

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED

SAMPLE COPY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Landers Theater
AND/OR COMMON Landers Theater

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 311 East Walnut
CITY, TOWN Springfield VICINITY OF #7 - Hon. Gene Taylor
STATE Missouri 65802 CODE 29 COUNTY Greene CODE 077

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES, RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES, UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Springfield Little Theatre, Inc.
STREET & NUMBER 311 East Walnut
CITY, TOWN Springfield VICINITY OF Missouri 65802

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of the County Recorder, Greene County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER 940 Boonville
CITY, TOWN Springfield STATE Missouri 65802

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE 1. Springfield Historical Site Survey
DATE 1970 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Springfield City Hall
CITY, TOWN Springfield STATE Missouri 65802

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

Location: The Landers Theatre occupies part of lot 55, block 15 of the original plat of Springfield, Missouri.

Architects; Designed by Carl Boller of Kansas City, Missouri, in 1905, who associated for the project with Miller, Opel, and Torbett of Springfield. Alterations and restoration (after a fire in December, 1920) were designed in February 1921 by Hickenlively and Mark of Springfield in association with Carl Boller and Brother.

Construction: Built in 1909. The exterior walls of the Landers Theatre are solid 17" thick brick. In 1909, similar theaters in St. Louis, Kansas City and other large Missouri cities were framed in steel and cast iron. The framing of the Landers, with three exceptions, is entirely of wood. The exceptions are the lower chord of the proscenium arch, the front basement framing and the cast iron round columns supporting the first and second balconies. Landers, the original owner, was in the retail lumber business, which may explain this unusual construction.

The lintel for the proscenium opening is a form of low strung truss, or more accurately, a tied arch. The lower chord of this truss or arch has two twelve inch (12") twenty-five pound (25#) channels which have a clear span of 36'-0". The upper chord originally had three 8" bonded rings of brick having a 42'-6" span for the extrados and an intrados of 36'-0". The rings are 17" thick and have a 7'9 1/2" rise above the channels. They bear on cast iron skew backs. These have lugs which are notched into the top flange of the channels. At the center of the span, two 1 1/4" steel rods are attached to the rings and support the two channels. Filler between the channels and the rings is of brick 12 1/2" thick. In over 51 years in architecture, the undersigned has never seen or heard of this type of construction before.

The roof trusses, which bear on the east and west walls, are built up of 5 ply 2" x 12" chords and 8" x 10", 8" x 8", and 6" x 8" built up diagonal members - all of full dimension rough lumber. On the plan of the Second Floor, notice the outriggers for the First Balcony. They are 2" x 6"s scabbed onto 2" x 12" joists which support the major part of the Balcony. The curved beam is built up of 1" x 12"s.

Plan: The building was designed for legitimate theater. The basement extends the width of the building from the dwarf partition behind the first floor seats, out to the street curb. This is the only section of the building which is fire resisting. Men's and Women's toilet rooms are located under the two main stairways. The remainder of the space is now used for rehearsal rooms and costuming. The rear section is under the stage area. The elevator, opening to the lobby, has been walled in. Its lobby door location can be seen in the lobby photo, next to the door behind the ticket counter. The Auditorium, despite its rectangular shape and lack of sound absorbing materials has ex-

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LANDERS THEATER

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Exterior Design: The two side and the rear elevations are of unadorned red brick.

The Street Facade: The design of this principal elevation shows the influence of Baroque French Classical architecture of the period of Emperor Napoleon III. The piers of the first story are of Missouri limestone. Above it, the belt course, quoins, keystone masks, the four cartouches, cornice and balustraded parapet are all of terra cotta. Spaces in between are smooth red face brick. The original marquee was made of glass and metal and was as thick as the fascia and architrave of the belt course. It extended to the outer edges of the two center piers.

Remodeling: The only exterior change has been the replacement of the marquee. The present ungainly one was installed about 1921 when the theater became a motion picture house and a part of the Orpheum chain. The interior has been remodelled a number of times. The fire of December 1920 completely destroyed the stage area. The remainder of the building was saved, except for smoke damage, by the proscenium fire wall and the asbestos curtain. The fire wall required rebuilding, an 8" high brick ring was added to the arch and 7/8" tie rods from the arch to the channels were added at the quarter points. The orchestra pit was covered, the proscenium stage indented 7'-7" behind the curtain line. The orchestra pit was located in this indentation and was behind the curtain when it was closed. The boxes were raised to their present level - which accounts for the ornamental panels on the pilasters being at the box railing level. A projection booth was built on the first balcony. Subsequently the orchestra pit and proscenium stage were relocated in positions very similar to their original locations. The columns supporting the balconies were replaced by a 36" beam to support the first balcony and a 33" beam for the second balcony. The separate entrance and box office for blacks, were removed. The so called "offices" on the 2nd, 3rd and Appeals Court on the 4th floor, have been replaced with light housekeeping apartments. Summer cooling has been installed and the interior of the theater repainted in colors matching the 1928 renovation.

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LANDERS THEATER

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

the elevation of the stage level boxes to their present positions and removal of separate access to the second balcony, originally reserved exclusively for blacks.

FOOTNOTES

1. Roy Blunt, "A History of the Landers Theater," (unpublished manuscript, Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield, Missouri, n.d.), p. 2n.
2. Menno John Marvin Kraai, "The Landers Theatre in Springfield, Missouri, 1909 to 1921," unpublished Master's thesis, Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield, Missouri, 1971), pp. 1, 10.
3. Ibid., p. 35.
4. Blunt, op. cit., p. 9.

9 MAJOR BIBLE BIBLICAL REFERENCES

1. Blunt, Roy. History of the Landers Theater. Unpublished manuscript, Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield, Missouri, n.d.
2. Kraai, Menno John Marvin. "The Landers Theatre in Springfield, Missouri, 1909 to 1921." Unpublished Master's thesis, Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield, Missouri, 1971.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one
UTM REFERENCES

A	15	417,420,0	4,117,10	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	1. B. B. Lightfoot, PH.D., Director, Springfield Historical Site Survey and O. H. Tucker, A.I.A.	
ORGANIZATION	Springfield Historical Sites Board	DATE August 1, 1974
STREET & NUMBER	830 Boonville	TELEPHONE 417/831-1561
CITY OR TOWN	Springfield	STATE Missouri 65802

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE
Director, Department of Natural Resources
and Missouri State Historic Preservation Officer

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

M URI-GREENE CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

7.5
1:24,000

174 17°30" 270000 FEET

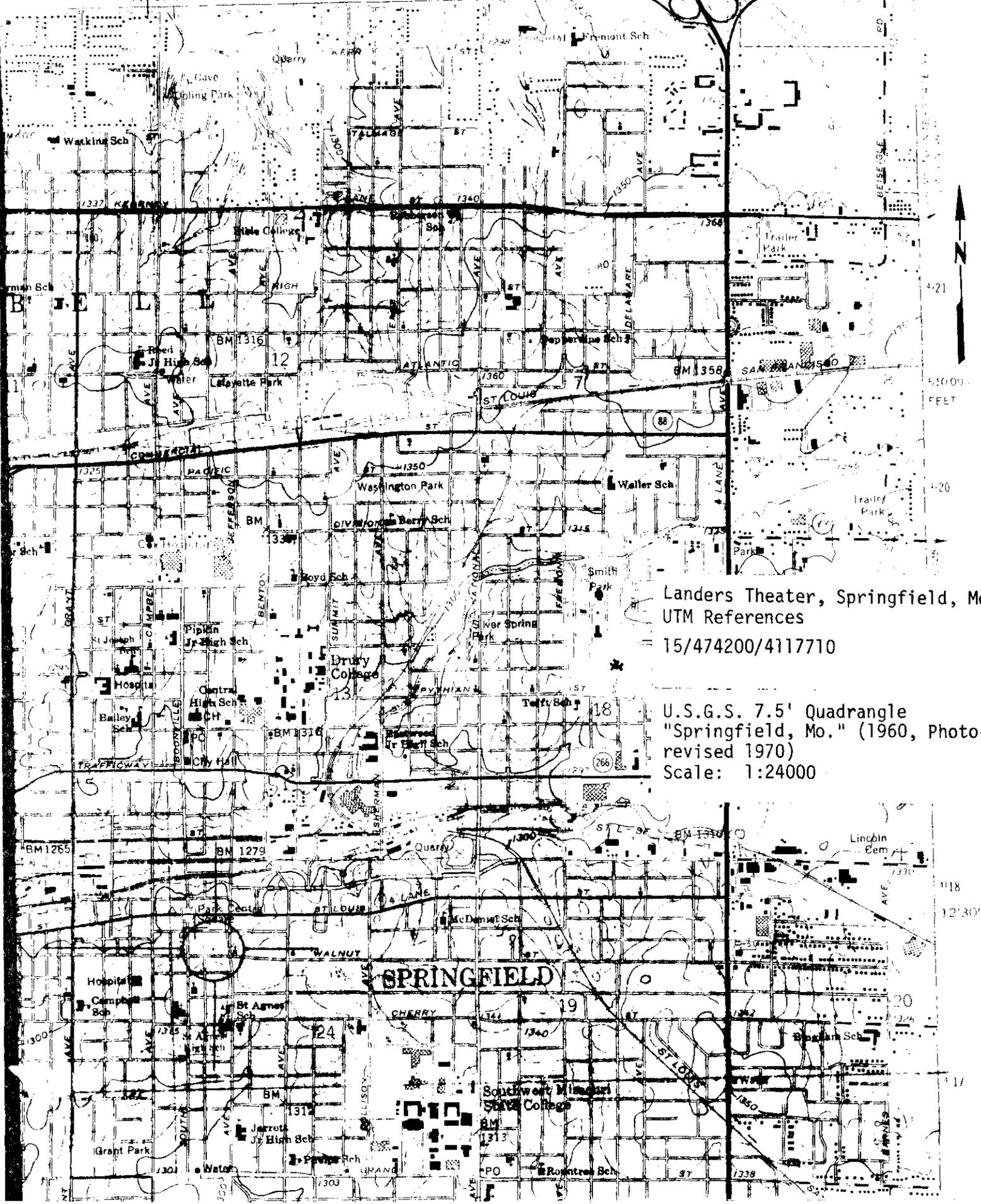
475

R. 22 W. R. 21 W. 476

30 MI TO M. 32
FAIR GROVE 13 MI

LEBANON 11 MI
STRAFFORD 9 MI

37 15



Landers Theater, Springfield, Mo.
UTM References

15/474200/4117710

U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle
"Springfield, Mo." (1960, Photo-
revised 1970)
Scale: 1:24000

SPRINGFIELD

Southwest Missouri
State College

Royntree Sch

Form No. 10-301
(Rev. 10-74)

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Greene

STATE

Missouri

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

Springfield Little Theatre, Inc.

SCALE

1/16" = 1'

DATE Ca. 1909

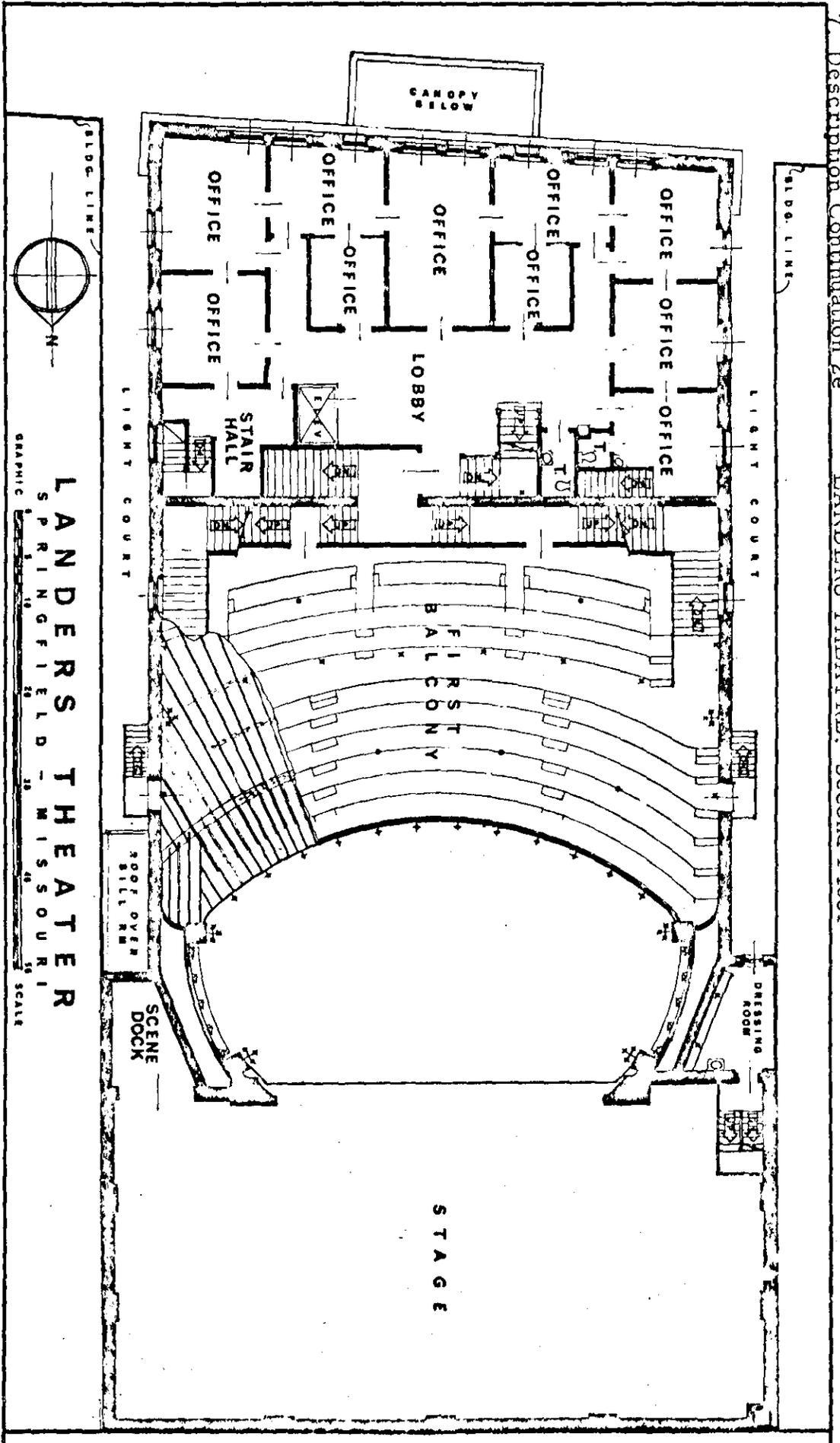
4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

INT: 34 64-75



LANDERS THEATER
 SPRINGFIELD - MISSOURI
 GRAPHIC SCALE

Form No. 10-301
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DATE

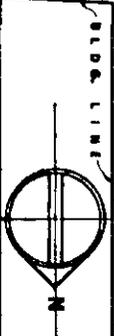
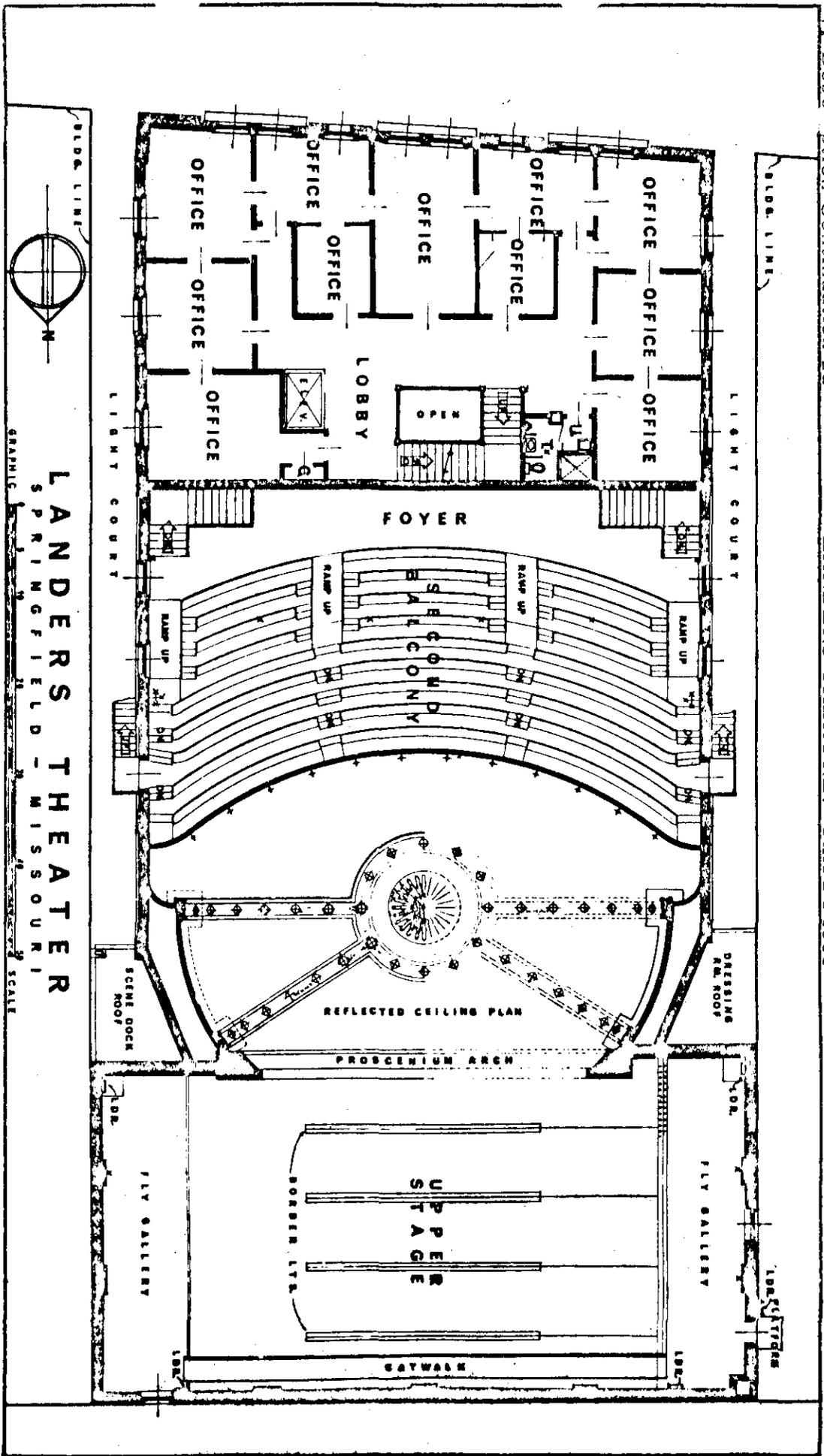
ca. 1909

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THIRD FLOOR PLAN



LANDERS THEATER
 SPRINGFIELD - MISSOURI

GRAPHIC SCALE

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3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Collins Studio

DATE OF PHOTO August 1971

NEGATIVE FILED AT Springfield City Hall, 830 Boonville, Springfield, Missouri

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

South elevation, looking north

PHOTO NO

1

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PHOTO NO.

View of Auditorium from State Center (looking South),
1st and 2nd balconies, projection booth

2



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Proscenium Arch with Curtain down. Looking north from
first balcony

PHOTO NO.

3



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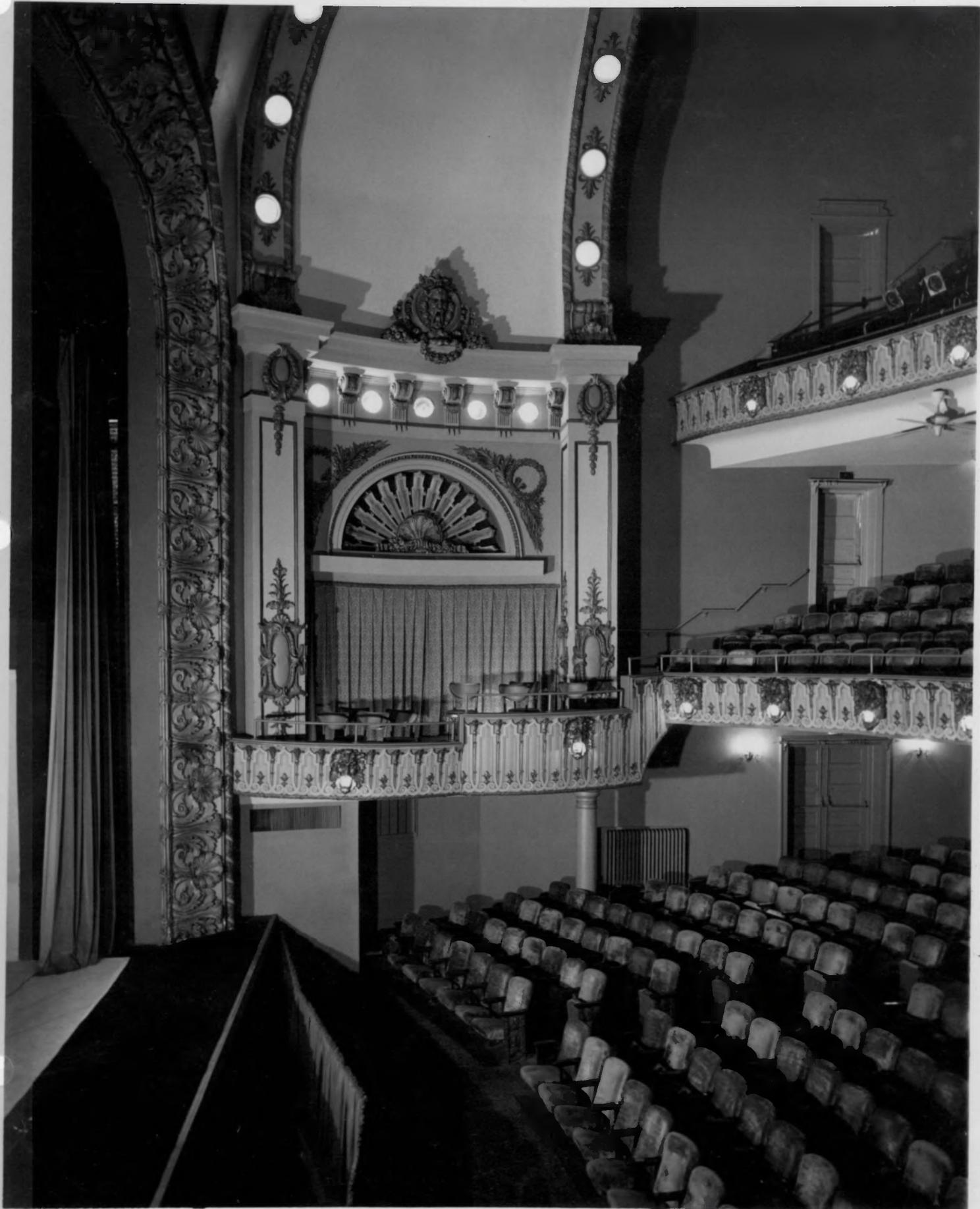
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PHOTO NO.

East box showing detail of decoration on box and balcony,
proscenium, and seating in the pit. Looking east from west side box. 4



EXTRA
PHOTOS



