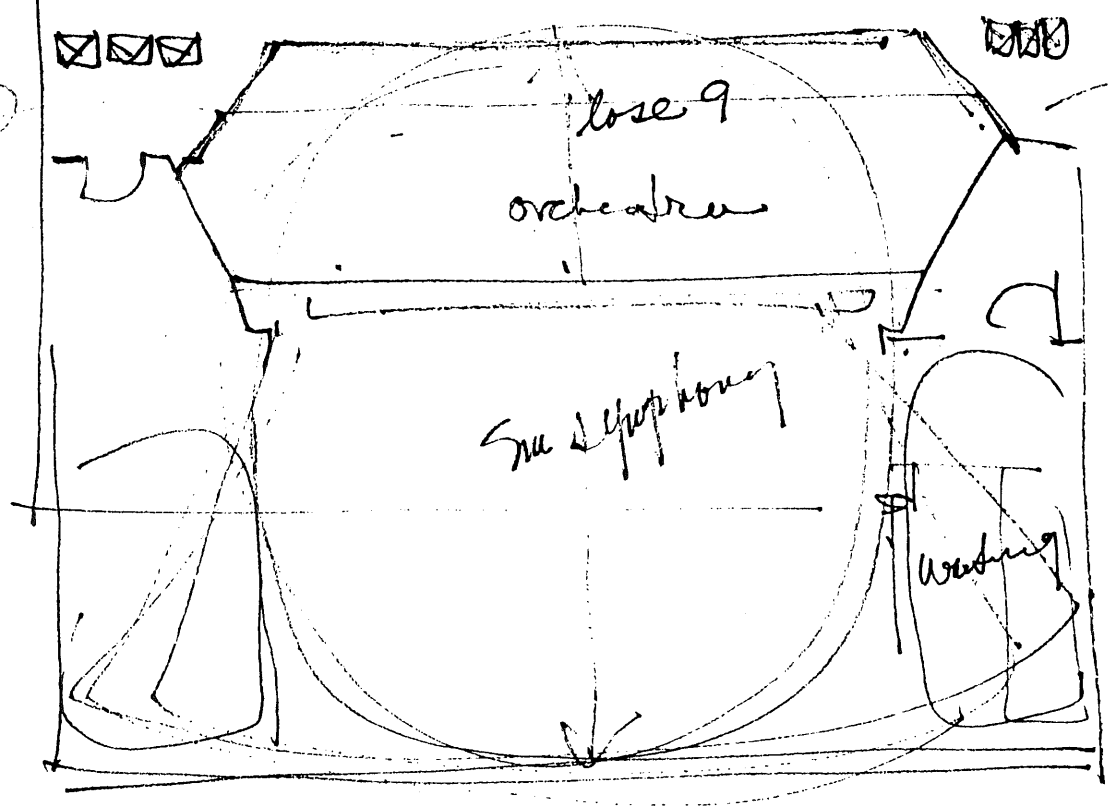




lose  
4x5x2  
9x4

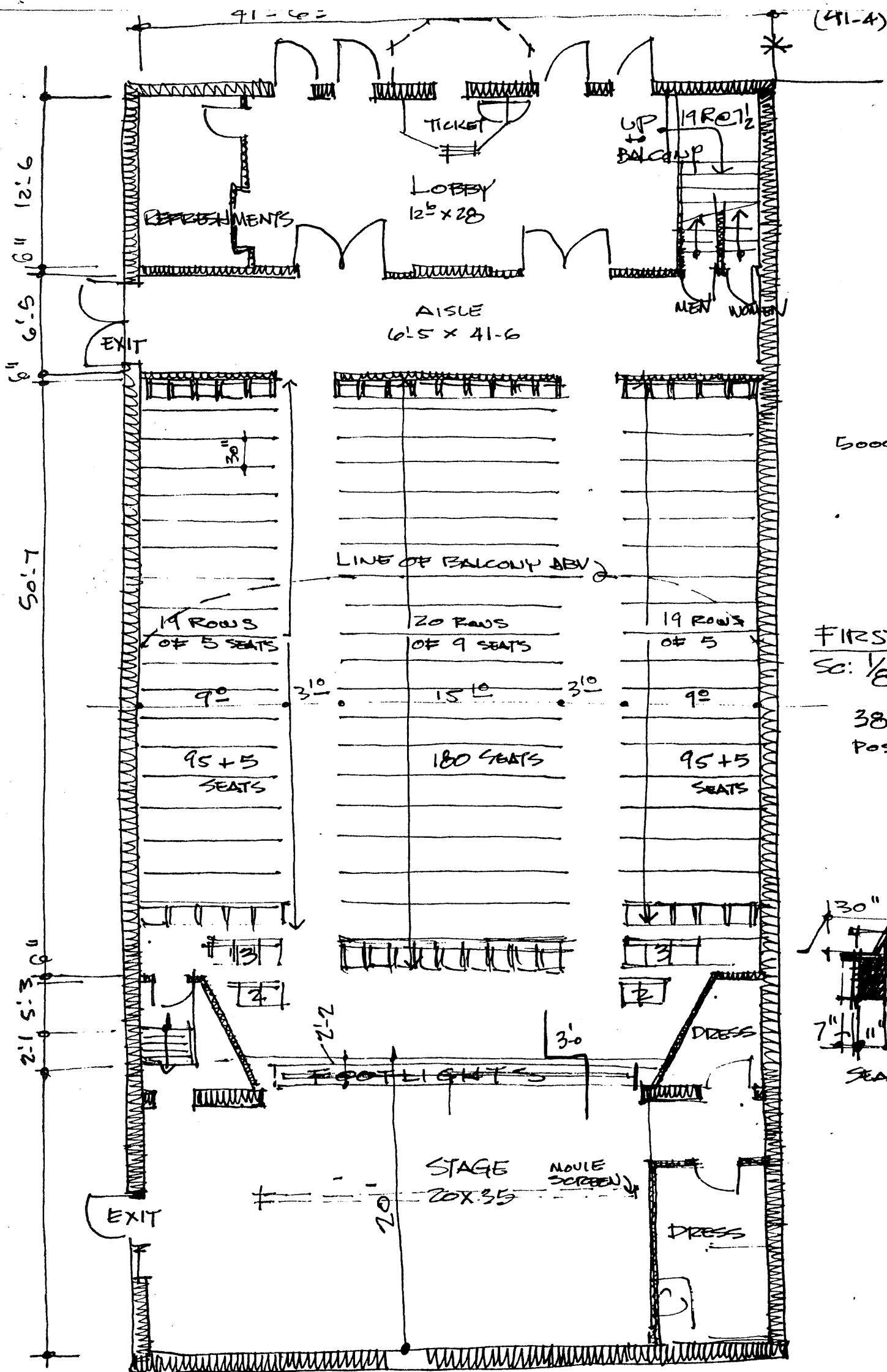
40  
26  
16

PLAN A



14  
7  
23  
78

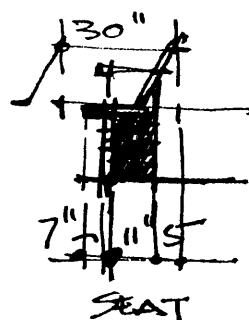
lose 16  
Kot f



50007

FIRST #  
Sc:  $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1$

380 SE  
POSSIBLE



# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

Platte (clay)  
counties

## Smithville Missouri Historical Society

What historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? \_\_\_\_\_

Brooks Opera House on Main St  
Smithville MO 64089

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

- ☐ books about specific theatres
- ☒ photographs
- ☒ newspaper articles
- ☒ scrapbooks
- ☐ county or town histories
- ☐ other, please specify

Smithville Lake Herald  
has historic publications &  
books about your subject -

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

"Buster Keaton's Family played vaudeville in Smithville  
Wallace Berry & Family born north of Smithville

What days and times is your library open to the public? \_\_\_\_\_

By appointment

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times? \_\_\_\_\_

Who is the best person to contact for more information? \_\_\_\_\_

Estelle Wright, Sec.  
106 2nd Terr.  
Smithville, Mo. 64089

**Thank you for your assistance.**

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203



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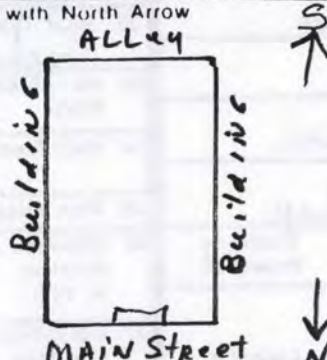

**HISTORIC INVENTORY**

1 No. <u>64</u>		4 Present Name(s) <u>Max's TV</u> <u>315-319 Main Street Building</u>	
2 County <u>Platte</u>		5 Other Name(s) <u>Palmer &amp; Wren Realty Company</u>	
3 Location of Negatives		5 Other Name(s) <u>Upstairs - East half of Opera House - Lyceum Theater - Bowling alley</u> <u>Downtown - The Bell's Restaurant - County Inn</u>	
6 Specific Location <u>315+319 Main St.</u>		16 Thematic Category	
<u>Block-30</u>		17 Date(s) or Period <u>Before 1893</u>	
<u>Lot 4 - W 1/2</u>		18 Style or Design <u>Red brick 67</u>	
7 City or Town <u>Platte City, Mo. 64079</u>		19 Architect or Engineer <u>Probably Fred Krause</u>	
8 Site Plan with North Arrow		20 Contractor or Builder	
		21 Original Use, if apparent <u>Store OZE</u>	
		22 Present Use <u>Office + Shop</u>	
9 Coordinates <u>UTM</u>		23 Ownership <u>Public N</u> <u>Private X</u>	
10 Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>		24 Owner's Name & Address, if known <u>Eugene Wright</u> <u>Platte City, Mo. 64079</u>	
11 On National Register? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		25 Open to Public? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
12 Is It Eligible? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		26 Local Contact Person or Organization	
13 Part of Estab. Hist. Dist.? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		27 Other Surveys in Which Included <u>None</u>	
14 District Potent'l? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		28 No. of Stories <u>Two</u>	
15 Name of Established District		29 Basement? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
42 Further Description of Important Features <u>In 1968 a modern metal decour was placed on top of red brick.</u> <u>Item from Landmark - April 17, 1896 - a phonograph concert will be given Friday night at the Opera House. Admission - 10c.</u>		30 Foundation Material <u>Rock 70</u>	
		31 Wall Construction <u>Red brick LB</u>	
		32 Roof Type & Material <u>Asphalt FF 01</u>	
43 History and Significance <u>The Opera House occupied the second floor of two buildings, forming one large room, with entrance from one center stairway. The large large room is now used for storage. Dec. 25 - 1884 (P. 807 - Paxton) Christmas tree at Opera House where Baptists - Methodists &amp; Presbyterians unite.</u>		33 No. of Bays <u>None</u> <u>Front</u> <u>Side</u>	
44 Description of Environment and Outbuildings <u>Business District</u>		34 Wall Treatment <u>50</u>	
45 Sources of Information <u>Mrs. Eugene Wright - present owner</u> <u>Paxton's Annals</u> <u>Mr. Sam Perry</u> <u>Landmark (Paper)</u>		35 Plan Shape <u>Rectangle</u>	
46 Prepared by <u>Beth Cockbill</u>		36 Changes (Explain in #42) <u>Addition</u> <u>Altered</u> <u>Moved</u>	
47 Organization <u>P.C. Study Club</u>		37 Condition <u>Good</u> <u>Interior</u> <u>Good</u> <u>Exterior</u>	
48 Date <u>3-7-79</u>		38 Preservation Underway? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
49 Revision Date(s)		39 Endangered? By What? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		40 Visible from Public Road? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
		41 Distance from and Frontage on Road	



Office of Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

**HISTORIC INVENTORY**

1 No <u>59</u>		4 Present Name(s) <b>MID-CONTINENT LIBRARY BUILDING</b>	
2 County <b>PLATTE COUTNY</b>		5 Other Name(s) <u>320 main Street Building</u>	
3 Location of Negatives		BARTLETT MERCHANTILE BUILDING	
6 Specific Location <b>320 MAIN STREET</b> <b>BLK 30 ALL OF W 1/2</b> <b>OF LOT 3</b>		16 Thematic Category	
7 City or Town If Rural, Township & Vicinity <b>PLATTE CITY, MO.</b>		17 Date(s) or Period <b>1891</b>	
8 Site Plan with North Arrow 		18 Style or Design <b>FEDERAL</b> <u>69</u>	
9 Coordinates Lat Long		19 Architect or Engineer	
10 Site: <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure: <input type="checkbox"/> Object: <input type="checkbox"/>		20 Contractor or Builder <b>FRED KRAUSE</b>	
11 On National Register? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		21 Original Use, if apparent <u>OSE OBD</u> <b>BUSINESS BUILDING</b>	
12 Is It Eligible? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		22 Present Use <b>2 FLOOR OFFICES</b> <b>1ST FLOOR LIBRARY</b>	
13 Part of Estab Hist Dist? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		23 Ownership Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
14 District Potent'l? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		24 Owner's Name & Address, if known <b>DON &amp; BETTY SOPER</b> <b>PLATTE CITY, MO. 64079</b>	
15 Name of Established District		25 Open to Public? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
42 Further Description of Important Features <b>BUILT 1891 - DATE OF COMPLETION ETCHED IN BOARD IN UPPER STORY DOOR WAY. BRICK FROM THE BRICK BURNING PLANT OF FREDERICK KRAUSE IN PLATTE CITY.</b> <b>METAL FRONT NOW ON THE BUILDING</b>		26 Local Contact Person or Organization <b>BETTY SOPER PCHS</b>	
43 History and Significance <b>BUILT AND USED AS A BUSINESS BUILDING SINCE ITS COMPLETION</b> <u>upstairs part of Opera House</u>		27 Other Surveys in Which Included <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
44 Description of Environment and Outbuildings <b>LOCATED ON MAIN STREET DIRECTLY ACROSS FROM THE PLATTE COUNTY COURT HOUSE</b>		28 No. of Stories <u>2</u>	
45 Sources of Information <b>DEED, LAND RECORD, CONVERSATION WITH MERLE BARTLETT, INSCRIPTION ON DOOR UPSTAIRS OF BUILDING</b>		29 Basement? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
		30 Foundation Material <b>STONE</b> <u>40</u>	
		31 Wall Construction <b>BRICK</b> <u>LB</u>	
		32 Roof Type & Material	
		33 No. of Bays Front <u>10</u> Side <u>0</u>	
		34 Wall Treatment <b>BRICK</b> <u>50</u>	
		35 Plan Shape <b>RECTG.</b>	
		36 Changes (Explain in #42) Addition <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	
		37 Condition Interior <b>EXCELLENT</b> Exterior <b>EXCELLENT</b>	
		38 Preservation Underway? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		39 Endangered? By What? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		40 Visible from Public Road? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
		41 Distance from and Frontage on Road <b>5 FEET</b>	
			
		46 Prepared by <b>BETTY SOPER</b>	
		47 Organization <b>PC STUDY CLUB</b>	
		48 Date <u>7/77</u> 49 Revision Date(s)	



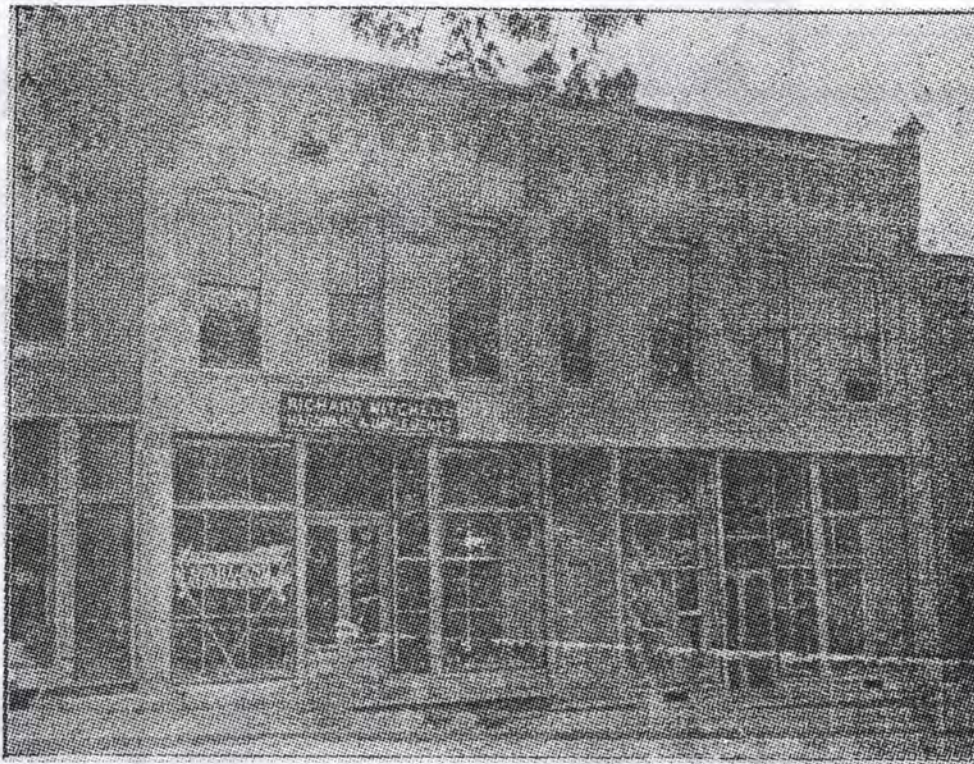
Office of Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

## HISTORIC INVENTORY

1 No <u>53</u>		4 Present Name(s) <u>327 Main Street</u> <u>Double "L" Western Store Building</u>	
2 County <u>Platte</u>		5 Other Name(s) <u>Bartlett's Mercantile - Johnson's Mercantile</u>	
3 Location of Negatives			
6 Specific Location <u>327 Main Street</u> <u>Block - 30</u> <u>Lot - 4 E 1/2</u>		16 Thematic Category	
7 City or Town <u>Platte City, Mo. 64079</u> If Rural, Township & Vicinity		17 Date(s) or Period <u>1887</u>	
8 Site Plan with North Arrow		18 Style or Design	
		19 Architect or Engineer	
		20 Contractor or Builder <u>Fred Krause</u>	
		21 Original Use, if apparent <u>Store ODE</u>	
		22 Present Use <u>Store O8 D</u>	
		23 Ownership <u>Public</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Private</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		24 Owner's Name & Address, if known <u>Richard &amp; Jeanne M. Nickerson</u> <u>Robert M. &amp; Judith E. Verdi</u> <u>P.O. Box</u> <u>Platte City, Mo. 64079</u>	
9 Coordinates <u>UTM</u> Lat Long		25 Open to Public? <u>Yes</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>No</u> <input type="checkbox"/>	
10 Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>		26 Local Contact Person or Organization	
11 On National Register? <u>Yes</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <u>No</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		27 Other Surveys in Which Included <u>None</u>	
12 Is II Eligible? <u>Yes</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <u>No</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
13 Part of Estab Hist Dist? <u>Yes</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <u>No</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
14 District Potent'l? <u>Yes</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <u>No</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
15 Name of Established District		28 No. of Stories <u>Two</u>	
		29 Basement? <u>Yes</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <u>No</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		30 Foundation Material <u>Rock</u> <u>40</u>	
		31 Wall Construction <u>Red Brick</u> <u>LB</u>	
		32 Roof Type & Material <u>Asphalt</u> <u>Flt</u> <u>OI</u>	
		33 No. of Bays <u>Front</u> <u>0</u> <u>Side</u> <u>0</u>	
		34 Wall Treatment <u>Paneled</u> <u>99</u> <u>50</u>	
		35 Plan Shape <u>Rectg.</u>	
		36 Changes (Explain in #42) <u>Addition</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Altered</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Moved</u> <input type="checkbox"/>	
		37 Condition <u>Good</u> Interior <u>Good</u> Exterior <u>Good</u>	
		38 Preservation Underway? <u>Yes</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <u>No</u> <input type="checkbox"/>	
		39 Endangered? By What? <u>Yes</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <u>No</u> <input type="checkbox"/>	
		40 Visible from Public Road? <u>Yes</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>No</u> <input type="checkbox"/>	
		41 Distance from and Frontage on Road	
42 Further Description of Important Features <u>1968 red brick front was covered with metal and apartments upstairs remodeled. (This building has been sold; remodeled houses the Court Order Restaurant - 11-1-79) B.C.</u>			
43 History and Significance <u>The upstairs was part of the "Opera House". The Opera House curtains were covered with interesting advertisements of local merchants.</u>			
44 Description of Environment and Outbuildings <u>Business District - This building has been sold and remodeled it is at present (11-20-79) a restaurant.</u>			
45 Sources of Information <u>Paxton's Annals</u>		46 Prepared by <u>Beth Cockrill</u>	
		47 Organization <u>P.C. Study Club</u>	
		48 Date <u>11-20-79</u> 49 Revision Date(s)	



## THE OPERA HOUSE



The second floor of this building is known as the Opera House. There have been numerous home talent plays, minstrel shows, lectures, concerts, then the silent movie plus comedy serials held here for the enjoyment of all. Its door closed years ago but many memories of good times are still very vivid among the citizens of Platte City.

On the first floor, in the right half of the building, J. O. Johnson and A. P. Fulcher opened the Johnson & Fulcher Mercantile Co. in 1893. They later moved into another building and finally dissolved partnership. Then in 1943 Geo. C. Johnson, son of J. O. Johnson, returned to Platte City and opened the Geo. C. Johnson Store as

it is known today, in the same building. With the exception of a few years there has been a Johnson Store in Platte City since 1893 operated by J. O. Johnson or one of his sons, Geo. C. Johnson or James G. Johnson.

Various enterprises have occupied the left half of the building on the first floor but the Hulett Restaurant probably was there longer than any other. Here was a good spot to eat meals or to join friends for a Coke. The restaurant closed several years ago. The County Inn was located here several years then sold out. This part of the building has been remodeled and today there is a realtor office, law office, Radio & TV Electrical Shop and an Upholstery Shop housed here.

April 16, 1886—Hail storm east of Platte City covered the ground two inches deep, and killed pigs and poultry.

—o—

May 8, 1880 — Zerubbabel Blue Lodge No. 191, takes a new charter under the name of Platte City Lodge, No. 504.

Dec. 25, 1882—Christmas trees at Pleasant Ridge, New Market and Platte City and three saloons at Platte City religiously and freely distributed egg nog.

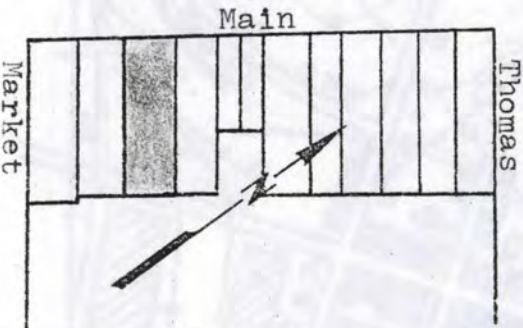

—o—

Jan. 22, 1873—Another severe snow storm. The winter was so cold that the peach trees were killed.

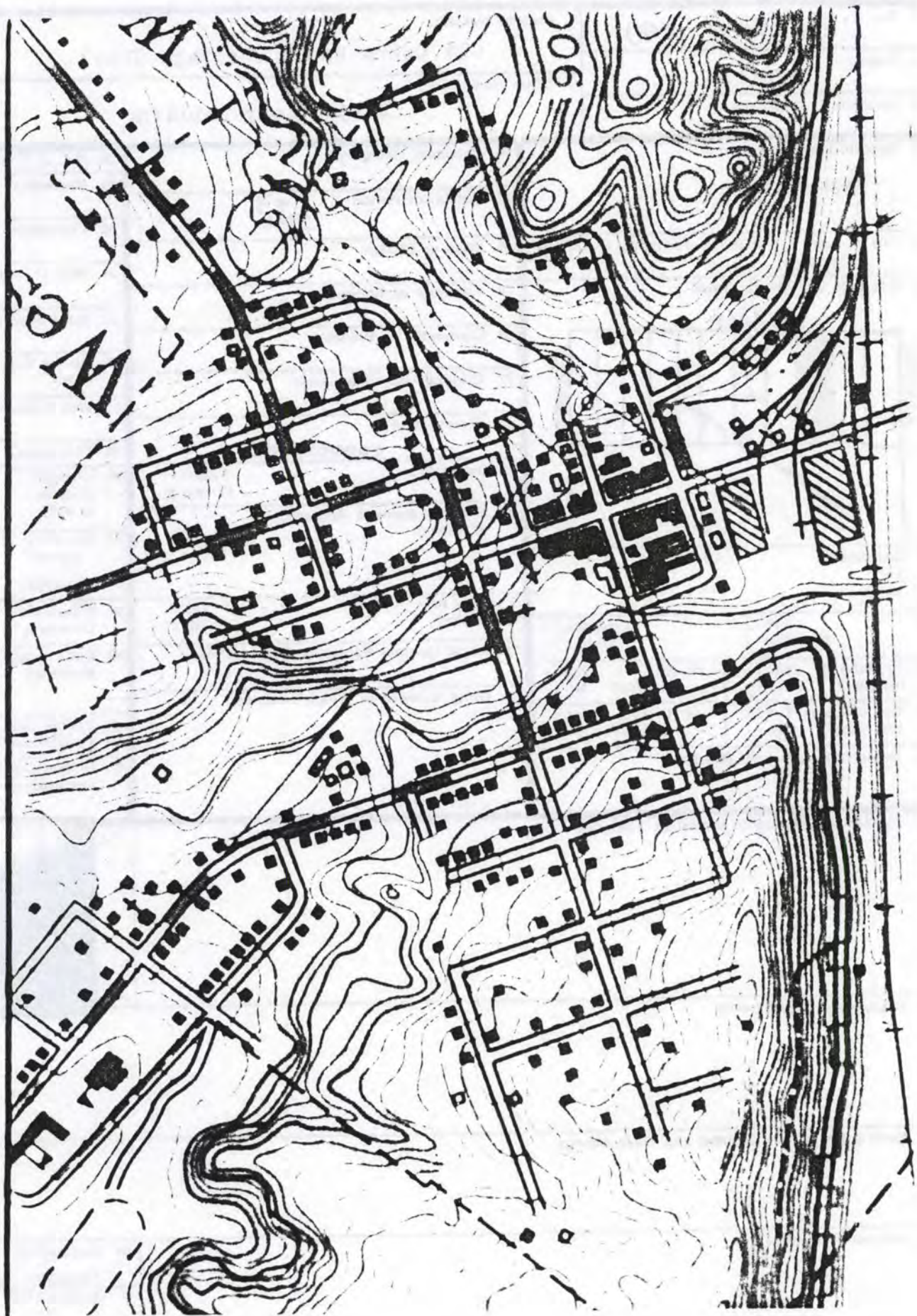


# HISTORIC INVENTORY

SW-AS-036-071

1. No. <u>64</u> <u>(9)</u>		4. Present Name(s) <u>Old Opera House (Montage Shop)</u>	
2. County <u>Platte</u>		5. Other Name(s) <u>Elijah Cody Building</u>	
3. Location of Negatives			
6. Specific Location <u>404 Main</u>		16. Thematic Category	
7. City or Town <u>Weston</u> If Rural, Township & Vicinity		17. Date(s) or Period <u>43</u> <u>1894</u>	
8. Site Plan with North Arrow		18. Style or Design	
		19. Architect or Engineer	
9. Coordinates <u>UTM</u> Lat. Long.		20. Contractor or Builder	
10. Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>		21. Original Use, if apparent	
11. On National Register? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		22. Present Use <u>commercial</u>	
12. Is It Eligible? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		23. Ownership Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
13. Part of Estab. Hist. Dist.? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		24. Owner's Name & Address, if known	
14. District Potent'l? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		25. Open to Public? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
15. Name of Established District		26. Local Contact Person or Organization	
42. Further Description of Important Features		27. Other Surveys in Which Included	
43. History and Significance			
44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings			
45. Sources of Information		46. Prepared by <u>Nancy B. Breme</u>	
		47. Organization <u>OHP</u>	
		48. Date	49. Revision Date(s)







MISSOURI STATE PARK BOARD - STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY  
ARCHITECTURAL SITE INSPECTION LIST

Weston, Missouri.

March-April, 1971

Built in 1843

Elijah Cody Building  
(Operations 15 yrs.)

J. A. Layton  
~~James H. B. B. B.~~

- I. Site location-
1. who is the owner of this property? ~~James H. B. B. B.~~
  2. who resides here (if different from owner)? ~~James H. B. B. B.~~
  3. street address of this property? ~~1000 S. 1st St.~~
  4. common historical name of building? ~~Eliza Cody House~~
  5. how long have you owned (leased this building)? 1949 ~~402 M.~~  
~~In family since 1840~~

II. please map your property on the reverse of this sheet, showing:

1. all structures and out-buildings
2. foundations of removed structures
3. roads, streets and driveways
4. walkways and paths
5. fences
6. wells and cisterns
7. current property boundaries

III. Exterior design of your building:

A. frame building (wooden timber-framed)

1. type of wood *walnut*
2. size of average timber *timber*
3. interfill (clapboards, asbestos sheeting, aluminum siding, etc.)
4. how are the timbers joined?  
a) mortise and tenon: a space hollowed-out in a timber and shaped to fit an end of another timber.  
b) dovetail: a series of wedges in and end of a timber designed to interlock with notches or grooves in another timber end.  
c) spike, nail, screw  
d) wooden pegs  
e) nut and bolt.
5. finish of sheeting: paint, stain, natural, etc.

B. Brick building

1. arrangement of bricks (please make a small sketch of part of wall)
2. color *soft*
3. size of typical brick - *Kiln on McDonald Farm*
4. manufacturer's stamp - if any - *no*
5. evidence of being handmade.
6. extent of original brickwork remaining - *all*

C. Stone building

1. are stones arranged in even rows or randomly? - *cut stones*
2. color of stone. *limestone*
3. type of stone ~~limestone~~
4. extent of original stonework remaining - *all*
5. dimensions of average stone *12" x 18" x 16"*
6. type of mortar used (clay and hair, cement, etc.) - *clay + hair*

IV. Openings (doors, windows, etc.). Please omit modern doors or recently replaced)

1. door style: a) canceled b) plain - slab door, c) board and batten d) "Z"-frame reinforcement.
2. description: a) number of panels, b) door thickness, c) approx. height and width of each door.

Old well is under floor



3. door hardware (please complete only if hardware is antique or known to be original)

*2-ft. long fancy wrought-iron nails.*  
a) hand-forged hinges, b) cast hinges, c) strap hinges  
d) modern "butt" hinges, e) hand-made lock, f) manufactured  
g) type: latch, press-lock, bolt, h) manufacturer (if known)

4. window type:

a) double-hung (standard sash windows)  
b) casement  
c) bay windows  
d) do these windows have shutters? Were they here when you bought the property? how are they hinged?

5. window glass: a) "wavy" glass, b) modern reproduction of "wavy" glass, c) modern smooth glass, d) stained glass.

*2 verticle glasser in double-hung window*

3- V. Chimneys- location:

a) central, b) end, c) corner, d) chimney free-standing on interior of building, e) back of chimney flush with inner surface of an interior wall, f) main body of chimney enclosed within the wall, g) main body of chimney on exterior of building and abutting it, h) main body of chimney free-standing on exterior of building.

*3 on west side  
and 1 on east side*

description of chimney cap- please sketch on reverse. *yes*  
material of chimney cap: a) brick, b) stone, c) other

VI. Hardware, other than on window, shutters and doors:

a) what is it:

b) where is it located:

VII: roof: type;

a) sheet metal, b) wood shingles, c) asphalt shingles, d) slate, e) tile, f) other

*hand rived out of native timber*

VIII: ALTERATIONS 1) What large modifications have been made in the "old" original structure? (please explain briefly on back)

2) What rooms, walls, rooflines, etc., have been removed or added or altered? (please explain briefly on back).

IX: INTERIOR: Please make a rough sketch of each floorplan, and please include location of: windows, doorways and their swing direction, partitions, chimneys and fireplaces, stairs.

1. floors- a) are they original? b) type of wood, c) approximate width and length of a typical board (if original)  
d) floor support: beams? joists?

*IX. For what purpose is the building used?  
Was Elijah Cody Outfitting station for wagons going west. Called  
So  
X Do you have the abstract; if so, the Rio  
Would you allow us to examine it at a later  
date? Yes -*



# Week

**MAYOR** for the new  
under construction is  
Smithville R-II Board of  
Education. The board will  
hold interviews and pos-  
sibly regular open meeting  
in a multi-purpose room.

Students and adults seek-  
ing to join the Smithville  
High School. Invited.

Smithville High School  
from 30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at  
the age. Students and the  
community supply by donating.  
The service served 7:20 to 8:20 in  
a KFKF is expected to

**WRESTLING**  
underway Monday, Jan.  
will play Platte County  
will play their first game  
event at West Platte High  
in the sports pages.

Units may produce some  
30 p.m. Thursday, Jan.  
held regular city council

in the ring for a spot on the Smithville  
School District board of education.  
He joins incumbents Scott Holbrook  
and Ann Mallett, Helen Still, Patty  
Hart and Linda S. Miller in the race  
for the two positions to be filled.

Three of the four candidates who  
had filed for city positions as of Tues-  
day morning are incumbents. Ron  
Van Winkle will seek re-election as  
mayor; Dan Baker as Ward III alder-  
man and W.C. Pence as Ward I alder-  
man. Carol Shaffer has filed for the  
alderman position in Ward II.

Interest has increased in the past  
week in a director's position for the  
Smithville Area Fire Protection Dis-  
trict. Curt Blankenship and Benjamin  
Westman have joined Charles D.  
"Doug" Lowe as candidates for the  
spot to be vacated when Hubert  
Shuler's term expires in April.

## Fire district officials consider building purchase

Smithville Area Fire Protection  
District officials are considering  
purchasing a building to be used as a  
fire station. The former Smithville  
Lake Auto Clinic, situated in First  
Park on South 169 Highway, is offered  
for sale by owner Al Rollert.

Approval was given by district  
directors at their Monday, Jan. 19  
meeting for Fire Chief Mark Ferguson  
to discuss terms with Rollert. Fer-  
guson said he expects a decision could  
be made by the February 16  
meeting of the fire board.

In other business, district officials  
agreed not to place a sales tax pro-  
posal on the April 1998 election bal-  
lot. Such a proposition may be put  
before the voters at a later date,  
Ferguson said.

Jay Dillingham was elected non-  
orary chairman of the committee.  
Dick Fletcher, a Smithville resident,  
is managing chairman. They have  
made presentations about the tax pro-  
posal to eight organizations.

The group hopes to pick up  
endorsements from cities and orga-  
nizations in the county, Shettles said.  
Boydston said they have been placed  
on the agenda for the next Smithville  
Board of Aldermen meeting 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Jan. 29.

The need for expansion is shown  
by the number being housed in other  
facilities, according to Boydston.

The number of inmates kept in the

*built 1905 This is "The Brooks Opera House" - Smithville, MO*



**WHERE THERE IS SMOKE** there is often fire. That was not the case at the ARC Thrift  
Store Friday afternoon, Jan. 16. Main Street was shut down for a short time while Smithville  
volunteer firefighters investigated the odor of smoke. Fire Chief Mark Ferguson said the  
smell was caused by a light fixture that was about ready to go out. This is not an uncommon  
occurrence, Ferguson said. The fixture was removed and taken outside to cool. No damage  
resulted, according to Ferguson. (Herald photo)

The Clay County Public Safety  
Building in Liberty may be named  
in honor of William S. Brandom,  
former Clay County prosecuting at-  
torney.

Brandom served as prosecutor  
for 15 years from 1969 to 1984. He  
later completed a one-year unex-  
pired term as the county's presiding  
commissioner.

Sheriff Bob Boydston requested  
the name change at a county com-  
mission meeting Jan. 12. Boydston  
said Brandom was respected for his  
contributions to the county includ-

ing the establishment of bad check  
and child support divisions in the  
prosecutor's office.

The request is not related to the  
proposal to expand the jail and the  
law enforcement sales tax election  
Feb. 3, Boydston said.

Brandom currently serves on the  
citizens' committee working to pass  
the sales tax.

The new name may be approved  
by the county commission this week.  
The issue was scheduled to come up  
at the commission's Tuesday, Jan. 20  
work session.



# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Historical Society of Polk County

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Opera House	Bolivar	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Viles Opera House		yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Opera House	Humansville	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

no longer an Opera House -  
2 floor over business Houses

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Opera House	Bolivar	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Viles Opera House		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Opera House	Humansville	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Opera House	Bolivar	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Viles Opera House		yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Opera House	Humansville	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>

I don't know

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? None

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

☐ books about specific theatres

☐ photographs

☐ newspaper articles

☒ scrapbooks

☒ county or town histories

☐ other, please specify

Only from older Newspapers if at all.  
In the museum there are some old  
clippings from Paper + put in scrap books

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

A tent show many years ago by the Library Building - Vaudeville

What days and times is your library open to the public? 5 days - 9 - 5 o'clock.

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times? no.

I do not believe the Library would like this

Who is the best person to contact for more information? I do not know.

**Thank you for your assistance.**

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203

The Southwest Baptist University has a fine building on its campus and a new electric theatre is south on Highway 13 about a mile in a small shopping center that is new. No Opera in Bolivar now.

# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Putnam County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Hays Grand Opera House                      Unionville                      yes \_\_\_\_ no X

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Hays Grand Opera House                      Unionville                      yes \_\_\_\_ no X

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Hays Grand Opera House                      Unionville                      yes \_\_\_\_ no X

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

\_\_\_\_ books about specific theatres                      \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ photographs                      \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ newspaper articles                      \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ scrapbooks                      \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ county or town histories                      \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ other, please specify                      \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_  
What days and times is your library open to the public? We do not have a  
library \_\_\_\_\_

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

Who is the best person to contact for more information? George D. Choate  
21 Broadway Village Drive  
Apt A  
Columbia, Mo 65201

**Thank you for your assistance.**

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203

August 31, 1997

Putnam County Historical Society  
Unionville, MO 63565

Dear Putnam County Historical Society Representative:

I am a graduate student in the Environmental Design Department at the University of Missouri - Columbia working on a PhD in Historic Preservation. My dissertation focuses on historic theatres, halls, and opera houses in outstate Missouri. I am attempting to compile a database of information about the theatrical venues which have existed in Missouri. I am particularly interested in the theatres and opera houses which still exist even if they are no longer functioning as a performance space. Eventually, I hope to produce a book about historic theatres in Missouri.

In your area, I am aware of the following theatres and am interested in any additional information about them that you can provide:

**Unionville     Hays Grand Opera House**

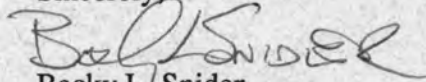
However, there may be or have been other theatres, halls, or opera houses in your area that I have yet to discover. I would appreciate your help in locating information about the theatres and opera houses in your area. I am enclosing a short questionnaire to help guide you to the type of information I am interested in obtaining.

For your convenience, I have enclosed a self-addressed, stamped envelope for you to return the questionnaire to me. In addition, I am enclosing a small donation to your organization

If your organization charges a fee for research inquiries, please advise me of the anticipated cost prior to beginning any searches. I can be reached by phone at (573) 443 - 3241 or you may simply send the information to me in the postage-paid enclosed envelope.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Becky L. Snider  
1008 Sunset Drive  
Columbia, MO 65203

9/12/97 Becky -  
Am sending you the information  
we could find in our local  
library from their newspaper file.  
am sure you might find more  
on this or other info in the  
state hist library in Columbia,  
MO - The Putnam Journal  
now The Unionville Republican  
(maybe the May 31, 1922 edition  
on M. J. Hays.  
George Choate in Columbia, Mo  
is former owner of Unionville  
Republican Paper here. He might  
be able to help you.





HOME OF THE X X

## FARMERS STORE

X X UNIONVILLE, MO.

### Complete Stocks of...

Up-to-	Dry Goods, Clothing, Shoes,
Date in	Hats, Fine Dress Goods,
Every-	Ladies' Ready-Made Garments,
thing..	Notions, Carpets, Wall Paper, Fine
	China, Queensware and Groceries.

WE SOLICIT YOUR PATRONAGE

## HOLMAN & PICKINPAUGH.

# Midnight Fire In The Hovermale Block, North Side Of The Square, Damages Building And Four Stocks

11 APR — 1925

Heroic and effective fighting on the part of the fire department probably prevented a very disastrous fire on Monday night about midnight after a blaze was discovered in the room above the location of the W. Q. Morgan confectionery. Three or four alarms were turned in about the same time. Night Watch John Cotton states that he saw it while in the alley at the rear, and called to sleeping residents in the apartments upstairs before giving the alarm at the billiard hall, and telephoning the alarm.

The fire wagon was on the ground very quickly because Mr. E. F. Brown happened to be at the billiard parlor when the alarm was given by Mr. Cotton, and ran to get the motor equipment as fast as he could, according to Mr. Cotton. Two or three lines of hose, and the chemical apparatus were soon laid, and the firemen began the difficult task of locating the fire, and then extinguishing it.

Apparently, the fire had its origin in a rear room of the second story of the room occupied by the confectionery store, where there had been no occupant in years, but where some old worn out and abandoned furniture is said to have been. When Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Anderson looked from their rooms across to the fire the window frames at the rear where the fire was burning, but what could have caused it may never be known. The fire traveled transversely along the stringers and joists, and it was a very difficult task for the firemen to locate the fire in the dense smoke, and then literally dig it out from its hidden places. The fire did travel each direction until it reached the next adjoining store rooms, and this made it necessary to use much water in the rooms over them. This water fell and filtered through to the rooms below, seriously damaging the stocks of Miss Josephine Cornwell to the east, and the Ruth Shoe Store and the Potts Music and Radio Shop to the west. Miss Cornwell had scores of dresses and hats which were water-soaked, the stocks of Mr. Potts and the Ruth Shoe Store were also water-soaked, and the stock of the confectionery was not only water-soaked, but knocked about by the heavy streams of water played on the inside.

The losses will aggregate several thousand dollars, it is thought, to the stocks, and the building was badly damaged also. These three rooms constitute a block owned by Mrs. Mariah Hovermale, and the loss to her undoubtedly will run very high. Insurance was had on all the stocks, and also the building, but whether sufficient to cover the damage done is not known at the present time.

The stores affected by the fire are closed, and have been since the fire, awaiting the arrival of insurance adjusters. They plan to reopen as soon as possible after the adjustments have been made, and this probably will be some time in the future.

Part of the stock of the Hovermale block, at least the confectionery store, was completely destroyed, and more could have been saved if the fire had not spread so fast.

# OPERA HOUSE BURNS

Fire Early This Morning Destroys Building On Northeast Corner Of Square And Causes Heavy Damage. One Narrow Escape

11 JAN — 1925

The old Hays Opera House was destroyed by fire about three o'clock this (Wednesday) morning, and the home of Dr. F. R. Oberlag, owned by Dr. L. D. Thomas, and the H. L. Holman Merc. Co. store building were greatly damaged. In addition, the household goods and equipment of the Oberlag home, and the stock of goods belonging to the Holman Merc. Co. were also heavily damaged. Also a large number of used cars, belonging to the Unionville Motor Company and stored on the second floor of the Hays building, as well as a small restaurant stock only recently installed by a Mr. Bratton, and the bowling alley equipment belonging to Mr. Frank Quail were destroyed. The total loss may exceed \$20,000 according to hurried estimates this morning.

How the fire originated is not known. Mr. Clovie Stewart, who was sitting up with Nova Worley, who is ill, noticed the smoke rolling from that corner of the square about three o'clock, and hurried to the telephone office to turn in the alarm. He says that when he passed the building on his way to the telephone office there was a dense pall of smoke in the street, and he thought at the time it was coming from the Holman Merc. Co. building. When he returned to awaken the Oberlag family, and to call Mr. Holman the blaze seemed to have broken out and enveloped the upper story of the old opera house.

The alarm soon brought out a large crowd, as well as the fire department with its apparatus. There was no hope of saving the Hays building when the fire company reached the scene, so that its efforts were confined largely to saving the adjoining H. L. Holman Merc. Co. building, and the home of Drs. Oberlag, as well as the building at the rear of the Hays building. The work done by the fire boys was of the best quality. Despite the intense heat and the proximity of the fire they saved every adjoining building from catching fire seriously. The Oberlag home, owned by Dr. Thomas, was extremely close to the east side of the doomed building, but it would have almost escaped unscathed had it not been that the east wall of the Hays building fell upon it, and crushed the west side of the house.

Dr. Oberlag had a very narrow escape in connection with the fall of this east wall. He had been entering his home through the rear door, and was at this entrance when the wall started to fall. Cries of warning went up, and he said that it looked as if a huge black cloud was coming above him. Had he jumped for the open he would certainly have been caught under the bricks and killed. Instead of that, he jumped for the doorway of a small wash house standing between the pump and the Hays building. This wash house was flattened to the ground by the brick, with the exception of the door, which caught with the heavier lumber in the end of the roof at this point and formed a very small arch over Dr. Oberlag. It was big enough to protect him, and he managed to crawl out from there. He said the heat

FIRE

Pg 9

The front wall also fell, and it came down with a loud crash, hurling bricks past the middle of the paving. The rear wall was left standing, but it is feared that unless this is caused to fall inside it may fall outside and damage the small buildings at the rear. Much of the east and south walls are standing yet, but large sections fell from them. The heavy brick wall between the doomed building, and the Holman building saved the contents of the Holman store from being destroyed by fire. The firemen were able to play the hose on this, and on the roof of the Holman building so as to minimize the danger of fire. As it is, much water drenched the stock, especially on the east side of the store, and the rooms were filled with dust and smoke. There is no means of knowing anywhere close what the damage has been to this stock, and Messrs. H. L. Holman and Dana Flanagan stated this morning that the store would be closed until after the insurance adjusters have come and the damage estimated. This probably will require a few days.

The furniture of the Oberlag home was badly damaged, and some of it was removed to the outside. The west side of the house, and the porch, were crushed by the fall of brick walls. Dr. Oberlag stated that he would resume his practice in the same place just as soon as it was possible to move in. Workmen were already at work this morning cleaning up the home, and Dr. Thomas expects to restore the damage to the house at once. 11 Jan 1925

A Mr. Bratton, who is said to live at or near Sewal, Iowa, but more recently has been at Lucerne had rented one of the rooms in the burned building for the purpose of putting in a restaurant. He had between \$200 and \$250 of stock and equipment already installed, and had expected to open tonight. This was destroyed, and it is understood he had no insurance. Mr. Quail had no insurance on his bowling equipment stored there.

The Hays building is said to have been owned by a bank at Stover, Mo. At one time there was \$4,000 insurance carried on it locally, but half of this had been cancelled, though it is understood that the bank had taken out at least that much again through a Stover agency. The used cars belonging to the Unionville Motor Co. were insured in a reciprocal insurance company, but just now there is no definite knowledge as to how much this insurance amounts to. The Holman Merc. Co. building, and stock were both insured, perhaps enough to cover the losses, and Dr. Thomas carried some insurance on his house, while Dr. Oberlag had \$1,000 on his furniture and equipment.

# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Ralls County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

New London Opera House  
Perry Opera House

New London  
Perry  
Center

yes \_\_\_\_ no ☒  
yes \_\_\_\_ no ☒

*Center Opera House*

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

*They did exist*

New London Opera House  
Perry Opera House

New London  
Perry

yes \_\_\_\_ no ☒  
yes \_\_\_\_ no ☒

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

New London Opera House  
Perry Opera House

New London  
Perry  
*Center*

yes \_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_  
yes ☒ no \_\_\_\_

*?*

*Center Opera House*

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

\_\_\_\_ books about specific theatres

\_\_\_\_ photographs

\_\_\_\_ newspaper articles

\_\_\_\_ scrapbooks

\_\_\_\_ county or town histories

\_\_\_\_ other, please specify

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

What days and times is your library open to the public? *Do not have a library*

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

Who is the best person to contact for more information?

*Ronnie Ledesma 1-314-228-8578*  
*1276 Pequeno Lane*  
*Fenton, MO 63026*

**Thank you for your assistance.**

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203

*Kathleen Wolham*

*RI*

*Shelbyville, MO 63089*

*1-816-633-2202*



August 31, 1997

Ralls County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 252  
Perry, MO 63462-0252

Dear Ralls County Historical Society Representative:

I am a graduate student in the Environmental Design Department at the University of Missouri - Columbia working on a PhD in Historic Preservation. My dissertation focuses on historic theatres, halls, and opera houses in outstate Missouri. I am attempting to compile a database of information about the theatrical venues which have existed in Missouri. I am particularly interested in the theatres and opera houses which still exist even if they are no longer functioning as a performance space. Eventually, I hope to produce a book about historic theatres in Missouri.

In your area, I am aware of the following theatres and am interested in any additional information about them that you can provide:

New London  
Perry

New London Opera House  
Perry Opera House

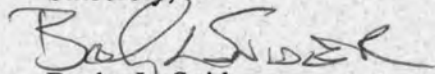
However, there may be or have been other theatres, halls, or opera houses in your area that I have yet to discover. I would appreciate your help in locating information about the in your area. I am enclosing a short questionnaire to help guide you to the type of information I am interested in obtaining.

For your convenience, I have enclosed a self-addressed, stamped envelope for you to return the questionnaire to me. In addition, I am enclosing a small donation to your organization

If your organization charges a fee for research inquiries, please advise me of the anticipated cost prior to beginning any searches. I can be reached by phone at (573) 443 - 3241 or you may simply send the information to me in the postage-paid enclosed envelope.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Becky L. Snider  
1008 Sunset Drive  
Columbia, MO 65203

*We recd your request at our last meeting -  
11-17-97 - We are all old & we don't have an  
office or library. We are a very small group.  
You will find more info - if you contact one  
of the names we provide you with on the questionnaire.*

*Mark Price*

# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

## ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

SW-AS-036-072

1. NO. NL 10		4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) 4 Small Stones 4th Street	
2. COUNTY Ralls		5. OTHER NAME(S)	
3. LOCATION OF NEGATIVES MHTD Surveys & Plans			
6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP 55N RANGE 4W SECTION IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS Fourth Street		16. THEMATIC CATEGORY	
7. CITY OR TOWN IF RURAL, VICINITY New London		17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD late 19th-early 20th century	
8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION 4 abutting brick commercial buildings on Southside of 4th Street, just east of Main Street		18. STYLE OR DESIGN vernacular Victorian	
		19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER	
		20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER	
		21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT Commercial Retail stores	
		22. PRESENT USE Same or abandoned	
		23. OWNERSHIP PUBLIC ( ) PRIVATE (X)	
		24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS IF KNOWN	
9. COORDINATES LAT LONG		25. OPEN TO PUBLIC? YES ( ) NO (X)	
10. SITE ( ) STRUCTURE ( ) BUILDING (X) OBJECT ( )		26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION	
11. ON NATIONAL REGISTER? YES ( ) NO (X)		27. OTHER SURVEYS IN WHICH INCLUDED	
12. IS IT ELIGIBLE? YES ( ) NO ( )		None Known	
13. PART OF ESTAB. HIST. DISTRICT? YES ( ) NO (X)			
14. DISTRICT POTENTIAL? YES ( ) NO ( )			
15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT NA			
42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES 2nd Building from corner was a movie theater in 1917, buildings to east of it not shown on 1917 map		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>PHOTO MUST  BE PROVIDED Attached</p> </div>	
43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE			
44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS			
45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION MHTD Surveys and Plans Division		46. PREPARED BY David Crampton	
RETURN THIS FORM WHEN COMPLETED TO: OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION P.O. BOX 176 JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102 PH. 314-751-4096		47. ORGANIZATION MHTD	
IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED, ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET(S) TO THIS FORM		48. DATE 9/22/87	
		49. REVISION DA	



Four Small Stores  
Fourth Street  
New London, Missouri  
Late 19th Century  
Early 20th Century



Randolph County

# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Huntsville Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Sample Opera House      Huntsville      yes ☒ no ☐

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Sample Opera House      Huntsville      yes ☐ no ☒

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Sample Opera House      Huntsville      yes ☒ no ☒

The first story is still standing - Open Ho was on 2nd story

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area?

Yes, there is a wonderful old movie theater in  
Huntsville - 4th St. Theater & recently movie moved & we are concerned  
about its future - Beautiful architecture

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

- ☐ books about specific theatres
- ☐ photographs
- ☒ newspaper articles
- ☐ scrapbooks
- ☐ county or town histories
- ☐ other, please specify

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

We know Chautauqueans performed there

What days and times is your library open to the public? Sat. afternoon 1-5pm. Sun - 2-5pm.

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

Yes - Call 816-277-3188 or 816-277-4486

Who is the best person to contact for more information? Margaret Block or Dora Craven

I am sending you some info on Sample Opera House. As you can see by the picture of Main St. that Huntsville hasn't taken care of its historical properties. All the buildings are gone except the 1st floor of the Opera House - X over it. A new Post Office - Bank built on this block in 1960's. We have 6 seats from the Opera House at our Hist. Museum

Thank you for your assistance.

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203

Thanks for \$2 donation to the Museum.



HUNTSVILLE, MISSOURI  
Founded 1821, Incorporated 1829  
100 Block of South Main Street  
1860's - 1960's

HUNTSVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY — ORGANIZED 1973

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE



# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Randolph County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Apgar's Opera House	Moberly	yes	no
Halloran's Opera House		yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no
Hegarty's Opera House		yes	no
Higbee Opera House	Higbee	yes	no
Semple Opera House	Huntsville	yes	no

*information  
enclosed*

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Apgar's Opera House	Moberly	yes	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Halloran's Opera House		yes	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hegarty's Opera House		yes	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Higbee Opera House	Higbee	yes	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Semple Opera House	Huntsville	yes	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Apgar's Opera House	Moberly	? yes	no
Halloran's Opera House		yes	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hegarty's Opera House		yes	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Higbee Opera House	Higbee	? yes	no
Semple Opera House	Huntsville	yes	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

_____ books about specific theatres	_____
_____ photographs	_____
_____ newspaper articles	_____
_____ scrapbooks	_____
_____ county or town histories	_____
_____ other, please specify	_____

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

What days and times is your library open to the public? Monday 10-12:00 a.m.; Thursday  
1-3:00 p.m.; Saturday 9-12 p.m.

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

yes  
Who is the best person to contact for more information? Carla Brockman 263-3306

Thank you for your assistance. Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203

## To Make One Story Structure Semple Opera House To Be Torn Down



Mr. Joe Haines, owner of the building, housing Thogmartin's Drug and the Fixit Shop, will remove the upper floor of the building, which is known as the Semple Opera House and place a roof on the first floor structure.

Workmen are at present placing the roof structure over the first floor ceiling, and will construct a new roof over the area before the demolition of the upper floor is started.

After the new roof has been completed the second floor

structure will be torn down, leaving a one-story building. The height of the parapet wall will be even with the second floor window sills.

These sills will be removed and a smooth coping will be placed over the top of the wall.

This will eliminate a historic structure in Huntsville, but landmarks must give way to progress.

### SEMPLER OPERA HOUSE—

(Taken from History of Randolph and Macon Counties 1884) The elegant building was finished in February, 1884 and is the property of Charles Semple.

It has a frontage of 42 feet on Court Square and is 90 feet deep with a 19 foot ceiling.

The lower part of the building is divided into two store rooms each 21 by 90 ft.

The stage is 42 feet wide by 20 feet deep and is supplied with drop curtains and fly-wings which are done in the best of scenic art.

The building is a great credit to Huntsville.

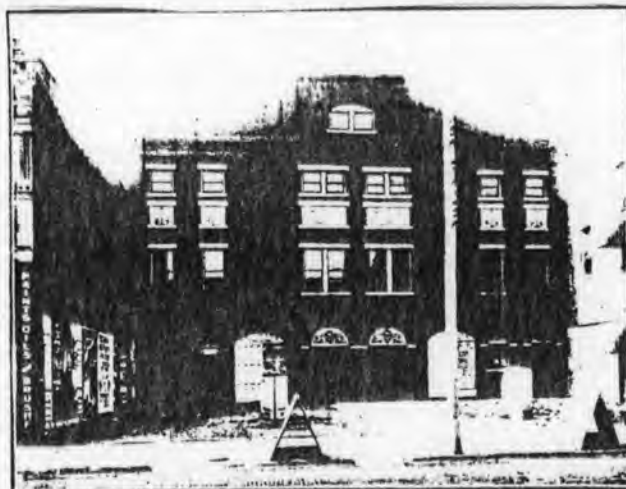
The carpeting matting and

chairs were all specially designed and ordered from St. Louis by the John N. Taylor Furniture Co. of Huntsville.

Many were the operas, plays, fine talent staged in the early 1900s — with talent from New York, St. Louis, and Chicago, and several balls held here were staged with much finesse, with orchestras imported from Kansas City, and the hand painted engraved invitations were much sought after.

The present owner of the building is Joe Haines.

Moberly is blessed with as cozy and comfortable a theatre as could be devised for its needs. The Halloran was built at an expense of some \$30,000 and is located in the heart of the business district of Reed street. Mr. P. Halloran, the owner and manager, is a genial and hustling purveyor to the public amusement and has made a study of the likes and dislikes of his patrons with the result that packed houses attend any performance that is guaranteed by Mr. Halloran. The building is of brick and stone, with an auditorium and balcony capable of seating 1,100 people. The arrangement of the boxes is one of the most convenient and novel in theatre building. The stage, forty feet deep, sixty-six wide and sixty high, gives ample room for the largest attractions. There are plenty of dressing rooms and the equipment is modern with all the latest novelties and necessities known to stagecraft. A few of the attractions played are, "Peggy From Paris," "The Gingerbread Man," Bertha Kalick, "The Land of Nod," "Wizard of Oz," "Parsifal," "The



HALLORAN'S  
THEATRE  
AND  
AIRDOME



Lion and the Mouse," "San Toy," "Babes in Toyland," Nat M. Mills, "The Merry Widow," etc. Mr. Halloran also controls the Airdome, a summer amusement resort, with permanent stage and auditorium, with the blue sky roof, capable of seating 1,500 people. During the summer months stock repertoire companies of reputation play two week stands to crowded houses. The bill posting plant run in connection with the other enterprises consists of 2,500 running feet of boards built of steel and matched lumber.

It was in 1903 that the theatre took on a new look here. It was then that Pat Halloran, astute businessman, and for many years a part of the Hegarty Opera House management, became a more prominent figure in the local world of show business. He opened his own theatre, which carried on its marquee this sign: "Halloran Theatre, Mr. P. Halloran, Prop." It was built at a cost of \$80,000 and the opening of the new show house, sixty-three years ago, was truly a gala affair. It took place on December 14th, with seats at five and ten dollars each, and reservations were made by the drawing of names. The offering was "Peggy from Paris", and the costuming of the cast was no more elaborate than the dress of the local viewers, for the order of the evening was formal dress for the audience! The fashionable women of the day carried flowers, and two beautiful young socialites, it is reported, who dressed in lovely gowns and carrying long-stemmed American beauties, stood at the back until the last minute, intending to make the most dramatic entrance of the evening. But just a fraction of a minute was too much, and as they began their sweep down the aisle, the lights were suddenly dimmed for the opening curtain and they had to find their seats in semi-darkness!

Said the special Christmas 1911 Edition of the Monitor, of the Halloran Theatre: "The theatre is one of the largest and most expensive structures in Moberly, a two-story structure, modern from pit to dome...one of the few in Missouri affording ample stage room and fly galleries and scenery dome for all scenery carried by the largest Eastern attractions...the electric equipment enables the manager to present sunlight, daylight and moonlight effects and the management employs a large force of stagehands to handle the scenery. Among attractions were the opening "Peggy from Paris", "Babes in Toyland," "The Merry Widow", "Wizard of Oz", "Gingerbread Man", "The Red Mill", "The Rose Maid", "The Lion and the Mouse", "Parsifal", and Tolstol's "Resurrection",

with the great Blance Walsh. Scores of stars, even yet great names, trod the boards in Moberly. There was Hal Reid, father of screen star Wally Reid, Mrs. Fiske, Otis Skinner and Maude Durbin, James K. Hackett, DeWolfe Hopper, Louis Mann, Theodore Roberts, William Jefferson, Thomas Jefferson, Leslie Carter, Eddie Foy, Frank Mayo and Bertha Kalich. Boxing greats Jim Jeffries and John L. Sullivan made appearances here also. Full orchestras were not always transported with these shows, usually the pianist and musical director traveled with them and made up an orchestra of local musicians. Mr. J. Will Fleming, Sr. recalls that he played trumpet for many of the musical shows, and Victor Herbert operettas.

Here the great of the day's actors and actresses emoted through one-reelers, Mary Pickford and Owen Moore, and Florence Lawrence and King Baggot and J. Warren Kerrigan among them.

Shortly after opening Halloran's Theatre impresario Pat Halloran built a sw theatre of impressive proportions, the Air dome, with a permanent stage and auditorium and the blue sky for a roof, seating 1500

people. Here beneath the stars, stock companies with the cream of the national theatre played one-and two-week stands of musical and dramatic hits, with crowded houses nightly. People from neighboring towns drove many miles in those horse and buggy days to enjoy the summer theatre. The Airdome was built where the Bell Telephone building now stands, but was later moved to a location on West Reed.

It was in August of 1913 that George W. Sparks, Sr. bought the Halloran Theatre and renamed it the Sparks Theatre Company. A year later, on September 5th, 1914, the building burned. Mr. Sparks rebuilt it and re-leased it to two seasoned theatre men, Messrs. Truitt and Corbett, and in 1915 the new theatre was renamed the Grand. Another disastrous fire took the building down in November of 1925 and again it was rebuilt, this time by George W. Sparks, Jr.



227 N CLARK

The old in all things give way to the new. So Hegarty's Opera House on North Clark Street gave way to the new commodious Halloran's Theater located on Reed Street in 1903. Hegarty's opened in 1881 by Fred Ward in "The Virginian." Mr. Pat Carmody was the manager. From that time until 1903 hundreds of plays were presented at Hegarty's which in popular favor succeeded the Old Apgar's

385N CLARE HEGARTY'S HALL  
223

and in  
Hegarty's Hall, on the upper floor of Hegarty's  
Grocery. Moberly 1966

Many theatrical activities of a home talent nature supplemented the imported shows. The Railroad Employees' Library was the moving power behind a Railroad Literary Club which sponsored these performances, with the usual price of admission 10¢. These were held in Hegarty's and the Academy of Music, if the offerings grew too large for their club rooms. The name of Maude Durbin, Moberly girl, who was later to be Mrs. Otis Skinner, appears on the roster of these plays. Quite ambitious were the selections, with Shakespeare presented often.

# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Ray County Historical Society and Museum

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Auditorium	Richmond	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Mosby's Opera House		yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Opera House		yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Odeon	Hardin	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Hardin Opera House		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Auditorium	Richmond	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mosby's Opera House		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Opera House		yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Odeon	Hardin	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hardin Opera House		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

*when  
restoration  
is complete*

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Auditorium	Richmond	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mosby's Opera House		yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Opera House		yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Odeon	Hardin	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hardin Opera House		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? None

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

<input type="checkbox"/> books about specific theatres	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> photographs	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> newspaper articles	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> scrapbooks	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> county or town histories	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, please specify	_____

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

What days and times is your library open to the public? Ray County Library - 9-5 p.m.  
Ray County Museum Library Wed thru Sat 1-5 p.m.

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

Yes

Who is the best person to contact for more information? Dean Schmacker  
Vice President - Ray County Historical Society

**Thank you for your assistance.** Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203



Richmond, Mo  
Sept 12<sup>th</sup>, 1997

Dear Mr Snider

I am enclosing a brochure concerning the restoration of the Farris Theater which was originally called Daugherty Auditorium. We have much information, especially local newspaper coverage, about the Farris.

The Mosby Opera house site is still standing. It is the second floor of a building on our square but it has been converted into apartment space.

Ray County  
Historical Society

We have completed the outside restoration  
And have begun on the interior.

We are attempting to obtain some grants  
to complete our restoration. We have done  
all the funding thru NAP Credits, so far.

We would be happy to show you  
our theater and what we have done  
to date.

Any other information you would  
like, we will furnish.

The Odion Theater in Hardin is not  
known to anyone I've contacted. No newspaper  
accounts exist.

Yours truly, Jean Hamacher

Office of Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101  
**HISTORIC INVENTORY**

SW-AS-036-073

1 No. <b>R 43</b>		4 Present Name(s) Mattingly Building	
2 City Ray		5 Other Name(s) Darneal Building, formerly W. H. Darneal Dry Goods Co.	
3 Location of Negatives			
6 Specific Location (Lot #96 Old Town) 107 East Main Street		16. Thematic Category	
7 City or Town If Rural, Township & Vicinity Richmond		17 Date(s) or Period CA 1880	
8 Site Plan with North Arrow <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>East Main</p> <p>East Franklin</p> </div>		18 Style or Design Victorian	
		19 Architect or Engineer Unknown	
		20 Contractor or Builder Unknown	
		21. Original Use, if apparent Drug Store and Opera House	
		22 Present Use Commercial & Residential (Upstairs)	
		23 Ownership Mrs. W. H. Darneal      Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		24. Owner's Name & Address, if known Mrs. W. H. Darneal 107 1/2 South College Street	
		25. Open to Public? During Business Hrs. Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
		26. Local Contact Person or Organization	
		27. Other Surveys in Which Included State Historical Society	
9 Coordinates      UTM Lat Long		28. No. of Stories    2	
10- Site: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure: <input type="checkbox"/> Object: <input type="checkbox"/>		29. Basement? 1/2      Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
11 On National Register? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		30. Foundation Material Stone	
12 Is It Eligible? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		31. Wall Construction Brick	
13 Part of Estab Hist Dist? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		32. Roof Type & Material Flat, Asphalt Tar	
14. District Potent? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		33. No. of Bays Front 2      Side N/A	
15 Name of Established District		34. Wall Treatment Common Bond	
		35. Plan Shape Rectangle	
		36. Changes (Explain in #42)      Addition <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	
		37. Condition Interior      Good Exterior      Good	
		38. Preservation Underway?      Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		39. Endangered? By What?      Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		40. Visible from Public Road?      Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
		41. Distance from and Frontage on Road	
42 Further Description of Important Features Tornado of 1878 destroyed most of the buildings on the square. Built about 1880. Front remodeled during the thirties. Two new apartments constructed on second floor in 1978 where the opera house used to be, now a total of 3 apartments on second floor. Second floor front covered with pressed metal, possibly dating to period of buildings purchased by Darneal in 1916.			
43 History and Significance See attached articles and excerpts from Abstract.			
44 Description of Environment and Outbuildings Urban			
45 Sources of Information Abstract in possession of Mrs. W. H. Darneal (widow of W. H. Darneal) THE RICHMOND NEWS, 4/20/78 and 2/9/78.			
46. Prepared by Alice Terry			
47. Organization RCHS & M			
48. Date 3/79		49 Revision Date(s)	



# Office of Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 170, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

## HISTORIC INVENTORY

1. Name of Property		2. Address	
Mattlingly Building		101 East Main Street	
3. Owner		4. Location of Building	
General Building, formerly W. K. Barnes, W. K. Barnes Co.		Jefferson City, Missouri	
5. Date of Construction		6. Date of Inventory	
1910		1970	
7. Architect		8. Style of Architecture	
Unknown		Victorian	
9. Description of Building		10. Description of Surroundings	
A three-story brick building with a flat roof. The building is made of brick and has a flat roof. The building is made of brick and has a flat roof.		The building is located in the downtown area of Jefferson City, Missouri. It is a three-story brick building with a flat roof. The building is made of brick and has a flat roof.	
11. Historical Significance		12. Current Use	
The building was constructed in 1910 and is a good example of Victorian architecture. It is a three-story brick building with a flat roof. The building is made of brick and has a flat roof.		The building is currently used as a residence. It is a three-story brick building with a flat roof. The building is made of brick and has a flat roof.	
13. Photographs		14. Notes	
		<p>15. Remarks</p> <p>16. Remarks</p>	

# Ghosts Of Thespians Past Tread Apartment Boards

Ray County

By Mary Ann Lowary

There is to be a new apartment on Richmond's square, and if the new resident, whoever it might be, believes in ghosts, good entertainment may be in store. For the ghosts who may hover

in the area above the Mattingly's store are those of the theatre.

The apartment, being designed by Mrs. Anna Rose Darneal and her daughter, Mrs. Alice Darneal Terry, will have incorporated in its floor plan

part of an 1880 opera stage.

One of the two one-bedroom facilities being built in the second-story area will contain the old stage, largely because removing it was "nearly impossible".

"We (Mrs. Terry and contractor Herb Mansell) first thought we'd simply take out the stage but, when we got to digging into it, found that there was so much masonry and concrete underneath that it would be too much work and too expensive to remove it.

"So, we're going to build around it and use the stage for an elevated kitchen and dining area. Actually, in retrospect, I think it will be more unusual this way."

The end result will certainly be interesting. But perhaps more interesting has been the historical sleuth work done in tracking down the opera house's hazy past.

Although many people seem to remember there was once an opera house there, not much, it seems, has been recorded about the 19th century facility. At least, not in one place.

But Mrs. Terry is curious about historical things, especially in Richmond. Her father and grandfather operated businesses here for more than 50 years -- many of those years as Darneal's Dry Goods store in the lower level of that building.

With her help, and that of her mother, it's been possible to find and put together at least a sketchy history of the once popular Olympic Opera House of Richmond.

Mrs. Darneal recalls she had "heard about" the opera house, built by the late Dr. W. W. Mosby and his sons; but when she arrived here, it was no longer in existence.

A native of New Franklin, Mrs. Darneal began visiting Richmond in World War I days, as a friend of Clara Woodson. Mrs. Woodson's husband was a former partner in a dry goods business with W. H. Darneal, Jr. A friendship, and eventually, a courtship, developed between Mr. Darneal and the young visitor from Howard county. In 1916, they were married.

"The only thing I can remember the upstairs being used for," she noted, "was storage.

"But once, before we were married, my husband have a dance up there in my honor."

By chance, while looking for other information, an interesting social note was discovered in the March 9, 1916 issue of The Richmond News: "About ten couples attended the dance given in the old Mosby opera house last Monday evening." Undoubtedly, that was "her" dance.

Overhead, Mrs. Darneal recently pointed out old fashioned electrical wiring where chandeliers had once hung.

"At one time," she said, "there must have been three, but there were only two left."

Period wallpaper, with bordered-designated areas for the fixtures, still remain with its intricate design and dark colors.

The two fixtures which did remain were donated by Mrs. Darneal to the Ray county museum. J. A. Lester consolidated them to make one and it now hangs there in the Indian room on the second floor.

Although she does not have first-hand knowledge of the opera house, she does have a tattered newspaper clipping which referred to it.

The name of the paper, and its publication date are missing, but an approximate construction date was given--and an enticing description.

"Piles of debris have been brought from the second story of the Darneal Dry Goods Co. within the past week and reminded some of the older people of the dim past."

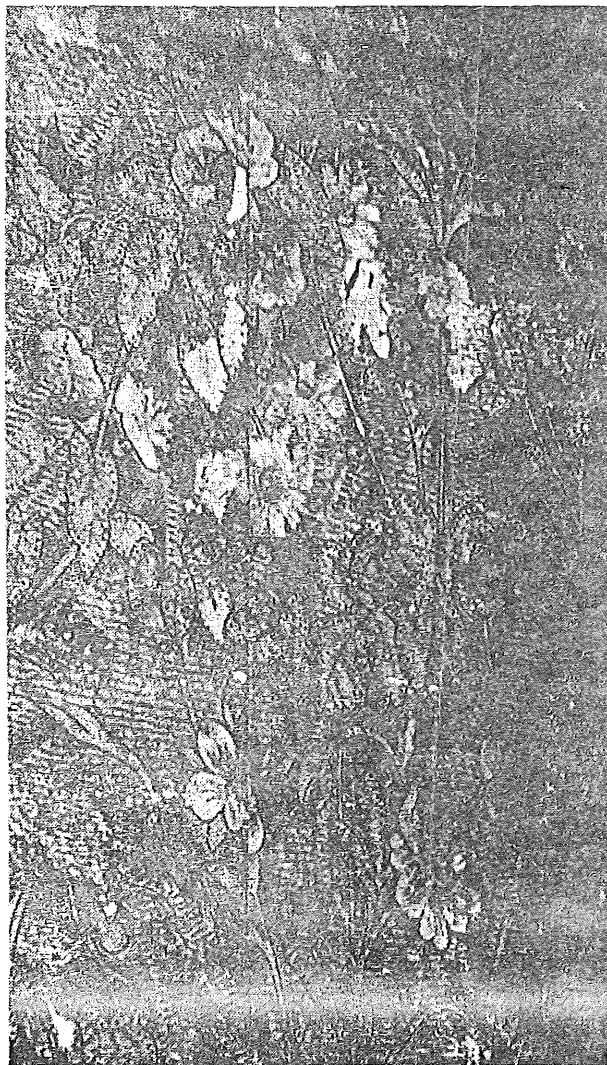
"That debris contained the stage of the opera house that was built about 1879. Upon it many stars appeared before the footlights, and some of them did not wear their skirts in a manner as abbreviated as the young ladies do on the streets of Richmond these days, but the men folks went to investigate small matters like that anyway.

"That building was erected by Dr. W. W. Mosby and sons, and the first floor was used for the drug store of the firm. Everything that could add to its attractiveness was there, the furniture, show cases, etc., being the finest that money would buy.

"The opera house over the store was furnished in metropolitan style--but it is now a thing of the past, and has been for years, though the stage has just been removed. The floor space upstairs is 26 x 110 feet and will be used for carpets, rugs, etc."

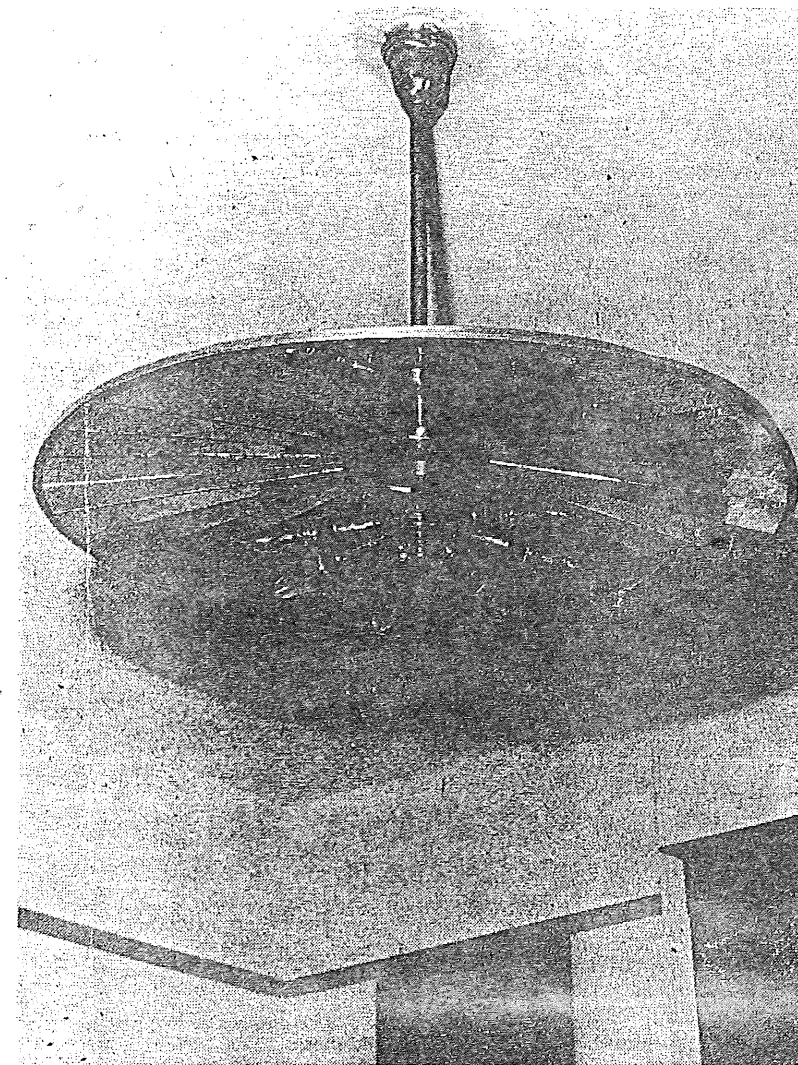
The story's sub-head indicated that the drug store had flourished "about a half century ago", which probably puts the undated newspaper in the vicinity of 1930.

(Continued on page 8)



**WALL FLOWERS:** If these wallpaper flowers could talk, they could probably tell many stories about Richmond in the late 19th century. In intricate designs of dark blue, it will soon be covered in the

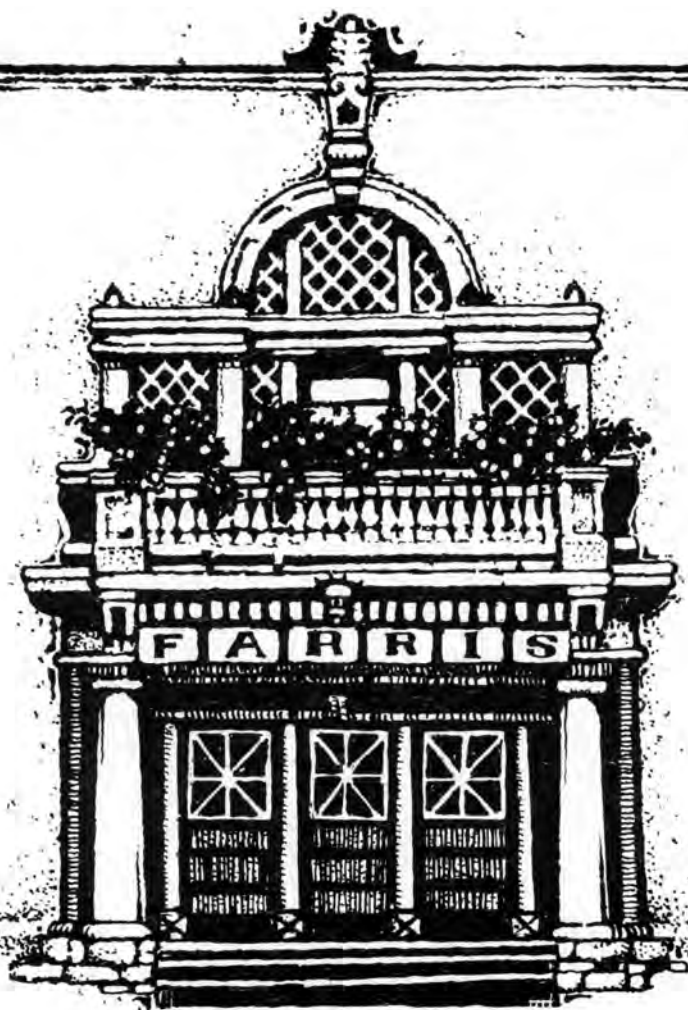
remodeling process going on the area of the 1880-built opera house. Two by fours have already been put in place over the wallpaper. [News photo by Mary Ann Lowary]



**GLITTERING REMNANT OF THE PAST:** This chandelier was constructed from parts of two which survived from the old Olympic. J. A. Lester did the craftsmanship after Mrs. Anna Rose Darneal donated

the fixtures to the Ray county museum. Long pieces of mirrors line the inside of the fixture, which help reflect the light. It now hangs in the Indian room at the museum. [News photo by Mary Ann Lowary]

# Remembering the Farris



a restoration project...



# The Farris Theatre

## The Story of Ray County's Opera House

*The following was adapted by Pete Maher from an article written by Mrs. Clara (Weary) Chenault for the Thursday, December 17, 1970, edition of **The Richmond News**. It provides a comprehensive, personal glimpse of the historic Dougherty Auditorium/ Farris Theatre of Richmond, Ray County, Missouri.*

*(Hazel Dougherty Boucher of Florida, also, contributed to this article.)*



**The Dougherty Auditorium, circa 1901**

There is no business like show business.

Comedy and tragedy - the two are wedded for better or worse. They go through life and, therefore, the theatre, hand-in-hand, trailing offspring in their wake; farce, melodrama, satire, ballet, burlesque, opera, and hoedown.

On October 2, 1855, in Franklin, Kentucky, a red-headed, blue-eyed boy, a seventh son, opened his eyes to see the world for the first time. He was named Samuel E. Dougherty.

He laughed, cried,

played, fought, and dreamed as most boys do; but his dream came to be that there was gold in the west to be had for the asking.

Attaining his majority, this young Irishman could stand it no longer and, in the early 1880s, left for the gold fields to seek his fortune. Evidently, his leprechaun kept him good company as he landed in Colorado; for, in no time at all, Dougherty found his pot of gold.

His was one of the first finds in the Cripple Creek

area. He named his find "The Isabella."

From this ore he smelted and made a ring for a bonny lass he had met while on his trek over the rugged mountain trails. Melinda Earles and Samuel Dougherty were wed in 1886.

About this time, in Huneston, Iowa, a black-haired boy entered the world. His name was Franklin G. Weary, a second son. How the paths of this young Dutchman and this wandering Irishman would cross were left for fate to re-



**Dougherty in the Colorado Gold Fields**

veal.

Cripple Creek, essentially a mining camp at the time, was a rowdy place, unsafe for a decent woman. Soon the Doughertys moved to Cole City, some 20 miles distant. Here they began a family when two daughters were born, Anna and Hazel.

But the mine which young Samuel had opened soon began to founder because he lacked funds to develop the property.

In 1892, Dougherty struck a deal with a mining corporation, taking half the value of the mine in cash and the other half in stock.

Dougherty was once

more prospecting, this time for a new home for his family.

In the interim, his parents had come to Ray County, Missouri. Dougherty visited and liked it so well he decided to make it "his town". In 1893 he and Melinda purchased a beautiful brick home with a wide lawn and 120 acres. (The site of the former Dougherty residence was located just east of the current Business 10 and Business 13 highway east of downtown Richmond. The location is approximately the location of the misspelled Daugherty Street.)

"Six large maple trees

lined each side of the front walk; an orchard was in the back, and a row of low branching cedar trees on the east, screening off a view of the stables, barn, and vegetable garden. It was an ideal place for garden parties and family gatherings," his daughter, Hazel, recalled.

The family loved all they saw and those they met. Sam soon became an active participant in the business community. He purchased an additional 320 acres on which he fattened feeder calves for the Kansas City market. He invested in a



**Sam Dougherty**

men's clothing store and a bicycle agency, leaving the management to his partners. This decision later proved to be a financially disastrous one.

All this was of little consequence, for the dividend checks were still arriving from Cripple Creek on time. But, since he didn't enjoy farming much, Sam's interest in the farm-ranch eventually dwindled. He began looking for a new investment.

A fellow prospector, H. A. W. Tabor, had, also, struck pay dirt and built an impressive opera house in Leadville, Colo. Sam Dougherty became fascinated with the idea.

By this time, five of his children were enrolled at the Woodson Institute in Richmond and were active in the fine arts curriculum. Don't forget that he was, after all, an Irishman and had a natural inclination for the dramatic.

But Sam, also, believed it could be a profitable venture as well. He felt deeply about "his town"; Richmond; and he wanted to erect a suitable monument to his family name, a structure which would keep

green the Dougherty name for generations unborn.

But he couldn't do this alone; he was not quite that affluent.

On June 11, 1900, Richmond Mayor Walter Shoop called a meeting of the citizens to ascertain if they would be receptive to such a proposal. Then Dougherty explained that a \$15,000 opera house could be built on his corner lot located at Camden and West Main streets, providing the citizens of the town would raise the sum of \$5,000 to his \$10,000.

Within two weeks, the sum of \$3,000 had been subscribed by public-spirited donors. The committee to raise these funds was composed of W. E. Settle, A. M. Fowler, J. Allen McDonald, and James L. Farris.

There were those then, as now, resistant to such fresh ideas.

It was reported in the Richmond Missourian that "Rev. J. E. Davis, pastor of the Richmond Baptist church, attended a meeting of the men in charge of the campaign and objected to the structure, claiming its

proximity to the church would greatly interfere with services. Mr. Farris, an attorney, then replied to Rev. Davis from a legal standpoint."

On September 17, 1900, a contract was awarded to two local firms, Woodson Alnutt & Sons and Charles Paulson & Sons. Under their skillful direction and supervision, an opera house second to



**James L. Farris Jr.**

none in the country, then or now, for its size, materialized.

Upon the flat roof covering the domed ceiling was a "fly" loft from which hand painted "flats" could be raised or lowered in a matter of



seconds for each scene. Lights placed along the top of the proscenium were raised through a series of pulleys and weights; and, by a catwalk, defective lights could be replaced.

A trap door, to aid magicians in disappearing acts, was cut into the stage. Dressing rooms for the "stars" took shape in the basement, and an entrance from that basement lead musicians into the orchestra pit.

The 30-foot tubular boiler furnace was lowered into place. Artists and painters were brought from New York to decorate the massive interior. Acoustics were honed and perfected, allowing the merest whisper on stage to be heard in the most remote corner of the building.

Throughout it all, Dougherty maintained his connection to his humble beginnings. On the curtain which would slowly disap-

pear into the upper loft was painted a mural of "The Valley of the Gods" in Colorado, the mountains dwarfing one small burro being led by a miner with a pick

tice, tickets were not distributed until opening night. Seats were reserved according to amounts donated. Those not making donations paid between

\$10 to \$20 for seats. The lower right box was reserved for the Dougherty family.

Carriages drew up to the entrance along Main Street; ladies in carefully selected high-fashion gowns were handed down from their transports by

equally elegant gentlemen. A large crowd of onlookers, either those unable to obtain or unable to afford seats, assembled to watch enviously.

That night was not soon forgotten by the populace of Richmond.

Later, Saturday matinees brought the Dougherty children unquestioned popularity.

One local woman by the name of Bessie Marie Carter was to recall "The children of the town catered to the Dougherty chil-

"THE DOUGHERTY THEATRE," RICHMOND, MISSOURI.



UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT, R. D. FARRIS, MANAGER.

Capacity—One Thousand.  
Light—Electric.  
Heat—Steam.  
Stage Opening—40 feet.  
Dressing Rooms—Six.  
Quick Changes—Three.  
Plaza—New.  
Scenery—Full Supply.  
Boxes—New Red and Green.  
Decorations—New Throughout.  
Advance Sale at Box Office.  
Power Six Motion Machine Set and Operative.  
Spot Light—Five Colors.  
Ladies' Rest Room.  
Efficient and Courteous Service.  
Now Booking for Current Season.

### The Dougherty Theatre, circa 1910

and shovel on his shoulder.

Finally, the day arrived. June 20, 1901. The fold-up seats were finally bolted to the floor; Clarence Pettus and Authur Hamilton were hired to sell popcorn between acts for Anna and Hazel (this being the Dougherty girls' first business venture).

A Shakespearean troupe of "name" actors was engaged to perform *As You Like It*. The orchestra began to warm up.

Opening night had arrived.

Contrary to popular prac-

dren all week to be invited to sit in the family box. Often, it was overloaded; and, on one occasion, Forrestine Conrow fell into the orchestra pit. There hadn't been enough seats to go around; so she had been sitting on the ledge."

Other recollections held a different impact than that suffered by poor Forrestine.

Another local resident, a man named Ernest Dale, added, "I attended *The Port of Missing Men* in 1907 or '08. The production simply overwhelmed me. I can still recall the wonderful scenery and the high caliber characters on the stage with sound effects so natural the audience must surely have thought a thunderstorm was actually in progress outside. I have never seen anything to equal it since."

During this time, Frank Weary was winning medals for public speaking and taking the lead in all the school plays in St. Joseph. He had a girl, Ruth Jordan, whom he would take to shows in the local theater. Since they often could afford only seats in the upper reaches of the balcony called the "roost," Weary

shyly gave his love a dainty pair of mother-of-pearl opera glasses. "The better to see me with," he said. They married in 1909.

It was at this time that the Dougherty Auditorium began to falter, and something else both remarkable and unthinkable occurred. The vein of gold played out.

In a later tribute written



Frank G. Weary

for Dougherty by local newsman Jewel Mayes, he said, "Brother Sam was not a good booking agent or theatrical manager; but he was all the time on the square, honest to a fault, courteous and fine of spirit - that manly man. Col. Sam Dougherty, during his administration of his beloved theatre, brought many a

good show to Richmond - and some bum attractions. The former heavily outweighed the latter, however; and he was a true friend to humanity!"

But, to add insult to injury, there was, also, the upstart motion picture industry to contend with. Movies captured the imagination and interest of the ever-fickle public.

As 1911 arrived, Frank and Ruth Weary opened their variety store in Richmond.

(It was a strictly cash business. Weary's own father had been a country doctor, and young Frank knew the consequence of non-payment on credit extended.)

The Mormon Tabernacle Choir, in town to dedicate the newly-refurbished Mormon Cemetery on North Thornton Street, was engaged to perform at the Dougherty Auditorium. Frank and Ruth entered that building on that occasion for the first time and were immediately captivated by both the performance and the magnificent acoustics and interior of the theater.

But theatrical competition at the time in Rich-

mond was fierce. Col. Childs had built a theater only a block away and, also, operated an outdoor air-drome. Yet another theater operated closer to the town square.

Heartsick and disillusioned, Sam Dougherty decided to sell what remained of his assets. Yet, he could not and would not let his beloved opera house be converted

into a cheap five and ten cent movie house.

However, he did eventually sell it for a fraction of its cost to Thomas J. Wollard, president of the Ray County Savings Bank. The family then moved to Kansas City where the once proud entrepreneur took a job with the street maintenance department. He died June 13, 1919, never returning to "his town" again.

Lawyer James L. Farris had always been a strong supporter of the auditorium and had some ideas of

his own on the subject.

The story is told that "Farris traded a no-good coal mine for a no-good theater."

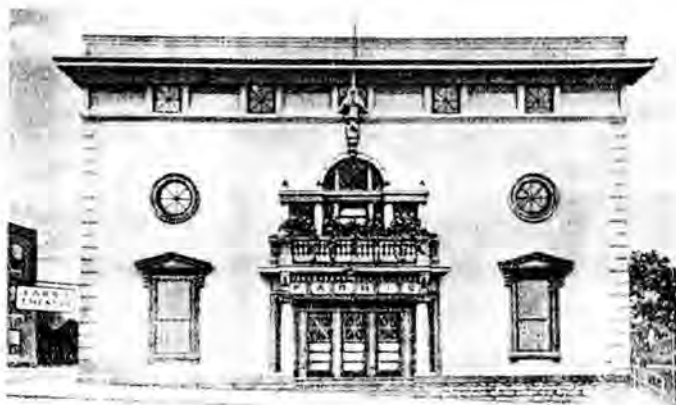
Be that as it may, in September,

Whitmer to drain into the Crooked River (also servicing his mansion, just one block below the theater).

The citizens along the route of the sewer line were

delighted and paid Farris handsomely to tap into it.

For a time, the name of the Dougherty Auditorium became the Dougherty Theatre; but finally, a change was made to the



**The Farris Theatre, circa 1915**

ber, 1911, he reopened the doors of this theater with his son, Russell D. Farris, as manager.

A picture machine was ordered from New York, and a projection booth was built. The building was redecorated, and there were restrooms added.

As there were no public sewers in that day, Farris dug his own, both to drain away water in the theater's basement and to accommodate this latest convenience. It went down west Main to Whitmer and down

name of the building itself. A large marquee arose over the main entrance, bearing the FARRIS name.

For the next four years the Farris family operated the theater in a desultory manner, not really clearing a great amount of profit. In 1915 they were glad to sell the building and lease the associated equipment.

All this time, Frank Weary had been watching from a distance. The Theater pianist, a Mr. Franklin, and he had become friends; and they decided to pool



their meager resources to make the deal to lease the theater. With Ruth to sell the tickets, they were in business with little more than a prayer and a dream of what could be. They resolutely turned deaf ears to predictions of businessmen around the square of sure and total disaster. It was a good thing they did, because that first year held more than a few disasters.

"The electric company was home-owned and could not be relied upon," Ruth later recalled. "Even after the weather had been nice all day, it could become perverse just before opening; and invariably a stroke of lightning would knock out the current just as the performance was due to begin. We worried and fretted nightly about the possible return of admissions."

To add hazard to confusion, the films of the time were on highly flammable

celluloid film stock. More than once, harried film projectionists were forced to throw flaming film stock from the outer windows of

the theater.

But soon the Wearys added a second projector, avoiding the inconvenience of the dreaded "One Moment, Please" slide while projectionists changed reels on the sole projector. The second projector pleased both operator and patron in equal portions.

With the advent of motion pictures as the mainstay of the theater's profitability, the "fly loft," long troublesome for the difficulties it caused in heating and cooling the building, was removed. Soon, the Wearys also replaced the worn and faded boom curtain with a maroon "traveler" curtain.

But all was not going well. By that fall, a disgusted Mr. Franklin sold his share in the venture to Frank's brother, U. S. Weary, who, also, had a growing law practice to deal with. In 1917, Frank and Ruth became the sole partners.

**FARRIS THEATRE**  
 15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION  
 Sunday & Monday, Jan. 29-30

**IT TOOK TWO YEARS  
 TO GIVE HER THIS  
 OPPORTUNITY**



A new Clara Bow emerges as the fascinating heroine of "Call Her Savage"—vivid, electric, impulsive, misunderstood.

**CLARA BOW**

More beautiful than ever, for the first time she gives full rein to her dramatic power

**CALL HER SAVAGE**

MONROE OWSLEY • GILBERT ROLAND  
 THELMA TODD • ESTELLE TAYLOR

SCREEN PLAY BY EDWIN BURKE  
 From the novel by Tiffany Thayer  
 Directed by John Francis Dillon  
 FOX PICTURE



**Silent Era Film From 1930's  
 Missourian**



**The Farris Mirthmakers**

They still had the dream. On July 6, 1921, the dream was completed with the sale of the building, contents and all, to the Wearys from the widow of James Farris. The only stipulation in the sale was that the building would forever carry the name Farris, succeeding in creating a family namesake where the less astute Dougherty had failed.

As the silent films out of Hollywood enjoyed their

heyday and played across the silver screen of the Farris, live performances continued to entertain crowds as well. The population of Richmond, having burgeoned, caused the schools to grow correspondingly; but the schools had no auditorium, and school plays were staged at the Farris.

The first Richmond Chamber of Commerce gave a burlesque show to raise funds for band uni-

forms members would wear during summer concerts on the court house lawn. (Weary served as president of the Chamber.)

Minstrel shows were the rage, and the Chamber also produced the *White Way Minstrel*, so named for the row of gleaming street lamps which lighted the way from Richmond's train depot to the town square.

There were local talent competitions; dancing teachers gave recitals; and

the "Farris MirthMakers" entertained the crowds between film showings with their lively nine-piece band. These dandies, and the lone female, Maxine Slaughter, were the heroes of every boy and girl who aspired to a musical career. They wore gray corduroy outfits, red tams, and neckties.

In 1921, Frank worked with Howard Shirkey to bring the first radio broadcast to Richmond. An audience in the Farris heard a band concert.

In 1925, Price L. Collier, Richmond Superintendent of Schools, organized a boys band. A full-size backdrop, manufactured by Ruth and her assistants, was sewn for their performances.

Every high school pep

rally ended on the stage at the Farris. The snaking shirt-tail parade would wind 'round the bonfire, down the street and through the aisles of the theater, led by the "Angel Gang," a group of local girls, during the roaring twenties.

The audience was comprised of all colors, sizes, and shapes of people, from all walks of life and backgrounds. Where else could you get a babysitter on Saturday night for 10 cents (plus five cents for a box of popcorn)?

Occasionally, parents would be lax in counting noses when they would pick up their charges at evening's end. "Mr. Weary, little Johnny must still be in your theater for he sure

isn't home," they would call and say. And, sure enough, the wayward youngster would be found, fast asleep, either on the floor between the seats or sitting in one of them.

Many young lovers held hands for the first time or perhaps stole a kiss in the friendly darkness, and there were some not-so-innocent assignments as well.

There was "dish night," with a different piece of a set of dishes given with each adult ticket; there were family nights, and even cash giveaway nights.

The cash nights were through the lean years when the Wearys would wind their way through crowds to open the theater doors. The shows were usually terrible, and many



The Richmond Boy's Band, on stage at the Farris, first organized by Price Collier.



patrons bought tickets and went to sit in their seats holding on to the precious stub that could be the lucky number.

When the number was called over the loudspeaker between shows, both North Camden and West Main streets would be blocked by anxious humanity. The largest prize was around \$400.

It was about this time that Lexington and Excelsior Springs theaters announced Sunday shows. Frank Weary, attempting to remain competitive, decided to show films on Sunday as well. This decision threw the local ministers into near apoplexy.

The ministerial alliance, announcing the matter to be a "cause," denounced the decision. The Richmond Kiwanis Club, which would play such a vital role in the story of the Farris in years to come, even drafted a resolution against it.

Weary quietly passed out handbills which explained, "We consider that a great majority of the population seeks some sort of entertainment and recreation on Sunday; and that, in a very great many cases, the recre-

ation sought is more undesirable than that offered by a good, clean entertainment at the theatre."

On October 3, 1924, The Richmond News reported,

"The directors of the Kiwanis club hereby rescind the action passing a resolution declaring that it is the sentiment of the group that Sunday shows

**F**


# FARRIS THEATRE

TWO SHOWS NIGHTLY—7:15 P. M. and 8:30 P. M.

**F. G. WEARY, Manager**

Richmond, Missouri

WEEK COMMENCING FEB. 14, 1916.



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1916.

**Edith Taliaferro**

IN

**"Young Romance"**

HOW CUPID CONQUERS OVER ALL  
PRETENSES.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1916.


**Charles Frohman**

PRESENTS

**Marie Doro**

IN HER GREATEST STAGE TRIUMPH

**"The Morals of  
Marcus"**



**F**

A program of one of the "Pre-Talkie" evenings.

should not be tolerated."

"We've made jackasses of ourselves," a club spokesman said. "The question of a Sunday show should never have been discussed. We acted like school-children."

While the records do show it, the resolution is not the opinion of the majority but of a small minority. Half of the members did not vote, lacking the necessary 'nerve' to vote against Rev. McCullough."

Sunday shows began; and, despite the ominous tones used by area pastors, priests, and ministers, the heavens did not fall nor the rivers dry up.

Then sound arrived. The pictures talked!

The "Great Depression", also, arrived at about the same time sound was introduced. In other industries, the despair and extreme hardship was felt; but to stay in business at all, renovations were re-

quired at the theater if it were to accommodate this new innovation.

It was while contemplating such changes that Frank Weary came into contact

with a hitchhiker he picked up while on a trip to Des Moines to visit Ruth's mother. This man, "Tex" Roles, listened as Frank talked of the challenges he faced in adapting the theater to talking motion pictures.

Roles, who appeared to be a down-on-his-luck drifter, announced he was an interior designer; and Weary took him on for the project. Roles soon proved he was as good as his word. He soon brought about changes to the Farris Theatre which would make the building truly beautiful.

In 1925, the entrance on Camden street was opened, a separate stairway for Negroes (used only briefly) was removed; and a stairway on the east end of the lobby was built to match one on the west. The restrooms had

## FARRIS THEATRE

—NEXT WEEK—

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

### DUBINSKY BROTHERS

Richmond's Favorite Stock Company

With Three Broadway Hits

—0—  
MONDAY—

#### "What Ann Brought Home"

"Thoroughly amusing comedy containing some touches of real pathos which are, perhaps, more moving than even the author suspected."—New York Sun

—0—  
TUESDAY—

#### "Saintly Hypocrites And Honest Sinners"

A scathing indictment of Hypocrisy and Slandering Gossip, with realism manifest in the situations and characters true to life. An abundance of natural comedy. Promises to be one of the best plays of the season.

ALSO A FEATURE PICTURE

#### "SERENADE"

With Adolph Menjou.

(Now showing at the Newman Theatre in Kansas City.)

—0—  
WEDNESDAY—

#### "Seventh Heaven"

You've heard of the picture—now see the play. "Will carry you to the seventh heaven of enjoyment. Don't miss it," says the New York Sun.

—0—  
Admission—Balcony, 35c. Lower Floor, 50c. Children, 10c.

Advertisements as they  
appeared in local newspapers.



**Interior of 1950's Farris Theatre**

been enlarged and modernized.

In 1930, the lobby was tiled; heavy carpeting went into the foyer and down the aisles; upholstered seats replaced old wooden ones; the second story boxes were removed; and a porous movie screen with rearmounted speakers went into place.

Heavy velveteen drapes were hung along the foyer "window"; the lights around the boxes and proscenium were replaced with indirect lighting, and a chandelier, which could be lowered for bulb replacement, hung from the center of the ceiling.

The stage drapes, manufactured by experts in Kan-

sas City, were hung. The projection booth was enlarged to hold the more expensive sound equipment.

It took months; but each of the hand-carved ornaments around the stage opening was painted indi-

vidually by hand. Although the building would be re-decorated in 1939 and again in 1945, the flair and imagination exhibited by "Tex" and his understudy, Bob Wright, was never again duplicated.

But, with the advent of sound, many of the silent motion picture stars soon found their voices did not record well and were doomed to failure in the new medium.

New stars, with names such as Clark Gable, Shirley Temple, Myrna Loy, Bette Davis, William Powell, Mickey Rooney, Joan Crawford, and a plethora of talking cartoons such as Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, the Three Little Pigs,



**Interior of 1950's Farris Theatre**



and others soon filled the screen at the Farris.

The films got bigger and bigger, becoming what were to be billed as "extravaganzas," and culminating in that epic film, *Gone With The Wind*.

After the Second World War, progress picked up where it had left off. Ignoring the infant television industry, the film moguls unloaded their libraries of old titles to small companies without restrictions.

And, just as talkies had killed vaudeville, television soon came to have a disastrous impact on the motion picture industry.

The naysayers of 1915 were right, the Farris Theatre was not to be a profitable venture after all.

In 1957, the doors to the Farris Theatre, open throughout the Depression and two World Wars, closed for the first time in 46 years. Ruth Weary would vacate, for the final time, her seat in the ticket booth.

Shortly before his death, Richmond newsman Jewell Mayes would write, "When I see the Farris, I am well reminded of the unfading glory of that fine young



**Interior of Farris Theatre**

Mrs. Frank G. Weary's smile, bearing in mind that we have been good friends as a-down the years, unto this very day!"

In the 1960's the story of the Farris would come full circle. Live performances were once again heard on the stage Dougherty built. Country music shows were attracting crowds from miles around every Saturday night. The registration book kept from those shows reveals signatures from every state in the union.

But the most exciting and elaborate productions in the history of that building were brought to the Farris in its twilight years by the Richmond Kiwanis Club.

From 1963, with their inaugural production of *Oklahoma*, and with annual productions of *Brigadoon*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Music Man*, *South Pacific*, etc., the group delighted audiences with their staging and performances.

Throughout its existence, the Farris Theatre has been an integral part of life in Ray County. It stands

unique; a monument not to any one family but to Richmond and Ray County.

There is not a person born and reared here who is not a part of it in one way or another, either as one of the delighted audience or an active participant. And, by the same token, it is a part of all it has met and housed with a personality and dignity peculiar to it alone.

The story is not told in its entirety; it never can be as long as the building stands. Until then, the show must go on.

If you slip quietly into its shadows and listen closely you can hear the whispers of the ghosts of performances past and feel the silent stage waiting for the lights to flicker, once again heralding the arrival of the next act....

For the next decade and a half after Clara Chenault wrote the foregoing history of the Dougherty Auditorium/ Farris Theatre in 1970, country music reigned within the walls of this historic edifice.

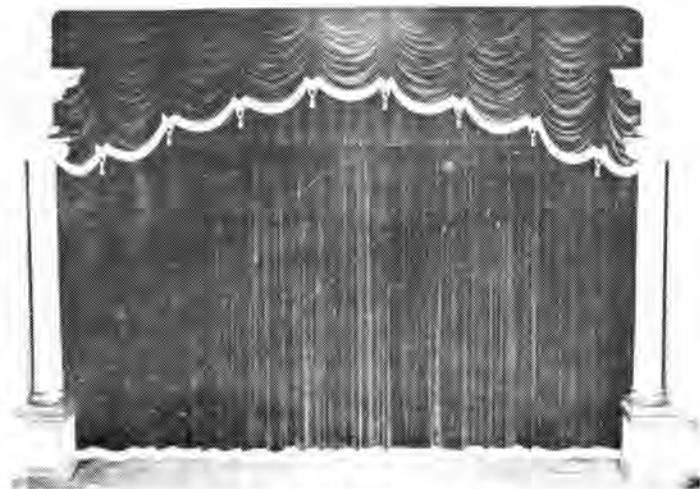
Films shown at the theater became more and more infrequent, gradually disappearing altogether as the Weary family relinquished

ownership of the building to country music entrepreneur, Byron Jones.

As the seventies became the eighties, the "Richmond Opry" continued to attract

local theatrical community began their efforts to purchase and revive the theater.

In 1988, negotiations began between a trio of theat-



**Interior of Farris Theatre**

weekend crowds; but the once-grand theater was more than beginning to show its age. Productions staged there became more and more makeshift as permanent repairs were postponed, and the glory that once was the Farris became more imagined than real.

In the eighties, Jones decided to sell this theater and take his show and performers to other venues; and the

ritical entrepreneurs from Independence and Jones, with the fullest moral support of the newly-created Ray County Community Arts Association.

In spite of the highest ideals for the restoration of the theater and the increased involvement of local patrons in the operation of the theater, the deal ultimately fell apart when the money offered didn't approach the

money requested.

Soon, however, there were new players on the scene with the arrival of businessmen, Wade Williams and Ben Mossman, who were already in the business of restoring theaters. Unlike the Independence trios plans to include community involvement in the restoration, Williams and Mossman made plans on their own, excluding local involvement and earning them the enmity of some in the local theatrical group.

As Williams and Mossman drew up their plans to restore the theater inside and out, skeptics watched as the paint was stripped from the building's exterior and chairs, curtains, and lighting were removed, with the owners' promising their return at some point in the refurbishment.

Hopes in the community that the Farris would receive the resurrection it had waited so long and so patiently for, however, began to fade as work stalled in the early nineties, slowing to a crawl and quietly coming to a stop as Williams and Mossman became en-

tangled in other restoration projects.

Years began to slip by with the once-grandest opera house in this region of the country boarded up with no more dignity than

asts to purchase the theater had never waned, the asking price proved to be a deal-breaker; and it appeared the Farris was once more headed for the scrap-heap.



Exterior of Farris Theatre

a warehouse.

Then, in early 1995, Williams announced he would be selling the theater. The only condition of the sale, he said was that any new owner would finish the work he and Mossman had begun. With that in mind, he offered the building to the Ray County Community Arts Association.

While the desire among the local theatrical enthusi-

But, as the RCCAA announced its inability to realize this dream, community members stepped forward and began volunteering time, efforts, and cash, to form a new group, under the aegis of the RCCAA, called Friends of the Farris.

Within weeks, an offer had been tendered to and accepted by Williams; and the group organized, and



efforts were begun to incorporate into a new not-for-profit organization with one sole purpose to return the Farris Theatre to its former glory and preeminence as a historical landmark in the region.

With the purchase completed, plans were drawn up for the future of this historic structure. What

the future brings still holds many unanswered questions; the answers to which will depend greatly on the support of the community.

Will The Farris be restored? These enthusiastic volunteers certainly hope so. Should it be restored?

Many in the community

with lifelong ties to the theater and the countless memories it holds think it impossible to consider a future without it.

But, whatever happens, it's certain that this building, once considered folly and a poor business venture, has carved out a special niche in the local consciousness.



Farris Theatre as it appears today.

## Questions and Answers

**Question:** What is FRIENDS OF THE FARRIS?

*Answer:* It's a "Not for Profit" Corporation formed to purchase and restore the historic old theatre.

**Question:** How old is the Farris Theatre?

*Answer:* It was built in 1901 and named the Dougherty Auditorium. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was renamed the Farris In 1908.

**Question:** Is the building structurally sound?

*Answer:* Yes. However, the brick needs to be "tuck-pointed," and the interior needs total restoration.

**Question:** Do you plan to modernize it or restore it the way it was in 1901?

*Answer:* We plan to select a time period, e.g. 1901 or 1915, and restore it to that time period.

**Question:** Will it be a "museum" or will it be an operating theatre?

*Answer:* It was built as an "opera house", and we plan to restore it with the capability for live stage performances, as well as movies, and for use as a "community" center.

**Question:** Will it be an expensive project and if so, how much?

*Answer:* Yes. Our estimate is around \$300,000.

**Question:** How will you raise the money?

*Answer:* Most of the money will have to come from the community. We will apply for any and all state, federal, and private grants that become available.

**Question:** How much have you raised thus far?

*Answer:* Approximately. \$30,000 in cash and another \$40,000 pledged over the next few years.

**Question:** How can I help?

*Answer:* With money and/or volunteer labor (both skilled and unskilled).

**Question:** What amounts of money are people giving?

*Answer:* An annual membership is \$25.00 per person. We have had one gift of \$10,000 (assets & cash), one of \$7,000, and many more of \$1,000, \$500, \$200, etc.

**Question:** What do you mean by "annual membership"?

*Answer:* It means that you endorse the project and will support it with money and/or labor and attendance at events.

**Question:** Is a gift to the Farris tax deductible?

*Answer:* Yes, we will have a 501C3 designation which will date back to July 1, 1995.

**Question:** How can I join and/or make a gift?

*Answer:* Fill out the enclosed form and mail it along with your check to PO Box 711.

# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Reynolds County Genealogy and Historical Society

What historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? \_\_\_\_\_

The Strand Movie Theater

Torn down and Ellington Library on site now.

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

\_\_\_\_\_ books about specific theatres

\_\_\_\_\_ photographs

\_\_\_\_\_ newspaper articles

\_\_\_\_\_ scrapbooks

\_\_\_\_\_ county or town histories

\_\_\_\_\_ other, please specify

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

We have never had any vaudeville or acting theaters in this county.

What days and times is your library open to the public? \_\_\_\_\_

Mon-Fri 9AM to 5PM

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

no

Who is the best person to contact for more information? \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your assistance.**

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203



# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Ripley County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Star Theatre <sup>7</sup>	Doniphan	yes	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wall's Opera House		yes	no

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Star Theatre	Doniphan	yes	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wall's Opera House		yes	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Star Theatre	Doniphan	yes	no
Wall's Opera House		yes	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? Mc Walls

had this opera house over his clothing store. There were plays there vanderbills, charitangus, and graduations. (Ings) I've gathered by telephone. When he closed it - everything went to dust + cobwebs.  
Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

- ☐ books about specific theatres
- ☐ photographs
- ☒ newspaper articles
- ☐ scrapbooks
- ☐ county or town histories
- ☒ other, please specify

Most of the old timers were very vague on the subject however our 94 yr old Dorothy Burford in the Colonial Home Nursing Home was most enthusiastic about it (the old opera house). Her grandmother had a millinery shop a make little hats for the grandchildren to wear to it. She

is deaf - but seems to hear fairly well on the telephone. 1-573-996-3970  
Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area? 2196

No. Mrs Burford said there was home talent, & some far away. Made money for

What days and times is your library open to the public? The public city/county has all our micro film (of Court house records - newspapers etc) Is on ENET, EMAIL or whatever

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times? 207 Locust St Doniphan Mo

Is open 9-7 Daily & 9-NOON Saturday 1-573-996-2616

Who is the best person to contact for more information? I'll keep asking around

And if I can be of any other help let me know. Mrs Burford was eager to tell all & said "give me a few days to recall now".

I have a daughter in grad school at MU too (Library Science)

Thank you for your assistance.

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203

Don't she missed this up so much -

Good Luck, Phoebe Braschea

HC 1 Box 801

Fairdeal, Mo 63939

1-573-857-2180

*Don't Ripley County newspapers are one micro film at the historical society in Columbia - I've most of the library - my husband kept reminding me to tell you this & I forgot - I hope you didn't mind me for that & now as I've made a great contribution*

*Colonial Home & Burford*

**1. NAME****HISTORIC** Auditorium Theater**AND/OR COMMON** Cinema 1,2,3**2. LOCATION****STREET & NUMBER** 118 E. North**CITY, TOWN** Marshall

VICINITY OF

**STATE** Missouri

COORD

**COUNTY** Saline**CODE** 65340**3. CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**☐ district☒ building(s)☐ structure☐ site☐ object**OWNERSHIP**☐ public☒ private☐ both**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ in process☐ being considered**STATUS**☒ occupied☐ unoccupied☐ work in progress**ACCESSIBLE**☐ yes: restricted☐ yes: unrestricted☐ no**PRESENT USE**☐ agriculture☒ commercial☐ educational☐ entertainment☐ government☐ industrial☐ military☐ museum☐ park☐ private☐ religious☐ scientific☐ transport☐ other**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY****NAME****STREET & NUMBER****CITY, TOWN**

VICINITY OF

**STATE****5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

Recorded of Deeds, Saline County courthouse, Marshall

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS****TITLE****DETERMINED ELIGIBLE?** ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ CO

N/A

**7. DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**☐ excellent☒ good☐ fair☐ deteriorated☐ ruins☐ unexposed**CHECK ONE**☐ unaltered☒ altered**CHECK ONE**☒ original site☐ moved

date

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**upper story windows are bricked in and new 6-course brick replacement on the SE corner  
upper storyMost of building is former movie theater, but front lobby is enclosed with later brick  
walls; in the front enclosures are stairs leading to apt/offices above.

NW front corner is enclosed with the "newest" brick

east lower story door below exterior stairway is enclosed

note chain and block over pulley on east stairway as an antique artifact.

2  
LN  
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RC

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030 050

70

C.1915

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AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE - CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
prehistory	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture
1400-1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law
1500-1599	agriculture	economics	literature
1600-1699	architecture	education	military
1700-1799	art	engineering	music
1800-1899	X commerce	exploration/settlement	philosophy
1900-	communications	industry	politics/government
		invention	other (specify)

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1915 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (IN ONE PARAGRAPH)

Sanborn

- 1833 - vacant site
- 1889 - "
- 1894 - "
- 1900 - "
- 1910 - dance hall and skating rink
- 1929 - auditorium theater

## MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

McChesney, Photo Album, 1925

Sanborn maps

## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

NAME OF PROPERTY QUADRANGLE NAME SCALE

### REFERENCES

A 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

### REAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

## FORM PREPARED BY

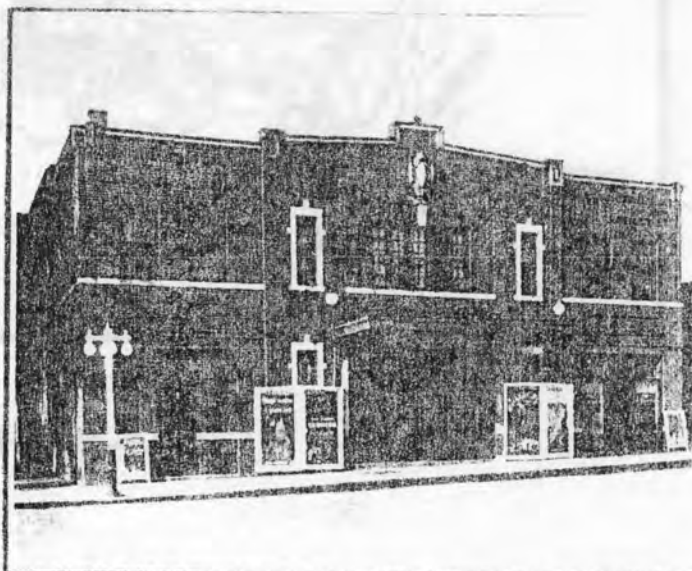
NAME / TITLE Kristen and Lynn Morrow

ORGANIZATION Missouri Valley Regional Planning Commission

ADDRESS 1162 S. Brunswick, Marshall, Missouri, 65340

DATE 1/83





AUDITORIUM THEATRE

REPRODUCED FROM THE  
THEATRE ARCHIVES

TONITE  
and  
SATURDAY

10-25c

TOM SAWYER  
DETECTIVE"  
(2:10-7:25-10:00)

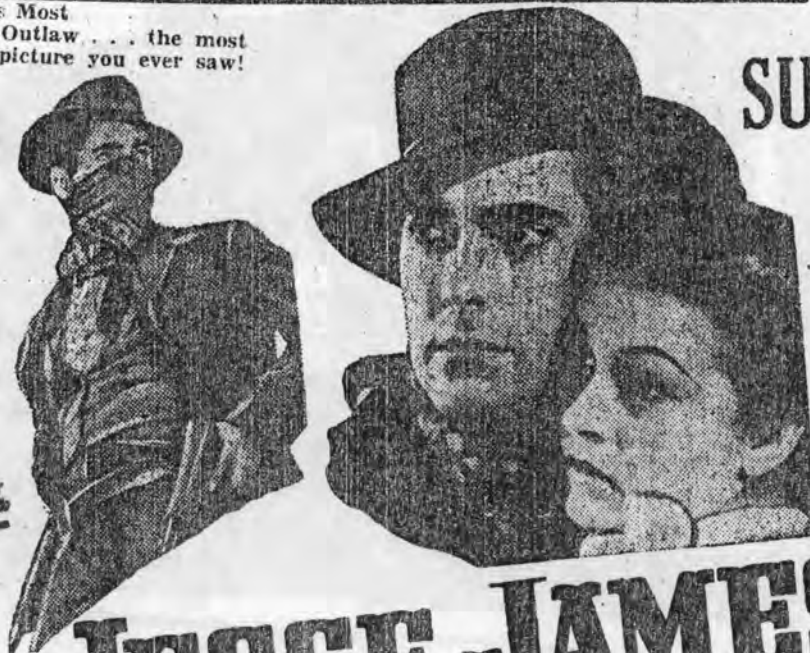
PLUS!

Hopalong Cassidy!  
"IN OLD MEXICO"  
(3:30-8:50)

Missouri's Most  
Colorful Outlaw . . . the most  
exciting picture you ever saw!

STARTS

**SUNDAY!**



# JESSE JAMES

In Glorious **TECHNICOLOR!**



starring  
**TYRONE POWER**  
**HENRY FONDA**  
**NANCY KELLY**  
**RANDOLPH SCOTT**

Henry Hull • Slim Summerville  
I. Edward Bromberg • Brian Donlevy  
John Carradine • Donald Meek  
John Russell • Jane Darwell

Cont. from 2:00  
25c 'til 6 then 30c

## AUDITORIUM

DEMOCRAT-NEWS

2-3-1939

**1. NAME****HISTORIC** Masonic Hall**AND/OR COMMON** Pete's Tavern**2. LOCATION****STREET & NUMBER** 159 W. North**CITY, TOWN** Marshall

VICINITY OF

**STATE** Missouri

code

**COUNTY** Saline

code 65340

**3. CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**

☐ district  
☒ building(s)  
☐ structure  
☐ site  
☐ object

**OWNERSHIP**

☐ public  
☒ private  
☐ both  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
☐ in process  
☐ being considered

**STATUS**

☒ occupied  
☐ unoccupied  
☐ work in progress  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☐ yes: restricted  
☐ yes: unrestricted  
☐ no

**PRESENT USE**

☐ agriculture  
☒ commercial  
☐ educational  
☐ entertainment  
☐ government  
☐ industrial  
☐ military  
☐ museum  
☐ park  
☐ private residence  
☐ religious  
☐ scientific  
☐ transport  
☐ other

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY****NAME** Mr. A.J. Hilrenner**STREET & NUMBER****CITY, TOWN** Waverly

VICINITY OF

**STATE** Missouri**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

Recorder of Deeds, Saline County courthouse, Marshall

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS****TITLE**DETERMINED ELIGIBLE? ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY

N/A

**7. DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☒ fair  
☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

**CHECK ONE**

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

**CHECK ONE**

☒ original site  
☐ moved  
 date \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

pressed tin ceiling and modest cornice intact

Christopher and Simpson iron mouldings intact except for east cornice bracket missing

2nd and 3rd floor windows boarded up

rear stairway similar to Van Dyke's building



PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE - CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social /
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900 -	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

SPECIFIC DATES 1891 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (IN ONE PARAGRAPH)

tavern; Knight of Columbus formerly met here (see attached documents that were found in the building)

#### Sanborn

- 1883 - carriage repository
- 1889 - Colvert Bros. transfer
- 1894 - vacancy, implements, clothing
- 1900 - vacancy in all 3
- 1910 - grocery, billiards, 2nd hand store
- 1929 - movie theater

#### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Sanborn maps

#### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

INCREASE OF PROPERTY QUADRANGLE NAME SCALE

#### UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

#### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

#### FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Kristen and Lynn Morrow

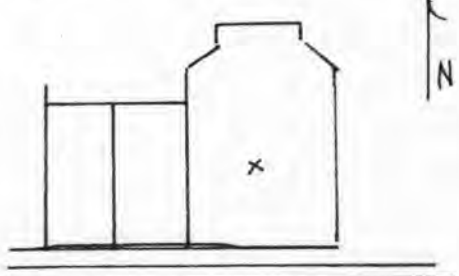
ORGANIZATION Missouri Valley Regional Planning Commission

ADDRESS 162 Bri ck " rsh " Mi ri 65340

DATE 11/83



Office of Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101  
**HISTORIC INVENTORY** SW-AS-036-076

1 No L87		4 Present Name(s) Norman Funeral Chapel	
2 County Schuyler		5 Other Name(s)	
3 Location of Negatives NEMO Regional Planning Comm.		The German Hotel, Opera House	
6 Specific Location E½ lot 7, W½ lot 6, Blk 5, Old Town, Lancaster NW¼ of SE¼ of Section 13 T66N, R15W		16 Thematic Category	28. No. of Stories 2
7 City or Town If Rural, Township & Vicinity Lancaster		17 Date(s) or Period 1900	29. Basement? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
8. Site Plan with North Arrow		18 Style or Design Vernacular	30. Foundation Material stone
		19 Architect or Engineer	31. Wall Construction brick
		20 Contractor or Builder	32. Roof Type & Material parapet
9 Coordinates UTM Lat Long 15/540035/4485700		21. Original Use, if apparent Hotel	33. No. of Bays Front 7 Side --
10 Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>		22 Present Use Funeral chapel	34. Wall Treatment common bond
11. On National Register? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	12. Is It Eligible? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	23 Ownership Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	35. Plan Shape rectangular
13 Part of Estab. Hist. Dist.? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	14. District Potent'l? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	24 Owner's Name & Address, if known Brice & Francis Norman Lancaster, MO 63548	36. Changes (Explain in #42) Addition <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/>
15. Name of Established District		25. Open to Public? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	37. Condition Interior Exterior good
		26. Local Contact Person or Organization NEMO Regional Planning Comm.	38. Preservation Underway? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		27. Other Surveys in Which Included	39. Endangered? By What? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			40. Visible from Public Road? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			41. Distance from and Frontage on Road

42. Further Description of Important Features Projecting corner blocks accent the heavily corbelled cornice and alternating sawtooth course of the parapet. The 1/1 attenuated windows have extended segmentally arched headers. A frame porch extending across the S facade and having a 2nd story balustrade now affords protection to an altered 1st story. The porch is not original. A comparison of the current photo and that of the historic photo attached will indicate alterations. The 1st story does retain the cast metal columns. The W wall is a common wall. There are no openings on the E wall. A large polygonal area has been added to (over

43. History and Significance Between 1900-1909 this new building was constructed and in 1909 it was listed as the German Hotel with a restaurant W and hotel office E with rooms above. As can be seen from the historic photo, there was also a saloon in the E part. Later the building was altered to a Opera House and Movie theatre. A large stage area was added to the rear, the 1st story floor was sloped and the 2nd floor was completely changed (over

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings The building is located on the N side of the Lancaster Square and faces S. There are no outbuildings.

45 Sources of Information 1898 Atlàs Sanborn Maps Personal Interview with B. Norman, Jr. 3/81 1910 History		46. Prepared by Linda Harper, HPS
		47. Organization NEMO Regional Planning Comm.
		48. Date 3/81
		49. Revision Date(s)



42. the rear. It has an exposed basement level and 1st story and served as the stage area. The 3 bay rear facade is accented by double rowlock, segmentally arched headers. The interior has been remodeled several times. It was reworked extensively when used for an Opera House and later movie house, and again has been altered as the funeral chapel.

43. by taking out all the rooms except 4 across the front facade and adding a balcony area. Large plaster ceiling medallions and a wide ceiling molding was added in this open 2nd story area. John Sommer\* ran these businesses and later added silent movies. Dr. Earl Mitchell, a local dentist, succeeded Sommer (c 1930). Later the building housed a restaurant operated by Lizzie Sommer. Following that it was partitioned and Mooreheads had a furniture store W and a funeral chapel E. Now under the ownership of Brice Norman, it is being altered and remodeled again. The 1st floor has been panelled, etc. with the E section used as a large chapel area, the W as an office, the stage area as a storage area and prep room, the balcony as storage and the open area has been enclosed once again and is now the casket display area.

\*John Sommer, son of Jacob and Elizabeth Krupp Sommer, was born 1881 in Indiana. He farmed until 1901 when he came to Lancaster, entering into the hotel business. He was proprietor of the German Hotel until 1910 when he converted the hotel into a cafe and opened a moving picture show in part of the building. The "Star" was listed as "one of the best moving picture shows in north Missouri. His building is especially adapted and prepared for this business".





L-87

HISTORIC PHOTO  
c 1910



HISTORIC PHOTO  
FOR HISTORIC

# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Scotland County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Kenney Opera House	Memphis	yes	no
Mason's Opera House		yes	no
Ree's Opera House		yes	no
Opera House	Gorin	yes	no

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Kenney Opera House	Memphis	yes	no
Mason's Opera House		yes	no
Ree's Opera House		yes	no
Opera House	Gorin	yes	no

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Kenney Opera House	Memphis	yes	no
Mason's Opera House		yes	no
Ree's Opera House		yes	no
Opera House	Gorin	yes	no

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? *Presently we have the New Memphis Theatre - built by Memphis Community players showing current movies etc. Non profit org.*

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

books about specific theatres	
photographs	
newspaper articles	
scrapbooks	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> county or town histories	
other, please specify	

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

What days and times is your library open to the public? *daily except Sundays*

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

Who is the best person to contact for more information? *Dr. Donaldson for present theatre*

**Thank you for your assistance.** Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203

*over*



Persons Named

There were many Rees' mentioned in our history books (3) but no opera house by that name. They <sup>Ree</sup> seemed to have owned a lumber yard here and produce store.

There was a Kenney Opera house prior to 1920s. No mention in our history books. It was located just off the NW corner of the square in what is now Nancy J apartments. My source believed it burned. Again no mention in any one of our 3 history books. Correct spelling was probably Kinney, and probably a part of Kinney Hotel.

Enclosed are 2 copies which may help you.

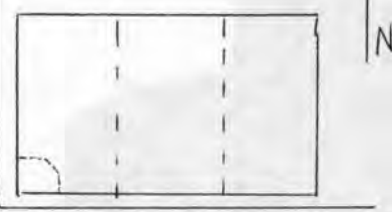
Thank you for your \$2.00 bill donation.

Legene Badgett  
Scotland County  
Historical Society.

Upon checking further I found mention of the Rees Opera House -

Office of Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101  
**HISTORIC INVENTORY**

SW-AS-036-077

1. No <u>H-24</u>		4. Present Name(s) <u>Gorin Post Office</u>	
2. County <u>Scotland</u>		5. Other Name(s)	
3. Location of Negatives <u>NEMO Regional Planning Comm.</u>			
6. Specific Location  <u>SE 1/4 of SE 1/4 of Section 8</u> <u>T 64 N, R 10 W</u>		16. Thematic Category	
7. City or Town If Rural, Township & Vicinity <u>Gorin</u>		17. Date(s) or Period <u>c 1930</u>	
8. Site Plan with North Arrow  		18. Style or Design <u>Vernacular</u>	
9. Coordinates UTM Lat <u>15/582855/4467990</u> Long		19. Architect or Engineer	
10. Site: <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure: <input type="checkbox"/> Object: <input type="checkbox"/>		20. Contractor or Builder	
11. On National Register? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		21. Original Use, if apparent <u>Commercial</u>	
12. Is It Eligible? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		22. Present Use <u>Post Office/Cafe</u>	
13. Part of Estab. Hist. Dist.? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		23. Ownership Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
14. District Potent'l? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		24. Owner's Name & Address, if known <u>Fred Gerth, Memphis</u> <u>Jim Peterson</u> <u>LaVerne Peterson</u>	
15. Name of Established District		25. Open to Public? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
		26. Local Contact Person or Organization <u>NEMO Regional Planning Comm.</u>	
		27. Other Surveys in Which Included	
		28. No. of Stories <u>2</u>	
		29. Basement? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
		30. Foundation Material <u>Concrete</u>	
		31. Wall Construction <u>Brick</u>	
		32. Roof Type & Material <u>Pent</u>	
		33. No. of Bays Front <u>3</u> Side <u>2</u>	
		34. Wall Treatment <u>Common bond</u>	
		35. Plan Shape <u>rectangular</u>	
		36. Changes (Explain in #42) Addition <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	
		37. Condition Interior <u>                    </u> Exterior <u>good</u>	
		38. Preservation Underway? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		39. Endangered? By What? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		40. Visible from Public Road? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
		41. Distance from and Frontage on Road	
42. Further Description of Important Features <u>At the SW corner of the building is an inset entrance with single leaf entrance, transom &amp; sidelights. A large battered column forms the corner support. Above this bay &amp; the 4 grouped windows along the W facade is a hung canopy. These windows are repeated along the S facade. On the W facade is a single leaf entrance with transoms flanked by double hung windows. These windows &amp; the 9 windows in the 2nd story are 1/1 with squarish concrete lintels &amp; sills. Along the S facade there are 3 storefronts; the corner section, a middle section with an inset entrance &amp; a eastern</u> (cont)			
43. History and Significance <u>Gorin Savings once occupied a building at this corner. They closed during the depression &amp; shortly after this building &amp; several adjoining structures burnt. Second story businesses included a movie/opera house, offices of which Dr. Johnson's was one, &amp; the telephone office. The 1st story businesses have changed several times throughout the years.</u>			
44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings <u>The building sits on the NE corner of Broadway &amp; Jackson Sts. with its storefronts facing S. There are no outbuildings. This large property sits to the W of the railroad tracks &amp; is located in the business district of the town.</u>			
45. Sources of Information  <u>1898 Atlas</u> <u>SCM-1976</u> <u>Interview with F. Smith &amp; Mr. Ammons</u>		46. Prepared by <u>Linda Harper, HPS</u>	
		47. Organization <u>NEMO Regional Planning Comm.</u>	
		48. Date <u>9/82</u> 49. Revision Date(s)	

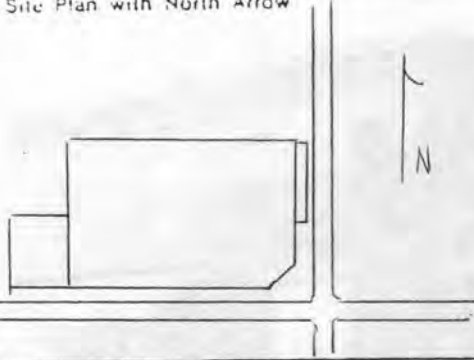
42. section which does not have a 2nd story above. Both central & east sections have their large storefront windows boarded up, but their multi-light transoms remain. Between the corner & middle sections is a single leaf doorway which leads to the 2nd story. The building has an extremely tall parapet with inset panels, 3 corbeled courses & a decorative soldier course. The E & mid-sections have single leaf entrances on the N facade.





Office of Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101  
**HISTORIC INVENTORY**

SW-AS-036-078

1 No H-22		4 Present Name(s) Klopfer, Creason/Lodge Building	
2 County Scotland		5 Other Name(s)	
3 Location of Negatives NEMO Regional Planning Comm.			
6 Specific Location Blk. 3, Weber's Add., Gorin Section 8 T 64 N, R 10 W		16. Thematic Category	
7 City or Town II Rural, Township & Vicinity Gorin		17 Date(s) or Period c 1900	
8 Site Plan with North Arrow 		18 Style or Design Vernacular	
9 Coordinates UTM Lat Long 15/582810/4468000		19 Architect or Engineer	
10 Site I I Structure I I Building X Object I I		20 Contractor or Builder	
11 On National Register? Yes I I No X		21 Original Use, if apparent Commercial	
12 Is II Eligible? Yes I I No I I		22 Present Use Abandoned	
13 Part of Estab. Hist. Dist.? Yes I I No X		23 Ownership Public I I Private X	
14 District Potenti'l? Yes I I No X		24 Owner's Name & Address, if known Masonic Lodge & Carl & Dorothy Klopfer Pearl Creason, Jr.	
15 Name of Established District		25 Open to Public? Yes I I No X	
		26 Local Contact Person or Organization NEMO Regional Planning Comm.	
		27 Other Surveys in Which Included	
		28 No. of Stories 2	
		29 Basement? Yes I X No I	
		30 Foundation Material stone	
		31 Wall Construction brick	
		32 Roof Type & Material parapet	
		33 No. of Bays Front 2 Side	
		34 Wall Treatment common bond	
		35 Plan Shape rectangular	
		36 Changes (Explain in #42) Addition: Moved: I	
		37 Condition Interior Exterior fair	
		38 Preservation Underway? Yes No	
		39 Endangered? By What? Yes No	
		40 Visible from Public Road? Yes No	
		41 Distance from and Frontage on Road	

42. Further Description of Important Features The primary entrance is set obliquely at the SE corner of building. It is a doubleleaf doorway with transom. Above is a window. Generally windows are 1/1, rectangular, & have stone lintels & sills. On the E facade, 1st story there is a wide window which has been boarded up as the S bay; the N bay is a full store front with inset central entrance & large display windows flanking it. The doorway is double leaf with a transom. This storefront is capped by a pent roofed porch. On the S facade is a 7 bay, 2 story facade, the west bay of which is a single leaf entrance (con

43. History and Significance Currently the lodge hall is over the storefront which faces S. This storefront is owned by the Klopfer's, the corner building is owned by the Creasons. The corner building once housed the Citizens Bank with Tom Anderson as cashier. is thought that James Thomas was the owner. The bank folded during the depression. Above where the lodge is now located was the Opera House & office space. At one (con

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings The building sits at the NW corner of Broadway & Jackson with its storefront facing S. Located on the W side of the tracks it is an integral part of the central business area of Gorin.

45 Sources of Information 1898 Atlas SCM-1976 Interview with F. Smith & Mr. Ammons		46. Prepared by Linda Harper, HPS	
		47. Organization NEMO Regional Planning	
		48. Date	49. Revision Date
		8/82	

42. which gives access to the upper story. Further to the W is a 2 story brick addi with an east bay entrance & 2 windows. This section sits on concrete & has a Go #72 Lodge sign on it. The N facade of the main block indicates a 1 story buildi was attached to it, but it has been razed. There are 3 2nd story windows.
43. time a dentist had an office here. The storefront housed several businesses but from 1937 to 1980 Pearl Creason ran a grocery and restaurant here. Later his son ran a sports shop & recreation center for a couple of years.



## BITS AND PIECES

Early 1900s: East of the square was Eckman Lumber Company. (Mr. Eckman was father of Miss Lilly who married Adam Schenk, a relative of Paul Schenk.) Later, it was purchased by Harry Trovillo, then by Walter Hopkins, and is now owned in 1991 by Jack Dannenhauer.

North across the street in the brick building in the early 1920s was a roller-skating rink, later M.F.A., then Pepsi-Cola, and now (1991) part of the Memphis Garment Factory and Hopkins Lumberyard. West of that building was a laundry owned by a Mr. DeBord in 1915-1919.

The early post office was in the Kinney block, then moved to the new J. M. Jayne building south of where Aloha Coffrin's Shoe Shop is now (1991), then to the new building north of the northeast corner of the square where it is today.

I can faintly remember a church on the corner across the street from the present post office; the first funeral I ever attended was that of Dr. Pile, my childhood doctor. I must have been four years old, and I know that was the first time I heard "Onward Christian Soldiers." The two houses there now were built of lumber salvaged from the church.

1900s J. H. Mulch furniture store was where Rose Hardware Store is today. Above it was a photographer, Symington.

1914 to 1920s: Tucker's Barbershop was in back of People's

Bank building. They sold licorice sticks and hard candies sideline. School children were good customers.

About 1911-12: George Bratz shoe repair.

1920s: Allen & Hockett Grocery and Meat Market. (No charge accounts; when bills were paid, large sacks of candy given to the customers.) Bon Ton Cafe was in the northwest corner building. Hattie Walton's restaurant was next door to the Kinney Hotel. In the early 1920s Dutch Volkman's bakery was located on the south side. Before I was born, Dad said there was a Towns Wagon Shop across the street west of Wiegner's Lumber Company, now (1991) known as Memphis Lumber Company, owned by the Middletons and located west of the southwest corner of the square.

1930s: In middle of south side: Mrs. Wayne Wagner and Harry Wagner Dress Shop, later purchased and managed by George Rudy. Bennie Sandknop (Edina) Dress Shop; E. E. Benson Shoe.

Before 1920s the grocery was owned and run by Oyler and Emerson Oyler.

1930s and '40s: Where Cook's Men's Store is now (1991) Benteco Grocery & Meats, managed by Joe Conklin. Dr. E. Symmond's office, which was later moved next door east of present V.F.W., was located in the rooms where the Memphis Library was. Later, Dr. Keethler had his office in the same room in the library and was later joined by Dr. Lowe.

## NAGGS BAKERY AND CONFECTIONERY

The Naggs Bakery and Confectionery, located near the center of the south side of the square in Memphis, was a true storybook shop. The proprietor, Mr. Naggs, was a pink and white, roly-poly Englishman, white-aproned, always a broad smile on his rosy-cheeked face, laughing bright blue eyes and a fringe of curling white hair around his bald head. He concocted mouth-watering goodies of candy, cakes, pies, rolls and various pastries and kept them fresh daily in shiny glass display case in the front room of the shop. Through a wide double doorway patrons could see into the ice cream parlor where tables and chairs, some for children, were placed.

There was a small dance floor and a piano at which Mrs. Luther Hudson (Olive), Red Streffan or some other musician presided.

At Christmas time Mr. Naggs fashioned red and white striped candy canes of many sizes, displaying some of them by hanging them from a rod across the double doorway. He knew how to entice both parents and children.

The one and only time I ever saw the circus showman Billy Hall of Lancaster, Missouri, was at a candy counter in the Naggs Store. His shiny silk hat, Prince Albert coat, gold-headed cane and over-size diamond ring impressed me so that I have never forgotten. My father said the Colonel Hall often came to my grandfather Allen's farm to purchase horses.

To me another unforgettable stopping place during my childhood was a converted railroad dining car called The Little Red Wagon. It was a short-order diner located beside the Zumsteg Brothers Drugstore at the southwest corner of the square. It was a convenient stop for a snack after a movie or any

evening outing.

Ben and Polly Morris owned and operated one of the most complete hardware stores in the area. It was on the west side of the square. Their two sons, Leo and Milton, were good businessmen who had the Chevrolet agency in a large building south of the I.O.O.F. building. Their sister Pearl married Mr. Maurice J. Zerk of Chicago, who opened a men's clothing store on the west side and was an excellent advertisement for it as he was always impeccably attired.

Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Hirsch and son Horace owned a fine ladies ready-to-wear shop next door south of Mr. Zack's store. They were noted for their style shows, big productions for such a small town.

About a mile south of town Mr. and Mrs. George Monroe lived near the Fabius. In that era, when automatic refrigerators and ice makers were unheard of, Mr. Monroe built a large round barn and in the cold winter months he, with helpers, cut huge chunks of ice from the frozen canal and hauled it to the big barn where it was stored deep in sawdust to be sold when hot summer days arrived. Several horse-drawn wagons equipped with picks and tongs and scales were driven up and down the streets of Memphis. Housewives were furnished cards with arrow indicators marked with various weights. The cards were placed in a window or door visible to the driver to inform him how much ice to deliver to the house. Children followed along behind the wagon to retrieve any small pieces left when the vendor chipped the indicated amount to be left at each stop. Such a treat was one of the hot weather pastimes for neighborhood children.

Submitted by Mrs. Henry Boucher.

## NOTES ON MEMPHIS

by George Simon

1959 talk given to patients in a rest home of Memphis, Missouri, by George Simon. His notes were taken by Aunt Alta Simon who said, "The articles in this sketch will not win the author an illustrated page in *Time Magazine*."

"I give this sketch of Memphis (Missouri) to those who are in-

terested in a bygone era that is still bright with memories to the man who is telling it when he is 84 years young."

"The 1899 population of Memphis—3500 and growing.

"I will start this sketch 1873.

"My parents, both born in Germany, met in Warsaw, Illinois.



married in Alexandria, Missouri, at the home of Mr. John Mulch's father. They came to Memphis in 1873. At that time there were a few frame houses on the west side of the square. My father rented a house, had his harness shop in the front part and lived in the back rooms.

"They had been there a short time when one night a fire broke out and burned most of the buildings and their home was one of them. At that time, my father thought he could not afford to carry any insurance so they lost what they had.

"When there was a fire on the square in the early days, men would form a bucket brigade and carry water from nearby wells to extinguish a fire.

"Again, my father started business on the south side of the square, where he remained until he moved into a new three-story hotel built where the Flower Hotel is now located. He was the first man to open his place of business in this new Wabash Hotel. It was in the Mackley block.

"I was born on the south side of the square where the Ben Franklin Store is now located, in 1875.

"That year my father bought the lot on the west side of the square and built the building I now occupy. We lived upstairs.

"There were a number of vacant lots on the west side. There was a building where the Gerth Store is located. Upstairs in this building was the first opera house in Memphis, the Mason Opera House.

"Where the Hertenstein Store is now there was a big frame building that set back and a large board platform where they sold farm machinery. The next building was the Pitkin and Leslie Bank, later Citizens Bank building, at present Farmers and Merchants Bank.

"There were two livery stables west where Weigner Lumber Company is located and across the street west was a wagon factory, owned and operated by J. J. Townsend.

"Where the Missouri Store is located on the southwest corner of the square was a vacant lot for years. Pattersons had the only dry goods store on that street.

"The Odd Fellows Lodge bought the lot and built a three-story building. Several years later it was destroyed by fire.

"South of this building where the Second Hand Store is now located was another livery barn and across the street another barn.

"On the south side of the square, where the Lord's Coast to Coast Store is located, was a three-story brick building owned by Paxton and Hudson. They operated a dry goods store for years.

"Several vacant lots east of this building.

"There was a popcorn and peanut stand, a barbershop, a cigar factory, with an old Indian sign out in front of their door.

"On the corner was a brick and frame building called the Central Hotel, operated by Mr. Drew.

"Where the present Chevrolet building is was another livery barn. On the east side of the street was Saloon Row—four in all.

"Beginning with the building now Peoples Bank of Memphis on the south—sure were tough places. South on this street was a large frame hotel, Daughterty, on the corner a carpenter's shop.

"Of the dozen or more livery stables, not one is left.

"The street east from there was Reese's Opera House, a large frame building used as an opera house, skating rink and dance hall.

"A few buildings on the east side of the square. The three-story brick building on the southeast corner was a clothing store owned and operated by H. G. Pitkin. Also, a few frame houses north of the building. A meat market, a small building where they sold and repaired sewing machines. A large produce house owned and operated by C. R. Combs was where the Masonic Temple is

located now.

"The first market for poultry and eggs at Memphis, Missouri, was established by C. R. Combs—he was a busy man. He employed several men in the poultry house and every week sent out six or eight huckster wagons, drawn by mule teams, often in bad weather—four mules to a wagon. They made regular trips to the country stores for produce and on the return trip picked up produce from the farmers. He paid his help \$1.00 per day.

"Keller and Hover Grocery Store was on the corner where Tippet Oil Station is now located.

"For years there was a wagon factory where the Leach Hatchery is located. It was destroyed by fire. This lot was vacant for years. It was a much-used lot—by merry-go-rounds, pony and dog shows and often used for tent revival meetings. This building was owned by H. G. Pitkin.

"On the northeast corner of the square was a double building used by Mrs. Jewett for her furniture store. The buildings were owned by Mr. H. G. Pitkin.

"A frame building was the next door west. In it was a laundry and tin shop. There was a vacant lot next—Mrs. Davis' Millinery Shop was in the next building. Joining this was two frame buildings, but later a brick building replaced them and was used as a furniture store by Mr. Welington who made coffins. There was a butcher shop in a frame building on the north side. It changed hands about once a year. The Green Clothing Store Front, operated by Humphrey.

"The northwest lot was vacant. For years it was a playground where boys gathered to play marbles.

"After many years the brick building, now used by Morgan and Burns, was erected and was used as a clothing store.

"When I was a boy, sickness in a household had its compensation. It was the coming of the family doctor. Always, he was in a jovial mood and had the entire family around him as a reception committee.

"I shall never forget the saddle bags from which Dr. Murphy and Parrish used for the medicines, produced the medicine, which always was in powder form and usually taken from two vials. If the trouble was diagnosed as bilious attack, powders were prepared from the Calomel vial. If it appeared to be malaria, they prepared it from the Quinine vial. There was no weighing or measuring, as in a drugstore. It was done with the blade of a knife. The doctor would produce little squares of paper from his saddlebags or cut them from any newspaper that might be at hand. How he measured each dose on that knife blade, then deposited it on the little square of paper, then folded it in accordance with established order. There were no written directions. The mother or wife was told at what intervals to administer the medicine.

The capsule had not come into vogue when I was a boy. If the family doctor prescribed medicine the patient couldn't keep down once it had been swallowed or which the patient couldn't swallow because it was so awful to the taste, the trick was turned with slippery elm.

"Around the first courthouse lawn I remember, was a hitch rack they used to tie the horses. At that time the only means of travel was with horses. Saturdays often it was difficult to find room to tie a horse. No paved streets. In the spring it would get muddy and require four horses to pull an empty wagon around the square.

"The following clipping was taken from a Memphis newspaper dated 1894:

"We see many changes in the business firms, and the town: eight churches, eight ministers, one band, one orchestra, one college, one public school, one Grand Army Post, one Oddfellow Lodge, one Masonic Lodge, two photographers, two dentists, one

opera house, three newspapers (one a daily, *The Daily Chronical*, published by J. W. Bence), three banks, four hotels, eight doctors, ten lawyers, three real estate agents, one washing machine factory, one cigar factory, two wagon factories, two pressed brick factories, three restaurants, four drugstores, three millinery shops, two harness shops, five barber shops, three jewelry shops, one marble shop, two tin shops, five blacksmith shops, one cooper shop, three lumberyards, five livery stables, six plasterers, 12 carpenters, three contractors, one button factory, four brick masons, two shoe shops, three meat markets, two bakeries, one foundry, two flour mills, seven grocery stores, two hardware stores, two furniture stores, three clothing stores, four dry goods stores, four saloons, two billiard halls, one poultry dealer, one pant factory, one ax handle factory, pickle tanks, two flour mills, two bakeries, one daily newspaper, three weekly newspapers.'

"My closing thoughts for the day—

*Stars and Stars*

*There was when we*

*Could Celebrate,*

*The Good old field*

*of forty-eight -*

*Alaska made it 49 -*

*We're not complaining*

*It's just fine*

*And now Hawaii*

*Makes it 50,*

*And half a hundred,*

*Pretty nifty."*

Submitted by Mauretta Smith, niece of George and Alta Simon

## BIG HORN SADDLE

by Irvin Johnston

*I grew up on a mini-like ranch  
Split by a stream we called Long Branch.  
Dad had a horse and a small herd of cattle,  
But he didn't have any sign of a saddle.*

*Well, I got tired of ridin' bare-back  
On a worn out blanket or an old gunny sack.  
So I talked Dad out of two head of cattle,  
And traded them both for a Big Horn saddle.*

*I was the proudest boy in the entire state.  
When I went to bed, I could hardly wait  
'Til the roosters crowed at the break of morn  
To get my seat in my new Big Horn.*

*My friends came in from miles and miles  
With congratulations, praise, and smiles  
And volunteered to help work cattle,  
Just for a turn in my Big Horn saddle.*

*I remember well all through my teens  
My cowboy hat and my Levi jeans.  
Most every day you'd find me astraddle  
Of Dad's old horse in my Big Horn saddle.*

*We lived on bacon, eggs, and greens,  
Corn bread squares, and pinto beans.  
Just to survive was a constant battle  
But I was happy in my Big Horn saddle.*

*There came a dry spell and times got bad  
And Dad lost everything he had.  
He lost the ranch, the horse and the cattle  
But I hung on to my Big Horn saddle.*

*Now Dad was broken from stress and strain,  
His lifelong savings down the drain.  
The Lord didn't give him time to wander;  
He soon joined Mother in the great up Yonder.*

*There I was at that point and time,  
Out of job without a thin dime.  
I was left up Long Branch without a paddle,  
But I still had my Big Horn saddle.*

*Well, I traveled west and got me a job,  
As keen as a briar and rough as a cob.  
Where the coyotes howl and rattlesnakes rattle,  
But I had no fear in my Big Horn saddle.*

*With determination and a lot of sweat,  
A buckskin horse and a lariat,  
Just look out there at all them cattle,  
And I did it all in my Big Horn saddle.*

*Now the moral of this story is short and sweet.  
Don't give up. If you do, you're beat.  
If you're going to win your success battle,  
You've got to keep your seat in the saddle.*

*Now I'll soon be leaving this world behind,  
So, if you're concerned, please bear in mind:  
Do what you wish with ole' Buck and the cattle  
But, p-l-e-a-s-e bury me with my BIG-HORN-SADDLE.*

Submitted by Irving Johnston

## INTERESTING BITS ABOUT THE CIVIL WAR IN SCOTLAND COUNTY

There were 1,162 battles and skirmishes fought in Missouri. The largest one in Scotland County was the one fought at Vassar Hill near Bible Grove July 18, 1862. There were 83 men killed and wounded in the fight. Some of the rebel soldiers that were killed in the battle were buried where they fell. The Federals that were killed in battle and those that died of their wounds were buried at

the Maggard Farm (the house was used as a temporary hospital) in the south pasture. Ten of the soldiers were disinterred and moved away by relatives. Thirteen others were interred at the National Cemetery at Keokuk, Iowa, by order of the government. In the skirmish there were 13 Federal horses killed and 27 wounded. During the battle many families around the area saw horses





Act III  
LOVE IS TOO MUCH TROUBLE by Guernsey LePulley  
1947

The fourteen-member cast in *Love Is Too Much Trouble* and the names of the characters were as follows: Dr. Pillsy the college president by Pearl Cotton; Miss Emily Ross the dean of women by Elizabeth Hardy; Toasty the harassed proprietor of the Poison Pot by Charles West; Connie Ashton a college girl working-her-way-through by Bernadine Locke; Ebb and Flo Dunham the two happy-go-lucky college sisters by Ellen Kirkpatrick and Melba Jacobs; Oggy McCloskey the student with the 'scientific theory' by Roger Opie; Joe Burke and Pinky Hamilton the two college boys with many problems by Dwight DeRosear and Paul Pence; Shirley Bradford a college belle by Joan Hoskinson; Cliff Hayward the leader of the band playing for the prom by Harold Prather; Sugar Lou Jackson a college girl with a southern accent by Josephine Franklin; Monica Bates a visiting high school senior by Lorraine Leeper; and Mrs. J. Worthington Bates the mother of Monica by Marilyn Hudnall.



Memphis High School  
Class of 1948

THE MEMPHIS THEATRES with memories for many have an interesting history. A few brush strokes here will "add some paint to the sets of the stage scenery". The Kinney Opera House, 108 West Madison off the northwest corner of the square, was fashionable in its heyday. In November 1915 J. C. Kinney leased the Kinney Opera House to Alex and Peyton Campbell. (The Majestic Theatre appears.)

In December 1926 Peyton Campbell sold the Majestic Theatre to Dr. and Mrs. H. L. Bridgeman of Knoxville, Iowa. In August 1928, Mrs. H. L. Bridgeman sold the Majestic to R. S. Dougherty of Mystic, Iowa.

**MEMPHIS THEATRE SOLD**  
Ray McIntire of Fairfield, Iowa has bought the Memphis theatre on the west side of the square from Miss Alice Johnson, who has managed it for about two months. He took possession, Wednesday and will open the show Friday evening. The new manager has been in the theatre business for several years and will move his family here as soon as he can find a house.

## Memphis Reveille Feb. 27, 1941

In February 1941, Ray McIntire of Fairfield, Iowa purchased the Memphis Theatre on the west side of the square from Miss Alice Johnson. In the 1940's, the Time Theatre was operated and managed by Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Locke. In October 1956, Richard Davis of Des Moines, Iowa leased the Time Theatre and Air Way Drive-In Theatre. These continued to be managed by Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Ross.

Lyrics by JOHNNY MERCER Music by HARRY WARREN

**On The Atchison, Topeka And The Santa Fe**

**JUDY GARLAND**



**The Harvey Girls**

JOHN HODIAK • RAY BOLGER

PRESTON FOSTER • VIRGINIA O'BRIEN • ANGELA LANSBURY  
MARJORIE MAIN • CHILL WILLS • BENNY BAKER • PHOTOGRAPHED IN TECHNICOLOR

Screen Play by Edmund Belton, Nathaniel Curtis, Harry Crane, James O'Hanlon and Norman Panama  
Additional Dialogue by Ray Van Riper • Based on the Book by Stuart Niggin Adams  
Directed by GEORGE SIDNEY • Associate Producer ROGER EDENS • Produced by ARTHUR FREED  
A METRO-GOLDWYN-MAVER PICTURE

Leo Feist inc.

1945  
Scotland Co Mo USA Community at Large: A  
Focus on Iowa Ridge Historical, Blogosphere 137  
Pictorial, by Eileen K. Davison, 1993. Walsworth Pub Co

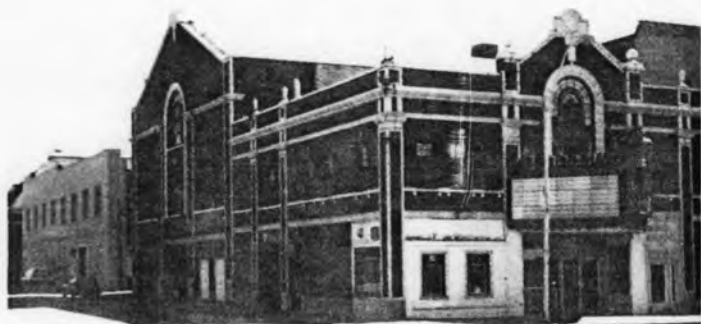
Melanie



In 1971, remodeling of the Time Theatre was completed in time for the showing of *Love Story*. On July 31, 1992 the Memphis Cinema (Time Theatre) burned. It was owned by the Memphis Community Players and plans are to build a new theatre for Memphis and the community.

About 1950 television home-sets were viewed with poor reception. Shortly the KTVO tower at Lancaster beamed programs to local homes on November 21, 1955. James 'Jimmy' Russell, owner of the Strand Theatre at Lancaster, was forced to close his theatre doors. He started working for the TV studio (Lancaster-Ottumwa) east of Lancaster as an

engineer. And Hal Oyler was popular on Channel 3 for many years. The studio - equipped with single, mostly stationary camera - offered "Town and Country" as a live program sponsored by the University of Missouri and hosted by Jack Bernard and this writer during the 1960's. Theatre-goers often travel to Kirksville. The early movie theatres - Family, Princess, Kennedy - have closed. The Petite 3 Cinema now serves the city and surrounding area. The Travellers Community Theatre was busy each season with live theatre during the 1980's.



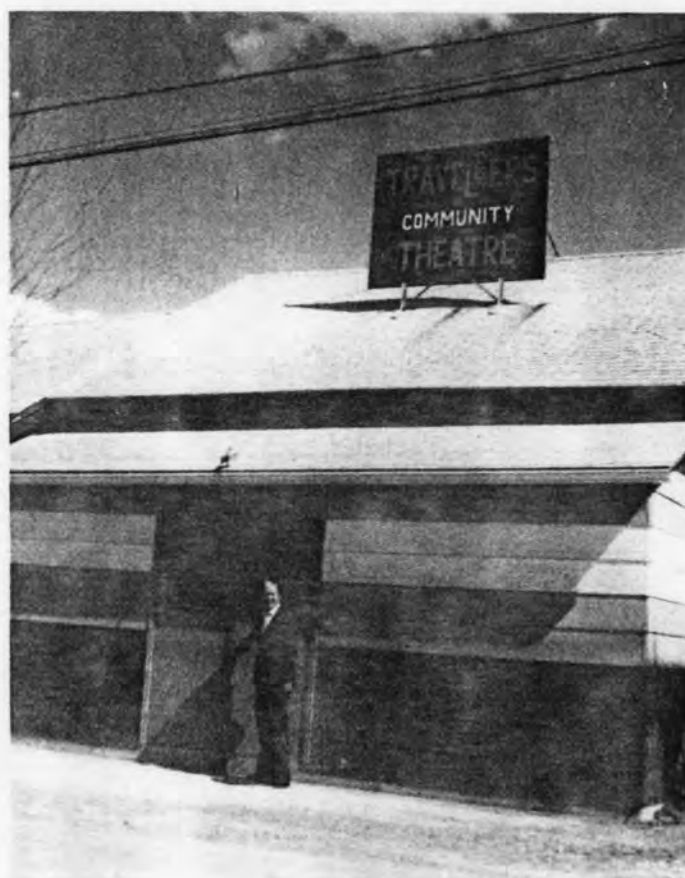
*June 1989 - Kennedy Theatre at Kirksville before it was torn down.*



*The Bus Station - Kirksville - at Dockery Hotel across from the Kennedy. These buildings have been torn down and made parking lots.*



*1981  
Travelers Hotel - Kirksville*



*1981  
Pat Harris - Travellers Community Theatre  
Kirksville*

# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Scott County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Stubblefield's Theatre	Oran	yes	_____	no	<u>✓</u>
Kendall's Theatre	Sikeston	yes	_____	no	<u>✓</u>

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Stubblefield's Theatre	Oran	yes	_____	no	<u>✓</u>
Kendall's Theatre	Sikeston	yes	_____	no	<u>✓</u>

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Stubblefield's Theatre	Oran	yes	_____	no	_____ ?
Kendall's Theatre	Sikeston	yes	_____	no	_____

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? \_\_\_\_\_

What types of specific information do you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

_____ books about specific theatres	_____
_____ photographs	_____
_____ newspaper articles	_____
_____ scrapbooks	_____
_____ county or town histories	_____
_____ other, please specify	_____

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

What days and times is your library open to the public? \_\_\_\_\_

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

Who is the best person to contact for more information? \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your assistance.**

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203

*There is a young man going around asking about old theatres  
I'm wondering if he is doing this for you. I don't know his name but  
the Choffee librarian told me about this* Sincerely, *Ramona Glastetter*

# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Scott County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Stubblefield's Theatre  
Kendall's Theatre

Oran  
Sikeston

yes \_\_\_\_\_ no X  
yes \_\_\_\_\_ no X

but they did operate  
prior to 1960.

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Stubblefield's Theatre  
Kendall's Theatre

Oran  
Sikeston

yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_  
yes \_\_\_\_\_ no X

don't know

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Stubblefield's Theatre  
Kendall's Theatre

Oran  
Sikeston

yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_  
yes \_\_\_\_\_ no X

don't know

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? Malone Theater  
and Rex Theaters in Sikeston - both have been destroyed. The  
Truase Theatre in Benton and Realto Theater in Scott City, MO

What types of specific information do you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

- ☒ books about specific theatres
- ☐ photographs
- ☒ newspaper articles
- ☐ scrapbooks
- ☐ county or town histories
- ☐ other, please specify

Edison Shrum's books on Scott County, MO

Scott County Democrat and Sikeston Standard

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

no, not at this time.

What days and times is your library open to the public? Mon - Thurs. 9AM-9PM, Friday  
and Saturdays 9AM-5PM and Sundays 1PM-4PM

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

Not to my knowledge.

Who is the best person to contact for more information? Margaret C. Harmon  
1-573-335-4446-evenings

Thank you for your assistance.

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203

P.S. - The Kent library at Southeast Mo. State University in  
Cape Girardeau may be useful. Dr. Frank Nichell is  
Director of the Regional History Center at SEMO. His number  
is 573-651-2833.



Margaret Cline Harmon  
1879 El Rio Drive  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701  
Email: mcharmon@clas.net

January 28, 1998

Becky L. Snider  
1008 Sunset Drive  
Columbia, MO 65203

Ms. Snider:

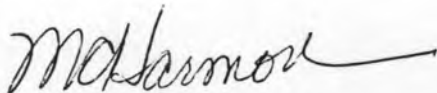
On behalf of the Scott County Historical Society I hope the enclosed information you requested is not too late to help you with your dissertation. If there is more time available, I will do more research for you.

Enclosed is your completed questionnaire on Historic Missouri Theatres. Also enclosed is a copy of a picture and description of the Illmo Opera House from Edison E. Shrum's book *Graysboro to Ansel. A History of the Scott City Area.* Additionally I have enclosed adds from two movie theatres in Scott County back in 1939. I know these are out of business but I do not know if the buildings are standing.

A window of time is now available to do more research for you if your deadline has not closed. You may write me at the address above or Email me should you want me to continue researching Scott County Theatres.

Best wishes on your dissertation and future career.

Sincere regards,



Margaret Cline Harmon  
Member, Scott County Historical Society

## HISTORY OF ORAN NEWSPAPERS

"Chaffee Signal". It is now called "The Signal" and "North Scott County News", because under other publishers.

The Oran Tribune was established in 1918 with H. L. Matthews as editor. The paper discontinued in June of 1923.

In 1945 the Oran Chamber of Commerce began to publish a monthly bulletin of local news. It was printed in a Cape Girardeau job shop. The bulletin was called "The Oran Chamber of Commerce and Local News" and soon became a semi-monthly and then a weekly.

Ray Robinson who was then president of the Chamber of Commerce bought an ancient 12x18 inch press from Walter Temme in Illinois. Trouble was it had collected dust, rust and mold in the basement of Mr. Temme and was doubtful if it would run and it weighed three thousand pounds.

While the bulletin was being printed it was the duty of Elwood Thompson as town booster to pick up the bulletins and bring them home for distribution. He could take them to his home spread them out on the bed, scan their makeup, fold them, address them by hand and put them in the mail.

Now this job did not go unrewarded for Elwood because he liked to watch the machinery go around and at the job shop he got his first glimpse of a press in action. He inquired of operator how long it would take to learn to operate one and learned it would take some four years.

After Mr. Robinson bought the press which Elwood moved to Mr. Robinson's enclosed back porch, the work really begun. It took lots and lots of sandpaper, gasoline, paint remover and elbow grease to put "Betsy" to rolling but finally the "News" was launched.

Elwood scrubbed the ink off his hands and prepared to go to the farms for ads and subscriptions for the "News". On the back of his car he built a cart in which to put chickens in lieu of cash. He picked up many stories along the route of the farms.

One day the press caved Robinson's porch floor in, the roller broke, parts flew every which way through adjoining bedroom window and the whole press had to be welded together. Mr. Robinson became ill soon after and had to sell the paper.

Elwood, wanting to know more about newspaper, went away to study photo engraving.

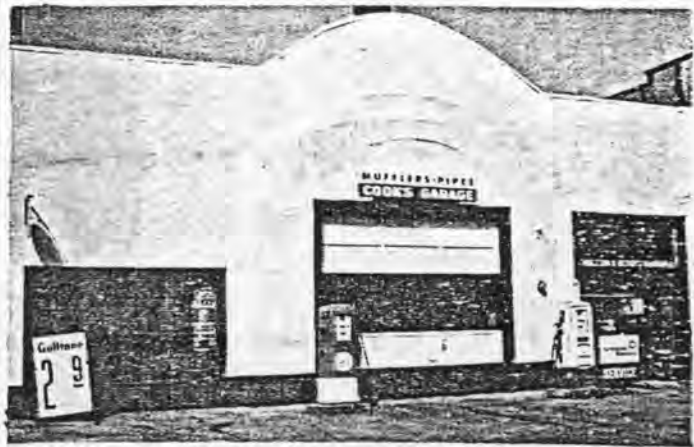
Roman Ressel then bought the "News" from Mr. Robinson and moved it into his filling station. Somehow Roman hung onto the paper until Elwood came home. They put old "Betsy" in retirement and bought a flat-bed Whitlock press. Elwood picked up each week the machine-set type that was done by Ralph Mattocks in his printing shop at Chaffee. Then

he and Roman would set up display ads, arrange the type in 6-column page form and run it off on the Whitlock. In 1950 there was a 900 circulation and not a deadline had been missed.

It was in September of 1954 that George Allen Westland purchased the Oran News from Roman Ressel. Early in 1955 the paper was moved from the Ressel Garage to the building owned by Corona Harper, next door to the Oran Cafe. In 1957 the Oran News and Chaffee Leader was sold to Neil Amundson and later was sold to Millham. The next owner of the little paper was Ralph Mattocks who bought it in 1960. In 1961 the office was moved into the home of Mrs. Olive Westland where it remained until Mrs. Roman Ressel took over the paper in her home. Mr. Bob Kielhofner of Chaffee bought the paper in 196, who also owned the Chaffee Signal. The papers are now combined and name changed to "THE SIGNAL AND NORTH SCOTT COUNTY NEWS".

## ORAN OPERA HOUSE

In 1914 C. and A. J. Matthews built the Oran Opera House where now is Cook's Garage. Contractors for the building were from Cape Girardeau. Some of the local men who helped in the building were Will Grice and George Bowman. Arthur McCray and his brother Otto hauled sand for the concrete and lathes for the framework by wagon from Chaffee and Rockview. Down front ran the large stage with dressing rooms on each side. The large auditorium held hundreds of people. Across the back ran a large balcony. Here was the scene of many stage shows, revival meetings and in 1920 the first graduating exercise of the Oran High School was held. In the first year there were three seniors Early Crader, Alpha Lyons, and Helen Bowman. The exercises were held here until in 1925 when the high school building was built. In the late twenties a Mr. Kibby operated the "MASJESTIC THEATRE" in the building with silent films. Between the reels as they were then called piano music was played. Some of the ladies



COOK'S GARAGE

who played for this was Mrs. John Metz, Mrs. Frank

### ORAN OPERA HOUSE

Metz, Mrs. Charles Burris, Mrs. Corona Harper, and Evelyn Tenkhoff. At the front of the building on each side were office rooms. In one, Mr. William Oliver had his law office, in the other was Mrs. Chole Engle, a seamstress. In 1931 Fred Sturgeon bought the building and operated a forage shop and garage. He sold to his brother A. R. Sturgeon in 1939 who with John Diebold as partner ran the garage until 1945. In 1953 Albert Cook bought the building and has since operated a garage.

### DIASERS IN ORAN FIRES IN ORAN

The above buildings were known as the Metz Block and burned early Sunday morning, November 19, 1922. The building where the Oran State Bank now stands was known as the Lemp Building which contained three business places and was purchased by Andy and George Metz, who operated the Metz Brother saloon in the corner room on the site of the present bank. The next room in this building was a barber shop operated by Charles Merrit and Frank Carter and the room on the right of the Lemp building was a cafe operated by Adolph Schaefer. The upstairs was known as the Lodge Hall, rented by several lodges.

The large two story building also owned by the Metz Brothers and the large room on the left was occupied by Moore and Stubblefield General Store, handling groceries, clothing, hardware, implements, furniture, etc. This room was later occupied by the late Mr. William Oliver. The next room was the Banks Saving Store which sold ladies and men's clothing exclusively. The room on the very right was a butcher shop operated by Frank Miller and George Driskill and later by the Halter Brothers. Part of the large upstairs was used as a furniture display room and the remainder was used at one time as an arsenal where weapons were stored in case an outbreak occurred.

The large two story building on the far left is the Heisserer Department Store. The building was built in 1901 and 1902 by Stubblefield. In 1904 it was operated as the T. S. Heisserer and Company, a General merchandise store. In 1924 it came under the ownership of Z. A. Heisserer, G. J. Slickman with Valerie Heisserer as a silent partner. It operated under the name of the Heisserer Department Store until on Sunday morning August 31, 1952 when a fire destroyed the building which also housed the Majestic Theatre in the upstairs.

In the far left corner was the Oran Bank and the room where the Burger Barber shop is now located, it was the Lutes Drugstore up until 1910. Harry C. Watkins had a complete men's furnishing store from 1910 until 1930 in this location after the



The fire of September 1952 when the T. S. Heisserer Department burned to the ground.

drugstore was vacated. De. Westcoat and C. and A. J. Matthews had offices upstairs where Mr. and Mrs. Ed Burger now lives.

### CYCLONE SWEEPS THROUGH ORAN

In May of 1917 the eastern part of the town of Oran was badly damaged by a cyclone that swept through Scott County. The church building that belonged to the people of the Church of God Faith was demolished, it being located where now stands the home of Mrs. Ida Halter. The roof was torn off and moved, and the floor was shoved ten feet from the foundation. Despite the ferocity of the wind, the seats in the church were practically as they had been left after the last services. The homes of Mrs. Lizze Walters and the Lester Turners were completely demolished. A Buick automobile belonging to John P. McCarty was stripped of its steering gear and top. The brick walls of the Metz building and the Hale block were damaged, the City Hall which at that time was a frame building located where now stands the old fire house, was shoved off its foundation. Jap McCord's barn was blown away, several of the out buildings at the Harry Watkins and J. B. Bowman homes changed locations from one lot to another, a pump at the Lyman Matthews home was pulled up six feet, part of the roof of the Oran Bank was blown away, and the roof was torn off the J. Banks business block. Damage at Oran was estimated at \$5000, which was a lot of money back then. Charles Burris, south west of Oran, was one of the heaviest losers in the storm-swept section. He had a fine house and \$1500 worth of furniture which was completely destroyed. Mr. Burris saw the twister heading for his place and together with his family took refuge in a culvert near his home.



# HARTNER Theater ILLMO

Saturday  
SEPTEMBER 22

## The Avengers

Starring John Carroll  
Serial 1 Cartoon

Sunday and Monday  
SEPTEMBER 23-24

## Go For Broke

442nd Regimental Combat Team.  
Starring Van Johnson  
News 1 Cartoon

Sept 1951

# Plaza Theatre MAJESTIC THEATRE ILLMO, MO.

THURSDAY—Two Big Features  
Claudette Colbert and Robt. Young in  
**I Met Him in Paris**  
Nan Grey and John Howard in  
**Let Them Live**

FRI.-SAT.—Mat. 2:30 Saturday  
BARGAIN NIGHTS  
Harry Carey and Hoot Gibson in  
**The Last Outlaw**

SUN. AND MON.—Mat. 2:30 Sunday  
Robert Taylor & Barbara Stanwyck in  
**This Is My Affair**

TUESDAY IS \$ \$ NIGHT  
Matinee 3 o'clock  
Warner Oland in  
**Chas. Chan at the Olympics**

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY  
Heralded as the best picture produced in the last ten years. Janet Gaynor and Fredric March in  
**A Star Is Born**  
July 1937

## ORAN, MO.

Program week Feb. 23 to Mar. 1

THURSDAY, FEB. 23. 1939  
Two Feature Program—The Jones Family in

**Down on the Farm**  
Plus Feature Number 2—  
**Road Demon**

You'll call it the fastest picture even after you catch your breath.  
Both for 10-21c.

FRI. AND SAT., FEB. 24-25  
**Red River Range**  
With The Three Mesquiteers—Plus the last chapter of "Red Barry." 10-21c.

SUN. AND MON., FEB. 26-27  
Another mighty and grand feature in technicolor—Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy in

**Sweethearts**  
M. G. M. brings you its biggest show. Plus news and comedy. 10-26c

TUESDAY, FEB. 28  
**Federal Man Hunt**  
Also selected short subjects. 10-15c  
FAMILY NIGHT



Saturday Shows Start at 7 p. m.  
All Others Start at 7:30 p. m.

Thursday and Friday  
SEPTEMBER 13-14

Howard Duff, with a great supporting cast, in a thrilling story of Blackmail. His Camera was more deadly than a gun.

## Shakedown

I couldn't find any information on these theaters. I do have an article on The Majestic theatre at Oran. I found these ads in the Scott County Democrat newspaper. I have no idea who to get in touch to find out more on them. Maybe the Mayor of each town but I don't know who they are.

# SCOTT COUNTY DEMOCRAT

BENTON, MISSOURI, JANUARY 8, 1939

## MAJESTIC THEATRE

ORAN, MO.

Program January 5th to 12th

THURSDAY, JAN. 5

### Rich Man Poor Girl

Starring Robert Young, Lew Ayres, Ruth Hussey and Guy Kibbee. 10-21c

FRI. AND SAT., JAN. 6-7

A great western—The 3 Mesquiteers in

### Pals of the Saddle

Featuring John Wayne and Ray Corrigan, Max Terhune. 10-21c

SUN. AND MON., JAN. 8-9

### Submarine Patrol

With Richard Greene and Nancy Kelly. To be young, madly in love, this was the great war's great adventure. Plus News, Golden California and Strangers Ride Again. 10-26c.

TUESDAY, JAN. 10

The Jones Family in

### Safety in Numbers

Family Night. 10-15c

WED. AND THURS., JAN. 11-12

Two swell features

### Vacation From Love

A new design for romance. Feature No. 2—Jane Withers in

### Keep Smiling

She made you laugh a lot and cry a little, but you haven't seen anything until you watch Jane take Hollywood apart and then put it together again. 10-21c

## Plaza Theatre

ILLMO, MO.

THURSDAY—LAST TIME TODAY

Shirley Temple, Chas. Farrell and Bill Robinson in

### Just Around the Corner

FRIDAY ONLY

Free Chinaware to ladies

Joe E. Brown and Leo Carillo in

### Flirting With Fate

SAT. ONLY—Mat. 2:30—Bargain Nite

The biggest picture ever offered at Bargain prices—Robert Donat and Rosalind Russell in

### The Citadel

BARGAIN NIGHT

SUN. AND MON.—Mat. 2:30 Sun.

Here comes the musical hit picture of the year—Hear Dick Powell sing "You Must Have Been A Beautiful Baby" to Olivia DeHavilland in

### Hard To Get

TUESDAY—MAT. 3 O'clock

Lew Ayres and Lionel Barrymore in

### Young Dr. Kildare

COMING WED. THURS.—2 Big

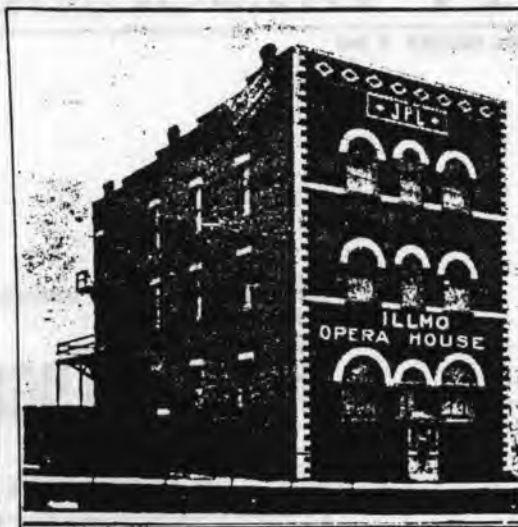
Features

Richard Greene and Preston Foster in

### Submarine Patrol

And a new Columbia picture

### Man's Castle



## Illmo Opera House



Modern Play House

**J. P. LIGHTNER**

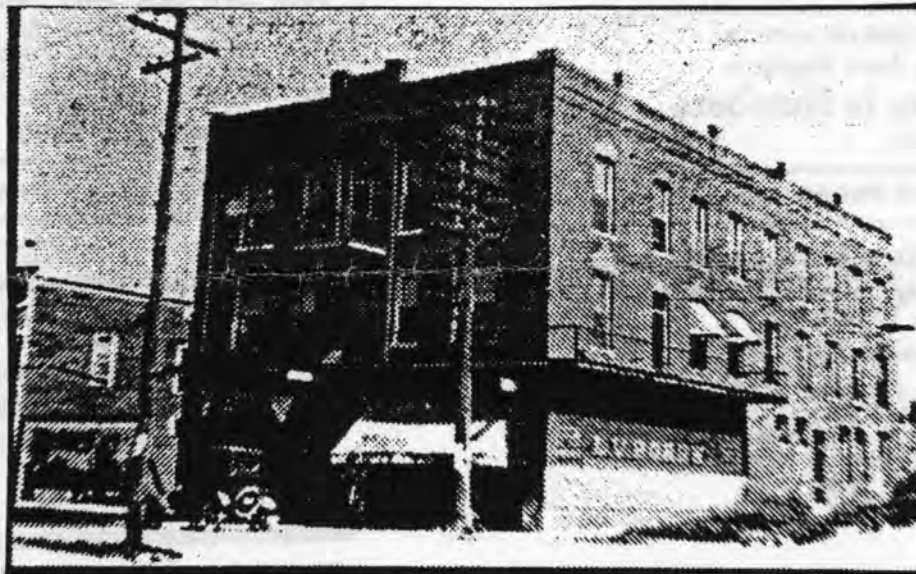
Sole Owner and Manager

500 Opera Chairs; Electric Lights  
Elevated Floor; Big Stage; Good  
Dressing Rooms; 2,500 People,  
Good Show Town; Prices to Cor-  
respond with Attraction; A Real  
Sunday Night Town; 1 Railroads.  
Want only the best, If not good  
don't write for dates.

One of a 7 Year Old Town's Buildings

**ILLMO, MO.**

LIGHTNER'S OPERA HOUSE, built in 1910 and destroyed by fire in 1930. The above card was part of Lightner's advertising campaign designed to bring first-class vaudeville entertainment to Illmo. Lightner must have developed a deep love for the theater during his years as a showboat entrepreneur, in order to dare to erect as pretentious an opera house as the above in Illmo, then a rough new railroad town that in 1910 had a population of only 976.



View northeast from the Amrhein drugstore corner toward the Southern Hotel, which was located where Dr. Steven F. Roth's dental office now stands. The Southern Hotel, once one of the area's best known hostelryes, burned on Dec. 15, 1950, leaving a huge pile of bricks, of which I salvaged a few and used them to build a walk in my back yard.

*Graysboro to Ansell, A History of the Scott City Area*



# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Shelby County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Miller Opera House	Shelbina	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Rutledge B P	Clarence	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Miller Opera House	Shelbina	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rutledge B P	Clarence	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Miller Opera House	Shelbina	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Rutledge B P	Clarence	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>

*Brown Furniture*

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? \_\_\_\_\_

*Shelbyville had Opera House -  
Sunnewell*

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

<input type="checkbox"/> books about specific theatres	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> photographs	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> newspaper articles	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> scrapbooks	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> county or town histories	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, please specify	_____

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

What days and times is your library open to the public? *11-5*

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

Who is the best person to contact for more information? *KATHLEEN WILHAM*

K. WILHAM GENEALOGICAL  
RESEARCH & PUBLISHING  
RR 1, BOX 150 573-633-2206  
SHELBYVILLE, MO 63469-9755

**Thank you for your assistance.**

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203

August 31, 1997

Shelby County Historical Society  
215 South Center Street  
Shelbina, MO 63468

Dear Shelby County Historical Society Representative:

I am a graduate student in the Environmental Design Department at the University of Missouri - Columbia working on a PhD in Historic Preservation. My dissertation focuses on historic theatres, halls, and opera houses in outstate Missouri. I am attempting to compile a database of information about the theatrical venues which have existed in Missouri. I am particularly interested in the theatres and opera houses which still exist even if they are no longer functioning as a performance space. Eventually, I hope to produce a book about historic theatres in Missouri.

In your area, I am aware of the following theatres and am interested in any additional information about them that you can provide:

Shelbina  
Clarence

Miller Opera House -  
Rutledge B P

above Brown Furniture  
210 S Center  
Shelbina, Mo 63468

However, there may be or have been other theatres, halls, or opera houses in your area that I have yet to discover. I would appreciate your help in locating information about the theatres and opera houses in your area. I am enclosing a short questionnaire to help guide you to the type of information I am interested in obtaining.

For your convenience, I have enclosed a self-addressed, stamped envelope for you to return the questionnaire to me. In addition, I am enclosing a small donation to your organization

If your organization charges a fee for research inquiries, please advise me of the anticipated cost prior to beginning any searches. I can be reached by phone at (573) 443-3241 or you may simply send the information to me in the postage-paid enclosed envelope.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Becky L. Snider  
1008 Sunset Drive  
Columbia, MO 65203

are you connected to the  
Snider family in Shelby Co Mo

(513) 588-2240  
The  
curtain,  
backdrops,  
advertisements,  
seating in  
the opera house  
are still  
in existence

write  
Glenn Wallace  
Shelby Co  
Clarence, Mo  
He will  
know  
@ this



The Opera House built around 1890 as it appeared around 1900. Other pictures on this page show it in various stages as it went down

for the final count in the conflagration which struck the town Sunday, April 6, 1958.

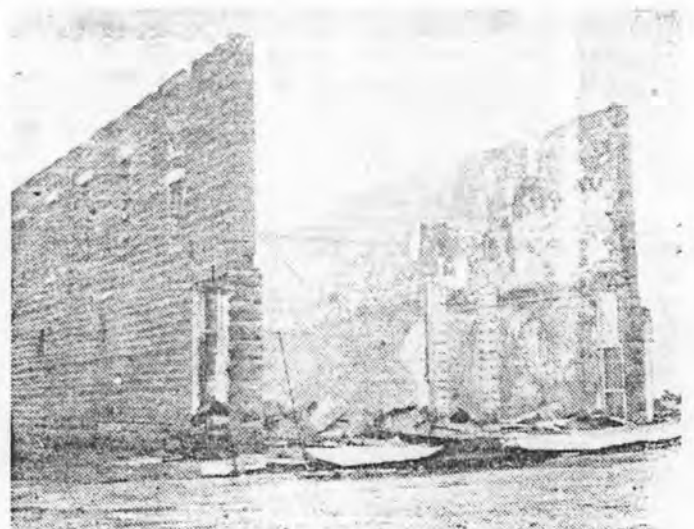
*Ch Hunnewell papers on this date -*

## Hunnewell Suffers Devastating Fire

Damages Estimated From \$80,000 To \$100,000 By Early Morning Blaze, April 6, 1958.



Above, flames are shown sweeping through the three-story building formerly occupied by the postoffice and Pope Crate Mfg. Co. On the right is the front of the Hunnewell Standard newspaper. Shelbina and Monroe City firemen are shown at the scene.



Above is the gutted three-story building known as the old opera house, in which was located the postoffice and the Pope Crate Mfg. Co., after the fire had destroyed half a block of buildings in Hunnewell.



## The Old Chautauqua

A highlight of the first hundred years in Shelby was the Redpath-Vawter Chautauqua, an institution that entertained and delighted the community for a period of seventeen years, beginning in August, 1911.

A meeting was held in October, 1910, for the purpose of bringing the Chautauqua to Shelby and the Shelby Democrat of October 12th reported that "George Gose and other business men are securing signers to the guarantee". In order to get the Chautauqua, a fixed amount of money was required as a guarantee, and about one hundred business men and citizens of the town signed the necessary agreement, supported by individual signed agreements to purchase season tickets at \$1.50. In later years the season tickets sold at \$2, and toward the end of the series at \$2.25, but this community probably never had, before or since, quite so much entertainment at such low cost.

There were three sessions daily of the program, morning, afternoon and evening, for a full week. The first Chautauqua, held August 17 to 23, 1911, advertised a program of 33 events, and described the Chautauqua as "The People's University. The Most American Institution in America".

Morning sessions were usually devoted to lectures by prominent people, including senators, governors and professional speakers, although later the morning program was changed to the children's hour. At times a well known speaker was presented in the afternoon or evening, depending upon the travel schedule from one town to another in the circuit, or upon his popularity. William Jennings Bryan, the "silver tongued orator" of his generation, spoke in Shelby in August, 1912, at which time, in the course of his address, he observed that not even our greatest scientists could understand or explain how a red cow could eat green grass and produce yellow butter. Bryan could speak the language of the common man, and was widely known as the Great Commoner. Many other speakers appeared through the years, including: Thomas Brooks Fletcher, Senator Luke Lea, Senator James K. Vardaman, Judge Ben B. Lindsey, John Temple Graves, Henry J. Allen, Quinn O'Brien, Francis J. Heney, Victor Murdock, Dr. Frank Church, and many others.

Good music was an important part of the entertainment, and many fine musical organizations were presented, including orchestras by Schildkret and Krantz, and such concert bands as Thaviu, Quintana, Kryl, John C. Weber, and Signor Quaglia with his

Italian band.

Dramatic plays were presented on the stage of the big tent (located in the school yard) by such groups as the Ben Greet Players and the Wm. J. Keighley Players. The dramatic productions included: Comedy of Errors, Strange Bedfellow, Broadway Jones, Robin Hood, Adam and Eve, Captain Applejack, The Melting Pot, Nothing But The Truth, Applesauce, It Pays to Advertise and Turn to the Right.

Other entertainment included: Garrett's Trained Animals, The Riner Sisters, Grand Opera Singers, Royal Hawaiians, Dunbar Singing Sextette, Russian Cathedral Quartet, and the Filipino Serenaders. In the 1916 program, for example, there were fourteen musical numbers and twelve speakers, of whom Senator Thomas P. Gore of Oklahoma was a headliner.

Mrs. Florence Nolin Sullivan, well known here as a talented violinist, was the only person in this area who was included as a Chautauqua entertainer. She served with Redpath-Horner and Redpath Vawter as a member of a women's string ensemble, but did not appear in the Shelby circuit.

By 1927 the Chautauqua was beginning to run into trouble. The Shelby County Fair and the Chautauqua were usually held during the month of August, and the community perhaps was beginning to tire of the double feature during hot weather. Some thought the quality of the programs had declined, and a few business men observed that no one guaranteed their businesses against loss. By then, also, the radio and the automobile had come along to offer diversion and competition. Season ticket subscribers and guarantors became more reluctant to sign agreements, so for 1927 the Chautauqua was reduced from a seven day circuit to a five day program.

At the end of the 1927 Chautauqua, only 200 people signed for season tickets for the following year. The guarantors, who had stood by for seventeen years, now refused to sign an agreement for 1928, and that was the end of the Chautauqua in Shelby. Too many people seemed to consider themselves as graduates of "The People's University", and it was not long thereafter before other communities began to experience similar difficulties and the Chautauqua was forced to fold its tent and quit, leaving behind it a fine and memorable contribution in adult education and community culture.

# MILLER OPERA HOUSE SHELBYNA, SHELBY COUNTY, MO

1973 the old type Headliner and Justowriters were replaced with a modern Compugraphic 7200 and a Compugraphic Compuwriter.

At this date, there are four men and four women regularly employed in the publication of the Democrat, which goes into 2775 homes.

**Physicians and Surgeons in Shelbyna from 1912-1972:** Dr. R. S. Battersby, Dr. E. M. Mills, Dr. Charles M. Chapman, Dr. James W. Chapman, Dr. Manford Dimmitt, Dr. James A. Furnish, Dr. Theodore Hoerchler, Dr. Charles A. Lichty, Dr. J. D. Smith, Dr. William J. Smith, Dr. Florian Vaughn, Dr. H. E. Vaughn.

**Osteopaths in Shelbyna from 1912-1972:** Dr. Roy L. Caldwell, Dr. John Duncan, Dr. Richard A. Mihalevich, Dr. Ernest M. Moore, Dr. Gladys (Simpson) Bower, Dr. S. L. Simpson, Dr. Andy J. Tils, Dr. Joseph H. Tomei, Dr. Williams.

**Dentists in Shelbyna from 1912-1972:** Dr. Roy A. Bevan, Dr. Raymond G. Calvin, Dr. Joseph A. Daniel, Dr. Wallace Holmes, Dr. Thomas W. Lyell, Dr. Freeland R. Rice, Dr. W. A. Russell, Dr. W. L. Selsor.

**Pharmacists in Shelbyna from 1912-1972:** Charles B. Allen, Earl Bowen, R. E. (Gene) Hatcher, George Hickey, James M. Maupin, Aubrey McCully, Charles Miles, Ed Rhea, John Sherwood, John B. Yost.

**Lawyers in Shelbyna 1912-1972:** Fred C. Bollow, Dan Bollow, Rolin T. Boulware, Robert E. Crist, George C. Grant, Lane B. Henderson, Harry Libby, Tom Oswald, Kenneth Schloman and Gary Wallace.

**Veterinarians in Shelbyna from 1912-1972:** Dr. George Estes, Dr. House, Dr. Donald F. Lucas, Dr. Jack L. Neil, Dr. R. P. Poage, Dr. Howard L. Ragsdale, Dr. Lee Rice.

## The Opera House - Memories of Bygone Days

By Mrs. Roselle Miller Humphrey

Long before moving pictures, the most widespread place of entertainment for the family was the "Opera House". Minstrel shows, plays and musical programs were a few of the activities which took place on the opera stage. In 1888, Shelbyna, too, was to have its own opera house.

The idea for the opera house came when Mr. Charles Miller and Mr. Jess White decided to go into partnership and build a building to have stores on the ground level and the opera house would be above them. Later Mr. Miller became the sole owner and for many years, Miller's Furniture Store was on the ground floor. C & R Market today occupies part of the building and Mr. Charles Brown owns the old Opera House upstairs.

The Opera House, with 30-40 foot ceilings, was quite elegant in its day and had three different sections in which patrons were seated. The reserve section consisted of two sections with a central aisle and aisles at each side. The seats were folding chairs, all connected in a row. Underneath each seat was a rack for a gentlemen's hat. The less expensive seats were located in the back under the balcony—these were wood straight chairs. The "gallery" was reserved for negroes.

Footlights lighted the stage while kerosene lamps down the center aisle furnished other lighting. Two huge pot-bellied stoves heated the building with a smaller stove backstage for the performers. Small windows near the ceiling let out hot air during the summer.

The curtain for the stage was painted. Red velvet curtains draped and held back by gold cords revealed a scene, probably a waterfall. Sometime later this curtain was painted with names of local advertisers and patrons of the Opera House.

Traveling troupes played here for a one-week, ten days or two week stands at a time. The players were lodged in the old Waverly Hotel, or occasionally, in private homes. Usually a band consisting of five or six instruments played a concert before the opening act or between acts. Some of the most popular plays presented in Shelbyna were "East Lynne", "Uncle Tom's Cabin", "The Count of Monte Cristo", and "Little Lord Fauntleroy".

There were, also, minstrel shows, reviews and an occasional concert. One of the favorite performers was Blind Boone. William Jennings Bryan once spoke at the Opera House.

Days

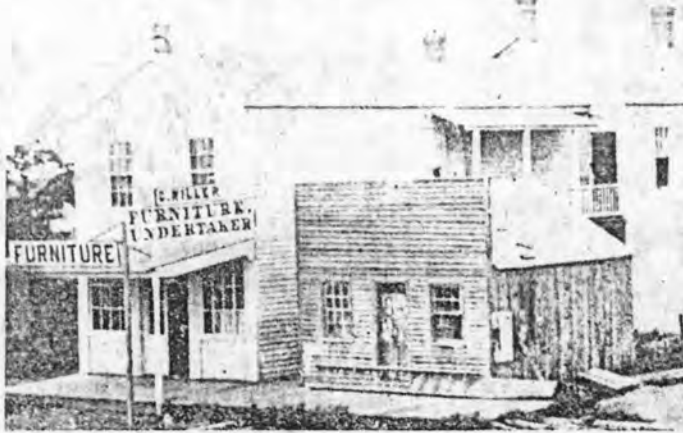
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The Opera House was, also, used for high school plays and graduation ceremonies. During the 1920's one such opera produced locally was "H. M. S. Pinafore" and one of the plays, "Patty Makes Things Hum" and several minstrels. Sometimes around 1930, when the new high school was built, the old Opera House closed. The building is now used for storage by Brown's Furniture Store.



First Miller Furniture Store, stood where Dr. J. H. Tomei's office is now.



DOBYNS Lumber Co. in 1905. This building stood just where the one today does.



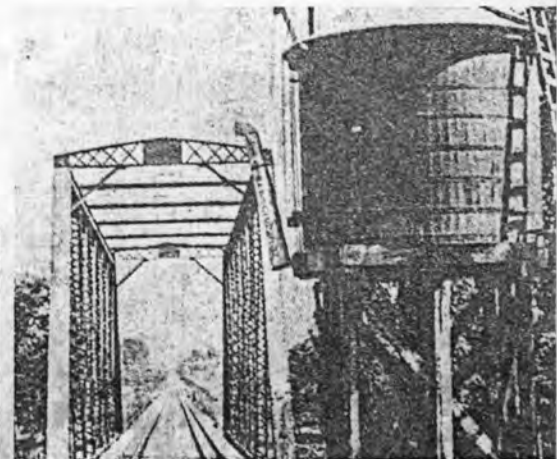
Freight Depot-Shelbina



Shelbina Sewer Plant



Town and Country Swimming Pool



Shelby County Railroad Bridge and Water Ta



Memo From

Buddus White - Miller

# LOIS GRAVES

Shelbina, Missouri 63468

90 years

To

1888

(Fred - Charles)

Date

Plays (monthly)

East Lynne - Uncle Tom's Cabin

the Court of Monte Cristo +

Little Lord Fauntleroy

Boxing Matches

Traveling Minstrel Shows (William Jennings Bryan)

less expensive seats under balcony  
gallery (negroes)

(footlights) Kerosene lamps down center aisle

stems pot-bellied

(Joby + Lucie)  
Crew

small windows heat in summer

Grace Broughton (high school play)  
small girl Pink crepe paper dress

Virginia Moore graduate from stage  
1920

Boxing Matches

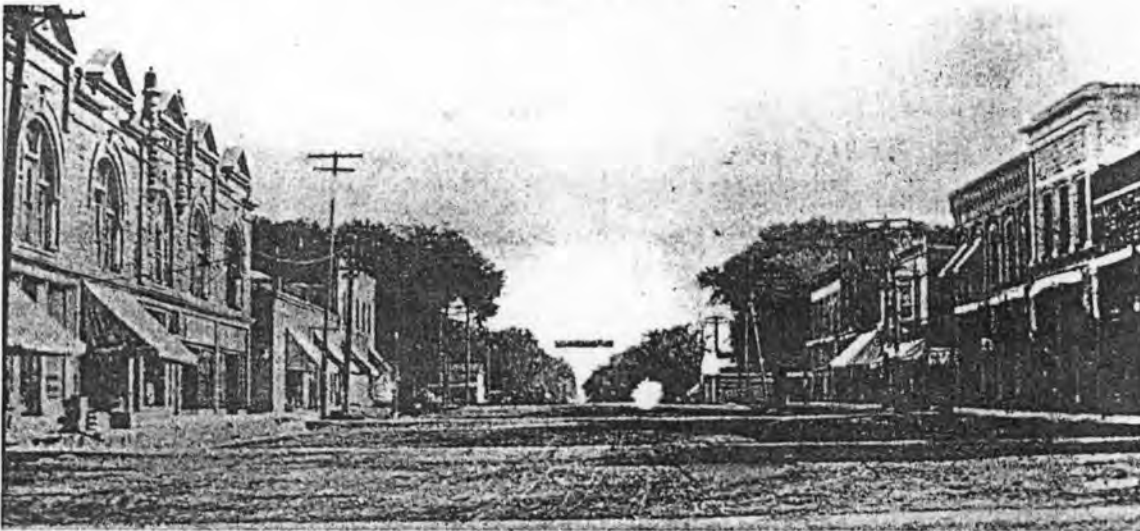
Mutt + Katch - Bub Cooney

Brook Russell  
Has Piano

(Walt Lucas watched matches)



# Shelbina



Pre-paved Center street



Main street looking North.



Main street looking South.

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started at the east edge of Shelbina, curving to the northwest and intersected Highway 15 three blocks north of the old highway, continuing west to intersect the original highway at the west edge of the city. More than a block of houses were either torn down or moved to provide a clover-leaf at the intersection of the two highways; this clover-leaf was never constructed, however. Some of the houses which were relocated north of the new highway and east of Highway 15, was made into a new addition to the city and called 'Threlkeld's Addition'.

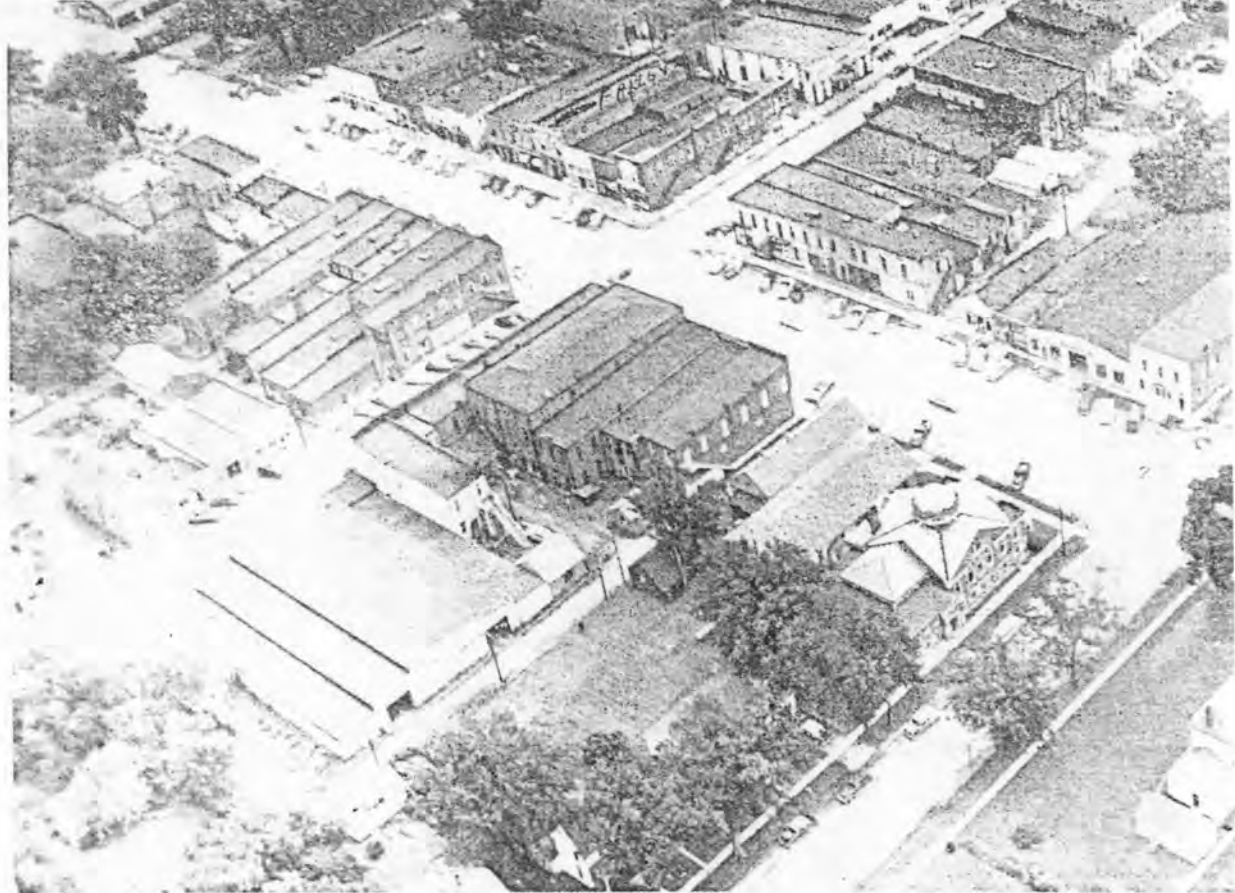
In 1967, "The Shelby Plaza", a new shopping center, was opened just north of the new Highway 36. There are seven places of business in the Plaza at this time. Also, a large grocery, two motels, two restaurants and two service stations adjoining.

The Salt River Nursing Home was built in 1971-72 just west of the new shopping center and was opened in January, 1973. It is a beautiful, modern 120 bed home - one Shelby County citizens can be proud of.

The Town and Country swimming pool (a private one) was built in the 1960's.

In 1867 the city began plans on major water system improvements and voters approved a \$150,000 bond issue for this purpose.

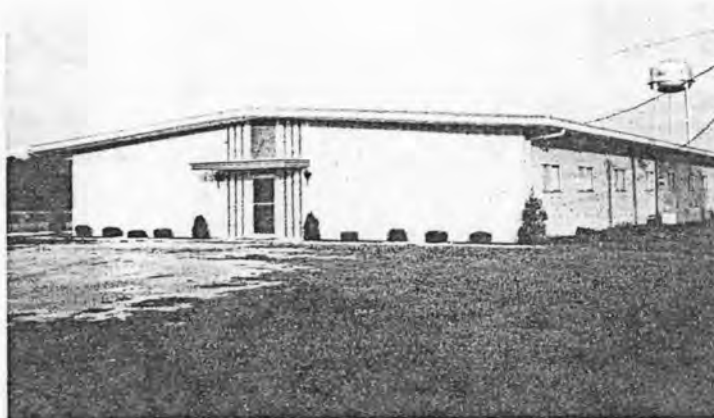
This same year a contract was signed to have natural gas and construction got underway on both water and gas improvements.



Aerial view of Shelbina taken in 1957.



Main Street looking north in 1972.



Father Buhman Community Center



Salt River Nursing Home opened Janu



St. Charles County

# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Augusta Historical Society/Friends of Historic Augusta

What historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Augusta sponsored theater in its Harmonie-Verein Hall in the 1800s.  
Drama was a prominent art at churches and school in the 1900. The village  
had no theater building per se.

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

_____ books about specific theatres	_____
_____ photographs	_____
<u>X</u> newspaper articles	<u>(German) St. Charles Demokrat, 1800s</u>
_____ scrapbooks	_____
_____ county or town histories	_____
_____ other, please specify	_____

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

Palosis Theater of St. Louis played in Augusta 1879, 1880 (See above newspaper  
22 May 1879, 22 Jan 1880).  
St. Charles entertainment group "The Clerks" played Augusta 1897. (See 26.11.  
What days and times is your library open to the public? \_\_\_\_\_ 1897 newspaper)

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

Who is the best person to contact for more information? \_\_\_\_\_ Translator and book author

Anita M. Mallinckrodt, PhD - 314/228-4821 (498 Schell Rd., Augusta, MO 63332)

**Thank you for your assistance.**

Thank you for your donation to Friends of

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203

Historic Augusta.

Anita Mallinckrodt



September 10, 1997

Becky L. Snider  
1008 Sunset Drive  
Columbia, MO 65203

Dear Ms. Snider:

We have received your letter concerning the old theatres, etc., in St. Charles. We do have considerable information in our files on these theatres. None of the ones you mentioned are still in existence. But most of the buildings still stand. There is material on newer theatres also.

We are enclosing a card which contains our hours and other information. If you do your own research, we charge \$2.50 per day and 15 cents for copies. If we research for you, we charge \$8.00 per hour. It would probably run approximately \$20.

We are enclosing a few samples so that you have an idea of what is here.

Sincerely,

*Carole Weckert, Archivist (5)*

*Lucille*

Lucille Shelton, Researcher

## STRAND THEATRE FIRM HAS

### DISSOLVED PARTNERSHIP

— 1921

1921

J. Hoffman and Sam Steinberg who have been operating the Strand Theatre have dissolved partnership, Mr. Hoffman retiring and Mr. Steinberg will continue the business. These men came here from St. Louis about three months ago. Two weeks ago they purchased the lease on the Grand Opera House. Mr. Steinberg says he is going to give St. Charles the best pictures that can be secured and hopes the public will continue to give him liberal patronage.



### THE LYRIC AIRDOME

The Lyric Airdome, the Family Theatre has opened for the summer season and will present an excellent selection of pictures to its patrons. May 10—"McFadden's Flats", May 13—"Somebody's Mother." A Benefit for Emmaus Mothers Home. May 16—"Lost World," May 21—"College Days", May 24 and 25—"Gaustark", May 30—"Spirit of Lafayette", June 6—"Abe Lincoln". Admission prices



# Theatre Reality Still a Question

## Curtains-Up In St. Charles?

By WENDY BLUMENTHAL  
Feature Editor

The dust of the old St. Charles Theatre and Opera House has settled.

As it settled, the dreams of 100 years of vaudeville and theatre in St. Charles have all faded; save for those of the Opera House's last tenants, Friends of the Director, Ltd.

Frank and Sandy Wersching, the backbone of Friends of the Director, Ltd. are confident they will have another theatre. The only question is where.

The Werschings and their steering committee are studying potential locations for their theatre's new home. A front runner is the century old Grand Opera House, located above The Famous store at 311 N. Main St.

"At this point, the Famous building is one of the leading possibilities, but it's not the only one. We like the St. Charles community and we've received support from the business community to re-establish here. But, now that the ordeal of the other theatre is past, we have time to sit back and organize first," Wersching said.

Wersching is understandably both cautious and optimistic when he talks about again bringing theatre to life in St. Charles.

"There are three groups of people who should be involved in this project," the director explained. "The first is a board of directors. At this point we're interviewing people in the community who might assume a position on this board. The second group is the steering committee, which has already been formed and has around 50 people. From this group all the smaller committee activities will work.

"Finally, we're looking for the names and addresses of all the people in the community who will support the theatre by attending performances."

Because Friends of the Director, Ltd. are affiliated with Urban Renewal, Wersching pointed out that his group needs to prove that the Famous building is the most logical relocation site before plans move from the drawing board. They also have to demonstrate that the community is interested.

The Famous Building and its Grand Opera House are owned by Irvin Koplowitz. While the Opera has not housed live theatre for almost 50 years, those who attended graduation and dan-

ces there in the ensuing years could view the curling poster and Victorian appointments which still remain.

"We've come to a tentative agreement with Koplowitz on a reasonable rent and a long term lease," Wersching noted. "Koplowitz is also interested in having a theatre in the Main Street area."

Koplowitz told the Journal that he hasn't "really gone into the specifics of a lease," but he is definitely behind the Werschings in their attempt to re-establish theatre in the community.

"I think they'd prefer this location above the others they're considering in St. Louis and I believe having a theatre here would help draw people downtown," Koplowitz said.

The Grand Opera House, which Wersching believes could seat 300 to 400 patrons, will be 100 years old in 1976. While its historical aspects are an attraction, Wersching estimates that \$50,000 to \$200,000 worth of renovation would be required before the first curtain goes up.

"We've had a preliminary structural test made by a private firm and we have every indication that the building is structurally sound," he commented. "But to comply with city standards, a complete study must be made. Fire and safety regulations must be complied with and our biggest alteration will be making a rear entrance. This will make us a first floor enterprise, facilitate parking and eliminate walking up steps."

Where will the money come from? The decision will rest with the new Board of Directors. One possibility Wersching sees is applying for Bicentennial funds, since the building will be 100 years old on the nation's 200th birthday.

As for past debts, Wersching said that "Most of our creditors have encouraged our growth and suggest we try to establish another theatre here and pay off what we owe as we can."

"I think you have to remember that we were successful before. In our 18 months we had 20 productions, 12 full credit college courses, numerous classes for children through high school students and youth group participation. The theatre would not only be of an artistic, but of civic interest as well. I know there's enough people in this community to support this project. But if theatre stays in St. Charles it must be through a total community effort."



### Reminders of the Past

Faded posters which date back 50 years and ornate appointments found in the Grand Opera House bring the building's past use and potential future closer together.

*See next page*

# Opera House

TONY HAAKE, *Manager.*

*St. Charles, Mo., March 1, 1905.*

ERNEST CRAWFORD

in the new Four-Act War Drama

## "A Russian Spy"

### CAST OF CHARACTERS.

COUNT IVAN PETROSKY, A Russian Spy known as Dr. Petri-----	MR. ERNEST CRAWFORD
Harold Horton, a wealthy young man about town-----	Mr. H. Howard Harding
Timothy Skinner, a wharf rat in San Francisco-----	Mr. Edwin B. Hadsall
Bill Ralston, a gambler-----	Mr. Charles Williams
Gen. Hitomara, Governor of New Chwang--	Mr. Wm. Bach Jr.
Capt. Matsada, a Japanese Officer-----	Mr. Claude Russell
Kai-Kau, a Singalese strangler-----	Mr. Daniel E. Hogan
Nun Raswan, Korean High Priest-----	Mr. Charles A. Zitz
Henry, Horton's man-----	Mr. Louis Miller
Japanese Officer-----	Mr. Adam Sandford
Mrs. Bessie Horton, Harold's mother-----	Miss Marie Crane
Victoria Webster, Mrs. Horton's niece-----	Miss Regna Aus
Aya-San, daughter of Gen. Hitomara-----	Miss Lillian May
Kat-i-shi-ha, Aya-San's aunt-----	Miss Daisy Gunn
Susan, Mrs. Horton's maid-----	Miss Florence Martin
Yo. San, Aya-San's baby sister-----	Baby Fontella

### SYNOPSIS.

ACT I—The Horton Mansion on Nob Hill, San Francisco.

ACT II—The Gardens and Gambling House, Chemulpoo, Korea.

ACT III—Ante-Room in Governor's Palace, New Chwang, Korea.

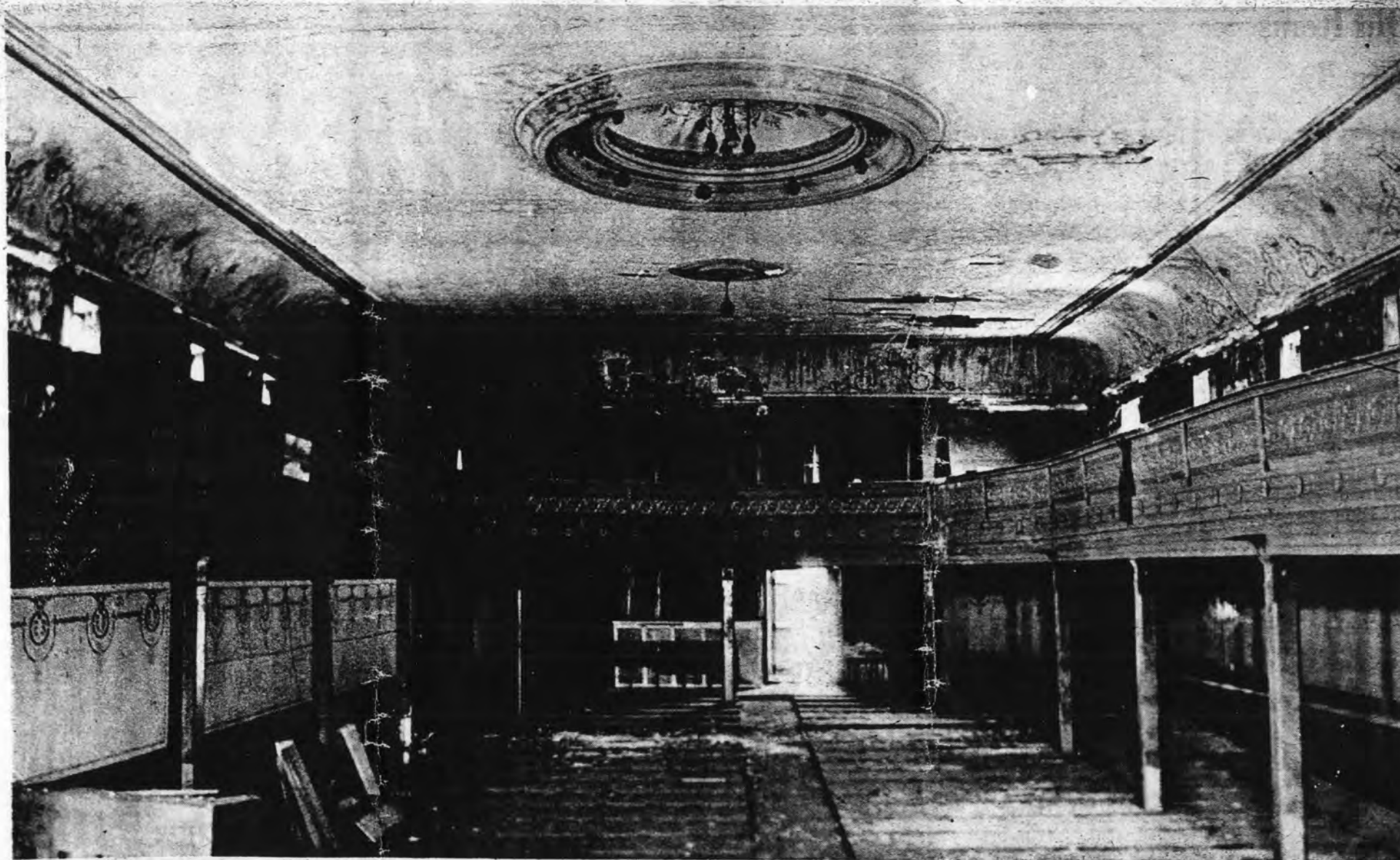
ACT IV—Zenda Vesta Temple on Korean Coast.

### SPECIALTIES.

ACT I—Comedy Songs.

ACT II—Japanese Songs.





### *The Grand Opera House*

A view of the interior of the old Grand Opera House, found upstairs of the Famous Building at 311 N. Main. The old theatre, which dates back almost 100 years, is one of the locations that

Friends of the Director are considering for re-establishing live theatre in St. Charles. Initial plans call for retaining the original name of Grand Opera House.

7-2-74



# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## St. Clair County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Opera House

Appelton City

yes ☒ no ☒

Durley Hall

yes ☒ no ☐

House's Opera House

yes ☐ no ☒

Calendar Hall

Osceola

yes ☐ no ☐

*enclosed*

*not much still standing used as apt.*

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Opera House

Appelton City

yes ☐ no ☒

Durley Hall

yes ☐ no ☒

House's Opera House

yes ☐ no ☒

Calendar Hall

Osceola

yes ☐ no ☒

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Opera House

Appelton City

yes ☐ no ☐

Durley Hall

yes ☒ no ☐

House's Opera House

yes ☐ no ☐

Calendar Hall

Osceola

yes ☒ no ☐

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area?

*Lowry City "Opera House" still standing above a restaurant.*

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

☐ books about specific theatres

☒ photographs

☐ newspaper articles

☐ scrapbooks

☒ county or town histories

☐ other, please specify

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

*no*

What days and times is your library open to the public?

*Mon-Fri 8-5*  
*Sat 8-12*

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

*no*

Who is the best person to contact for more information?

*Librarian Margaret Smith*

**Thank you for your assistance.** Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203

*Missouri History*  
*Henry, County, Mo. History*  
*St. Clair County, Mo. History*  
*Ref. 977*

THE  
HISTORY  
OF  
39  
Henry AND St. Clair Counties,

MISSOURI

CONTAINING

A HISTORY OF THESE COUNTIES, THEIR CITIES, TOWNS, ETC., ETC.,

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF THEIR CITIZENS, GENERAL AND LOCAL STATISTICS, HISTORY OF MISSOURI, MAP OF HENRY AND ST. CLAIR COUNTIES, ETC.

ILLUSTRATED.

12255  
ST. JOSEPH, MO.:

NATIONAL HISTORICAL COMPANY,  
1883.

is anxious and willing to work in harmony with people of its own county, and contend for trade and mastery by business energy. This is the right spirit, and Appleton City has grown and prospered since it has taken this course. The county seat craze made, however, sad havoc with its early prosperity. Since 1876, it has made wonderful progress.

In 1878, A. D. LaDue and A. F. Wyckoff, each, laid out a part of lot 1, of section 5, and in 1880, A. Buskirk plotted a part of lot 2, north-east quarter of section 5, as additions to the city.

Up to 1876, the town had no brick buildings within its limits, in fact, its main street was like all railroad towns, nearly all being one story buildings. W. D. Clark, that year, built the first brick, being a two story business house, which he occupied as a grocery store. On January 1, 1883, there were seventeen brick and stone buildings in the city. That the business of the city may be known in future years, we give from the Journal of the city, Charles Hilton, editor and publisher, the following brief synopsis of its business interests:

It says: When we consider the fact that not half the soil of the country tributary to Appleton City has ever been under cultivation, the result in the building up and advanced progress of Appleton City, has been a wonderful success. With an inexhaustible supply of coal, water plenty, and other favorable conditions, we believe that almost any branch of manufacturing would find this a good point.

The first good grain elevator between Sedalia and Fort Scott was built at this place by Luchsinger & Streiff, in 1881. It is now occupied by G. W. Johns & Co. Wyckoff & McFarlane have just completed an elevator, and these two firms, having each ample warehouse room, are handling an immense amount of grain and seeds.

Fourth Street is the principal business street of the city, is macadamized with the blue limestone that abounds in the vicinity.

The pride of our city is Durley Hall, built in 1881 by our townsman, H. W. Grantley, containing one of the finest opera halls in Southwest Missouri, and is the pride of our city. It is a magnificent two story brick, 110 feet deep, fifty feet wide and forty-five feet in height, and cost \$20,000. It has a front and rear entrance, the former eight feet wide, leading to the hall by an easy stairway. The lower story contains two fine stores, and the upper or second story is given, with the exception of two front rooms, entirely to the hall and its dressing rooms, etc. The hall was named after a friend of the proprietor who resides at Bloomington, Illinois, in which city is another opera house of the same name. The Durley Opera House stands as a monument of business energy and enterprise in which the proprietor, as well as the citizens can feel a just pride.

From the first Appleton City commanded the trade of a large extent of country and as the fertile lands were put under the plow and the natural

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Older Feed Stores-Ed Elder, Charles Duvall.

Beauty Shops-Velma Johnson, Pauline Atwell, Mary Moran Colley, Mrs. Grady Nash, Edith Whetstone, Shirley Wright, Jimmie Dickinson, Ruth Owens.

In former years there were two banks, The Farmers State and the Lowry City Bank. A new drive-in bank building has been erected by the Lowry City Bank. Their grand opening was March 21, 1971.

Suiter & McClain were in the hardware business here for a number of years. Mr. McClain and son, Clarence, were the managers. Mr. Suiter lived in Warsaw. Besides hardware, they sold windmills, farm implements, buggies and wagons, paints, etc. Schell Douglass was their maintenance man and pipe fitter. After the death of Clarence McClain, Schell Douglass was manager until the business was sold to Mr. S. P. Eversole.

"The Opera House" is a pleasant memory. It was the setting for silent movies, commencement exercises, home talent plays, The Roving Minstrels, Revival Meetings, roller skating rink, political rallies, school plays, etc. The player piano was a main attraction and it was quite an honor to be chosen to manipulate it.

Later businesses are Scott's Mobile Homes, Elton's T. V. Repair Shop, City Tavern, The Country Store and Scotgas Company. New businesses along the Highway are Patio Drive-In, Manuel Auto Parts, Chester Realty, Nu Charm Beauty Shoppe, Davis Barber Shop, Skelly Oil Station, Derby Service Station, Smitty's Merchantile, MFA Insurance, Hart's Motel and Restaurant and Hart's Apco Filling Station.

Mercantile - Schmitt & Boots, M. C. Rule, Morris Steinberg, Hunter & Haverland, Wynes Bros., Sid Alexander, Browning & Cooper, E. M. Cooper, B. & L. Market.

Grocers - J. Belt Hammond, Burr Bell & Son, Dowdy Shoemaker, Lester Murray, John Park, Charles & Billy Rambo, W. H. Dawson Hardware & Groceries, Gordon Grocery, Clem Browning, Floyd Buskirk, Walter Witham, Charles Tucker, Ned Murray, Billy Murray.

Hardware - Bunch & Sons, Shoemaker & Clayton, Scott's Super Stores.

Restaurants - Perry Hagan, George Kitterman, Roy Foster Don and Blanche Hoover, Jim (son, S. M. LaRue, and present

Jewelers - Eli Neuenschwan

Hotels - Vannice Hotel, Sch Miss Anna Kubachek (Cottage I

Telephone Operators - Effie Edna Moore Daugherty, Essie Lyon, Leona Sorter.

Real Estate - LaRue Reading R. D. Gordon, G. W. Witty, C.

Barbers - C. E. Breon, Ar Douglass, Fred Wears, Everet

Milliners - Mrs. Cora Ha Hettie Snyder.

Livery Stables - Sam Rooks ley Park, Tom Sanders & Elme

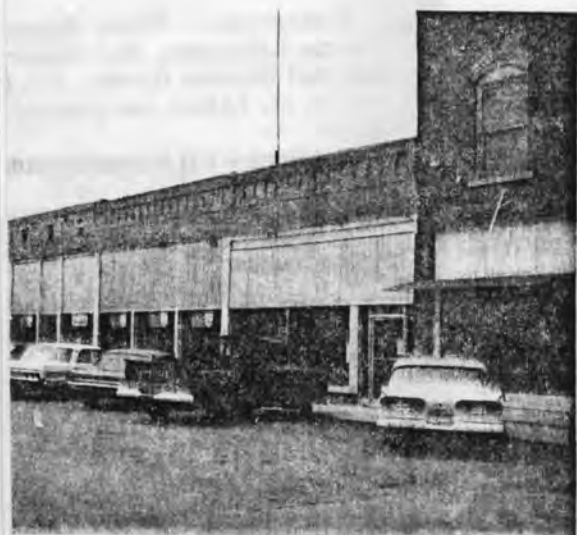
Flour Mill & Elevator - M.

Blacksmiths - Tom Yost, J Raney, Charlie Jones, Carl Lawler, Walter Van Gorden, Or

Doctors - Leo S. Wright, M Stratton, M. D., Edwin Peelo Arthur E. Bourland, D. C.

Garages - Edgar Hillegas, George DeLozier, Harve Gilber Clyde Armstrong, James Sha M. L. Gifford Repair Shop.

The Capitol Garage and Servi Bales and J. C. Sullivan. They end of Main Street for six yea the present Capitol Garage. Th Mr. Sullivan carried on the bu after the death of Mr. Bales. Mrs. Sullivan sold the busines who are the present day owners



## SCOTT'S SUPER STORES

\* \*

mer desire was satisfied with the coming of to the area, and hundreds of people were anges, heaters, furnaces, water heaters, etc. demand rose, the Scotts started handling gas, under the Scotgas name.

e expanded demand for LP gas for cooking e Scotts built the first stage of a modern and bottling plant on South Hiway 13, on land Donovan Scott home. The initial plant had two rage tanks. Thus in 1955 was born a new y City, being known as the Scotgas Division The following year a third 6000 gallon tank two years later, a 12,000 gallon storage, making a total of 30,000 gallon storage.

1400 gallon delivery bulk truck, the Scotts elivering in one 2000 gallon and one 2200 t. These delivery trucks are backed up by h trucks especially equipped to take care service requirements of the operation. Cur- ts operate seven Radio-controlled trucks City store, in conjunction with three at the

In the spring of 1952, R. O. and Donovan Scott, in partnership with Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Scott, purchased the Clyde Forrest Home Furnishings Co., in Osceola, and changed the name of that store to the Scott Furniture Co. 2 years later the partnership purchased the Nash Furniture store, and combined the two Osceola stores, into one store on the Osceola square.

After purchase of the Osceola store, the Lowry City store showed a small stock of furniture in the limited space available in the balcony of the hardware building. The store was now renamed Scotts Stores, to reflect the multiple location factor.

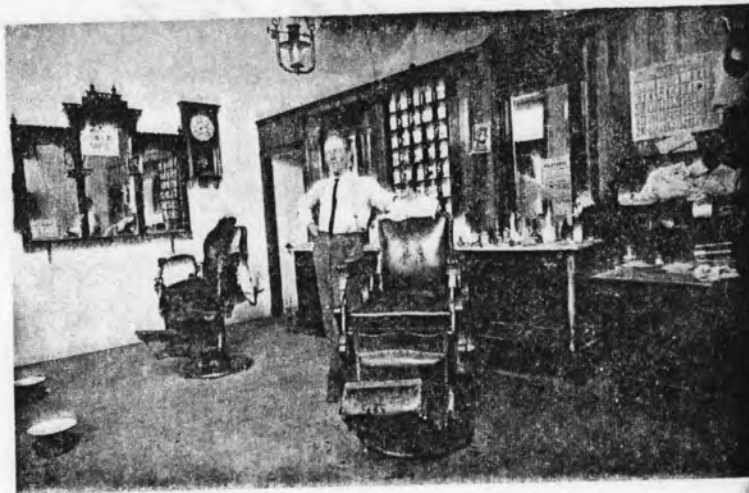
The Jesse Daugherty grocery, 306 Main, just north of the Scott Store, was closed in December 1951, upon Mr. Daugherty's retirement, and this building was purchased by the Scotts from R. D. Gordon, and after making new doorways and entrances between the two buildings, this new acquisition was stocked with an expanded line of home furnishings.

When the Scotts observed their 10th anniversary, in June 1957, the community was aware of a quite different store than that known 10 years previous. By this time, they no longer carried fencing, roofing, and glass, but were rapidly moving into a complete home furnishings department store.

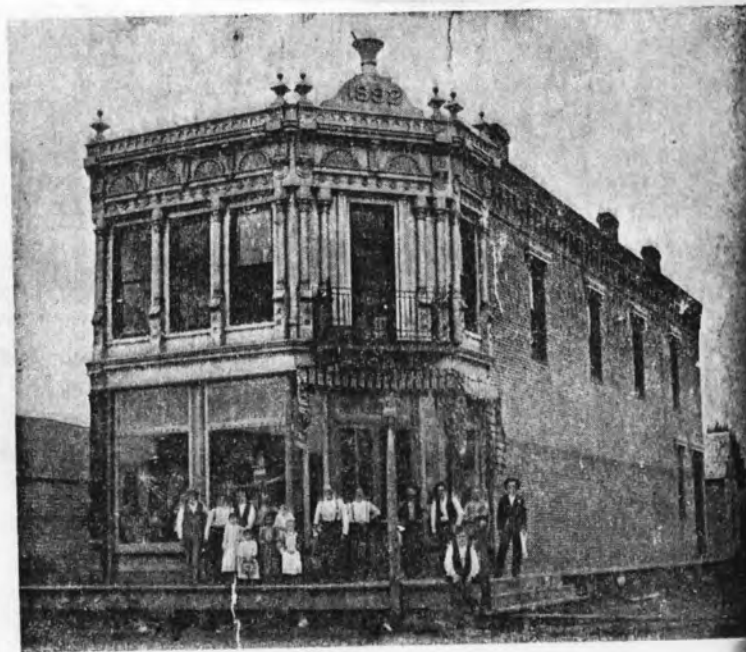
In the following decade, Scotts absorbed the old Theatre building to the south, and had purchased the old Austin building to the north, as well as the burned-out building, formerly housing the Neilsen Tire Shop, which burned in 1957. These newly-acquired buildings were now housing various departments in the expanding business.

Those hundreds of people who attended the Scott's 2 day Twentieth Anniversary Open House in June, 1967, noted that not only had the store stock changed, but that the name was now appropriately called Scott's Super Stores. They were now able to shop leisurely through the five air-conditioned Scott buildings housing one of the largest selections of merchandise in West Central Missouri.

Two years later, the burned out building at 304 Main was all torn out and completely rebuilt and thus formed the final bridge to bind together the six inter-connected buildings extending from 302 through 312 Main Street. In a five-year remodeling program begun in 1965, these six buildings, all with different type store fronts, were now combined into a



ELMER BREON IN HIS BARBER SHOP.



NEWELL DRUG STORE 1892

Opera House over store on location of present Corner  
Cafe.



IN TELEPHONE

Frank Kirtley, Dorothy  
Daugherty at switchboard



ALBERT NEUENSCHWAN  
COUNTER IN HIS STORE.



from Lowry City Centennial book

1971

ELMER BREW IN HIS BAKERY SHOP

NEWELL DRUG STORE 1923

1916

85-

# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## St. Francois County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

I.O.O.F. Opera House	Farmington	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Lyric Theatre		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lyceum	Bonne Terre	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

I.O.O.F. Opera House	Farmington	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lyric Theatre		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Lyceum	Bonne Terre	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

I.O.O.F. Opera House	Farmington	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lyric Theatre		yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Lyceum	Bonne Terre	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

<input type="checkbox"/> books about specific theatres	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> photographs	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> newspaper articles	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> scrapbooks	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> county or town histories	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, please specify	_____

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

What days and times is your library open to the public? 10 AM - 5 PM - Mon - Thru Friday  
Sat - 10 AM - 2 PM - Farmington Public Library - Hours -

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

NO

Who is the best person to contact for more information? \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your assistance.**

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203

over

There is some information available on  
other Theatres- in ST FRANCOIS County-

I have in my private collection- some articles  
and pictures- I could copy for you.

Farmington- had three other theatres locations  
The - Show - Monarch + Ritz - All-gone-

Flat-River - or Park Hills- - Roseland still in use

Elvins- Regal gone

Desloge Grand gone

Bonne Terre- Ocean- gone

Lendwood - gone

Some photos of these would be available.

Let me know if can be of further help.

I checked with Fgtn Library- they dont have much  
if any-

I could also get you address of Park Hills and  
Bonne Terre Library- .

Yours

Jack Clay

Corresponding Sec.

Historical Society

P.O. Box 575

Farmington Mo 63640



## SW-AS-036-079

1. NO. 177		4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) Lyceum		1. NO. 177	
2. COUNTY St. Francois		5. OTHER NAME(S)		2. COUNTY St. Francois	
3. LOCATION OF NEGATIVES				4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) Lyceum	
6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP _____ RANGE _____ SECTION _____ IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS 120 East School Street		16. THEMATIC CATEGORY Entertainment		28. NO. OF STORIES 1.5	
7. CITY OR TOWN IF RURAL, VICINITY Bonne Terre		17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD ca. 1890		29. BASEMENT? YES (X) Below Grade NO ( )	
8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION		18. STYLE OR DESIGN Italianate		30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL Stone/Even Course	
		19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER		31. WALL CONSTRUCTION Wood Frame	
		20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER		32. ROOF TYPE AND MATERIAL Gable/Composition	
		21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT Theater		33. NO. OF BAYS FRONT 3 SIDE 7	
		22. PRESENT USE Athletic Club		34. WALL TREATMENT Weatherboard Siding	
		23. OWNERSHIP PUBLIC ( ) PRIVATE (X)		35. PLAN SHAPE Rectangular	
		24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS IF KNOWN City of Bonne Terre		36. CHANGES (EXPLAIN IN NO. 42) ADDITION (X) ALTERED ( ) MOVED ( )	
9. COORDINATES UTM LAT LONG		25. OPEN TO PUBLIC? YES (X) NO ( )		37. CONDITION INTERIOR EXTERIOR Good	
10. SITE ( ) STRUCTURE ( ) BUILDING (X) OBJECT ( )		26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION		38. PRESERVATION UNDERWAY? YES ( ) NO (X)	
11. ON NATIONAL REGISTER? YES ( ) NO ( )		27. OTHER SURVEYS IN WHICH INCLUDED		39. ENDANGERED? BY WHAT? YES ( ) NO (X)	
12. IS IT ELIGIBLE? YES ( ) NO ( )				40. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD? YES (X) NO ( )	
13. PART OF ESTAB. HIST. DISTRICT? YES ( ) NO ( )				41. DISTANCE FROM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD	
14. DISTRICT POTENTIAL? YES ( ) NO ( )					
15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT					
42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES				PHOTO MUST BE PROVIDED	
43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE					
44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS					
45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION		46. PREPARED BY Thomason and Assoc.		6. TOWNSHIP	
		47. ORGANIZATION		RANGE	
RETURN THIS FORM WHEN COMPLETED TO: OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION P.O. BOX 176 JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102		48. DATE 8/89		SECTION	
IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED, ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET(S) TO THIS FORM		49. REVISION DATE(S)			

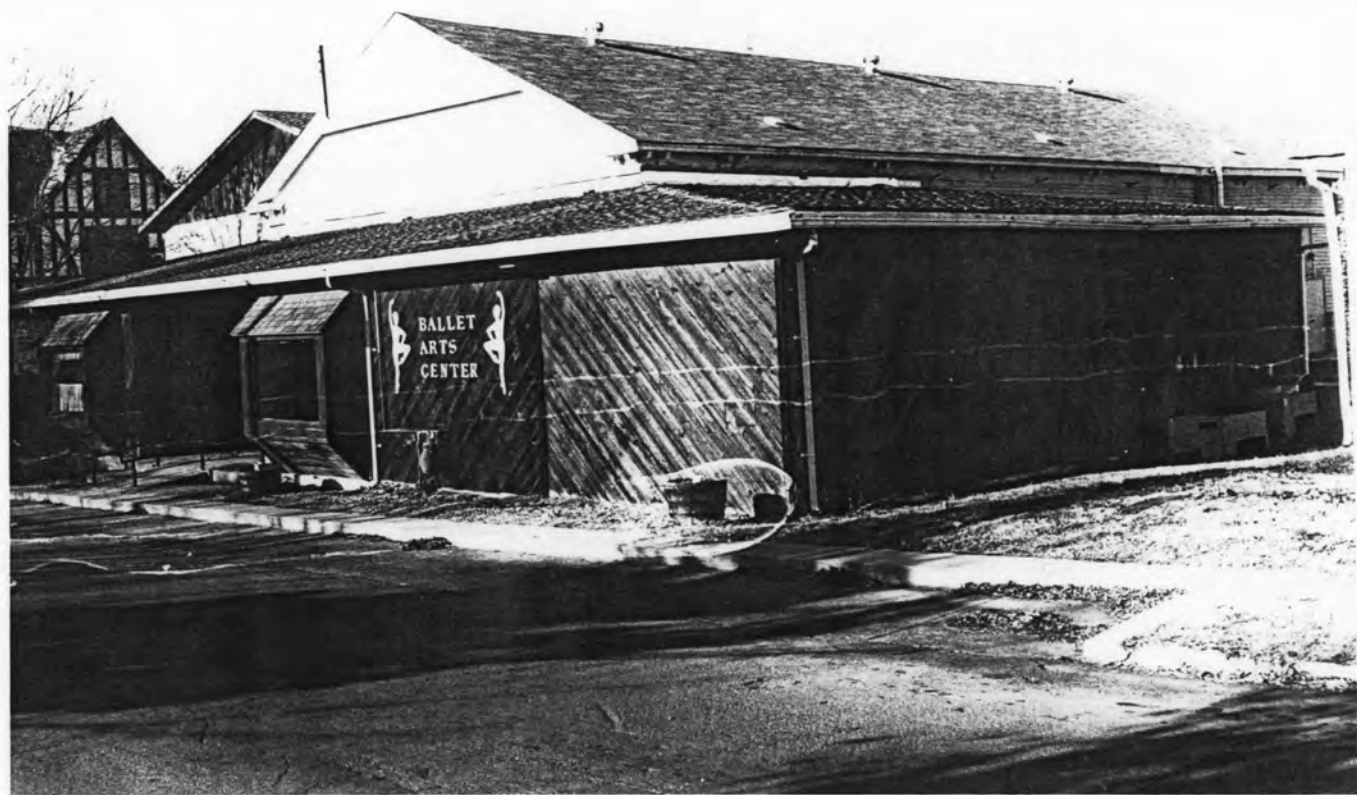
Property # 177/ 120 E. School Street - Lyceum

42. Architectural Description: The Lyceum is a 1 story frame, 3 bay, rectangular plan, gable front building built ca. 1890. The building has a stone foundation, gable roof with composition shingles, bracketed cornice and weatherboard siding. Within the gable field on the main facade are wood shingles. Windows on the side facades are 6/6 light rectangular wood sash. To the rear is ca. 1900 addition with concrete foundation, gable roof with composition shingles, 6/6 light rectangular wood sash windows and weatherboard siding. Attached to the main facade is a 1 story frame, 7 bay, ca. 1980 addition. The addition has a shed roof, vertical frame siding, bay windows and metal frame entrance doors. To the left side facade is detached 2 story concrete block addition connected to the original building by an enclosed passageway.

43. History and Significance: The Lyceum has lost its original architectural character due to the addition on the main facade. However, it is one of the original social buildings constructed by the St. Joseph Company in the late 1880s. It was built as a meeting hall and theater building by the company and was a center for entertainment for many decades.

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings: The Lyceum located on E. School Street is sited on a rectangular urban lot in a commercial section of Bonne Terre.

45. Sources of Information: "A History of the St. Joseph Lead Company."







Ralph Perry, veteran theater buff, recalls the Missouri Theatre, Grand and Washington, at right, where a precision line of dancing girls called the Missouri Rockets was presented by Russell Markert. He later took them to New York's Radio City Music Hall where their successors still appear, internationally known as the Rockettes.



## 25 famous St. Louis theaters

Many of nation's greatest entertainers graced their stages in early 1900s

BY BOB GODDARD

Globe-Democrat Amusement Editor

The byline on this story is purely a formality, as I am serving more as presenter than writer. So just consider me your friendly neighborhood "emcee," stepping in briefly from the wings to introduce, stage front and center, a man and his star-spangled memories.

Ralph Perry, 74, of Alton, Ill., retired advertising manager of the Tri-City Grocery Co., has been carrying on a lifelong romance with the theater. And, as a man never forgets his "first love," his recollections of yesterday's great stage stars have never dimmed. Perry admits that, as he grows older, he sometimes has trouble remembering events of a couple of months ago, but he challenges any theater buff in town to contradict him on his crystal-clear memories of 25 theaters that flourished in St. Louis many moons ago.

Okay, Mr. Perry, take over. The stage is all yours.

"As you know, movies and TV can never replace the joy of seeing live performances on stage, and St. Louis was a hub for such shows in bygone days. It was the fourth largest city in the U.S. when most of the theaters on my list were in their prime. St. Louis and Chicago were the two big railroad centers of the nation, making it easy for traveling theatrical companies to come here and for attracting visitors to many theaters, heavily all located downtown, with lots of streetcar transportation, long before nearly everyone owned a car.

"So, come along with me to 25 wonderful theaters of the golden era of stage shows in St. Louis. Here they are:

**"OLYMPIA THEATRE**, Broadway and Walnut. I was 13 when my mother took me there to see the "Ziegfeld Follies of 1915." Young as I was, it made a deep impression on me. Flo Ziegfeld always had top comedians and this edition was no exception. W. C. Fields was teamed with Ed Wynn, and the cast included Bert Williams, the popular black singer-comedian. After that night, I was hooked on big shows in the legitimate theater. The Olympic was the leading house, and the biggest stars played there in the late 19th century and into the 20th until the theater's closing in 1916. Among them were Julia Marlowe, John Drew, Ethel Barrymore, Maude Adams, Margaret Anglin, Otis Skinner, Richard Mansfield, Minnie Fiske, Laurette Taylor, DeWolf Hopper and many other top names.

**"AMBASSADOR THEATRE**, 7th and Locust. It opened in August, 1926, and judging by the daily long lines of ticket buyers, this theater, in its best years, was the most popular in St. Louis history. It had the best location plus the finest attractions brought here by the Skouras brothers. Big orchestras like Paul Whiteman and Waring's Pennsylvanians kept long lines waiting. By long, I mean that each line would stretch a block up Locust and down to St. Charles Street on 7th.

"A Charleston contest brought a young girl here from Independence, Mo., to compete. Her name was Ginger Rogers, and she won easily. The most popular emcee in St. Louis history was Ed Lowry, who kept the Ambassador filled 12 hours daily. Many oldtimers will also remember the wizard of the great organ, Stuart Barrie — and it didn't hurt that he was young and handsome.

**"AMERICAN THEATRE**, 7th and Market (first location). With the closing of the Olympic Theatre, the American became the top legitimate stage in St. Louis. Everybody showed up there, from the annual visits of Thurston the magician to the Marx Brothers, along with the greatest stage plays and top stars. This policy continued for 35 years, ending May 2, 1953, with Jessica Tandy and Hume Cronyn in "The Fourposter."

"Needless to say, I was there for the closing night and have a ticket stub and program in my theater collection. True to an old tradition, the final curtain did not descend that night.

"One of the most talked-about plays to ever come here was "Strange Interlude" at the American. It ran for 4½ hours and adjourned for dinner for 80 minutes. Bob Hope was in his first book show, "Roberta," Ethel Merman in "Annie Get Your Gun," Fred Astaire in "The Band Wagon." And there was "Show Boat," several editions of "Ziegfeld Follies" and

Irving Berlin's four annual "Music Box Revues."

**"ORPHEUM THEATRE**, 9th and St. Charles. It opened with a Labor Day matinee in 1918. I was there for the very first performance of bigtime vaudeville. The one I most remember was Fred and Adele Astaire. Fred was only 19, very young to be a headliner. They came on in the deuce spot, just after the acrobats. They showed ability, and we knew they would make it big in the future.

"The Orpheum featured two-a-day vaudeville with a reserved seat policy. We saw, through the years, a wide variety, everything from Fink's Mules and one-act plays to Sophie Tucker, Sarah Bernhardt, Ted Lewis and his band, Jimmy Durante, Eddie Cantor, Fanny Brice, George Burns and Gracie Allen, Fred Allen, Jack Benny, George Jessel, Milton Berle and Lillian Russell.

"In St. Louis as well as other cities, bigtime vaudeville vanished with the invasion in the late 1920s of the beautiful, colossal movie palaces, averaging 3,000 seats, offering big musical stage shows and first-run movies on a continuous schedule at low prices. The Orpheum continued with movies for many years and was known as Loew's-Orpheum.

**"EMPRESS THEATRE**, Grand and Olive. It started out with smalltime vaudeville but through the years had various policies. Best remembered were two fine stock companies, one in the '20s and the other from 1952 through 1954. At low prices, the Empress offered excellent plays with well known stars in the leading roles. Among them: Vincent Price, June Lockhart, Miriam Hopkins, Joan Blondell, Constance Bennett, Edward Everett Horton, Billie Burke and Debbie Reynolds.

**"SHUBERT-JEFFERSON THEATRE**, 12th and Locust, in the old Union Electric Building. Here was a beautiful legitimate house. The Shubert brothers, Lee and Jake, were famous for musicals. They had the dynamic Al Jolson under a lifetime contract and he starred in several "one-man" shows here, including "Sinbad" and "Robinson Crusoe Jr."

"The Shuberts also had a different sort of musician under contract — Sigmund Romberg. When he came to the U.S. from Europe, he played piano in the Winter Garden orchestra pit. Later he wrote countless songs for annual revues and composed many operettas like "Maytime," "The Student Prince," "Blossom Time," "Desert Song" and "New Moon." They were all produced by the Shuberts, and all played the Shubert-Jefferson.

**"VICTORIA THEATRE**, on Grandel just west of Grand Avenue. It was built a few years before World War I as the home of a stock company to present plays spoken in German. The war, of course, brought this to a sudden halt, and the Victoria closed. Later, the name was changed for patriotic reasons, and it became the Liberty Theater, a movie presentation house with a large orchestra. Gene Rodemich, one of the most popular musicians in St. Louis history, was the leader.

**"PRINCESS THEATRE**, Grand and Olive. It played smalltime vaudeville and, at one time, for several years, had a popular musical tabloid stock company. In the 1920s it became the Shubert-Rialto Theatre under the supervision of the New York Shubert office, presenting musicals and plays. But it failed to attract ticket buyers, and the Shuberts pulled out in a few years. After that, movies were shown until it was remodeled in the fall of 1953 to be the second home of the American Theatre which, after several years,

moved to its present location, 9th and St. Charles.

**"GAYETY THEATRE**, 14th and Locust. Here was "refined" burlesque, as it was then advertised. Its shows were "family style" and attracted many women. It was booked by the Columbia Wheel, New York, which, like Orpheum circuit vaudeville, permitted nothing offensive or offcolor.

**"GRAND CENTRAL THEATRE**, Grand and Lucas. In the early 1920s, this was one of the two finest movie theaters in St. Louis before the big cinema palaces were built. Its biggest period was when the Warner Bros. gave it the exclusive rights to show the newest fad, "talkies," in St. Louis. It was Al Jolson's "Jazz Singer" in 1927 which made entertainment history when his magnetic voice cried out, "Folks, you ain't heard nothin' yet!" We know this new form would rock the world, and it did.

**"PARK THEATRE**, Delmar and Hamilton. Originally a large movie theater, it gained much greater recognition during the years 1914-18 when it changed its policy to musical stock company. It developed a sizable number of excellent actors who later became well known on Broadway. It presented all the operettas and musical comedies of that era. Many St. Louisans felt that this was where the idea grew for Myny Opera in Forest Park, which started in 1919.

**"MISSOURI THEATRE**, Grand and Washington. The movie-stage presentation houses, the Missouri and the Ambassador, both owned by the Skouras brothers, were the most popular of the five such theaters built in the 1920s. Various emcees were on the Missouri stage, but the most popular were banjo wizard Eddie Peabody and, from bigtime vaudeville, Frank Fay, a great monologist. Fay later appeared in the play, "Harvey," on Broadway for over four years. Eventually, he took the show on the road, and it played at the old American Theatre here.

"And it was the Missouri that brought a young man to town by the name of Russell Markert. He developed the precision line of dancing girls, the Missouri Rockets. They created an amazing number of routines. Later, Markert took them to New York's famous Radio City Music Hall, where their successors still appear, internationally known as the Rockettes.

**"ODEON THEATRE**, Grand and Finney. This was an ugly auditorium which was damaged by fire several times, but it was the home of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra for 30 years until Kiel Opera House opened in 1934. At the Odeon, in addition to the Symphony, various other attractions were offered. Probably best remembered was in 1925 when Paul Whiteman brought his 25-piece orchestra there for one night. The audience was thrilled to hear for the first time Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue."

**"HAYLIN'S THEATRE**, 6th and Walnut. Here we found stock melodrama, which was very popular at the turn of the century, much like the movie serial of 1914, "The Perils of Pauline." Every night, audiences cheered the hero, hissed the villain and loved it.

**"ST. LOUIS THEATRE**, 700 North Grand (now Powell Hall). A movie-stage presentation house, it was one of five "cinema palaces" in St. Louis history. And for me it was, by far, the most beautiful of the super cinemas. Its distinguished architecture, both exterior and interior, made it a standout, although I

can't recall that it had any outstanding stage shows. If this theater had not been so artistically designed it could never have been transformed into luxurious Powell Symphony Hall in 1968.

**"THE COLISEUM**, Jefferson and Washington. This was the only large building in St. Louis for big events before the Arena and Kiel Convention Hall were built. Here were productions too large for local theater stages. The New York Hippodrome's "The Big Show," played the Coliseum plus circuses and Wild West shows and sports events. The Veiled Prophet ball was held here for many years, also auto, home and food shows.

**"SUBURBAN GARDEN THEATRE**, in an old fashioned amusement park at the end of the old Weston streetcar line. St. Louis had four similar parks, but this was the only one with a legitimate theater. It featured nationally known stars with a local stock company.

**"CENTURY THEATRE**, in Syndicate Trust Building, 9th and Olive. This legit theater played a steady stream of oldtimers popular in the early days of this century. Two of the favorites were "In Old Kentucky" and "East Lynne."

**"IMPERIAL THEATRE**, 9th and Pine. Just another of the so-called "refined" burlesque theaters.

**"GRAND THEATRE**, 6th and Market. This remodeled auditorium was originally the Grand Opera House, dating far back into the 19th century. Its greatest popularity came in the 1920s when it thrived on large audiences at every performance. It had nine acts of smalltime vaudeville at prices everyone could afford — 10 cents, 20 cents and 30 cents. It ended its very long run, like many theaters, as a burlesque house.

**"COLUMBIA THEATRE**, 6th and St. Charles. This long-forgotten house was the first St. Louis home of bigtime vaudeville before the Orpheum opened. It presented a vast array of stars of the late 1890s up until the spring of 1918. George M. Cohan and Fred and Adele Astaire appeared in this old theater.

**"GARRICK THEATRE**, on Chestnut between 6th and Broadway. Little is known of this legitimate theater. It was dark for many years, ending up with smalltime burlesque.

**"STANDARD THEATRE**, 7th and Walnut. Evidently the Standard was built for burlesque (not converted from a previous use).

This was known in the early part of the century as a "man's theater." Very few women ever ventured inside. Back in our innocent days, it was considered very wild. Of course, it would be tame stuff in 1977. The Standard was closely watched by the gendarmes to be sure there was no nudity. However, the comedians were pretty rough for that era.

**"HIPPODROME**, on 6th between Market and Walnut. This was an unusual house, which played a wide variety of circus acts with some vaudeville thrown in. It attracted big crowds in its early years with very low prices.

**"SIR JOHN FAUST THEATRE**, in the Spanish Pavilion. Here was an interesting theater in an unusual location. But it had a short life. It was advertised as "America's Most Beautiful Proscenium Theatre," and featured a fine local stock company augmented by nationally known stars in straight plays (1908-09), including Marie Wilson, Kathryn Crosby, Virginia Graham, and Mr. and Mrs. Pat O'Brien.

"These 25 entertainment places were lots of fun in a world now gone. Here were all the great stars in person, and they'll never be replaced by movies or other mechanized shows. They are gone but never forgotten."

## Token drug war

By EDWARD W. O'BRIEN  
Chief of the Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — If you picture the United States borders as tightly guarded against drug smugglers by a solid wall of sharp-eyed customs agents, think again.

"In too many locations, our units are stretched so thinly there is no effective protection..." Customs Commission Vernon D. Acree reports.

"On a nationwide basis, coverage of the borders averages a mere one officer per 275 miles of border. We retain only a token force along the northern border, leaving hundreds of miles of border completely unprotected."

"There are fewer than 60 officers to protect the 12 north central states, including approximately 1,000 miles of border from Montana to the Great Lakes."

BECAUSE NARCOTICS profits are so huge, many big-time traffickers use modern swift aircraft. Because of lack of money, the customs service fleet has mostly castoffs from the military and other agencies.

Acree says: "The customs air interdiction fleet is no match for the aircraft used by smugglers. Our out-of-date aircraft are consistently out-distanced by the high speed, long range and well equipped aircraft of the smugglers."

"Our fleet is well advanced into obsolescence and a deteriorated state of unworthiness. Several of our most essential aircraft are either grounded or are in unsafe condition for flight due to advanced age, unavailability of spare parts, and corrosion and metal fatigue."

"As a result, although we can identify many aircraft by radar or other means which are illegally penetrating our border, we are helpless to catch them."

PUBLICATIONS DEALING with the drug culture, Acree says, tell their readers about how to "avoid and evade customs operations, explaining to smugglers that 'They can buy a plane, use it one time, and literally abandon it after they have gone into Central and South America and brought back a load of narcotics. It pays for itself many times over.'"

"We have one plane sitting at Spartanburg, S.C., airport right now, a DC-4, full of marijuana sweepings that obviously brought a load in," Acree testified recently.

"Seven men were seen getting out of the plane, and they left it there. We don't know who owns it, where it came from, or any information of that sort."

ON AN AVERAGE NIGHT, along the Mexican border alone, the Customs Service estimates, ten to 15 drug-carrying aircraft illegally enter the United States. Another federal agency, the drug enforcement administration, puts the nightly total there at 150.

Within its manpower and equipment limits, the Customs Service does what it can. But at a time of drug epidemic, the reality, says Acree as he retires, is that his agency "simply cannot cope with the increased workload demands and enormous enforcement problems it is facing."

## Lobbyist tactics

By TIM FLACH  
Chief of the Jefferson City Bureau

JEFFERSON CITY — Although most of their handiwork has been accomplished by now, lobbyists tend to become highly visible in the end games of the legislature.

Take, for example, the contretemps over whether House Speaker Kenneth J. Rothman, (D-Clayton), erred in mentioning to small loan lobbyists that they might hire a former state attorney general friendly with the legislator.

That mention was interpreted as a broad hint by the lobbyists, who promptly engaged the attorney as an expert witness on a loan interest rate increase desperately wanted.

The hiring of the attorney, Harvey M. Tuttlebaum, raised some eyebrows because Rothman's predecessor as speaker, Richard J. Rabbitt, is under federal indictment for allegedly trying to obtain legal business for a brother in return for favorable handling of legislation.

ROTHMAN, WHO strongly opposes any interest rate hike, says his mention of Tuttlebaum was done casually at a conference sought by the lobbyists to explore a compromise measure.

Tuttlebaum was in charge of consumer protection for the Missouri attorney general's staff for many years before going into private practice this year.

Many of the changes he suggested in the bill were those the industry had opposed when he tried to include them as a state official in past proposed hikes that have failed.

There are less subtle ways that lobbyists here try to influence legislators. It's not unusual to see a lawmaker rush into the chamber with an amendment to a measure freshly drafted by a lobbyist.

Another method is money. Reports filed this week by about 350 of 424 special interest-registered lobbyists showed that more than \$257,000 was spent in the first 4½ months of the session.

THE 37 LOBBYISTS for utilities — the target of Gov. Joseph P. Teasdale's anti rate hike package which died early — spent nearly \$17,000 to promote their interests alone.

Entertainment is listed on the major expense on lobbying reports, with the favors large and small. Lobbyists often pick up the tab for parties thrown by legislators. Some legislators reportedly were influenced in favor of the big truck bill by a box of fine cigars.

Campaign contributions are always plentiful from lobbyists. Legislators claim the favors don't influence them, but what would you expect them to say?

## Fast housework

By JOHN SPANO  
Chief of the Springfield, Ill., Bureau

SPRINGFIELD, ILL. — When the House of Representatives really gears up, as it has this week, a strange thing happens.

Debate often gets intense on minor points, while substantive matters are dealt with in a rapid-fire, sometimes offhand manner.

The House is struggling under a self-imposed deadline of midnight Saturday for final action on all bills introduced by representatives, except money bills. To that end, Speaker William Redmond (D-Bensenville) has held lawmakers in evening and Saturday sessions, showing a rare determination to get things done with six weeks still to go.

And as the 157-member House moves into mach speed, the excess baggage is stripped away, the normal courtesies go unobserved, and the chamber begins to take on its true appearance—a bear pit, where the real muscle is flexed out of Chicago.

A GOOD EXAMPLE was an "offer" made to downstate Wednesday night by Michael Madigan, the majority leader who cracks the whip for The Chicago machine in the House.

If you let us expand Chicago's convention center, McCormick Place, we'll let you pay for it.

Madigan delivered it straightfaced, in a flawlessly businesslike way. Grabbing the goods Wednesday was a piece of cake. If things hadn't been going so fast, maybe downstate could have held out for the Brooklyn Bridge, or the Empire State Building to boot.

When Chicago's original convention center burned to the ground in 1967, the state graciously pledged \$18 million a year in horseracing taxes and about \$15 million annually in cigarette taxes—one cent for each pack bought anywhere in Illinois—to back bonds for a new center.

McCormick place was built and the bonds repaid last year (the state still holds about \$20 million in bonds on the one that burned down). Some of the money was diverted to build convention centers downstate. But the cigarette tax diversion—which will amount to an accumulated total of some \$22 million next year—went unspoken for.

REPUBLICAN Gov. James R. Thompson wanted to use it for statewide services during his upcoming year of austerity, designed to end three successive years of deficit spending and pull the state from the edge of bankruptcy.

Mike Madigan has a different idea. The money will go to expand McCormick place—or even to build a new Chicago sports arena, if other legislation sponsored by the majority leader passes.

Madigan's "offer" passed 95-69. It was an offer which for some reason the likes of Representatives Don Brummert of Vandalia, Harold Byers of Highland, Monroe Filian of Cahokia, Joe Luco of Edwardsville, Jim McPike of Alton, John Sharp of Wood River, Waverly Young of East St. Louis, and Republican A.C. "Junie" Bartulls of Bond couldn't refuse.

*"The Orpheum featured two-a-day vaudeville . . . We saw through the years everything from Fink's Mules and one-act plays to Sophie Tucker, Sarah Bernhardt, Ted Lewis and his band, Jimmy Durante, Eddie Cantor, Fanny Brice, George Burns and Gracie Allen, Benny, Jessel, Berle and Lillian Russell."*

# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Stone County Historical Society

What historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? Movie theatres were in Crane, Mo. Galena, Mo, and Reeds Spring, Mo in early thirties and forties. They are all gone now, but the buildings are still there at Crane and Galena. The one at Reeds Spring was torn down for a parking lot.

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

\_\_\_\_\_ books about specific theatres

\_\_\_\_\_ photographs

\_\_\_\_\_ newspaper articles

\_\_\_\_\_ scrapbooks

\_\_\_\_\_ county or town histories

\_\_\_\_\_ other, please specify

Stone County library, could probably help with all of these

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

These were just movie theatres.

What days and times is your library open to the public? Mon. thru Fri, 8 to 4:30 till noon on Saturday

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

You would need to contact them

Who is the best person to contact for more information? Fred Daugherty

The Foggy River Boys had a theatre at Kimberling City for awhile, before Branson boom.

Also The Swiss Villa down by Baxter, west of Lampe, Mo, still is in operation. It is an amphitheatre and some big name people have been there.

And Artie Ayres had a country outdoor theatre at Lakeview for awhile before they changed to Branson West

**Thank you for your assistance.**  
Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203

They also have a couple of theatres at Silver Dollar City.

# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Sullivan County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Harmon Theatre Milan yes \_\_\_\_ no X

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Harmon Theatre Milan yes \_\_\_\_ no X

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Harmon Theatre Milan yes \_\_\_\_ no X

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? ALMOST ALL TOWNS IN THE COUNTY HAD AN OPERA HOUSE UNTIL MOVIE CAME. NONE EXIST NOW EXCEPT FOR AN OLD BUILDING OR TWO CALLED OPERA HOUSES

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

<input type="checkbox"/> books about specific theatres	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> photographs	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> newspaper articles	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> scrapbooks	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> county or town histories	<u>OFTEN MENTION OLD THEATERS</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> other, please specify	_____

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

ONE VAUDEVILLE BROCHURE

What days and times is your library open to the public? OPEN TUESDAY MAY THROUGH SEPTEMBER. OTHER TIMES BY APPOINTMENT.

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

YES.

Who is the best person to contact for more information? \_\_\_\_\_

MILDRED BALDRIDGE

816-265-3476

**Thank you for your assistance.**

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203



# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Texas County Missouri Genealogical and Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Opera House Cabool yes \_\_\_\_ no X

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Opera House Cabool yes \_\_\_\_ no X

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Opera House Cabool yes \_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

\_\_\_\_ books about specific theatres \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ photographs \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ newspaper articles \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ scrapbooks \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ county or town histories \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

None that we know of.

What days and times is your library open to the public? \_\_\_\_\_

~~Each Tuesday from 10:00 a. to 3:00 pm.~~ \_\_\_\_\_

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

~~Sometimes--if the President and or the Corresponding Sec. is ava available.~~

Who is the best person to contact for more information? Velma E. Adams, Corresp. Sec.

**Thank you for your assistance.**

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203



TEXAS COUNTY MISSOURI  
GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 12, HOUSTON, MO. 65483

6 October 1997

Ms. Becky Snider  
1008 Sunset Drive  
Columbia, MO 65203

Dear Ms. Snider:

Sorry to be so long in answering your request about the Cabool Opera House.

I had a great deal of trouble finding someone who had even heard of the Opera House. First I talked to our local attorney who lives in Cabool. He told me he vaguely remembered his parents mentioning it. He knew where it was located before it burned. He knew nothing of it otherwise. He suggested Mrs. Simonsen.

Then I called Mrs. Walter Simonsen--Mrs. Walter at 320 Grant ave.; Cabool, Mo. 65689. She remembered her parents talking of it and she too knew that it had been over a store and then had burned. Sometime later they had another one and that building is still standing and it too has another business it now. There is no longer an opera house.

Mr. Tindel suggested you might research some of the early editions to the Cabool Enterprise in the newspaper section of the State Historical Society there in Columbia and perhaps they might be something in them about the Opera House. He thought that would probably be the most logical to find something since it has been so many years ago that all of the old timers of that time is gone.

Most of the vaudeville circuit who played the area were done in tents that they either carried with them or the town furnished them and they were dismantled as soon as the show was over.

Sorry that is all the info that I could come up.

Sincerely,

*Velma E. Adams*

Velma E. Adams  
Corresponding Secretary

# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Vernon County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres? *Some info.*

	Nevada	yes	no
Fox Theatre		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Moore's Opera House		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Moore's Theatre		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rink Theatre		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nickel Theatre		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*I think this is "REX" originally "ARBO" REMODELLED LATE 1940S*

*Photo & Some info. Built by Claire Patee, famous movie man.*

*LOTS OF INFO*

*SAME*

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

	Nevada	yes	no
Fox Theatre		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Moore's Opera House		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Moore's Theatre		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rink Theatre		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nickel Theatre		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

	Nevada	yes	no
Fox Theatre		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Moore's Opera House		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Moore's Theatre		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rink Theatre		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nickel Theatre		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area?

*There were a number of movie houses, but all very short lived & few records. The first movies were in Radio Springs Park Theater.*

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

<input type="checkbox"/> books about specific theatres	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> photographs	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> newspaper articles	<i>mostly on Moore Opera House</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> scrapbooks	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> county or town histories	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, please specify	_____

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

*Recent article was done by one of our members.*

What days and times is your library open to the public? *By appointment*

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

Who is the best person to contact for more information? *PATRICK BROPHY, Curator 667-7108*

**Thank you for your assistance.** Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203



# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

## ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

SW-AS-036-080

1. NO. <u>D-10A</u> 2. COUNTY <u>Vernon</u>		4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION (S) <u>Wild Bill's Pool Hall &amp; Recreational Center</u>	
3. LOCATION OF NEGATIVES <u>Main Street Nevada</u>		5. OTHER NAME(S) <u>H. T. Hildebrandt Saloon, The Nickel Theater</u>	

6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP _____ RANGE _____ SECTION _____ IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS <u>112 E. Cherry St.</u> 7. CITY OR TOWN IF RURAL, VICINITY <u>Nevada</u> 8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION	16. THEMATIC CATEGORY <u>architecture</u> 17. DATE (S) OR PERIOD <u>c. 1880-1884 c 1926</u> 18. STYLE OR DESIGN <u>Single entrve 64</u> 19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER <u>62</u> 20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER  21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT <u>commercial</u> 22. PRESENT USE <u>commercial/recreational</u> 23. OWNERSHIP PUBLIC ( ) PRIVATE (X) 24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS IF KNOWN <u>Wiley &amp; Ella Simhaiser, R.R. 4, Box 112, Ft. Scott, KS 66701</u> 25. OPEN TO PUBLIC? YES (X) NO ( ) <u>Restricted</u> 26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION <u>Main Street Nevada</u> 27. OTHER SURVEYS IN WHICH INCLUDED <u>N/A</u>	28. NO. OF STORIES <u>1</u> 29. BASEMENT? YES (X) NO ( ) 30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL <u>Not visible</u> 31. WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>frame</u> 32. ROOF TYPE AND MATERIAL <u>flat</u> 33. NO. OF BAYS <u>FRONT 2 SIDE</u> 34. WALL TREATMENT <u>Brick/plaster/ceramic tile</u> 35. PLAN SHAPE <u>rectangular</u> 36. CHANGES ADDITION ( ) ALTERED (X) MOVED ( ) (EXPLAIN IN NO. 42) 37. CONDITION INTERIOR <u>unknown</u> EXTERIOR <u>good</u> 38. PRESERVATION UNDERWAY? YES ( ) NO (X) 39. ENDANGERED? BY WHAT? YES ( ) NO (X) 40. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD? YES (X) NO ( ) 41. DISTANCE FROM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD approx. <u>10 feet</u>
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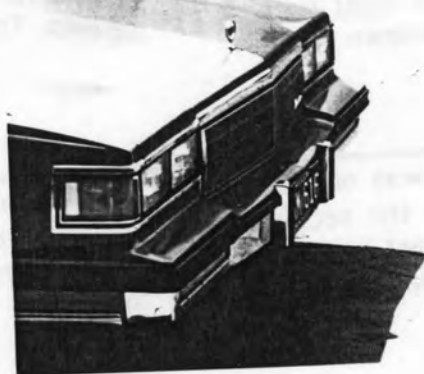
9. COORDINATES UTM LAT _____ LONG _____ 10. SITE ( ) BUILDING (X) STRUCTURE ( ) OBJECT ( ) 11. ON NATIONAL REGISTER? YES ( ) NO (X) 12. IS IT ELIGIBLE? YES ( ) NO (X) 13. PART OF ESTA. HIST. DISTRICT? YES ( ) NO (X) 14. DISTRICT POTENTIAL? YES (X) NO ( ) 15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT	42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES <p>The main entrance faces north. The facade has been substantially altered including plastering much of the facade, terra-cotta tiles and three multi-light recessed entrances. The second story has been removed, date unknown.</p>
--	--

43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE <p>This building was originally two stories in height and appears in the 1885 Sanborn Map. Sometime after 1926 the second story was removed. The original address was 342 E. Cherry. The first verifiable occupant was in 1888, H. T. Hildebrandt Saloon. By 1890, a billards building was added in the rear. In 1907 it became the Nickel Theater.</p>	<div style="font-size: 4em; transform: rotate(45deg); display: inline-block;">X</div> PHOTO MUST  BE PROVIDED
---	--

44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS <p>This building is located near the downtown square of Nevada. To the north, east, and west are other commercial buildings.</p>	45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION <u>Sanborn Maps 1885, 1890, 1906, 1914, 1926.</u> <u>City Directory, 1888.</u>
---	---

46. PREPARED BY <u>Becker/Millstein</u> 47. ORGANIZATION <u>Architectural &amp; Art Historical Research</u> 48. DATE <u>01/92</u> 49. REVISION DATE (S)	RETURN THIS FORM WHEN COMPLETED TO: OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION P.O. BOX 176 JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102 IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED, ATTACH A SEPARATE SHEET TO THIS FORM.
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MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM



# MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

## ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

SW-AS-036-081

1. NO. B-17		4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) Fox Theater <i>Star Theater</i>	
2. COUNTY Vernon		5. OTHER NAME(S) Cockrell and Winston Livery; N. L. Winston Livery	
3. LOCATION OF NEGATIVES Main Street Nevada			
6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP _____ RANGE _____ SECTION _____ IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS 110 S. Main Street		18. THEMATIC CATEGORY architecture	
7. CITY OR TOWN IF RURAL, VICINITY Nevada		17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD c. 1889; 1917, 1955 (remodel)	
8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION		18. STYLE OR DESIGN	
		19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER	
		20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER A-w	
		21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT Commercial (livery) OSA	
		22. PRESENT USE Commercial (theater)	
		23. OWNERSHIP PUBLIC ( ) PRIVATE (X)	
		24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS IF KNOWN Nevada Multi-Cinema 110 S. Main Nevada, MO	
9. COORDINATES UTM LAT _____ LONG _____		25. OPEN TO PUBLIC? YES (X) restricted NO ( )	
10. SITE ( ) STRUCTURE ( ) BUILDING (X) OBJECT ( )		26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION Main Street Nevada	
11. ON NATIONAL REGISTER? YES ( ) NO (X)		27. OTHER SURVEYS IN WHICH INCLUDED N/A	
12. IS IT ELIGIBLE? YES ( ) NO (X)			
13. PART OF ESTAB. HIST. DISTRICT? YES ( ) NO (X)			
14. DISTRICT POTENTIAL? YES (X) NO ( )			
15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT			
42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES The main facade faces east. It has been substantially altered with aluminum frame doors, brick veneer, aluminum awning and aluminum sheathing.		28. NO. OF STORIES 2 29. BASEMENT? YES (X) NO ( ) 30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL Not visible 31. WALL CONSTRUCTION Frame 32. ROOF TYPE AND MATERIAL Flat 33. NO. OF BAYS FRONT 1 SIDE 34. WALL TREATMENT Brick veneer/alum. sheathing 35. PLAN SHAPE rect. 36. CHANGES (EXPLAIN IN NO. 42) ADDITION ( ) ALTERED (X) MOVED ( ) 37. CONDITION INTERIOR _____ EXTERIOR good 38. PRESERVATION UNDERWAY? YES ( ) NO (X) 39. ENDANGERED? BY WHAT? YES ( ) NO (X) 40. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD? YES (X) NO ( ) 41. DISTANCE FROM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD Approx. 10'	
43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE The building was originally used as a livery. The first verifiable occupant was Cockrell & Winston Livery Stables (1890). In 1917 the building was remodeled into the "Star" Theater by J. E. Haggard, owner. At that time an additional story of 28 inches was added. In 1955 the name of the theater was changed to "The Fox".		PHOTO MUST BE PROVIDED	
44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS The building is half a block from the downtown square of Nevada. To the north, east and west are other commercial structures, and to the south is a vacant lot.			
45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION Western Contractor, April 4, 1917, p. 21. The Vernon County Centennial, 1855-1955, p. 67. City Directory, 1890.		46. PREPARED BY Becker/Millstein	
RETURN THIS FORM WHEN COMPLETED TO: OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION P.O. BOX 176 JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102		47. ORGANIZATION Architectural & Art Historical Research	
48. DATE 10/91		49. REVISION DATE(S)	

IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED, ATTACH



MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM



Information copied and mailed by Marie Edgar  
Washington County

## Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

### Mine Au Breton Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Temperance Opera Hall Potosi yes ☒ no ☐

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Temperance Opera Hall Potosi yes ☐ no ☒

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Temperance Opera Hall Potosi yes ☒ no ☐

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? Potosi's Movie Theater  
The other one was first built by Sons of Temperance Lodge Hall  
in 1849, left unfinished - Purchased by Potosi Lodge 131 AF&AM  
then was used as an Opera House.

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

☒ books about specific theatres

☒ photographs

☐ newspaper articles

☒ scrapbooks

☒ county or town histories

☒ other, please specify

Copy enclosed  
See copies

See copies  
Program - See Copy

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

No

What days and times is your library open to the public? Monday 9:00 - 9:00 PM  
Tues - Fri. 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Sat 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times? No

Who is the best person to contact for more information? Dorothy Lore, Librarian

\* She only has  
information that  
I have provided.

Washington County Library  
235 E High St  
Potosi mo 63664  
(573) 438-4691

Thank you for your assistance.

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203

## MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION / INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

1. NAME Potosi Masonic Lodge

HISTORIC Temperance Opera Hall

AND / OR COMMON

2. LOCATION T37N. R3E. SUR1851

STREET &amp; NUMBER Breton Ave.

CITY, TOWN Potosi

VICINITY OF Breton Township

STATE Missouri

CODE 29

COUNTY Washington

CODE 221

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

## CATEGORY

☐ district☒ building(s)☐ structure☐ site☐ object

## OWNERSHIP

☐ public☒ private☐ both

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ in process☐ being considered☒ N/A

## STATUS

☒ occupied☐ unoccupied☐ work in progress

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ yes: restricted☐ yes: unrestricted☐ no

## PRESENT USE

☐ agriculture☐ commercial☐ educational☐ entertainment☐ government☐ industrial☐ military☐ museum☐ park☐ private residence☐ religious☐ scientific☐ transportation☐ other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Potosi Masonic Lodge

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Potosi

VICINITY OF

STATE Missouri

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Assessor's Office  
Phelps County Courthouse  
Rolla, Missouri 65401

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE (None)

Determined Eligible?

Yes

No

Federal

State

County

Local

## 7. DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

☐ excellent☒ good☐ fair☐ deteriorated☐ ruins☐ unexposed

## CHECK ONE

☒ unaltered☐ altered

## CHECK ONE

☒ original site☐ moved

date June 18, 1986

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Potosi Masonic Lodge is a two story building of a rectangular plan shape. Windows are of simple sash design. This building has a simple gable roofline with return cornices. The Potosi Masonic Lodge is an example of Utilitarian architecture.



8. SIGNIFICANCE - Washington County Survey - Potosi Masonic Lodge

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE - CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology - prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology - historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social / humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration / settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics / government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

SPECIFIC DATES 1849 BUILDER / ARCHITECT the 'Sons of Temperance'

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (IN ONE PARAGRAPH)

Art - This building was once used as the Opera Hall.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY one lot size QUADRANGLE NAME Potosi Quad SCALE 1:24000  
UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	5	6	9	4	4	0	0	4	2	0	1	0	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION The Potosi Masonic Lodge is located in Breton township at the above referenced UTM coordinates. This location recognizes the building and the parameter of the grounds upon which it rests.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Barbara S. Black - Assistant Historic Preservation Coordinator

ORGANIZATION Meramec Regional Planning Commission

ADDRESS 101 West Tenth Street, Rolla, Missouri 65401

DATE 6-18-86

WASHINGTON COUNTY SURVEY

REPORT NO. 131



**POTOSI MASONIC LODGE**

Breton Township

T37N. R2E. SUR1851.

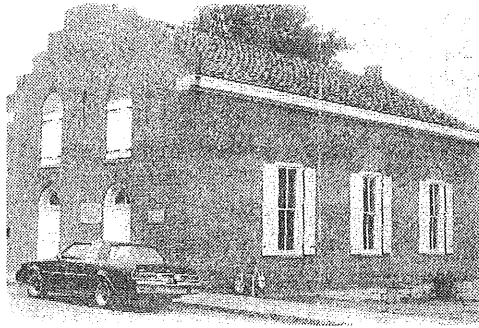
Potosi, Mo.

Marie Edgar, Secretary  
Mine Au Breton  
Historical Society  
Route #1 Box 3154  
Potosi MO 63664  
Catherine Poleté,  
President

\*  
Potosi's  
Movie  
Theater →

Washington County

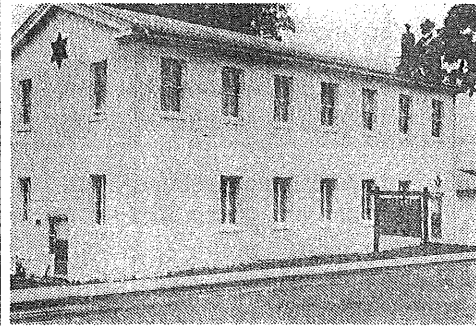
## 'OLD POTOSI' WALKING TOUR GUIDE JUNE 23-24, 1990



### 1. Mine Au Breton Historical Society Museum, 206 West Breton Street

This building was originally a Presbyterian Church, believed to be the oldest Presbyterian Church building west of the Mississippi River. It was built in 1832-33. It earlier had a steeple, since removed. Still remaining inside is the slave gallery, or balcony, at the back of the building. The famous architect, John Anderson Langford, once went to church here in this building. His parents were slaves here. This building served as Potosi's movie theater. Silent movies were shown here for many years. It served as a Boy Scout Hall until the 1950's.

The building was converted into a museum during Potosi's Bicentennial in 1963.



### 3. Masonic Hall 204 West Breton Street

The Masonic Hall was built in 1849 by the Sons of Temperance League. In 1849 news reached Potosi that gold had been found in California at Sutter's Mill. Many members of the Temperance League went west to search for gold. The building was then purchased by the Masonic Lodge No. 131. The ground floor of the building served as a community center for years. Reportedly, the first opera house west of the Mississippi was located here. Miss Pearl Pollard, author of the famous Patience Worth books, gave several music recitals here.

Charles Lindbergh attended some operas here while he was visiting the Higginbotham family in the 1920's.

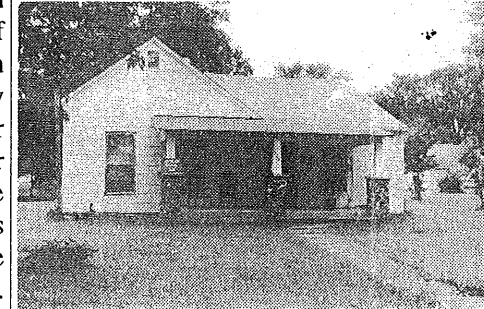
In the 1930's and 1940's the ground floor was used for school proms. Later when the County Library burned, the Masonic Hall was used for a library. It was used for high school classrooms after the grade school building burned in 1944-45.



Russ house. It was moved from its original location on the current Newcomer farm. It was built approximately 1792.

Thomas Russ was one of the early American settlers who came west of the Mississippi River after the Revolutionary War and received a Spanish Land Grant to settle in what was then the Spanish Territory of Missouri.

In May of 1786, Russ was admitted as a subject of the King of Spain and granted a land certificate entitling him to claim 640 acres of land in the Spanish Territory. This was ten years before Moses Austin came to Missouri. It was at a time when settlers in the area were mostly French working the surface lead mines.



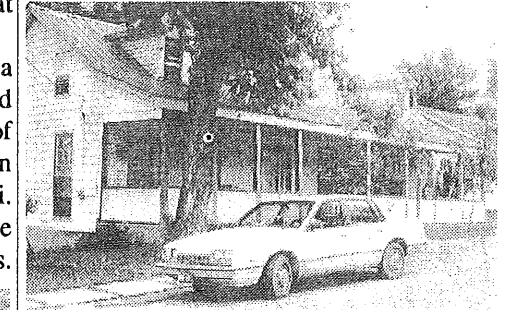
### 6. Issac Jamieson House 309 West Breton Street

This house was built in 1816. (Date is marked in the house.) Possibly it is the earliest built house remaining in Potosi. It was remodeled in 1983 by Joe Bust. He found a carving on the west wall which read, "I remodeled this house, 1873. J. D. Pendergrast." It could have been part of the Mine Au Breton Fort that is mentioned in the history of Ste. Genevieve. The ceiling is actually built as a floor and may have housed another story for look-out purposes. The joists in the roof also are odd shaped. The location itself commands a view of the surrounding country.



the house for 35 years.

This house is presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Everett Huff. Susan Huff said that the date 1896 is printed on the back of the old fireplace. This probably dates the construction of the house.



### 9. Henry Edgar House (Clara Hall House), 308 N. Pine St.

This house was built in 1819 by Henry Edgar. It was sold to James N. White who was a son-in-law of John Smith T. White sold it to John F. Cowan who sold it to Stephen T. Dunklin, a son of Governor Dunklin. Gov. Dunklin set in motion while he was governor the legislation which resulted in the founding of the State Public School System.

This house was also known as the Clara Hall House. The house was later sold to Dr. James H. Hall Jr. Clara was his daughter. She was a prominent school teacher in the Potosi school system from the 1920's through the 1940's.

For many years the words "I spent the day in the berry patch with Alice. July 23, 1844" were written on the wall.

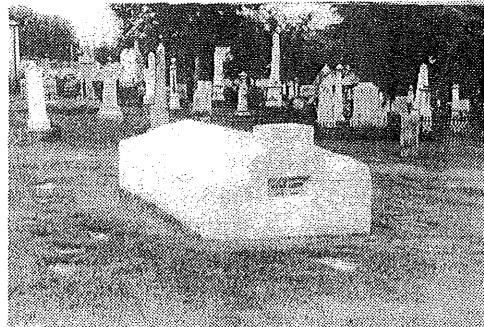
In 1936 this house was used by Dorothy Cresswell for teaching business classes.





Anderson Langford, once went to church here in this building. His parents were slaves here. This building served as Potosi's movie theater. Silent movies were shown here for many years. It served as a Boy Scout Hall until the 1950's.

The building was converted into a museum during Potosi's Bicentennial in 1963.



## 2. Moses Austin's Tomb 206 West Breton Street

Moses Austin, considered by many as the founder of Potosi, died in 1821 and buried first on the family farm at the home of his daughter, Emily Austin, at Hazel Run in what is now St. Francois County. In 1824, Maria Brown Austin also died and was buried beside Moses. In 1832 the last remaining member of the Austin family decided to join Stephen Austin in Texas. One of the family's last acts before leaving Missouri was to authorize the moving of the bodies of Moses and Maria to the Old Presbyterian-Masonic cemetery in Potosi. This old cemetery was the only established public cemetery in the territory at the time.

The Austins were buried in the ground with graves being enclosed by a rock wall. About 1890 the wall was torn down and the present tomb was erected. Since then, an old cherry tree near the tomb was cut down, and the tomb was repaired. In 1936 some Texans tried to steal Moses out of the tomb, but were stopped by local citizens.

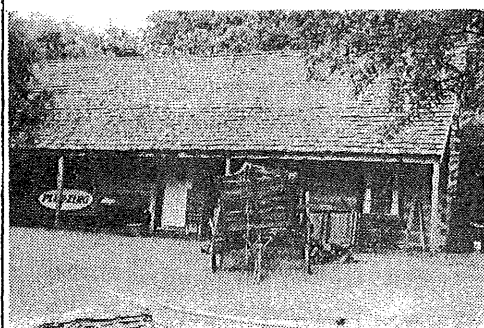
school classrooms after the grade school building burned in 1944-45.



## 4. John S. Brickey House 220 West Breton Street

The land was deeded to John S. Brickey by Moses Austin in 1816. The house was built about 1818. The architectural style is similar to colonial houses found in Williamsburg, Virginia. The front door and an interior door have the original cast-iron hinges in the arrow shaped style used in the colonial period. One wall of the house is concrete which leads us to believe that the house was built around part of the old Mine Au Breton Fort mentioned in history.

This John S. Brickey was a justice of the peace and could have been one of the first State Legislators and possibly an early circuit court recorder. (info from abstract deed of house.)



## 5. Weber-Russ Cabin 304 Clark Street

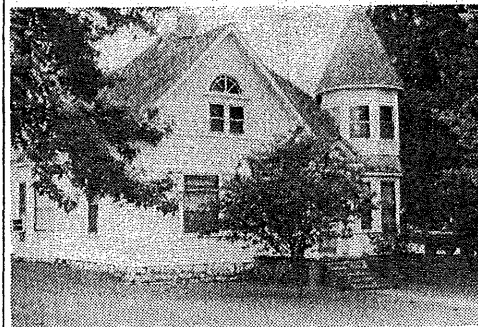
This cabin was known as the Weber-

house, 1873. J. D. Pendergrast." It could have been part of the Mine Au Breton Fort that is mentioned in the history of Ste. Genevieve. The ceiling is actually built as a floor and may have housed another story for look-out purposes. The joists in the roof also are odd shaped. The location itself commands a view of the surrounding country.



## 7. Judge Dinning House 401 West Breton Street

This house was built c. 1890 and is currently owned by Marvin and Judy Wright. Further information is being researched at this time.



## 8. Frank Teasdale House 301 Mineral Street

Judge Dinning first owned this house. He gave it to his daughter for a wedding present when she married Frank Teasdale. The deed reads that Judge Dinning gave the house to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Teasdale for one dollar and love and devotion. The Teasdales lived in

For many years the words "I spent the day in the berry patch with Alice. July 23, 1844" were written on the wall.

In 1936 this house was used by Dorothy Cresswell for teaching business classes.



## 10. James A. Headlee House 307 Pine Street

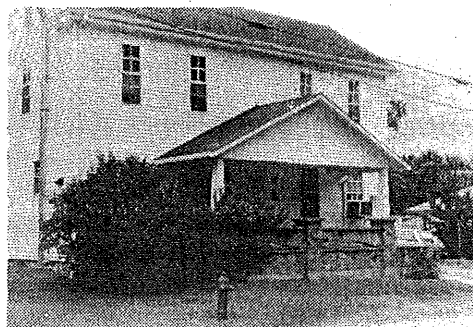
This house is presently known as the Taylor House. it was built by Acquilla Cole in 1898-99. It was completed in 1903. Mr. Headlee had the house built. He was the president of one of the early banks in Potosi.

The house had a lot of gingerbread trimming; some of which remains. The house has beautiful stained glass windows; each in a different pattern. There is also an inside panel of stained glass, and the gable of the house has a stained glass window in a unique pattern. There was once a carriage house which now serves as a garage and shed.

Mr. Headlee imported both flowers and soil for his lawn. The house was surrounded by an ornate picket fence. (information from Lillian T. Richards)

# CONTINUED





**11. W. A. Ryan House**  
**307 Mineral Street at Market**

Mr. Ryan was a Methodist preacher. Built in 1843, the house has hand-hewn beams put together with wooden pegs and square nails. It is currently owned by Gervis Eye who has remodeled the house.



**12. James Shields House**  
**207 State Street**

This house was built in 1873. James Shields was an early abstractor. His office was located at 113 North Missouri (where the Ozarks Federal Savings and Loan office is located now), adjacent to the old Arlington Hotel. He had three sons, Charles, James and John.



Supreme Court of Missouri. According to Goodspeed's History of Five Counties, p. 498, the State of Missouri was divided into four judicial districts; each to hold two terms of the Supreme Court annually. The fourth district was composed of 16 counties. For this district the terms of the Supreme Court were to be held in Potosi, Washington County, beginning on the fourth Mondays of May and September of each year. These sessions of the Supreme Court were held until another session of the Legislature had the court moved to Jefferson City, the new capital.

This block may have been the state capital if early plans had materialized. Potosi's first courthouse was built in 1814; designed to be big enough for the capital of the new state-to-be. Money ran out before this building could be finished. Then Potosi lost to St. Charles by only one vote to be the capital which would serve until a new capital could be built at Jefferson City.

The building currently serves as the R-3 School District Administrative offices and Kindergarten.

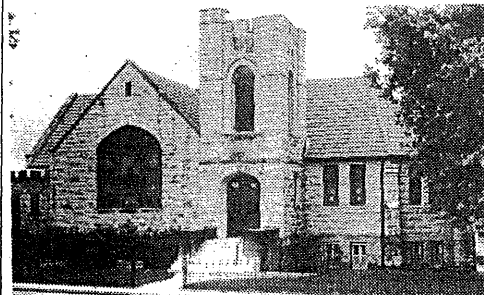


**15. Long Banta House (James Long)**  
**North Mine Street at Clara Street**

This house was built in 1865 by James Long, a Potosi businessman. This house is one of the finest examples of Victorian architecture in this area. It is classic Victorian, display-

the house for \$1200. They were a well known family who had eight children. The Connelly family lived in the house for 34 years. The small house in the back is referred to by old-timers as the slave house. The slaves were free but continued to live with the Connelys. The slaves slept in the little house but ate in the kitchen of the big house.

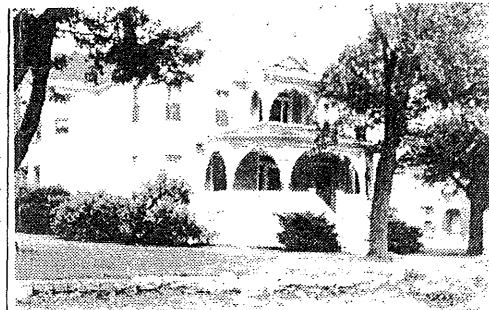
Al and Joyce Weiss have lived in this house for 42 years. (info from abstract)



**17. Presbyterian Church**  
**104 West Breton Street**

This church was founded in 1832, but the present building was not built until 1908. The plans for the building were drawn by John Anderson Langford, a famous American Negro architect. Mr. Langford grew up in Potosi as the son of slaves.

Two distinctive features of the building are the stained glass windows made with lead moldings and the natural cooling system of the church. The design allows the air to circulate freely insided the building creating a naturally cool interior. The inside features a beautiful cross design. The church has a large pipe organ.



**19. Edmond Casey House**  
**103 Market Street**

This house represents the stick architecture style of the late 1800's. It has gable ends on the roof. It has stained glass windows and stained glass fanlights around the door. The house was built by an Irish immigrant in the late 1800's. There were three sisters' homes in the Old Courthouse Square area. The homes were all built with the same style and grandeur.

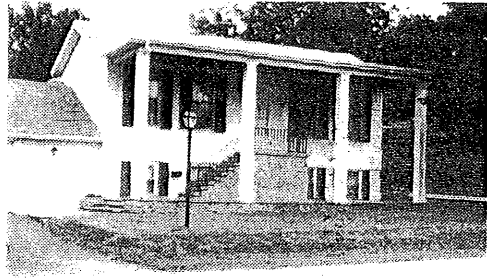
The home is the Rebecca Richards family home.



**20. St. James Catholic Church**  
**201 North Missouri Street**

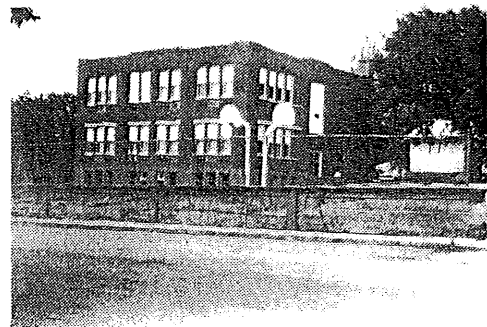
This church was built in 1859. When

This house was built in 1873. James Shields was an early abstractor. His office was located at 113 North Missouri (where the Ozarks Federal Savings and Loan office is located now), adjacent to the old Arlington Hotel. He had three sons, Charles, James and John.



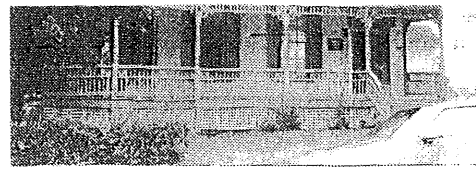
### 13. James McDermott House 201 State Street

James McDermott built this house (in 1873) as well as several other houses in this area. The original house was very ornate, similar to the houses of Williamsburg, Virginia. It had high porches on the front and sides. There were high steps into the entrance and much lattice work. Mr. and Mrs. Russell Simmons bought the house from Robert Brown.



### 14. Old City Square - Old School Lot, 400 North Mine Street

The Old City Square of Potosi was laid out in 1814. The first courthouse and school house were built on land donated by Moses Austin and John Rice Jones, Austin's business partner and one of the first three judges of the



### 15. Long Banta House North Mine Street at Clara Street

This house was built in 1863 by James Long, a Potosi businessman. This house is one of the finest examples of Victorian architecture in this area. It is classic Victorian, displaying the massive, yet graceful, ornate wooden gingerbread trim. The house is still surrounded by a shady veranda and a spacious lawn which contains a gazebo or summerhouse.

For many years the house was occupied by Mr. Long's daughter, Mrs. Minnie Hutchison, then by Mr. and Mrs. Parke Banta. Mrs. Banta was the granddaughter of James Long.

The Banta family recently donated the house to the Mine Au Breton Historical Society for display and preservation.



### 16. Francis X. Connelly House 107 West Breton Street

As far as we know, the builder is unknown. G. I. Van Alen bought the house in 1869. He was the Washington County Prosecuting Attorney. In 1871 he married Harriet Van Alen. In 1881 he married Mary Francis. In 1887 James and Elizabeth Homan bought the property from Van Alen for \$550.

In 1893 Francis X. Connelly purchased

the stained glass windows made with lead moldings and the natural cooling system of the church. The design allows the air to circulate freely insided the building creating a naturally cool interior. The inside features a beautiful cross design. The church has a large pipe organ.



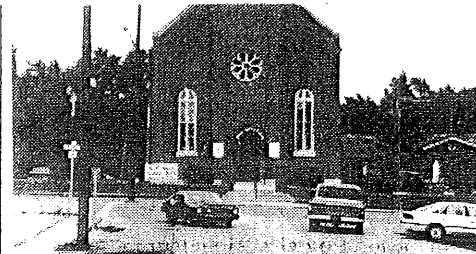
### 18. Dr. Townsend House 101 West Breton Street

This house was built in 1905 and most recently has been known as Old Town of Potosi Antiques.

As Potosi grew northward in the 1890's, huge homes such as the Townsend house were built in the area between the downtown business district and the school square. The homes reflected the growing influence of their builders and of Potosi. This house was built by Dr. J. F. Townsend, and was occupied by him and his family until they moved to St. Louis in 1925. Their daughter, Helen Lucy, still lives in Potosi.

The house was built by Aquilla Cole. It had wooden gingerbread, scalloped shingles at the eaves, and diamond-shaped stained glass windows. It had beveled and etched door glasses. The porch and posts were of Georgian marble.

The house was also known as the Roy Nicholson House since the Nicholson family lived there from 1925 until the 1970's.



### 20. St. James Catholic Church 201 North Missouri Street

This church was built in 1859. When Father Timon arrived in Potosi in 1825, he found that a small wooden church had been built some time previously at a site on Citadel. It was called Potosi Chapel. In 1854 land was purchased to build a church rectory and school. T. W. Bradley was hired to design the church. The building was completed in 1861.

The rose window in front has the original framing although new glass was placed in it in the late 1940's or 1950's. There are memorial windows among which are the names of Joe Teasdale, Daniel Dunklin and Firmin Desloge.

The present church measures 76'6" x 40'6". The exterior is made of bricks hand molded by slaves from clay mud from the Frank White farm. It originally had a three-tiered tower. A bell was cast in 1880 for the tower by J. G. Stickstade and Brothers in St. Louis.

## THE MINER'S PROSPECT.

Published by

WASHINGTON COUNTY  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Prepared and Edited By

Kris Richards/Neil Richards

from information and articles by

George Showalter and from the files of

"The Independent-Journal"



Programme ©

Potosí



ment.



Opera House.

Wednesday, October 26th, 1898.



Literary and Musical  
Entertainment

—AND—

Festival.





# Programme



OF THE

Musical and Literary Entertainment.

---

## PART I.

1. The Star and Stripes Forever—March—John Phil. Sousa.  
*Miss Pearl Wood.*

2. The Sleeping Sentinel—Declamation.....G. Janvier.  
*Miss Jancy Watkins.*

3. Carnival in the Lower Regions—Grand Quadrille,  
*Camille Schubert.*  
*The Misses Ara Watkins and Pearl Wood.*

a. The infernal guests depart for the ball-room. b. Their arrival.  
c. His satanic majesty makes his bow to the company. d. Grand  
banquet. e. But infernal pleasures are short-lived. At the sound  
of satan's trumpets the infernal legions make their exit at a galop.

(Programme continued on page 5.)

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WE recommend to your kind consideration the herein printed Business Cards of our Leading Merchants. The fact that they publicly solicit your patronage goes far to prove that they are prepared to satisfy your reasonable demands and that they deserve this patronage.

You will also find that most, if not all, of the Political Candidates in the present spirited campaign do not shrink from the light of publicity and are neither afraid to blow their horn nor to advocate their claims before a discriminating public. How difficult to make a choice from among such an array of gentlemen eminently fitted to become conscientious and able public servants! Pick out the very best timber and tell your neighbor all about it, and how to vote. If permitted, the printer would whisper in your ear, that you will find the names of the right men in these pages.



# Programme.



(Continued.)

## 4. Selections on the Edison Phonograph.

*Mr Benjamin Kendall.*

- a. The Anvil Chorus (from Verdi's *Il Trovatore*) as played by Gilmour's Band.
- b. Cornet Solo (Arbucklerian Polka).
- c. Grand Festival March (from Wagner's *Tannhaeuser*).
- d. Cornet Solo (Ecstasy Waltz).
- e. Overture to Rossini's *Semiramide*.
- f. Piccolo Solo (Skylark Polka) by Schweinfest.

N.B.—That we may all be able to enjoy the beauties of the great American Scientist's masterpiece—and also duly express our appreciation to MR. KENDALL for his kind services—PERFECT STILLNESS is requested during this number.

## 5. The Wanderer—Song.....Franz Schubert

*Miss Pearl Wood.*

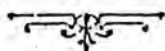
## 6. A Show in Our Back-Yard—Declamation.....Eug. Hall

*Miss Janey Watkins.*

## 7. Guitar and Mandolin Duet.

*Messrs. Rob. Smarre and Elmer Huff.*

- a. *La labbra*—Valse—Pierluigi Casciolini.
- b. *My Delight*—Schottish—Ebenzezer Jones.



## ⊙ INTERMISSION ⊙

30 Minutes.

At the REFRESHMENT STAND you will find our DEWEY Ice-cream served with a regulation piece of SHAFER Cake. 'It's delicious! — Nicer Lemonade than the HOBSON Brand was never concocted! Try it! — Do you know that SCHLEY Candy is the best in the market! Come and be convinced.

You are also cordially invited to inspect the SADDLES (gentleman's and lady's, either one at the choice of the winner) to be voted to the most POPULAR CANDIDATE; still more cordially to cast your votes (only 10 cents each) for the Candidates of your choice.

If a straw will show  
How the wind does blow,  
A contest lets you know  
How the election will go!

And are we not all anxious to know? What a good investment for your dimes!

Contest closes and votes counted at 1.30 a. m.





# Programme



OF THE

Musical and Literary Entertainment.



## PART II.

1. Off to Cuba—Military March—Respectfully dedicated to the  
POTOSI Regulars and Volunteers U. S. A. by C. P. K.

*Miss Ara Watkins.*

2. The Jewish Maiden's Lament—Song.....Kucken

*Miss Pearl Wood.*

3. My mother, my country, my God—Recitation—

Jeremiah Jackson

*Miss Pearl Ramsey.*

4. Selections on the Edison Phonograph.

*Mr. Benj. Kendall.*

- a. Miserere from Il Trovatore.
- b. Clarinet Solo (Polka).
- c. Selections from La Traviata (as played by Sousa's Band.)
- d. Bridal March from Wagner's Lohengrin.
- e. Cornet Solo (Franz Schubert's Serenade).
- f. Trombone Solo "Then you'll remember me" from Balfe's Bohemian Girl.

(Programme concluded page 7.)

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Immediately after the Concert the FLOOR will be cleared for the dancers, and the disciples of the new-fangled school of music will give way to the far famed BRUSHY-RUN ORCHESTRA (Mr. Stephen Polite, leader), who will have their inning, and show us what good old-time music is.



# Programme.



(CONCLUDED.)

5. The Wanderer's Dream—Idyl.....Brinley Richards  
*Miss Ara Watkins.*
6. The Inventors's Wife—Recitation.....Anon  
*Miss Janey Watkins.*
7. Grande Valse de Concert.....Anton Rubinstein  
*Miss Pearl Wood.*
8. Guitar Duet.  
*Messrs Rob Smarre and Elmer Huff.*
  - a. The Rochester—Schottische—I. McFadden.
  - b. Fall of Sebastopol—Quick Step—Timothy O'Houligan.

---

Having—as we hope—satisfied your esthetic tastes and enjoyed our musical and dramatic efforts, step up please to the LUNCH COUNTER and regale the inner man with a cup or two of our delicious COFFEE and a few (say twelve or fifteen—there is plenty on hand) of our unexcelled SANDWICHES. Take your choice between sugar-cured ham-, tongue-, spring-chicken- and cheese-Sandwiches. Or better still, try them all.

Do not fail to view, admire and patronize the display on our

Fancy-Table.



Don't forget . . .

# Headlee & McGregor

keep a good stock of

## General Merchandise,

and will sell you goods

at

Bottom Prices.

## Hugh Murray,

Wagonmaker and  
Undertaker,

My work guaranteed to be the  
BEST.

Best and most complete stock in  
the Town and County of every-  
thing in my line.

Come and inspect my

### Caskets and Robes.

Remember the good old Chinese  
adage :

*Nothing good is cheap,*

*Nothing cheap is good.*

---

Your vote and influence respectfully solicited

# Robert H. Evens

Republican Candidate for

## County Treasurer,

### Washington County, Mo.



Election, Tuesday Nov. 8th, 1898.



# Eug. O'Meara

## General Merchandise.

A share of your patronage  
is respectfully solicited.

At my store you will always  
find and get

Good Goods,  
Fresh Goods,  
Courteous Treatment.

Cast your vote for  
**P. T. RAMSEY**

Candidate for  
**Representative**  
of Washington Co.

If elected, I will advocate  
your real interests, be you  
Republicans or Democrats.

However, Fellow-Democrats bear in  
mind the important fact, that in case of  
the removal from office of one of the  
two U. S. Senators (through death, re-  
signation or otherwise) YOUR REPRESENTATIVE at Jefferson City will cast  
a vote for his successor—in other words,  
for a Democratic NATIONAL Policy.  
So do not be imposed upon by the spec-  
ious plea that this is

"Merely a County Office".

# Bust Milling Co.,

Potosi, Mo.

Bust Bros, Managers,  
Manufacturers of and Dealers in

## Roller Flour

BRANDS { Rose of Breton.  
Our Pride  
Purity  
Favorite  
Meal,  
Bran,  
Shipstuff.

# E. M. Deering

Attorney at Law,

will practice and fight your legal  
battles in all the Courts of  
Missouri

## Democratic Candidate

for re-election to the  
office of

## Prosecuting Attorney.

Vote for him!

## Racket Store.

They are Wise People,

Who do the right thing at the right  
time.

Do you know why this store is headquarters in this town? It is because our customers know we are right. We trade fair and square; our store's reputation is as bright as a new dollar. The right thing for you to do is to come NOW. Our prices are right, also now is the right time to buy Millinery galore, Muslin 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, 5c, 6c, 8c. Cotton Bats 8c, 10c, 13c. Jenns Pants 55c 70c \$1.20. All goods at take-me-quick-prices.

You will be doing the right thing to call on us often, and examine our goods, keep yourself posted, you will always receive courteous treatment here.

W. H. GAY, Manager.



# VOTE

FOR

## Charles Richeson

for the office  
of

## Probate Judge.



## Morgan H. Casey,

Proprietor of

## Potosi Livery Stable,

Candidate for Re-election

[to the office of

## Treasurer

for Washington Co.

Your kind vote and influence  
solicited.

## Alex. Harrison,

Republican Candidate

for the  
office of

## Clerk of the Circuit Court

respectfully solicits  
your

## VOTE!



Here is an  Opener !

And what is it?

You may ask.

Well it's just this—and don't fail  
to remember it

• The Flag Store •

is the only one of its kind in the State.

If you want to be made happy by

A First Class Bargain come to the

☼ FLAG STORE, ☼

POTOSI, MO.

Vote for . . .

John O. Long,

Democratic Candidate

for the office

of

County Clerk.

James B. Whitehead,

Rep. Candidate

for

• SHERIFF. •

Subject to the will of the  
voters,

Nov. 8th, 1898.

•  
Your Vote and Influence  
solicited.



At Slais's you get  
full value and best  
work for your  
Money,

# W. J. SLAIS,

Manufacturer and Dealer in

## Harness

## Saddlery,

Whips, Collars, Sewing Machines &c.

### Repairing

promptly attended to.

*Fresh Fall Goods just received:*

*Buggies, Harness, Saddles.*



## M. E. RHODES,

Attorney at Law,

Candidate for

## Prosecuting Attorney

Your support solicited.

If elected, I promise to put forth  
every effort to have the laws  
enforced.



Vote for

## W. M. Bennett

for

## Representative.



**y! Peace! Plenty!**

**Jecks for Battle!**

... too old to learn where to buy the best  
goods for the least money!

Come and learn how cheap goods are sold at

**The Great Trading Palace**

OF THE

**R. M. BUGG Mercantile Co.**

We advertise because we HAVE SOMETHING to advertise.

A cordial invitation extended to all to come and inspect our

**New Furniture Warehouse.**

YOU -----

Vote and  
Influence

is respectfully solicited for

**THOS. S. WHITE**

Candidate for the Office  
of

**- COLLECTOR. -**

Duty well done in the PAST  
Is a guarantee  
that it will be well done in the  
future.

**W. T. HUNTER**

Rep. Candidate for

**- County Clerk. -**

Subject to the will of the voters

Tuesday, November 8th, '98.

Your vote and  
influence  
solicited.

Vote for \_\_\_\_\_

John R. Higgins

FOR

Presiding Judge

of the County Court.

My past record in this office is a *positive guarantee* to the *intelligent voter*, that if I am elected the affairs of the County shall be administered

HONESTLY AND ECONOMICALLY.

---

Alex. Harrison,

Republican Candidate for

CIRCUIT CLERK,

WASHINGTON COUNTY, MO.

Election, Tuesday, November 8th, 1898.

Your Vote and Influence solicited.

---





# POTOSÍ



ANNEÉS 200 YEARS

\$150

**POTOSI** ★ ★ **1763**  
**MISSOURI** **100 YEARS**  
**BICENTENNIAL** **1963**  
JUNE 9-16



## A Bicentennial Scrapbook

By George W. Showalter

Commemorating The  
200th Anniversary of Potosi  
At The Heart of The Historic  
Mining Country of Missouri

("Independent-Journal" Reprint Edition-1985)



**Thunderbird Ceremony Above Big River**

## Tom Toms, Tall Men and Trail of Tears

Carvings of thunderbirds and other symbols in the rock above Big River in what is now Washington State Park mark one of the earliest-known records of man in the area.

At the junction of war and of hunting trails, the sacred spot was visited frequently by the Mid-Mississippian Indians of a thousand years ago for ceremonial gatherings. Meeting here, they performed initiation ceremonies and renewed the carvings on the stones.

At the time of the coming of the early French settlers to what is now Washington County, the wooded hills and lush river bottoms were the hunting grounds of the Osage, the Kaskaskias and others, later to be joined here by the Shawnees and Delawares.

The Osage, a Siouan tribe, were described by Catlin (famous Indian artist), as the tallest race of men in North America. Although chiefly hunters, the Osage maintained villages and practiced agriculture, and also crudely smelted the lead so plentiful in the area.

Remains of early Indian camp grounds are still to be found in the

Michaux Springs area, at the east edge of Potosi.

The Delawares and Shawnees, of Algonquin stock, came to the area during the last quarter of the 18th century from original homes in the east. Among the settlements were villages on the Courtois and Huzzah.

All three tribes were later to cede land claims here, and move still further westward before the onslaught of European colonization.

The 1830's were to see the last major Indian traces in the county. Indians here earlier had moved west, with further migrations moving other tribes from the east across what is now Washington County.

The famous Cherokee 'Trail of Tears' crossed Washington County. And on November 13 and 14, 1832, a band of Seneca and Shawnee Indians, moving westward, camped a mile west of Potosi to have their horses shod and to give the squaws an opportunity to wash the clothes and blankets.

Then they, too, moved on westward, removing one civilization to make way for another.

## The French and The Lure of Lead

The rich Mississippi Valley country and the hills surrounding were claimed by the French through the travels of hardy French missionaries, explorers, trappers and traders in the late 1600's.

In years succeeding, the early French moved farther inland from the river, learning from the Indians the existence of lead and possibly gold and silver.

Early mention of lead in the area is made by Father James Gravier, 1700, and LeSeur, 1701. Crozat, under a 1712 charter from Louis XIV, began mineral explorations, as the Illinois-Missouri Country of 'Louisiana' came under the government of 'New France', or Canada, and French settlements grew on the east bank of the Mississippi.

Claude DuTisne, making one of the early trips across the interior of Missouri, followed an old Indian trail across Washington County in 1714, returning with iron ore samples.

LaMotte Cadillac, governor of Louisiana, in 1715 led a 9-month expedition across the area in search of mineral wealth, discovering lead fields that later were to be opened.

The formation of the Royal Company of the Indies quickened the tide of immigration into the 'Illinois Country' from Canada and France.

Sieur de Renaudier began mining operations in the area of the Meramec Valley, moving into Big River and Washington County. The 'Cabanage de Renaudiere', referred to in a 1719 Renaudiere report, is

believed by some to possibly mark the beginning of a settlement at Old Mines.

The most successful of the early French miners was Philippe Francois Renault, son of a prominent French iron-mining family. Leaving France in 1719 for Upper Louisiana, he brought with him 200 workmen, tools, and furnace bricks embossed with his name.

Stopping at Santo Domingo, he purchased slaves to work the mines, the first slaves in what is now Missouri.

Concentrating his operations in what is now Washington County, Renault mined up and down Big River, Mineral Fork, the Fourche au Renault and their branches. Lead he smelted was molded into pigs and carried on the necks of pack horses to the river and shipped to France by way of New Orleans. By 1725 Renault obtained 1,500 pounds of lead a day.

He returned to France in 1742, with many workmen remaining behind in the 'New World'.

Following Renault, mining activity lagged, as it was carried on on a seasonal basis by French settlers from Kaskaskia and Fort Chartres, harassed by periodic Indian attacks.

A wagon trail was hacked to the Mississippi bank, and the lead was moved from the mine fields on two-wheeled carts called 'charettes'.

As the mining activity continued, Ste. Genevieve was set up principally as a shipping point for lead on the west bank of the Mississippi.



**Renault's Diggings**



## Breton and The Bear

In 1763, France lost her North American possessions, ceding her territory east of the Mississippi to England, and west of the river to Spain.

French settlers in the Illinois Country, rather than live under English rule, began a steady migration to the Spanish-ruled Missouri country, with many of them setting up homes at the mines.

Among them was a hardy French soldier, hunter and adventurer, Francis Azor, called The Breton, because of his birthplace in the province of Brittany, France.

Breton had served as a soldier in the low countries in Europe under Marshal Saxe, fought at Fontenay, and was at the siege of Bergen-op-Zoom. Coming to the New World, he was at the building of Fort Chartres, major French outpost in Illinois, and was present at the defeat at Fort Necessity of British troops under Braddock - troops which included the young George Washington, whose name the county was later to honor.

From the life of a soldier, Breton passed to that of a hunter. While chasing a bear in the mining country, he discovered a rich surface outcropping of lead ore at what is now Potosi. The mineral wealth drew other settlers, and along the south side of the creek and up into the mines of The Citadel grew a mining camp, and later a village. The mines, the creek and the village were named for the Breton - Mine A Breton.

Under the Spanish regime, Mine A Breton, as a part of Upper Louisiana, was governed by the District of Ste. Genevieve, one of five Spanish districts in what is now Missouri.



**Ft. Chartres Powderhouse**

The American Revolution found Spain and France forming an alliance against England. English-inspired Indian attacks harassed the Missouri settlers, and tradition has it that lead from the Washington County mines was used by American troops in the Revolution.

At the close of the Revolution, and with the encouragement of the Spanish, eager to populate the new territory, Spanish Grants were issued to American settlers, bringing into the new land a restless ambition and drive for new land that were to bring many changes. Many American settlers joined the French at the mining settlements, with slave-holders coming through the Cumberland Gap from Virginia, Kentucky, and the Carolinas to begin farming in the Bellevue Valley and other parts of the county.

The new village of Mine A Breton grew, and the mines continued to pour forth their riches, as the French and Americans, under the Spanish rule, joined to develop the territory that was to become Washington County.

8-9-96

## The Austin Years

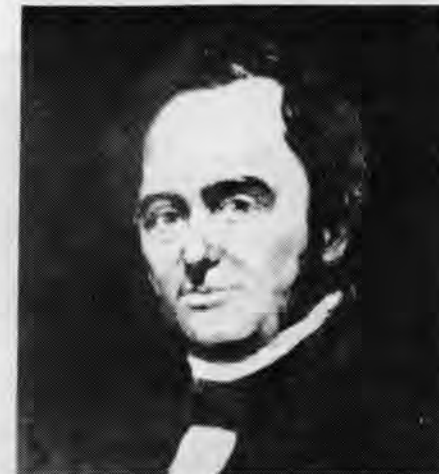
A Connecticut Yankee who was to become "Missouri's First Industrialist" and the "Grandfather of Texas" was Moses Austin, a major figure in the early history of Potosi.

Born in Durham, Connecticut, in 1761, he was the owner of a dry goods and importing firm in Philadelphia, later moving with the business to Richmond, Virginia. There he also became a pewter manufacturer and a lead and zinc miner.

In 1797, learning of the rich lead deposits in Missouri, he visited Missouri and obtained a grant from the Spanish officials, including a large part of Azor's grant at Mine A Breton. He brought his family here in September, 1798, and the next year he settled in his magnificent home, Durham Hall.

Here the hard-driving entrepreneur transformed lead mining and smelting into Missouri's first major industry. Here he sank the first mine shaft in Missouri and built the first reverberatory furnace west of the Mississippi. He built a store, sawmill, flour mill, black smith shop, bridges and roads, and a shot tower, turning out the first lead sheet and cannonballs made in Missouri.

By 1802 he was smelting all the lead for the district, and in 1804, as



**Moses Austin**

his business prospered, he was named presiding judge of the Ste. Genevieve District. Moving north, he founded Herculaneum in 1809 as a shipping point for his lead, and for shot production.

In 1816, with other prominent citizens of Missouri, he sponsored the bank of St. Louis. Failure of the bank, along with other financial reverses, left him financially ruined in 1819.

Seeking to retrieve his fortune, he set out on horseback for San Antonio in November, 1820, to obtain permission from the Spanish government in Mexico to settle 300 families in the province of Texas.

He was first ordered to leave Texas. However, with the help of Baron de Bastrop, whom he had known in Missouri, his petition was forwarded to Monterey.

As Austin returned to Missouri the hardships and exposure of the journey undermined his health, and he died at the home of his daughter at Hazel Run on June 10, 1821, a few weeks after his colonization plan was accepted.

He was at first buried at Hazel Run, and later the bodies of Austin and his wife, Maria, were re-buried in the Old Presbyterian Cemetery in Potosi.



**Austin Tomb In Potosi**

Carrying out Austin's Texas plans and known as 'The Father of Texas' was his son, Stephen F. Austin. Stephen spent his boyhood in Potosi, was educated in Connecticut and Kentucky, and was associated with his father in business at Potosi. He served as Washington County representative from 1814 to 1821, and was later appointed a judge of Arkansas territory.

Following his father's death, he moved westward to the Brazos in Texas in 1822, taking with him as the first settlers in Texas many Missourians from Washington County and the surrounding area. He re-confirmed the land grant with the Mexican government, which had since gained its freedom from Spain, and helped his colonists prosper.

As friction between the Americans and Mexicans grew, Stephen carried on the delicate diplomatic relations between the two.

On a mission to Mexico City in 1833, he was jailed and his health undermined.



**Stephen F. Austin**

Returning to Texas in 1835, he was chosen commander-in-chief of the Army of Texas in the struggle for Texas independence.

With the defeat of the Mexican armies and the formation of the new Republic of Texas, Austin was named the first Secretary of State of the Republic. He died soon after, on December 27, 1836, at Columbia, Texas.

His name was given to Austin, Texas, capital of the state.



**Durham Hall - Built in 1798, Burned in 1870**



8-26-96

**Mine A Breton And Potosi - - 1819**

## Major Inland Town In Missouri

In the period before and after the Louisiana Purchase, Mine A Breton continued its position as a focal point for inland settlement in Missouri.

Land disagreements at the time of the Purchase were frequent and it was many years before the conflicting French claims and Spanish Grants were recognized and settled.

Under American government, Missouri and Mine A Breton were first successively under the District of Louisiana; the Territory of Louisiana, 1805; and the Territory of Missouri, 1812.

Under Austin, a nucleus of an American settlement grew up around Durham Hall, on the hills north of Mine A Breton and the creek.

Businesses remained for a time on what was to become Jefferson Street, as Mine A Breton served as the trading point for all the country south into Arkansas. People came from miles around to trade, and on

some days a hundred pack mules and ponies, some of them belonging to Indians, could be seen tied on the street before the stores of the Mine A Breton merchants.

Washington Countians were prominent in the territorial legislature, and were active in the movement for Missouri statehood petitions to Congress. The War of 1812 also saw local citizens active in the territorial militia, and lead from the diggings, according to legend, was sent down the Mississippi and used by General Jackson in the Battle of New Orleans.

The formation of the new county came on August 21, 1813 when Washington County was the first county organized from the original five counties (once Spanish districts).

Mine A Breton was first set as a temporary seat of justice for the county, with the county's first court meeting at the house of Zopher P. Evans there in January, 1814.



On February 26, 1814, the permanent county seat was established on 40 acres of land given by Austin and ten acres given by John Rice Jones. A public square and 22 blocks with 147 lots were laid out. The new town, growing around Durham Hall, was briefly called St. George, and then was called Potosi, in honor of the Spanish silver mining town in Bolivia.

Potosi and Mine A Breton remained as separate villages until May 2, 1826, when they were incorporated under the single name - Potosi.

The new town, home of business and political leaders of Missouri, was to come close to becoming the capital of the new state.

A large courthouse, suitable for a capitol for the state-to-be, was planned for Potosi. In July, 1814, 79 lots in Potosi were sold for \$5,080, with the money to be used to build the courthouse. But because of the large size and ornamentation of the building, it could not be completed for that price, and only the central section was ever built.

In the territorial convention, Potosi first lost out to a new town on the Missouri River as the site of the permanent capital of the new state, and later, by only one vote, to St. Charles as the temporary capital until the capitol at Jefferson City could be built.

As the new town grew in size and population, it also grew in the estimation of early travelers.

Lawyer-historian, Henry Marie Brackenridge, visiting the then village of Mine A Breton in 1811 wrote: "Mine A Breton is situated on a handsome stream, large enough to turn a mill the whole year. The situation of the village is pleasant, there are some handsome dwellings. The surrounding country, although broken in many parts, yet affords a great deal of fine land."



**POTOSI'S NAMESAKE** Potosi, Bolivia, Spanish silver mining town, founded in 1545.

(From A Rare 1554 Woodcut)

New York historian Henry Rowe Schoolcraft described Potosi in 1818 as 'the last village of white inhabitants between the Mississippi River and the Pacific Ocean.'

"Potosi," Schoolcraft wrote, "is built in a better style than the villages in the country generally, has a neat and thriving appearance and contains several handsome edifices. It has 3 stores, 2 distilleries (one by steam), 2 flour mills, 9 lead furnaces, 1 saw mill and a postoffice."

by 1819, roads connected Potosi with Ste. Genevieve, Herculaneum, St. Louis, Jackson and the Mississippi River country, and mail between St. Louis and New Orleans was carried on a route through Potosi.

## Giants On The Land

As Potosi grew into the principal inland town in Missouri and its lead fields attracted settlers from throughout the country, the town drew into its midst 'Giants On the Land', men who were to figure prominently in the new state and in the opening of the west.

Making a major contribution to Missouri was John Rice Jones, a business partner of Moses Austin, an author of Missouri's first Constitution, and one of the three judges of Missouri's first Supreme Court.

Jones was born in Wales, February 10, 1759, was educated at Oxford, later studied medicine and law, and practiced law in London for a time.

He came to America during the Revolutionary War and settled in Philadelphia, and in 1786 was with George Rogers Clark's army at Louisville.

Later, as the first English-speaking lawyer and first attorney general in Indiana Territory, he served as president of the legislative council and at the state constitutional convention. He later lived at Kaskaskia, with a law practice extending from Cahokia to Louisville and up and down the Ohio River.

Soon after 1800 he came to Missouri, and then on to Mine A Breton, as a partner of Moses Austin. Here, in 1813, he gave 10 acres of ground on which the new town of Potosi was founded.

He was elected from Washington County to the second General Assembly of Missouri Territory in 1814, and served two years later as president of the legislative council.



**John Rice Jones**

In 1820, Jones, along with Samuel Perry and John Hutchings, was elected a delegate to the state's first Constitutional Convention in St. Louis, and here he made a major contribution to the new state that was to be.

At the Convention, he served as chairman of the select committee, which wrote a complete constitutional draft which served as the ground plan that guided the delegates in framing and adopting Missouri's first Constitution. Of the 41 delegates he was the most learned, he was the most accomplished, and the most successful financially.

He was one of five delegates credited as the principal authors of the new Constitution.

Defeated by David Barton and Thomas Hart Benton in the election for one of Missouri's first United States senatorships, he was appointed to Missouri's first Supreme Court on November 7, 1820. Noted on the bench for his dissenting opinions, he delivered the opinion of the court in twenty-eight of 140 decisions.

He died in St. Louis on February 1, 1824.



# Father Of Our Schools

An early Washington Countian who was to become Missouri's fifth governor and the 'Father of the Common School System of Missouri' was Daniel Dunklin.

Born in North Carolina in 1790, he moved shortly after 1810 to a farm near Potosi, later setting up a tavern on Jefferson Street in Potosi. During the War of 1812, he served in the Washington County militia, and was elected the county's second sheriff in 1815, serving until 1821.

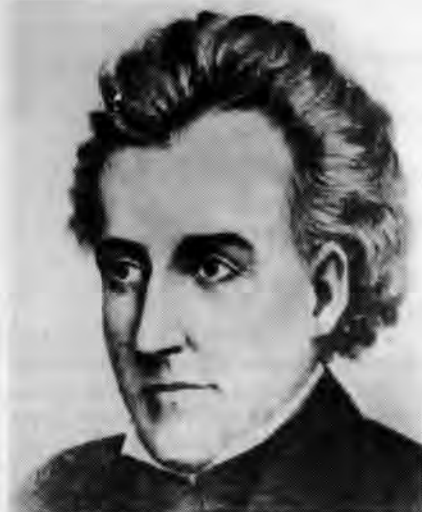
In 1816, Dunklin was instrumental in organizing the Potosi Academy, the second academy in the Territory of Missouri, chartered by the Territorial Legislature on January 30, 1817.

Trustees of the Academy were Dunklin, William H. Ashley, Lionel Browne, John Rice Jones, Moses Austin, David Wheeler, Moses Bates, Benjamin Elliott, James Austin, William Perry, John McIlvaine, Andrew Scott, John Hawkins, and Abraham Brinker.

Five hundred books for the Academy library were donated by Dunklin, and the board of trustees was granted the right to hold a \$4,000 lottery to raise funds for the school.

The Academy opened classes in two frame buildings near the present railroad branch in Potosi, and an early advertisement for the Academy noted that the school, under the direction of James McAlester, of Bardstown, Kentucky, "is now open for the instruction of youth in mathematics in all of its various branches, geography with the use of the globe, natural and moral philosophy, the French, Latin and Greek languages, together with all the several other branches of sciences and literature usually taught in academies".

In July, 1822, at a meeting at his tavern in Potosi, Dunklin was



**Daniel Dunklin**

elected representative in the state legislature. He returned to Potosi after his term, and was elected lieutenant governor in 1828. In 1832, he was elected governor of Missouri.

As governor, Dunklin actively backed school legislation. On March 19, 1835, he sponsored a school bill that was adopted as the first major attempt to unite local school units into a statewide system, leading to the naming of Dunklin as the 'Father of the Common School System of Missouri.'

Hearing of Dunklin's sponsorship of the school bill, President Jackson wrote him, "This is your bid for eternal fame." Dunklin himself, ever the strong exponent of schools, once wrote to Henry Geyer, "Why sir, we might as well have an educated people without a government as a government without education."

Governor Dunklin resigned three months before the close of his term to accept an appointment as surveyor general of Missouri and Illinois. He moved to Herculaneum in 1840, and three years later was appointed Missouri commissioner to adjust the Missouri-Arkansas border.

He died on July 25, 1844, and is buried at Herculaneum.

# Across The Wide Missouri

Potosi's contribution to the opening of the west, begun by the Austins, was to be continued by Major Andrew Henry and Colonel William Ashley, whose fur trading exploits were open and explore much of the central Rocky Mountains.

Andrew Henry, born in Pennsylvania, came to Upper Louisiana about 1800. In the summer of 1809 he went up the Missouri River with the first fur-trading expedition of the Missouri Fur Company, and led the first American fur traders to operate west of the Rockies.

Returning to Missouri, he mined in Washington County, and during the War of 1812 was a major in a Washington County regiment commanded by Col. William H. Ashley.

Ashley, born in Virginia in 1778, came to Missouri about 1803, where he first met Henry. While Henry mined in Washington County, Ashley was a lead miner and gunpowder manufacturer at Potosi.

Prominent in public affairs, Ashley moved to St. Louis, and was elected Missouri's first lieutenant governor in 1820.

An ad in the 'Missouri Republic' on March 6, 1822, was to continue the main phase of the Ashley-Henry career. The ad read:

"To Enterprising Young Men:

"The subscriber wishes to engage one hundred men, to ascend the river Missouri to its source, there to be employed for one, two, or three years. For particulars, enquire of Major Andrew Henry, near the Lead Mines in the County of Washington (who will ascend with, and command the party) or to the subscriber at St. Louis - Wm. H. Ashley."

That year, the first "Ashley-Henry Men" ascended the 'Wide Missouri', beginning expeditions that over the next four years were to bring the Rocky Mountain fur trade to its peak.

Their company originated the

'fendezvous system' of fur trading, with independent trappers meeting annually in the mountains for their exchanges.

And as they worked the mountain men explored the central Rockies, the Tetons, the Great Salt Lake Basin and the South Pass, opening the way west through which the great Overland Trail was later to pass.

Henry sold his share in the fur company in 1824, returning to the mines at Washington County, where he died in 1833. He is believed to be buried near Palmer.

Ashley amassed a fortune in the fur trade, returned to Missouri and served in Congress from 1831 to 1837. He died in Cooper County, Mo., in 1838.

## John Smith 'T'

A fascinating mixture of gentleman and scholar, swash-buckler and duelist was John Smith T.

A frequent adversary of Moses Austin in land claims, Smith came to Missouri from Tennessee in 1804 and added the letter 'T' to his name to show he was from Tennessee and was different from other John Smiths. In Washington County, he opened a prosperous mining claim at Shibboleth.

A one-time judge in the district, Smith always went, so the story goes, with two pistols under his coat, two pocket pistols, and a dirk at his bosom. Tradition says he killed 15 men, 'mostly in duels where his own life was in danger'. Washington County's first sheriff Lionel Browne, a nephew of Aaron Burr, was killed by Smith in a duel.

Smith later opened a cotton plantation near Memphis, where he died in 1835.

"He was", a contemporary has written, "As polished and courteous a gentleman as ever lived in the State of Missouri, and as mild a mannered man as ever put a bullet into the human body."



## Smelting At Cresswell's Furnace -- A Latter-Day Re-Creation Paying The Louisiana Purchase

As the new town and county grew, new lead mines and furnaces were opened to produce the ore so plentiful near the surface of the earth.

Early miners used only a pick and shovel, along with a driller, rammer and priming rod, when needed to blast, to remove the ore. Shallow shafts were often sunk in the clay to bed rock.

As the ore was mined, it was cleaned with small, sharpened picks, beat into lumps of nearly equal size, and then taken to the furnace for smelting.

The early furnaces were the 'log and ash' furnaces, consisting of merely an inclined hearth, walled on three sides, open at the top, with an arch at the bottom for air. Large logs were piled on the grates, the 'charge' of ore piled on the logs, more logs added, and the fire then started to melt the lead from the ore. The lead was caught and molded into logs or hollows in the ground as it ran from the furnace.

Austin introduced the reverberatory furnace, with the flame passing over an arch and heat deflected downward to the ore on a grate. Later developments were to bring the Scotch hearth furnace, much like a black-

smith's forge, powered by large bellows.

Diggings worked under the French and Spanish included Mine A Breton, Old Mines and Fourche Au Renault, with mines going into operation in the first quarter of the 19th century including Shibboleth, Richwoods, Mine Astraddle, Bellefontaine, Perrys, Elliott's, Cannon Mines, Courtois, New Diggings, and others.

From 1803 to 1819, Washington County produced three million pounds of ore annually, with a value equal to one-fourth of the entire purchase price of Louisiana.

In the years before the Civil War, as surface lead mining neared its peak, towers of lead furnaces rose throughout the county, and diggings throughout the area were opened with such colorful names as Pigeon Roost, Polecat, Coffee Pot, Ishmael, Graveyard, Old Dutch, Horse Battle, Crawfish, Picayune, and Hypocrite.

Iron mining was begun in the county as early as 1823, when the Springfield Iron Furnace was opened on Furnace Creek, with zinc also to be mined near Irondale in later years.

## The Years Between

In the years between 1820 and the Civil War, Potosi continued as a dynamic community, prominent in state affairs and center of the mining industry.

As some settlers came, prospered and moved on, still others arrived to take their place as community leaders.

Among them was a 20-year old French merchant, Firmin Desloge who came to Potosi from France in 1823, set up a store on High Street, and became engaged in mining. He built a home on the south side of High street, opposite his store, and was married to Cynthia McIlvaine, daughter of a Potosi Academy trustee. Here their family of 12 children was born. Most prominent of them was to be Firmin II, born in Potosi in 1843, who was later to be active in opening up the Lead Belt mines. Still later generations of the family were to become prominent in St. Louis.

Both Firmin Desloge I and his wife died in Potosi, and are buried in the St. James Cemetery.

Although Potosi had been unsuccessful in becoming the state capital, the State Supreme Court did meet here twice a year, between 1837 and 1843, in Potosi's first courthouse.

As a business center, Potosi also continued to prosper.

The earliest merchants had been the Perrys - Samuel, John William and James - on Jefferson Street, with other merchants before 1830 including a Mr. Hastings, Luke Risley and Smith and Glenn. Joining them in the 1830's were John Brickley, J.W.B. Covington and Henry Pease.

The first hotel in Potosi was believed to have been kept by William Ficklin, on Missouri Street. The Breton Hotel was built in 1825 by Zopher P. Evans, with a Mr. Bingham the first landlord. Early physicians in-



**Mrs. John Casey & Child  
Painted In Potosi In 1840**

cluded Dr. Israel McGready, Dr. Joseph Brown and Dr. William P. Harrison.

Potosi's first newspaper, 'The Miner's Prospect', was published from 1846 to 1849 by Philip Ferguson and F.A. Dallan, to be followed by the 'Washington County Miner', published by Napoleon B. Buck from 1856 to 1861, and others.

The year 1849 saw the erection of a lodge hall on Breton Street. Construction was started by the Sons of Temperance, but before the building was completed, word came of the California Gold Rush. So many of the members went west, the society was disbanded. The hall was later bought by Potosi Lodge 131 AF&AM, for a Masonic Hall, and the first floor assembly hall was to be used for many years as an Opera House.

The railroad was to come to Potosi on July 4, 1859, with the completion of the Potosi Branch of the St. Louis - Iron Mountain Railway from Mineral Point.

The population of Washington County also continued a steady growth through the years. In 1821, the population was 3,741; in 1830, 6,779; 1840, 7,213; and 1850, 8,811.





Washington County Courthouse - - 1850-1907

## The House Divided

The beginning of the Civil War found Potosians, with both strong Southern and Northern sympathies, going on record at a public meeting early in May, 1861, in favor of armed neutrality.

The first slaves in Missouri had been introduced in Washington County by Renault, and in 1860 the county had a total population of 1,028 slaves in a total population of 9,723. Through the century before, slaves had worked in the mines, and in the fields and homes of farming settlers coming from the Southern states.

At their May meeting, Potosians organized a home guard

company to maintain their armed neutrality by force of arms.

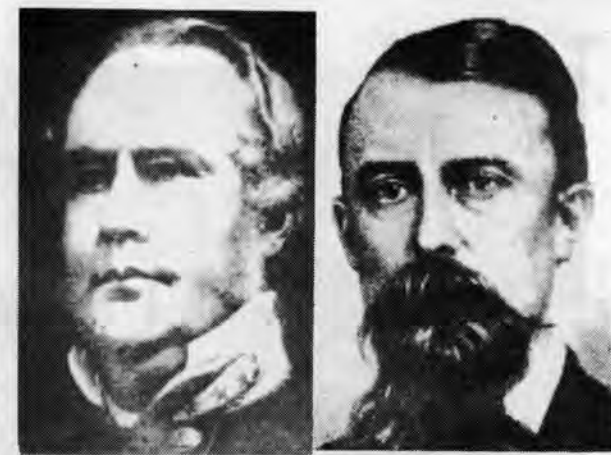
But action by Federal troops from St. Louis soon forced them to take sides. On May 16, a Federal battalion took possession of Potosi, and a number of citizens known or suspected of Southern sympathies were arrested, and about a dozen of them taken to St. Louis, held for a time as prisoners of war, and then released.

The die was cast. Countians quickly began to choose sides in the struggle. Several Union companies organized in the county, with a number of countians leaving to form the bulk of Confederate companies behind rebel lines.

Loyal Home Guard companies were also organized to guard county bridges and railroads, with one such company keeping their headquarters and arsenal at the Douglas Hall, at the upper end of High Street. On an August evening in 1861, with most of the

Gen. Sterling Price

Gen. J. O. Shelby



men home for supper, a Confederate cavalry detachment commanded by a Col. White rushed into town, fired upon the few remaining guards, and quickly took the arsenal. Col. White, after his brief foray, then rode on and left the Home Guards in possession.

Many such brief skirmishes and guerilla raids raged about Potosi during the war years, but it was not until 1864, near the close of the war, that Potosi was to bear the full brunt of battle.

From Arkansas, Confederate Sterling Price mounted his Missouri raid and headed northward through Missouri. Price was stalled for a time by Union troops at Pilot Knob, but General Jo Shelby, leading an advance unit of Price's raiders, lashed into Washington County.

Raiding parties destroyed railroad bridges at Irondale and Mineral Point, while Shelby, in the center, attacked the rail line near Mineral Point, missing only by minutes a train load of Union troops making their escape northward. Tearing up the rail lines and burning ties and trestles, Shelby moved on to Potosi on September 27, 1864.

Potosians fled the town, hid in cellars and behind shuttered windows and moved their valuables to safe keeping. Loyal troops barricaded in the Courthouse were bombarded by Shelby with eight shells from a cannon near the depot. The loyal troops, heavily outnumbered and suffering a number of casualties, surrendered.

Shelby's troops stripped the defenders of money, clothing, shoes and blankets, and several of their number, believed to be too strong in Union sympathies, were marched before their fellows and shot. Shelby, continuing the destruction, burned the depot and other buildings.

Rebel raiding parties, flocking in and headquartering at Potosi, careened throughout the county in scattered skirmishes with Union defenders.

After the Union retreat from Pilot Knob, General Price moved on northward to join the advance guard camped at Potosi. The rebel troops re-assembled here, and continued on north to Union, then west across the state, ending Missouri's and Potosi's last desperate struggle of the war.



City Stable  
Burned In 1864



Dr. John Bell  
Civil War Physician  
In Potosi





**WATER STREET, SOUTH ACROSS BRETON CREEK, 1860**  
**The Earliest-Known Photograph Of Potosi**



**WOOD-BURNING LOCOMOTIVE ON POTOSI BRANCH**  
**Branch Railroad Completed In 1859, Photo Taken 1890**



**"Rattlebox Days" In The Barite Fields**

## **Barite Capital of The World**

At the close of the Civil War, as surface lead deposits ran out in Washington County, and lead mining and smelting declined, a new industry, the barite industry began to develop in Washington County.

As new industries, such as the paint and rubber industries, began to require the use of the white, chalky mineral, activity picked up again in the mining areas.

Long periods of digging for surface lead had provided a general evaluation of the Washington County fields, and it was known that there were tremendous reserves of fine quality barite in the area. The area was also favored by its location on the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad, and St. Louis, because of its closeness to supplies of coal, sulphuric acid and zinc, became the center of the barite milling and processing industry.

Beginning in this era, was the long colorful period of hand-min-

ing 'tiff', as barite is called in the area.

The hand miners conducted the search for new barite deposits with a simple, but successful and widely used prospecting methods. A steel bar was driven into the ground, and when it encountered a large lump of 'tiff', the telltale white mineral showed on the tip of the bar when it was removed. The presence of lumps of barite in the clay mean good hand mining ground, for they yielded enough weight to justify the necessary digging.

The holes dug into the barite-bearing clay by many hand miners were works of art. They were almost perfectly circular, and in some cases so small in diameter that it was almost unbelievable a man could wield a pick and shovel in such cramped quarters. Nevertheless, the holes were sunk quickly into the ore zone.

From the bottom of the hole, drifts and larger excavations were extended following the lump barite deposit.

If the excavation reached an appreciable depth, the hand-operated windlass was an inevitable item of equipment, with the miner's partner hoisting the tiff to the surface in a bucket as the mineral was dug loose from the clay.

The next step, cleaning the 'tiff', was usually done right at the mining site. Barite and clay were usually separated in a 'rattle box', a frame with a screen deck, built somewhat like a baby's cradle, so it could be rocked back and forth to rattle the chinks around and break off the clay.

If the clay was too moist to remove, the lumps were first dried over an open fire. Silica or iron oxide accretions were chipped off by hand.

The cleaned barite, ready for market, was then hauled to the nearest weighing station for sale, with the hauling done in horse or mule-drawn carts and wagons.

From the 1860's to about 1905, the mining of barite in Washington County was on a relatively small scale, and there were only a few buyers. From 1905 to the 1930's, however, hand-mining activity greatly increased as the chemists found more and more uses for the white mineral and more jobbers bought and shipped barite to the users.

At the peak of activity during this period, several thousand people were engaged in hand mining in Washington County, and several hundred houses were constructed by owners of barite-bearing property as homes for the miners.

The 'tiff' was hauled in long processions of wagons over the maze of trails to the main roads. Each load, of perhaps one to three tons, was paid for by individual check, and a major weighing station is known to have processed as many as 300 loads in a day. Royalty was paid by buyers to property owners on

the word of the miners as to where his production came from.

Until the mid-1920's, no important inroads were made in hand-mining methods. Not only was hand mining peculiarly suited to the Washington County deposits, but available mechanical equipment was generally inadequate.

About 1905, the first attempt at mechanical washing was made, but it was unsuccessful.

During the mid-20's, the Eagle Picher Company and the National Pigments and Chemical Company built the first real barite washing plants patterned after those in operation in Georgia. Around 1926 the use of barite as a weighting agent in oil well drilling was introduced, with that use increasing steadily since that time.

Despite the breakthrough to successful mechanical mining and concentration of barite in Washington County, hand mining continued to thrive after the mid-twenties. In 1931, in deference to large scale unemployment created by the depression, the large producers of mechanically processed barite discontinued washer operations and depended entirely on hand-mined sources.

World War II and the 1940's saw the final conversion from hand-mining to mechanical mining and washing.

Since that time, mechanization has continued, with many Washington County companies' mining the ore in strip-mines with large shovels, washing, and milling the ore, and then shipping it through out the country for such uses as in oil-well 'mud', in face powders, in chocolate coatings, with X-rays, and many other uses for the unsung mineral of Washington County.

The location of Potosi at the center of the barite-producing area, has led to it often being called 'The Barite Capital of the World.'

## From Forests and Fields Farming And Lumbering Have Long Played An Important Role In The Lives Of Washington Countians



Oxen And Logs, High Street, 1907



Robinson Stave Mill - Courtois, 1909



Threshing Rig At Cresswell's, Aptus, 1910





Dr. Lem Hall (center) At Home On High Street

## And The Band Played On

The 1890's and early years of the present century were to find Potosians, when time was available from busy work schedules, joining in the many-faceted 'pleasures of the simple life' of the small town.

Oyster suppers, balls at the Opera House, ice cream and strawberry socials, afternoon musicales, torchlight political rallies, quiltings, taffy pulls, picnics at Haunted Springs, concerts by the Potosi Cornet Band, train rides over the Potosi Branch, hay rides and square dances all combined to give pleasure and pastime.



The Afternoon League



Potosi Cornet Band  
At Courthouse, 1907

## From Horse To Horseless Carriage



Horsemen On Missouri Street



The Potosi Bicycle Club



Dr. J. P. Townsend & 1907 Maxwell





## A Tale Of Two Court Houses

Washington County's first Court House, built in 1815, was razed in 1850, and materials from it were used in building the county's second Court House, on the corner of High and Missouri streets.

A spectacular fire on January 9, 1907 (above) destroyed the second Court House. The county's present Court House, its third (at left), was dedicated on the same site on March 25, 1908.



## R. M. Bugg & Co., High Street, 1885 Business As Usual

In good times and bad, fat years and lean, Potosi has continued as a business center serving a wide surrounding area.

Following the miners to Mine A Breton, early merchants set up shop under the Spanish Regime, and were to continue to grow up and down High and Missouri Streets as Potosi grew, to occupy a large east-west, north-south

axis through the city today.

General mercantile stores, hotels, wagon and coffin works, blacksmith shops, tinsmith shops, banks, flour and grist mills, harness makers, milliner's shops, hardware stores, druggists, watchmakers and many others were to continue through the years the varied picture of Potosi's businesses.



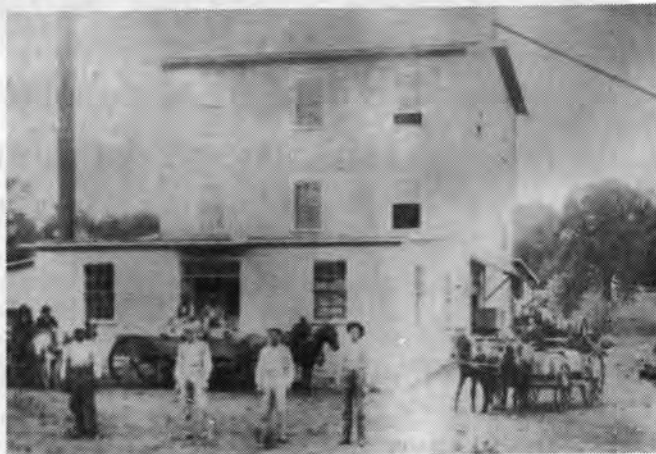
Bank Of Potosi



-- Washington County Bank



"The Weekly Independent" -- 1895



Bust Brothers Mill -- 1900



Hotel Austin - 1930

## The Face of High Street



High Street East From Missouri Street -- 1910



South Side Of High Street, At Missouri St. - 1915



High Street West From Stone Street -- 1916





**Lions Club Picnic Parade -- Labor Day, 1931**



**The Potosi Civic League  
Potosi's First Federated Club**



**AN ERA ENDS -- OXEN MEET AUTO ON HIGH STREET**



**Potosi Grade School -- 1865-1890**

## **School Days, School Days**



**Potosi Grade School  
Built In 1890**

**Potosi Grade School  
Burned In 1946**





# Houses of The Lord

The churches of Potosi have played an important part in the lives of the town's citizens through the years, and as early as 1819 historian Henry Rowe Schoolcraft visiting Potosi, wrote: "It would be difficult to point out a town or village west of the Mississippi where there is a greater attention to industry, morality and religion than at Mine A Breton".

Many congregations of many denominations have served as a guiding force in the community through Potosi's two centuries, and a brief summary of their histories includes:

The Methodist Church was in existence as early as 1816 in Potosi. Meetings were held in the Courthouse until the first church was built between 1825 and 1830. The congregation's present edifice was built in 1903, and plans are now underway for a new church.

The Presbyterian Church was organized in Potosi in 1832, and the congregation's first church is still standing on Breton Street. The present Presbyterian Church was completed in 1908, from plans drawn by Potosi-born John Anderson Lankford, the 'Dean of American Negro Architects.'

The original Baptist Church in Potosi was organized in 1832 with the church, located on the corner of North Mine and Breton, later becoming what is now the First Baptist Church in Potosi. Other congregations of this denomination now active in Potosi include the Potosi Baptist Church on Clark Street; the United Baptist Church on Towle Street and the Bethel Baptist Church on Bonnie Street.

The Catholic Church in Potosi was organized in 1828 and the first church was completed in 1844. The present Saint James Church was built in 1862, on

Missouri Street, and the parish's school, adjoining the church was opened in September, 1952.

Other denominations joining the list of Potosi's fine churches during the present century include the Assembly of God, on North Missouri Street; the Church of God on Cordia Street; the Pentecostal Church of God on Austin Street; and the Church of the Nazarene on Nipper Street.

The first Negro Church in Potosi was located in the Presbyterian Cemetery, and in 1902 the present church was built on Wreath Street. The church was first called the Union Church and was used by the Free Will Baptists, Trinity Methodist, Missionary Baptist and A.M.E. Methodist. Now only the Trinity Methodist and the Church of God use the church.



**Methodist Church - Built 1825**



**Rare View Of  
Potosi's First  
Baptist Church  
Built 1832**



**Presbyterian Church - Built 1832**

# The Towns Around

The rich historic past of Potosi is shared by numerous towns, communities and settlements which throughout the years have worked together to build the Washington County of today.

Among these many communities are:

**BELGRADE**, near the headwaters of Big River, is about 15 miles southwest of Potosi. It is at the center of an agricultural area and received its name after the Yugoslavian capital city of Belgrade.

**CALEDONIA**, 12 miles south of Potosi, is in the center of the Bellevue Valley agricultural area. The first store was built in 1817 by Alexander Craighead, who named the town for Caledonia in his native Scotland. The Old Bellevue Collegiate Institute was located here for many years, and the first Presbyterian Church west of the Mississippi was organized here in 1816.

**IRONDALE**, on Big River and the Missouri-Pacific Railroad in southeast Washington County, was laid out in 1858 by John G. Scott. It received its name from the presence of early iron works and furnaces, and was once called briefly Savoy. It is near one of the proposed lake sites of the Meramec Basin project.

**OLD MINES**, six miles north of Potosi, among the county's oldest settlements, was founded by early French lead miners in the 18th century, and still cherishes much of the rich French tradition of the founders. Saint Joachim's Church at Old Mines was completed in 1830 and is still in use today.

**MINERAL POINT**, four miles east of Potosi on the Missouri-Pacific main line, was laid out in 1858 by William C. Inks. Several barite plants are located here, and it has one of the most modern schools in the R-3 district.

**RICHWOODS**, in the northwest

part of Washington County, was founded in the early years of the 1800's as the center of early lead work in the county. The picturesque community continues today as the center of an agricultural and mining area.

**PALMER**, earlier named Webster, is 15 miles southwest of Potosi. It was founded in 1830, and was the scene of a number of lead 'booms' in the later years of the 19th century. It is now owned by the Palmer Lead Company.

**HOPEWELL**, on the railroad five miles southeast of Mineral Point, was laid out in 1858 by John Evens. The pre-Civil War Hopewell Union Church and adjoining cemetery have been the scene of large Decoration Day gatherings for many years in the county.

**SHIRLEY**, nine miles west of Potosi, was once called Waltonsburg, and forms the center for a farming and lumbering area. Tradition has it that its present name was in honor of William Shirley, an early resident and father of the bandit queen, Belle Starr.

**CADET**, in central Washington County, was founded before the Civil War, and has served as a major railroad shipping point for mineral products from the county for many years.

**EBO**, nine miles northwest of Potosi, is near the site of some of the county's oldest and newest mining works - the old Renault Diggings of Fourche au Renault, and the new Indian Creek lead mine of St. Joseph Lead Company.

To the list may be added Stony Point, Berryman, Quaker, Delbridge, Anthonies Mill, Bellefountain, Blackwell, Fertile, Cruise, Kingston, and many, many more, joining together to make up the present day county, with many of them retaining much colorful history from out of the county's historic past.



## The Past Is Prelude

As it rounds out its second century, Potosi takes a fond look back at the days that were, and then turns ahead to the days that are yet to be.

It is appropriate that its 200th anniversary sees Potosi entering a period as exciting and promising as any since the days of its founding fathers.

Mining, every important in the county during the past centuries, is again coming to new peaks in the Bicentennial year. The mammoth new Pea Ridge iron ore deposits in northwest Washington County are scheduled to enter production this year. Deep shaft lead mining has been underway at St. Joseph Lead Company's Indian Creek mine for several years, with more production to come this year at Viburnum, at the county's southwest corner.

Shoe production continues at two Brown Shoe Company plants in Potosi, and Potosi citizens have just given an overwhelming majority to a \$500,000 bond issue to build a new Brown Shoe plant,

also to be opened during this Bicentennial year. 1963 will also see the opening of the ultra-modern new Washington County Memorial Hospital at Potosi.

The drawing boards of the Army Corps of Engineers hold exciting plans for two large lakes in Washington County, in the Meramec Basin projects, and mining operations continue at barite plants throughout Washington County.

From its position as county seat, Potosi serves a county embracing the Sunnen Lake YMCA camps, Boy Scout Camp Irondale; national prize-winning Hereford cattle; lumber mills; fertile farms; free-flowing fishing streams; a hunter's paradise of wooded hills; and a friendly people with a 'glad to have you' hospitality.

In the exciting new pioneering spirit of its Bicentennial Year, Potosi enters the future, knowing that the past has been but a prelude of what is yet to come.



# Acknowledgments

This brief word and picture story of Potosi might well be termed 'Notes For A Work In Progress'. Although Potosi is one of the most historic towns in Missouri, no definitive history of the town or Washington County has yet been written, and many facets of its fascinating past remain buried in long forgotten tomes and record books.

It is hoped that this work, prepared to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Potosi, may serve as the beginning of a continuing project to gather and preserve the history of the town and county in words and pictures for future generations.

The cooperation of many Washington Countians, past and present, has gone into the making of this book. Because of size limitations, all research materials and photos gathered could not be used, but all will be maintained for reference for future works of this type.

For pictorial material used in this book, acknowledgement is extended to Richard Marshall, Museum of Anthropology, University of Missouri; the 'Independent-Journal'; the State Historical Society of Missouri; Frank White, Wm. Cresswell, Mrs. James Swift, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bust; Mr. and Mrs. Joe D. Casey, Wiatt Richeson, Margaret Wood, Alfred E. Portell, Guy Maxwell, Ray B. Carl, Mr. and Mrs. A.S. Higginbotham, Mrs. E.T. Banta, Mrs. George Wallace, Sr., Mrs. Rudy Kilgore, Miss Ann Camp-

bell, Mrs. Eunice Simpson, Mrs. Wilson Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Gibson, Emery Wilson, Sr., Mrs. R.C. White and Clyde Loomis. Photos were also drawn from Schoolcraft's "View of the Lead Mines", histories of Missouri by Violette, Houck, and Shoemaker and Williams; and American Heritage's 'Book of Indians'. The O.E. Berninghaus sketch of the barite fields is from the collection of the DeLore Division, National Lead Co.

Credit is due, also, to Mr. Earl Sackett for material on barite mining, drawn from his definitive paper prepared for the American Institute of Mining Engineers, and to the 'Independent-Journal' for photo copies of pictorial material.

And, credit, too, to Jon Bust for his fine cover sketch.

## Prepared By The Bicentennial History Committee

Mr. and Mrs. James Swift,  
George Showalter, Miss Jane  
Moor

## Under The Direction Of The Bicentennial Committee

Clyde A. Loomis, Chairman  
Harry Chapman, Vice-chairman  
Mrs. Elbert Waide, Secretary  
Jack Biggers, Treasurer



# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Worth County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

New Opera House

Grant City

yes \_\_\_\_ no X

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

New Opera House

Grant City

yes \_\_\_\_ no X

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist? yes.

New Opera House

Grant City

yes \_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? We had a ChaHaugua Company (origin Grant City). It performed in a Legion Hall - now demolished.

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

\_\_\_\_ books about specific theatres

X photographs

\_\_\_\_ newspaper articles

X scrapbooks

X county or town histories

X other, please specify Flyers.

We also had a movie theatre Now demolished.

We had a Large Park that had <sup>swimming</sup> pool - radio station, Entertainment - Summer homes called Kelso Park.

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

Yes.

What days and times is your library open to the public? Mon, Wed, Fri 1:00 to 5:00  
Historical Office - Open by request or Appointment.

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

Yes.

Who is the best person to contact for more information?

Ruth S. Gladstone  
R.R.#1 Bx 9 - Worth, Mo 64499

In the Historical Office we have a picture of 4<sup>th</sup> July parking at Kelso Park. Cars cover a large area and it was estimated at a crowd of 5,000 - in attendance all sorts of entertainment was there.

**Thank you for your assistance.**

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203

# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Wright County Historical and Genealogical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Candler Opera House  
Candler's Theatre

Mountain Grove

yes ☒ no ☐  
yes ☐ no ☒

Is this(these) theatre(s) still in operation?

Candler Opera House  
Candler's Theatre

Mountain Grove

yes ☐ no ☒  
yes ☐ no ☒

If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

Candler Opera House  
Candler's Theatre

Mountain Grove

yes ☒ no ☐  
yes ☐ no ☐ ?

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area?

Johnson Opera House - Hartsville - Building still exists

Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area? Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

☐ books about specific theatres

☒ photographs

☐ newspaper articles

☐ scrapbooks

☐ county or town histories

☐ other, please specify

enclosed copy from W.C. History

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area?

enclosed

What days and times is your library open to the public?

Historical Society open 9-4:30 weekdays - 9-12 Saturday

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?

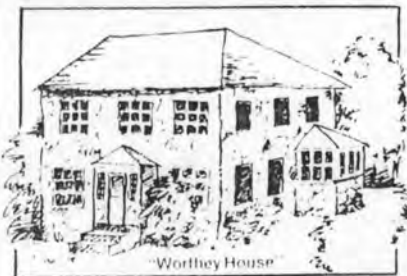
Check w/ library

Who is the best person to contact for more information?

2nd Mt Grove, check with Edsel Yeager at Richards Bros grocery.

**Thank you for your assistance.**

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203



*Wright County*  
**HISTORICAL**  
AND  
**GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**  
Hartville, Missouri 65667  
P.O. Box 66  
9 - 8 - '97

Becky L. Snider  
1008 Sunset Drive  
Columbia MO 65203

Ms Snider:

With reference to your letter of August 31 regarding Opera Houses in the Wright County Area, I am enclosing material which relates to the former Johnson Opera House in Hartville. As you will note, it no longer functions as an Opera House but the building is still in existence and has recently undergone some extensive repairs - new roof and replacement of deteriorating brickwork. It will not, of course, be restored to its former role as an opera house.

The building which contained the opera house in Mountain Grove still exists as the central portion of Richards Brothers Grocery on the north side of the square. I have no photo available of this building at the present time. We have recently moved our historical society office into the former Wright County Bank building and most of our material of this nature is still in boxes waiting to be filed.

I have no information regarding an opera house in Norwood. Larry Dennis, editor of the Mansfield Mirror, mentions an opera house in Mansfield during his discussion of the city in Mansfield, the First Hundred Years, published in 1983. He gives no additional details in the book.

Good luck on your project,

*Clyde A. Rowen,*  
*President*



plan to be here, as are the teachers of that year.

To start the celebration this group will be in charge of the program on Saturday night,

mon a memorial service will be held in honor of the deceased members of the class.

"The Good Shepherd" is the theme for this memorial.

Our last meeting was five years ago for our 45th. At this time we made plans for our golden celebration to be held this weekend.



The Johnson Opra Building was the only gym the basketball team of 1922-26 had. Their games were played here. The Hartville basketball team of 1926 was the first Hartville team to play district meets at Lebanon where they won and in the regional in Springfield that year. It was also the first year the local team wore furnished sweaters sporting the letter H. Mrs. Clifford Dunn still has her treasured sweater.

*News Clipping  
From Citizen's Scrapbook*



## HHS Class of 1926

### Bicentennial Feature

Shown above is the graduating class of 1926, taken from the original class picture of that year.

Look the picture over and see how many you recognize after 50 years. Pictured from left to right, front row: Dorless Turner Schweihheimer, Marie Curry Evans, Ferriel Claxton Mallory, Rita Carter Burney, Jewell Palmer Johnson, Claddie Shull Nichols, Edna Goswisch Claxton, Laura Rayhorn Jevons, Hossie Pearman Widner, Alma Rayborn, Clares Hightower Colton, Emogene Jones Fuge. Second row: Dillard Mallory, Lee Burney, Archie Newton, Haskell Hutton, John Pope, Clifford Dunn, Dee Hutton, Chester Claxton, and Buster Fuge.

Standing, back row: Lloyd Tracy, class sponsor; Bill Clark, Loan Mallory, Forrest Hutton, Alva Rainey, Lester Newton, Virgil Rippee, Elmer Wood, Arnold Crewse, Theodore Nickle, and Lawrence Pyatt.



The Hartville Public School building, built in 1911 in this 1926 photo. The first gym was added in 1926. Mr. Lloyd Tracy was superintendent in 1926 and tend this reunion. Other teachers of that year who tend the alumni and 50th reunion of the 1926 class are Mrs. Robinett and Mrs. Rachel Carter Barnes.

Everyone has a tation to attend morning church service at the H School on Monday, 11 a. m.

The alumni ban 50th reunion of 1926 is listed in Calendar Service, lished by the Am lution Bicentenni sion in Washingto

## T. J. "TOMMY" FARMER

Young T. J. Farmer, son of a prominent Hartville physician and pharmacist, had a new camera in 1912 and was naturally anxious to try it out.

He took pictures of everything, his friends, buildings, a great snowstorm, the town's first autos, the first airplane to fly the skies of Wright County.

Today, the photographs are frozen moments of history and Farmer is an able guide to Hartville's early days. Farmer's father, Dr. A. J. Farmer, had immigrated to Wright County as a boy of 10, along with many other Southerners who fled the disordered post-Civil War period in the South.

He became prominent in Hartville and served for a time as postmaster. In 1891, he took his medical degrees at Keokuk Medical College in Keokuk, IA and returned to Hartville, where he was both doctor and pharmacist.

His son helped out in the pharmacy, and after a year of pre-medical training in St. Louis, joined the firm as a fulltime pharmacist in 1923. The doctor died in 1924 and the son has continued Farmers Drugs to the present. The store looks much the same as it did in the 1920s.

Besides Farmer's own early photographic efforts, he has a number of other early photos and momentos of his years as a pharmacist.

The store includes antique shop furnishings and an accumulation of product advertising accumulated through the 60 years of business.

Recalling the days of the photographs, Farmer remembers that in those times taking pictures was a little more complicated than taking the film to the corner drug store to return shortly as prints or slides. He had to develop the film and make the picture prints himself, in a darkened room at night.

He took a picture of his father's new auto, a Ford purchased from a dealer in Mt. Grove named Douglas. It was the second car in town, preceeded a few months by another Ford purchased by Mr. Prophet. Young Farmer himself drove the new auto back from Mt. Grove to Hartville, over the dirt road that then connected the two. All roads were unpaved in those days. The journey to Springfield took more than two and a half hours.

The first airplane in Wright County was flown by Delay Thompson in 1913. Farmer got a picture of the pilot perched in his flimsy appearing aircraft, soaring over a barn.

In 1918, Farmer took his own first airplane ride in a two seater bi-plane.

Earlier in 1915, Farmer had acquired a powerful Indian motorcycle, an object of great pride to judge by the number of pictures he took of the vehicle. That same year, he recorded on film a 15-inch snowfall that stopped traffic, both horses and motorized, and toppled timber. (The above article taken from a 1970s newspaper account. Born in 1895, Tommy Farmer died in 1979.)

## ENTERTAINMENT

Wright County entertainment in the "good ol' days" before TV and the movies was limited, by today's standards, but ignorance of things to come was no cause for dismay—there was always something to do or somewhere to go!

The Chautauqua Circuit brought entertainment each summer, presenting music, drama and elocution under the big top, which in Hartville was



Hartville Street Fair.

set up on the Methodist church lot every year. In Mt. Grove, Chautauqua Park was located on the present site of Brown Shoe Company.

The Lyceum series of lectures and concerts, etc., was presented by professional entertainers in Johnson Opera House (over the old locker plant) in Hartville and in Mt. Grove at the Opera Hall located at the present site of Richards Brothers.

Blind Boone, the phenomenal black piano player from Columbia, MO, gave his fifth and last Hartville concert Sept. 26, 1925 at Johnson Opera House. Sightless since he was six months of age, Boone had the gift of replaying any selection he heard. His crowd pleasers in Hartville were Mrs. H.E. Frink's "Ripples of the Gasconade" and his own composition "The Marshfield Tornado".

The Musical Grays, a family of entertainers, made Mt. Grove their winter quarters, taking their "Toby" show through the northern states during the summer. Erman Gray became the first band director for Hartville High School.

Clubs of all descriptions abounded in Wright County circles. There were literary clubs, embroidery clubs, Shakespearean clubs, WCTU, Missouri Women's Development Association, church clubs, farm and garden clubs, quilting clubs, etc.

Lodges were plentiful as well, with the Oddfellows and Rebekahs, A.F. & A.M. and Eastern Star, the Red Men and Pocahontas, also Royal Neighbors in both urban and rural areas of the county.

Johnson Opera House served as a multi-purpose auditorium, gymnasium, meeting place and occasional house of worship. It doubled as the only indoor basketball court in the Hartville area for many years. School and town teams from Wright and surrounding counties tested their mettle in the Opera house until 1936, when a gym was added onto the high school. Spectators sat only at the ends of the hall due to the narrowness of the facility.

Archie Newton, a member of the basketball team, had the misfortune of jerking the third finger off his right hand. The accident occurred in Johnson Hall when he placed his hand on the side of the stage and jumped to the floor. The



The Chautauqua Tent.

ring on his third finger hung on a nail, the weight of his body and the jerk tore his finger apart in the joint. He was taken to Dr. B.E. Latimer's office where the finger was severed from the hand. (Democrat Dec. 3, 1925)

In the spring of 1936 Wright County was agog with the grand opening of Casador Lodge on the lake at Hartville. Harry Gorman was proprietor of the summer resort which boasted six cabins ready for use with more to follow, also a dance pavilion of unique construction and other amenities for recreation and enjoyment.

A grand celebration of Casador was climaxed on July 4, 1937 with "a big dance at evening in the pavilion which is one of the best dance floors in the state and already widely known and popular in all surrounding towns as well as gathering devotees of the Terpsichorean art from Springfield, Kansas City and St. Louis."

Three years later, on April 18, 1940, Circuit Judge C.H. Skinker issued a restraining order and Casador Lodge was padlocked. Years afterward it was converted into a lodge hall for the IOOF and in the 1990s, weathered and forlorn, it has become just another house, betraying no hint of the excitement it evoked more than fifty years ago.