

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Missouri	
COUNTY: Cooper	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69-05-24-0008	DATE 5/21/69

1. NAME

COMMON: Lyric Theater
AND/OR HISTORIC: Theban Hall

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Northeast corner, Main (Fifth) and Vine streets			
CITY OR TOWN: Boonville			
STATE Missouri	CODE 21	COUNTY: Cooper	CODE 053

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
Entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME: Mr. Kenneth Winkelmeier			
STREET AND NUMBER: 700 Tenth Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Boonville	STATE: Missouri	CODE 21	STATE: Missouri

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Cooper County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Boonville	STATE: Missouri	CODE 21	COUNTY: Cooper
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .37			

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1963	Federal <input type="checkbox"/>	State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	County <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/>
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: State Historical Society of Missouri			
STREET AND NUMBER: Corner, Hitt and Lowry streets			
CITY OR TOWN: Columbia	STATE: Missouri	CODE 21	DATE 5/21/69

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Missouri
COUNTY: Cooper
ENTRY NUMBER: 69-05-24-0008
DATE: 5/21/69

FOR NPS USE ONLY

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Cooper	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

THESPIAN HALL

6. Missouri State Historical Survey (state)

1968

Missouri State Park Board

P.O. Box 176

1204 Jefferson Building

Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Code: 24

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Greek Revival style theater building, built 1855-1857, two stories and basement, rectangular plan, originally 50 x 103 feet, brick construction. Front (west) portico has four unfluted Doric columns constructed of wedge-shaped brick. Wooden pediment (above) and architrave (below) complete gable under ridge roof.

Cast iron columns in basement support main floor. These columns originally continued up through the first floor space to support the second floor.

Original surviving exterior ornamentation includes: window frames, entablature mouldings, column and pilaster capitals, and iron scrollwork bolted to the cast iron window lintels.

Evidence of Victorian influence noted particularly in use of cast iron ornamentation, establishes building as late example of the Greek Revival style.

Basement originally used as reading room; main floor used as combined theater and lecture hall or auditorium. Second story housed the city hall, Masonic and Odd Fellows hall. (History of Howard and Cooper Counties, Missouri, 1883, p. 663; and Boonville Weekly Observer, May 17, 1856, p. 2, col. 2.)

Building was in need of repair at end of nineteenth century and was in danger of being razed. Omer W. Speed Stephens hired architect T. W. Bast of Sedalia, Missouri, to design remodeling of second floor. (Boonville Weekly Advertiser, August 31, 1900, p. 1, col. 1.) On April 5, 1901, plans were made public announcing an extensive renovation and enlargement of the auditorium to provide an opera house. (Boonville Weekly Advertiser, April 5, 1901, p. 1, col. 5.)

Architect for the auditorium enlargement was J. L. Howard of St. Louis, who specialized in theater design. (Boonville Weekly Advertiser, May 17, 1901, p. 1, col. 1.)

This enlargement required the removal of the east (rear) wall and an addition was constructed lengthening the building by approximately 25 feet. New space accommodated more elaborate stage mechanisms and provided rooms for the musicians and heating plant. (Boonville Weekly Advertiser, May 24, 1901, p. 1, col. 1.) First floor was sloped into original basement area to make possible better viewing of stage. Other interior alterations included: removal of several second story support columns, construction of balcony over rear third of auditorium, application of ornamental plasterwork, and extensive reworking of lobby.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Cooper	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

THESPIAN HALL

7. Original character of total exterior has been maintained. Brick used in addition closely matches that of original building. Addition is set apart from earlier building by its greater height, mansard roof, fenestration pattern of walls largely unarticulated and small round windows at freize level of old building.

Small exterior balcony at second floor level on the facade replaced an earlier balcony added after completion of building. Balcony presently in place may have been added during 1900 renovation. Dates for both balconies not certain. Modern neon sign, attached below the level of balcony to the central Doric columns, detracts from the appearance of the facade.

Brick on facade painted white. Some cast iron ornamentation has fallen off and has not been replaced. Several chimneys present in old views have been removed. (See bibliography.) Windows altered to become doorways in the front wall flanking main entrance. Several first floor openings in north and south walls have been bricked in.

Currently building is basically sound, but in need of refurbishing.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric	Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Phi-		Other (Specify)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Historic	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	losophy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture	<u> </u>
Agriculture	Invention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u> </u>	
Art	Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u> </u>	
Commerce	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Human-		<u> </u>	
Communications	Literature	<input type="checkbox"/>	itarian	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u> </u>	
Conservation	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Theater	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u> </u>	
	Music	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u> </u>	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Mid-nineteenth century civic, theatric, and cultural center of unusually early date (1855-1857) for its period and location (modest size midwestern town). According to a survey conducted in 1936 by the State Historical Society of Missouri, building is the oldest surviving theater used continuously for that purpose, west of the Allegheny Mountains. (The Boonville Advertiser, Dec. 25, 1936, p. 1, col. 3-4.)

Thespian Hall is also significant in Missouri's political history as many campaign speeches were delivered there during the nineteenth century. A typical example is the campaign rally of General George Rapcen Smith of Sedalia, Missouri who ran in 1872 on the Republican ticket for a seat in the legislature. (The Missouri Historical Review, vol. 34, no. 1, October, 1939, p. 112.)

Built 1855-1857 at a cost of \$22,000 (Nathan H. Parker, Missouri As It Is in 1867, 1867, p. 238) or at a cost of \$16,000 according to another source. (The Boonville Daily News, Oct. 3, 1936, p. 1 and p. 4.) Original estimated cost of building was \$10,000. Thespian Hall was built and owned by the Boonville Library, Reading Room and Thespian Association, organized 1855, as an outgrowth of the Thespian Society of Boonville, organized before 1838. (A Brief History of Thespian Hall, p. 2 and p. 6.) Building funds were raised by the sale of Association stock. (Boonville Weekly Observer, June 9, 1855, p. 2, col. 3, and March 29, 1856, p. 2, col. 2.) Local contractors Homan and McDearmon, later a mayor of Boonville, built the Hall. (Boonville Weekly Observer, June 9, 1855, p. 2, col. 3, and March 29, 1856, p. 2, col. 2.)

Four years after completion of the Hall, the Thespian Association was disbanded because of the Civil War. During the War, Thespian Hall served first as a quartering place for troops and later as a hospital and horse stable. (The Boonville Daily News, Oct. 3, 1936, p. 1 and p. 4.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Cooper	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

THESPIAN HALL

8. In the War years, Thespian Hall became the property of Col. J. L. Stephens. In 1869 it was leased to the Turn and Gesang Verein, a German singing and athletic society. (Elston J. Melton, The First Hundred Years, 1957, p. 17.)

After 1900-1901 renovation undertaken by owner W. Speed Stephens, Hall was reopened as The Stephens Opera House, Nov. 5, 1901. (Boonville Weekly Advertiser, Nov. 8, 1901, p. 1, col. 1.)

Circa 1912, Thespian Hall was converted to a motion picture theater and was renamed The Lyric. Later it was adapted to sound films.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

I. OLD VIEWS:

- A. The Boonville Weekly Advertiser, Dec. 2, 1898, p. 4.
From SW, line drawing, signature lower right unreadable.
Balcony at second floor (front), gateway at south side.
- B. Illustrated Atlas Map of Cooper County, Missouri. St. Louis:
Atlas Publishing Co., 1877, p. 60. Engraving. Describes
hall capacity as 800.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38 °	58 ' 26 "	92 ° 44 ' 33 "
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
M. Patricia Holmes, Research Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: State Historical Survey and Planning Office DATE: April 10, 1969
Missouri State Park Board

STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 176
1201 Jefferson Building

CITY OR TOWN: Jefferson City STATE: Missouri 65101 CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Joseph Jaeger, Jr.
Title Director, Missouri State Park Board, and Missouri State Liaison Officer
Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Grant Allen Coonley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date May 21, 1969

ATTEST:
William J. Krustach
Keeper of The National Register

Date May 21, 1969

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Cooper	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

THESPIAN HALL

9. (Continuation Sheet #1)

- C. Melton, Elston J. The First Hundred Years. Boonville, Missouri: Missourian Publications, 1957, op. p. 16. ca. 1900. Balcony at second floor level unlike one presently there.
- D. Parker, Nathan H. Missouri As It Is in 1867. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co. 1867, op. p. 233. Engraving of hall before balcony added to front. Stockade fence surrounds the building, a Civil War barricade? Oldest known illustration of the building.
- E. The State Historical Society of Missouri. Cooper county photographic file. Detail photos made by Lester Jones, July 4, 1940.

II. BOOKS:

- A. History of Howard and Cooper Counties, Missouri. St. Louis: National Historical Company, 1883. pp. 662-3.
- B. Melton, Elston J. Melton's History of Cooper County, Missouri. Columbia, Mo.: The E.W. Stephens Publishing Company, 1937, pp. 199-202. Description of the kinds of plays presented at Thespian Hall.
- C. A Brief History of Thespian Hall. Boonville, Missouri: The Thespian Hall Preservation Committee, 1937. Unfootnoted material.

III. NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS:

- A. The Boonville Advertiser, Dec. 25, 1936, p. 1, col. 3-4. Charles van Ravenswaay statement on results of survey made by Floyd C. Shoemaker of the State Historical Society of Missouri in order to ascertain uniqueness of the building.
- B. The Boonville Daily Advertiser, issues for December 1875 and January 1876, as examples of advertisements for lectures, functions at the hall. Jan. 8, 1937, pp. 1 & 8. Preservation effort described.
- C. The Boonville Daily News, Oct. 7, 1936, p. 1, cols. 5-6. Charles van Ravenswaay article describes ways in which hall served the town.

Oct. 3, 1936, p. 1. History of the building.

Dec. 17, 1936, p. 1, cols. 5-6. Refers to Shoemaker survey of old theater buildings.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Cooper	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

THESPIAN HALL

9. (Continuation Sheet #2)

- D. Boonville Weekly Advertiser, Aug. 10, 1900, p. 1, col. 1.
Announces that architect is coming to estimate cost of redecoration of Masonic Hall.
- Aug. 31, 1900, p. 1, col. 1. Architect T. W. Bast's plans submitted and accepted.
- Sept. 21, 1900, p. 1, col. 1. E. H. Roberts, Boonville, contracted for job. Dimensions of rooms, second floor.
- Nov. 30, 1900, p. 1, col. 2. Nearing completion.
- Dec. 7, 1900, p. 1, col. 1. Describes opening of Dec. 6. "A Dream of Oriental splendor..."
- Dec. 14, 1900, p. 1, col. 1. Describes formal opening. Lists those present, entertainments.
- April 5, 1901, p. 1, col. 5. Announcement of plans to redecorate the auditorium, main floor of building. \$9000 to be raised for that purpose. Subscriptions solicited.
- April 12, 1901, p. 1, col. 5. Fund raising going well. Management looking for an architect.
- May 17, 1901, p. 1, col. 1. J. L. Howard, St. Louis architect, hired.
- May 24, 1901, p. 1, col. 1. J. L. Howard visited building, took measurements. Made his estimates.
- June 7, 1901, p. 1, col. 1. Howard's sketches are on view.
- July 12, 1901, p. 1, col. 1. Construction contract let. Names artisans involved in interior decoration.
- July 26, 1901, p. 1, col. 1. Work in progress.
- Sept. 6, 1901, p. 1, col. 4. Work in progress.
- Oct. 18, 1901, p. 1. Announcement of grand opening, to be Nov. 5, 1901.
- Nov. 8, 1901, p. 1, col. 1. Description of opening.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Cooper	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

THESPIAN HALL

9. (Continuation Sheet #3)

E. Boonville Weekly Observer, March 24, 1855, p. 2, col. 6.
Notice to Builders gives anticipated dimensions of the building.

April 7, 1855, p. 2, col. 1. Notice.

June 9, 1855, p. 2, col. 3. Purchase of more land.

Sept. 1, 1855, p. 2, col. 2. Work in progress.

March 15, 1856, p. 2, col. 1. Contractor ready to complete building.

March 29, 1856, p. 2, col. 2. Stockholders meeting. McDearmon announced that building would be finished by October.

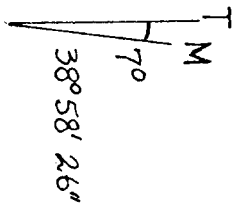
May 17, 1856, p. 2, col. 2. Nearing completion.

F. The Kansas City Star, Jan. 29, 1933, p. 12A, col. 1.
Illustrated with line drawing of hall. History of building. News item.

G. Missouri Historical Review Vol. XXXI, No. 2, Jan. 1937, p. 215. Notice that hall is threatened and may be razed. Preservation movement began October, 1936.

Vol. XXXIV, No. 1, Oct. 1939, p. 112. Political rally at Thespian Hall, 1872, described.

Note: All sources listed in this bibliography can be found at the State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri.



T. 49 N.
T. 48 N.

57° 30'

T. 49 N.
T. 48 N.

26 MI. TO U.S. 65
RIDGE PRAIRIE 19 MI.

GLASGOW 20 MI.
BOONESBORO 8.7 MI.



