

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

historic name Community Theater

other name/site number Lyric Theater, Newburg Theater, Regional Opera Company

street & number 117 First St. N/A not for publication

city or town Newburg N/A vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Phelps code 161 zip code 65550

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mark A. Miles 01 Nov 2006  
Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles/Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Community Theater  
Name of Property

Phelps County, MO  
County and State

**Ownership of Property**  
(check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

N/A

**Historic Function**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Function**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture: theater

Recreation and Culture: theater

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: One part commercial block

foundation      concrete

walls              brick

                         concrete

roof                metal: tin

other                weatherboard

**Narrative Description**  
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Community Theater  
Name of Property

Phelps County, MO  
County and State

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(enter categories from instructions)

Entertainment/Recreation

**Period of Significance**

1919-1955

**Significant Dates**

1919

**Significant Persons**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Burns, William Franklin/builder

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Community Theater  
Name of Property

Phelps County, MO  
County and State

Acreage of Property less than one acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 1/5 5/9/6/5/7/4 4/1/9/6/6/9/1  
Zone Easting Northing

2 / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

3 / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

4 / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Arlington Township - NE, S22, T37 N, R9, W. City: Lot 5, Block 2, original city of Newburg, Parce: 71-08-5.0-22-004-009-015.00

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

name/title Mary Agnes Hudson (and Tiffany Patterson, NR Coordinator, MOSHPO)  
organization Regional Opera Company date August 2006  
street & number 117 First St./ P.O. Box 455 telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Newburg state MO zip code 65550

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

- Maps** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
- Photographs:** Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.
- Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

name/title Regional Opera Company  
street & number 117 First St./ P.O. Box 455 telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Newburg state MO zip code 65550

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Community Theater  
Phelps County, Missouri

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### Summary:

The Community Theatre is located at 117 First Street, Newburg, Phelps County, Missouri. In 1919, Dr. William F. Burns contracted with W.J. Mitchell to construct a theater. From 1919 to 1955, the building acted as a movie theater, lecture hall and stage for small plays and community events. This rectangular brick building sits on a concrete foundation. The brick bearing walls, laid in a common bond pattern, are topped by a medium pitched gable roof. The front facing gable is hidden behind a stepped parapet wall on the primary (south) façade. The primary façade is simply designed with a round arch and decorative transom over the door. Two recessed panels on either side of the entrance have decorative brick cornices and segmental arched windows. Years of neglect and water infiltration damaged much of the original interior finishes. Since 1984, the building has experienced a rebirth as a theater for small stage productions aided by a frame addition to the rear of the building constructed in 1991. The owners have slowly made necessary repairs to the building and have restored features when possible. The façade of the building reflects its c. 1920 appearance and the interior layout of lobby, auditorium and stage remains largely intact.

### Elaboration:

**Setting:** The Community Theater building occupies the southern part of an urban lot in the city of Newburg, Missouri. Located in the historic commercial area, the building shares the block with the community's oldest building, the Houston House Hotel (1883), and the old Sullivan Hotel. The building faces south with a zero lot line bordered by the city sidewalk. The east wall sits near the edge of the lot with a narrow walkway between it and the Sullivan Hotel. A sidewalk and gravel driveway extends the length of the building along the west wall. The rectangular 50-foot by 140-foot lot is on a hillside and was excavated to street level to provide a level lot for construction. The north end of the lot is a steep hillside covered with native brush. There is no landscaping.

**Current Description:** The brick theater is bearing wall and sits on a concrete foundation. Bricks on all facades are laid in a common bond pattern, though the brick and header pattern used on the primary (south) façade differs from the other elevations. Since 1988, the exterior walls have been undergoing restoration and repair. Damaged bricks have been replaced and the south façade repointed. The original building is 70 feet long and 36 feet wide and has medium pitched metal clad front-facing gable roof hidden behind a parapet wall.<sup>1</sup> An addition to the north elevation made in 1991 extends the building another 12 feet to the north. The interior consists primarily of a large open

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<sup>1</sup> The metal clad roof was installed in 1986 to replace the deteriorated roof cladding. Donna Bryson, "Small Missouri Opera House Blossoming," The Joplin (Missouri) Globe, 22 October 1988.

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Community Theater  
Phelps County, Missouri

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room, though there is an attic projection room over the lobby and a crawl space in the southwestern end of the building.

The south, street-facing façade, is simply designed with a stepped parapet capped by stone coping. Centered at ground level is a wide round arched entrance. An original, sunburst patterned transom fills the arch. Below the transom is a single-leaf entrance door centered between two 30-inch wide fixed plate glass windows. The windows and door are modern and were installed in c. 1984. Above and slightly to the west of the entrance is a small rectangular opening with hinged window. The opening is not original, but was likely added c. 1926 when the theater was remodeled and renamed. On either side of the entrance are symmetrically placed brick panels recessed approximately four inches from the plane of the façade. The panels extend from the ground, 14 high x 8 wide feet to a corbeled cornice. The cornice consists of three rows of corbeling and a row of brick angled in a sawtooth pattern. Centered in the recesses are paired windows under segmental arches. The arch is outlined by soldier course bricks and the windows have a simple projecting brick sill. The paired windows on the east side contain original 2/2 double hung windows. Modern 1/1 wood frame windows have replaced the windows to the west.

The east, west and north elevations were more simply designed than the south façade. Constructed in a running bond pattern with a header row after every seven stretcher courses, the bricks on these elevations are lighter in color than those on the south wall. The west wall has a five-foot wide door opening at the ground level filled with paired doors. Near the center of the wall is a segmental arched window with a simple brick sill measuring 2' X 2 1/2.' The east elevation, like the west wall, is utilitarian. Historically, two windows similar to the one described above were located on the east wall approximately 2' below the roofline. One is still in place, though the window near the north end of the building has been bricked in (photo # 5). A narrow (30') door with segmental arched transom is located off center toward the north end of the building. The door provides access to the walkway between the theater and the old Sullivan Hotel.

The original north wall (Illustration #02) has two 30-inch doors, with transoms. This wall is intact, though a frame addition added in 1991 covers it. The addition, built by local contractor Mark Seavert, is 43' wide and 12' deep and sits on a concrete and concrete block foundation. (photo #4). The addition is flush with the northeast corner of the building but extends 13' past the northwest corner (photo #2). The east wall of the addition is covered with cinder block. (photo #5). The other walls are covered in weatherboard. The north wall has three screened openings hinged to open inward for ventilation (photo #4). The shed roof of this addition is galvanized metal. The addition houses dressing and storage rooms, though the interior walls are largely unfinished.

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Community Theater  
Phelps County, Missouri

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Access from the dressing room to the stage wings is through cased door opening in the original brick building. Two wall air conditioners were installed in the east and north walls of the dressing rooms.

Interior: The lobby is accessed through the First Street entrance on the south façade (figure #1, floorplan). The lobby is at ground level with a concrete floor covered by ceramic tile. Originally, a ticket booth flanked by five-step stairs, faced the entrance. The ticket booth has been removed, but the stairs, leading to two doors accessing the auditorium, remain. (photo #9) Concrete bearing walls separate the central lobby from rooms to either side. The room to the west was likely an office and has been converted to restrooms. The room to the east contains stairs providing access to the projection room above the lobby. This room was extended three feet and the stair rebuilt during the 1980s rehabilitation. This small room is the only part of the building that retains original, if very deteriorated, pressed metal ceiling.

The auditorium floor is 40 inches above ground level at the entrance from the lobby and rakes to ground level in front of what was historically a 15-foot-long by 6 ½-foot-wide orchestra pit. The pit was filled in with concrete during one of the earlier renovations to the building (possibly during the 1939 renovation), though evidence of its existence is readily seen on the floor. The original pressed metal ceiling panels, damaged by a leaking roof in the 1970s were replaced by wood paneling in 1992.<sup>2</sup> An antique, though non-original light fixture was installed at this time. The floor is wood with a crawl space below except near the stage where a 6 1/2" slab of concrete extends the width of the building.

The stage on the north end of the auditorium rises 40 inches from ground floor level; the stage has been extended two feet and currently measures 12' X 20'. (photo #8) Small wings on each end of the stage, 7' wide and 10' deep, allow access to the stage by actors and lecturers. Originally, the west wing was also accessible from the auditorium floor by a small set of steps, since removed. There is a set of stage footlights along the apron and additional lights behind columns at each side of the stage. More lights are hung along the curtain line and in the stage ceiling. All are controlled from the west wing.

The number of seats likely varied throughout the history of the building. Joe Cooper, projectionist in 1951 and 1952, noted that the auditorium had 232 seats during his tenure. (illustration #5) Today, the auditorium holds approximately 175.

The fireproof projection room is over the lobby and has a concrete floor. The north wall has three small port windows and steel plates above each window. Movies were

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<sup>2</sup> Frank Bridges, interview by author, Newburg, Missouri, 15 October 2005.

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Community Theater  
Phelps County, Missouri

projected to the screen through these windows.<sup>3</sup> A cord and pulleys overhead allowed the steel plates to close in case of a fire. When the cord burned in two, the plates would drop retarding the spread of the flames. Doors in the east and west walls of the projection room were thick wood covered in metal on the projection room side, also providing some protection from fire. (figure # 2) (Illustration #6) The movie projector was removed during the 1992 renovation, and given to the Newburg Historical Society.<sup>4</sup> The room currently functions as a costume room for plays and productions.

### Historic and recent changes to the building:

As noted above, the building underwent a remodeling in 1926. Along with the name change to the Lyric, several changes were made to the south façade.<sup>5</sup> (Illustration #3). The original single door and large sidelights were removed and replaced by double doors flanked by metal panels to provide a wider opening into the lobby. The transom window over the entrance was covered and a canopy marquee added. The three-sided canopy had "Lyric" painted on all sides with flashing electric lights illuminating the panels. The canopy soffit also had a row of flashing electric lights around the three outer edges illuminating the sidewalk. The photograph shows a decorative trim above the front of the canopy. From the photograph it is difficult to establish a purpose other than decoration. The offset, hinged window above the entrance was added at this time for ventilation of the projection room. This hinged window was the only permanent change in the appearance of the south façade. A playbill case covered with chicken wire was fixed to the southerly façade east of the door.<sup>6</sup> With the exception of the small window over the entry, all the c. 1926 changes have been removed and the south façade reflects its c. 1920 appearance.

The property was deeded to the City of Newburg in 1937. In August 1939, thanks to fund raising headed by Mrs. Beulah Fuller, the interior was completely remodeled and redecorated in first-class condition.<sup>7</sup> Neither the dollar amount raised for this renovation, nor the nature of the renovations were disclosed. Under the management of Homer Coffman, the theater reopened and renamed the Newburg Theater in June 1939. It closed again in May 1940. Around 1950, Tink Huff of Lebanon, Missouri, leased the building from the city.<sup>8</sup> At that time, the canopy marquee was given a face-lift. The name Lyric was removed, replaced by a display showing the name of the feature movie and serial. (Illustration #7) A second playbill display matching the one

<sup>3</sup> Joe Cooper, to the author, Newburg, 20 January 2006. Copy of letter on file with author.

<sup>4</sup> Cameron White, interview by author, Newburg, Missouri, 10 October 2005.

<sup>5</sup> Zoe Tankersley McKessy, to the author, 10 July 2005. Copy of letter on file with author.

<sup>6</sup> Bob Forester, to the author, 02 January 2006. Copy of letter on file with author.

<sup>7</sup> "Newburg Theater to Hold Formal Opening," The Newburg (Missouri) Times, 13 October 1939.

<sup>8</sup> Joe Cooper, to the author, January 09 2006. Copy of letter on file with author.

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Community Theater  
Phelps County, Missouri

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on the east was added to the facade west of the entrance.

In 1957, Newburg sold the theater. At that time the marquee and display boards were removed and the building converted to storage for the Newburg Lumber Company. During the years between 1957 and 1983, the building was underused and became deteriorated (Illustration #4) In 1983, playwright and interior decorator Jay D. Turley purchased the building.<sup>9</sup> With the help of volunteers he established the non-profit Regional Opera Company and began restoration of the building. The early renovation by Turley and volunteers uncovered the sunburst window over the entrance. The double doors were removed and replaced with a single door and fixed windows on each side of the door, returning the entrance to its original configuration.

In 1984, Turley sold the building to the members of the Regional Opera Company for the sum of \$1,000.<sup>10</sup> The Regional Opera Company, through donations at the door and volunteer work by the members, has managed to maintain the building and make part of the needed repairs and interior upgrades. (figure #3 & 4)

To cut down on light coming into the auditorium from outside, there was historically a small hallway behind the lobby. Offset doors blocked light from the lobby doors and were draped when a movie was being shown. The western end of the hall had a portable concession stand with Star Popcorn machine and soft drink dispenser.<sup>11</sup> The wall was removed during the renovation of the building in the mid-1980s. This and the extension of one room were the only significant alterations to the interior configuration of the building.

The mechanical systems have been updated throughout the history of the property. Due to inconsistent local power generation after construction, the owner fitted the building with its own generator, though the building was later connected to the electrical grid. In the 1950s, the building was heated with an oil furnace. In 1997, Garner Heating installed two small electric furnaces under the stage, sharing the vents in the apron of the stage with the air conditioner installed in 1986.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Phelps County Clerk, Records, book 326, p. 297, Phelps County (Missouri) Courthouse.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid. , p. 11.

<sup>11</sup> Description provided by Bob Forester during an interview conducted by the author in Newburg, Missouri, 18 January 2006.

<sup>12</sup> Bridges.

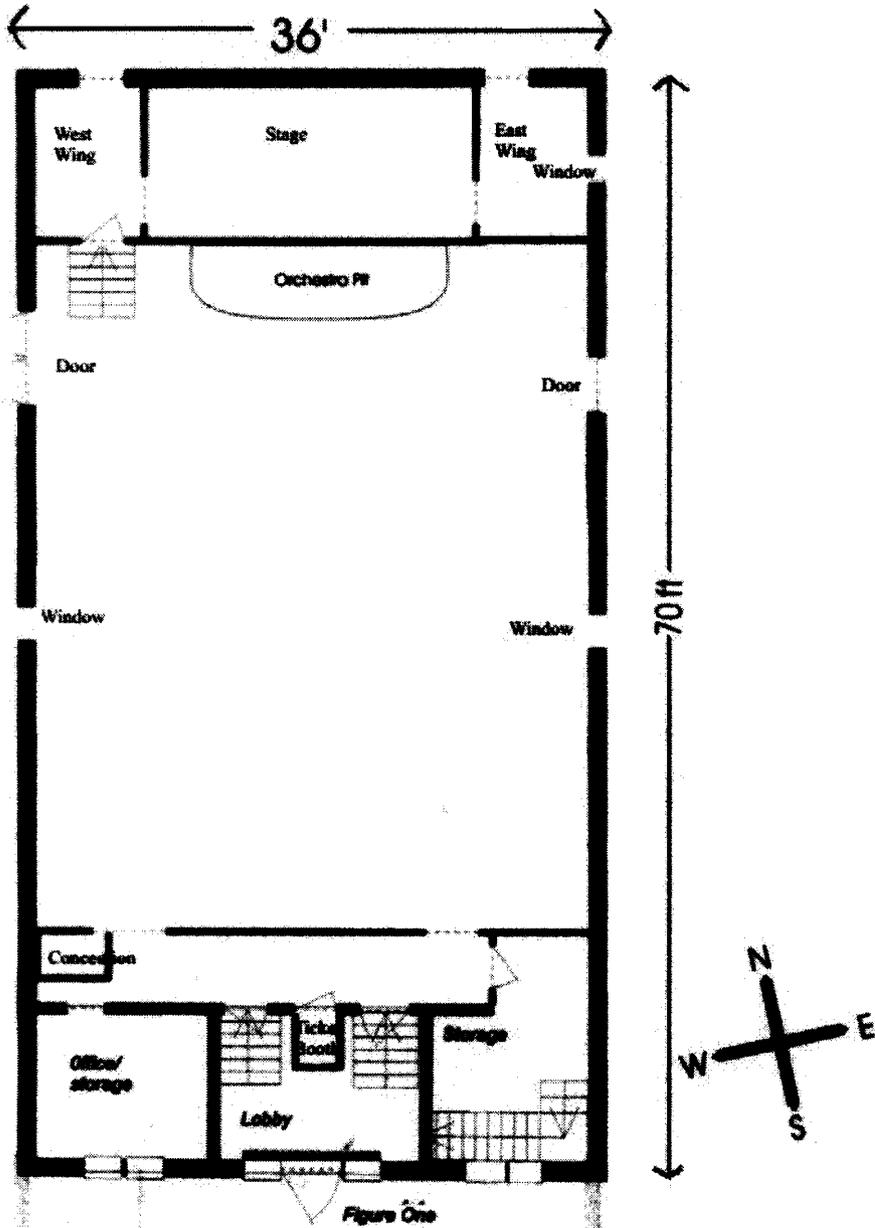
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Community Theater  
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Figure 1. 1919 Floor Plan – Drawing by Mary A. Hudson



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Community Theater  
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Figure 2. 1919 Floor Plan Attic Projection Room – Drawing by Mary A. Hudson

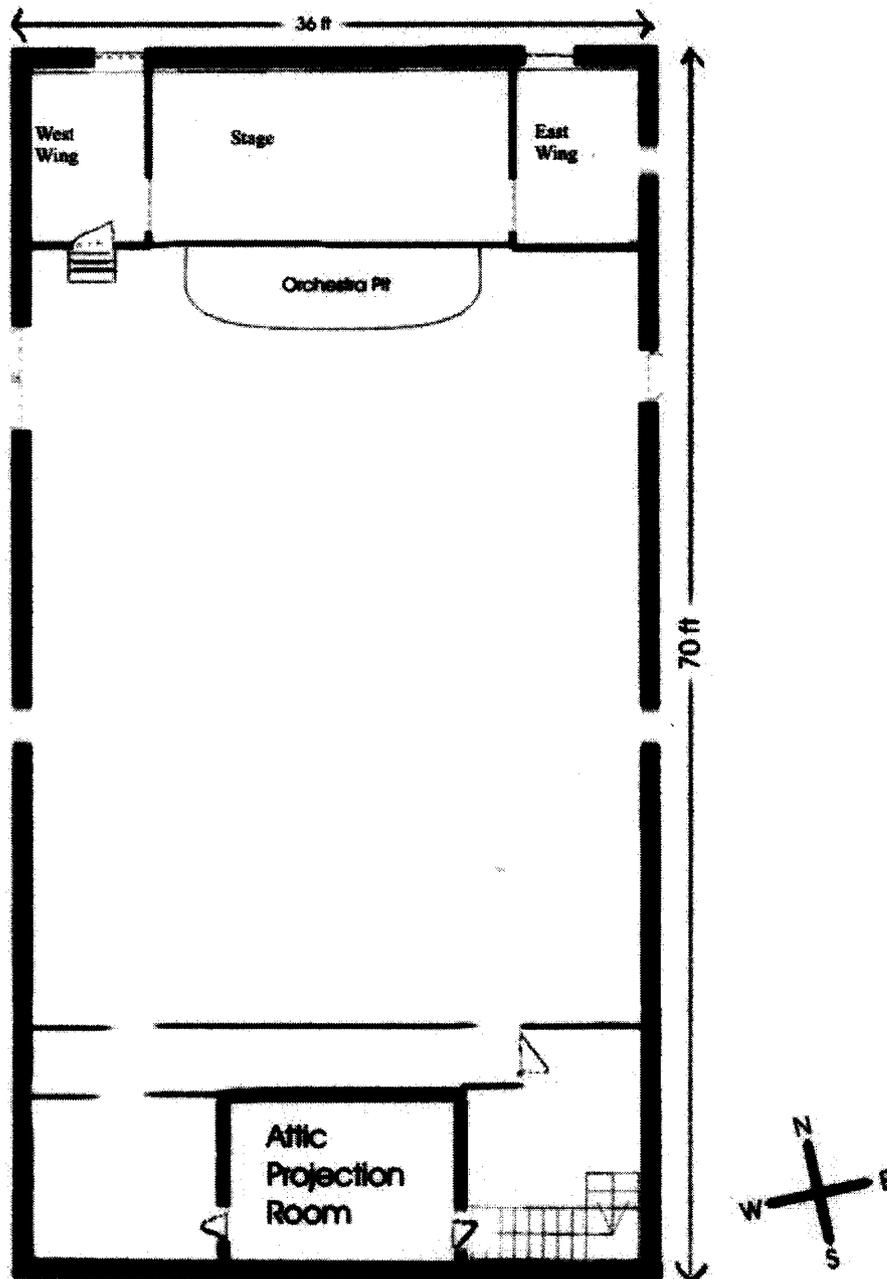


Figure 2

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Community Theater  
Phelps County, Missouri

Figure 3. 2006 Existing Floor Plan – Drawing by Mary A. Hudson

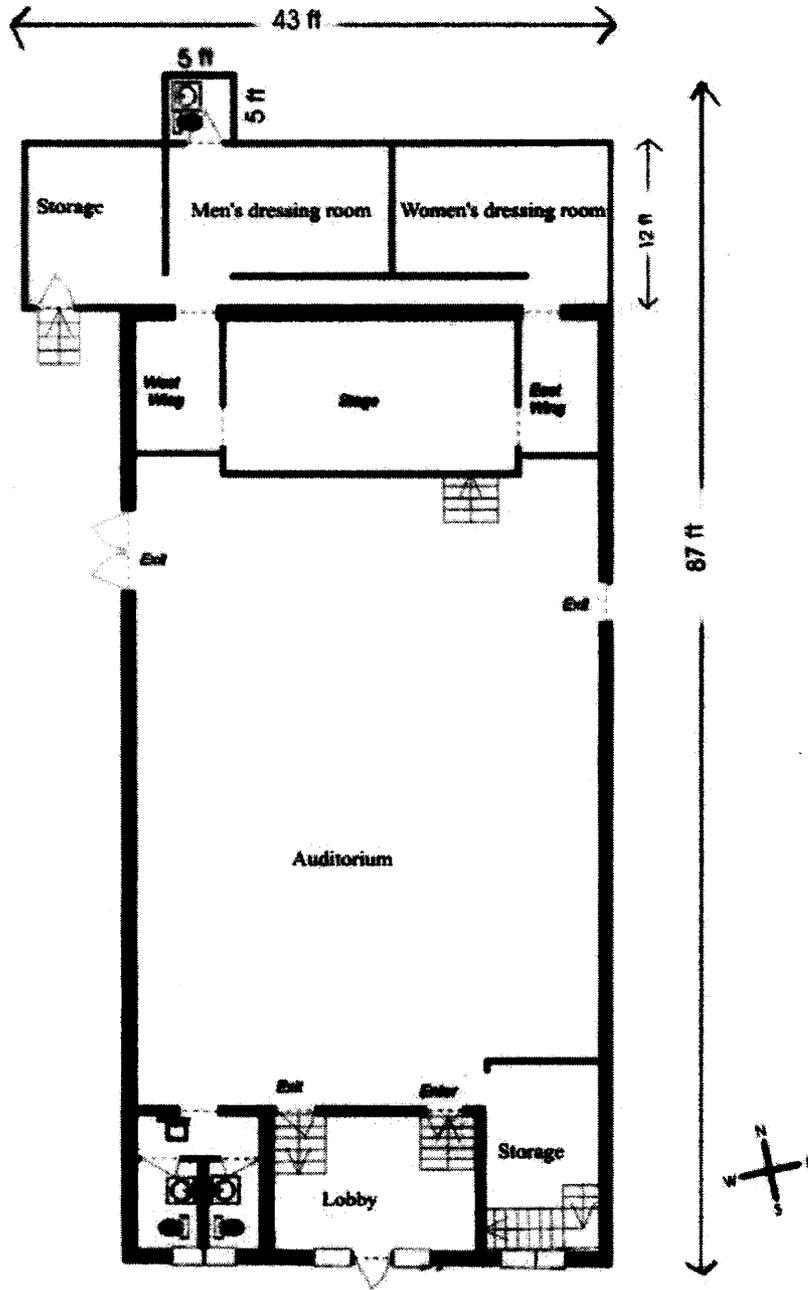


figure 3

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Figure 4. Rear Additions – Drawing by Mary A. Hudson

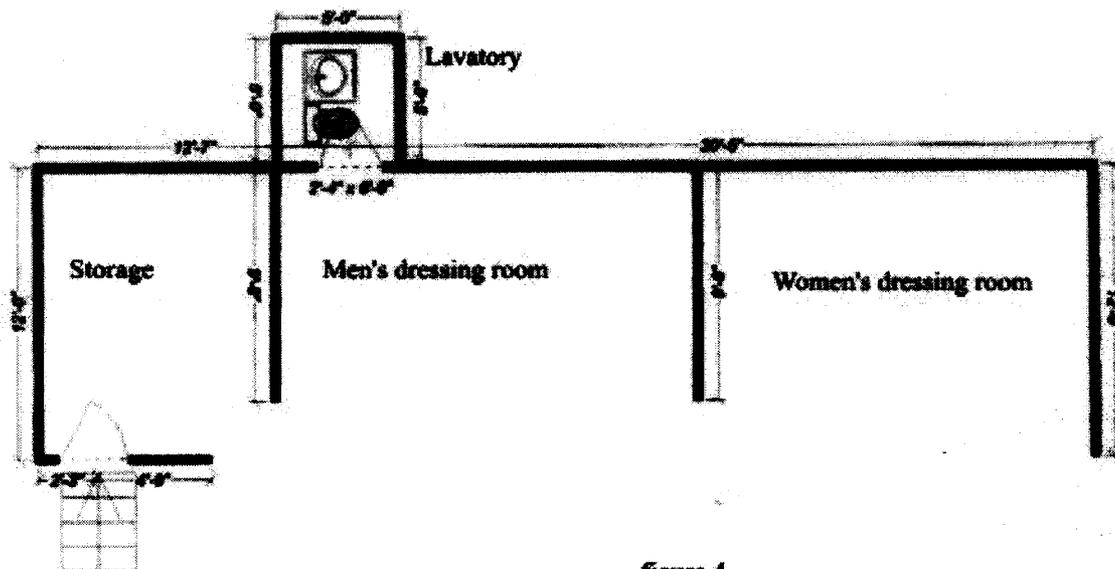


figure 4

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Community Theater  
Phelps County, Missouri

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### Summary:

The Community Theater in Newburg, Phelps County, Missouri, is locally significant under National Register of Historic Places Criterion A in the area of ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION. In 1919, Dr. Wm. F. Burns contracted W. J. Mitchell of Rolla, Missouri to build Newburg's first and only purpose-built theater. From 1919 to 1955, the period of significance, the Community Theater was the center for entertainment in Newburg. Through motion pictures and traveling acts, citizens were able to interact with the larger world. The building also provided a venue for community events and a stage for local talent. Burns and Meade's intention to create a theater that the town could be proud of is evidenced in the community's use and care of the building during its period of significance. Graduations, community produced plays and charitable events often took center stage over the building's commercial function as a motion picture theater and stage for traveling live acts. This built a sense of community pride and ownership that was eventually realized in fact when the city took ownership of the property in 1937. Increased mobility and changing technology, namely television, in the 1950s brought about the eventual demise of the small theater. The building, however, remains largely intact and retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance as a historic theater.

### Background and Historic Significance:

In 1883 Captain C.W. Rogers platted the town of Newburg, anticipating a change in the location of a division point on the St. Louis-San Francisco (Frisco) Railroad. The following year, the Frisco's railroad maintenance shops for this section of the line were moved to the new community<sup>13</sup> resulting in a boom of building and settlement to this rural area of the Ozark Hills.<sup>14</sup> In July 1884 the Rolla New Era newspaper noted,

The rapidity with which Newburg has grown is surprising. Less than half a year ago, one could have numbered the habitable dwellings on the fingers of one hand. Now they stand tastefully arranged over an area of several acres.<sup>15</sup>

Typical railroad related businesses, such as hotels and restaurants flourished, providing services to railroad workers and passengers. Some of these early businesses, such as the Houston House Hotel (originally the Railroad Hotel Eating House), still stand as a

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<sup>13</sup> *Missouri: The WPA Guide to the "Show Me" State*. St. Louis: Missouri Historical Society Press, 1998.

<sup>14</sup> Mary Alice Beemer. *Hello from Newburg Bicentennial City 1776 - 1976*, (St. James, MO: Bixler Printing Company, 1976). p. 3.

<sup>15</sup> John F. Bradbury, Jr. "The Founding of Newburg, 1882-1885", *Phelps County (Missouri) Historical Society Newsletter*, special issue, June 1991, p. 8.

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reminder of Newburg's railroading origins.<sup>16</sup>

As the bustle of initial construction settled, residents began the business of building a community. Dr. William F. Burns was a noted Newburg community builder who invested in the buildings and institutions of the new town. As a young physician, Burns moved to Newburg and married local girl, Sarah Elizabeth Johnson on April 28, 1895.<sup>17</sup> The new family, soon joined by baby daughter Dorothy,<sup>18</sup> built a medical practice and ran the local pharmacy. In February 1919, Burns purchased Newburg city lot 5, block 2 and in April contracted W.J. Mitchell of Rolla to erect a new movie theater.

Work began on the building in April 1919 with plans to have it completed and open by the first of June. Late delivery of the facing brick delayed completion until the end of July.<sup>19</sup> It is unknown who designed the theater, though it is likely that contractor W.J. Mitchell had a hand in the design. According to family historian Joyce Mitchell, it was common for Mr. Mitchell to design and build based on verbal descriptions provided by the property owner. Mitchell also relied on verbal contracts, so no documentation of the construction can be found.<sup>20</sup>

Moving pictures were not new to Newburg in 1919. As the movie craze spread across the country, small theaters or nickelodeons were established in existing storefronts or second floor spaces. In Newburg, Phelps County Record editor M.F. Meade showed movies on the second floor of the Pinto store.<sup>21</sup> During the construction of the new theater, Meade contracted with Dr. Burns to lease the building for a term of five years.<sup>22</sup> The partners agreed on the name "Community Theater" because they expected to make it a real community enterprise; a theater of which they hoped every person in Newburg and vicinity would be proud.<sup>23</sup> Mr. Meade often mentioned in newspaper reports that he strove to bring top quality entertainment to the theater. In August 1919 he bragged,

The Community Theatre is one of the best country theaters in this section and will compare very favorable with many theaters in cities of twice to three times the size of Newburg. Dr. Wm. F. Burns, the builder, certainly deserves a vote of thanks from the people of Newburg and vicinity for

<sup>16</sup> Beemer, p.6.

<sup>17</sup> Phelps County Recorder. Marriage License Records, Phelps County (Missouri) Courthouse.

<sup>18</sup> Sarah E. Burns Dooley, interview with author, telephone, 24 January 2006.

<sup>19</sup> "The Weekly Round-Up," The (Newburg, MO) Phelps County Record, 1 May 1919, p.8.

<sup>20</sup> Joyce Mitchell, interview with author, Rolla, Missouri, 10 June 2005.

<sup>21</sup> Beemer, p.9.

<sup>22</sup> "The Weekly Round-Up," The (Newburg, MO) Phelps County Record, 03 April 1919, p.8.

<sup>23</sup> "The Weekly Round-Up," The (Newburg, MO) Phelps County Record, 26 June 1919, p.8.

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Community Theater  
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providing them with the class of theatre he has.<sup>24</sup>

The launch of the new theater was a bit rocky. After a delay in construction, Meade planned the grand opening for July 24, 1919. On opening day, the Community Theater was supposed to show "The Heart of Humanity." The advertisement for the picture advertised it as a top run show endorsed by "Statesmen, Ministers, The Red Cross and the American Public."<sup>25</sup> (The silent movie, produced by Allen Holubar, starred Dorothy Phillips in a story of war and motherly love. Tickets were sold out well in advance. Tickets for the first three rows cost 22 cents and all of the others cost 45 cents, not including a war tax of 5 cents. Much to the disappointment of the ticket holders, the grand opening was delayed because the Model 6 B Powers projector was not delivered on time. An apology was printed in the Phelps County Record.<sup>26</sup> The first movie to be seen at the Community Theater, on 5 August 1919, was not The Heart of Humanity, but Shark Monroe, noted as one of William S. Hart's best offerings at that time.<sup>27</sup>

Due to delay in receiving projecting equipment, the first event to be held in the new building was not a movie showing but a lecture and demonstration by Chief William Red Fox. (illustration #10) On August 2, Red Fox, a Sioux and son of Chief Black Eagle of the Rosebud Agency, SD, spoke on,

General Custer's Last Fight, the Battle of Wounded Knee, the Habits and Customs of Indians, etc. War Songs, War Dances, Blanket Dances, Green Court Dances and other Native Indian Dances.<sup>28</sup>

The advertisement promised that the lecture would be "enjoyed by the whole family--so come and bring along the wife and kiddies."<sup>29</sup>

Newburg's location on the railroad and the construction of the Community Theater gave it an advantage over other communities of its size in rural Missouri. Ease of transport made it a simple matter for traveling acts to stop in the community. In addition to Chief William Red Fox, numerous lecturers and small vaudeville acts performed at the theater in its early years. These acts were well advertised, and no doubt Meade's dual role as theater manager and newspaper editor helped the publicity. Sporting taglines such as "High Class," these acts played one or two nights and drew spectators from Newburg and the surrounding region. One noted act was Domingo's Filipino Seranaders [sic]

<sup>24</sup> "Community Theater Opens," The (Newburg, MO) Phelps County Record, 7 August 1919, p. 1.

<sup>25</sup> "Reserved Seats On Sale," The (Newburg, MO) Phelps County Record, 19 June 1919, p. 8.

<sup>26</sup> "An apology," The (Newburg, MO) Phelps County Record, 24 July 1919, p. 4.

<sup>27</sup> "Community Theater Opens," The (Newburg, MO) Phelps County Record, 7 August 1919, p. 1.

<sup>28</sup> "Chief Wm. Red Fox," The (Newburg, MO) Phelps County Record, 31 July 1919.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

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who brought "Filipino, Spanish, Hawaiian and Popular Music" and "the Only Celebrated Violinist in America Today" to the theater for two nights in October 1921.<sup>30</sup> (illustration #12), A few months earlier, W.C. Buckner's Dixie Jubilee Concert Co. performed a "High Class Program of Melody, Mirth, and Humor."<sup>31</sup> (illustration #13), Little is know about these touring companies, though mention of them is found on play lists of other small theaters across the Midwest.

While traveling acts introduced Newburg to new cultures and the thrill of live performance, motion pictures were meat and potatoes that kept the theater running. Even in this, the theater tried to be accommodating to the local population. When the theater opened, they advertised playtimes on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings with a Saturday matinee at 3 p.m. Evening shift railroad workers, because work started a 4 p.m., were unable to attend the evening or matinee showings. The Frisco Railroad requested that the theater manager reschedule the matinee so workers could enjoy the show and be at work on time without having to leave before the film ended. Because the railroad supported much of the local economy, Meade complied with the request and changed the starting time to 2 p.m.<sup>32</sup>

The opening of the theater also gave locals an opportunity to develop their own theatrical or musical talents. Since talkies had not been developed when the theater opened, locals played piano or created sound effects from the orchestra pit. Miss Helen Houston, the daughter of the owners of the neighboring Houston House Hotel, is often remembered as an accompanist during the silent film era. In 1939 an advertisement for a "picture show" at the theater noted that the "School Band will furnish the Music."<sup>33</sup>

Accompanying a movie might have provided steady work, but the true talents of the town were seen concerts and plays performed by local actors. Meade and later owners and managers often donated the space for community events or put off what might have been more profitably events to benefit the community. The first display of local talent in the theater was the Newburg Public School Christmas program.<sup>34</sup> The program included readings, songs and plays, and the entire school took part. An admission was charged and proceeds used to purchase books for the school library. Other local events included the recital of the newly formed Newburg Boys Band on April 20, 1922,

<sup>30</sup> Two Big Nights, Domingo's Filipino Seranaders," The (Newburg, MO) Phelps County Record, 20 October 1921.

<sup>31</sup> "The Community Theater," The (Newburg, MO) Phelps County Record, 6 April 1922.

<sup>32</sup> "Matinee At Two O'clock," The (Newburg, MO) Phelps County Record, 28 August 1919, p. 1.

<sup>33</sup> "Picture Show," Newburg (Missouri) Times, 14 April 1939, p. 5.

<sup>34</sup> "The School Entertainment," The (Newburg, MO) Phelps County Record, 18 December 1919, p.

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and several high school plays, including *A Southern Cinderella!* preformed April and May 1922.<sup>35</sup> (illustration #14 and #18) The theater also hosted the Newburg graduation exercises, the first of which was held in April 1920.<sup>36</sup>

The events in the Community Theater also reflect changing times and the community's response to them. Because it was constructed in the aftermath of WWI and in use during the Depression of the 1930s, theater shows often revolved around charitable or fundraising events. To raise funds for a soldier's memorial, the theater manager waved rental fees and donated staff time to host the, "The Triflers," featuring comedienne Edith Roberts, on April 30, 1920.<sup>37</sup> In September 1922, local performers along with Mrs. C. D. Huckins and Miss Francis Baggatt, teacher of expression in Springfield, Missouri, raised \$240.00 for the relief fund.<sup>38</sup> Several events hosted in the 1930s reflect the pressing needs of the community, while keeping entertainment at the heart of the event. Two showings of "Start Cheering" held on April 4, 1939, benefited the local recreation center with funds going to purchase sports equipment. (illustration #16) Later the same month, on the 18<sup>th</sup>, the film "There's That Woman Again," accompanied by the school band, and a two-reel "talkie" comedy were shown to raise funds for a hot-lunch room.<sup>39</sup>

Like the community as a whole, the Community Theater experienced its own ups and downs. The theater changed hands, closed and reopened several times between 1919 and 1955. On 20 September 1920, Dr. Wm. F. Burns sold the building to Mr. G. G. Prewitt and his wife Sarah of Newburg.<sup>40</sup> Mr. Meade continued to manage the theater under his lease agreement with Dr. Burns. In March 1922, Mr. Meade reduced the number of movies shown weekly, dropping the Friday night film.<sup>41</sup> It is not known if this was done for financial reasons or to allow for other types of events on Friday evenings. Meade's lease agreement expired after five years and it is likely that the theater management changed c. 1924. This is evidenced by the changing of the name from the Community Theater to the Lyric Theater in the mid-1920s. (illustration #3)

The theater operated steadily through the 1920s, but was affected by the onset of the Great Depression. The theater operated on and off in the early 1930s, (illustration #8 & #9) but was closed and deeded to the city in 1937. The change in ownership, however, also reflected the importance of the building to the community. By 1939, the interior of

<sup>35</sup> "Newburg School Notes," The (Newburg, MO) Phelps County Record, 13 April 1922, p. 1.

<sup>36</sup> "The Weekly Round-Up," The (Newburg, MO) Phelps County Record, 15 April 1920, p. 5.

<sup>37</sup> "Memorial Benefit Show," The (Newburg, MO) Phelps County Record, 23 April 1920, p.1.

<sup>38</sup> "Recital," The Newburg (Missouri) Record, 28 September 1922, p. 1.

<sup>39</sup> "Picture Show," The Newburg (Missouri) Times, 14 April 1939, p. 5.

<sup>40</sup> Phelps County Clerk, Deed Records, book 85, p. 474. Phelps County (Missouri) Courthouse.

<sup>41</sup> "Announcing A New Policy," The (Newburg, MO) Phelps County Record, 2 March 1922, p. 1.

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the building was showing signs of wear. At the suggestion of Beulah Fuller, whose son Edward had made a successful career in acting, the Newburg Civics Club undertook the restoration of the theater. Under the leadership of the club, the interior was completely remodeled, redecorated and "restored to a first-class condition."<sup>42</sup> As part of the restoration, the club changed the name to the Newburg Theater. At the grand reopening on October 19, 1939, manager Homer Coffman showed the movie, "Only Angels Have Wings." Other films were to be shown weekly on Monday and Thursday nights. (Illustration #15) The theater, however, closed once again in May 1940.

With World War II came a resurgence of the local economy and population. The construction of Fort Leonard Wood, which began in December 1940, brought 38,000 job seekers through the doors of the Newburg employment office.<sup>43</sup> The fort used the railroad facilities in Newburg as a shipping point, bringing thousands of new recruits through town. During WWII, the town boomed, the population swelled from 600 to 6,000 in a matter of weeks. As a result of the influx of people, the theater once again opened under the name the "Lyric." As the only show in town, figuratively as well as literally, the theater prospered. During its height in the 1940s, the theater showed movies seven nights a week (two shows per night) with a matinee on Saturday. (illustration #17).

After the War, the population of Newburg dropped and the theater once again began to falter. Automobiles and better road conditions allowed people to travel to Rolla and other larger communities for shopping and entertainment. Bob Forester, a resident of Newburg, recalls the theater closed for a while around 1948 and reopened in circa 1950. Tink Huff of Lebanon, Missouri managed the reopened theater.<sup>44</sup> Joe Cooper, who operated the projectors at the Lyric Theater in 1951 and 1952, wrote

'Gone With The Wind,' an all-time classic movie was shown during the time I was projectionist. The projection booth had to be fireproof. There were small port windows that you could look out at the screen with steel plates above the windows. The old 35 mm film was very flammable: it would burn like gasoline. There were 35 frames a second going to the projection head, and the light from the lamp houses was very hot. If the film broke or hung up in the head you had a fire. The Lyric Theater had a fire burn up 3 reels of film. Later, they came out with safety film, that wouldn't burn.<sup>45</sup> The Lyric Theater was open six nights a week and closed on Tuesday. Along with the main feature, the patrons saw a cartoon and a newsreel.

<sup>42</sup> "Newburg Civics Club Meeting," Newburg (Missouri) Times, 04 August 1939.

<sup>43</sup> Beemer, p.19.

<sup>44</sup> Cooper, 09 January 2006.

<sup>45</sup> Cooper, 20 January 2006.

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By the mid 1950s, most homes had a television for entertainment and instant news, and the Lyric Theater, like others in small theaters across the country, did not survive this progress. The Lyric Theater closed its doors as a theater circa 1955.

The City of Newburg sold the theater building in 1957 to a group of businessmen,<sup>46</sup> and the local lumber company used it for storage. After the group purchased the building, the Lyric marquee and the playbill cases were removed from the front of the building, the sunburst window over the front door remained boarded over. A photograph taken about 1976 shows the building in a state of despair (Illustration #4)

From 1919 to 1955, the Community Theater was the center for entertainment in Newburg. The name "Community Theater" reflects the desire of the owner and first theater manager, M.F. Meade, to create a community business responsive to the entertainment and social needs of the community. As the only commercial building in town built to accommodate large groups of people, the theater became the center for community events such as graduations, school plays and community musical and theater productions. Motion pictures, lecturers and small vaudeville acts also brought a slice of the outside world into this small Ozark town. The building owners were also responsive to civic and charitable activities, and often opened the theater free of charge for fundraisers, notably in the years just following WWI and during the Depression. In 1937, the city took ownership of the building and, with funding from the Newburg Civics Club, rehabilitated and reopened the theater in 1939. The commitment of the city and club to the reopening of the theater reflects its importance as an entertainment and social center. After the rehabilitation, the building continued to operate until 1955, when increased mobility and new technology (i.e. television) decreased the need for a local theater. In 1983, the Regional Opera Company reopened the building as a community theater. Since that time, the property has been undergoing incremental repair and restoration. The period of significance is 1919-1955, the date of construction through the closing date of the theater.

### **Recent History and Revitalization of the Community Theater:**

In 1957, the City of Newburg sold the theater and the building became storage for a local lumber company. By the early 1980s, after years of deferred maintenance, the building was intact but in poor condition. Recognizing the value of the old Lyric Theater to the community, Jay D. Turley took action to save and reuse the building in 1983.<sup>47</sup> Turley, a playwright, director and producer with experience in Hollywood and at Arrow Rock, purchased the old theater building. On October 24, 1983, he hosted a public

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<sup>46</sup> Phelps County Clerk, Deed Records, book 308, p. 253. Phelps County (Missouri) Courthouse.

<sup>47</sup> "Opera Company Goes Regional," Rolla (Missouri) Daily News, 25 October 1983.

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meeting at the local Newburg School to garner support to clean up the building and begin producing plays. This meeting resulted in the formation of the Regional Opera Company. In less than three months and all-volunteer cast produced and performed the play Showboat A Comin' which opened in December 1983. The operation of the theater had the additional benefit of starting a revival in the community. The [Rolla, MO] Daily News noted on August 2, 1985 that,

The organization of the Regional Opera Company has created a revived interest in Newburg that can be seen in increased publicity and real estate transactions and in the renovation of local buildings.<sup>48</sup>

The theater's small stage limits the size of productions, but provides opportunities for local playwrights to debut their work. Several of Turley's own works have been produced in the theater including, A Signal for Miss Elizabeth, which won the California Writers' Guild award for best dramatic play of 1975, Mrs. Ryan's Heirs, Flight 409, Orphan Trains West, and Big Molly.

The theater continues to be responsive to Newburg and the larger community. It has provided opportunities for more locals to display their talents and launch them into the regional entertainment circuit.<sup>49</sup> The company of actors also provided a special performance to sequestered jurors in a local trial in 1989, receiving accolades from the judge hearing the case.<sup>50</sup>

Jay D. Turley retired in 1997, turning the task of manager over to Frank Bridges of Rolla, Missouri. Jay D. Turley passed away at his home in Arrow Rock, Missouri, in November 2004. Frank Bridges, a retired military officer and currently a Realtor®, continues to offer a place for anyone in the region to show off his or her talents and learn about the work involved in the theater. While a few who act in the theater's productions have previous experience in other community theaters, most are first-time

<sup>48</sup> "Newburg is Experiencing Revival," The (Rolla, MO) Daily News, 2 August 1985.

<sup>49</sup> One of the original charter members of the Regional Opera Company, Cherrie Simpson, sang on stage with Luci Myers at the Cedar St. Center in Rolla and is recently under contract as an entertainer at the Meramic Theater in Steelville, Missouri, did her first acting in plays with speaking lines at the Regional Opera Company under direction of Jay D. Turley in 1984. Cherrie returns as her time permits to entertain again in this theater. Cherrie Simpson, interview with author, Newburg, Missouri, 17 December 2005.

<sup>50</sup> In August 1989, Jay D. Turley received a thank-you letter (letter #1) from Judge Douglas E. Long Jr., in Adair County, Missouri, who was hearing the murder trial of John David Brown. The jurors were sequestered in Rolla, Phelps County, Missouri, and the judge made arrangements for the jurors to see the stage play "White Swan" at the Regional Opera Company. The special circumstances meant there could be no one else in the theater and the cast volunteered to have a special show for the jury. This is an example of the love of this old theater by those who volunteer to keep the doors open.

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performers or stagehands. New writers also are given a chance to have their plays presented onstage at the Regional Opera Company. Examples include The Story Teller (debut May 2000) by Debbie McGrath, member of the Rolla Area Writers Guild, and Minnie Bradford's "The Blackberry Patch." This three act play centered around the Blackberry Patch restaurant in Rolla during World War II<sup>51</sup> and was performed in the theater in June 2001.

Though most of those who perform come from the region, the theater continues the tradition of bringing in small traveling acts for special performances. Bob Milne, internationally known ragtime pianist and storyteller, travels each year from the state of Michigan to perform at the Regional Opera Company though most of the special performers come from Missouri or nearby states. These performances are used to raise money for the repair and maintenance of the building.

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<sup>51</sup> R.D. Hohenfeldt, "Bradford writes play based on life in Rolla," Rolla (Missouri) Daily News, Rolla, Missouri, 24 June 2001, p.1(b).

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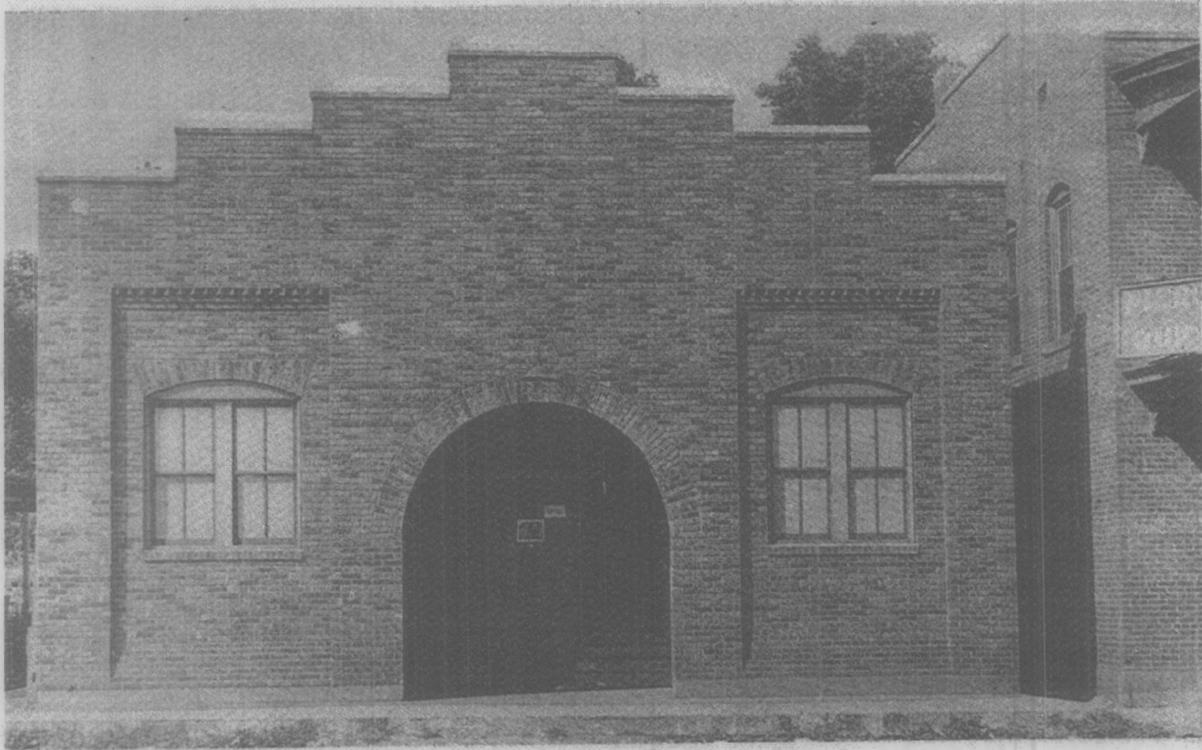
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Illustration #1. Postcard image of the Community Theater, circa: 1920. Property of John Bradbury, Western Historical Manuscript Collection, G-3 Library University of Missouri-Rolla, Rolla Missouri, 65401-0249.

Post Card The Community Theater, Newburg MO., John Bradbury Collection, circa 1920



Community Theatre, Newburg, Mo.

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Illustration #2. Newspaper clipping, north side of building before room addition in 1991.



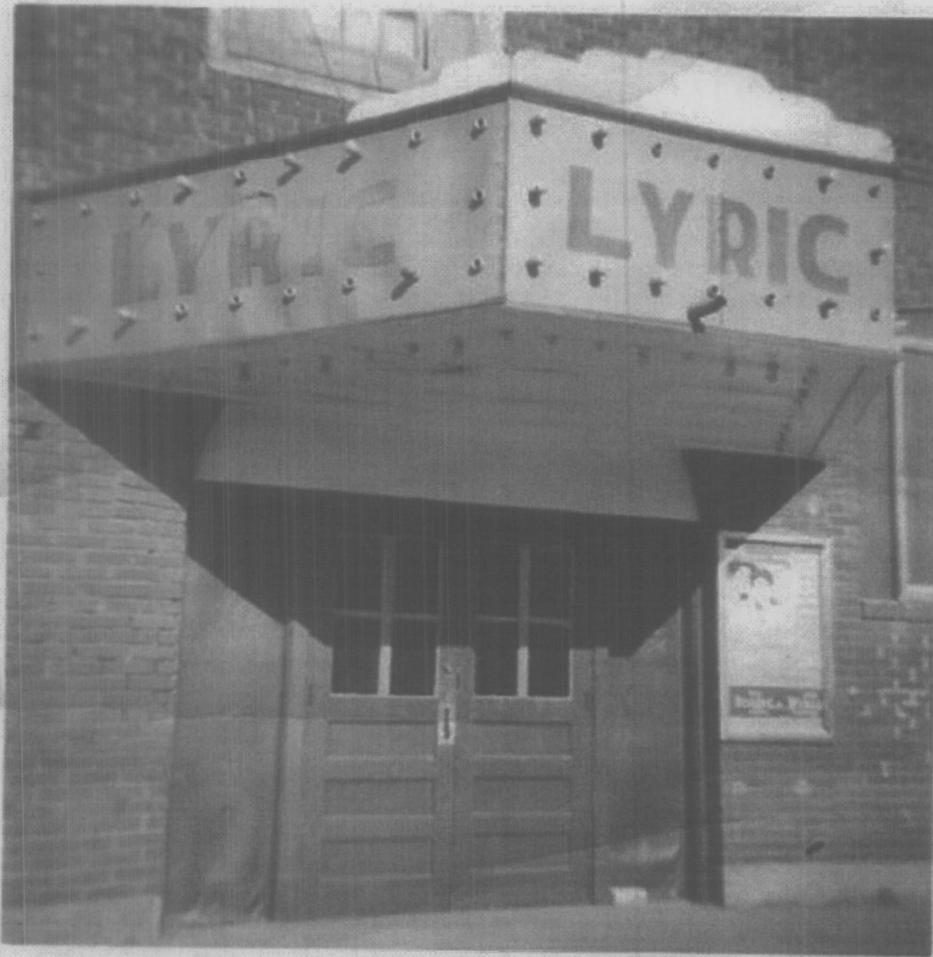
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Illustration #3. Lyric Theater, circa: 1925, collection Joe Cooper 3439  
Commonwealth, St. Louis, Missouri, 63143.



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Illustration #4. Lyric Theater, circa: 1976, "Hello from Newburg" by; Mary Alice Beemer, Bixler Printing Company, St. James, Missouri, 65559, page 28.



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Illustration #5. Lyric Theater, circa: 1951, "Auditorium," collection Joe Cooper, 3439  
Commonwealth, St. Louis, Missouri, 63143.



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Illustration #6. Lyric Theater, circa: 1951, "Projection room" collection Joe Cooper, 3439 Commonwealth, St. Louis, Missouri, 63143.



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Illustration #7. Lyric Theater, circa: 1950, collection Joe Cooper, 3439  
Commonwealth, St. Louis, Missouri, 63143.



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Illustration #8. Lyric Theater. A Busy Honeymoon, Play Program. Western Historical Manuscript Collection – UMR Library, 1930.

**Newburg High School**

Presents

**"A BUSY HONEYMOON"**

at

**LYRIC THEATRE**

**January 23, 1930**

8:00 p. m.

**"A BUSY HONEYMOON"**

A Farce Comedy In Three Acts

By

Larry R. Johnston

**SCENE**

Hotel Magnolia, New York City

**TIME**

July 31st and August 1st and 2nd

**ACT I**

Morning, July 31st

**ACT II**

Morning, August 1st

**ACT III**

Noon, August 2nd

**"A BUSY HONEYMOON"**

Given Under Auspices Of The  
**JUNIOR CLASS**

**Cast**

David - Prisoner Allen's Maid	Lele Johnson
Johnnie Fogarty - Newspaper Reporter	Frank Gasky
Alma - Petress of Debris	Lele Wilson
Catherine Brown - Chambermaid	Roberta Star
Jess Callahan - Stenographer	Mildred Thomas
August - Crown Prince of Strahlburg	Kath Breckner
Terry Hafferty - Hotel Porter	Chester Orndy
Ignatius Popopopol - Greek Hero	John Hagg
Goddick - Archduke of Wiener Schottland	Gene Brown
Maggie Hafferty - Terry's Wife	John Hagg
Loehn - Queen of Debris	Allee Flint
Griffin - House Detective	Walter Middle

NOTICE - Produced by special arrangement with T. E. Devlan and Company of Chicago, Illinois.

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Illustration # 9. Lyric Theater, *Like a Blast from Hell*, playbill. Western Historical Manuscript Collection, UMR Library, Rolla Missouri, 10 May 1934.

Rolla Herald May 10 1934 Page 4  
Western Historic manuscript Collection  
UMR Rolla Missouri



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Illustration # 10. Chief Wm. Red Fox, advertisement, *The (Newburg, MO) Phelps County Record*, 31 July 1919.

# Chief Wm. Red Fox

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## A Full-Blooded Sioux Indian

Son of Chief Black Eagle of the Rosebud Agency, South Dakota, will give an entertaining lecture at

# The Community Theatre

# Saturday Night August 2

On General Custer's Last Fight, the Battle of Wounded Knee, the Habits and Customs of Indians, etc. War Songs, War Dances, Blanket Dances, Green Corn Dances and other Native Indian Dances.

Chief Red Fox has served seven years in the United States Navy, and is a graduate of Carlisle Indian School. His lecture will help you understand the Indian's viewpoint of the subjects he discusses. His lecture is enjoyed by the whole family --so come and bring along the wife and kiddies.

**Guarantee**

This entertainment is guaranteed to please all. If it does not please you, go to the ticket office and get your money back. It will be cheerfully refunded.

Admission: adults, 25 cents; children, 15 cents; including tax.  
Ticket Office open at 7:45; lecture starts at 8:30.

No reserved seats will be sold for this lecture.

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Illustration #11. The Heart of Humanity, advertisement, *The (Newburg, MO) Phelps County Record*, 17 July 1919.

**The Nation's Most Popular Picture**

**Coming To Newburg**  
**Thursday, July 24**

# The Heart of Humanity

The Picture That Will Live Forever

IS it a "war picture"? "The Heart of Humanity"? No--although it has the great war for a theme and background--it is a picture of something bigger than war--more lasting than war--something that will yet stop wars--the biggest thing in life--Mother Love. That's why "The Heart of Humanity" is the one picture that will live forever. That's why people who are sick and tired of war go in flocks and shoals to see it--because they know they will see a picture of love.

**Endorsed by Statesmen, Ministers,  
The Red Cross, & American Public**

EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
STATE HOUSE  
JEFFERSON CITY, MO.

Mr. J. H. D.

Universal Film Exchange, Inc.  
St. Louis, Mo.  
My dear Mr. Rosenthal:

I want to take this occasion to express my appreciation of your great picture, "The Heart of Humanity." It is wonderfully realistic. The story is well told and magnificently portrayed. I want to congratulate you upon the splendid success you have attained in this work.

Faithfully yours,  
Island: Frederick D. Barber.

**This will be the first picture shown in Newburg's  
modern new theatre, which is equipped with its own  
electric light and power plant; you'll see good, clear  
pictures upon the screen, and be cooled by fans.**

## The Community Theatre

All Seats Reserved. First Three Rows, 25 cents. War Tax, 5 cents.  
All Other Seats, 45 cents. War Tax, 5 cents. No Tickets Returned.

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Illustration # 12. Domingo's Filipino Seranaders, playbill, *The (Newburg, MO) Phelps County Record*, 20 October 1921.

THE PHELPS COUNTY RECORD

**Two Big Nights**  
**Community Theatre**  
Newburg, Mo.  
Monday & Tuesday, Oct. 17 & 18  
**Domingo's Filipino Seranaders**



**High Class Entertainers**  
Vocal and Instrumental  
**Filipino, Spanish, Hawaiian and**  
**Popular Music With Mr. Domingo Himself**  
The Only Celebrated Violinist in America Today  
Also featuring Minda, the Dancer  
Don't Fail to See his Clever Entertainment  
**PRICES: Adults 40c. Children 20c, including Tax.**

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Illustration #13. W. C. Buckner's Dixie Jubilee Concert Co. playbill, *The (Newburg, MO) Phelps County Record*, 06 April 1922.

# The Community Theatre

PRESENTS

## W. C. Buckner's Original Dixie Jubilee Concert Co.

The Best Singing Ensemble of Colored Voices Be-  
fore The Public

A Great Company of Artists in a High-Class Program of Melody,  
Mirth, and Humor Classic, Comic, Sentiment  
and Character Numbers.

Madam Neale G. Buckner, Soprano; Miss Helen Smallwood, Con-  
tralto; Miss Elizabeth Harrison, Pianist; Mr. Edward Jones, Sec-  
ond Tenor; Mr. Preston James, First Tenor (Boy Tenor); Mr.  
Willis Gauze, Indian Tenor; W. C. Buckner, Basso.

A Guaranteed Attraction

Monday and Tuesday

April 10 and 11

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Illustration #14. Newspaper clipping, School Play "A Southern Cinderella." Phelps County Record, April 13, 1922.

The High School Seniors are busy with their rehearsals on their play to be given Wednesday evening, April 19th at the Community Theatre. The pupils are working dilligently and we predict a great success for their efforts. Let's every body out and encourage the young actors and actresses.

Prof. and Mrs. Craddock have been attending to business at Salem a few days this week.

Misses Smith and Wilson spent the week-end with home folks at Rolla.

Let us again say come out to the Senior play. Its title is alluring, called "A Southern Cinderella!"

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Illustration #15. First and Last Advertisement Newburg Theater, *Newburg (MO) Times*,  
12 October and 10 May 1939.

**NEWBURG THEATRE**

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**MONDAY, OCTOBER 16**

By popular Request  
Marx Bros. in  
**"Room Service"**  
also Good Comedy.

10c and 15c. 7:00 and 9 p. m.

---

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19**

FORMAL OPENING  
Jean Arthur and Cary Grant in  
**"Only Angels Have Wings"**  
Also Selected Shorts.

10c and 25c  
1st Show 7:00 2nd Show 9:00

**NEWBURG THEATRE**

---

**MONDAY, MAY 13**

Sonja Henie in  
**Everything Happens at Nite**  
Cartoon "The Orphan Duck"  
Plus Chapter 6  
**"Devil Horse"**

7:00 - 8:30 Adm. 10c - 25c

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**THURSDAY, MAY 16**

Jean Parker and Eric Linden in  
**Romance of the Limberlost**  
Plus Color Rhapsody and  
Movietone News.

7:00 - 9:00 Adm. 10c - 25c

Coming: "Slightly Honorable"

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Phelps County, Missouri

Illustration # 16. News Article and Advertisement, Newburg (MO) Times, 31 March and 14 April 1939.

**Picture Show**  
Tuesday Night, April 4, 1939,  
Benefit Recreation Center.  
**"START CHEERING."**  
Also Comedy.  
There will be two shows,  
first starting at 7:00 p. m.,  
second following immediately  
after first, in the Lyric  
Theatre.  
The proceeds will be used to  
buy balls and bats for the Rec-  
reation Center.  
Admission 10c and 25c.

# Picture Show

MELVYN DOUGLAS and  
VIRGINIA BRUCE in

**'There's that Woman Again'**

Also a two-reel comedy with  
Talkies

**Tuesday, April 18th**

LYRIC THEATRE

NEWBURG, MISSOURI

Two Shows, Starts at 7:30 p. m.

School Band will furnish the  
Music.

Part of the proceeds of the  
show will be used for the  
benefit of the hot lunch room.  
Admission 10 and 25 cents.

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Illustration #17. Lyric Theater, advertisement, *The Newburg (Missouri) Democrat*, 12 November 1942.

# Lyric Theatre

**Newburg  
Missouri**

**ALWAYS COOL!**

**2 Shows Each Night at 7 & 9 P. M.**

---

Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 11 and 12 Adm. 10c & 23c

**"ALL THAT MONEY CAN BUY"**  
James Craig and Simone Simon

---

Friday and Saturday, November 13 and 14 Adm. 10c & 18c

**"THUNDER RIVER FUED"**  
With The Range Busters

---

Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, Nov. 15, 16 and 17 Adm. 10c & 23c

**"LOOK WHO'S LAUGHING"**  
With Fibber McGee and Molly  
Edgar Bergan and Charlie McCarthy

---

Wednesday and Thursday, November 18 and 19 Adm. 10c & 23c

**"VALLEY OF THE SUN"**  
With Lucille Ball and James Craig

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Phelps County, Missouri

Illustration # 18. Newburg Boys Band, advertisement, *The (Newburg, MO) Phelps County Record*, 20 April 1922.

The Phelps County Record, Newburg MO April 20, 1922 page 1

**BAND  
CONCERT**

BY

**Newburg Boys Band**

AT

**The Community Theatre**

**Newburg, Mo.**

This band is composed of boys between ages of 9 and 15 years and has been organized 7 months.

Come And Hear Them.

**Friday, April 28th**

Doors open at 7:30. Concert starts at 8:00 p. m.

Your Patronage Solicited.

ADULTS 35 CENTS. CHILDREN 20 CENTS.

No War Tax.

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Community Theater  
Phelps County, Missouri

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Phelps County, Missouri

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### 10. Geographical Data

#### Verbal Boundary Description:

Arlington Township – NE, S22, T37N, R9, W. City: Lot 5, Block 2, original city of Newburg, Missouri, Parcel: 71-08-5.0-22-004-009-015.00

#### Boundary Justification:

The current boundaries represent all of the property historically associated with the building.

#### Photographs:

The following information is for all the photographs:

Community Theater Building  
117 First Street  
Newburg, Phelps County, Missouri

Photographs 1 - 10 digital photographs, photographer, Mary A. Hudson,

All digital photographs are on file with: Mary A. Hudson  
22076 State Route T, Newburg, Missouri, 65550

1. South Façade, facing north
2. West wall, facing north
3. West wall, facing southeast
4. North wall, facing southwest
5. East wall, facing south
6. East wall, facing north
7. Auditorium, facing south
8. Auditorium, facing north
9. Lobby, facing north

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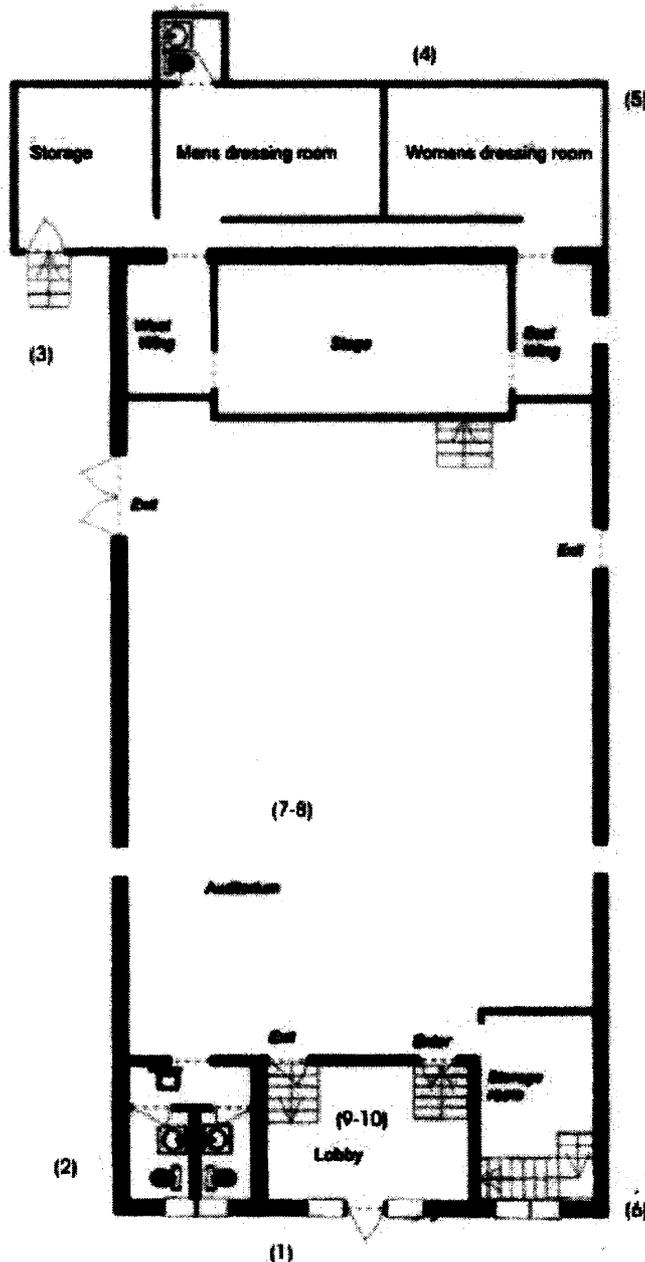
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

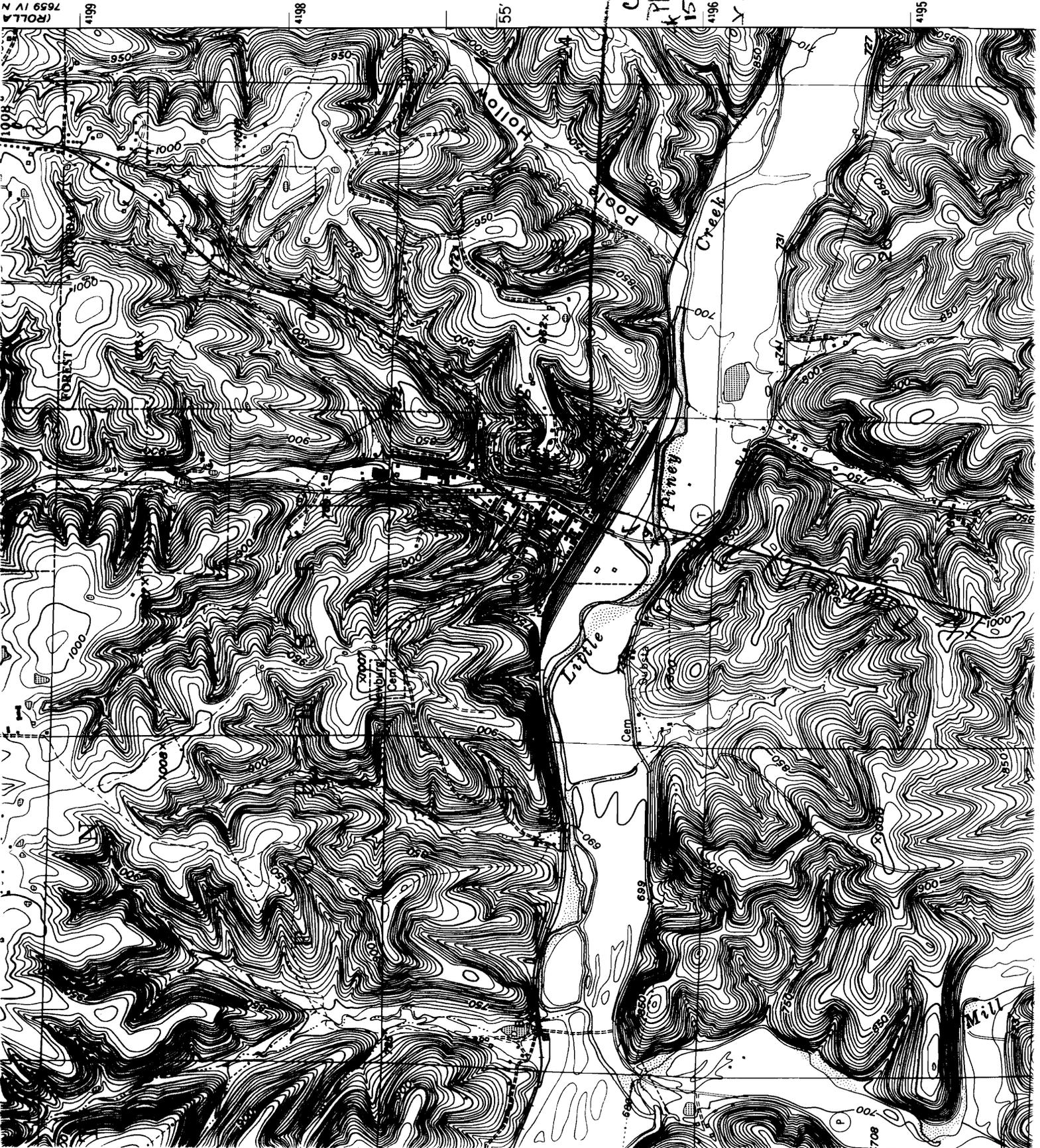
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## 10. Lobby, facing south west

Figure 6, photograph key map, exterior photographs 1 through 6 and interior photographs 7 through 10, Drawing, Mary A. Hudson.





ROLLA N  
7659 IV

4199

4198

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4197

4196

Community Theatre  
Phelps Co., Mo  
15/S96574/4196691  
X from ARC Reader  
GIS Software















"Showboat 'a Comin"

Cedar Park

"Showboat 'a Comin"

Railroad  
Hotel  
MAGNOLIA  
TEXAS



NO  
FOOD  
OR DRINK  
inside

NO SMOKING



