Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

Fayette Area Heritage Association

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

- Fayette Opera House: yes ___ no X
- Grand Theatre: yes ___ no X
- Alamo Theatre: yes ___ no X

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

- Fayette Opera House: yes ___ no X
- Grand Theatre: yes ___ no X
- Alamo Theatre: yes ___ no X

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

- Fayette Opera House: yes ___ no X
- Grand Theatre: yes ___ no X
- Alamo Theatre: yes ___ no X

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

__________________________________________
NINE

__________________________________________

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

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

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

- No

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

- Smiley CMC Library 9:30-10:00, Fayette Public Library 12-5

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

- No

Who is the best person to contact for more information?

John Kelly, CMC Drama Dept.

Thank you for your assistance.

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203
## Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

**Glasgow Area Historical and Preservation Society**

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Glasgow</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Library Hall</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opera House</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
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What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area?

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

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

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

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

No

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

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

Who is the best person to contact for more information? Judy Bentley, Pres.

Thank you for your assistance.

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

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

Sincerely,

[Signature]

P.S. Another source would be Maplewood.

Freemont - 600-338-2316
or 600-338-2757 - Jone
September 6, 1997

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

Dear Ms. Snider,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Doris D. Markland,
Secretary

Looking To The Future By Preserving The Past
1. NO. 16
2. COUNTY Howard
3. Location of Negatives City Hall

4. Present Local Name(s) or Design.
   Grand Theater

5. OTHER NAME(S)
Alamo Theater

6. Specific Legal Location
   Township 50N Range 16W Section 11
   If City or Town, Street Address
   117 N. Main
7. City or Town
   If Rural, Vicinity Fayette

8. Site ( ) Structure( )
   Building( ) Object( )

9. On National Yes( )
   Register? No( )
   Eligible? No( )
10. Part of Estab. Yes( )
    Hist. District? No( )
    Potential? No( )

11. Name of Established District n/a

12. Thematic Category
    RECREATION/CULTURE

13. Date(s) or Period
    1913

14. Style or Design
    Spanish Pueblo

15. Architect or Engineer
    Unknown

16. Contractor or Builder
    Unknown

17. Original Use, If Apparent
   Movie Theater 08

18. Present Use
   Being demolished

19. Ownership
   Public( ) Private(X)

20. Owner's Name and Address
   If Known
   Commercial Trust Co.
   Fayette, MO 65248

21. Open To Public? Yes( )
22. No( )
23. Local Contact Person or Organization
   Lew Wallace Jacobs III

24. Other Surveys In Which Included
   None

25. No. of Stories
    2

26. Condition
   Interior poor
   Exterior poor

27. Endangered? Yes( )
   By What? No( )
   being demolished

28. No. of Stories
    2

29. Basement? Yes(X)
   No( )

30. Foundation Material
    Concrete

31. Wall Construction
    brick

32. Roof Type & Material
    flat

33. No. of Bays
    Front 3 Side 0

34. Wall Treatment
    common bond

35. Plan Shape
    rectangle

36. Changes Addition( )
    Explain in Altered( )
    No( )

37. Foundation
    Tal landscapel

38. Historic Significance
    None

39. Description of Environment and Outbuildings
    See No. 44 on supplemental sheet

40. Visible From Yes( )
    Public Road? No( )

41. Further Description of Important Features
    See No. 42 on supplemental sheet

42. History and Significance
    See No. 43 on supplemental sheet

43. Description of Environment and Outbuildings
    See No. 44 on supplemental sheet

44. Prepared By
    M. H. McVicker

45. Organization
    City of Fayette

46. Sources of Information

Building #16-Question #42

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

Front Facade:

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

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

Right, Left, and Rear Elevations:

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

Interior:

The Indian figured motif is repeated in the interior, along with several other Native American motifs painted on the wooden ceiling beams. These beams were probably intended to resemble a frontier building or the timbers visible in Southwestern pueblo construction. The building had carbon arc projectors. These projectors and the word Grand from the canopy were moved down the street in June 1992 to the new movie house.
43. At the time of the 1885 Sanborn map, this lot is occupied by an L-shaped one-story frame dwelling with a back porch, placed snugly against the corner of Davis and Main Streets. It had one small outbuilding, well back on the lot. By 1889, its lot was drawn showing two equal lengthwise portions, with the house encroaching a couple of feet onto the south lot, and it looks exactly the same on the 1894 map. By 1902, the house has become a business, showing an addition on the southern block. Starting on the north end, the rooms are labeled "Dress'g Rm, Off., Storge, Poultry and Ir Clo" with the final room marked with an "X" from corner to corner, indicating a stable, according to the map key. These two rooms, the "Ir Clo" and the stable, constitute the addition. On the January 1910 Sanborn map, the building has been enlarged again, and is marked "Produce." The lot line has been redrawn to reflect the existing line formed by the end wall of the building. Paul Chenoweth recalls that this lot was occupied by a home and feed store, before construction of the Alamo Theater building. The Alamo Theater building occupied this lot, Number 54 of the Original Town, from 1913 until the summer of 1992, when it was demolished to make way for an addition to the Commercial Trust Bank (Survey No. 15).

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

"The Shafroth home" referred to in the "Walks and Talks" belonged to John Shafroth. John Shafroth was a Swiss immigrant, born in 1810, who came to the United States as a young man, and lived in St. Louis for three years, and Rocheport for one year, before coming to Fayette. The 1883 History includes a biography, somewhat short on facts, that is mostly a Victorian effusion on his blameless life: "Such were the measures of a well-spent life -- from birth to marriage and to death. But how little they tell ---nothing-- of the real life he had!" It says he was "for 25 years a leading merchant of Fayette," which would indicate a date of about 1841 for his entry into business. Since he was married in November of 1840, this could make 25 a reasonable figure. John Shafroth died in 1866. The property on which the Alamo sat was distributed in a lawsuit in 1869 to Sophia F. Hale, wife of Hiram F. Hale. Its value was given as $700.

William Shafroth, John's oldest son, then bought the land back from his oldest sister. William was a leading businessman of Fayette. In 1873, he went into partnership in the grocery business with Mortimer A. Boyd. Boyd & Shafroth occupied the southeast corner on the south side of the Square (Survey No. 79). One photograph on page 123 in Picturesque Fayette was taken in 1873 from the balcony of this building. Boyd & Shafroth's store was involved in the 1882 fire which destroyed much of the south side of the Square, but survived. That building apparently succumbed to another fire in 1893, after which the present building on the site was constructed. Boyd and Shafroth joined with J. H. Armstrong in 1889 to
build the Fayette Roller Mill, which appears on the 1889 Sanborn map on the south side of the railroad tracks at the foot of Watts Avenue. Interestingly, it is shown on the 1894 map as "Armstrong, Boyd & Shaforth's Fayette Roller Mill," a misspelling of Shafroth's name which occurs in other sources. A history of this enterprise is included in Picturesque Fayette on page 34. Shafroth eventually bought out his partners and formed a stock company in 1903. By the time of the 1923 History, Shafroth is no longer listed as an officer. His youngest brother is mentioned in Picturesque Fayette as having moved to Denver, Colorado, in 1879 and being elected a Congressman there. He gained national attention for resigning his seat in the House, "acknowledging that his election had been tainted by fraud." William's youngest sister, Carrie, married Dr. Uriel Wright in 1873 and died in 1889. Another sister, Mary Louisa, married J. H. Bradley, who became president of the Roller Mill.

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

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

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

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

As for the movies shown, the advertisement for the first show to be presented at the "Alamo" does not give the actual title of the evening's offering. The opening night was Thursday, October 16, 1913, charging 10 cents for adults and 5 cents for children. The advertisement in the newspaper for the opening touted "the most up-to-date pictures ever shown in the city. We will cater to the ladies and children, and while our entertainment will be a place of amusement, it will also be educational and instructive. We have our own heating and lighting plant and our chairs are regular opera chairs. The building is perfectly ventilated and the safety, comfort and convenience of our patrons will always be looked after."
Continuation of No. 43 for Inventory Form No. 16

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

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

According to a letter from Gerald Lee Gilleard to H. Denny Davis, dated September 13, 1988, "A quick review of theaters listed on the National Register of Historic Places and in the book The Front Row, Missouri's Grand Theatres, by Mary Bagley, has revealed no theaters in Missouri older than Fayette's Grand Theater, built expressly for the presentation of motion pictures. ...my office's survey to locate properties eligible for listing on the National Register contains approximately 60% of the state's historic theaters. When this percent (sic) is compared to less than 5% of the total number of historic buildings surveyed statewide, it adds credence to your rumor of the Grand being the 'oldest' movie theatre west of the Mississippi, at least in Missouri."
Continuation of No. 43 for Inventory Form No. 16

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

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

45. Sanborn maps of 1885, 1889, 1894, 1902, 1910 and 1925. Letter by Gerald Lee Gilleard to H. Denny Davis, dated September 23, 1988, and filed at the offices of the Fayette Advertiser. Notes taken by H. Denny Davis in 1988 from the property's Abstract in preparation for an article commemorating the 75th anniversary of the theater, filed at the offices of the Fayette Advertiser.

1905 Picturesque Fayette, pp. 34, 49, 103, 123
1883 History of Howard and Cooper Counties, pp 181, 252, 261-262, 351, 406-407, 424
1923 T. Berry Smith's History of Howard and Chariton Counties, pp. 100, 202, 365, 401
Letter to the Fayette Democrat-Leader from H.B. Watts, from the files of T. Berry Smith.
Advertisement from the October 14, 1913, issue of the Fayette Advertiser for opening night
Captain William Becknell of Franklin, Father of the Santa Fe Trail with four companions led the first organized trade expedition to Santa Fe September 1, 1821. One of the great highways of the world stretched nearly 1,000 miles from Franklin, MO to Santa Fe, NM.
HOWARD COUNTY was created in 1816 and included the whole Boone’s Lick area to the Osage Treaty line. It was named for Benjamin Howard the territorial Governor. Daniel Boone’s sons, Nathan and Daniel M. began salt-making operations here in 1809 which began the town of Franklin. The location at the base of a huge loop in the Missouri River made the area important for Western Exploration.

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE HISTORIC CITY OF FRANKLIN at the height of its glory was much larger than the visitor can imagine. It was the final destination of the Boonslick Road, one of the first thoroughfares in Missouri Territory, and the first trading expedition to Santa Fe started from the city center in 1821. The stone marker (#11 on the trail map) represents the town square before it washed away in the floods of the 1820’s. Situated on the River (which was 600’ north of the present channel) a series of docks and warehouses the base for a Western trade. The first steamboat arrived in 1819. Franklin boasted the first newspaper west of St. Louis, the “Missouri Intelligence”; it was home to Kit Carson, 4 governors, 3 Supreme Court Justices, and Missouri’s first senator. The Government Land Office and Postal Station had a busy traffic.

The above plat was prepared in 1876 when the M.K.T. Railroad crossed the River and established a depot at New Franklin.
THE WESTERN EXPANSION BEGAN HERE - FROM LEWIS & CLARK IN 1804 TO THE ORGANIZATION OF THE 1ST SANTA FE EXPEDITION IN 1821 AT FRANKLIN

1. Cooper's Fort Site
2. Boon's Lick State Park
3. Benjamin Cooper Cem.
4. Joseph Cooper Cemetery
5. Site of Hardeman Gardens
6. Cedar Grove - 1825-1856
7. Clark's Chapel - 1879
8. Sunnyside - 1857
9. Hickman House - 1819
10. Katy Trail Head
11. Historic Franklin Marker
12. Rivercena - 1869
13. Tourist Information
14. Franklin Wildlife Area
15. M.K.T. Tunnel - Rocheport
16. Boon's Lick Road
17. Salt Creek Church & Cem.
18. Mt. Zion Church - begun 1817
100-Year-Old Building Gives View of Fayette’s Olden Days

THE NEW OPERA HOUSE BLOCK

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

SCENE IN “PICTURESQUE FAYETTE 1905” shows opera house, now the Faith Family Fellowship Building, at southeast corner of courthouse square, little changed from when it was built about 1904, except for storefront façades. Note window-well in front of nearest display window; dirt streets with graveled walkways; present newspaper office, columns and all, at left background. Portion of clothing store sign can still be seen on side of opera house.

From Opera House to Recording Studio

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

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

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

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

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

TRAP DOOR IN FLOOR of unused portion of present church space, leads to a basement area, 100 feet long by 18 feet wide, originally finished off for use as shops. On stairs is the Rev. Jamie Page of Faith Family Fellowship.
OPERA HOUSE INTERIOR is of awesome proportions. Ceilings are 20 feet high; seating area is nearly 60 feet wide. View is looking east from near Main-Morrison intersection. In background is where stage once was. Round columns in background and at right foreground are original and were meant to be seen. Erected only a few years after Eiffel built his Tower in Paris in 1889, building proudly boasted decorative steel supports.

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

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

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

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

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

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

So the attic, theatre and basement have remained frozen in time. This
BALCONY IS STILL INTACT in old opera house. Seats have been removed. View is looking south from Morrison Street side. At right, half door opens for projection booth. Arc-lamp, or perhaps limelight, illuminated performers on stage nearly 100 feet away.

BREAD MOLDS FROM LONG-AGO BAKERY are stacked in basement of building. Huge quantity—several dozens—give idea of size of business, in days when every town had its own commercial bakery. Here the Rev. Jamie Page examines one set of three forms. The relics found, the stories told, the questions raised, are shown in this picture essay.

HOW SCENERY WAS HOISTED TO THE STAGE of the old opera house, is shown by this steel beam still projecting out over alley at rear of building. Big double-door has been bricked up. A rope-and-pulley on the projecting beam made it easy to hoist large items.
WHAT IT TOOK TO MOVE AN ARMY in the old days, is preserved in writing on end of this National Guard crate in the attic. It dates from before World War II. It says: “11 combs, curry, model 1913; 7 bags, feed, model 1912; 7 same, grain; 7 pair bags, saddle, russet, model 1904, leather; 7 bridles, cav. model 1909, leather; 7 brushes, horse, russet, mozel leather; 7 halters, head, russet, model 1904, leather; 2 nets, hay (rope); 7 Sureigles (?), Model 1919, cotton. Garner, packer, 1922. Jeffersonville, IN, quartermaster depot.” Crate, alas, is empty.

MYSTERIOUS ARCH THAT LEADS NOWHERE, is examined by Mike Holtwick, Glasgow plumber who discovered it while making repairs. It is near floor-level in basement, under southernmost store space. Did it lead to a subbasement in an adjoining building? It was bricked up long ago.

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

THE DEMOCRAT-LEADER
P.5 Fayette, MO Dec. 31, 1994
ARMY LEGGING, JODHPURS AND BLOUSE dating from before World War II are among reminders of long-ago National Guard unit. These items were found in attic.

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

BIG WINDOW ON THIRD FLOOR gives picturesque view of downtown Fayette, with college towers in background. This area apparently was originally used as refreshment stand and lounge area for opera house patrons. Later it was quartermaster’s supply store and offices for Missouri National Guard Company M.
PRESSED METAL CEILING is typical of state-of-the-art commercial building design at turn of century. This is one of the finest restorations in Fayette. It is in sanctuary of Faith Family Fellowship.

WHEN A SPEAKER WAS SOLD SEPARATELY FROM A RADIO or phonograph (making it unnecessary to use earphones), this was an elegant item. It is designed to sit atop the instrument. Bell shape amplified sound.

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

THIRD-FLOOR ROOM, NOW UNUSED, was apparently a lounge for balcony patrons. It offers a commanding view of downtown Fayette. In days before air-conditioning and modern lighting, big windows were a must. View is looking north from top of stairs.

DETAIL OF PLASTER MOLDING on a third-floor wall shows elegance of the "New Opera House" when it was erected in 1903-4. No detail was neglected, to give Fayette one of the finest theatrical houses in the area.
PRESSED SHEETMETAL AND GLASS storefronts on Fayette's courthouse square reflect the state of the art in the 1880s. Progress in glass-making permitted big, single-pane, inviting display windows downstairs and single-pane sashes upstairs, making apartments or offices better lighted and better ventilated. Development of stamping process led to the ornate metal storefronts (and also to pressed metal ceilings inside the stores). Top photo, building on east side of square, housing New Grand Theatre (left) and half of Miller's IGA. Bottom, building on east side housing Holtwick Chiropractic and Alsop & Graham Drug Store. Note "mortar & pestle" at top. Such stamped-metal fronts could be ordered by mail; and shipped to Fayette by rail. They are described in today's architectural article.
Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

Howell County and Local History Room

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Catron Opera House
Johnson Opera House

Catron Opera House
Johnson Opera House

West Plains

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

Catron Opera House
Johnson Opera House

West Plains

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

Catron Opera House
Johnson Opera House

West Plains

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

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

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

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

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

Public Library 9:00 - 5:00 pm
Genealogy Library Tuesday + Saturday 9:00 - 12:00 noon

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

Who is the best person to contact for more information?

Thank you for your assistance.

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203
September 15, 1997

Becky L. Snider
1008 Sunset Drive
Columbia, MO 65203

Dear Ms. Snider:

We are returning the completed questionnaire.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Evona Adkisson
Deputy Clerk
| **1. NO.** | 20 |
| **2. COUNTY** | Howell |
| **4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S)** | Theatre - Sales |
| **5. OTHER NAME(S)** | |
| **6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION** | |
| **TOWNSHIP** | 201 |
| **RANGE** | Second |
| **SECTION** | 1 |
| **IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS** | 201 Second |
| **7. CITY OR TOWN** | |
| **IF RURAL, VICINITY** | |
| **8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION** | |
| **9. COORDINATES** | |
| **UTM** | SITES ( ) STRUCTURE ( ) BUILDING ( ) |
| **LAT** | |
| **LONG** | |
| **10. SITE ( ) STRUCTURE ( ) BUILDING ( ) OBJECT ( )** | |
| **11. ON NATIONAL REGISTER? YES ( ) NO ( x )** | |
| **12. IS IT ELIGIBLE? YES ( ) NO ( x )** | |
| **13. PART OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT? YES ( ) NO ( x )** | |
| **14. DISTRICT ELIGIBLE? YES ( ) NO ( x )** | |
| **15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT** | |
| **16. THEMATIC CATEGORY** | |
| **17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD** | |
| **18. STYLE OR DESIGN** | |
| **19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER** | |
| **20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER** | |
| **21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT** | |
| **22. PRESENT USE** | Sales |
| **23. OWNERSHIP** | PUBLIC ( ) PRIVATE ( x ) |
| **24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS IF KNOWN** | Gary Holloway |
| **25. OPEN TO PUBLIC? YES ( ) NO ( x )** | |
| **26. LOCAL CONTACT** | Judy Freem |
| **27. OTHER SURVEY?** | |
| **28. NO. OF STORIES** | 3 |
| **29. BASEMENT? YES ( ) NO ( x )** | |
| **30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL** | Concrete |
| **31. WALL CONSTRUCTION** | Brick |
| **32. ROOF TYPE AND MATERIAL** | Flat |
| **33. NO. OF BAYS** | |
| **34. WALL TREATMENT** | |
| **35. PLAN SHAPE** | |
| **36. CHANGES** | |
| **EXPLAIN IN NO. 42** | |
| **ADDITION ( ) ALTERED ( ) MOVED ( )** | |
| **37. CONDITION** | INTERIOR Good |
| **EXTERIOR Good** | |
| **38. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES** | |
| **42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES** | |
| **43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE** | |
| **None** | |
| **44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS** | |
| **45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION** | |

RETURN THIS FORM WHEN COMPLETED TO: OFFICE OF HIS
P.O. BOX 176
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102
Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

Iron County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

119 N. Main - Current Location of Valley Auto Parts

Is this theatre still in operation?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Who is the best person to contact for more information?

Thank you for your assistance.

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203
**HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE**
Operated as a theater until ca. 1970.

**DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS**
Ironton Municipal Building is on the north, and an alley in the rear.

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION**
Harold Alcorn, and on site inspection

---

**HISTORY ANO SIGNIFICANCE**
Genuinely noteworthy as an example of a 1930's, small-town movie theater. With its exterior walls of random-coursed ashlar, capped battlements, and almost primitive proportions, it is a splendid manifestation of Robert Venturi's "decorated shed" classification. Evoking images of Medieval castle and the Alamo, hundreds must have passed through its doors into the more irrepressible fantasy worlds of Robert Gilbert.
I. GENERAL INFORMATION
A. Address
   10917 East Winner Road
B. District
C. Building Type
   Theater and Offices
D. Listed on Heritage Commission List of 6/24/75
   Yes X No

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

ENGLEWOOD THEATER

III. PHOTOGRAPH

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

IV. SURVEYOR/DATE
   MAS RJC JAR 11-20-75
   BF JAR 11-28-75

V. EVALUATION
   Approved for Further Research
   Yes X No Date

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

PRELIMINARY SURVEY FORM   Form I

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

**Joplin Historical Society**

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Joplin</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fox Theatre</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haven Opera House</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joplin Memorial Hall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joplin Opera House</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Club Theatre</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>New Joplin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perkin's Hall</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Empress</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hippodrome Theatre</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Joplin</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fox Theatre</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Hippodrome Theatre</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Joplin</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fox Theatre</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? 

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

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

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

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

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

Who is the best person to contact for more information? 

Thank you for your assistance. Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203
**Office of Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101**

**HISTORIC INVENTORY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Present Name(s)</th>
<th>Specific Location</th>
<th>Date(s) or Period</th>
<th>Thematic Category</th>
<th>No. of Stories</th>
<th>Basement?</th>
<th>Foundation Material</th>
<th>Wall Construction</th>
<th>Roof Type &amp; Material</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Preservation Underway?</th>
<th>Endangered?</th>
<th>Visible from Public Road?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Jasper</td>
<td>Wagner Jewelers</td>
<td>110 East Fourth Lot 11, Block 25</td>
<td>1887</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Stone</td>
<td>Brick</td>
<td>Flat</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Further Description of Important Features**

This is a handsome building, almost intact, with a facade of cast iron, with pilasters along the windows, an ornate facade and cornice. The 1905 City Directory refers to this as the Miller Bldg., in 1909 a Dr. Kenneth Baker had his offices here, which he kept for many years. Cassaday Block - housed commercial college.

**History and Significance**

1909 City Directory; 1923-1924 City Directory of Carthage. 1888 and 1905-06 City Directories show this and building next door as Cassaday block. In 1909 the Delphus Theater was listed here in the Directory.

**Description of Environment and Outbuildings**

See Inventory-Nomination Form.

**Sources of Information**

City Directories, 1888, 1905-06, 1909.

---

Prepared by: Deborah Ray & C. MacMorra
Organizational Carthage Historic Preservation
Date: 7/30/99
The Belk-Simpson store is one of Carthage's most interesting buildings still surviving on the Square. The 1884 map shows the Grand Opera House upstairs, with stores downstairs. There is a stereo view of the building as an opera in the Carnegie Library files.

The building had lost its lovely veranda, store front, and top story. However, it is still a lovely building and worthy of restoration. Belk Simpson, a chain department store with its headquarters in Camden, S.C., owns the building and Mr. Nichols is the manager. Mr. Nichols was a negative person who assured me storefronts were very cheap and that in his estimation Belks needed one. Recently I have learned that Belks officials have decided to renovate the exterior of the building and the Carthage Chamber of Commerce has shown them restoration drawings made by a local architect, Mr. Dick Locarni. They were enthused by the drawings, and it is hoped the building will be restored in a manner suitable to its original design. See Inventory - Nomination form.

1909 Photo shows it as Turner Carrage and Furniture Store. M. Matthews

---

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

**HISTORIC INVENTORY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Present Name(s)</th>
<th>28. No. of Stories</th>
<th>29. Basement?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Balk Simpson Dept. Store</td>
<td>2</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>30. Foundation Material</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jasper</td>
<td>stone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>31. Wall Construction</th>
<th>32. Roof Type &amp; Material</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>brick</td>
<td>flat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>33. No. of Bays</th>
<th>34. Wall Treatment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Front 2 Side</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>35. Plan Shape</th>
<th>36. Changes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>37. Condition</th>
<th>38. Preservation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interior OK</td>
<td>Underway?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exterior Good</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>41. Distance from and Frontage on Road</th>
<th>42. Further Description of Important Features</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| | The Belk Simpson store is one of Carthage's most interesting buildings still surviving on the Square. The 1884 map shows the Grand Opera House upstairs, with stores downstairs. There is a stereo view of the building as an opera in the Carnegie Library files.

The building had lost its lovely veranda, store front, and top story. However, it is still a lovely building and worthy of restoration. Belk Simpson, a chain department store with its headquarters in Camden, S.C., owns the building and Mr. Nichols is the manager. Mr. Nichols was a negative person who assured me storefronts were very cheap and that in his estimation Belks needed one. Recently I have learned that Belks officials have decided to renovate the exterior of the building and the Carthage Chamber of Commerce has shown them restoration drawings made by a local architect, Mr. Dick Locarni. They were enthused by the drawings, and it is hoped the building will be restored in a manner suitable to its original design. See Inventory - Nomination form. 1909 Photo shows it as Turner Carrage and Furniture Store. M. Matthews |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>43. History and Significance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>made by a local architect, Mr. Dick Locarni. They were enthused by the drawings, and it is hoped the building will be restored in a manner suitable to its original design. See Inventory - Nomination form.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>45. Sources of Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>46. Prepared by</th>
<th>47. Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deborah Ray &amp; C. MacMorran</td>
<td>Carthage Historic Preservation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Previous Date(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/30/79</td>
<td>8/79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Present Name(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>William D. George, M.D.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**28. No of Stories**
- 2

**29. Basement?**
- Yes

**30. Foundation Material**
- Stone

**31. Wall Construction**
- Brick/marble facing

**32. Roof Type & Material**
- Flat

**33. No of Bays**
- Front: 1, Side: 2

**34. Wall Treatment**
- Treated

**35. Plan Shape**
- Flat

**36. Changes**
- Addition
- Altered

**37. Condition**
- Interior: Excellent
- Exterior: Excellent

**38. Preservation Underway?**
- Yes

**39. Endangered?**
- Yes

**40. Visible from Public Road?**
- Yes

**41. Distance from and Frontage on Road**
- Yes

**42. Further Description of Important Features**

This is a very monumental building, designed in a very proficient manner and fitting in with typical Square architecture. It was originally a saloon and brewery operated by Lempe Bros. Brewing in St. Louis.

**43. History and Significance**

In the 1920's this Bureks Theater was here.

**44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings**

See Inv.-Nom. Form

**45. Sources of Information**

Mr. Bennett Wilson, on history

Assessor's Office; City Directories, 1888, 1905-06, 1909, 1923-24; 1925-26

**46. Prepared by**
- Deborah MacMorran, C.M. Hall

**47. Organization**
- Carthage Historic Preservation

**48. Date**
- 8/6/79

**49. Revision Date(s)**
- 8/6/79
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Present Local Name(s) or Designation(s)</th>
<th>Other Name(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>126</td>
<td>Joplin Memorial Hall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Location of Post Art Negatives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jasper</td>
<td>MEMORIAL LIB.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific Legal Location</th>
<th>Township</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>212 West 8th</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City or Town If Rural, Vicinity</th>
<th>Description of Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joplin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coordinates UTM</th>
<th>Coordinates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lat</td>
<td>Long</td>
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<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Structure</th>
<th>Object</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Register</th>
<th>Is It Eligible No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes (x)</td>
<td>No ( )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes (x)</td>
<td>No ( )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Established District</th>
<th>Underway Estab. District No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Stories</th>
<th>Basement</th>
<th>Foundation Material</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two</td>
<td>Yes (x)</td>
<td>Ashlar Stone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wall Construction</th>
<th>Roof Type &amp; Material</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brick/Steel Frame</td>
<td>Flat/Gable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Bays</th>
<th>Style or Design</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Front Side</td>
<td>Ashlar Renaissance Revival</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Use, If Apparent</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opera House/Convention</td>
<td>Entertainment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Owner's Name and Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public (x)</td>
<td>If Known</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Owner's Name and Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Joplin 623-3254</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open to Public</th>
<th>Local Contact Person or Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes (x)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition Interior</th>
<th>Condition Exterior</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preservation Underway</th>
<th>Endangered By What</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes (x)</td>
<td>Yes (x)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visible From Public Road</th>
<th>Distance From and Frontage On Road</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes (x)</td>
<td>40' / 40'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

42. Further Description of Important Features

43. History and Significance

Al Jolson once performed in Auditorium.

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings

45. Sources of Information

46. Prepared By

Laura J. Derrick

47. Organization

BCCW/CASEY A/E

48. Date

12/15/87

49. Revision Date(s)

Date(s)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inventory Number</th>
<th>N.A.</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Jasper</th>
<th>Present Local Name(s) or Designation(s):</th>
<th>Joplin Downtown</th>
<th>Other Historic Name(s) or Event(s):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Specific Location - Street Address:</td>
<td>Joplin, Missouri</td>
<td>City</td>
<td>Joplin</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description of Location:</td>
<td>Sketch the plan of the structure; indicate outbuildings and relationships to street; place X at main entrance, show porches, lightly shade one-story elements</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>Joplin</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theme Catagory - Commercial</td>
<td>Railroad</td>
<td>Mining</td>
<td>Other (X)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Construction</td>
<td>1923</td>
<td>Period of Construction</td>
<td>(N.A.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of Construction</td>
<td>125,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Architectural Aspect:</td>
<td>Style</td>
<td>(N.A.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Is this type of structure common in the area now?</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Was this type of structure common in the area in the past?</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architect or Designer</td>
<td>Joplin Downtown</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contractor/Builder</td>
<td>A.S. Greenwell</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Original Use</td>
<td>Opera house, convention hall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsequent Use</td>
<td>Success in hall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present Use</td>
<td>First Floor Bank</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present Ownership</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Original Owner</td>
<td>Joplin Downtown</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address/Phone</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility - Open to Public</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Contact Person or Organization:</td>
<td>Phone: 623-3244</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Stories</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basement</td>
<td>Full</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Wall Construction**

- HORIZONTAL, ROUND LOG
- HEWED LOG
- MORTISE AND TENON FRAME
- WOOD FRAME
- BRICK BEARING-WALL
- STONE BEARING-WALL
- PLANK WALL FRAMING
- HORIZONTAL PLANKS
- VERTICAL PLANKS
- IRON FRAME
- STEEL FRAME W/ CURTAIN WALLS

**Roof Type**

- GABLE
- STEPPED GABLE
- PARAPET GABLE
- HIPPED GABLE
- RIP, W/ GABLED LEAF
- TRUNCATED RIP
### Roof Trim

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

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

33. Number of Bays - Front ______ Side ______

34. Wall Treatment:
   - Stone
     - Natural
     - Sawn
     - Tooled or Ramped
     - Smooth Dressed
     - Polished
     - Rock-Faced
     - Rusticated
     - Verniculated
     - Rock-Faced
     - Other

### Stone Treatment

- Random Ashlar
- Plain Ashlar
- Rusticated Ashlar
- Flint &/or Cobble
- Slate or Shale
- Rubble, Random
- Rubble
- Coursed Rubble
- Squared Rubble
- Stone Panels
- Quoins
- Fieldstone

### Brick Patterns - Color

- Header Bond
- Flemish Bond
- Garden Wall
- Common, or American Bond
- Stretcher Running Bond
- English Bond

### Concrete

- Portland
- Block
- Precast Panel, Plain
- Precast Panel, Shaped

### Metal

- Galvanized Tin or Iron
- Metal Sheet
- Metal/Glass
- Cast Iron

### Composition Tile

- Slate
- Tile
- Plaster or Stucco
- Asbestos Cement Sheeting
- Composition Shingles

### Wood - Painted Color

- Vertical Board & Batten
- Skiplap
- Shingle
- Clapboard
- Split Weatherboard

### Dormers:

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

- Gabled Dormer
- Shed Dormer
- Wall Dormer
- Eyebrow

### Windows - Painted Color

- Double-Hung 6/6 lights
- Double-Hung 12/12 lights
- Double-Hung 2/2 lights

cont.
### Window and Door Treatments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surrounds</th>
<th>Plain (X) Decorated ( ) Arch ( ) Pediment ( ) Shaped Lintel ( )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Placement</td>
<td>Regular (X) Irregular ( ) Projecting Bays or Oriel ( )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stained Glass</td>
<td>yes (X) no ( )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern Storm Windows</td>
<td>yes (X) no ( )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Doors:</th>
<th>Straight (X) Arched ( ) Plain (X) Decorated ( ) Modern Storm Doors yes (X) no ( )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Typical Storefront</td>
<td>yes (X) no ( )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unusual Treatment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Building Form Treatments

- **Awning**
- **Hopper**
- **Casement**
- **Mullion w/ Transom**
- **Triple-Hung**
- **Oriel**
- **Horiz. Slide**
- **Palladian**
- **Frieze**

### Miscellaneous

- **Exposed Rafters**
- **Bracketed Cornice**
- **Box Cornice**
- **Bracket or Drip**
- **Finial**
- **Ur
- **Battlements**
- **Hood over door**
- **Crestings**
- **Doric**
- **Composite**
- **Corinthian**
- **Ionic**
- **Tuscan**

### Other Exterior Detailing - Decorative Panels

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

- Where were the materials used for construction obtained? (i.e. Local brick-yards, quarries, out-state suppliers, etc.)
35. Plan Shape
- RECTANGULAR
- SQUARE
- L-SHAPED
- T-SHAPED
- U-SHAPED
- CIRCLE
- LATIN CROSS
- OCTAGONAL
- IRRREGULAR

36. Changes - Addition
Alteration: Yes
Moved: No

37. Apparent Condition - Exterior: (X) Excellent
              ( ) Good
              ( ) Fair
              ( ) Deteriorated
              ( ) Ruins
              ( ) No Visible

Interior: ( ) Excellent
              ( ) Good
              ( ) Fair
              ( ) Deteriorated
              ( ) Ruins
              ( ) No Visible

Remains

38. Renovation Underway: yes( ) no
Preservation Underway: yes( ) no

39. Endangered: yes( ) no
By What?

40. (N.A.)
41. Distance From Road: 40'
Frontage on Road: 40' on 8th

42. Further Description of Important Features:
Small square roof
2 stories, 3-0 attic

43. Is this property associated with persons, events, development, movements, etc., significant to the history of the community, state, or nation?
Briefly Explain: Yes, severance multi-purpose center for the community

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

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

Surrounding Buildings - ( ) Similar Period
                       ( ) Later Period
                       ( ) Earlier Period
                       ( ) Institutional
                       ( ) Commercial
                       ( ) Industrial
                       ( ) Residential

45. Documentation:
Indicate what legal records, county histories, maps, etc., were used to document facts about the property:
( ) Court Records (chain of title or abstract, etc.)
( ) County Histories
( ) Old Photographs - Location
              Approx. Date
( ) Newspaper Clippings - Location
              Approx. Date
( ) City Directories - Location
( ) Maps (plats, atlases) - Location
( ) Other

46. Prepared By: Gardner Snow Phone:

47. Organization:

48. Date

49. Date of Revision

Any Other Comments or Observations:

Built to seat 4,110 - largest stage in Joplin. Al Jolson performed here.
1976 - renovated as part of Bicentennial project. Added handicapped access ramp. Forested stone walls.
Remodeled under architect's direction to preserve original features. Sold for $1.3 million.

Built "In Memory of Our National Defenders."
MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

1. NO. 108
2. COUNTY JASPER
3. LOCATION OF POST ART NEGATIVES MEMORIAL LIB.

4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S)
   VARIOUS RETAIL

5. OTHER NAME(S)
   JOPLIN CLUB THEATRE

6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION
   TOWNSHIP 402 RANGE 408 SECTION ___
   IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS JOPLIN

7. CITY OR TOWN IF RURAL, VICINITY
   JOPLIN

8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION

9. COORDINATES UTM
   LAT
   LONG

10. SITE( ) BUILDING( ) OBJECT( )

11. ON NATIONAL YES() REGISTER NO(X)
12. IS IT YES() ELIGIBLE NO(X)

13. PART OF YES() ESTAB. DISTRICT NO(X)
14. DISTRICT YES() POTENTIAL NO(X)

15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT

16. THEMATIC CATEGORY
   COMMERCIAL

17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD
   1891

18. STYLE OR DESIGN
   COMMERCIAL

19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER

20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER

21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT
   THEATRE/DANCE HALL

22. PRESENT USE
   RETAIL

23. OWNERSHIP
   PUBLIC ( ) PRIVATE (X)

24. OWNERS NAME AND ADDRESS
   IF KNOWN
   RAY FURGUSON REALTY
   623-4178

25. OPEN TO PUBLIC
   YES(X) NO ( )

26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION

27. OTHER SURVEY IN WHICH INCLUDED

28. NO. OF STORIES
   1

29. BASEMENT
   YES( ) NO (X)

30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL
   BRICK

31. WALL CONSTRUCTION
   BRICK BEARING

32. ROOF TYPE & MATERIAL
   FLAT

33. NO. OF BAYS
   FRONT SIDE

34. WALL TREATMENT
   SHEET METAL

35. PLAN SHAPE
   SQUARE

36. CHANGES
   ADDITION( ) ALTERED (X) MOVED ( )

37. CONDITION
   INTERIOR GOOD
   EXTERIOR GOOD

38. PRESERVATION
   UNDERWAY NO(X)

39. ENDANGERED
   BY WHAT
   NO(X)

40. VISIBLE FROM
   PUBLIC ROAD YES(X)
   NO ( )

41. DISTANCE FROM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD
   10/150

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

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

44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS

45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION
   County Histories
   Old Photographs - 1895
   Newspaper - 1/26/1891
   City Directories/Maps

46. PREPARED BY
   LAURA J. DERRICK

47. ORGANIZATION
   BCCW/CASEY A/E

48. DATE 6/20/88
49. REVISION DATE(S) 12/15/87
1. Inventory Number: 18 (N.A.)
2. County: Jasper (N.A.)
3. Present Local Name(s) or Designation(s): Joplin Club Theater
4. Other Historic Name(s) or Event(s):
5. Specific Location - Street Address: 902-408 Soplin Ave 202-212 S 42nd Ave
6. City: Joplin; State: Missouri
7. Description of Location: Sketch the plan of the structure; indicate outbuildings and relationships to street; place X at main entrance, show porches, lightly shade one-story elements
8. Site ( ) Building (X) Structure ( ) Object ( )
9. Part of Proposed District? yes ( ) no ( N.A. )
10. Name of Proposed District: Joplin Downtown
11. Thematic Category - Commercial (X) Railroad ( ) Mining ( ) Other ( )
12. Date of Construction: (N.A.)
13. Period of Construction: (N.A.)
14. Cost of Construction: (N.A.)
15. Overall Architectural Aspect:
   Style: (N.A.)
   - Is this type of structure common in the area now? yes ( ) no ( )
   - Was this type of structure common in the area in the past? yes (X) no ( )
16. Architect or Designer: (N.A.)
17. Contractor/Builder: (N.A.)
18. Original Use - Theaters, Dance Hall
19. Subsequent Use: (N.A.)
20. Present Use - First Floor: Office/Office
   Other Floors: Office
21. Present Ownership - Public ( ) Private (X)
22. Original Owner: (N.A.)
23. Present Owner: RAY FERGUSON/REALTY
   Address/Phone: 623-4378
24. Accessibility - Open to Public: yes (X) no ( )
   Restricted: yes (X) no ( )
25. Local Contact Person or Organization: RAY FERGUSON Phone: 623-4378
26. Number of Stories - 1st Floor: 2 ( ) 3 ( ) 4 ( )
   Basement: Full ( ) Crawlspace ( ) Partial ( )
   None ( )
27. Foundation Type - SW-AS-036-032
   ASHLE STONE
   RUSTICATED STONE
   RUBBLE STONE
   BRICK
   CONCRETE BLOCK
   COURSED RUBBLE
28. Wall Construction -
   HORIZONTAL, ROUND LOG
   HEWED LOG
   MORTISE AND TENON FRAME
   WOOD FRAME
   BRICK BEARING-WALL
   STONE BEARING-WALL
   PLANK WALL FRAMING
   HORIZONTAL PLANKS
   VERTICAL PLANKS
   ( ) IRON FRAME
   ( ) IRON FRONT
   ( ) STEEL FRAME W/ CURTAIN WALLS
29. Roof Type -
   MANSARD
   STEEPED MANSARD
   SALERO
   SAWTOOTH
   MONITOR
   FLAT
   SHED
30. Number of Stories - 1st Floor: 2 ( ) 3 ( ) 4 ( )
   Basement: Full ( ) Crawlspace ( ) Partial ( )
   None ( )
   Number - UNDERGROUND TUNNELS: originally 3 story with towers
Roof Trim -

- Multiple Roof Forms-Towers
- Cupola
- Finials
- Other

Chimney -

- Straddle Ridge
- Center
- Front Slope
- Side Slope
- Back Slope
- Interior
- Exterior

33. Number of Bays - Front __ Side __

34. Wall Treatment:
   Stone
   - Natural
   - Sawn
   - Toolied or Handcut
   - Smooth Dressed
   - Polished
   - Rock-Faced
   - Rusticated
   - Veneered
   - Other
   - Stone Panels
   - Quoins
   - Fieldstone

Brick Patterns - Color

- Painted and Red
- Header Bond
- Flemish Bond
- Garden Wall
- Common, or American Bond
- Stretcher/Running Bond
- English Bond

Concrete

- Poured
- Block
- Pre-Cast Panel, Plain
- Pre-Cast Panel, Shaped

Metal

- Galvanized Tin or Iron
- Metal Sheet
- Metal/Class
- Cast Iron

Composition Tile

- Slate
- Tile
- Plaster or Stucco
- Asbestos Cement Sheet
- Composition Shingle

Wood - Painted Color

- Vertical Board & Batten
- Exposed
- Shingle
- Clapboard
- Split Weatherboard

Dormers:

- Hipped
- Decorated
- Facade
- Sides
- Rear

- Cabled Dormer
- Shed Dormer
- Wall Dormer
- Eyebrow

Windows - Painted Color

- Double-Hung 6/6 lights
- Double-Hung 12/12 lights
- Double-Hung 2/2 lights

cont.
Window and Door Treatments

- Awning
- Hopper
- Casement
- Mullion w/ Transom
- Triple-Hung 8/8/8 lights
- Oriel
- Horizontal Slide
- Palladian
- Frieze

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

Doors:
- Straight X Arched () Plain () Decorated ()
Modern Storm Doors yes() no x
Typical Storefront yes X no X
Unusual Treatment

Building Form Treatments
- Archading
- Buttressed Wall
- Arched Corbel Tab
- Full Portico
- Central Pavilion
- Piers/Spand
- Pilaster
- Reeded Panels
- Horizontal

Miscellaneous
- Exposed Rafter
- Bracketed Cornice
- Box Cornice
- Bracket or Drapery Finial
- Urn
- Battlements
- Hood over door
- Crestings
- Doric
- Composite
- Corinthian
- Ionic
- Tuscan

Other Exterior Detailing - Decorative Panels ()
- Balconies ()
- Quoins ()
- Date Stone ()
- Porch ()
- String or Belt Course ()

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

RECTANGULAR  SQUARE  L-SHAPED  T-SHAPED  G-SHAPED
CIRCLE  LATEX CROSS  CIRCULAR  OCTAGONAL  IRREGULAR

36. Changes - Addition
Alteration: 
Moved 
New Facades

37. Apparent Condition - Exterior:
( ) Excellent
( ) Good
( ) Fair
( ) Deteriorated
( ) Ruins
of original
No Visible Remains

Interior:
( ) Excellent
( ) Good
( ) Fair
( ) Deteriorated
( ) Ruins
of original
No Visible Remains

38. Renovation Underway
Yes
No

Preservation Underway
Yes
No

Future Plans for Property:

39. Endangered
Yes
No
By What?
ACREACY

40. (N.A.)

41. Distance From Road
10 Frontage on Road
150

42. Further Description of Important Features:

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

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings:
Is property integrally associated with any vistas,
parks, landscapes? Yes
No
If yes, explain:

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

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

Property is prominent within environment - Yes
No

45. Documentation:
Indicate what legal records, county histories,
maps, etc., were used to document facts about the
property:
( ) Court Records (chain of title etc.)
( ) County Histories
( ) Old Photographs - Location
( ) Newspaper Clippings - Location
( ) Maps (plats, atlases) - Location
( ) Other

46. Prepared By:

Phone:

47. Organization:

48. Date 9/3/87

49. Date of Revision

Any Other Comments or Observations:

402 Joplin - Mayfield Cafe
406 Charlie's Shoe Service
408 Sonotone Hearing Aid
202 4th Mayfield Cafe
204 " Western Union
208 " Empire District
210 " WESCAL Office Equipment
212 " Empire District

Building completely
Remodeled
**MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

**ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. NO.</th>
<th>62</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. COUNTY</td>
<td>JASPER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. LOCATION OF POST ART NEGATIVES</td>
<td>MEMORIAL LIB.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) CENTRAL ASSEMBLY CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. OTHER NAME(S) FOX THEATRE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP RANGE SECTION</td>
<td>415 MAIN / VIRGINIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. CITY OR TOWN IF RURAL, VICINITY</td>
<td>JOPLIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. COORDINATES UTM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAT</td>
<td>LONG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. SITE( ) BUILDING( ) STRUCTURE( ) OBJECT( )</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. ON NATIONAL REGISTER YES( ) NO( )</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. IS IT YES( ) ELIGIBLE NO( )</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. PART OF YES( ) ESTAB. DISTRICT NO( )</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. DISTRICT YES( ) POTENTIAL NO( )</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. THEMATIC CATEGORY ENTERTAINMENT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD 1930</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. STYLE OR DESIGN RENAISSANCE REVIVAL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT THEATRE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. PRESENT USE CHURCH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. OWNERSHIP PUBLIC YES( ) PRIVATE NO( )</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS IF KNOWN CENTRAL ASSEMBLY 781 E. 5982</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. OPEN TO PUBLIC YES( ) NO( )</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27. OTHER SURVEY IN WHICH INCLUDED NONE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. NO. OF STORIES 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29. BASEMENT PARTIAL YES( ) NO( )</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL CONCRETE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31. WALL CONSTRUCTION BRICK BEARING</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32. ROOF TYPE &amp; MATERIAL FLAT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33. NO. OF BAYS FRONT SIDE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34. WALL TREATMENT BRICK/TERRA COTTA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35. PLAN SHAPE L-SHAPED</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36. CHANGES ADDITION( ) ALTERED( X ) MOVED( )</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37. CONDITION INTERIOR GOOD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXTERIOR GOOD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO( )</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38. PRESERVATION UNDERWAY YES( ) NO( )</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39. ENDANGERED BY WHAT YES( ) NO( )</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD YES( ) NO( )</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41. DISTANCE FROM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES MARQUIS CHANGED.

43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS

45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION Newspaper 3/23/1980 City Directories/Maps

46. PREPARED BY LAURA J. DERRICK

47. ORGANIZATION BCCW/CASEY A/E

RETURN THIS FORM WHEN COMPLETED TO: OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION P.O. BOX 175 JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102

48. DATE 12/15/87

49. REVISION DATE(S) 6/20/88
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concrete</th>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>Composition Tile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POWDER</td>
<td>GUTTER</td>
<td>PLATE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLATE</td>
<td>1/2&quot; BAR</td>
<td>TILE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRE-CAST PANELS, PLAIN</td>
<td>1/2&quot; PLATE</td>
<td>PLASTER OR STUCCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRE-CAST PANELS, SHAPED</td>
<td>1/2&quot; GOLD</td>
<td>ASBESTOS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER</td>
<td>1/2&quot; BRICK</td>
<td>COMPOSITION TILE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ENAMEL</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PLASTIC TOILEET</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>BRICK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CAST IRON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>OTHER</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wood - Painted Color</th>
<th></th>
<th>Vertical Board &amp; Battens</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
<td>FRIPAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>DRIMBLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CLAPBOARD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SPLIT RAINWATERBOARD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ASHLEI CHIMIATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>FLUSH-BOARD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>INDIAN VIINERSK</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SPLIT RAINWATERBOARD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>OTHER</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dormers:</th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hipped ()</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decorated ()</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facade ()</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sides ()</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rear ()</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Windows - Painted Color</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surrounds:</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plain ()</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decorated ()</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arch ()</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediment ()</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shaped Lintel ()</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placement:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular ()</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irregular ()</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projecting Bays or Oriels ()</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stained Glass yes( ) no( )</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern Storm Windows yes( ) no( )</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Doors:</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arched ()</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plain ()</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decorated ()</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern Storm Doors yes( ) no( )</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typical Storefront yes( ) no( )</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unusual Treatment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other Exterior Detailing</th>
<th>Decorative Panels</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balconies ()</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quoins ()</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Stone ()</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porch ()</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>String or Belt Course ()</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan Shape</th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RECTANGULAR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SQUARE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L-SHAPED</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-SHAPED</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-SHAPED</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Changes - Addition</th>
<th>Alteration:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Addition</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alteration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moved</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Apparent Condition</th>
<th>Exterior:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>()</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>()</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>()</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deteriorated</td>
<td>()</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruins</td>
<td>()</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Visible Remains</td>
<td>()</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interior:</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>()</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>()</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>()</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deteriorated</td>
<td>()</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruins</td>
<td>()</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Visible Remains</td>
<td>()</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
38. Renovation Underway yes() no()
Future Plans for Property

39. Endangered yes() no()
By What?

40. (N.A.)
Distance From Road see map on front

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

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

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

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

Surrounding Buildings ( )Similar Period
( )Later Period ( )Earlier Period
( )Institutional ( )Commercial
( )Industrial ( )Residential
( )Other

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

45. Documentation:
Indicate what legal records, county histories, maps, etc., were used to document facts about the property:
( )Court Records (chain of title or abstract, etc.)
( )County Histories
( )Old Photographs - Location 
Approx. Date
(N)Newspaper Clippings - Location
Date:
(M)City Directories - Location
Date:
(M)Maps (plats, atlases) - Location
( )Other

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

47. Organization:

48. Date 2/97

49. Date of Revision

Any Other Comments or Observations:

1) The entrance on Main St. (475) was originally a 2-story brick hardware store, built about 1823.
2) In 1930 this site replaced a library to Fox Theatre! Auditorium daily is on the northwest corner of 5th & Virginia. A covered passageway extends from the lobby over the alley to the huge auditorium.
3) Auditorium originally lacked 3000, 8½ ft. stage for live shows & movies.

4) Decorated inside in "Spanish Moorish" style.
5) Front facade features stepped-gable & diamond pattern brickwork, unusual decorates peaks.
6) Originally had huge neon marquee 40' high & 7½' wide.
7) 300 workers built to build (jobs for unemployed during depression years)
8) Helen Cheevers (on commission) has 1st ticket purchased at $1.25, date 11/3/30.

R.S. If you need any more about this day, let me know.)
<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Not Applicable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Given.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Not Applicable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Any name the property is known by in the community or building name.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Any person or thing associated with the building and events which took place there.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Street Address.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Given.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>If property is not located on Sanborn Map, draw general outline following the instructions on the inventory sheet. Also show assumed property lines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Site - Location of a significant event, historic occupation or activity, building or structure-whether standing, ruined, or vanished; location itself possesses historical, cultural, or archeological value. Building - A building such as a house, barn, church, hotel, or similar construction created to shelter any form of human activity. Structure - Building constructed for purposes other than creating shelter. (Such as a bridge.) Object - Construction which is primarily artistic in nature or is relatively small in scale and simply constructed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Not Applicable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Is the building being inventoried within the boundaries on the survey map?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Given.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Which of these categories describe the building's function?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>When was the building constructed? How much did it cost to build.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Not Applicable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>Who designed the building?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Who built the building?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.</td>
<td>What was the building's original function, what was it used for? (retail, office, etc.) What was it used for in the time after initial construction to the present?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>What is it used for today?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>Is the building owned by a private individual or a public entity?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>Is the building accessible at any time, are parts of it only open certain hours or at all?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.</td>
<td>Who can be contacted to see the building if needed?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>Not Applicable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.</td>
<td>How many floors does the building have?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.</td>
<td>What type of basement does it have, if any?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.</td>
<td>Mark the appropriate foundation type.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31.</td>
<td>Mark the appropriate wall construction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32.</td>
<td>Mark the appropriate roof type/trim/forms (if any)/chimney(if any).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33.</td>
<td>Denote the number of bays between structural columns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34.</td>
<td>Mark the appropriate wall treatment, window/door type/treatment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35.</td>
<td>Mark the appropriate plan configuration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.</td>
<td>Have there been any changes made to the building since its initial construction?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37.</td>
<td>What kind of condition is the building in now?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38.</td>
<td>Is the building currently being restored? What plans (if any) are being made concerning the building. (i.e. Restoration, Renovation, Remodeling, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39.</td>
<td>Is the building going to be torn down, moved, or inappropriately renovated? Why?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40.</td>
<td>Not Applicable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41.</td>
<td>How far is the building from the street curb and what is the length of its frontwall?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42.</td>
<td>Are there any other details about the building that should be documented?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43.</td>
<td>What is the building's history?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.</td>
<td>How does the immediate area affect the building?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45.</td>
<td>Where did the information come from?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.</td>
<td>Who filled out the inventory form?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47.</td>
<td>What organization (if any) are they associated with?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48.</td>
<td>What date was the inventory started?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49.</td>
<td>What date was the inventory amended or revised?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

If there are any comments or suggestions concerning the layout or information on the inventory sheets please let us know so it can be revised.
If some of the information on the sheets is unfamiliar or the answer is unavailable make a note of this on the sheet where the questions occur.
| 1. NO. | 27 |
| 2. COUNTY | JASPER |
| 3. LOCATION OF POST ART NEGATIVES | MEMORIAL LIB. |
| 6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION | TOWNSHIP RANGE SECTION |
| IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS | 520 MAIN |
| 7. CITY OR TOWN | IF RURAL, VICINITY |
| JOPLIN |
| 8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION | |
| 9. COORDINATES | UTM |
| LAT | LONG |
| 10. SITE( ) | STRUCTURE( ) | BUILDING( X ) | OBJECT( ) |
| 11. ON NATIONAL REGISTER | YES( ) | NO( X ) |
| 12. IS IT YES( X ) | ELIGIBLE NO( ) |
| 13. PART OF ESTABL. DISTRICT | YES( ) | NO( X ) |
| 14. DISTRICT YES( X ) | POTENTIAL NO( ) |
| 15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT | |
| 16. THEMATIC CATEGORY | COMMERCIAL |
| 17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD | 1909 |
| 18. STYLE OR DESIGN | COMM. RENNAISS. REVIVAL |
| 19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER | |
| 20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER | |
| 21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT | CANDY STORE |
| 22. PRESENT USE | GIFT SHOP |
| 23. OWNERSHIP | PUBLIC X |
| PRIVATE ( ) |
| 24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS | IF KNOWN |
| CARDINAL SCALES | MWF 10-2 782-1985 |
| 25. OPEN TO PUBLIC | YES( X ) |
| NO ( ) |
| 26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION | BECKY WHILER-CARVER 782-1985 |
| 27. OTHER SURVEY IN WHICH INCLUDED | NONE |
| 28. NO. OF STORIES | 2 |
| 29. BASEMENT | YES( X ) |
| NO ( ) |
| 30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL | |
| 31. WALL CONSTRUCTION | BRICK BEARING |
| 32. ROOF TYPE & MATERIAL | FLAT |
| 33. NO. OF BAYS | |
| 34. WALL TREATMENT | BRICK W/QUOINS |
| 35. PLAN SHAPE | RECTANGLE |
| 36. CHANGES | ADDITION( ) |
| EXPLAINED IN NO.42 | ALTED( ) |
| MOVED( ) |
| 37. CONDITION | INTERIOR EXCELLENT |
| EXTERIOR EXCELLENT |
| 38. PRESERVATION | YES( ) |
| UNDERWAY NO( X ) |
| 39. ENDANGERED | YES( ) |
| BY WHAT NO( X ) |
| 40. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD | YES( X ) |
| NO( ) |
| 41. DISTANCE FROM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD | 10/25 |

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

43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS

45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

46. PREPARED BY
LAURA J. DERRICK

47. ORGANIZATION
BCCW/CASEY A/E

48. DATE 12/15/87
49. REVISION DATE(S)
1. Inventory Number (N.A.)
2. County Jasper (N.A.)
3. Present Local Name(s) or Designation(s):
   The Express
4. Other Historic Name(s) or Event(s):
   Philadelphia Candy and Drug Co. Thistle
5. Specific Location - Street Address: 520 Main
6. City Joplin State Missouri
7. Description of Location:
   Sketch the plan of the structure; indicate outbuildings and relationships to street; place X at main entrance, show porches, lightly shade one-story elements
8. Site ( ) Building ( ) Structure ( ) Object ( )
9. Part of Proposed District? yes( ) no( )
10. Name of Proposed District Joplin Downtown
11. Thematic Category - Commercial ( ) Railroad ( ) Mining ( ) Other ( )
12. Date of Construction 1909
13. Period of Construction (N.A.)
14. Overall Architectural Aspect:
   Style (N.A.)
   - Is this type of structure common in the area now? yes( ) no( )
   - Was this type of structure common in the area in the past? yes( ) no( )
15. Architect or Designer
16. Contractor/Builder
17. Original Use Candy Store
   Subsequent Use (N.A.)
18. Present Use - First Floor (N.A.)
   Other Floors
19. Present Ownership - Public ( ) Private ( )
20. Original Owner Charles Magin
21. Present Owner
   Address/Phone (N.A.)
22. Accessibility - Open to Public yes( ) no( )
   Restricted yes( ) no( )
23. Local Contact Person or Organization:
   Edna White - Candy Store Phone: 782-1985
24. Number of Stories 1( ) 2( ) 3( ) 4( )
25. Basement - Full ( ) Crawl Space ( ) Partial ( )
   None ( )
26. Foundation Type - AS-036-034
   ASHLAR STONE
   RUSTICATED STONE
   RUBBLE STONE
   BRICK
   CONCRETE BLOCK
   COURSES
27. Wall Construction -
   HORIZONTAL ROUND LOG
   HEWED LOG
   MORTISE AND TENON FRAME
   WOOD FRAME
   BRICK BEARING-WALL
   STONE BEARING-WALL
   PLANKWALL FRAMING
   HORIZONTAL PLANKS
   VERTICAL PLANKS
   IRON FRAME
   IRON FRONT
   STEEL FRAME W/ CURTAIN WALLS
28. Roof Type -
   GABLE
   STOPE GABLE
   PARAPET GABLE
   RIPPED GABLE
   RIP, WITH GABLE
   TRUNCATED GABLE
   HIPS AND RIDGES
   TREALS
   MONOPLANE
   FLAT
   SHED
Roof Trim -

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

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

33. Number of Bays - Front ___ Side ___

4. Wall Treatment:
Stone

- Natural
- Sawn
- Toolled or Hammered
- Smooth Dressed
- Polished
- Rock-Faced
- Rusticated
- Terraculated
- Rock-Faced
- Other

Stone Treatment

- Randon Ashlar
- Plain Ashlar
- Rusticated Ashlar
- Flint &/or Cobble
- Slate or Shale
- Rubble, Random
- Rubble
- Coursed Rubble
- Squared Rubble
- Stone Panels
- Quoins
- Fieldstone

Brick Patterns - Color dark red-brown

- Header Bond
- Flemish Bond
- Garden Wall
- Common, or American Bond
- Stretcher/Running Bond
- English Bond

Concrete

- Poured
- Block
- Pre-Cast Panel, Plain
- Pre-Cast Panel, Shaped

Metal

- Galvanized Tin or Iron
- Metal Sheet
- Metal/Class
- Cast Iron

Composition Tile

- Slate
- Tile
- Plaster or Stucco
- Asbestos Cement Sheet
- Composition Shingle

Wood - Painted Color

- Vertical Board & Batten
- Exifflan
- Shingle
- Clapboard
- Split Weatherboard

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

- Gabled Dormer
- Shed Dormer
- Wall Dormer
- Eyebrow

Windows - Painted Color
grey

- Double-Hung
- 6/6 lights
- 12/12 lights
- 2/2 lights
- cont.
AWNING, HOPPER, CASEMENT
MULLION w/ TRANSMON, TRIPLE-HUNG 8/8/8 LIGHTS, ORIEL
HORIZ. SLIDE, PALLADIAN, FRIEZE

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

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

Window and Door Treatments

Building Form Treatments
ARCHADING, BUTTRESSED WALL, ARCHED CORBEL TABLE
FULL PORTICO, CENTRAL PAVILION, PIERS/SPANDRELS
PILASTER, RECESSED PANELS, HORIZONTAL WOOD

Miscellaneous
EXPOSED RAFTERS, BRACKETED CORNICE, BOX CORNICE
BRACKET or DRIP, FINIAL, URN
BATTLEMENTS, HOOD, OVER DOOR, CRESTINGS
DORIC, COMPOSITE, CORINTHIAN
IONIC, TUSCAN

Other Exterior Detailing - Decorative Panels ()
Balconies () Quoins ()
Date Stone () Porch ()
String or Belt Course ()

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

- Rectangular
- Square
- L-Shaped
- T-Shaped
- U-Shaped
- Cresent Cross
- Later Cross
- Circular
- Octagonal
- Irregular

36. Changes - Addition ____________________________ Alteration ____________________________ Moved ____________________________

37. Apparent Condition - Exterior: (X) Excellent
( ) Good
( ) Fair
( ) Deteriorated
( ) Ruins
( ) No Visible Remains

Interior: (X) Excellent
( ) Good
( ) Fair
( ) Deteriorated
( ) Ruins
( ) No Visible Remains

38. Renovation Underway yes() no() 
Preservation Underway yes() no() 
Future Plans for Property ____________________________

39. Endangered yes() no() By What? ____________________________

40. (N.A.)
41. Distance From Road ______________________ Frontage on Road 25

42. Further Description of Important Features: 
- Decorative brickwork ____________________________

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

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

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

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

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

45. Documentation:
Indicate what legal records, county histories, maps, etc., were used to document facts about the property:
( ) Court Records (chain of title ro abstract, etc.)
( ) County Histories
( ) Old Photographs - Location ____________________________
Approx. Date ____________________________
( ) Newspaper Clippings - Location ____________________________
Date ____________________________
( ) City Directories - Location ____________________________
( ) Maps (plots, atlases) - Location ____________________________
( ) Other ____________________________

46. Prepared By: Ed. Wintzley Phone: ____________________________
47. Organization: ____________________________
48. Date 9-27
49. Date of Revision ____________________________

Any Other Comments or Observations:
( ) not on 1936 map: 1st time it could find in directory 1935-1940 - Philadelphia Candy Co. = Charles Tom...
( ) Hippodrome Theatre, 1917-1939. So main was moved. Crossed over to auditorium at 517-523 Jefferson
( ) After 1925, miscellaneous retail shops
agreed on any date he set, just so they saw the exhibition. Ti waited until a real cold spell struck and the lake froze over. Then Ti drove that golf ball out across the ice—and it is probably still going!

Everyone bet him on that one

“LOOK MA—TWO HANDS!”

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

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

“Rube” Stone was a public entertainer well-known in the mining district. Stone and his friend from Miami, Oklahoma, Holt Hurst, often gave programs at the old Club Theatre at Fourth and Joplin Streets. Percy Wenrich, a more-than-interested bystander, in later years stored a horde of his compositions in the corner tower of that structure. Bob Darch, the rag-time piano player whom Joplin took to its heart in the 1960’s, had the old floors and walls
Joplin Printing Co., 5th between Wall and Joplin Streets, in 1890's

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

Club Theatre, 4th and Joplin
necting the two Main Streets, like old-time fish markets, needed no signs. The odor from stale beer was supplemented by that from Star tobacco boxes used for cuspidors and filled with filthy sawdust, which advertised the occupancy for some distance. Some bars had brass rails for resting feet encased in buckled shoes; and most had back bar mirrors decorated with female figures by some tramp artist. The usual filthy bull-pen was in the rear. A dance room connection was afforded by one, especially, which gave a decided western mining camp atmosphere, where a rough sort of dancing was indulged in.

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

The Black Pepper Dance

The public dance hall on Broadway was of box construction of rough boards. One Saturday night when the pine board floors clattered with the dancing of many feet, several boys, who later became prominent in Joplin, watching through a knot-hole, decided to have some fun. They secured a gas pipe, filled it with black pepper and inserted the pipe through a knot-hole. The boy with the most wind gave it a blow, and much sneezing ensued. The place was cleared until the pepper settled. Renewed dancing disturbed the pepper and there was renewed sneezing.

**Johnson's Variety Show On Broadway**

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

Dutch Em's resort was destroyed by fire in the eighties. A ludicrous story is told of her running out of the building in a Mother Hubbard carrying a pillow and
standing collar and ascot tie, or a white bow with pink flowers embroidered at each tapered end. He wore a stiff bosomed shirt, which was pulled over his head, or a pleated bosom shirt with detached cuffs, a fancy vest and sack coat with small lapels. His trousers may have been spring-bottom gray stripe and his shoes high buttoned leather. He wore kid gloves. His hat, a "cadey," or derby, sat at an angle on the southwest corner of his head going north. If he could, and had luck, he grew a cute little mustache, curled and waxed at the ends.

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

The sentimental atmosphere of the Nineties was fanned and kept alive, as the melodious sentimental songs were shown on the curtain with colored slides in the Club Theatre. The singer stood beside the curtain and sang each word distinctly. The most popular songs were: After the Ball, Two Little Girls in Blue, Just as the Sun Went down, Daisy, or On a Bicycle Built for Two, On the Banks of the Wabash, I was Happy Till I Met You, The Girl I Left in Sunny Tennessee, She Mya Have Seen Better Days, In the Good Old Summer Time, The Fatal Wedding, Kiss and Let's Make Up, Won't You Be My Sweetheart, and She Was Only a Bird in a Gilded Cage. Two other popular songs not so sentimental were There'll Be a Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight and Ta Ra Boom Deay.
Joplin put on long pants about 1917 during World War I. There was a great awakening of civic pride and a desire to do big things in a big way to get away from "small town stuff."

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

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

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

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

Several loyal citizens, during the depression, before bank deposit insurance, took over depreciated bank paper, preventing a crisis. One man put up a half
Joplin has had many nicknames since its founding in 1873. It has been called the “Klondike of the Ozarks and the City that Jack Built” because of its humble beginning as a mining camp. But this ramshackle boom town quickly evolved into a cosmopolitan city, known all over the world for its elegant hotels and stately public buildings.

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

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

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

If you wish to learn more about Joplin’s history and its buildings, contact Main Street Joplin about the video series, “From the Ground Up: The Story of Joplin.”
The Fox, built in 1930, is one of the finest examples of the architecture of the period. The building fell to disrepair but has been extensively renovated and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, since being purchased by Central Christian Center in 1974.
**Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire**

**De Soto Historical Society**

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Yes/No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crawford's Opera House</td>
<td>De Soto</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K. P. Entertainment Hall</td>
<td></td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masonic Opera House</td>
<td></td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rathburn Hall</td>
<td></td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson Theatre</td>
<td></td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Festus Opera House</td>
<td>Festus</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>Festus</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
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<td>Festus</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

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

Madame de Tourna, Countess. The Orpheum Circuit

What days and times is your library open to the public? Mon.- Fri. 9-5 (7:00 on Thurs.)

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

Who is the best person to contact for more information?

Thank you for your assistance. Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203
October 3, 1997

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

Dear Ms. Snider:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Meleah Paddock
Secretary
DeSoto Historical Society
The Curtain Goes Up for De Soto

by Eddie Miller

PART ONE

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

The old Armory is a lower portion and a part of a building complex that dismantled the De Soto downtown scene for many years from the 1890s to early 1900s. When it is dismantled, the last vestige of an area where rough culture and fine entertainment of the citizens of a growing town will have closed into that shadow which we call history.

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

The old Opera House and Post Office, both photographed in 1912, is now the site of the Western Building. Facing Easton Street between Main and Second, the entrance to the building proper which contained the Post Office, a newspaper plant, medical, dental, law and real estate offices and the Klineh long distance telephone offices. The top floor was a Masonic Hall which preceded the present building. A MWTU reading room was in the basement. Photo was best by Ray Kibbe.

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

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

It was built around 1888 by Charles H. and Samuel W. Crawford, one of Jefferson County's most eminent men of that day.

The Opera House was a seating capacity of some 600 persons. Its interior was of elaborate dimensions and equipment of the best. The entire building on Easton Street was of brick, four stories high on the lower side and three stories high as it goes up the hill at Second Street - an imposing structure for a town of our size, either then or today. It was heated by hot air furnaces.

The scenery of the theatre was comprised of both scenic and drop curtains. The stage and dressing rooms were properly arranged and the Klineh long distance telephone offices. The floor and dressing rooms were elaborately decorated with mahogany, oak, pears and mahogany, and the dressing rooms were appropriately painted.

The Opera House and buildings that house them were the "museum - museum" of what used to be the "creative mind of Albert Stovall's" of the old opera house. This story must include something of the Crawford Opera House, an early De Soto realtor and man of finance who lived in what may be his most colorful part of our town's history.

The Crawford Lumber Yard, which entered into the building and sash powers that he slooped out of a bottle and wrapped in delicate paper.

These were the days when medical men had their own apothecaries and dispensed their own drugs. Drug stores were the plants that grew ever larger - no cards, no magazines, no hard work - nothing but drugs and usually two large bottles oil, possibly green and one possibly red kept in the outside window to mark the spot. And when you're getting back to the Opera House, just as to those of the Opera House that remember the building, and that would include a lot of us since it was demolished in the 1950s, we knew it as the old Post Office building, on Easton Street, when the big Jefferson Theatre was built. The Opera House opened in 1912 with the scenic, stage and dressers which contained the Post Office, a newspaper plant, medical, dental, law and real estate offices and the Klineh long distance telephone offices. The top floor was a Masonic Hall which preceded the present building. A MWTU reading room was in the basement. Photo was best by Ray Kibbe.

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

Samuel W. Crawford who had the theater built is a native of New London, Ohio, and of the old opera house.

Most of the early plays were straight-styled affairs such as "East Lynne" and the like, but the romance was kept up to save the house through two or three acts but always managed to make it in the curtains intact. Sometimes they dealt with famous people and glorified soldiers of the Civil War, as did the play. The Crawford Opera House was built by playing General Philip Sheridan's father, and the play was successful.

The stage and dressing rooms were properly arranged and the Klineh long distance telephone offices. The floor and dressing rooms were elaborately decorated with mahogany, oak, pears and mahogany, and the dressing rooms were appropriately painted.

In the early 1900s, Crawford was as well as the Crawford Lumber Yard and Planing Mill which was built as a very small box by Crawford's beautiful daughter, who was seated on her parents' Easton Street, just as the entrance to the entrance of the theatre which brought into being.
The Curtain Goes Up for De Soto

by Eddie Miller

PART TWO

JUST AS IN the turn of the century, the De Soto theater had the time of its life when the Jefferson Theatre was built on Second Avenue.

The new theater cost $17,000, a beautiful sum in those days. It seating capacity was 1,200 persons. It had 96 private boxes, all decked out in red velvet drapes trimmed with gold rope and tassels.

Decorations under the large stage which measured 60 x 40 feet with an arch opening of at least 40 x 24 feet, were eight dressing rooms for the actors and actresses who came to its stage to entertain Jefferson County theater-goers.

Its large balcony swooped down gracefully over half of the Main floor seats and in two tiers. The higher one was excellently called the "painted heavens" because people could reach the ceiling and remove the frescoed paintings they had painted and mounted in the Crewe Theatre in Detroit, and without hindrance or notice.

The Jefferson Theatre was equipped with an orchestra under Fred J. McClure, who was invited from the other side of the river and was well known in all the major cities of the world. The orchestra was conducted and the performers from New York, and among these were performers who had been with the famous Madame de Toulouse, the former queen of opera and the patron of that earlier day who was a favorite of the masses. The orchestra played the freshest music of the day, and the program was kept up to date with the latest music and the newest songs.

The program went on to say that the curtain, "Curtain de Toulouse," was "naked herself out" especially as Mary, Queen of Scots, in the scene where she laid her beautiful neck on the "chopping block," and it read for itself on the accompanying program.

So, in the way of entertainment, wonderful things were happening at 16 East Street in our city in the early days of this century.

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

In this foyer or hallway were several oversize life-sized pictures of the leading actors and actresses of the day. This foyer extended the full width of the Old Post Office building which was torn down in 1950 to make way for the Waco building of today.

The employees there were four complete rooms, a parlor, a kitchen scene and two others. I recall in one Junior Class play which was presented in the Jefferson, we used the kitchen scene which was showing some wear after all of the years of professional use.

There were also three main curtains, a street scene, a corner of a rock house and deep woods in both scenes and the one that had ever seen a "first" curtain which was always down as the patrons filled the seats. The stage was the business of the day. It was a simple platform and the scenery was the business of the day. It was a simple platform and the scenery was the business of the day. The curtains were dropped on a scene during the course of the play, the new set curtains and its drop lowered to stage. In the center of the stage was a 19th-century style show and a Roman taking house with a Roman villa-type building to the side, and looked more realistic than anything De Sotos ever did.

Each of the set curtains mentioned had its own color, the ones that came down on the right part of the stage were painted in the first few rows of seats, the ones that came down on the left part of the stage were painted in the last few rows of seats, and the drop was pulled up into the loft, and the new set curtains and its drop lowered to stage.
The Curtain Goes Up for De Soto

Highway Relocation Assistance Payments $529,780 in 15 Years
Fifty Years Ago — in De Soto and Elsewhere

WANT SIX

AS SPRING slowly slipped into summer that year of 1932, De Soto's newly re-organized baseball team was battling all over the lot. It looked like a "vintage" year. The Chummy

V-boys (old-timers, in 1932) was now completely Fraulein by the arrival of new players, namely — Ward Rabe, president; Frank Cline, treasurer; Ray Bixler, business manager; Roy Brill and Walter Farkas, teamcaptains; and Don Sullivan, field manager.

The town's interest in their ball team seemed to be on the upswing, too, as the season started. The team was looking forward to the start of the season and support on trips away from home.

From the very first game on, Sullivan was doing a great deal of work to make sure his team was put side in best shape possible. A clash with Kansas City, 198-116, in the first game of the season, Sullivan took over, and the boys seemed to click in the winning run.

"Sully" was an old baseball manager and, now, in charge of his Little Rock ball club, which was the Kansas City League A first. The victorious team, after the long season of the 1932 season, was the main team to victory over Atlanta, 3 to 1, allowing only 1 hits this year.

Maybe, for just the record, I should mention others win the old young men in the rest of the "States" who was working for the team. That season of 1932, I saw a young fellow who had gone to New York from the Red Sox, where he had been a big hit. The New York Cub was fit to switch him to field. There are a lot of names on the list of baseball's greatest home-runs, and that is the story. The "nomad" of Babe Ruth, and the joy of the old timers early in that season, it was believed that he just might have a future in baseball.

A NEW FLT came out on Detroit that season, and the Ford Motor Company had hit an all-time record on April 1— it was produced and sold for (that month) 17,459,085, or about 40,000,000 cars.

The American people were buying more and more new cars, and were driving their cars to work. Owning an automobile was now beginning to be a habit.

Most folks were busy trying out that the automobile was also adding the lots of owners to the city and country and that wasn't all good for young people! Well, we survived it.

The roads would remain unfinished for quite a while, but to offset this there wasn't any particular problem, at least not around here.

Thus, the motor car caught on and "old Dodger" was on the way out. It would linger for while, piling up one war, after war, agony and butcher's shop delivery waggons. The farmer wouldn't make the change too fast, but the horses were definitely on the side. The fast horses don't pass out of the way.

MORTALITIES were busy logging out that the automobile was also taking the lots of owners out of the front parlor and into the city and country and that wasn't all good for young people! Well, we survived it.

JEFFERSON COUNTY LOST one of its well-known and esteemed citizens in 1932. Other than the use of the car in the later decades of the last century.

"As You Were", author believes that the Opera House, Post Office, Masonic Hall building and the Crawford Hotel to the right were erected in the mid-1850's. A photo of De Soto in 1931, used in a previous article, shows the Opera and Second area clearly and the building was not there.

Goodspeed's History, 1938, says the Opera House building was in operation, with the Masonic Hall on the top floor. Numerous it further, Goodspeed also said S. W. Crawford moved his business interests from Silas, where he was born and sold railroad ties, to De Soto in 1885, indicating construction of the building between 1884 and 1885. Others cite it between 1881 and 1885.

At the beginning, it contained the Post Office on the first floor, the Crawford Opera House, second floor, and the Masonic Hall. Other early tenants included the Methodist Church, Jefferson County Republicans, basement, and various departmental, local and real estate offices. The telephone exchange for long distance, which was anywhere outside De Soto, was once in this building.

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

"As You Were", author believes that the Opera House, Post Office, Masonic Hall building and the Crawford Hotel to the right were erected in the mid-1850's. A photo of De Soto in 1931, used in a previous article, shows the Opera and Second area clearly and the building was not there.

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By 1929, Henry Ford's "Tin Lizzie" were becoming much more prevalent on our rugged local roads. H. C. Knauss, retired department manager at the former International Harvester plant here, photographed this view of a family car on a road near De Soto.

As you were

by Eddie Miller

The second new feature of this machine over the years, a fire escape was added on the high old

alley. After the Opera House closed and the J. Theatre (former Armory) was built, the doors of the alley became the entrance and foyer to the J. Theatre.

The Masonic order eventually occupied a new

Boyd and South Third. About 1917 the Post Office

to a new building, Boyd and North Second, and the

building began to take shape in this decade. After the rise of the automobile, it was not good for the order.

In 1920, the present quarters of the Masonic Order of Odd Fellows, Washington Sundries, now occupied by the City Hall by Mrs. John

mill, Monroe, Louisiana.

Non-Resident Traffic Toll in 1971

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

Missouri State Highway Patrol reported that there were 7,848 non-resident incidents, 94 percent of which were caused by inattentive driving, alcohol use, and other factors.

Due to the increase in traffic over the years, the observation was made that there was a need for a new traffic light at the intersection of Second and Main Streets.

Entreprenur Course Held in A

In April, the Sun and the Universal News, both local newspapers, held an event to promote entrepreneurship.

A similar event was held in last spring, with the

by Graham and Creed, Farmington, West County.

Yorks, and Yorks, and cattle, were featured in the contest.

West County, Delaware, and each state had names in the contest.

A 50-year-old man, Paris, France, died last year when he was a passenger vehicle head-on.

AS YOU WERE

by Eddie Miller

in the yards of his uncle, Francel Webster, St. Louis, and followed a term of business college in Chicago and con-

siderable work in Los Angeles, Illinois, and Colorado. In 1923, 1929, Little and Virginia. The latter daughter was well-known to many De Sotoans as Mrs. Charles Herrema, and now resides in California.
This building was a focus of cultural life in Holden during the late 1880s and through early decades of the 20th century. Known as the Euglossian Hall, it contained (on the upper floor) an opera house/public auditorium. Plays, shows, dances and political rallies were among the activities there. Later, the Lyceum Theater offered silent movies with piano accompaniment. Various owners included Jack Steele, whose father William Steele was president of the Farmers & Commercial Bank. The downstairs had various commercial occupants. In 1885, a drugstore occupied the western half and a clothing store the eastern. In ca. 1915, the druggist was Bob Miller and the clothier was a Mr. Wallace. Apparently the use of the second level as a public hall ceased during the 1920s. The lower floor also has been used as a grocery store.
Western Auto Associates Store
Euglossian Opera House
117 W. 2nd St.
Holden, Mo.
Johnson Co.

5/30/85
Main entrance,
Western Auto Associates Store;
Euglossian Opera House
117 W. 2nd St.
Holden, Mo.
Johnson Co.
M.L. Golladay was instrumental in promoting this building's construction as the Holden Auditorium during the 1920s. It became the site for various happenings and entertainments (including graduation ceremonies) during the 1920s. It also was a skating rink and a fundamentalist Baptist Church, prior to its present incarnation as a grocery store.

Horizontal bands of thin stretcher bricks (placed vertically) are used in the front facade of this two-story building. Some windows and doorways have been sealed and most of the exterior has been stuccoed.
Lloyd's Foods, Inc.; VFW Post 5844
Holden Auditorium; Missouri Poultry Yards
106-110 E. 3rd St.
Holden, Mo.
Johnson Co.
I. COUNTY

Johnson

2. LOCATION OF NEGATIVES

Show-Me Regional Planning Commission

3. NO. OF STORIES

2

4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S)

Adam's Cafe (recently)

5. POST OAK TOWNSHIP

(LEETON)

6. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION

Neil Bros. General Store; Leeton Opera House

7. COUNTY

Missouri Office of Historic Preservation

8. CITY OR TOWN

Leeton

9. SITE(S)

Lot 191

10. STRUCTURE(S)

Block 23

11. OPEN TO PUBLIC?

YES ( )

12. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT

General merchandise; public hall

13. DISTRICT

None

14. POTENTIAL?

YES ( )

15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT

N/A

16. THEMATIC CATEGORY

Historic / Architectural

17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD

1906

18. STYLE OR DESIGN

Functional Victorian

19. ARCHITECT or ENGINEER

Und.

20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER

Und.

21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT

General merchandise; public hall

22. PRESENT USE

None

23. OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC ( )

PRIVATE ( X )

24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

James Adams
Rural Route
Warrensburg

25. SERVICE TO

PUBLIC ( )

PRIVATE ( X )

26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION

Show-Me RPC

27. OTHER SURVEYS IN WHICH INCLUDED

None

28. NO. OF BEDS

0

29. WALL TREATMENT

Common bond

30. FLOOR PLAN

Rectangular

31. WALL CONSTRUCTION

Brick

32. FOUNDATION MATERIAL

Concrete and stone

33. HEIGHT

2 stories

34. OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION P.O. BOX 171

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102

PH. 314-751-4096

35. CONDITION

Good/fair

36. PRESERVATION

Maint., NO ( )

37. EXTERIOR

Good/fair

38. ENDANGERED

By what? NO ( )

39. MEASURES TAKEN

None

40. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD

YES ( )

41. DISTANCE FROM AND

Public Road

42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES

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

43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

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

44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS

Located in Leeton's main downtown commercial block.

45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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

RETURN THIS FORM WHEN COMPLETED TO: OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION P.O. BOX 176 JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102 PH. 314-751-4096
Adam's Cafe
Leeton Opera House
102 S. Main St.
Leeton
Post Oak Twp.
Johnson Co. 6/86
**MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

**ARCHITECTURAL/ARCHAEOLOGIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. No.</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. County</td>
<td>Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Location of Negatives</td>
<td>Show-Me Regional Planning Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Present Local Name(s) or Designation(s)</td>
<td>Holdren Funeral Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Other Name(s)</td>
<td>Leeton Theater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Specific Legal Location</td>
<td>TOWNSHIP 44N RANGE 25W SECTION 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. City or Town</td>
<td>Leeton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Description of Location</td>
<td>Lot 141 Block 24 (3rd building S of Fewell on E side of Main)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Coordinates UTM</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Site ( ), Structure ( ), Building ( ), Object ( )</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. On National Register</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Eligible?</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Part of Estab.</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Historic District</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Name of Established District</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Thematic Category</td>
<td>Historic/Architectural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Date(s) or Period</td>
<td>ca. 1920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Style or Design</td>
<td>Functional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Architect or Engineer</td>
<td>Und.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Contractor or Builder</td>
<td>Und.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Original Use, If Apparent</td>
<td>Movie theater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Present Use</td>
<td>Funeral home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Ownership</td>
<td>PUBLIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Owner's Name and Address</td>
<td>Holdren Funeral Home Leeton and Warrensburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. Open to Public?</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. Local Contact Person or Organization</td>
<td>Show-Me RPC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27. Other Surveys in Which Included</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. No. of Stories</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29. Basement?</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30. Foundation Material</td>
<td>Concrete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31. Wall Construction</td>
<td>Brick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32. Roof Type and Material</td>
<td>Flat; composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33. No. of Bays</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34. Wall Treatment</td>
<td>Stretcher &amp; stucco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35. Plan Shape</td>
<td>Rectangular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36. Changes Addition (Explain in Altered)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37. Condition Interior</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38. Preservation Underway?</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39. Endangered?</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40. Visible from Public Road?</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41. Distance From and Frontage on Road</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42. Further Description of Important Features</td>
<td>This building's front facade has been totally altered. Two upper windows have been sealed and the second level has been stuccoed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43. History and Significance</td>
<td>The Leeton Theater was in this building when it was constructed in ca. 1920. The theater was operated by John Stacy. Later, Robert Brauninger acquired the building and converted it into a funeral home. It recently became a Leeton facility of the Holdren Funeral Home, of Warrensburg. Theater and funeral home have been the only two uses of this building, according to Porter Baker of Leeton.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings</td>
<td>This building is on the east side of Main Street in the main business block of Leeton.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45. Sources of Information</td>
<td>Porter Baker; Sanborn maps; site visit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46. Prepared By</td>
<td>R. Masereang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47. Organization</td>
<td>Show-Me RPC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48. Date of Receipt</td>
<td>6/30/86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49. Revision Dates</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**UU-30**

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

6/86
Leeton Opera House History, 1906-74

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

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

Today it is remodeled into an apartment.

copied 1974
This is a somewhat generic two-story brick building for its period in the early 1900s, with a moderately ornamental brick cornice and segmentally arched windows. The original storefront had a centered entrance flanked by two windows, apparently. The lower storefront has been obscured by a one-story addition. Rectangular side windows are present. S-ended ties are visible at the roofline and second floor level. K-18

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

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

Montserrat
Section 13
Montserrat Twp.
Johnson Co.

6/85
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. No.</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. County</td>
<td>Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Location of Negatives</td>
<td>Show-Me RPC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Present Local Name(s) or Designation(s)</td>
<td>Star Theater (Vacant)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Other Name(s)</td>
<td>Gilkeson Dry Goods, Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Specific Legal Location</td>
<td>TOWNSHIP: 112-114 RANGE: West Pine STREET: East 4 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. City or Town</td>
<td>Warrensburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Description of Location</td>
<td>Holden's 2nd Addition All of Lot 237 with exception of East 4 feet, Block A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Site (x)</td>
<td>Structure (x) Object (x)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. On National Register</td>
<td>YES (x)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. IS IT ELIGIBLE?</td>
<td>YES (x)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. District Potential</td>
<td>YES (x)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Name of Established District</td>
<td>Commonwealth Theaters</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**42. Further Description of Important Features**

A large theater front that has been modified several times covers the front of this building. Windows on the rear and a large door have all been bricked in. It is the tallest building on the south side of West Pine Street. The brickwork shows evidence of deterioration.

**43. History and Significance**

A. H. Gilkeson was the pioneer merchant on West Pine, and he built the first frame building. It was destroyed in the fire of 1866, but he rebuilt after this with a brick building. At the 112 West Pine address he was still running a dry goods operation in 1900, and in 1907 it was still a dry goods store. By 1914, E. S. Wilcox had a General Merchandise store at this address. In 1883 the building was shown on the map as a separate building, smaller, one-story, and it contained a stationery store and the Post Office. By 1888 it was a large two-story building and it had been (Cont'd Page 2)

**44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings**

No outbuildings are associated with this large building.

**45. Sources of Information**

combined with the 114 address. The 114 address was a very small building in 1883, containing a meat shop in one half, and a barber in the other half. It too was a one-story building at this time. It was after this that it became Gilkeson's Dry Goods, and was a two-story building. Around 1920, Thomas and Charles Goodnight decided to make it into the Star Theater.
The words MAGNOLIA OPERA 1889 are set in square brick recesses near the top of the building. A tin cornice extends around the building. Three stone pilasters extend from the ground to the second story, and continue as brick pilaster strips to the cornice on the south facade. A stone course extends around the building above the upper story windows. Wood with (Cont’d Page 2).

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

This building is on the northeast corner of West Pine Street and Washington Street. Its north facade is on an alley, the west facade faces Washington Street, the south facade faces West Pine Street, and it (Cont’d Page 2).

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

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

**ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I. NO.</th>
<th>136</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. COUNTY</td>
<td>Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. LOCATION OF NEGATIVES</td>
<td>Show-Me Regional Planning Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION</td>
<td>TOWNSHIP: 46N, RANGE: 24W, SECTION: 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS</td>
<td>101-103 S. State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION</td>
<td>Lots 5 and 6 Block X Railroad Extension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(SW corner of S. State and W. McPherson)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 16. THEMATIC CATEGORY | Historic (Architectural) |
| 17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD | 1915 |
| 18. STYLE OR DESIGN | Functional Commercial |
| 19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER | Und. |
| 20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER | Und. |
| 21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT | Garage and city hall |
| 22. PRESENT USE | Offices |
| 23. OWNER’S NAME AND ADDRESS | Jerry L. Hinkle 402 Salem St. Knob Noster |
| 24. OPEN TO PUBLIC? | Yes (x) |
| 26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION | Show-Me CPC |
| 27. OTHER SURVEYS IN WHICH INCLUDED | None |

**FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES**

A stepped parapet with gray stone edging and flat-arched windows provide this two-story brick building with most of its ornamentation. The arches (of vertical stretcher bricks) are outlined for emphasis with protruding layers of header bricks. Upstairs window openings have been sealed. Unlike most area commercial buildings of two-stories, this one has a gable roof. A stone panel at the northwest end says KNOB NOSTER CITY HALL, 1915. G-7

**HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE**

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

**DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS**

The location of this building is a corner lot on Knob Noster's main business intersection: McPherson and State.
Kendrick's Garage
Old City Hall
Opera House
101-103 S. State St.
Knob Noster
Washington Twp.
Johnson Co.
Monday Eve, Dec. 25th,

At

CHILHOWEE SCHOOL BUILDING

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

One-third of the proceeds go to the school.

Admission 10c children.
15c adults.

Prof. Calhoun will probably assist in the Xmas entertainment at the Union church, Saturday, December 23.
SUNDAY JANUARY 20
For One Week

HEAR Him Sing
LISTEN to Him Joke

AL JOLSON
In The Greatest
Picture of the Age

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

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

Attend The Matinees
Admission
Sunday 10c and 50c
Week Days
Matinees Evening
10c-35c 10c-50c

Only Here Can You
Hear As Well As See
AL JOLSON

#92 Empire Hall on N. Holden, Wbg.
How Well Do You Know Warrensburg?
Answer to Yesterday's Question
The Empire Hall was located over the Rundle & Ream Drug Store, known those days as the Clark Drug Store Co.
Almost every major event of church, lodge or of society in Warrensburg, was held in this hall. Its popularity included the year 1908. It was the "swanky" place to give dances, turkey dinners, addresses and theatrical performances.

#93 Star Theater Shows and Matinees

Nights—7:30 and 9

Matinee Daily 2:30, Sat. 2 and 3:30

Tonight—3 Shows for 10c—25c

NO. 1
Alice White
Jack Mulhall

With Betty Carter and Stewart Rome

A First National Picture

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

This great mystery-melodrama has thrilled two continents. Critics hail it as "one of the best murder mysteries ever screened."

Ne. 3—Also "The Collegians"
“Naughty Baby” twice tonight at 7:30 and 10 o'clock
“Ware Case” once only at 8:15—Collegians once at 9:10

Mat. 2:30 Wed. and Thurs. Nights 7:30 and 9
Buddy Rogers in "Someone to Love"

STAR JOURNAL - Jan. 17, 1929

WARRENSBURG, MO.

#92 Empire Hall on N. Holden, Wbg.
How Well Do You Know Warrensburg?
Answer to Yesterday's Question
The Empire Hall was located over the Rundle & Ream Drug Store, known those days as the Clark Drug Store Co.
Almost every major event of church, lodge or of society in Warrensburg, was held in this hall. Its popularity included the year 1908. It was the "swanky" place to give dances, turkey dinners, addresses and theatrical performances.

STAR JOURNAL - Feb. 14, 1935

WARRENSBURG, MO.

#93 Star Theater Shows and Matinees

Nights—7:30 and 9

Matinee Daily 2:30, Sat. 2 and 3:30

Tonight—3 Shows for 10c—25c

NO. 1
Alice White
Jack Mulhall

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A First National Picture

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“Naughty Baby” twice tonight at 7:30 and 10 o'clock
“Ware Case” once only at 8:15—Collegians once at 9:10

Mat. 2:30 Wed. and Thurs. Nights 7:30 and 9
Buddy Rogers in "Someone to Love"

STAR JOURNAL - Jan. 29, 1929

WARRENSBURG, MO.
## Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

**Knox County Historical Society**

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Information</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Edina</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burk's Concert Hall</td>
<td></td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edina Opera House</td>
<td></td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lindina Theatre</td>
<td></td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Is this theatre(s) still in operation?

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

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<td></td>
<td>yes</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

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

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

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

Who is the best person to contact for more information? ____________________________________________________

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

**Location:** Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, Bank of Edina, Lindina Theater

**Address:** 306 E Lafayette, Lindina Theater

**City or Town:** Edina

**Rural, Township & Vicinity:** County Addition

**Site Plan with North Arrow:**

#### Description of Features

- **First Story:** Has been altered. A single leaf modern door is slightly off center on the front (N) facade. The space appears to have accommodated a double leaf door. To either side are large square windows. Across the entire facade above this area is enclosed. A narrow rectangular window is next to the door (to the east) and on the west end. Cast iron decorative piers end the building. The kiosk area is filled with new brick. Above the transom area is a paneled cornice with painted scroll brackets. The second story brick facade rises from this. Three very elongate rectangular windows are on the second story.

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

- **Current Use:** Commercial

- **Owner:** Public & Private

- **Preservation:** Yes

- **Endangered:** Yes

- **Visible from Public Road:** Yes

- **Distance from and Frontage on Road:**

---

**Sources of Information:**

- Globe Democrat 4/22/1886
- Personal Interview with Brent Karhoff
- 1887 History

---

**Prepared by:**

Margaret Keller

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

43. Next the building was sold to Joanne Mankopf of Memphis, Missouri.

Presently the building is occupied by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. One of their services is Planters All Risk Crop Insurance.
Originally this structure had a front facade that followed the same pattern as the others to the west. (See historic photo.) Windows were very elongated with round arched tops & heavy hood molding. The wooden cornice at the roof level had massive brackets & a contrasting color scheme. A cast iron storefront matched the others to the west. Now a metal sheathing covers the entire front facade from the transom area upwards. The hood molding protrudes through the siding but all other detailing is obscured. The cornice has been boxed in to form an inverted pyramid shape at the roof. The store-

R.M. Biggerstaff had this double structure built along with his other building Ct-22. He was the most extensive builder on the south side of the square & employed Jake Bishoff (see Ct-12) as his contractor. P.W. Parker baked the bricks in his kiln. R.M. Biggerstaff was listed as the second wealthiest man in Edina in 1886, his valu was ascertained to be $40,000. Upstairs in this building (Ct-25) was the old Edina Opera Street and is situated at the SW corner of LaFayette and Fourth Streets.

This commercial structure faces north onto LaFayette

Sources of Information

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

Prepared by
Margaret Keller HPC
Organization: NEMO
Regional Planning Comm

4/84

42. Further Description of Important Features

43. History and Significance

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings
42. front display area has been completely altered. Four large square storefront windows alternate with modern single leaf entrances. A small rectangular window forms the central bay. A board/batten type siding is used around these openings. On the east side are tall narrow round arched 1/1 windows with metal sills & single rowlock headers. Here the foundation is exposed to a height of 4' & has four small square windows with triple rowlock headers. In the rear (S) a pent roofed vestibule affords entrance to the basement.

43. House. Blind Boone once played piano here to impressed audiences. The county court also located here after the old courthouse burned in 1885. The upstairs was used as the courthouse until the present one was constructed in 1936. Smith Abstract was also upstairs in 1928 & Smith's Law Office was still here in 1966. At one time a bowling alley & roller rink were located here. The basement was McCabe's restaurant. Jim Ragland ran a tavern here for many years. Currently it is the Blue Room Steak House.

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

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

Laclede County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Lebanon Opera House  
Lebanon  
yes [x] no __

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

Lebanon Opera House  
Lebanon  
yes ___ no [x]

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

Lebanon Opera House  
Lebanon  
yes ___ no [x]

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

The Lyric Theatre - no one builds one

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

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

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

What days and times is your library open to the public?  
Mon-Fri 9 am - 9 pm  
Sat 9 am - 5 pm  
Sun Closed

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

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

417-572-5758

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

The Old Opera House Building was on the Third  
The Old Opera House Building was on the Third  
From the Old Sam Farnum Building - About  
1949-1950 it toppled down and that story  
And it be removed, the building told long progress
Lebanon, Mo., 193

In Account With
SAM FARRAR
Druggist and Bookseller
Since January 27, 1879

Standard Pharmaceutical Preparations
Standard Proprietary and Patent Medicines
Physicians' Supplies
Painters' Supplies
School Supplies
Musical Merchandise, Etc.
Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

Concordia Area Heritage Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Lyric Theater Concordia yes ___ no ___

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

Lyric Theater Concordia yes ___ no ___

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

Lyric Theater Concordia yes ___ no ___

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? The Lyric had its start in another building before it went into the 20th Century. The enclosed articles will explain more.

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

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

Search the microfilms of the Concordia City Library in your local library.

Contact Lafayette County Historical Society.

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area? Information in the articles included.

What days and times is your library open to the public? The Concordia is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday 9:30 am to 5 pm, Thursday 1 pm to 5 pm.

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

___ No

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

Thank you for your assistance.

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

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

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

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

The building in the 500 block of Concordia Main Street where the first Lyric was intact. The owners use the top floor for storage.

The building in the 700 block is the Palace Bar and contains what the Lyric upstairs is now an apartment for living purposes.

Your donation was more than
Sufficient since the searching was very easy.

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

I hope this has been some help for you.

Yours truly,

(Mrs.) Nora Hartwig member of the Heritage Society

205 Sunset Hills Drive #219
Concordia, MO 64020-9612
**Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire**

**Lexington Library and Historical Association**

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

<table>
<thead>
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<td>Lexington</td>
<td>Yes ☒ No ✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geyer Grand</td>
<td>Lexington</td>
<td>Yes ☒ No ✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hagen's Opera House</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes ☒ No ✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leiderkrantz Hall</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes ☒ No ✗</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Yes ☒ No ✗</td>
</tr>
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<td>Turner's Hall</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes ☒ No ✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wright's Grand</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes ☒ No ✗</td>
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Is this (these) theatre(s) still in operation?

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

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<td>Yes ☒ No ✗</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

We have some early motion picture theatres also

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

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

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


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

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

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times? Yes ☒ No ✗

Who is the best person to contact for more information? Roger Shaffer

Thank you for your assistance. Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203
June 10,1998

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

Dear Ms Snider,

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

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

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

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

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

Most sincerely,

Amy Heaven Hildreth
Vice President
President

Lexington Historical Association
P.O. Box 121
Lexington, MO 64067
This is a two-story rectangular brick commercial building with a truncated SW corner containing the main entrance. Alterations include the bricking of some window and door openings on the south and east facades, as well as storefront changes. Part of the old wooden storefront has been retained, however. The interior has been remodeled.

**43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE**

Original owner Thees Martens had this building erected in the 1910s around a frame, gable-roofed saloon he owned. The older saloon apparently remained open for business until construction of the present building was completed, and then was torn down. During the years of prohibition, it became a grocery store and later was used as a restaurant. The Lyric Theater, a movie house, was opened upstairs in the late 1920s or so. (Concordia's first opera house" opened in 1909.) The Lyric was there until about 1960. An "opera house" was upstairs for a short time before the movie screen was installed. The 1932 graduating class of Concordia High School was the last to use it. Today the upstairs has been converted into apartments. This building was selected primarily for its local significance, rather than for its architecture. The Lyric was operated for 27 years by Paul Oetting. Earlier, movies were shown in a building which was part of the old structure.

**44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS**

The environment is commercial.

**45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

Mrs. Nora Hartwig; Sanborn maps; site visit; Voight (pp. 49-50).
This is a combination of running and Flemish bond with a tile capped parapet. Four windows now have metal grates and one is boarded over. This once livery stable has undoubtedly been rebricked from the 1886 era, but maintains the features of an arched doorway. There are modern aluminum doors and windows.

Today's Davis Theater was created as a livery in 1886, listed as Eclipse Livery in 1892, and remained a livery to beyond the year 1909. In 1929 it was listed as auto sales with a capacity for 75 cars. Elmer Morgan, the custodian, recalls it being a garage.
The final dignity!
The classic lines of this horse-drawn hearse belonging to Mark Belt, Jr.; the netted funereal horse cloths; the rubber-tired, cut-under chassis of the vehicle; the posture of the driver lend a regal air to the final journey.

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

(Photo courtesy of Mrs. Claribelle B. Webber)
DAVIS THEATRE 2008 MAIN
1933 to present
CORBIN SKATING RINK 1933-33
GLADISH MOTOR CAR COMPANY
VANDIVER & GALLATIN MOTOR CO.
USED CAR EXCHANGE 1927
MODE ANSON IMPLEMENT COMPANY
MODE ANSON & SONS 1919-1924
WILL HADE WALKER 1918-1919
BLAKELY BROS. TRANSFER 1912-
W. H. LEWIS TRANSFER 1904-
PAYNE BOOTH'S LIVERY 1894.
Lyric Theater

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

Being several years younger than Petering makes the difference. When I started dating, the nearby towns with sound tracks were readily accessible by car.
since U.S. 40 and U.S. 65 and Missouri 13 were already routes to these towns. The sound track made its debut in Concordia during 1932 or early 1933.

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

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

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

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

The Bing Crosby movies, of which there were many, were always high caliber entertainment. Crosby and Bob Hope made a series of movies commonly called the “road” movies, because the word “road” appeared in all of the titles.

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

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

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

When you attended a picture show in the Lyric, you saw a newsreel, a comedy and the featured picture. I especially remember one newsreel during World War II. The Concordian published that a newsreel would be shown of one of the South Pacific battles involving a marine company of which a Concordia boy was a member. The battle had been fierce and many young men had lost their lives. The media had written much about the battle. Our hometown boy was one of the survivors. Needless to say, the Lyric was filled to capacity each night this newsreel was shown. People that
never attended movies were there. Everyone was sure they had caught a glimpse of Elmer, even though there was only a fleeting moment that the survivors appeared on the screen.

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

When I was a teenager, a guy could take his date to the movies and afterwards stop for a hamburger, or tenderloin sandwich, with a milkshake or Coke at Topsy's or the Favorite Cafe (if he had a car, they went to Shady Rest). The whole evening's entertainment and food for two, could be paid with a five dollar bill. If they were walking, there would be money left over for sure!

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

When people talk of the good old days, this was part of it.
In the first two decades of the century culture came to Concordia in the form of drama and music through the Chautauqua companies. These companies would come to town for five days a year and in a large tent on St. Paul's College Campus, and later in Central Park, draw good crowds at $1.50 to $2.00 per season ticket. "Mr. Yankie, field superintendent of the Vawter Chautauqua System said that Concordia was one of the best small Chautauqua towns on their circuit." ("Concordian"). (May 6, 1915).

In the winter similar companies would come and present performances of music and drama. This was called "Lyceum." A favorite company that came to Concordia and surrounding towns for many years in the twenties and thirties was the Allen Brothers Tent Show. They presented five or six plays during their week's stay.

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

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

These paragraphs were taken from "Concordia, Missouri A Centennial History by Harry R. Voigt.  decease

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

**The First Opera House or Theatre**

**Circa 1915—1920.**

This was located on the second floor of the Farmer's Bank Bldg. (between Bergman's Dept. Store and the Hardware Store) now occupied by the Antique Store.

It was artfully decorated in theatrical "decor", even the long front stairway.

The stage was located on the east end, and as was customary those years the front drop curtain was mostly advertisements of local merchants, and in the center was a scenery picture, some of these front curtains were a real work of theatrical art.

The seats were folding chairs, and straight back chairs. The ticket sales person sat at the front door as you came up the front stairs. Traveling stock companies usually performed here, one week at a time, a different play every night.

The performers stayed at the "Central Hotel" which was nearby.

It was here that I had my first taste of the world of the "The-A-Tah", one night, when a boy traveling with the show fell ill, and I was asked to take his place.
(MY DIALOGUE AND SALARY I DO NOT REMEMBER.)

IT WAS HERE IN THIS BLOG THAT THE "SILENT MOVIES" WERE INTRODUCED; THE PROJECTION MACHINE WAS HAND CRANKED, THE LIGHT FOR THE PROJECTOR WAS A CARBON-ARC LIGHT, IT WAS AN INTENSE WHITE LIGHT AND VERY HOT.(NOW THEY USE "HIGH-INTENSITY LIGHTS.") THE "REELS" HAD TO BE RE-WOUND BEFORE THE NEXT "REEL" COULD BE SHOWN, DURING THIS TIME SOMEONE PLAYED THE PIANO. THIS GAVE THE PROJECTOR A CHANCE TO COOL OFF BEFORE THE NEXT "REEL" WAS SHOWN.

THE "MOVIE HOUSE" WAS MOVED TO THE CORNER OF 8TH & MAIN, UPSTAIRS, BY MR. A. F. BROCKMAN ("SECCO") WHO MODERNIZED THE WHOLE OPERATION. WHEN HE QUIT, IT WAS OPERATED BY "GIMME" OETTING FOR A LONG TIME."GIMME" WOULD WALK AROUND TOWN, RING A BELL, AND ANNOUNCE THE TITLE OF THE SHOW HE WOULD BE SHOWING.

THE AMERICAN LEGION & AUXILIARY USED THE OLD HALL FOR MEETINGS IN THE EARLY "40'S." IT WAS MADE INTO APARTMENTS LATER ON.

WALTER W. ROSEBROCK.
Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

Lawrence County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

- Jones' Theatre
- Opera House
- Mount Vernon
- Pierce City

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

- Jones' Theatre
- Opera House
- Mount Vernon
- Pierce City

Yes ____ No ____

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

- Jones' Theatre
- Opera House
- Mount Vernon
- Pierce City

Yes ____ No ____

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

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

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

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

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

________________________________________________________________________

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

________________________________________________________________________

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

________________________________________________________________________

Who is the best person to contact for more information?

________________________________________________________________________

Thank you for your assistance.

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203
August 31, 1997

Lawrence County Historical Society
P.O. Box 406
Mount Vernon, MO 65712

Dear Lawrence County Historical Society Representative:

I am a graduate student in the Environmental Design Department at the University of Missouri - Columbia working on a PhD in Historic Preservation. My dissertation focuses on historic theatres, halls, and opera houses in outstate Missouri. I am attempting to compile a database of information about the theatrical venues which have existed in Missouri. I am particularly interested in the theatres and opera houses which still exist even if they are no longer functioning as a performance space. Eventually, I hope to produce a book about historic theatres in Missouri.

In your area, I am aware of the following theatres and am interested in any additional information about them that you can provide:

Mount Vernon
Jones’ Theatre
Pierce City
Opera House

However, there may be or have been other theatres, halls, or opera houses in your area that I have yet to discover. I would appreciate your help in locating information about the theatres and opera houses in your area. I am enclosing a short questionnaire to help guide you to the type of information I am interested in obtaining.

For your convenience, I have enclosed a self-addressed, stamped envelope for you to return the questionnaire to me. In addition, I am enclosing a small donation to your organization.

If your organization charges a fee for research inquiries, please advise me of the anticipated cost prior to beginning any searches. I can be reached by phone at (573) 443-3241 or you may simply send the information to me in the postage-paid enclosed envelope.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Becky L. Snider
1008 Sunset Drive
Columbia, MO 65203
The three-story brick business building, a landmark in Pierce City, has been bought by Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Peters from the Walton family.

The building was bought, Major Peters said, as an investment. Far-off plans might involve removal of the third floor and use of the second floor for apartments.

The famous old landmark was built here about 1882 at a reported cost of $30,000 by C. A. Raupp.

It was originally an opera house and famed performers appeared in it, drawing audiences from miles around. Congressional conventions were held here several times because of the commodious building. It was owned by the Raupp family for many years.

Then for many years it was used as an armory for Pierce City National Guard units. It has since housed retail stores.

The new owners present plans are to lease the vacant east ground floor to a retail store.
Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

Lewis County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

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<th>Theatre</th>
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Thank you for your assistance. Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203

(573) 288-5713
The movies arrive

The Gem became part of a chain of movie houses when purchased in October, 1932, by William A. Collins of St. Louis. In the late 1930's, Collins purchased the Miller-Starr building. It was gutted to the walls, the third floor removed and a completely remodeled building became the Canton Theater. The decoration was of the latest Art Deco or Moderne design. The use of art glass, color decorative work and neon lighting were especially noteworthy. The newly remodeled theater opened in November, 1937 with previews on Wednesday and Thursday showing a Jane Withers film, "Forty-five Fathers" and the grand opening on Friday and Saturday. The first regular feature shown was "Double or Nothing" starring Bing Crosby and Martha Raye.

The new Canton Theater which will have its grand opening on Friday evening, November 12, is one of the newest and most up-to-date show houses in the state of Missouri. The cost of the structure will exceed $35,000, and no town the size of Canton can boast of such a building, so complete in beauty, comfort and service.

"In this theater you will see the latest pictures at popular prices on a large screen from the most modern equipment and hear it from the latest type of RCA sound system. The theater is modern in every way with rest rooms for both ladies and gentlemen, a modern drinking fountain and everything for the comfort of the patrons."

"The entire building is air conditioned, the air is washed by being drawn through sprays of water and then forced into the building. In the winter, the building is heated by a big oil burner."

The theater was quite successful through the late Thirties, Forties and Fifties. Like many other small theaters, the impact of television was too great of competition. Collins sold the operation to Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Walters. It was later owned by Mr. & Mrs. L.L. Parks and then purchased by Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Frye in 1969.

C-S ownership

In 1974 an agreement was reached with Culver-Stockton College's Fine Arts Division to run the facility. Culver planned to keep the movie business operating as a service to the students as well as to the community. Plans were developed to also use the theater for live productions. After only three years of operation, the deficit of operating the theater was over $11,000 and the college could no longer sustain the project. After serving as a place of entertainment for eighty-five years, the building closed its doors to the public in August of 1978.

The building was sold to Standard Machine Company in 1981. The theater seats, and projection equipment were all removed and the building was used for storage.
After removing the top story of the building, remodeling in the popular art deco style of the period included the installation of a facade that featured state of the arts glass brick, and a neon-lit marquee, the building looked like this in the late 1930s.

In 1981, the theater building was stripped of its last theatrical paraphernalia. Seats, fixtures and marquee canopy were removed and the building used for storage. The front portion of the building was used by The Frame Shop until 1992.
College, Community Join To Preserve Opera House

Once an opera house and later hailed as one of the finest movie theatres in the Midwest, the Canton Theatre appeared destined to go the way of most small town cinemas houses when it closed early in 1974.

Then, that fall, Culver-Stockton College, with the aid of special designated gifts from Canton residents, purchased the building and the county's only remaining motion picture theatre was back in business—preserving and using a local landmark.

Canton Theatre was originally Miller-Star Opera House, built in 1893 with an opera house on the upper floors of the three-story building and W.L. Lockwood Jeweler and Optician and the First National Bank on the ground floor. The opera house was remodeled into a movie theatre in the 1930s and the first motion picture shown was "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."

In the remodeling, the third floor of the building was removed and the original brick covered with colored, decorative glass blocks. Originally arranged with 500 seats, the theatre now has 400 seats and features a wider screen than the original theatre. The building, now air-conditioned, originally was cooled by fans blowing over blocks of ice.

The theatre's stage once was used for talent shows, pageants and special community functions and college plans are to again make it a focal point of the community with live stage presentations and special motion picture series in addition to the regular attractions. The college operates the theatre as a laboratory of practical experience for students studying cinema and small business managements.
Miller-Starr Opera House was Canton cultural center

Canton showplace.
The Miller-Starr Opera House as it appeared at the turn of the century. The three-story building had two business houses located on the first floor and two stairways for access to the upstairs opera house. Posters for coming attractions are on kiosk built around telephone pole at left.
Building was later remodeled into moving picture theater

By Dr. Michael Kramme
For the Press-News Journal

On December 6, 1893, over four hundred Cantonians paid one dollar each to be part of the social event of the year. They attended the grand opening of the Miller-Starr Opera House to see a production of a play entitled "Jolly Old Chums" or "Two Old Crones." The production had a cast of twelve who also performed a skit entitled "The Indian Opera." The production received mixed reviews, but the new building won rave notices.

The event was chronicled by The Canton Press: "The building itself is one of modern pattern and would be a credit to a city of ten thousand inhabitants. It was designed by J.B. Legg & Co. of St. Louis, built under contract by Wm. R. Odor of this place, and furnished and finished by Kansas City businessmen. Cut stone, pressed brick and ornamental iron pieces give it a harmonious, imposing and attractive front on Lewis Street. Inside, on an elevated floor and in the gallery are placed over 400 comfortable folding opera chairs, while on either side of the stage are arranged a rear private box. Seven large dressing rooms are placed under the stage and a side entrance is arranged for the players. The stage is 28x60 feet, and is supplied with plenty of sliding scenery and handsome drop and act curtains.

The entire building is arranged for electric lighting, which will show off the beauty of the house to the best advantage. The building is two stories, 48x72 ft., and as now completed represents an investment of $10,000, and will stand as a monument to the enterprise of its owners." The building was actually three stories, however the third floor may have been used only for storage.

The Quincy Merchant and Manufacturer also commented on the new structure "Canton, Mo., opened its fine new opera house Monday, 4th. It is not for us to say that it was done with proper eclat, Canton may not be a metropolis, but when it comes to doing things up in true metropolitan style it won't take a back seat for any one, and in its new opera house as in many other enterprises, it shows a spirit of progress commanding success."

Noted nationally

Julius Cahn's Theatrical Guide was a book used by traveling companies. The 1906 edition provides additional information about the theater. It states that the seating capacity was 500. The illumination was electricity at 52 volts (This was at a time when several theaters still used gas lighting). The proscenium, or stage opening, was twenty-five feet wide and sixteen feet high. High stage was twenty five feet from the footlights to the back wall. The scenery box was thirty feet high, and the grooves in which to slide scenery on and off stage could handle scenery sixteen feet high. About eight foot of space was under the stage and one trap door for special effects was located at the center of the stage. The Guide also noted that Canton was served by the Canton, Olive, Parke and Mohse Hotels.

The building was named for its owner, both prominent Canton businessmen. August Julius Miller was the grocer. He also served as mayor of Canton from 1882 to 1883.

When it opened, the Miller-Starr was not the only opera house in Canton. Operating at the same time was Condit's Opera House.

Immediately under the announcement of the opening of the Miller Starr, Miller-Starr Co., The Paragon Theater Co., which performed a full week of plays; The Lyceum Theater Co., for one full week; The John Thomas Concert Co.; The Paragon Theater Co., which performed a full week of plays; The Frankiestein Orchestra, and others. The performance caused a great flurry of discussion and The Press noted: "We like the Frankiestein Orchestra for simple reasons that notwithstanding the prevalence of the grip, none of the instrumentalists are troubled with bad colds or sore throats."

Also performing were The Metropolitan Orchestra; The Lyceum Theater Co., for one full week; John Dillon, an actor of national reputation; Mahar's Minstrels; "A Clean Sweep" by Andy Amann's Ten Comedians; The John Thomas Concert Co., "For a Million" a musical comedy interpersed with specialties; and The French Co., whose engagement caused The Press editor to mention, "Some parties who had money for this have owed for groceries for months, and the merchant who was indulgent enough to let them have goods on credit has not been able to get a cent from them on account of these hard times."

Racy show panned

The performance caused a great flurry of discussion and The Press editor was somewhat chagrined to report after the performance, "The Fannie Hill Burlesque Co., which showed at the new opera house on Thursday of last week was the rockiest outfit ever seen in Canton and was not a decent show for 'men only.' Not a lady was in the audience, or on the stage. One more variety show like Fannie Hill's and the new opera house will never pay expenses. The Quincy papers pronounced it the rottenest show that ever seen in this city, and one declared that the manager ought to be put in the penitentiary."

When it opened, the Miller-Starr was not the only opera house in Canton. Operating at the same time was Condit's Opera House.

Uncontroversy and competition, the Miller-Starr had the following professional attractions within just the first year of operation: The John Thomas Concert Co.; The Paragon Theater Co., which performed a full week of plays; The Frankiestein Orchestra; and others. The Press noted: "We like the Frankiestein Orchestra for simple reasons that notwithstanding the prevalence of the grip, none of the instrumentalists are troubled with bad colds or sore throats."

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Press-News Journal, Canton, Mo., Thursday, Sept. 9, 1933
Paul Alexander Johnstone was advertised as a "reader of unuttered thoughts." Mr Johnstone amused the local editor who reported: "... his performance at the opera house showed he either possesses a powerful influence over the members of the committee he led all over the house blindfolded, or else he could read their minds like a book. Nothing could be concealed from him. He arranged the participants in a duel just as they had been placed by a member of the committee, he found a pinhole in the curtain on the stage, a flower on a lady's hat in the audience; in a mock murder he found the victim, the knife and the murderer in different parts of the room; in fact, we believe he could find anything unless it was money in an editor's pocket..."

Local talent featured

Other locally produced events during the first year of operation included: Prof. Rayhill and Miss Julia Soffield presenting readings and declamations assisted by the best musical talent in Canton. A few weeks later, Prof. Rayhill's class in elocution had a contest for the gold medal prize, the Hopkins Family, Miss Fannie Finley, Mrs. H. H. Barrett and Miss Carrie Smith furnished the music.

The young ladies of the Baptist church presented a pageant which The Press reported: "... every number reflected credit to the performers, the special feature was the kinder symphony, rendered by 14 young ladies in costume, telling in the language of music upon eight different instruments, a tale of 'ye olden time.' It was decidedly unique and highly appreciated. The little fairies also, in their carnival, shared the honors with their older sisters, receiving hearty applause. Miss Julia Soffield captivated the audience in her renditions, showing high elocutionary attainments. The receipts were sufficient for the ladies to clear nearly $50. Later, "Mrs Perry gave an elocutionary entertainment. She has remarkable powers in this line and the training she gave her pupils is thorough as was evidenced by their masterly renditions on that evening. We regret that the audience was so small."

On the next evening the actual commencement exercises were held, the program for that included:

**Overture**

**Opening Address**

Essay "Give Unto Them Beauty for Ashes" Julia Waters

Essay "Memory Pictures" Mell Elizabeth Wooders

Essay "Only a Word" Ruby Lane Lupton

**The Class of '94** Tillie May Werly

Valedictory Tyra B. Gunn

Address Pres. Wm. Evans, Bushnell, III

Presentation of diplomas with brief address by Prof. A. B. Price

Public tastes change

Several local talent plays were also presented the first year of operation of the new facility. "Shamus O'Brein" a local talent benefit for the Canton Concert group netted $25 to buy new instruments. "The Lost Mine" was given by the Canton Dramatic Co. A temperance drama "Ruined by Drink" was given a diplomatic review, "If we were to mention any [of the cast], we would be compelled to go through nearly the entire list of ladies and gentlemen who took part. The characters were well chosen and the piece so well received that owing to urgent request the piece will be repeated next Tuesday evening. A musical "Zanie" was also presented by the College Aid Society.

The Miller-Starr was busy for the first few years of its operation. However, in the early decades of the twentieth century the public's taste began to change. On January 27, 1911, the Gem Theater, a movie house, opened with a three reel film entitled "From the Manger to the Cross." This may have been the first motion picture ever seen in Canton. As the popularity of the motion pictures increased, as well as the development of radio, fewer traveling shows were able to survive on the road. By the late 1920's the opera house was virtually unused.
November 4, 1997

Becky L. Snider
1008 Sunset Drive
Columbia, MO 65203

Dear Ms Snider:

Your letter of August 31 was given to me a week or so ago and I have just now had time to check into it.

THE TROY OPERA HOUSE. In 1890 Mr. L. J. Henry, built a large two story brick building to be known as the Opera House in order that Troy might have the convenience of such a hall. Stairs from the outside lead up to the second story. Mr. Henry was a shoemaker and repairer of shoes. He and his brother moved their business into the first floor. The upper floor became the social center of the town. A stage was provided for the performances of the entertainers, and seating for spectators. Stock Companies and local talent all appeared at the Opera House on various occasions. Plays, socials, balls, parties, carnivals, bazaars, musicals, stage shows along with dinners and church activities were held there. Plays given by local talent, those from neighboring towns and traveling troops all performed at one time or another. Motion picture shows were held with admission of 5 and 10 cents. At first the movies were shown at 2:30 in the afternoon. These early movies were all silent. "Because I Love You" was presented by the Kentucky Club, Elsberry brought their three act play to present to the citizens of Troy, and a traveling troop brought the light operetta, "A Mid Summer Eve." Churches would have fund raising projects there. The ladies of the Christian Church would serve meals, and the ladies of the Methodist Church held their annual Kandy Karnival and Bazaar's where oysters any style were served along with ice cream and cake. Their program consisted of Dickens' "Christmas Carol", Mrs. Spriggs and the Census Man and several quartets. Admission: adults, 10 cents; children 5 cents. The Catholic Church held a Valentine Ball. The Wright City Orchestra played for balls that were held at the Opera House.

The Opera House continued to be the center for social events until 1919 when it was sold to Albert and Lawrence Schaper and R. H. Kennedy, automobiles, for $8,000. The building still stands and is a parts store for automobiles and small engines.

The first place of historic reference is what was known as an Open Dome Theater. The local watch maker Mr. Cass Stewart had a music and jewelry store located on the northeast corner of Collier and Main Street. He enclosed the east side of the lot with a solid board fence and in the summer operated the Idle Hour Air Dome Theater. During the summer months silent movies were shown on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evenings, with a new program each evening. Admission was 5 cents and 10 cents. On Sunday nights the churches would hold union services there.
With the closing of the Livery Stable on Main Street Mr. Joe Wells and Burt Brown remodeled the building and opened the B. J. Motion Picture theater. On Friday, October 1916 opening night, the all silent movie was Irene Fenwick and Cyril Keightley in THE SPENDTHRIFT, in six reels. Saturday night featured Henry B. Walthall in BIRTH OF A MAN shown in five reels. Admission was adults 10 cents and children over 6 and under 12, 5 cents. Doors opened at 7 shows started at 7:45. I do not know how long this operated.

As early as 1923 adds for the Colonial Theater appeared in THE TROY FREE PRESS. This was located on the northeast corner of Cap-au-Gris and Main Street. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rudolph of St. Louis bought the theater in June 1934. On Christmas day 1939 the building burned. Following this a few movies were shown in Bonfils Auditorium, but for the most part the town was without a motion picture theater until May 6, 1940, when owner Charles Rudolph opened the theater in the Old Hanni building on the southeast corner of Main and Collier. Upon moving the name was changed to the Trojan. This theater continued operating, showing films until 1987. This building still stands.

Troy was without a theatre until 1995 when the PLAZA CINEMA 4 opened at #7 The Plaza Troy located off Hwy 47 and is still in operation.

The featured Chatauqua came to Troy beginning with the year 1913. The program resembled those held at Chautauqua, New York, consisting of lectures, home study, concerts, etc. The programs were thoroughly un-denominational and non-political and people of all creeds and parties co-mingled. The first chautauqua to be held in Troy was in 1913. The program ran from August 10 to 16 and was put on by the Mid-West Company of Kansas City. Not only was this for adults, but there was a children's Chautauqua. Advance financing for the guaranteed amount was provided by soliciting business people. In 1916 one of the main speakers on the Chautuqua Circuit was William Jenning Bryan, a well known Democratic figure. In 1929 the chautauqua was held in the newly constructed Bonfils Auditorium. The program was known as the College Circuit, which visited many of the colleges throughout the state. Because of insufficient funding this was the last of the Chautauqua in Lincoln County.

The circus has been an important part of the summer entertainment of the town. In 1906 "The Sells-Floto Circus" the second largest circus in the nation came to town. Usually they did not appear in towns as small as Troy, but in recognition of the home town of owner Mr. Fred Bonfils they visited Troy.

Another large circus to come to town was in 1915 when Gollnmar Circus combined Herr Driesbock's Trained Wild Animals with three rings and three stages set up in town.

I am familiar only with the theaters of Troy. However Mrs. Olive Reeves, Historian and Genealogist for the Palmer Library at Elsberry, MO could possibly give you help, as she is more informed about the eastern part of Lincoln County. Write to her c/o the Joseph Palmer Library, Elsberry Mo 63389 and I am sure she will receive it.
As to books about specific theatres and photographs I am not aware of them. We do have newspapers and town history. Most of the above information came from Historical Book on Troy published in 1994. As a person to contact I have probably the most of any one person in Troy. If I can I would be glad to be of further help.

Sincerely,

Margaret W. Clare

Margaret W. Clare
363 S. Lincoln Dr.
Troy, MO 63379
Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

Grand River Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Chillicothe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City Hall</td>
<td>yes __</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luella Grand</td>
<td>yes __</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majestic</td>
<td>yes __</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platter's Hall</td>
<td>yes __</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Chillicothe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City Hall</td>
<td>yes _______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luella Grand</td>
<td>yes _______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majestic</td>
<td>yes _______</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Chillicothe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City Hall</td>
<td>yes _______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luella Grand</td>
<td>yes _______</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

NONE

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

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

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

No

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

APRIL 1 TO OCT 31 ON TUESDAY & SUNDAY FROM 10-4 PM.

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

YES, CALL MR. FRANK STARK 660-646-4323

Who is the best person to contact for more information? 

Thank you for your assistance.

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203
### Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

**Macon County Historical Society**

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Has Information?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blees Theatre</td>
<td>Macon</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logan Theatre</td>
<td>Macon</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jobson Opera House</td>
<td>Bevier</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Theatre</td>
<td>Macon</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wright's Opera House</td>
<td>Bevier</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forester's Opera House</td>
<td>La Plata</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Plata Opera House</td>
<td>Bevier</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Is this theatre still in operation?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Is Still in Operation?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blees Theatre</td>
<td>Macon</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logan Theatre</td>
<td>Macon</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jobson Opera House</td>
<td>Bevier</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Theatre</td>
<td>Macon</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wright's Opera House</td>
<td>Bevier</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forester's Opera House</td>
<td>La Plata</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Plata Opera House</td>
<td>Bevier</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Is Building Still in Existence?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blees Theatre</td>
<td>Macon</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logan Theatre</td>
<td>Macon</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jobson Opera House</td>
<td>Bevier</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Theatre</td>
<td>Macon</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wright's Opera House</td>
<td>Bevier</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forester's Opera House</td>
<td>La Plata</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Plata Opera House</td>
<td>Bevier</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

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

- 9/13/1962:activity

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

- Tues, Thurs: 12-5 PM
- Sat: 10 AM to 3 PM

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

Who is the best person to contact for more information? Jedd Tavison (660)385-2550

Thank you for your assistance.
Dear Becky L. Snider,

Your request for information was given to me. There has been no research locally on theatres. We do not have any collected information. Newspaper articles could be collected from the microfilm copies of the local paper. There is still a lot of oral history about theatres.

I have never heard of the New Theatre but the Mercier Theatre was also called the Palace. I know nothing of the AOUW Hall at Marquand but movies were shown in Marquand in the late 30's. The Baird Opera House is familiar, and also the Lyric. The facade of the Mercier Theatre still stands on the Courthouse Square. We had an outdoor theatre on Main Street, called the Airdome. There also was an electric park on West Main where movies were shown. There was a drive-in theatre called the Hi Y Theatre located northeast of Fredericktown. None are in operation now.

I might be able to come up with a picture of the Palace-Mercier Theatre. If I can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

John Paul Skaggs.
MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

1. NO.

2. COUNTY Madison

3. LOCATION OF NEGATIVES

4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S)
   Sunderman Theater

5. OTHER NAME(S)
   Bankers Trust Co.'s Bldg, Mercier Theater

6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION
   TOWNSHIP 33NRANGE 7E SECTION 8
   Court Square

7. CITY OR TOWN
   IF RURAL, VICINITY
   Fredericktown, MO 63645

8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION
   Court Square

9. COORDINATES
   LAT
   LONG

10. SITE( ) STRUCTURE( ) OBJECT( )

11. ON NATIONAL YES() REGISTER NO() 12. IS IT YES() ELIGIBLE NO()

13. PART OF
   YES() ESTAB. DISTRICT NO() 14. DISTRICT YES() POTENTIAL NO()

15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT

16. THEMATIC CATEGORY

17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD
   1908–1927

18. STYLE OR DESIGN
   Art deco

19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER

20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER

21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT
   movie theatre, bank

22. PRESENT USE
   movie theatre

23. OWNERSHIP
   PUBLIC PRIVATE

24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS
   IF KNOWN Robert L. Sunderman Court Square

25. OPEN TO PUBLIC
   YES( ) NO ( )

26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION
   H & L Commission

27. OTHER SURVEY IN WHICH INCLUDED

28. NO. OF STORIES
   2

29. BASEMENT
   YES( ) NO ( )

30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL
   Concrete

31. WALL CONSTRUCTION
   Brick

32. ROOF TYPE & MATERIAL
   Low Gable/Asphalt

33. NO. OF BAYS
   FRONT DOOR SIDE

34. WALL TREATMENT
   Stucco/Form Stone

35. PLAN SHAPE
   rectangular

36. CHANGES
   ADDITION
   EXPLAIN IN ALTERED
   NO.42 MOVED

37. CONDITION
   INTERIOR Poor
   EXTERIOR Fair

38. PRESERVATION UNDERWAY
   YES( ) NO ( )

39. ENDANGERED BY WHAT
   YES( ) NO ( )

40. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD
   YES( ) NO ( )

41. DISTANCE FROM FRONTAGE ON ROAD
   6 Feet

42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES
   Two story at the projection booth. Marquis with name and lights covers sidewalk and tuck point.
   Walls are covered with an artificial stone of random field.

43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE
   First appears on 1908 Sanborn map as part of the Banker's Trust Co. Bldg. The 1914 Sanborn map shows the area as not having any buildings. Douglass's History of SE Missouri does mention a series of calamities which all but destroyed the business district of Fredericktown. Three occurred prior to its publication in 1912.

44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS
   Central Business District – Court Square

45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION
   History of Southeast Missouri by Robert Douglas 1912; Black Cat Yearbook 1960, Sanborn maps 1908–1914–1927

46. PREPARED BY
   Denis Moore

47. ORGANIZATION
   H & L Commission

48. DATE
   2-22-88

49. REVISION
   DATE(S)
42. stone pattern. Above the marquee is a metal covering of an art deco vintage containing a decorative pediment. From the marquee north the walls are covered with a pinkish border—a matte effect.

43. The 1927 Sanborn map shows the current building with some alteration to the 1908 dimensions. These include room for a stage and scenery.
**MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**  
ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. NO.</th>
<th>2. COUNTY</th>
<th>3. LOCATION OF NEGATIVES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Madison</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S)</th>
<th>5. OTHER NAME(S)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seabaugh Furniture, Inc.</td>
<td>Schwanner Building</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOWNSHIP 33 RANGE 7E SECTION 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>145 East Main</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7. CITY OR TOWN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fredericktown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>16. THEMATIC CATEGORY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1890c</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>18. STYLE OR DESIGN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>commercial</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H. &amp; L. C.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>commercial</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>22. PRESENT USE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>furniture store/apartments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>23. OWNERSHIP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUBLIC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bob Seabaugh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>301 Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fredericktown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>25. OPEN TO PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YES(k)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H. &amp; L. C.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>27. OTHER SURVEY IN WHICH INCLUDED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>28. NO. OF STORIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>29. BASEMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YES(k)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>rock/concrete</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>31. WALL CONSTRUCTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>brick</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>32. ROOF TYPE &amp; MATERIAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>flat/tar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>33. NO. OF BAYS cont. page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>34. WALL TREATMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>stretcher</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>35. PLAN SHAPE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>rectangle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>36. CHANGES ADDITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(EXPLAIN IN ALTERED)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>37. CONDITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INTERIOR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>good</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>38. PRESERVATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNDERWAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO(k)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>39. ENDANGEROUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YES(k)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>40. VISIBLE FROM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUBLIC ROAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YES(k)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>41. DISTANCE FORM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Original building with machicolated cornice and rounded arch windows with keystones intact. However, shingle covered pent roofs used as canopies cover the machicolations. (cont. Page)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Built by Carl Schwanner as a grocery, hardware and general store with a millinery store in back. It had a balcony which allowed it to be used as an opera house while still being a store. It also had one of the first elevators in town. It still has the only elevator in town and it still works. Upstairs there was a shirt factory. (cont. Page)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In central business district. Located on the corner of State Highway 72 and East Main.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>46. PREPARED BY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denis Moore</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>47. ORGANIZATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H. &amp; L. C.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>48. DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6-20-88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>49. REVISION DATE(S)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RETURN THIS FORM WHEN COMPLETED TO: OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
P.O. BOX 176  
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102  
48. DATE 6-20-88  
49. REVISION DATE(S)
33.  

42. first half of the upstairs windows and a much larger pent roof serves as an overhang for the storefront windows.

43. during the 1920's and 1930's. The 1908 Sanborn Map indicates the "Lyric Theater" on the second floor. The store remained in the family and operated by his sons until the mid 1950's.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S)</th>
<th>Seabaugh Furniture, Inc.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5. OTHER NAME(S)</td>
<td>Seabaugh Building</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. COUNTY</th>
<th>Madison</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| 13. PART OF ESTAB. DISTRICT | YES() |
| 14. DISTRICT YES( ) POTENTIAL NO( ) | |
| 15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT | |

| 27. OTHER SURVEY IN WHICH INCLUDED | |

| 41. DISTANCE FROM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD | |

| 42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES | Original building with machicolated cornice and rounded arch windows with keystones intact. However, shingle covered pent roofs used as canopies cover the (cont. Page) |

| 43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE | Built by Carl Schwanner as a grocery, hardware and general store with a millinery store in back. It had a balcony which allowed it to be used as an opera house while still being a store. It also had one of the first elevators in town. It still has the only elevator in town and it still works. Upstairs there was a shirt factory (cont. page) |

| 44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS | In central business district. Located on the corner of State Highway 72 and East Main. |


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>46. PREPARED BY</th>
<th>Denis Moore</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>47. ORGANIZATION</td>
<td>H. &amp; L. C.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED, ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET(S) TO THIS FORM 6-20-88 49. REVISION DATE(S)
Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

Heritage Seekers

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Palmyra</th>
<th>Franklin Theatre</th>
<th>Palmyra</th>
<th>Hanley's Opera House</th>
<th>Palmyra</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no $</td>
<td>no $</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Palmyra</th>
<th>Franklin Theatre</th>
<th>Palmyra</th>
<th>Hanley's Opera House</th>
<th>Palmyra</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no $</td>
<td>no $</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Palmyra</th>
<th>Franklin Theatre</th>
<th>Palmyra</th>
<th>Hanley's Opera House</th>
<th>Palmyra</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no $</td>
<td>no $</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

We know nothing about the Franklin Theatre.

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

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

There were an auditorium in the Phoenix Hotel; now gone (in the late 1970s)

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

Not at hand.

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

Tues 10:00-11:30, 12:30-5:00 p.m.

Mon, Wed, Fri 12:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

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

Yes.

Who is the best person to contact for more information?

Mary Carol Lundblom

Librarian, Palmyra Bicentennial Library

during library hours 12:30-5:00 M-F

Thank you for your assistance.

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

Harley's Opera House - now is Turner's Feed Co - Keith Turner owner
I may have material in the basement of the library in the Pionian Club scrapbooks, then it would take a lot of work to sift it out. May Carol may know of other sources.

Kathleen Williams of Shelbyville could possibly help you.

Roberta Hagood in Henribel has historical resources.
**State Historical Survey and Planning Office, State Capitol Building, Room B-25, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101**

### Historic Inventory

#### Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Location of Negatives</th>
<th>Specific Location</th>
<th>City or Town</th>
<th>Site Plan with North Arrow</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>117 N. Fifth Street, Lot #4, Block 29</td>
<td>Hannibal, MO 63401</td>
<td>CENTER ST.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2</th>
<th>City/Town</th>
<th>Specific Location</th>
<th>Site Plan with North Arrow</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Marion</td>
<td>117 N. Fifth Street, Lot #4, Block 29</td>
<td>CENTER ST.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4</th>
<th>Present Name(s)</th>
<th>Other Name(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Park Theatre</td>
<td>Masonic Temple</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6</th>
<th>Thematic Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Date(s) or Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Style or Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Architect or Engineer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Contractor or Builder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Original Use, if apparent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Present Use Fraternal organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Ownership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Owner's Name &amp; Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Name of Established District</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>16</th>
<th>No. of Stories</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Basement? Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Foundation Material</td>
<td>rusticated ashlar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Wall Construction</td>
<td>brick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Roof Type &amp; Material</td>
<td>gambrel, comp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>No. of Bays</td>
<td>5 Side 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Wall Treatment</td>
<td>common bond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Plan Shape</td>
<td>rectangular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Wall Treatment</td>
<td>common bond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Condition Interior</td>
<td>fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Condition Exterior</td>
<td>fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Open to Public? Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Condition Interior</td>
<td>fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Condition Exterior</td>
<td>fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Preservation Underway? No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Endangered? Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Visible from Public Road? Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Distance from and Frontage on Road</td>
<td>on street/60'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Further Description of Important Features

First floor of front is white painted limestone. Projecting center bay is gabled; gable has several decorative courses in brickwork. Center door is flanked by half-columns and hemispheres and has Masonic insignia set in lunette over lintel. Second floor has center lunette formed by brick relieving arch and now filled with two double hung windows set in stucco. Some third floor window.

#### History and Significance

The Park Theatre opened with the play Hazel and Kirk. It had a stage 65' long and 45' deep, seating for 1100 including a balcony and a gallery, and an orchestra pit. Hannibal's position as a railroad junction attracted many stars from Richard Mansfield and Sidney Drew to Wallace Beery and George M. Cohan, and including George Arliss, Maude Adams, Lew Fields, Lillian Russell and...

#### Description of Environment and Outbuildings

The building faces Central Park to the east, with churches to the north, south and west.

#### Sources of Information


#### Prepared by

E. Hamilton

#### Organization

Landmarks Comm.

#### Date

6/79
dows are round-headed, all are partially filled in by grey-painted panelling. On north side almost all openings have been bricked in (many apparently designed to be blind) except for four street level doors. Brickwork on sides has complex pattern of recessions, relieving arches and coffers. Two black-painted fire escapes have been installed on the north side.

William S. Hart. Ernestine Schumann-Heink sang here and Victor Herbert played the cello. Mark Twain gave out High School Diplomas here in 1902. Built by David Dubach, of a lumbering family, it was operated for many years by John B. Price, who also managed the Park Hotel across Central Park. In 1913, a screen was installed for showing silent movies, and in 1924 it closed, two years after the Orpheum opened a block south. The Masonic Order assumed the property in 1915, and they kept it available for entertainments on a lease basis until 1939 when the interior was remodeled for Masonic purposes.
### HISTORIC INVENTORY

**1. No.**

**2. County**
Marion

**3. Location of Negatives**
Hannibal Arts Council

**6. Specific Location**
407-409 Broadway

**7. City of/City Block**
Hannibal

**8. Site Plan with North Arrow**

### Mozart Hall

407-409 Broadway

#### 16. Thematic Category
- **17. Date(s) or Period**
  - Constructed c. 1871

#### 22. Present Use
- **23. Ownership**
  - Public

#### 28. No. of Stories
- **29. Basement?**
  - Yes

#### 33. No. of Bays
- **34. Wall Treatment**
  - Common bond, painted

#### 36. Changes
- **37. Condition**
  - Interior: Fair

#### 39. Endangered?
- **40. Visible from Public Road?**
  - Yes

#### 41. Distance from and Frontage on Road
- **42. Further Description of Important Features**
  - The upper part of the building has been altered: the cornice and frieze replaced by a plain brick parapet; 3rd floor windows paneled shut; 2nd floor windows reduced in size. Windows retain iron surrounds--round on 3rd floor, segmental-arched on 2nd. Rusticated quoins at edges of facade. The street level has largely intact store fronts, with rope moldings & modillioned cornice. The center door, which led to the original hall upstairs, has been replaced.

#### 43. History and Significance
- **44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings**
  - Lots 3 and 4 of this block have five historic commercial buildings.

#### 45. Sources of Information
- "Bird's Eye View of Hannibal," (1869)
- Van Sant, Diagram of Hannibal (1875), p. 15.
- Hannibal Courier Trade Review (Jan. 1879)
- Hagood, Story of Hannibal (1976), p. 69--wrong location

#### 46. Prepared by
Easley Hamilton

#### 47. Organization
Hannibal Arts Council

#### 48. Date Issued
June 17th, 1980

#### 49. Date Last Revisited
June 10th, 1983

#### 6. Specific Location
- **28. No. of Stories**
  - 3

#### 29. Basement?
- **30. Foundation Material**
  - Stone

#### 31. Wall Construction
- **32. Roof Type & Material**
  - Brick, Flat

#### 33. No. of Bays
- **34. Wall Treatment**
  - Common bond, painted

#### 36. Changes
- **37. Condition**
  - Interior: Fair

#### 39. Endangered?
- **40. Visible from Public Road?**
  - Yes

#### 41. Distance from and Frontage on Road
- **42. Further Description of Important Features**
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#### 46. Prepared by
Easley Hamilton

#### 47. Organization
Hannibal Arts Council

#### 48. Date Issued
June 17th, 1980

#### 49. Date Last Revisited
June 10th, 1983
43. (cont.) activities; for instance in 1877 a roller skating exhibition was held there. Waller (b. 1845) had a grocery in the same building in partnership with his brother-in-law, H. F. Morris. He was the son of Frederick Waller (1811-1899), a German immigrant and partner of Lot Southard in a shoe store.

45. (cont.) 1850 census; Portrait and Biographical Record (1895), p. 735.
State Historical Survey and Planning Office, State Capitol Building, Room B-25, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

**HISTORIC INVENTORY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Location of Negatives</th>
<th>Specific Location</th>
<th>City or Town</th>
<th>Site Plan with North Arrow</th>
<th>Coordinates UTM</th>
<th>Site Plan Structure Object</th>
<th>Building</th>
<th>Structure</th>
<th>Object</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>City Hall</td>
<td>425 Broadway W. 20.5' Lot 5, all Lot 6; E. 42' of N Half Lot 7, BLK25</td>
<td>Hannibal, MO 63401</td>
<td>Stale and Broadway</td>
<td>Lat Long</td>
<td>1200 650.3 784.1</td>
<td>Orpheum Theater</td>
<td>26. No. of Stories 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Orpheum Theater**

**Triune Cathedral**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4. Present Name(s)</th>
<th>Orpheum Theater</th>
<th>5. Other Name(s)</th>
<th>Triune Cathedral</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6. Specific Location</th>
<th>Broadway elevation is scaled to adjacent commercial buildings. Fifth Street looms over neighboring two-story residential structures.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Description**

One story entrance wing on Broadway has semicircular marquee of chrome, ticket lobby finished mirrors and non-vitreous tile with faence pattern. Fifth Street side of lobby has five bay blind arcade between end bays of glazed terracotta. Tabernacle like placard cases have palmette decoration; stone columns have glazed terracotta composite capitals. In spandrels are wedgewood-like roundels de-

**History and Significance**

According to Sidwell Atlas, construction began 1918. The theater opened January 1922, owned by J. B. Price Theatres, Inc., and seating 1300. The opening presentation was Smiling Through. Although primarily a movie theater, live shows were also presented, including Rain and Abie's Irish Rose. Vaudeville acts included Ed Wynn and the Marx Brothers. In the 1940's, the

**Sources of Information**


**Prepared by**

E. Hamilton

**Organization**

Landmarks Comm.

**Date**

6/79
#42. (cont'd)

Picting flutists and cymbalists in classical dress. Above these are entablature cornice and parapet. Theater itself faces Fifth Street with three story elevation in Flemish bond with lighter headers, glazed terracotta quoins and band under cornice. Ground floor has double doors under two recently closed lunette Third story has two wedgewood like roundels depicting Orpheus in a lion-drawn chariot. Second story has five windows with glazed terracotta voussoirs, all but south window have been bricked up.

#43. (cont'd)

"Orpheum" was renamed the "Tom Sawyer". After its closing c. 1968, the theater was vacant for a decade until taken over by the present tenants, an independent religious organization. It remains the best preserved and most elaborate building of its kind in Hannibal.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Location of Negatives</th>
<th>Present Name(s)</th>
<th>Other Name(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marion</td>
<td>Rialto Theatre</td>
<td>603-605 Broadway</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Specific Location**

603-605 Broadway  
W 47' 10" of E 3/2 of Lot 4 & of N 5/2 Lot 3, Block 43

**City or Town**

Hannibal

**Coordinates**

UTM

**Site Plan with North Arrow**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>11</th>
<th>On National Register?</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No X</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Part of Estab Hist Dist?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of Established District</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Thematic Category**

16. Art Deco

17. Date(s) or Period

Built c. 1906; Facade c. 1937

18. Style or Design

19. Architect or Engineer

20. Contractor or Builder

21. Original Use, if apparent

Theatre

22. Present Use

Retail

23. Ownership

Public

Private

24. Owner's Name & Address, if known

Heck, Robert L. & Susan G.

25. Open to Public?

Yes X

No X

26. Local Contact Person or Organization

Heck Office Equipment, Inc.

27. Other Surveys in Which Included

None

28. No. of Stories

29. Basement?

Yes X

No X

30. Foundation Material

Not evident

31. Wall Construction Material

Brick

32. Roof Type & Material

Flat

33. No. of Bays

Front - Side

34. Wall Treatment

Panel

35. Plan Shape

Rectangular

36. Changes in #42

Addition

Alteration

Moved

37. Condition

Interior

Exterior

Good

38. Preservation Underway?

Yes X

No X

39. Endangered?

Yes X

By What?

No X

40. Visible from Public Road?

Yes X

No X

41. Distance from and Frontage on Road

On street/ 47'10"

42. Further Description of Important Features

Former theatre entrance is now enclosed by typical 3-part storefront, but rest of facade is intact, including marquee, outlined in royal blue and turquoise enameled panels. Street level is faced in similar panels, with three aluminum-framed poster windows. Above marquee is a 6-panel vertical stripe, colored (from edge to center) blue, turquoise and yellow. The remaining upper...

43. History and Significance

This property has been owned by descendants of John B. Helm since 1854. The present structure was built by James R. Bozarth, whose wife, the former Mabel Bobard, was Helm's granddaughter. It was extensively remodeled in 1937 for use by the Rialto movie theater. The Frisina chain acquired management of the theater in 1955 but closed it the next year. Since that time the interior has been rebuilt for general retail use.

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings

45. Sources of Information

Hannibal Courier Post, Sep't. 22, 1904, July 10, 1937

Title abstract; Street Directories

46. Prepared by

Esley Hamilton

47. Organization

Hannibal Arts Council

48. Date

49. Revision Date(s)
in a year or two Edwin G. Pratt succeeded him. In 1837-8, Hon. James L. Minor became really the presiding genius of the paper. The Courier was a Jackson paper, and the "organ" of the Democratic partisans of the county. In the fall of 1837 the Political Examiner was established. It was a whig paper. Wm. Carson was the editor and Samuel Haydon the publisher. It lived but a year or two, and was succeeded in 1839 by the Missouri Whig, Jacob Sosey's paper. In 1836 the Marion Journal (Democratic) was started by its joint owners, Frederick Wise of St. Louis, and Lucian J. Eastin of Palmyra. It was edited by J. Quinn Thornton. It lived only a year or so.

In 1838 and in 1839 the town received a bannet from the ravages of the cholera. In 1840, however, it was again prosperous and thriving. Numerous brick buildings were erected, the first being built for a Mr. Shannon. On this Mr. Ziba Calvert, now a resident of Warren township, was employed. The Methodists, Baptists and Presbyterians each built a church during the decade from 1830 to 1840. The Masonic lodge—the blue lodge—was established in 1831.

THE "THESPIANS" AND THE THEATER.¹

In the fall of 1836, a number of young men, including all professions and occupations (for there were no class distinctions then), met at the court-house and formed themselves into a Thespian Society. There were present among others, Richard H. and Presley C. Lane, Richard C. and Honorie Martin, John J. and Ivor and William R. Campbell, Albert Blakely, James and Willis C. Johnson, Samuel and Robert W. Miles, Dr. John Bowen, General David Willock, Alfred and Wade H. Pollard, Dr. Alfred Buckner, Dr. John C. Wright, Gen. John H. Curb, Robert W. Stewart (Editor of the Courier), Thomas C. Harris, William R. Haydon, Lucien J. Eastin, Richard P. Pulliam, James L. Minor, and Al. Stirman.

In the winter of 1836-7 the company opened its doors to the public, in the upper room rented from Thos. J. Wise, a druggist, whose extensive store was two doors west of Frye's (Overton's) tavern, on the east side of Main street. The scenery was painted by Haydon, (a member), and over the drop-curtain, facing the audience, was blazoned in gilt letters the words: "Your Smiles, Our Life." The

¹ The compiler wishes to acknowledge that much of the information in this sketch has been obtained from Hon. James L. Minor, of Jefferson City, and a great portion of the sketch itself was written by him.
first play was Home’s tragedy of “Douglas,” 1 and the afterpiece, “The Lottery Ticket,” and never had these two pieces been presented to a more appreciative or enthusiastic audience. The actors were perfect in their parts, and the orchestra, consisting of a violin solo, was conducted by Mr. Baum, who remained attached to the company until its close.

All the actors were gentlemen. Female parts were assumed by boys and beardless youths. Though ladies attended the performances, for there was “nothing to offend the most fastidious,” public sentiment was against lady “play actors,” and it was as much as a young lady’s reputation was worth to appear on even an amateur stage. “Lady” performers were Willis Johnson, Pres. Lane, Al. Blakey, Tom Harris, and Charley Campbell (now Hon. John I. Campbell), and as the costume and carriage of these gentlemen had been subjected to the care of their mothers, wives, sisters, and perhaps sweethearts, the disguise was good and the effect simply astounding. Each performer was allowed to dress his character as he pleased, and at his own expense; so that the wardrobes on the stage were grand, flashy or grotesque, according to the taste and means of the wearer.

The original object of the association was to raise funds for enclosing the public burying ground on the eastern limits of the town, but as never a dollar was known to go in that direction, it is presumed that the gross receipts were spent in a favorite saloon where the actors all met, after the play, to enjoy their triumph. So far as receipts were concerned, that was a secondary matter. Those of the audience who couldn’t pay generally went in for nothing.

The success of the first winter was so great that in the summer of 1837, an enterprising citizen, William Kelley, offered to build the company a theater, a proposition gladly accepted, and early in the winter of 1837-8, the house, a long frame building, was ready. It was built on the east side of Main street, northeast of the Court House square, and a few doors south of the present People’s Mills. It was not a very large building, but answered all purposes. It had a pit, a dress circle and a gallery, and quite a respectable stage, with all of the ordinary appointments, a drop curtain, scenery, wings, flies, etc. Over the stage was the motto of the dramatic association: “Charity is Our Object; Usefulness Our Aim.”

The triumph of the winter succeeding the building of the theater was more marked than that of the preceding year. The audiences increased in number, enthusiasm and voluntary attendance; the actors became so dramatically perfect and earnest, that it was fortunate for the town that some enterprising manager didn’t turn up and ruin, by theatrical offers, many a Thespian who afterwards achieved professional and mechanical eminence. Alas! however, the company’s coffers were as empty and the graveyard as desolate as ever.

Amongst the chief points of attraction were the doggerel verses written by the poet-laureate of the society, Wm. R. Campbell. About that time the town of Marion City was just emerging from the disastrous overflow of 1836. The poet wrote and Wade Pollard sang to the delighted people this verse among others:—

   “These Eastern folks came rushing on
   To find this mighty Western town,
   But when they came, upon my soul,
   They couldn’t find a lot with a 40-foot pole!”

One of the leading actors was Hon. James L. Minor, who a few years later was appointed Secretary of State, and removed to Jefferson City, where he still resides, a venerable old gentleman, full of years and honors. The “leading lady” for a time was Presley C. Lane, now the old postmaster, grave and gray, with the moustache of an old grenadier, the girth of an alderman, and the aspect of a sage. Imagine Gen. Minor, as Romeo, addressing Pres. Lane, as Juliet:

   But, soft! what light through yonder window breaks?
   It is the east, and Juliet is the sun.

   ** The brightness of her cheek would shame those stars,
   As daylight doth a lamp; her eyes in heaven
   Would through the airy region stream so bright
   That birds would sing, and think it were not night.
   See, how she leans her cheek upon her hand!
   Oh, that I were a glove upon that hand,
   That I might touch that cheek!

Some of Shakespeare’s plays were given — tragedies, comedies, all sorts. Then there were “merry farces” or afterpieces, but the modern style of drama, melo-drama, burlesque opera, and “leg shows” were not then in vogue, or there is no telling to what extent the Thespian Society of 1836 would have gone.

In 1842 a traveling troupe came in and occupied the theater, playing “The Wife,” “The Rivals,” “The Sisters,” “Still Waters Run Deep,” etc. By this time the dramatic association had disbanded. The female impersonators had too large beards to perform well. The

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1 Cast of characters: Lord Randolph, J. L. Minor; Glenacon, Wm. Hayden; Norval, Ivor Campbell; Old Man, Robt. Stewart; Lady Randolph, Willis C. Johnson.
old theater was converted into a pork-house, and then, Gen. Minor says, instead of the resounding echoes of the genius of Greece, it sent forth grease of another sort!

IN 1843.

In June, 1843, the year of the hard times, the population of Palmyra was about 1,200. There were eight dry goods stores whose aggregate sales amounted to about $150,000 annually. There were also two newspapers, the Whig and the Courier; one drug store, three grocery stores, three tobacco establishments, four blacksmiths, three carriage makers, five carpenters, three cabinet makers, three saddlers, two hatters, three shoemakers, four tailors, one tinner, one silversmith, one coopering establishment, three plasterers, one barber, three brickmasons, thirteen lawyers and six doctors. There were six organized religious congregations of different denominations, and four churches. In two of these services were held every Sabbath; in one three times a month, and in the other occasionally.

There were six teachers in the place, including four that were employed in the public school. In September of this year there was a general withdrawal of pupils from the public school. It had not long been in existence, and there was considerable prejudice against it and in favor of private schools. The public school system, involving the education of the children of poor men (in the same room and by the same teachers) with the children of rich men was not universally popular at that day, being considered too democratic by the would-be aristocrats. The four teachers tendered their resignations to the board of trustees and the school was closed for a season. It was reorganized and started up again after awhile, mainly through the efforts of Capt. Wm. Carson, president of the board.

In the first part of this year, 1843, a military company was organized. Its captain was — Ehrhart; its first-lieutenant Barnabas B. King — the same who was killed at the battle of Shiloh, while serving as major of the 21st Missouri (Union) regiment. The young ladies of Miss Burr's academy made a beautiful flag, which they presented to the rangers in September, 1843. A Miss Morton made the presentation speech; Lieut. King responded.

The theater had passed away and there was a dearth of public amusements or entertainments. In the spring of the year 1843, a Mr. Keith gave a vocal and instrumental concert at the court house which was well attended. An advertisement of this concert, still extant, shows that Mr. Keith was the sole performer. "He will," said the bill, "sing a number of sacred, sentimental and witty songs, accompanying himself by an accordion, which he plays very sweetly. Admission 25 and 37½ cents." An entertainment of that sort would scarcely draw a very full house in these degenerate days, though the performer's songs were ever so sanctimonious, and though he played the accordion ever so "sweetly."

SOCIAL LIFE, MANNERS, AND FASHIONS IN EARLY DAYS.

Social life in Palmyra at an early day was characterized by much formality and restraint. The circles were distinct, and their boundaries well defined and seldom crossed by interlopers. The "best" families, as those of most wealth and highest position were termed, were generally circumspect, and to some extent exclusive, in selecting friends and only those of equal position with themselves were admitted as familiars. Democracy was not well established; an imitation of aristocracy was the rule. Although there was little or no blue blood in the place, there was an affectation of gentility among some of the families, rather preposterous and ridiculous in its nature, but harmless in its effects. Indeed it may be said that it was beneficial, since it cultivated a self-esteem that forbade any impropriety.

The politeness of the gentle folks was exaggerated and uncomfortable either to practice or observe. When gentlemen were brought into the presence of ladies there was such an amount of bowing and scraping and genuflection and high-sounding compliments on one side, and so much curtseying and simpering and delicacy on the other that it was painful to witness an interview of that character. On one occasion old "Horse" Allen, who was a veritable Boanerges at any rate and under nearly all circumstances, was being presented to some ladies, when in the midst of a profound bow amounting almost to prostration, and the almost dead silence thought to be requisite to politeness, he let off a tremendous sneeze, which shook the house like the explosion of a bombshell. Seeking to recover himself, and to reassure the ladies, who were staggering from the shock, he let off another, surpassing the first in volume. Then making for the door, he rushed out, swearing like a pirate and roaring like a tempest.

When the Palmyrenes were dressed according to the fashions of say 1835-40, the gentlemen strode along the street with a deliberate manner and stately air. They were arrayed in high, bell-crowned "plug" hats; swallow-tailed coats, made very tight in the waist, with
for swimming, boating and fishing.

Later owners and operators included Mr. and Mrs. Alf Cope in the 1940's, Drue and Esther Christian in the 1950's, John and Marge VanHouten in the 1960's and Mr. and Mrs. Slaybaugh in later years. Part of the buildings eventually burned and all that remained were demolished.

Submitted by Dorene Stiles

EARLY OIL BUSINESS

In the early days A. J. Kyte and his two sons, Roscoe and Ralph, had a wagon, pulled by a mule, delivering oil, kerosene and gasoline. The Kytes lived up the hollow from the James Staub family.

In later years Walter Smith had an oil company in Noel, before Melvin Hall.

Submitted by Centennial Book Committee

JACK PEW OIL COMPANY

In the early twenties, when automobiles became common in southwest Missouri, Phillips 66 Oil Company felt the need of establishing a gasoline bulk plant at Noel. This was located at its present site of Foster and R. R. Streets. Since the gasoline was brought in by railroad, it was necessary for the Kansas City Southern to run a spur by the plant. The spur remains today even though the gas is now brought in by transport truck. Much of the early pumping equipment is still in possession of the oil company.

Walter Smith was the first Phillips consignee. A few years later, Melvin Hall became the consignee and in 1935 he bought the business and in later years acquired the bulk plants in Neosho, Cassville and Southwest City.

In 1960, Jack Pew, from Kansas City, bought out the Melvin Hall Oil Company. The Pews: Jack, Bobby, Barbara, Judy, and Ross continue to live here. Jack is now retired and Ross, Barbara and her husband Bill Chamberlain continue to operate the business.

Submitted by Jack Pew Oil Company

OZARK THEATER

Built in 1920, by Bill Christensen, on west Main Street was the Bijou Theater. It was later renamed the Ozark Theater. In addition to movies, live traveling acts, such as magicians, medicine shows, and musical groups performed on stage there. Presentations of plays by the Noel Dramatic Club, enjoyed an audience during the 1930's. It was purchased by Ray Mathis of Granby from Mr. Christensen, and he sold to the Dickinson chain in 1946. Richard Easter was manager and operator of the machines in the late 1940's. Others were Sam Jolly, Pat Silverio, Mrs. McHattie, Mrs. Neal Hill, Mrs. Otis Cash and James Carroll.

Ozark Theatre from 1920 to 1986 when the building was destroyed by fire. Photo courtesy of McDonald County Press, Noel, Missouri.

Theater managers were cooperative with civic groups in such matters as the special free Christmas show for children each year.

Fire destroyed the building last summer, 1986, which was the loss of a landmark for Noel.

Submitted by Centennial Book Committee

GATEWAY DRUG STORE

During the 1920's Florence Munea established the Gateway Confectionary Store on west Main Street near the City Hotel. It is no longer in operation but was a popular gathering place for nearly fifty years. Fancy candies were displayed in glass cases and gifts, drugs and sundries were for sale. The store offered both fountain and lunch counter service. It was later a bus stop for the Greyhound line for many years. A small dance floor, with a nickelodeon was popular with young and old alike. Mrs. Muenas's son, Leo, and family assisted in management after a few years with Leo operating a basement pool hall.

Jimmie and Mamie Hirst became managers about 1954. They had owned and operated the Noel Drug Store on east Main, which they purchased from Ora Hemphill, Jr. in 1951. The Hirsts had many exciting experiences there, among them being the center of teenage activity and having the opportunity to "lend an ear" or to provide a shoulder to cry on. They were very popular business people with the grown-ups too and earned many friendships.

The building was severely damaged during Noel's 1969 railroad "blast" disaster and the Hirsts moved to another building three doors east. During the years, they were collectors for Empire District Electric Company statements. They continued the Gateway business until 1980. Their son, Kenneth, returned to Noel and as a pharmacist took over for about four years before moving to Colorado. The Gateway no longer exists.

Submitted by Centennial Book Committee

GATEWAY DRUG STORE - THE POOL HALL

GATEWAY KOURT - GATEWAY CHICKEN HOUSE CAFE

The Munea family contributed much to the building and development of Noel. The Muenas owned and operated the Gateway Drug Store, located on Main Street, for many years. Downstairs, below the drug store, was a pool hall and tavern and regular meeting place for the great domino players of the area.

In the early '40s, Muneas purchased the property where the City Hotel had been located and built the Gateway Kourt, Hotel and cabins with kitchens. The brick building just to the east became known as the Gateway Chick House Cafe, which
Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

Mercer County Library

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Buren's Hall Princeton yes ____ no ____
Grand Opera House yes ____ no ____

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

Buren's Hall Princeton yes ____ no x
Grand Opera House yes ____ no x

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

Buren's Hall Princeton yes ____ no x
Grand Opera House yes ____ no __

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


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

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

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

What days and times is your library open to the public? Monday Through Fridays 9-5 Saturdays 9-12

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times? NOT AT THIS TIME

Who is the best person to contact for more information? Judy Cox - Director of Library
Rosemary Beveridge - 900 E. Main, Princeton

Thank you for your assistance. Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 652


PRINCETON DOES HAVE ONE BUILDING WHERE THE MELODRAMA IS HELD DURING OUR CALAMITY JANE DAY CELEBRATIONS. PLAYS ARE ALSO HELD THERE DURING THE YEAR. IT IS CALLED COW PALACE, BEING CONVERTED FROM A SALE BARN IN 1970.
the people of Princeton are opposed to Judge Lynch's methods but forbearance has about ceased to be a virtue."

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The Buckeye livery barn and the city hotel across the street, the former owned by Robert Bowsher, the latter by Judge Stacy, were burned February 28th, 1893. A heroic fight was made and the business buildings on the west side were saved from a repetition of former catastrophes. The occupants of the hotel lost most of their personal property and some barely escaped with their lives. With great difficulty some twenty head of horses were removed from the livery barn and while engaged in this work W. H. Boxley was knocked down and trampled upon by one of the animals. He was for a time thought to be fatally injured. Every glass in the front of the Bearden block was broken by the heat and the buildings otherwise damaged. The loss was probably $4,000. The fire started in the hay in the loft of the barn and its origin was a mystery.

April 8th, 1893, the residence of W. W. Hampshire, ten miles southeast of Princeton was destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of $4,000.

Following the destruction of the residence of Stanley Arnold at 2 o'clock on the morning of August 21, 1893, the Press said:

"The family had all been away from home and there had been no fire in the house, therefore there was only one way to account for the fire—incendiarism. The crisis requires a heroic remedy. The time has come in the history of our little city when it is absolutely necessary to find and punish the fiends who apply the torch."

The West Side Blaze of 1893

Again on December 18th, 1893, a large portion of the west side was consumed. The blaze was believed to have started in the bakery of Allburn & Sherritt, in the basement of Arbuckle's opera house building. The fire was discovered in time to have been extinguished but the engine and hose were out of order. A large crowd had assembled and began to carry water in buckets. By hard work the flames were extinguished after having burned the opera house building and the buildings of Jackson Cook and H. J. Alley, leaving standing the Masonic building on the south side of the block and Don Cain's building on the north side. Thus for the fourth time in ten years this block had been either partially or totally destroyed by fire. Again incendiarism was the only plausible explanation. The bakery had not been fired up for more than twenty-four hours and this was the only place in the basement where any fire was kept. D. N. Arbuckle, who owned the opera house building was the heaviest loser. His building and fixtures had cost him something like $10,000 and he carried but $3,500 insurance. In a previous fire he had suffered the loss of two buildings without insurance. The following list of losses was given by the Telegraph:

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<td>W. W. White, furniture</td>
<td>4000</td>
<td>2200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. P. Wynn, jeweler</td>
<td>700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martin Read, law office</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Judson &amp; Son, clothing</td>
<td>6000</td>
<td>4500</td>
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John Ashcroft, Lindsey Bros., E. D. Wilcox, J. F. Eberhart, Bank of Mercer county, and Ira B. Hyde & Son also sustained light losses.

The fire was temporarily a serious calamity to Princeton as some of the persons who owned lots were so badly affected financially that they could not immediately rebuild. It was also feared that on account of the repetition of serious fires insurance companies would advance rates on Princeton property.

Mr. Devine, baker for Allburn & Sherritt, had a close call. He was sleeping in a room over Judson & Son's
men convened at Cockrell's hall. The constitution and bylaws styled the institution The Princeton Business Men's Association, showed that its purpose was "to increase trade and encourage beneficial enterprises; guard the sanitary and other interests; promote the general welfare and discourage and remedy as far as practicable all influences detrimental to the interests and good name of the town." The dues were made fifty cents per year. The following signed the constitution and became charter members:


The above organization has disbanded. Four years ago a commercial club, composed of young and enthusiastic men, was organized. A. M. Hyde was the first president. Walter Robinson served in 1908 and Geo. T. Mullinax in 1909. The institution has fostered several public enterprises and held several enjoyable meetings looking to the advancement of the city, including the chautauqua. The present officers are W. P. Brown, president; W. D. Smith, secretary; J. C. Lomax, treasurer.

The commercial club instituted a Clean Up Day in 1907, heartily participated in by many citizens. May 20th was set apart as the time for a general raking of yards, burning of trash and purging of alleys, and the co-horts of citizens were commanded in their efforts by the blasts of the fire whistle.

The Local Militia

Co. L, Fourth regiment, Missouri National Guard, was organized in Princeton in June, 1905. Arthur Hyde was captain and Herbert Casteel first lieutenant. The boys attended three state encampments and promoted one old soldiers' reunion. After about three years of activity, the institution was disbanded.

Public Halls

Until the 90s Princeton people held their public meetings indoors, in places of rather primitive appointment.

The Casteel opera house, seating 750 persons and superior in appointment to houses found outside the larger cities, was opened in Princeton in August, 1898. "The Colorado Girl", presented by the Forshap Comedy company, was the opening bill. The house contained boxes and was seated with upholstered opera chairs. Ed C. Hyde made the speech that attended the launching of the new enterprise. This magnificent playhouse, good enough for a city of twice the size of Princeton, was burned in the great west-side fire of 1899.

W. P. Sheets completed his operahouse on Hickland street in the early fall of 1894, and the house opened by a performance of the Spooner Comedy company. This is a one-story-and-basement building, with opera chairs, small balconies, inclined floor and a seating capacity of 500. It is now the best meeting hall in the city and is used for theatricals.

Mercer

The town of Marion, now Mercer, was not incorporated until 1886, but there was a postoffice there for many years before that, it being established about 1859. The town is ten miles north of Princeton on the Rock Island and five miles south of the state line. A. A. Alley, the founder, laid out the town soon after the building of the railroad in 1871. The company had a switch there, but no trains stopped there until J. H., H. J. and A. A. Alley, three brothers, donated the money and built a station at a cost of $800. A. A. Alley then had a general store there, and in 1878 his brother, J. H. Alley, purchased it. The town was afterward re-incorporated. From the building of the depot the place began to grow, and it is now the second town of the county in population. The first postmaster was A. A. Alley. The present postmaster is Ed Gloshen. Formerly the mail came by stage from Chillicothe, thence by mounted carrier. The first carrier, P. D. Brown, is still living. Three rural routes now emanate from this point.

Early business men were W. D. Alley, general merchandise; Marion Merritt, drugs and groceries; S. A. Newlin, groceries and hardware. The first officers were: Mayor, S. T. Wilford; marshal, J. M. Snyder; trustees,
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John Ashcroft, Lindsey Bros., E. D. Wilcox, J. J. Eberhart, Bank of Mercer county, and Ira B. Hyde & Son also sustained light losses.

The fire was temporarily a serious calamity to Princeton as some of the persons who owned lots were so badly affected financially that they could not immediately rebuild. It was also feared that on account of the repetition of serious fires insurance companies would advance rates on Princeton property.

Mr. Devine, baker for Allburn & Sherritt, had a close call. He was sleeping in a room over Judson & Son's
The Casteel opera house, seating 750 persons and superior in appointment to houses found outside the larger cities, was opened in Princeton in August, 1898. "The Colorado Girl", presented by the Forshap Comedy company, was the opening bill. The house contained boxes and was seated with upholstered opera chairs. Ed C. Hyde made the speech that attended the launching of the new enterprise. This magnificent playhouse, good enough for a city of twice the size of Princeton, was burned in the great west-side fire of 1899.

W. P. Sheets completed his operahouse on Hickland street in the early fall of 1894, and the house opened by a performance of the Spooner Comedy company. This is a one-story-and-basement building, with opera chairs, small balconies, inclined floor and a seating capacity of 500. It is now the best meeting hall in the city and is used for theatricals.

Mercer

The town of Marion, now Mercer, was not incorporated until 1886, but there was a postoffice there for many years before that, it being established about 1859. The town is ten miles north of Princeton on the Rock Island and five miles south of the state line. A. A. Alley, the founder, laid out the town soon after the building of the railroad in 1871. The company had a switch there, but no trains stopped there until J. H., H. J. and A. A. Alley, three brothers, donated the money and built a station at a cost of $890. A. A. Alley then had a general store there, and in 1878 his brother, J. H. Alley, purchased it. The town was afterward re-incorporated. From the building of the depot the place began to grow, and it is now the second town of the county in population. The first postmaster was A. A. Alley. The present postmaster is Ed Gloshen. Formerly the mail came by stage from Chillicothe, thence by mounted carrier. The first carrier, P. D. Brown, is still living. Three rural routes now emanate from this point.

Early business men were W. D. Alley, general merchandise; Marion Merritt, drugs and groceries; S. A. Newlin, groceries and hardware. The first officers were: Mayor, S. T. Wilford; marshal, J. M. Snyder; trustees,
1920: February - C. W. Cunningham was appointed as chairman of the committee to find a place and see to the building of the hitchracks.

The American Legion Post of Mercer and Princeton held memorial services on February 22 in memory of the service men who lost their lives during World War I.

April - The town board turns down payment to O. A. Moore of $10.95 for disinfecting L. Power and Charles Graham.

June - The town board ordered a poll tax assessment for the year. It is to be two days work, single-handed; or one day with team; or $5.00 in money on all males between the ages of 21 and 60.

July - William Pigg was ordered to collect the poll taxes.

October - Salary for night watchman is $75.00 per month.

1921: April - Hitchracks were ordered put back on square.

June - City allowed B. F. Fisher 25¢ per hour for work on city street.

October - Motion was made and carried to discontinue the full time city marshall to a weekend marshall; Saturday evening to Monday morning. A full time marshall was started about the first of the year.

Heroic work of a bucket brigade quenched a big blaze after the city hall, the fire engine, opera house, and bakery were destroyed at an early hour on a Saturday morning.

1923: January - Rev. Lawrence Wheeler, pastor of the M. E. Church at Mercer, called the young men of that city together last week and organized an athletic and social club. The south room of the Judge Alley building was
Epidemics were common, but probably the worst was the Spanish Influenza epidemic of 1918-1919. All schools in the county were ordered closed by the County Court and the Board of Health. Citizens were asked not to congregate in large numbers. Churches and the movie theater were closed. In some families, all the members were ill and many deaths occurred. Doctors were in short supply, but the few who were available, worked day and night. Handicapped by lack of antibiotics, hospitals, and nurses, and poor road conditions, they fought a gallant battle.

In January, 1920 Dr. C. P. Pickett left Mercer to practice medicine in Jefferson City. Dr. J. C. Donahue, recently returned from the armed services, arrived to take over the practice. The town acquired an excellent physician, the ball team a dedicated member, and the local hunters an avid hunting companion.
Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

Miller County Historical Society

What historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? I am not aware of any in our county.

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

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

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

What days and times is your library open to the public? from mid-May thru mid-Sept. each Monday, Wed., & Friday from 10 AM - 4 pm.

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

Who is the best person to contact for more information? Peggy Hake, Secretary

Thank you for your assistance.
Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203
### Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

**Mississippi County Historical Society**

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charleston Opera House</td>
<td>Charleston</td>
<td>yes [ ] no [ ] Simon Sebe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loebe's Theatre</td>
<td>East Prairie</td>
<td>yes [ ] no [ ] C.B. Aycock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aycock Opera House</td>
<td>East Prairie</td>
<td>yes [ ] no [ ]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Is this theatre(s) still in operation?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charleston Opera House</td>
<td>Charleston</td>
<td>yes [ ] no [ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loebe's Theatre</td>
<td>East Prairie</td>
<td>yes [ ] no [ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aycock Opera House</td>
<td>East Prairie</td>
<td>yes [ ] no [ ]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charleston Opera House</td>
<td>Charleston</td>
<td>yes [ ] no [ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loebe's Theatre</td>
<td>East Prairie</td>
<td>yes [ ] no [ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aycock Opera House</td>
<td>East Prairie</td>
<td>yes [ ] no [ ]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- books about specific theatres
- photographs
- newspaper articles
- scrapbooks
- county or town histories

Other, please specify: **I got most of this information by talking to Earnests Douglas, who was a girl and pop corn queen of the theater**

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

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

Declares: The Library is open 8-8 Mon.-Thur., 9-6 Fri., 9-1 Sat., 1:30-6 Sun.

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

Who is the best person to contact for more information?

Thank you for your assistance.

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203
P.S. I was about to mail this when it struck me that Betty Powell's History of Mississippi might have a section devoted to theaters. Here it is! Most of the old buildings on West Commercial have been "Urban Renewal," so I believe the American Melotikken Theater on East Commercial is the only one still standing, and it is not operative.

Yes, there are some old buildings left, but few are intact. The American Melotikken Theater on East Commercial is the only one still standing, and it is not operative.

Thank you for your assistance.
Charleston String Band.

By 1879 Bethune's Hall on the north side of West Commercial was the place for balls, musical entertainment and various programs.

Some time later most of the traveling and local theatricals, minstrel groups, drama groups, and high school plays took place in the second floor of a building on the northeast corner of West Commercial and Center Streets, first known as Bridges Hall and later converted to what was known as the Opera House. The lower floor was at one time occupied by Lutz's boot and shoe shop.

A paper of 1891 stated, "The Rutledge Dramatic Company appeared at the Opera House last night to a good audience, in the most thrilling play ever written, entitled "Jack of the Mines". The piece was well presented, and was highly appreciated. The company will remain here the entire week, and will present a complete change of program each night. People's popular prices."

In its heyday, the old Opera House was a community asset, well arranged with a stage, orchestra pit, first floor and gallery. The first moving picture to be seen in Charleston was exhibited in the old Opera House soon after the close of the Spanish American War, showing United States battle ships moving under power and firing salvos. When smoke emerged from a cannon, someone concealed in the wings would give a bass drum a hard and loud beat.

The building is still standing but the old frame stairway on the outside of the east wall is gone and likewise the metal stairway which later replaced the frame stairway. The building is being used as a warehouse at the present time.

S. P. Loebe was one of the first in Charleston to take an interest in the moving picture business and his initial venture was to erect a high wooden fence and bleachers on the lot on West Commercial Street where Economy Furniture Co. is now located. Silent movies were shown in this open air theatre during the warm months.

Soon afterward Loebe moved his theatre, known as the Electric Dome, to the Jecko building which was located on the lot directly west of the now First Security State Bank. Opera seats were installed and silent films of the time shown.

In 1904 a new Opera House was built by Loebe on the corner of Main and Cypress streets on the lot later occupied by Waggener's Sinclair Station. It was one of the leading show houses of the district for many years. It was built, of course, before the advent of motion pictures, and boasted a fully equipped stage, orchestra pit, dressing rooms, and all of the drops and trappings required by stock companies and road shows. Odie Sitzes served as manager for many years.

The following year Carrie Nation gave a lecture at the Opera
most of the southeast portion was a dense forest. Several farms were scattered around. The network of roads was small.

"Uncle Harry" Blevins, a local resident, recalls the forest and brush from the 1860s. He later moved to the area around 1880. His second marriage, to Mrs. Elizabeth D. Hamner, was a significant event in the community.

Another notable family from the area was the James Bayou family, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. John S. Bayou.

After some years, the eastern settlement of East Prairie started to grow. The area experienced a sudden growth in the late 19th century. The writer said, "The home was built by the Bayou family in just a few years after the area was settled.

F. C. Jordan bought a theater on West Commercial Street and opened it in 1914. In 1915, another theater was started by Ernest Story and Claude Edwards.

The American Theatre was sold in 1920 to Robert Woods and in turn sold it to O. W. McCutchen for $12,000. In 1924 S. E. Pirtle bought it from McCutchen for $22,000. It was destroyed by fire May 3, 1927.

For a time motion pictures were shown in the Y.M.C.A. building but this was not satisfactory so the "Armory Theatre" as it was called moved to the remodeled I. O. O. F. building on West Commercial.

Within the next two years O. W. McCutchen had once again built a new American Theater in Charleston on East Commercial Street, and the first talking picture to be shown in Charleston was "The Rainbow" on December 12, 1929. In May of 1947, fire destroyed the inside of the building but it was remodeled and again opened.

In 1941 McCutchen built a second theater in Charleston on West Commercial Street for around $65,000 and with a seating capacity of from nine hundred to one thousand. Clarence Staples was the general contractor. It was named the Gem Theatre and opened on November 13, 1941.

At the present time this building has been purchased by Urban Renewal and in the near future will be razed to make room for a parking lot. The theater on East Commercial is still in operation and is now owned by the Malco Co. of Memphis, Tennessee.

EAST PRAIRIE

The fourth settlement to become a part of Mississippi County was Hibbard, later to be renamed East Prairie. Around 1840...
Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

Monroe County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

- Paris Opera House
- Hay's Opera House
- Monroe City Opera House
- Madison Opera House

Is this theatre still in operation?

- Paris Opera House
- Hay's Opera House
- Monroe City Opera House
- Madison Opera House

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

- Paris Opera House
- Hay's Opera House
- Monroe City Opera House
- Madison Opera House

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

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

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

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

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

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

Who is the best person to contact for more information?

Thank you for your assistance.

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203
Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

Montgomery County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ferguson's New Opera House</td>
<td>Montgomery City</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chadwick's Opera House</td>
<td></td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Hall</td>
<td></td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonesburg Opera House</td>
<td>Jonesburg</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
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Is this (these) theatre(s) still in operation?

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<tr>
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What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area?  
__________________________________________________________________________

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

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

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

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

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

Who is the best person to contact for more information?

Thank you for your assistance. Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203
Sept. 26, 1997
112 West 2nd St
Montgomery City, MO 63361

Becky L. Snider
1008 Sunse Drive
Columbus, MO 65203

Dear Becky,

I am answering your letter of Aug. 31 to Montgomery County Historical Society.

I am sorry we have little info. Ferguson's New Opera House and Chadwick's Opera House were both located on the second floors of buildings which are standing today. We have no early stories or pictures about them.

Library Hall and Jonesburg Opera House we are not familiar with.

Sincerely,

\[\text{Signature}\]

Marjorie M. Miller
Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

New Madrid Historical Museum

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grand Opera House</td>
<td>New Madrid</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majestic</td>
<td>Malden</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

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

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

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

Traveling Vaudeville

What days and times is your library open to the public? 9 - 4 Mon - Friday

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

Yes

Who is the best person to contact for more information?

________________________________________________________________________

Thank you for your assistance.

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203
The location of the Grand Opera House was at the corner of Virginia and Main Street.

Most of the vaudevilles were traveling and I do not know the names of these.

We have a theatre "The Dixie" that is still being used for live entertaining by the Dixie Arts players. It is located on the Main Street several shows throughout the year. I think this theatre was built in the early 1900's.

I wish I could be of more help. Good luck with your dissertation.
Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

Newton County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neosho Auditorium and City Hall</td>
<td>Neosho</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opera House</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orpheum Theater</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The New Dreamland Theater</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neosho Auditorium and City Hall</td>
<td>Neosho</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opera House</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>The New Dreamland Theater</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neosho Auditorium and City Hall</td>
<td>Neosho</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opera House</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The New Dreamland Theater</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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


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

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

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


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


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


Who is the best person to contact for more information?


Thank you for your assistance.

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. No.</th>
<th>101</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. County</td>
<td>Newton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Location of Structures</td>
<td>Neosho Auditorium and City Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Other Names</td>
<td>Neosho Municipal Auditorium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Specific Legal Location</td>
<td>Neosho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. City or Town, if Rural, Vicinity</td>
<td>Neosho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Description of Location</td>
<td>Neosho Municipal Auditorium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Coordinates</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Site/Structure/Building/Object</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. On National Register?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Is It Eligible?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Part of Established District?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. District?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Name of Established District</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Architectural/Historic Inventory Survey Form**

| 16. Thematic Category | |
| 17. Date(s) or Period | 1936 |
| 18. Style or Design | Art Deco |
| 19. Architect or Engineer | Neal C. Davis |
| 20. Contractor or Builder | |
| 21. Original Use, if Apparent | Auditorium and City Hall |
| 22. Present Use | Auditorium and meeting rooms |
| 23. Ownership | Public |
| 24. Owner's Name and Address | |
| 25. Open to Public? | Yes |
| 26. Local Contact Person or Organization | Historic Preservation Comm. |
| 27. Other Surveys in Which Included | |
| 28. No. of Stories | 2 |
| 29. Basement? | Yes |
| 30. Foundation Material | Carthage stone |
| 31. Wall Construction | Carthage stone |
| 32. Roof Type and Material | Flat/rolled |
| 33. No. of Bays | Front 6 Side |
| 34. Wall Treatment | Carthage stone |
| 35. Plan Shape | Rectangular |
| 36. Changes in Addition | Explained in Notes |
| 37. Condition Interior | |
| 38. Preservation Underway? | No |
| 39. Endangered? | Yes |
| 40. Visible from Public Road? | Yes |
| 41. Distance From and Frontage on Road | |
| 42. Further Description of Important Features | |

**See continuation sheet**

**History and Significance**

**See continuation sheet**

**Description of Environment and Outbuildings**

**See continuation sheet**

**Sources of Information**

**See continuation sheet**

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**MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

**Architectural/Historic Inventory Survey Form**

**Neosho Municipal Auditorium**

**Newton**

**100 bl. West Main Street**

**1936**

**Art Deco**

**Neal C. Davis**

**Historic Preservation Comm.**

**Carthage stone**

**Carthage stone**

**Flat/rolled**

**Front 6 Side**

**Carthage stone**

**Rectangular**

**Explained in Notes**

**Yes**

**No**

**Yes**

**Yes**

**Yes**

**Yes**

**No**

**Photos must be provided**

**See continuation sheet**

**See continuation sheet**

**See continuation sheet**

**See continuation sheet**

**MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

**Return this form when completed to: Office of Historic Preservation**

**P.O. Box 178**

**Jefferson City, Missouri 65102**

**Ph. 314-751-5365**

**1/91**
West Main Street--City Hall and Auditorium

42. Further Description of Important Features: Two-story concrete, six-bay, Art Deco public building completed in 1938. The building has a concrete foundation, flat roof of rolled roofing and exterior of concrete panels. On the main (N) facade are five sets of double doors of single-light glass and wood design. Above the doors are large single-light rectangular transoms with opaque lights. Above the doors are chevron panels and vertical fluted panels. Windows are four-light hopper design. In the second story central bay the window openings have structural glass blocks. At the roofline is concrete zig-zag molding. Located to the east and west of the main section are original one-story wings with single-light glass and wood doors and four-light hopper windows. Inscribed on the main facade is "Neosho Auditorium City Hall".

43. History and Significance: The building was designed by St. Louis architect Neal C. Davis, a native of Newton County, and financed by the Work Projects Administration, project #1302DC. Edward and Charles Haas donated $15,000 to the project. The citizens of Neosho voted bonds of $40,000 and the U.S. government matched with $40,000. Edward Haas also donated 100 books to the library, which was located in the building. The building is a good example of an Art Deco public building of the 1930s and is included in the proposed Neosho Commercial Historic District.

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings: Located one-half block west of the Neosho public square.

Auditorium, West Main Street

Meadow, MO
MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO.</th>
<th>143</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COUNTY</td>
<td>Newton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOCATION OF NEARITIES</td>
<td>Neosho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION</td>
<td>122 East Spring Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE(S) OR PERIOD</td>
<td>ca. 1920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STYLE OR DESIGN</td>
<td>one-part commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER</td>
<td>Cowitt Newton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT</td>
<td>commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OWNERSHIP</td>
<td>public (X)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPEN TO PUBLIC?</td>
<td>yes (X)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION</td>
<td>Historic Preservation Comm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENDANGERED BY WHAT?</td>
<td>no (X)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD?</td>
<td>yes (X)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISTANCE FROM FRONTAGE ON ROAD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE</td>
<td>see continuation sheet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS</td>
<td>see continuation sheet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOURCES OF INFORMATION</td>
<td>see continuation sheet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RETURN THIS FORM WHEN COMPLETED TO: OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION P.O. BOX 176 JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102 PH. 314-751-4662
122 East Spring Street--Johnston's True Value Hardware

42. Further Description of Important Features: One-story brick, one-part commercial building constructed ca. 1920. The building has a storefront altered ca. 1970 with metal and glass display windows and doors. Across the width of the storefront is a ca. 1980 metal awning. Above the storefront is a transom which has been covered with wood panels. The upper facade is composed of brick with a stuccoed surface. This facade has recessed brick and stucco panels. At the roofline is a stepped parapet.

43. History and Significance: The building is constructed on the site of the 1885 opera house, which was used to show moving pictures in the early part of this century. This building replaced the opera house on the Sanborn Maps between 1916 and 1926. The building is located in the proposed Neosho Commercial Historic District.

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings: Located on the north side of the Neosho public square.

45. Sources of Information: Sanborn Insurance Maps.
MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

1. NO. 155
2. COUNTY Newton
3. LOCATION OF"
4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) Crane's Office Supply
5. OTHER NAME(S)
6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION
TOWNSHIP RANGE SECTION
IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS 111-115 West Spring Street
IF RURAL, VICINITY Neosho
7. CITY OR TOWN
8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION
9. COORDINATES UTM
LAT LONG
10. SITE( ) STRUCTURE( ) BUILDING( ) OBJECT( )
11. ON NATIONAL REGISTER? YES( ) NO( )
12. IS IT ELIGIBLE? YES( ) NO( )
13. PART OF ESTABLISHED? YES( ) NO( )
HIST. DISTRICT? NO( X ) POTENTIALLY? NO( )
14. DISTRICT YES( ) NO( )
15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT
16. THEMATIC CATEGORY two-part commercial
17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD ca. 1895
18. STYLE OR DESIGN
19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER
20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER
21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT
22. PRESENT USE
23. OWNERSHIP
24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS
25. OPEN TO PUBLIC?
26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION
27. OTHER SURVEYS IN WHICH INCLUDED
28. NO. OF STORIES
29. BASEMENT? YES( ) NO( )
30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL
31. WALL CONSTRUCTION
32. ROOF TYPE AND MATERIAL
33. NO. OF BAYS
34. WALL TREATMENT
35. PLAN SHAPE
36. CHANGES
37. CONDITION
38. PRESERVATION UNDERWAY?
39. ENDANGERED?
40. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD?
41. DISTANCE FROM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD
42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES

see continuation sheet

43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

see continuation sheet

44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS

see continuation sheet

45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

see continuation sheet

RETURN THIS FORM WHEN COMPLETED TO: OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
P.O. BOX 176
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102
PH. 314-751-5365

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

46. PREPARED BY
47. ORGANIZATION
48. DATE 1/91
49. REVISION DATE(S)
111-115 West Spring Street

42. Further Description of Important Features: Two-story brick, two-part commercial building with a pressed metal facade built ca. 1895. The building retains an original storefront at 111 West Spring Street with wood bulkhead panels, copper and glass display windows, and a recessed entrance with a single light glass and wood door. Above the entrance and display windows is a seven light transom. The other two storefronts have been altered in recent years with various materials such as glass and wood display windows and doors and stone veneer. The upper facade retains its original pressed metal front and is divided into four bays. Each bay contains three rectangular one-over-one sash windows. Dividing each window bay are single or paired Ionic motif columns resting on floral panels. Above the windows is a frieze with rosettes and at the roofline is a bracketed sheet metal cornice with modillion blocks and a frieze with round floral designs. At the roofline is a stepped parapet over each bay. The interior of the #111 section retains an original pressed metal ceiling.

43. History and Significance: This building was constructed ca. 1895 with a pressed metal facade. On the 1896 Sanborn map, #111 was a clothing store, #113 a bakery, and #115 was vacant. In 1902, #111 was vacant, #113 a restaurant, and #115 was a bakery. In 1909, #111 had become an "electric theater", with #113 and #115 remaining as a restaurant and bakery, respectively, through 1916. In 1916, #111 is shown as a pool hall. The building is located in the proposed Neosho Commercial Historic District.

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings: The building is located one-half block west of the public square in the commercial section of Neosho.

45. Sources of Information: Sanborn Insurance Maps.
| 1. NO. | 197 |
| 2. COUNTY | Newton |
| 3. LOCATION OF NEGATIVES |  |
| 4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S) | Orpheum Theater |
| 5. OTHER NAME(S) | The New Dreamland theater |
| 6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP |  |
| RANGE |  |
| SECTION |  |
| IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS | 204 South Wood Street |
| IF RURAL, VICINITY | Neosho |
| 7. CITY OR TOWN |  |
| IF RURAL, VICINITY |  |
| 8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION |  |
| 9. COORDINATES |  |
| LAT |  |
| LONG |  |
| SITE |  |
| STRUCTURE |  |
| BUILDING |  |
| OBJECT |  |
| 10. |  |
| 11. ON NATIONAL REGISTER | YES (X) |
| 12. IS IT ELIGIBLE | YES (X) |
| NO |  |
| 13. PART OF ESTABLISHED HIST. DISTRICT | YES (X) |
| NO |  |
| 14. DISTRICT POTENTIAL | YES |
| NO |  |
| 15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT |  |
| 16. THEMATIC CATEGORY | two-part commercial |
| 17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD | 1916/1917 |
| 18. STYLE OR DESIGN |  |
| 19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER | G. B. Hall |
| 20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER |  |
| 21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT | Theater |
| 22. PRESENT USE | vacant |
| 23. OWNERSHIP | PUBLIC |
| PRIVATE | NO (X) |
| 24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS |  |
| IF KNOWN |  |
| 25. OPEN TO PUBLIC? | YES |
| NO |  |
| 26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION | Historic Preservation Comm. |
| 27. OTHER SURVEYS IN WHICH INCLUDED |  |
| 28. NO OF STORIES | 2 |
| 29. BASEMENT? | YES |
| NO (X) |  |
| 30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL | concrete |
| 31. WALL CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL | brick |
| 32. ROOF TYPE AND MATERIAL | parapet |
| 33. NO. OF BAYS | 0 |
| 34. WALL TREATMENT | stucco |
| 35. PLAN SHAPE | rectang. |
| 36. CHANGES | ADDED |
| ALTERED | |
| NO (X) |  |
| 37. CONDITION | INTERIOR |
| EXTERIOR |  |
| 38. PRESERVATION UNDERWAY? | YES |
| NO (X) |  |
| 39. ENDANGERED? | BY WHAT |
| NO (X) |  |
| 40. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD? | YES |
| NO |  |
| 41. DISTANCE FROM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD |  |
| 42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES | see continuation sheet |
| 43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE | see continuation sheet |
| 44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS | see continuation sheet |
| 45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION | see continuation sheet |
| 46. PREPARED BY |  |
| 47. ORGANIZATION |  |
| 48. DATE | 1/91 |
| 49. REVISION DATE(S) |  |
204 South Wood Street--Orpheum Theater

42. Further Description of Important Features: Two-story brick, three-bay, two-part commercial building constructed ca. 1916. The building's storefront has been altered with ca. 1970 metal panels and metal and glass doors. The marquee was either added or altered ca. 1970. The upper facade is original and has three bays of windows. In the north and south bays are three two-over-two rectangular wood sash windows with soldier course lintels and header brick sills. The central bay has three windows in a Paladian motif with the central window larger than the flanking windows. The upper facade has a stuccoed surface and at the roofline is a stepped parapet with concrete coping.

43. History and Significance: G.D. Hall built the theater in 1917 and called it the New Dreamland theater. The seating capacity was 700 on the floor, with 150 in the balcony. The first movies shown were talkies. The opening movies were "Red Hot Rhythm" with Kathryn Crawford singing "My Idea of Heaven", and a Mack Sennett comedy. The name was changed to the Orpheum in 1921 and a cooling system was installed in 1922. A new sound system was installed in 1929, after Hugh Gardner purchased the theater. Several theaters flourished in Neosho during WWII, but the Orpheum is the only theater that remains in Neosho. The building is located in the proposed Neosho Commercial Historic District.

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings: Located one-half block south of the Neosho public square.

204 South Wood Street
## Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

**Nodaway County Historical Society**

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Empire Theatre</td>
<td>Maryville</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opera House</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union Hall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Opera House</td>
<td>Burlington Junction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opera House</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union Opera Hall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ware's Opera Hall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frayne and Jeffers' Opera House</td>
<td>Hopkins</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Empire Theatre</td>
<td>Maryville</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opera House</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Union Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Opera House</td>
<td>Burlington Junction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opera House</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Union Opera Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ware's Opera Hall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frayne and Jeffers' Opera House</td>
<td>Hopkins</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Empire Theatre</td>
<td>Maryville</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opera House</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union Hall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Opera House</td>
<td>Burlington Junction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opera House</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union Opera Hall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ware's Opera Hall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frayne and Jeffers' Opera House</td>
<td>Hopkins</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

*Provided summer (87) in Hopkins, Building is Gone*

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

- Books about specific theatres
- Photographs
- Newspaper articles
- Scrapbooks
- County or town histories
- Other, please specify

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

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

- **Tues-Fri**: 1-4 PM by appointment  
- Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times?  
  - **Yes**  
  - **No**

Who is the best person to contact for more information?  

*Margaret Kelley  816-582-8176*  

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

Historical Society of Oregon County

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Thayer Opera House Thayer yes __ no __

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

Thayer Opera House Thayer yes ___ no __

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

Thayer Opera House Thayer yes ___ no __

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

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

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

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

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

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

Who is the best person to contact for more information? __________

Thank you for your assistance.

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203
October 6, 1997

Becky Snider
1008 Sunset Dr.
Columbia, MO 65203

Re: Thayer Opera House

Dear Becky,

I sincerely wish that I had more information to send to you, concerning the Thayer Opera House. Especially, do I wish that I could have found all of the newspaper clipping.

In the 60's, the town fathers of Thayer decided to remove the upper structure of the old Opera House. The present ground structure houses the offices of City Hall for Thayer. Many of the elderly citizens were saddened when this renovation took place. In the words of one of our Senior Citizens: "Along the way, Thayer officials lost sight of the importance of historic landmarks. They re-did the beautiful Opera House into a plain City Hall, by removing the upper structure. Before, it could be seen for miles around and was famous from Springfield to Memphis. It's hard to understand!"

Wishing you much pleasure and success while you are working on your project.

Sincerely,

Mildred L. McCormack, Pres.
Route 2, Box 3A
Koshkonong, MO 65692
Second Street - Back When

This is a reproduction of a picture post card furnished by Gene Blankenship. The picture was made with a camera pointed across Chestnut, north on Second street.

It is not known what year the picture was made but there is a frame building on the corner of Chestnut and Second where the Bank of Thayer is now located. There are other frame buildings on Second street where the Post Office is now located. Streets were unpaved and a cow is strolling up Second. Building on left is Davis store building, in which the Beck Theatre is now located.

The streets were covered with a fairly heavy coating of snow when the picture was made.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Martin and Mark of Chicago, Ill., are visiting with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Martin over the Christmas holidays.

Just started.

Since the remodeling work began several months ago, there has been considerable speculation as to age of the building, et cetera.

This week, W.D. (Bill) Thorne loaned us a copy of the Thayer Tribune, dated August 7, 1896, which gives the age of the Old Opera House and some other interesting facts. Below we reprint from Tribune of almost 65 years ago.

"To The Citizens of Thayer, Mo.
Your city hall is finished. The total cost of the building was $673. I received for building house, my first contract price, $500, extra work on building, $113 total, $5563.50, making my loss the job $471.23 in cash, besides time.

The above does not include cost of the jail cells nor the lots on which the building stands. I wish to publicly express my thanks and appreciation to my bondholders Messrs. T.J. Boyd, H.J. F. D. and W.N. Carr, who have so kindly assisted me with their support and have also received many favors and substantial aid from the Oregon County Bank. Messrs. W. Leland and A.R. Sitton have been especially kind, and I take this method of thanking them for..."
**MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**  
ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM  
SW-AS-036-057

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. NO.</th>
<th>4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S)</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A32</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. COUNTY</th>
<th>5. OTHER NAME(S)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OSAGE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3. LOCATION OF NEGATIVES</th>
<th>6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OCHS</td>
<td>TOWNSHIP 44N RANGELOW SECTION 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7. CITY OR TOWN IF RURAL, VICINITY</th>
<th>8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonnott's Mill, Riverview St.</td>
<td>Corner of Riverview Drive and Main St.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>9. SITE ( )</th>
<th>10. STRUCTURE ( )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lit.</td>
<td>UTM Long. Loose Creek</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>11. ON NATIONAL REGISTER?</th>
<th>12. IS IT ELIGIBLE?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No (x)</td>
<td>Yes ( )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>13. PART OF ESTABLISHED HIST DISTRICT?</th>
<th>14. DISTRICT ELIGIBLE?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No ( )</td>
<td>Yes ( )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>16. THEMATIC CATEGORY</th>
<th>17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dickriede Store</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>18. STYLE OR DESIGN</th>
<th>19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>unknown</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>unknown</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>store</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>22. PRESENT USE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>vacant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>23. OWNERSHIP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUBLIC ( )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS IF KNOWN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>25. OPEN TO PUBLIC?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes ( )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>27. OTHER SURVEYS IN WHICH INCLUDED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>28. NO. OF STORIES</th>
<th>29. BASEMENT?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes ( )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>stone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>31. WALL CONSTRUCTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>brick</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>32. ROOF TYPE AND MATERIAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>flat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>33. NO. OF BAYS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>34. WALL TREATMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>brick, paint</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>35. PLAN SHAPED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>36. CHANGES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADDITION ( )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>37. CONDITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INTERIOR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>38. PRESERVATION UNDERWAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YES ( )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>39. ENDANGERED?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BY WHAT?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>40. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NO (x)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>41. DISTANCE FROM PUBLIC ROAD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 to 10 feet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PHOTO MUST BE PROVIDED**

**42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES**

**43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE**

**44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS**

**45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

**46. PREPARED BY**  
Gary Kremer

**47. ORGANIZATION**  
OCHS/MMCOC

**48. DATE**  
49. REVISION DATE(S)

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

If additional space is needed, attach separate sheet(s) to this form.
Building #24: Meyer-Morfeld Milling Company
This c. 1890 building represents two important agricultural and commercial establishments in Bonnots Mill. The first was the Bonnots Mill Elevator, started by Alex Verdot, Theodore Heinen, and John Ruttgers who formed a business partnership in 1889. At some later time, the building housed a co-op for the Missouri Farmers Association where feed was sold. The Meyer-Morfeld Milling Company was begun in 1887. Henry Meyer and Adam Morfeld started business in Westphalia in 1878 and moved to Bonnots Mill in 1887. Fred Meyer (a son) purchased the Morfeld interest in 1898, and Henry Meyer (another son) bought out his father’s interest in 1917. The Meyer-Morfeld Milling Company is still in operation as the Backes Feed Company, and today operates a feed mixing business in this building.

Building #25: Dieckriede Store
This building was constructed c. 1885 as a general store under the proprietorship of Henry Dieckriede. A description from around this time mentions a basement where sugar and salt were stored, and dry goods and groceries were sold on the first floor. In the rear, farmers could purchase harness, shovels, and other items. Shoes and clothing were available on the second floor. The building was later used as the Bon-Ton Dance Hall (perhaps a corruption of "bon temps", French for "good time"), with a stage on the first floor that was used for community theatre. Upstairs contained the local high school, which operated until the 1940s. The building is currently operated as the Eynard Cabinet Shop.

Building #27: Verdot Store
This building was constructed in 1858 for Felix Bonnot, and housed the original railway ticket and express office. It may also have housed the post office about the same time. Around the turn of the century, the building was owned by Alex Verdot and contained the business "Alex Verdot & Co." which dealt in grain, hardware, farm implements, buggies, wagons, tile, brick, fencing and other products. As motorized transport became popular, Alex Verdot was the first to handle gasoline and petroleum products in Bonnots Mill. Later, the building was used for the "Bonnots Mill Chickery," a chicken hatchery run by Alex Verdot’s daughter, Lizzie. This establishment sold baby chicks to the farmers and ranchers of Osage and surrounding counties until the early 1970s. The building now houses M&M Upholstery.

Building #28: Voss Saloon
This building was constructed c. 1890 and operated as the Voss Saloon until 1943, offering rooms to rent upstairs. It then became a restaurant, and at some later period housed a barber shop. The building is still in use and functions now as a residence.

Building #31: Dubrouillet’s Store; Eynard Store
This c. 1875 building is thought to be the oldest store in Bonnots Mill. Between the building’s construction and 1926, it was owned by J.C. Dubrouillet, Henry Sampson, Herman Gove, and Henry Oldtmann, successively. August and Gertrude Eynard purchased the store from Henry Oldtmann in 1926. The store has been in the Eynard family since then, and is currently owned and operated by Mrs. Irene Mertens, the daughter of August and Gertrude Eynard. Located at the foot of the steep hill entering the town on Highway A, the building has survived three runaway truck crashes in 1973, 1978, and 1983.
## Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

### Pemiscot County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fenton Opera House</td>
<td>Caruthersville</td>
<td>yes ___ no ___</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Opera House</td>
<td>Kennett</td>
<td>yes ___ no ___</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kennett Opera House</td>
<td>Kennett</td>
<td>yes ___ no ___</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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</thead>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kennett Opera House</td>
<td>Kennett</td>
<td>yes ___ no ___</td>
</tr>
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If not, does the building(s) where the theatre was located still exist?

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</tr>
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What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? (Please check the specific types of information you have about theatres in your area. Please note any sources you think would be particularly useful for this project.

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

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

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

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

Who is the best person to contact for more information?

Thank you for your assistance.

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203
August 31, 1997

Pemiscot County Historical Society
P.O. Box 604
Caruthersville, MO 63830

Dear Pemiscot County Historical Society Representative:

I am a graduate student in the Environmental Design Department at the University of Missouri - Columbia working on a PhD in Historic Preservation. My dissertation focuses on historic theatres, halls, and opera houses in outstate Missouri. I am attempting to compile a database of information about the theatrical venues which have existed in Missouri. I am particularly interested in the theatres and opera houses which still exist even if they are no longer functioning as a performance space. Eventually, I hope to produce a book about historic theatres in Missouri.

In your area, I am aware of the following theatres and am interested in any additional information about them that you can provide:

Caruthersville  Fenton Opera House
Kennett     Grand Opera House
Kennett Opera House

However, there may be or have been other theatres, halls, or opera houses in your area that I have yet to discover. I would appreciate your help in locating information about the theatres and opera houses in your area. I am enclosing a short questionnaire to help guide you to the type of information I am interested in obtaining.

For your convenience, I have enclosed a self-addressed, stamped envelope for you to return the questionnaire to me. In addition, I am enclosing a small donation to your organization.

If your organization charges a fee for research inquiries, please advise me of the anticipated cost prior to beginning any searches. I can be reached by phone at (573) 443-3241 or you may simply send the information to me in the postage-paid enclosed envelope.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Becky L. Snider
1008 Sunset Drive
Columbia, MO 65203
When I moved to Decatur in 1932, there was a Bijou Theatre that only operated in the fall (when cotton picking money was available). It looked derelict to me then, was in the block that started at the street and the seawall (now on the MS River), at that time the only businesses on the E. side of that St. (it was about a block I think down for you) was a saloon and a grocer store at the corner of 3rd and Washington (the main St). On the W. side of the St. was a couple of old boarding houses -- all these businesses were close to the river traffic (before trains came to Creve Coeur).

I asked at the monthly Hist Soc. if anyone knew anything better than they could remember the Bijou Theatre. Where it was, one member said a girl (name in St. Louis) lived there. He said it was the same as the Fenton Opera House. She couldn't remember anything else.

I looked in a 1911 History of Decatur. There were no theatres or opera houses in it.

There were movie theatres in Maye, Stade, Wardell, sometimes during harvest at Braggadocio. Anywhere all these places are down there or famed.

My husband said: "The Forty Sided Traveling Shows" came thru Braggadocio when he was a boy (he was born in '23). He also a man who lived there traveled around with a Ju-Lish Show first Silent movies then Tally Ho movies. Later he quit the road and built a small theatre in Braggadocio that didn't last very long.
1910 is the earliest edition of Co. newspapers in our archives room. I searched there may there were the actual Townhall about the Fenton. I have been notified by the St. Hotel Doc. I don't at Alumhia. If you want to do earlier research on Fenton
Lecture Course.

We are delighted to inform our readers that the next number on the season's lecture course will be Brush the magician. It will be remembered by most of our readers that Brush appeared here some three or four years ago and everybody that saw him was delighted with his evening's entertainment of mystery, magic, comedy, humor and illusion. He is one of the best magicians on the American platform, and presents tricks in magic that are new and up-to-date. He has no stale tricks. The Fremont (O.) News in commenting on his entertainment says: "One-thousand-dollar reward for anyone that was not more pleased with the Brush entertainment. He is witty, refined and presents no stale tricks. He keeps the audience in a continual uproar of wonderment and laughter."

This attraction is the fourth number on this season's lecture course and is the strongest attraction on the course. The attraction will appear at the opera house, Monday night, February 7th. Those holding season tickets should reserve their seats early, as no doubt there will be a large crowd and the opera house will be filled. Single admission for this attraction will be 35 and 50 cents. You should not fail to see Brush as it is the opportunity of a lifetime to see this great magician and Carthensville can congratulate herself upon having this great magician appear here.

Rare Treat.

Burton Nixon will offer a dramatization of Mary J. Holmes' best novel by Beulah Poynter "Lena Rivers" at the Fenton on February 7. This play has pleased more than a million of people in the last three years, a play that pleases the masses and no saying was more truthful. There is not a situation that is not taken from actual life, and they are not only original, but
Suppression of facts in connection with coal land claims in Alaska.

Acting as attorney for Clarence Cunningham, whose alleged fraudulent claims for Alaska coal lands are now before his department for action.

Favoring the "interests" as against the people.

**Lecture Course.**

We are delighted to inform our readers that the next number on the season's lecture course will be Brush the magician. It will be remembered by most of our readers that Brush appeared here some three or four years ago and everybody that saw him was delighted with his evening's entertainment of mystery, magic comedy, humor and illusion. He is one of the best musicians on the American platform and presents tricks in magic that are new and up-to-date. He has no stale tricks. The Fremont (O.) News in commenting on his entertainment says: ""One-thousand-dollar reward for anyone that was not more pleased with the Brush entertainment. He is witty, refined and presents no stale tricks. He keeps the audience in a continual uproar of wonderment and laughter."

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Rare Treat.
Burton Nixon will offer a dramatization of Mary J. Holmes’ best novel by Beulah Poynter “Lena Rivers” at the Fenton on February 1. This play has pleased more than a million of people in the last three years, a play that pleases the masses and no saying was more truthful. There is not a situation that is not taken from actual life, and they are not only original, but at the same time perfectly true to the subject it purposes to illustrate. No expense has been spared to make it the best attraction you will have in your city this season. The scenery is very striking and elaborate.

A PLAY
The Love Story so dear to Wo
turesque and quaint characters, maxes, Beautiful Scenery and C

A PLAY W
Sensationalism, a Murder, a W
thirsty Villian, a Mortgaged F
Wrecked Auto, a Headache.

Reserved Seats on
Hill Drug Store.

PRICES--25, 35
FENTON THEATER

THREE NIGHTS

...COMMENCING...

Monday, May 2nd

Edward Black

Stock Company

...PRESENTING...

MY DIXIE GIRL

A RURAL BLOCKHEAD

LIFE OF DORA THORNE

SPECIALTIES BETWEEN ACTS

PRICES 10, 20 AND 30 CENTS

SEATS NOW ON SALE AT GILL-HILL DRUG STORE
At the Fenton, Thursday, Feb. 24.

The Buster Brown Amusement Co. presents the Great Laugh-Making Show, R. F. Outcault's New

Buster Brown

With lovable little Master Rice as "Buster," assisted by "Tige," "Mary Jane" and a capable company of 40, including the Buster Brown Poney Ballet. A corking good show. Tinkling and Tuneful. A show for children from 7 to 70. See the big 1910 Feature, "The Billiken Man."

Everything New but the Name. Reserved Seats now selling at Gill-Hill Drug Store.
# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

## Perry County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electric Theatre</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercier Theatre</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phillips' Opera House</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ziegler's Opera House</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Perryville               |     |    |

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

<table>
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<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

| Perryville               |     |    |

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

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| Perryville               |     |    |

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

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

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

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

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

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

Who is the best person to contact for more information?

Thank you for your assistance.

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203
September 14, 1997

Becky L. Snider
1008 Sunset Drive
Columbia, MO 65203

Dear Mx. Snider,

I'm sorry to report that we have little written information concerning theatrical activities in Perry County. However, as indicated on your survey form, all of the buildings you have listed are still here though none of them are used as theatres.

The building that housed Ziegler's Opera House was built in 1879 by A.H. and William Cashion. I believe that John Ziegler bought the building in the 1890's. In Perryville when a new business house was constructed, the second floor was often called a "hall" and used for many different thing such as dances, club meetings, lecture halls and as a theatre for local groups to put on a play. When another building was built, its' second floor was the new hall in town and became the "in" place for these activities. John Ziegler had a saloon on the first floor and that was his primary business. My impression (no proof) is that Ziegler's would rarely been used for a professional theatrical performance. I certainly could be wrong. By the way, when the Cashion's owned the building, one of the families lived in the second story and then it was used as a hall and I think it was sometimes called an Opera House. The building now houses the Southeast Missouri Planning Commission. The upstairs was divided into several rooms many years ago. (Sources: Weekly Perryville Union July 1878 and dates before and after)

The Phillip's Opera House is a different story. It was much larger than Ziegler's, I am enclosing an article I wrote for our quarterly earlier this year and it contains everything I know about it. It lasted from 1897 to 1903 when they rented the building to a new business which used the theatre part as a hall or opera house for a few years but took over the space for business purposes later. That business is the Roziers Mercantile Co. (Sources: Perry County Sun and Perry County Republican)

The first home of the Electric Theatre was (I think) an old small building that certainly was not built for a movie theatre. I'm not sure when the first movie was shown in that building but a new building was built beginning in 1913 and they were in it by 1914. The building is still standing but hasn't been used as a theatre since 1934. It is a fairly small building with the gable end toward the street.

I am sending a copy of a newspaper article that was written at the time when the Mercier Theatre closed. It was built in 1934.
(Sources: Perry County Sun and Perry County Republican September and October 1934)

All of the sources are local newspapers. I don't know of any others. You have them close to you at the State Historical Society in the University Library building. They are all on microfilm.

If you plan to come here, please check with us before you come to be sure that there will be someone to let you in our library. You are very welcome but I don't believe we have a single thing that will help you. If you have any questions either write or call me at 573-547-5259 either before 9 a.m. or after 7 p.m. If you find anything about the theatres here that we don't have, we would be grateful to have that information.

Good luck on your dissertation.

Billie R. Mills
1301 Kathleen Blvd. L-1
Perryville, MO 63775
HISTORIC INVENTORY

1. No. 

2. County 
Perry

3. Location of Negatives 
City of Perryville

4. Present Name(s) 
Mercier Theatre

5. Other Name(s) 

6. Specific Location 
Jackson Street, Courthouse Square

7. City or Town 
Perryville, Missouri

8. Site Plan with North Arrow 

9. Coordinates 

10. Site 1: Building No. 

11. On National Register? 
Yes 11

12. Is Il Eligible? 
Yes 11

13. Part of Estab. Hist. Dist.? 
No 11

14. District Potent? 
No 11

15. Name of Established District 
No District

16. Thematic Category 
Architecture

17. Date(s) or Period 
1930's

18. Style or Design 
Art Deco.

19. Architect or Engineer 

20. Contractor or Builder 

21. Original Use, if apparent 

22. Present Use 
Movie Theatre

23. Ownership 
Public 11
Private IX

24. Owner's Name & Address, if known 

25. Open to Public? 
Yes 11
No 11

26. Local Contact Person or Organization 

27. Other Surveys in Which Included 

28. No. of Stories 
2

29. Basement? 
Under stage only

30. Foundation Material 
Concrete

31. Wall Construction 
Masonry

32. Roof Type & Material 
Flat w/Built-up Roof

33. No. of Bays 
Front 3 Side

34. Wall Treatment 
Common Bond

35. Plan Shape 
Rectangular

36. Changes 
Addition 11
(Explain in #42)

37. Condition 
Interior
Exterior
Good

38. Preservation Underway? 
Yes 11
No 00

39. Endangered? 
By What? 
Yes 11
No 00

40. Visible from Public Road? 
Yes 00
No 11

41. Distance from and Approx 
Frontage on Road 
10'/20'

42. Further Description of Important Features 
Features of interest in this building include the terra cotta pilaster capitals, coping at top of parapet, double soldier course brickwork below coping, herringbone pattern brick work over second story windows, and neon lighting of marquis.

43. History and Significance 
Contributes to historic character of town square.

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings 

45. Sources of Information 

46. Prepared by 
RGW

47. Organization 
Fischer-Stein Assoc.

48. Date 
6/27/79

49. Revision Date(s) 

100TH BIRTHDAY

We are lucky in Perryville. We have at least six buildings on the square that are one hundred years old and all house active businesses today. There are two on the east side of the square, two on the south side, and two on the west side, plus there is the possibility that there are others under modern facades but finding the exact age of small buildings is a long and difficult process. Maybe one of these days we will discover the age of each of the surviving buildings on the square.

This year, 1997, one of our buildings has reached the century mark. It is the front and first building that now contains Rozier’s Department Store. The building is on the northeast corner of St. Marie and Main streets. Unfortunately we don’t have a picture of the original building without any additions and we don’t have any interior pictures showing the upstairs or the opera house. The story of its construction and opening are told by items from the local papers, the Sun and the Republican.

Perry County Sun
February 25, 1897

A $6,000 OPERA HOUSE
To be Built in Perryville

Mr. T.L. Phillips this week let the contract for building a $6,000 opera house on his property on the northeast corner of the public square. The building is to be 40 x 65, with three business rooms below, one of which will be occupied by the Bank of Perryville, and the other two will be for rent for business purposes. The opera house will have a high ceiling and be provided with a fine stage, and good seats. It will be sufficiently large to seat comfortably 400 people. Work will commence on the building in a few days and will be pushed to completion as soon as possible. The structure is to be as near fire-proof as it can be made. Chas. A. Kiefner is the contractor, which is a guarantee that the work on it will be first-class. Hurrah for Perryville and Tom Phillips.

We hear that an amateur dramatic company is being organized among the young people of Perryville. That’s right. We are to have a fine opera house, and why not christen it by an entertainment of home talent? Push it along, young people.

March 5, 1897

The old one-story brick that has been an eye-sore to the northeast corner of the square for many years has been razed to the ground within the past week to make room for the new opera house building being erected by Mr. T.L. Phillips.
March 12, 1897

The sound of the saw and hammer, the piles of pressed brick and the number of men at work on the two buildings being erected on the northeast corner of the square, makes that corner look prosperous (sic) and business like.

April 9, 1897

The brick for the new opera house are all on the ground and work on the walls will soon be commenced.

May 7, 1897

The spirit of improvement has struck the northeast corner of the square hard. Mr. Louis Doerr is having his store house repainted, and renovated, and Mrs. Blechle has had her building treated likewise. And Billy Blechle, to keep pace with the van has put in one of the finest refrigerators in the town and his bar remodeled until you would hardly know the place. Will is a hustler.

May 14, 1897

The brick layers commenced work on the opera house Tuesday morning.

June 18, 1897

Boland & Sons who have the contract for doing the brick work on the Seminary annex are pushing that work right along this week. They also have the brick work on the opera house, but that is about completed. They are hustlers and all good workmen.

August 27, 1897

The work on the opera house is now completed except hanging the scenery which will be done next week.

September 10, 1897

THE NEW OPERA HOUSE

Last Saturday, by the Courtesy of C.E. Kiefner and T.L. Phillips, we were shown through the interior of the new opera house, which is now complete and ready for use. The stage scenery is in position, seats arranged etc. Three hundred and eighty chairs are now in the room, seventy of which are regular folding opera chairs. All are so arranged that they can be removed and the hall cleared for a dance or festival purposes. This latter arrangement will be found very useful in a place the size of Perryville. The scenery
is perfect in arrangement and of a high order of art. Taking it all in all, we believe that our town now has one of the neatest and most convenient opera houses in Southeast Missouri. It is not necessary, for us to say more of the interior, as our friends will soon have the opportunity of inspecting it for themselves. Mr. Phillips will open it to the public next Thursday night with a grand ball, and on the 21st the Colson Dramatic Co. will formerly (formally?) open it as an opera house. The reputation of Mr. Colson is sufficient of itself to draw an immense attendance. The room is well ventilated, and will seat comfortably 600 people, so no one need stay away for fear of being crowded. Mr. Phillips has shown good judgment, we think, in securing so popular a company as Mr. Colson's.

As to the building itself, it is one of the best in town and adds greatly to the appearance of the northeast corner of the square. The bank will occupy the first room on the corner, and there are two large commodious store rooms on the first floor, with cellar under the entire building. Charley Kiefner was the contractor, and it goes without saying that everything is first-class. The brick walk was laid by Boland & Sons of St. Louis, and other work by our local mechanics. Dick Singleton bossed the painting and put the finishing touches to the opera room. Such a building has long been needed in Perryville and Mr. Phillips for his enterprise should receive a liberal patronage.

September 10, 1897

T.L. Phillips received a fine new upright piano Monday for use in the opera house. Felix DeLassus also received one the same day.

September 24, 1897

A SOCIETY EVENT

The opening ball at Phillip's new opera house last Thursday night was an event that will long be remembered by the people of Perryville. One could not imagine a more enjoyable time. A large and beautiful hall with the finest floor feet ever rested on in Perryville, and music by the finest orchestra in Southeast Missouri - namely the Perryville Orchestra - all contributed to make the ball the finest and most enjoyable that has ever taken place in our city.

At 9 o'clock p.m. the beautiful stage curtain was raised just as the orchestra began the opening grand march, which drifted off into a waltz, and the whirling mass of humanity and and fine costumes that followed was a sight for the gods. Even the old married people could not resist the temptation, and old citizens that are supposed to be limping around with the "rheematics" were out on the floor shaking their feet like professional clog dancers. Mr. Phillips, the proprietor of the hall, and his wife took an active part in the dance.
Waltzes, schottisches, polkas and Quadrilles were kept up incessantly until 2 a.m. when a number of the participants, though not tired, remembered that there was a morrow and henceforth hied themselves to their homes. This seemed to be the signal for a general departure and in a few moments the hall was empty. However, the crowd did not leave until they had sang several old familiar songs that were joined in by every one in the hall and were accompanied by Mrs. Phillips on the new, elegant and sweet-toned piano.

All who attended the dance feel very grateful to Mr. Phillips's for his hospitality and will long remember the event as one of the most enjoyable occasions of their life.

The opening night of the Colson Dramatic Co., at Phillips Opera House was quite a success, and the house was well filled. The four-act comedy drama Uncle Dan'l was put on for the opening and elicited considerable applause from the audience. Song and dance specialties were introduced by Messrs Richards and Lawrence, and they are both good in their line. Miss Ada Roberts also entertained the audience by the rendition of fine vocal solos. She has a very sweet and flute-like voice. Mr. Colson appeared in the character of Uncle Dan'l and he still possesses the ability to make the audience laugh at his will. Mrs. Colson is as good as ever, and in the character of Clip commanded considerable attention.

September 8, 1897

The Bank of Perryville was moved from its old stand to the opera house building last week. The moving of the safe was quite an undertaking and occupied the greater part of a whole day. The new bank building is a thing of beauty and must be seen to be appreciated.

Perry County Republican

February 18, 1898

Leopold Grabowski who formerly conducted a clothing store in our city has rented a store room from Thom. L Phillips in the Opera House Block and will shortly open for business.

April 28, 1898

Thom. Phillips has had an awning of corrugated iron placed on the Opera House.
May 26, 1898

Chas. Ehrengart & Co. the big cash buyers will move June 1st to Opera House Block. Cash for everything. T.E. Brown, Mgr.

With this move the Opera House was full, at least for a while. Although Thomas L. Phillips has been part of the Bank of Perryville since its' beginning, the Opera House part of the building seems to be the way people of that time identified it. Phillips built another building in the middle of the north side of the square for the bank and it moved there in 1903 and stayed until the early 1970's. Also in 1903, Litsch & Killian and John Kiefner occupied the downstairs part of the Opera House while their building on the north side of the square was being remodeled to become the first Union Store. In August 1903, a new store that was to become an institution in Perryville, the Roziers Mercantile Co., moved in and stayed.

This building is the second one built by Thomas L. Phillips to survive. On the southwest corner of St. Marie and Jackson street, the building occupied by K & L Sports Locker and Zahner & Associates, Inc. was built in 1885. In a way, the north side of the square is bracketed by the work of Thomas L. Phillips.

CROSSTOWN HELP!

If you have already purchased the Menfro book and have enjoyed reading it, maybe you can help with my next project. Do you have anything pertaining to Crosstown, Mo., or surrounding areas such as Red Rock Landing? Photographs, letters, advertisements, church, weddings, funerals, school, home, stores, picnics, family pictures or stories! will all be helpful. I am very interested in talking with you. All photographs will be copied by me in your presence. Please write Trish Moldenhauer Erzfeld, #6 Lakeside Drive, Perryville, MO 63775 or call 573-547-1906. I am also researching Point Rest, MO.
THEATRE CLOSES

Mike Brewer, manager of Mercier Theatre for the past 2½ years, stands outside the facility that has served the community well for 52 years. The closing of the theatre is the end of an era in Perryville. Modern day lifestyles have contributed to the closing, operators say. The last showing will be tonight, Sept. 11.

Staff photo by Betty Valle Geiger
It is time for the last picture show in Perryville.

Mercier Theater, operated by Kerasotes Theaters, a large midwestern chain since 1975, will close its doors after tonight's showing of "One Crazy Night" and "Flight of the Navigator."

The Mercier has been a fixture in the local community since its inception in 1934. The local silver screen has rarely been dark. But times have changed too much for the industry to operate in this small town, said company officials. Mike Brewer, who has managed the Mercier for the past 21/2 years, will be moving to Dexter to manage the theater there, which is also owned by Kerasotes. Mike said he was "somewhat surprised" last week to receive the call notifying him that the local theater was closing.

"But a smaller town, it's just hard to compete," Brewer said. "Movie going is just not a big thing in Perryville."

Brewer said the trend toward videotape movie rentals for home viewing has been a big factor in the demise of the local theater, however, he feels the theater still has a place in the culture of this area.

"Homes have kitchens, but people still like to eat out," he said.

John Miller, advertising director for Kerasotes, said the company tried for some time to keep the theater open.

"It's just not been doing very well," he said. "We have tried a number of marketing strategies and tried to get people to go to the show, but it's just not working out. We worked at it for a long time."

Miller noted how the price of movie-going has been reduced to 99 cents in hope of attracting crowds.

"But the size of the community has a lot to do with it," Miller said. "Communities of Perryville's size just have a hard time supporting a theater. I'm real sorry to see it close, but you just can't hang on forever."

The demise of the local theater signals the end of an era that has been fully experienced by one local man, Kelly Fulton of 712 West North. Kelly was born in Patton some 74 years ago and his family moved to Perryville in 1925 when he was 13.

The young lad took a job working for the late A.C. Mercier at the old "Electric Theatre" located in the present Willowgreen Studio building on the south side of the square.

Fulton ran the projector part time and was a janitor and cashier part time. In those days still movies were the rule, giving him the added job of running the player piano.

Stage shows were popular in those days as well.

"One time we had a cowboy music show — cowboys from the 101 Ranch in Texas. And we were on the Lyceum circuit. Every few months they would put on a stage show, a play, and we would have reserved seats. We would have to chalk-mark all the rows of seats."

The movies drew big crowds in early days, despite the condition of the theater. There was no air conditioning, only some electric fans on the side walls. For heating, there was a couple of coal furnaces, one under the stage and another under the auditorium.

But Mercier provided the remedy for the crude situation in 1934 when he built the Mercier Theater now standing. Fulton recalls the move was made after the show one night without interrupting a single night's showing.

"I worked all night with some boys helping me and we had it setup the middle of the afternoon the next day. It was ready for the big opening."

Fulton recalls the new building was very ornate.

"It was the nicest theater between St. Louis and Memphis. Our screen was on the back of the stage. We had velour drapes, velour opening and closing curtains and colored lights. We had big beams across the ceiling and big chandeliers with colored lights in them. At Christmas time, I would change all the bulbs to red and green. It was really an ornate place."

Fulton continued operating the theater for the Merciers, A.C. and son Val, taking a leave only to serve in World War II. Since that time, the Mercier has been remodeled several times, so much that its original design is no longer evident.

The first change was bringing the ticket box inside, then the wide-scren was added. The chandeliers had to be taken down because the projector lights would hit them.

The next remodelling included lowering the ceiling to provide better acoustics.

In 1975 Mercier sold both the indoor theater and the Hilltop Drive-In to Kerasotes. He had purchased the Hilltop shortly after it was built in the 40s by the Donze brothers.

Kerasotes converted the Mercier into a twin theater in 1982 and again extensively remodeled the interior. Since then two spbwfs have been offered nightly at the local theater.

But more didn't necessarily mean better.

Attendance fell off as videocassette recorders became popular and the home videotape market boomed. Today some movies are available on cassette less than a year after their run in the theaters. With fewer films and more studios striving for the "blockbusters" small town theater often have the more popular film months after they have opened in metropolitan areas.

In essence the viewing habit changed.

ont. from Front Page)
This hotel has about 91 rooms. It has decorative cornicopia design at the top. It is the tallest building in Sedalia. It was completed in June of 1927 and the cost was about $410,000.

In 1876 W.H. Dakin had the Palace Drug Store at this location. The first building that was here was changed from a two story to a three story between 1883 and 1888. It housed various businesses all through the years including the Iris Theater and the Palace Theater. It went by various building names being known as the Ferguson Building in 1906 and it was known as the Inman Building by 1920. The current building was completed in 1927. A good description of Mr. Bothwell's business transaction is given in the book "The First One Hundred Years, 1860-1960."

A parking lot is located to the rear (east) of the building. The courthouse square is located across the street to the south of this building.

**Sources of Information**
- Sedalia Sanborn Maps
- Sedalia City Directories
- Giokaris, James D., The Theaters of Sedalia
- The First One Hundred Years
Bothwell Hotel
Show-Me RPC
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. 274</th>
<th>PETTIS</th>
<th>Fox Theater</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COUNTY</td>
<td>Show-Me RPC</td>
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**LOCATION OF NEGATIVES**

- **TOWNSHIP**
- **RANGE**
- **SECTION**
- **CITY OR TOWN**
- **STREET ADDRESS** 104-106 E. Fifth
- **VICINITY**

**DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION**

Smith & Martin, 1st addition
Lot 2
Block 22

**COORDINATES**

- **LAT**
- **LONG**

**SITE**

- **STRUCTURE**
- **BUILDING**
- **OBJECT**

**ON NATIONAL REGISTER?**

- **YES**
- **NO**

**IS IT PART OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT?**

- **YES**
- **NO**

**NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT**

- **HIST. DISTRICT**
- **POTENTIAL**
- **LOCAL**

**LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION**

- **SHOW-ME RPC**

**OTHER SURVEYS IN WHICH INCLUDED**

- **None**

**FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES**

This has an aluminum front covering most of the north facade. Typical central entranceway with side advertisements is on this building.

**HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE**

The Fox Theater which is here opened in September of 1940. It seated over 900 when it opened and it cost $75,000 to build it. It has a balcony area. Before the theater was here this was the site of J.N. Dabby's Grocery in 1888 and it was a three story building. After this it was a furniture store for many years. The third story was sometimes used as a dance hall.

**DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS**

One story buildings are east of this building. This building is on the south side of E. Fifth St.

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

- Sedalia Sanborn Maps
- Sedalia City Directories

**PREPARED BY**

- Tom Christopher

**ORGANIZATION**

- Show-Me RPC
This old theater building has a unique architectural style. Pedimented windows on the second story are on each end of the north facade. These windows also have simulated balconies. Five arched windows with pilasters between them extend across the front of the second story. Decorative discs are above each of these windows. The building is for sale and would make a good office building.

The New Lona Theater was located here in 1920. Before this it had been a livery stable for many years being run by many different owners. It was called the Fifth St. Stables for many years. It seated 1000 and it was entered through a beautifully decorated lobby that was entered through the Hoffman Building on Ohio St. They showed silent films but later it became the Liberty Theater and the first "talkie" was shown here in 1928.

A vacant lot is west of this building and a two story building is to the east.

45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION
Sedalia Sanborn Maps
Sedalia City Directories
This is an art deco type theater and a good example with a central booth. It has been stuccoed over on a large part but some decoration appears near the top. The jewelry store occupies the northern third and a CPA occupies the southern third.

In 1876 J.M. Kulmer Boots and Shoes was here. In 1879 The Boston 99¢ Store was at this location, and after this a very large variety of businesses moved in and out of the building. By 1908 The Electric Theater was here being operated by John Hicks by 1911. The Uptown Theater was opened in the summer of 1936 and was Sedalia’s first air conditioned theater. It cost $50,000 to construct and had 800 seats and a balcony. It had a RCA Victor sound system.

This building is on the east side of the street.
MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

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<th>NO.</th>
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<td>COUNTY</td>
<td>Pettis</td>
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<tr>
<td>LOCATION OF</td>
<td>Show-Me Regional Planning Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEIGHBORS</td>
<td>Old LaMonte City Hall; Higgins’ Horse Barn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION</td>
<td>Township 46N, Range 23W, Section 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS</td>
<td>West Pine Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CITY OR TOWN</td>
<td>LaMonte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION</td>
<td>Part of NE$	ext{a}$ of NE$	ext{a}$ of Section 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(West end of Pine Street south of an imaginary extension of Oak Street)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES
The pilastered main facade of this false-fronted building is dominated by an ornamental metal-trimmed pediment above the segmentally arched entrance. The three main facade arches contain keystones. The entrance originally included a fanlight. Behind the false front, the roof is gabled. The building has been converted into a stable and shows considerable deterioration. On the north side are eight tall, arched windows with lugsills.

43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE
Built in ca. 1914, this interesting building served as the LaMonte City Hall and, during construction of the LaMonte high school, provided classroom space (in ca. 1919). With its Greek Revival front, this is a rather unique building in Pettis County. Originally, it contained a stage and was the site of movies, plays, and high school graduations until its conversion into a stable for show horses in the 1930s. It also has been used as a roller skating rink. After the building was sold by the city, it was used by Scott and Jim Higgins who raised and trained show horses, as a stable. A rear addition (constructed later than the main building) has been used as a workshop. We recommend that it be considered an architecturally significant building.

44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS
This building faces downtown LaMonte from what would be the center of Pine Street, except that the street jobs around it.

45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION
Pettis County Plat Book (1916); site visit; Terry and Toots Files.

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

46. PREPARED BY
R. Maserang

47. ORGANIZATION
Show-Me RPC

48. DATE
10/87

49. REVISION DATE(S)
J.T. Ghosen, owner of the Star Theater located in the 100 block of West Second Street, is shown in front of his establishment in 1928. The Uptown Theater on Ohio Avenue was opened by Ghosen about this time.
About the Author

HAZEL N. Lang was born in Sedalia, the daughter of Wallace J. and Ora Neff Lang. She attended the old Summit School, the site of the present Washington School, for her elementary school education, and was graduated from the old Sedalia High School in 1922.

In 1925, Miss Lang joined the staff of The Sedalia Democrat and Capital as a proofreader for the news department. Along with her proofreading she wrote items for the paper as her time permitted, and when World War II took part of the news staff into military service, she became a fulltime reporter under Miss Rosemary Burrowes, news editor.

Her beat included the Missouri Pacific Railroad station, the downtown stores, the Chamber of Commerce, meetings of all kinds, and sometimes she would pinch hit for the reporter regularly assigned to the courthouse and police station. In addition she wrote feature stories, a column of humorous happenings in the community, which was called "Pickups," and wrote a poem for the Sunday edition, and other editions during the week, when she was requested to do so.

In reminiscing about her work, she said, "I always seemed to write poetry and one or two were printed while I was still in school, at Rosemary's request. When Carl McIntire became news editor, he asked me to write one for every Sunday edition. He also started me on the Pickups column, and he was the first news editor to give bylines."

W. D. "Buck" Agee was the first news editor Miss Lang worked under, then followed Miss Burrowes, McIntire, Pete Potter and W. D. "Lucky" Hill, in the Democrat building on West Fourth Street.

In 1968 she began her series of historical accounts of towns and communities in Central Missouri. Her first selection was the Glenstead community in Morgan County. It was so well received that she was assigned to secure one a week by Kelly Scruton, night news editor of The Capital, with whom she worked after the company's operation was moved to its present plant at 700 South Massachusetts. She continued the series until her retirement in May, 1970.

In connection with her assignment to the night news staff in 1967, she states, "It never made any difference to me which part of the day I was supposed to be working. I covered anything at anytime when anybody asked me to. I didn't have a car and people would pick me up and take me to meetings and deliver me back home, or the plant afterwards."
Mexican students to Central Business College and from that time on there were many from the Country of Mexico came to Sedalia to attend C. B. C., mostly from well to do families then went back to their country where they held responsible positions.

After the death of Prof. Robbins the business college continued in the building and later, when the old high school building across the street from the college was discontinued as a school, C. B. C. was moved into that building. Atwell Bohling was head of the college and when he died, Mrs. Bohling operated C. B. C. until she sold the building sometime in the 1960s.

The Queen City Telephone Company

The Queen City Telephone Company was one of the first in the state and people for miles around came to see it. Very few people had telephones and long distance lines all over the state was really something.

Later, there was the Home Telephone Company, and then the Bell Telephone Company with both telephone companies here at the same time. Later they were consolidated as the Bell Telephone Company. This telephone company was located on the east side of Ohio between Third and Fourth, upstairs, before it went into the building on southeast corner of Third and Lamine, which was at that time the Elk's Club building, Elsie Neighbors, now Mrs. Fred Anderson, who was an operator in the building on Ohio completed the first call in the new building. The Bell Telephone Company now occupies its own building on the southwest corner of Fifth and Massachusetts.

The Elk's Club built a new building on the southwest corner of Fourth and Kentucky, and the building on Third and Lamine is now the Moose Club building. On the third floor of this building the Moose Club has clothing which it gives to people in need, authorized by the welfare office. Among the places that the Moose Club gets clothes is through some of the local stores who sometimes give garments they cannot sell.

One day several years ago an old lady was taken up to the third floor by a member of the Moose and tried on a winter coat which fit her perfectly. It was a new coat and the woman began to cry. "This," she said, "is the first new coat I ever had in my life."

The Opera House and Hotels

When Woods opera house was built in 1887 by Dr. H. W. Wood, it was one of the handsomest modern ground-floor theatres west of St. Louis and in the course of time its fame was far-reaching. There was no city the size of Sedalia in the West that had a ground floor opera house.

The three story Woods Opera House, Second and Lamine, built in 1887, was one of the largest in the the west. The large stage accommodated the showing of Ben Hur with horses and chariots.

They were all built on the second floor of business blocks so that revenue could be derived from renting the stores beneath.

The large, three story brick building was built on the Northwest corner of Second and Lamine, with the entrance on Lamine Street. There was an artistic cupola over the entrance.

It was felt that Wood's opera house was too large and too expensively equipped for a city the size of Sedalia. Being between St. Louis and Kansas City, large companies that played in the big cities stopped off here and outstanding theatrical productions were presented. Many famous people or those who became famous later were in the casts that came here.

In 1900 a sum of nearly $5,000 was spent in remodeling the building, making important improvements and additions, until it ranked with the best in the country.

With the coming of the Missouri Pacific Shops Dr. Wood felt the population of the town would increase to 25 or 30 thousand people, and he had the exterior painted. The interior was beautifully decorated, lobby walls and steel ceiling were redecorated in finest frescoing, and the theatre auditorium was furnished with new chairs. The latest design in drop curtain and scenery were painted and the proscenium arch and space between the girders on the stage widened to make
ample room for the scenery carried by the companies that played Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City and St. Joseph.

This stage was so big that the production of Ben Hur was presented complete with horses in the chariot race.

There were 16 new dressing rooms placed under the stage, elegantly furnished in every respect, with steam heat, hot and cold water. This made a total of 24 dressing rooms enough to accommodate a company of 100 people.

The concert hall on the third floor of the opera house building, built for a Masonic Temple, was one of the largest in Central Missouri. It was also one of the best lighted and ventilated halls, with steam heat, hot and cold water, and anterooms, steel ceilings and frescoed walls.

Directly across the street East from Wood’s opera house, was the Kaiser Hotel which had 20 rooms and a large restaurant.

Joseph Huckins came to Sedalia, purchased the hotel, added a fourth story, removed the part of the cornice that read “Kaiser Hotel” and replaced it with a large rounding piece that said: “Hotel Huckins.”

This, too, was a daring venture, but Huckins, who owned the Huckins House in Texarkana, Arkansas and the Hotel Caddo, Shreveport, Louisiana, proposed, right from the first, to run a first class hotel. His hotel was known far and wide as a desirable place to stop for a day, a month or a year. He was a hotel man of long experience and thoroughly acquainted with all details of the business. He was assisted here by his son Paul, who had grown up in the business. The hotel had 75 rooms, a marble floored ballroom on the second floor, an elegant dining area, with table service unexcelled, on the first floor.

The building had an elevator, steam heat, fire escape; the rooms were beautifully furnished, and 15 had private baths which was quite a feature at the turn of the century.

In the early 1900s, after the New Sedalia Theatre was built, and moving pictures started, with little theatres springing up over town, the Wood’s opera house closed.

The Huckins Hotel was then sold to Harve Terry who operated it for many years. The business was good and Terry, who renamed it the Terry Hotel, bought the old opera house building and called it the Terry Annex. An enclosed hallway went across Lamine street from the second story of the hotel to the other building connecting the two.

The large dining room in the Terry Hotel, which had been redecorated, was a place where many banquets and events of various kinds were held with dances in the ballroom.

When the depression years came the Terry Hotel was sold to the Milner chain and became a cheap place to stay for those who needed it.

The Terry Annex became the Terry Hotel and the connecting hall was taken down. Charles Keck, who had worked in a bank in Sedalia where he had grown up, became a desk clerk. The Terrys died but the Terry daughter still owned the building. Her husband came back and opened an attractive lounge in the East part of the first floor.

The once handsome hotel building across the street became empty and deteriorated to such an extent it was finally torn down.

The Terry Annex, which was then the Terry Hotel, had many permanent residents as well as those who were transients. Then, on May 10, 1967, a fire destroyed the building and one young man, who was just stopping there lost his life. Most of the residents escaped with their lives but lost practically everything they possessed.

On the southwest corner of Main and Lamine, across the alley from the Wood’s opera house was a two story brick hotel built in 1870 by George R. Smith for his daughters, Martha and Sarah, but they sold it to the Missouri Pacific Railroad and it became the Jay Gould Hotel, named for the president of the railroad. An additional story was added to it in 1881. It had a spacious dining room and in 1906 A. L. Devereant was manager.

Realizing the hotel was to be sold Judge Louis Hoffman let George Buske know and he came to Sedalia and bought it. He was the grandfather of Mrs. T. H. Yount. Buske changed the name of it to The Commercial Hotel and it was a popular place. Being right next to the opera house many of the theatrical people stayed there. Fred Buske, the son, assisted his father in running the hotel.

Carl Lueking, a tobacco salesman, went into the hotel one day and saw a group of four unusually pretty girls, one a little older than the others, sitting at a table. He inquired about them and found out the one a little older was the mother of the other three, she was Barbara
16 September 1997

Becky L. Snider
1008 Sunset Drive
Columbia, MO 65203

Dear Ms. Snider:

I am answering your letter addressed to the Phelps County Historical Society regarding historic theaters and opera houses in Missouri.

We know of most of the theaters you mention, but I am sorry to report that we have nothing on file regarding them. Probably your only avenue for research will be the Phelps County newspapers at the State Historical Society of Missouri in Columbia.

Of those you listed in your letter, only the Opera House in Newburg still stands. It is still used for summer productions. I will try to get a copy of your letter to the folks who stage the productions there.

Hardy’s theater I am not familiar with, but another theater, not on your list, was Shaw’s Opera House in the Grant building on the northwest corner of Eighth and Pine Streets in Rolla. It was located on the third floor of the Grant Hotel, operated by Hiram Shaw and his family. The building no longer stands.

Sorry not to be of more assistance. I am returning your donation to the Society, but we appreciate the thought.

Good luck with your research.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John F. Bradbury, Jr.
Senior Manuscript Specialist
Rolla

(Treasurer, Phelps County Historical Society)
**Office of Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101**

**HISTORIC INVENTORY**

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<th>Specific Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>City of Town</td>
<td><strong>Newburg, Missouri</strong></td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Site Plan with North Arrow</td>
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<th>Coordinates UTM</th>
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<th>Yes X</th>
<th>No X</th>
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<td>Yes X</td>
<td>No X</td>
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<td>Part of Estab Dist?</td>
<td>Yes X</td>
<td>No X</td>
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<td>Yes X</td>
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<td>19</td>
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<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Ownership</td>
<td><strong>Public</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Owner's Name &amp; Address, if known</td>
<td><strong>J.J. Turley</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Open to Public?</td>
<td>Yes X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Local Contact Person or Organization</td>
<td><strong>J.J. Turley</strong></td>
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<table>
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<th>28</th>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Basement?</td>
<td>Yes X</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Foundation Material</td>
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<td>31</td>
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<td>Roof Type &amp; Material</td>
<td><strong>Built up asphalt</strong></td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>No. of Bays</td>
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<td>34</td>
<td>Wall Treatment</td>
<td><strong>Brick; plaster</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Plan Shape</td>
<td><strong>Rectangle</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Changes Addition</td>
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<td><strong>Altered</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Moved</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Condition</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Exterior Fair</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Preservation Underway?</td>
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<td>39</td>
<td>Endangered?</td>
<td>Yes X</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>By What?</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Visible from Public Road?</td>
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<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Distance from and Frontage on Road</td>
<td>10 feet front street</td>
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**42. Further Description of Important Features**

The doorway is surmounted by a semi-circular archway. The window openings, set slightly back from the doorway, are also decorated by slightly rounded segmental arches. The building is about 35 feet wide by about 60 feet long. The facade is stepped three times to the center.

**43. History and Significance**

Built from the bricks salvaged from the first railroad round house at Newburg, (when a new round house was built). The theater was purchased during the Great Depression by Helen Houston and several other Newburg businessmen, who hired a projectionist and operated it six years as a theater. The bicentennial book of Newburg (continued on next page....)

**44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings**

This building is located on Front street facing the railroad tracks. Built from bricks salvaged from the first roundhouse at Newburg, it is next to the two-story Newburg Hotel, now being remodeled into apartments.

**45. Sources of Information**

*Hello From Newburg*, by Mary Alice Beemer (a Bicentennial book describing Newburg and its history).

Sharon Bergloff, local property owner.

**46. Prepared by**

Bob Bowman

**47. Organization**

MRBC

**48. Date**

5/18

**49. Revision Date(s)**
43. (continued from previous page)

has a curious statement about the next phase of the building's existence:
"With the start of the building at Fort Wood (about 1942),
they (the businessmen who owned it) thought it would be
a nice gesture to give it to the City as a fund-raising
enterprise for the town. The Mayor and Council promptly
sold it to Everett Affolter who uses it for lumber storage."
That was written in 1976. The current owners of the building are B.B. and
J.J. Turley. It has been partially restored to its original use, as stage
plays put on by local talent are performed in the building.
NEWBURG OPERA HOUSE

Front Street

Newburg, Mo.
Missouri Office of Historic Preservation / Inventory Survey Form

1. Name: St. James Leader Journal
   Historic: Dellacella Opera House

2. Location
   Street & Number: 125 West Springfield Street
   City, Town: St. James
   State: Missouri

3. Classification
   Category: district
   Ownership: public
   Status: occupied
   Present Use: commercial
   Vicinity: Phelps
   Present Use: N/A

4. Owner of Property
   Name: Robert D. Snair
   Street & Number: 
   City, Town: St. James
   Vicinity of: State: Missouri

5. Location of Legal Description
   Assessor's Office
   Phelps County Courthouse
   Rolla, Missouri 65401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys
   Title: (None)
   Determined Eligible: Yes
   No
   Federal
   State
   County
   Local

7. Description
   Condition: excellent
   Check One: deteriorated
   Altered
   Moved
   Date: November, 1985

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance:

The Dellacella Opera House is constructed in the Renaissance Revival style of architecture. The building has a stone foundation and shed roof. The front of the building has two centered entries with large plate glass windows on each side of these doors. Transom lights are over both of these windows and also the entries.

A front side entry (southwest side) leads to the second floor. It also has a transom. Most of the other windows have one over one lights and are framed with brick segmental relieving arches. A large brick cornice crowns the front facade. The art glass of the second floor windows has been removed but fragments of the glass have been preserved. A one story porch and balcony once fronted the building. The original turned porch post have now been replaced with square post and the balcony is now a second level screwed porch. With the exception of this screwed porch and the removed art glass windows and porch posts, the building looks very much as it did when first completed.
8. SIGNIFICANCE - Phelps County Survey - Dellacella Opera House

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERIOD</th>
<th>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE - CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW</th>
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<tr>
<td>prehistoric</td>
<td>archaeology - prehistoric</td>
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<tr>
<td>1400-1499</td>
<td>archaeology - historic</td>
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<tr>
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<td>agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>1600-1699</td>
<td>architecture</td>
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<td>art</td>
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<tr>
<td>1800-1899</td>
<td>commerce</td>
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<tr>
<td>X 1900-</td>
<td>communications</td>
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</table>

SPECIFIC DATES 1906

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (IN ONE PARAGRAPH)

Architecture: Oldest opera house building (still standing) in St. James, Mo.

(See attached history).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

| St. James Journal, December 7, 1923 |
| St. James Journal, April 13, 1906 |
| St. James Journal, May 11, 1906 |
| St. James Journal, September 28, 1906 |

St. James Journal, January 22, 1897
St. James Journal, March 3, 1905
St. James Journal, August 17, 1906
St. James Journal, October 5, 1906

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY Approx. 6,000 sq. ft. QUADRANGLE NAME Maramec Spring SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>1 5</td>
<td>1 5</td>
</tr>
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<td>6 1 0</td>
<td>2 0 6</td>
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<td>1 0</td>
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ZONE EASTING NORTING

<table>
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<tr>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 5</td>
<td>1 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 5 1 0</td>
<td>1 0 1 0</td>
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ZONE EASTING NORTING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

The Dellacella Opera House is located at 125 West Springfield Street, St. James at the above referenced UTM coordinates. This location recognizes the commercial building and the parameters of the ground on which it rests.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Earl Strebeck - Field Researcher

ORGANIZATION Meramec Regional Planning Commission

ADDRESS 101 West Tenth Street, Rolla, Missouri 65401

DATE November, 1985
Stephen A. Dellacella was born in Italy, October 4, 1847, and came to America before the Civil War. During that war, he served in Co. E, 14th Ill. Inf. An active worker in the Grand Army of the Republic organization, he was one of a body of delegates whose untiring efforts located the Federal Soldiers Home (now Missouri Veterans Home) at St. James.

In January of 1897 he traded his lease of the New Everitt House in St. Louis to E.M. Pinto for eighty acres of land northwest of the Soldiers Home in St. James and moved to St. James the same year.

In St. James he was a farmer, businessman and politician. Captain Dellacella as he was called, ran for Mayor of St. James about ten times; being elected to that office once in 1906. In 1905 he bought lot 10 of block 7 on West Springfield Street and announced that he would build a two story brick building and that the lower floor would be a restaurant and the second floor an opera house. The building was constructed in 1906 and was opened to the public in October of that year. The interior wall paper was designed especially for the building at a firm in St. Louis. The exterior sported art glass windows in the upper sashes of the front (south side) on the second level. The St. James Journal described the new building, "a thing of beauty and a joy forever".
PHELPS COUNTY SURVEY
REPORT NO. 6

DELLACELLA OPERA HOUSE

125 West Springfield Street
St. James, Mo.
DELLACELLA OPERA HOUSE
St. James, Mo.

(Phelps County Survey)

U. S. G. S. 7.5 Minute Topographic Map
Maramec Spring Quadrangle
Scale: 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES
Zone: 15
Easting: 621550
Northing: 4206100
Office of Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
HISTORIC INVENTORY
SW-AS-036-066

<table>
<thead>
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<th>No</th>
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<td>URDC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Specific Location</td>
<td>320 Georgia Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City or Town</td>
<td>Louisiana, MO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Situ Plan</td>
<td>GEORGIA</td>
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**Clark Theatre**

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<td>18 Style or Design</td>
<td>Art Deco</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 Architect or Engineer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Contractor or Builder</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 Original Use, if apparent</td>
<td>Music Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 Present Use</td>
<td>Movie Theatre</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 Ownership</td>
<td>Public x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Owner's Name &amp; Address, if known</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Open to Public?</td>
<td>Yes x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Local Contact Person or Organization</td>
<td>Pike Co. Historical Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 Other Surveys in Which Included</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Park's Music Hall**

| 28 No of Stories | 2 |
| 29 Basement? | Yes X |
| 30 Foundation Material | Masonry/Stone |
| 31 Wall Construction | Masonry |
| 32 Roof Type & Material | Gable/Asphalt Shing |
| 33 No of Bays | 6 |
| 34 Wall Treatment | Brick |
| 35 Plan Shape | Rectangle |
| 36 Changes | Addition |
| 37 Condition | Interior Fair |
| 38 Preservation Underway? | No X |
| 39 Endangered? | Yes X |
| 40 Visible from Public Road? | Yes X |
| 41 Distance from and Frontage on Road | 8' 1/42' |

**Further Description of Important Features**

Facade was completely remodelled in 1930 in a psuedo-art deco motif.

**History and Significance**

Moderate contribution to street wall through its mass and height and corner location.

**Description of Environment and Outbuildings**

Central Business District commercial area.

**Sources of Information**

1885 Sanborn Insurance Map
Pike County Historical Society

**Prepared by**
KLI/LC
URDC/PCHS

**Date**
5/79
320 Georgia: Two story brick movie theater in Art Deco style with the original neo-marquee and two-toned carrara glass sheathing at the first story. The wall rises to a patterned parapet with case concrete coping. The building is actually much older constructed as a music store and opera house between 1890 and 1895. The Art Deco facade dates to ca. 1935.

400-402 Georgia: One-story brick Italianate style commercial building built ca. 1890 as two storefronts with a wooden projecting cornice and brick pillars supported the iron beams over the storefronts. The simple storefronts are essentially intact.

406 Georgia: Two-story brick commercial building built ca. 1880 as a dwelling and cobbler shop. The entire facade was remodeled ca. 1900 with concrete lintels added over the voids.

408 Georgia: Two-story brick Italianate style commercial building constructed ca. 1880 as a 2nd class hotel and saloon. Brick corbeled cornice. Pressed metal string course over iron support beam on brick pillars. The first story has had only slight alterations.

414 Georgia: Two-story brick Italianate style building constructed ca. 1880 and used as city hall in the decade of the 1880s, used later as a buggy manufactory. The original pressed metal cornice is missing below which is a dentiled and corbeled brick pattern above the five-bay window openings of the second story with segmental shaped brick arches. The first story storefront has been extensively altered.

418-422 Georgia: Two-story brick commercial buildings in a Spanish Mission Revival style built ca. 1935 reusing part of the brick walls of an earlier building gutted by fire in 1930. The facade rises to a pedestaled parapet with an ogee-shaped center section with scrolled cast concrete coping. The flanking bays -- separated by brick pilasters -- have ceramic tile pent roofs supported on false through joists. The storefront was modernized ca. 1950.

500 Georgia: Ca. 1960 one-story brick and glass gas station. NON CONTRIBUTING.

522 Georgia: Single story brick post office in the Neo-classical style built in 1905 and designed by architect Raymond Lavercombe. Parapet wall with heavily accented smooth stone faced pedestals above a projecting stone moulded and dentilled cornice with a broad frieze and architrave supported on brick pilasters which separate the center three bays. Flanking first and fourth bays are actually slight projecting wings. Entry in center bay with Greek key moulded surround, dentil cornice and three part transom. All openings have segmental shaped brick arches with keystones. The single story is
Office of Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

HISTORIC INVENTORY

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
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<th>County</th>
<th>Location of Negatives</th>
<th>Specific Location</th>
<th>City or Town</th>
<th>Site Plan</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Sizemore Home Furnishings</td>
<td>Pike</td>
<td>URDC</td>
<td>418-422 Georgia St.</td>
<td>Louisiana Mo</td>
<td>GEORGIA</td>
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16. Thematic Category
   Commercial

17. Date(s) or Period
   c. 1900

18. Style or Design
   1920 Commercial

19. Architect or Engineer

20. Contractor or Builder

21. Original Use, if apparent
   Movie Theater, Retail

22. Present Use
   Retail/Residential 2nd fl.

23. Ownership
   Public

24. Owner's Name & Address, if known
   Eugene and Meltha Sizemore
   Louisiana, MO

25. Open to Public?
   Yes

26. Local Contact Person or Organization
   Pike Co. Historical Society

27. Other Surveys in Which Included

Facade has been altered c. 1920

History and Significance

Although altered from its original design, this building contributes to the street-scape through its mass, height, color, materials, and fenestration.

Description of Environment and Outbuildings

Central Business District

Sources of Information

1896 Sanborn Insurance Map

Prepared by
KLI/MFB
URDC/PCBS

Date | Revision Date(s)
--- | ---
5/79 | 5/79
Facade post June 1931
1931 two buildings originally
  Hall on 2nd Floor
1914 Musical Instruments 1st Floor
1902 Opera House on 2nd Floor
1896 Ibid
1890 only the entrance on West R. of building present
1885 Ibid

slide 1885
construction
frame or brick
From Barbara

11-11-85

These rough (though to scale) floor plans can:

Assist you in inventory of seats
Future placing of and spacing of seats
Take-offs for contractors for bidding
To show bank we are working to show box and send along to ACS
For bookings.

Check dressing area - if may be drawn to big

May actually be half this big

If so should be enlarged for now
probably moved in future to give more
room to stages.

Toilets in basement must be updated immediately
must surely be undersized for today's code

Is there a way to get to basement from stage
area.

Needed is a "green room" used by actors as a
writing room -
needed is a toilet room for stage area -
or

A least a toilet room/green room elsewhere

One thought I had: Intermediate or future
see plan A, & B.
Put a greenroom/toilet on balcony for now.
(This may be impractical because of sloping floor,
and moving toilets up & enlarging)
Intermission room & meet the performers
area (leaving) basement alone - 1st fl. & balcony
area is (550 sq ft - a huge area to restore)
This plan would lose 100 seats (90 seat)

At least for now -

This plan would work.
Also need wheelchair seating

Remove broken seat (replace w/folding chairs)
Put a toilet near stage
Upgrade toilets & add partitions
Add mirrors
Add fixtures
55 SEATS

13 SEATS

44 SEATS

40 SEATS

111.5 x 51.0

31.7

10.0

6475 Total

(Without Bench Pews)
SECTION
Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

Smithville Missouri Historical Society

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

Brook's Opera House on Main St
Smithville MO 64089

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

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

-----

Smithville Lake Herald

-----

[ ] Has historic publications & books about your subject

[ ] Buster Keaton's Family played vaudeville in Smithville
Wallace Berry & Family born North of Smithville

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

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

Who is the best person to contact for more information?

Estelle Wright, Sec.
106 2nd Terr.
Smithville, MO 64089

Thank you for your assistance.

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203
<p>| | |</p>
<table>
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<td>Platte</td>
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<td><strong>Specific Location</strong></td>
<td>315+317 Main St. Block 30 Lot 4- W 1/2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>City or Town, Rural, Township &amp; Vicinity</strong></td>
<td>Platte City Mo. 64079</td>
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<td><strong>Site Plan with North Arrow</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Coordinates UTM</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Is it Eligible? Yes No</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Part of Estab Hist Dist? Yes No</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td><strong>District Eligible? Yes No</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name of Established District</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Present Name(s)</strong></td>
<td>Maps TV</td>
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<td><strong>Other Name(s)</strong></td>
<td>Palmer's Wren Realty Company</td>
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<td><strong>Present Use</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Owner(s)</strong></td>
<td>Eugene Wright</td>
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<td>Platte City Mo. 64079</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Office &amp; Shop</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wall Construction</strong></td>
<td>Red Brick 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Roof Type &amp; Material</strong></td>
<td>Asphalt 40 D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>No. of Bays</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wall Treatment</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plan Shape</strong></td>
<td>Rectangle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Changes</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Condition</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preservation Underway? Yes No</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Endangered? By What? Yes No</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Visible from Public Road? Yes No</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Distance from and Frontage on Road</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Further Description of Important Features** | In 1968 a modern metal decor was placed on top of red brick. Item from landmark - April 17, 1896 - a phonograph concert will be given Saturday at the Opera House. Admission - 10c. 

43 History and Significance The Opera House occupied the second floor of two buildings, forming one large room, with entrance from one center stairway. The large room was used for storage Dec. 26, 1854 (P. 807 - 808) Christmas Eve at Opera House where Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians unite. 

44 Description of Environment and Outbuildings Business District 

45 Sources of Information 

Mrs. Eugene Wright - Present owner Pastors Annals 

Mr. Leo Perry 

Landmark (Paper) 

46 Prepared by 

Beth Cockrill 

47 Organization 

P.C. Study Club 

48 Date 

3-7-79 

49 Revision Date(s) 

January 17, 1978
### Historic Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Present Name(s)</th>
<th>Other Name(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>MID-CENTRAL LIBRARY BUILDING</td>
<td>BARTLETT MERCHANTILE BUILDING</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Specific Location:**

320 MAIN STREET
BLK 30 ALL OF W 1/2
OF LOT 3

**City or Town, If Rural, Township & Vicinity:**

PLATTE CITY, MO.

**PLATTE COUNTY LIBRARY BUILDING**

**Presents Use:**

1ST FLOOR LIBRARY

**Architect or Engineer:**

FRED KRAUSE

**Contractor or Builder:**

FRED KRAUSE

**Owner's Name & Address:**

DON & BETTY SOPER

**Inscribed On Door:**

PLATTE CITY, MO. 64079

**Inscription on Door:**

PUBLIC 1

**FLOOR OFFICES**

**Construction Material:**

BRICK

**Wall Type:**

BRICK

**Roof Type:**

35°

**Condition:**

EXCELLENT

**Preservation Underway:**

Yes

**Endangered:**

Yes

**Public Road:**

Yes

**Visible from Public Road:**

Yes

**Condition of Information:**

DEED, LAND RECORD, CONVERSATION WITH MERLE BARTLETT, INSCRIPTION ON DOOR UPSTAIRS OF BUILDING

**Prepared by:**

BETTY SOPER

**Organization:**

PC STUDY CLUB

**Further Description of Important Features:**

BUILT 1891 - DATE OF COMPLETION ETCHED IN BOARD IN UPPER STORY DOORway. BRICK FROM THE BRICK BURNING PLANT OF FREDERICK KRAUSE IN PLATTE CITY.

METAL FRONT NOW ON THE BUILDING

**History and Significance:**

BUILT AND USED AS A BUSINESS BUILDING SINCE ITS COMPLETION

**Description of Environment and Outbuildings:**

LOCATED ON MAIN STREET DIRECTLY ACROSS FROM THE PLATTE COUNTY COURT HOUSE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>Platte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location of Negatives</td>
<td>327 Main Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific Location</td>
<td>Block 30, Lot 4 E2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City or Town</td>
<td>Platte City, Mo. 64079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site Plan with North Arrow</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Historic Inventory**

1. **Category**
   - Basement?
   - Data(s) or Period
   - Date(s) or Period
   - Foundation Material
   - Ground Material
   - Wall Construction
   - Roof Type & Material
   - No. of Bays
   - Wall Treatment
   - Base (Explain in #42)
   - Condition Interior
   - Condition Exterior
   - Preservation Underway?
   - Endangered?
   - Visible from Public Road?
   - Distance from and Frontage on Road

2. **Ownership**
   - Public
   - Private

3. **Owner’s Name & Address**
   - Name
   - Address

4. **Architect or Engineer**
   - Fred Kramer

5. **Original Use, if apparent**
   - STORE 08 D

6. **Present Use**
   - Store 08 D

7. **Ownership**
   - Public
   - Private

8. **Open to Public?**
   - Yes
   - No

9. **Local Contact Person or Organization**
   - Name

10. **Other Surveys in Which Included**
    - None

11. **Further Description of Important Features**
    - 1968 red brick front was covered with metal and apartments upstairs remodeled.

12. **History and Significance**
    - The upstairs was part of the "Opera House." The Opera House

13. **Description of Environment and Outbuildings**
    - Business District

14. **Sources of Information**
    - Paytton's Annals

---

46. Prepared by
   - [Signature]

47. Organization
   - [Signature]

48. Date
   - 11-20-79

49. Revision Date(s)
   - [Signature]
The second floor of this building is known today, in the same building. With the exception of a few years there has been a Johnson Store in Platte City since 1893 operated by J. O. Johnson or one of his sons, Geo. C. Johnson or James G. Johnson.

Various enterprises have occupied the left half of the building on the first floor but the Hulett Restaurant probably was there longer than any other. Here was a good spot to eat meals or to join friends for a Coke. The restaurant closed several years ago. The County Inn was located here several years then sold out. This part of the building has been remodeled and today there is a realtor office, law office, Radio & TV Electrical Shop and an Upholstery Shop housed there.

April 16, 1886—Hail storm east of Platte City covered the ground two inches deep, and killed pigs and poultry.

May 8, 1880 — Zerubbabel Blue Lodge No. 191, takes a new charter under the name of Platte City Lodge, No. 604.

Dec. 25, 1882—Christmas trees at Pleasant Ridge, New Market and Platte City and three saloons at Platte City religiously and freely distributed egg nog.

Jan. 22, 1873—Another severe snow storm. The winter was so cold that the peach trees were killed.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Location of Negatives</th>
<th>Specific Location</th>
<th>City or Town</th>
<th>Site Plan with North Arrow</th>
<th>Coordinates</th>
<th>Site Plan</th>
<th>Structure</th>
<th>Building</th>
<th>Object</th>
<th>On National Register?</th>
<th>Is Eligible?</th>
<th>Part of Established District?</th>
<th>Name of Established District</th>
<th>History and Significance</th>
<th>Description of Environment and Outbuildings</th>
<th>Sources of Information</th>
<th>Prepared by</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Revision Date(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>Platte</td>
<td></td>
<td>404 Main</td>
<td>Weston</td>
<td></td>
<td>UTM</td>
<td>Main</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nancy B. Breme</td>
<td>OHP</td>
<td>03-071</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MISSOURI STATE PARK BOARD - STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY
ARCHITECTURAL SITE INSPECTION LIST
Weston, Missouri
March-April, 1971

I. Site location
1. who is the owner of this property?
2. who resides here (if different from owner)?
3. street address of this property:
4. common historical name of building?
5. how long have you owned this building? 1949

II. please map your property on the reverse of this sheet, showing:
1. all structures and outbuildings
2. foundations of removed structures
3. roads, streets and driveways
4. walkways and paths
5. fences
6. wells and cisterns
7. current property boundaries

III. Exterior design of your building:
A. frame building (wooden timber-framed)
1. type of wood
2. size of average timber
3. interfill (clapboards, asbestos sheeting, aluminum siding, etc.)
4. how are the timbers joined?
   a) mortise and tenon: a space hollowed-out in a timber and shaped to fit an end of another timber.
   b) dovetail: a series of wedges in and end of a timber designed to interlock with notches or grooves in another timber end.
   c) spike, nail, screw
   d) wooden pegs
   e) nut and bolt.
5. finish of sheeting: paint, stain, natural, etc.

B. Brick building
1. arrangement of bricks (please make a small sketch of part of the wall)
2. color
3. size of typical brick—kiln or McDonald Farm
4. manufacturer's stamp— if any
5. evidence of being handmade
6. extent of original brickwork remaining— all

C. Stone building
1. are stones arranged in even rows or randomly— cut stone
2. color of stone
3. type of stone
4. extent of original stonework remaining— all
5. dimensions of average stone
6. type of mortar used (clay and hair, cement, etc.)— Clay and Hair

IV. Openings (doors, windows, etc.). Please omit modern doors or recently replaced
1. doorstyle: a) paneled b) plain— slab door, c) beard and batte
d) "Z"-frama reinforcement
2. description: a) number of panels, b) door thickness, c) approx. height and width of each door.
3. door hardware (please complete only if hardware is antique or known to be original)
   a) hand-forged hinges, b) cast hinges, c) strap hinges
   d) modern "butt" hinges, e) hand-made lock, f) manufactured
   g) type: latch, press-lock, bolt, h) manufacturer (if known)

   wrought-iron nails.

4. window type:
   a) double-hung (standard sash windows)
   b) casement
   c) bay windows
   d) do these windows have shutters? Were they here when you bought the property? How are they hinged?

5. window glass:
   a) "wavy" glass, b) modern reproduction of "wavy" glass, c) modern smooth glass, d) stained glass.

   vertical glasses in double-hung windows

3. V. Chimneys - location:
   a) central, b) end, c) corner, d) chimney free-standing on interior of building, e) back of chimney flush with inner surface of an interior wall, f) main body of chimney enclosed within the wall,
   g) main body of chimney on exterior of building and abutting it.
   h) main body of chimney free-standing on exterior of building.

   description of chimney cap - please sketch on reverse.

   material of chimney cap: a) brick, b) stone, c) other.

VI. Hardware, other than on windows, shutters and doors:
   a) what is it:
   b) where is it located:

   hand-rived out of nature timber

VII. roof: type;
   a) sheet metal, b) wood shingles, c) asphalt shingles, d) slate,
   e) tile, f) other

VIII. ALTERATIONS
   1) What large modifications have been made in the "old" original structure? (please explain briefly on back)
   2) What rooms, walls, rooflines, etc., have been removed or added or altered? (please explain briefly on back)

IX. INTERIOR:
   Please make a rough sketch of each floorplan, and please include location of: windows, doorways and their swing direction, partitions, chimneys and fireplaces, stairs.
   1. Floors: a) are they original? b) type of wood, c) approximate width and length of a typical board (if original)
      d) floor support: beams? joists?

X. For what purpose is the building used?
   a) Was Elijah Cody outfitting station for wagons going west? Call
      b) Do you have the abstract? If so, the date?
      c) Would you allow us to examine it at a later date? Yes
CIPAL for the new under construction is Smithville R-II Board of Tuesday. The board will have interviews and post-regular open meeting a multi-purpose room.

The Smithville High School 30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at age. Students and the supply by donating. served 7:20 to 8:20 in a KFKF is expected to

ONAL BASKETBALL underway Monday, Jan. will play Platte County play their first game at West Platte High the sports pages.

Jay Dillingham was elected honorary chairman of the committee. Dick Fletcher, a Smithville resident, is managing chairman. They have made presentations about the tax proposal to eight organizations.

The group hopes to pick up endorsements from cities and organizations in the county, Shettle said. Boydston said they have been placed on the agenda for the next Smithville Board of Aldermen meeting 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29.

The need for expansion is shown by the number being housed in other facilities, according to Boydston.

The number of inmates kept in the

Fire district officials consider building purchase

Smithville Area Fire Protection District officials are considering purchasing a building to be used as a fire station. The former Smithville Lake Auto Clinic, situated in First Park on South 169 Highway, is offered for sale by owner Al Rollert.

Approval was given by district directors at their Monday, Jan. 19 meeting for Fire Chief Mark Ferguson to discuss terms with Rollert. Ferguson said he expects a decision could be made by the February 16 meeting of the fire board.

In other business, district officials agreed not to place a sales tax proposal on the April 1998 election ballot. Such a proposition may be put before the voters at a later date, Ferguson said.

WHERE THERE IS SMOKE there is often fire. That was not the case at the ARC Thrift Store Friday afternoon, Jan. 16. Main Street was shut down for a short time while Smithville volunteer firefighters investigated the odor of smoke. Fire Chief Mark Ferguson said the smell was caused by a light fixture that was about ready to go out. This is not an uncommon occurrence, Ferguson said. The fixture was removed and taken outside to cool. No damage resulted, according to Ferguson. (Herald photo)
**Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire**

**Historical Society of Polk County**

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opera House</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viles Opera House</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opera House</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Is this theatre still in operation?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opera House</td>
<td>Bolivar</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viles Opera House</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opera House</td>
<td>Humansville</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opera House</td>
<td>Bolivar</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viles Opera House</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opera House</td>
<td>Humansville</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

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

What days and times is your library open to the public? **5 days - 9 - 5 O'clock**

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times? **No**

Who is the best person to contact for more information? **I do not know**

Thank you for your assistance.

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203
Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

Putnam County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Hays Grand Opera House Unionville

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

Hays Grand Opera House Unionville yes ____ no x

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

Hays Grand Opera House Unionville yes ____ no x

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

________________________________________

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

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

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

No

What days and times is your library open to the public? We do not have a

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

Who is the best person to contact for more information? George E. Chote

21 Broadway Village Drive

Apt A

Columbia, MO 65203

Thank you for your assistance.

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203
August 31, 1997

Putnam County Historical Society
Unionville, MO 63565

Dear Putnam County Historical Society Representative:

I am a graduate student in the Environmental Design Department at the University of Missouri - Columbia working on a PhD in Historic Preservation. My dissertation focuses on historic theatres, halls, and opera houses in outstate Missouri. I am attempting to compile a database of information about the theatrical venues which have existed in Missouri. I am particularly interested in the theatres and opera houses which still exist even if they are no longer functioning as a performance space. Eventually, I hope to produce a book about historic theatres in Missouri.

In your area, I am aware of the following theatres and am interested in any additional information about them that you can provide:

Unionville Hays Grand Opera House

However, there may be or have been other theatres, halls, or opera houses in your area that I have yet to discover. I would appreciate your help in locating information about the theatres and opera houses in your area. I am enclosing a short questionnaire to help guide you to the type of information I am interested in obtaining.

For your convenience, I have enclosed a self-addressed, stamped envelope for you to return the questionnaire to me. In addition, I am enclosing a small donation to your organization.

If your organization charges a fee for research inquiries, please advise me of the anticipated cost prior to beginning any searches. I can be reached by phone at (573) 443-3241 or you may simply send the information to me in the postage-paid enclosed envelope.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Becky L. Snider
1008 S. Sunset Drive
Columbia, MO 65203
HOME OF THE FARMERS STORE
UNIONVILLE, MO.

Complete Stocks of...


WE SOLICIT YOUR PATRONAGE
HOLMAN & PICKINPAUGH.
The old Hays Opera House was destroyed by fire about three o'clock this (Wednesday) morning, and the home of Dr. F. R. Oberlag, at about the same time. Night Watch John Cotton states that he "saw it while in the alley as the rear, and called to sleeping residents in the apartments upstairs before giving the alarm at the hall, and telephoning the alarm." The fire wagon was on the ground in very quick order because Mr. E. P. Brown happened to be at the parlor when the alarm was given, and ran to get the motor equipment as fast as he could, according to Mr. Cotton. Two or three lines of hose, and the chemical apparatus were soiled, and the firemen had the difficult task of locating the fire, and then extinguishing it.

The fire had its origin in a rear room of the second-story office of the building occupied by the confectionery store, where there were no occupants at the time. There was a considerable amount of smoke from their rooms, and to the fire alarm. Inside, on the window frame, at the rear where the fire was, burning, but what caused the fire cannot be given. The fire-traveled transversely through the stringers and joists, and was a large and intense fire. The firemen at once located the fire in the second-story window, and removed the hidden place. The fire was taken under control that evening.

The building was owned by Miss Josephine Conner, Miss Emma Conner, and the Ruth Shoe Store and the Potts Music and Radio Shop. The fire started in the building of Dr. Oberlag, as well as the building at the rear of the Hays building. The work done by the firemen was extensive, and despite the intense heat and the proximity of the fire they saved every adjoining building from catching fire seriously. The Oberlag house, owned by Dr. Thomas, was saved from the existing side of the building, but it would have almost escaped unscathed. The east wall of the house fell upon the west and crushed the west side of the house.

Dr. Oberlag had a very narrow escape, in connection with the fire. He was in his home through the rear door, at this entrance when the wall started to fall. He was saved by the quick action of the firemen, and the efforts of the other occupants. He jumped from the window, and then ran to the street. The firemen were able to remove him in a few moments. The Oberlag house was built with a heavy fireproof door, and he managed to get out from under the fire.
Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

Ralls County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Still in Operation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New London Opera House</td>
<td>New London</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perry Opera House</td>
<td>Perry</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Is this theatre still in operation?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Still in Operation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New London Opera House</td>
<td>New London</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perry Opera House</td>
<td>Perry</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Still exists</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New London Opera House</td>
<td>New London</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perry Opera House</td>
<td>Perry</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

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

What days and times is your library open to the public? Do not have a library

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

Who is the best person to contact for more information?

Thank you for your assistance.

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

Kathleen Wilham

R1

Shelbyville, MO 63469
1-816-633-2366
August 31, 1997

Ralls County Historical Society
P.O. Box 252
Perry, MO 63462-0252

Dear Ralls County Historical Society Representative:

I am a graduate student in the Environmental Design Department at the University of Missouri - Columbia working on a PhD in Historic Preservation. My dissertation focuses on historic theatres, halls, and opera houses in outstate Missouri. I am attempting to compile a database of information about the theatrical venues which have existed in Missouri. I am particularly interested in the theatres and opera houses which still exist even if they are no longer functioning as a performance space. Eventually, I hope to produce a book about historic theatres in Missouri.

In your area, I am aware of the following theatres and am interested in any additional information about them that you can provide:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New London Opera House</th>
<th>Perry Opera House</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New London</td>
<td>Perry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

However, there may be or have been other theatres, halls, or opera houses in your area that I have yet to discover. I would appreciate your help in locating information about the in your area. I am enclosing a short questionnaire to help guide you to the type of information I am interested in obtaining.

For your convenience, I have enclosed a self-addressed, stamped envelope for you to return the questionnaire to me. In addition, I am enclosing a small donation to your organization.

If your organization charges a fee for research inquiries, please advise me of the anticipated cost prior to beginning any searches. I can be reached by phone at (573) 443-3241 or you may simply send the information to me in the postage-paid enclosed envelope.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Becky L. Snider
1008 Sunset Drive
Columbia, MO 65203

We need your request at our next meeting, 11-17-97. We are all old, we don't have an office or library. We are a very small group.
You will find more info if you contact one of the women we provide you with in the questionnaire.

Mike Price
**MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**<br>ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. NO.</th>
<th>2. COUNTY</th>
<th>3. LOCATION OF NEGATIVES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NL 10</td>
<td>Ralls</td>
<td>MHTD Surveys &amp; Plans</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S)</th>
<th>5. OTHER NAME(S)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 Small Stones 4th Street</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Township Range Section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5N, R, 11C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IF RURAL, VICINITY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7. CITY OR TOWN</th>
<th>8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 abutting brick commercial buildings on Southside of 4th Street, just east of Main Street</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10. SITE</th>
<th>11. ON NATIONAL REGISTER</th>
<th>12. IS IT ELIGIBLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( )</td>
<td>( )</td>
<td>( )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>13. PART OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT</th>
<th>14. DISTRICT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( )</td>
<td>( )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None Known</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>16. THEMATIC CATEGORY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>late 19th-early 20th century</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>vernacular Victorian</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>18. STYLE OR DESIGN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brick</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Retail stores</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>22. PRESENT USE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Same or abandoned</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>23. OWNERSHIP</th>
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</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PUBLIC( ) PRIVATE(x)</th>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS IF KNOWN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>unknown</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>25. OPEN TO PUBLIC?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YES( )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>27. OTHER SURVEYS IN WHICH INCLUDED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None Known</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>28. NO. OF STORES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>29. BASEMENT?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YES( )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ashlar masonry(?)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>31. WALL CONSTRUCTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brick</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>32. ROOF TYPE AND MATERIAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flat; Rolled Asphalt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>33. NO. OF BAYS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>34. WALL TREATMENT</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>35. PLAN SHAPE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rectangular</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>36. CHANGES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADDITION( )</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>37. CONDITION</th>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INTERIOR UN bekannt</th>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>38. PRESERVATION</th>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNDERWAY( )</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>39. ENDANGERED</th>
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</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BY WHAT?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NO( )</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>40. VISIBLE</th>
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</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FROM PUBLIC ROAD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NO( )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>41. DISTANCE FROM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FRONTAGE ON ROAD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

2nd Building from corner was a movie theater in 1917, buildings to east of it not shown on 1917 map

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MHTD Surveys and Plans Division</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>46. PREPARED BY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David Crampton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>47. ORGANIZATION</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MHTD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>48. DATE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/22/8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>49. REVISION DA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PH. 314-781-4096</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attach</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Four Small Stores
Fourth Street
New London, Missouri
Late 19th Century
Early 20th Century
Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

Huntsville Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Semple Opera House       Huntsville      yes [ ] no [ ]

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

Semple Opera House       Huntsville      yes [ ] no [ ]

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

Semple Opera House       Huntsville      yes [ ] no [ ]

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

The stretch of 7th Street is currently being considered for inclusion in the Save Our Structures program.  

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

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

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

We know Charles Wes performed here.

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

Saturdays 1-5 p.m., Sun - 2-5 p.m.

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

Yes - Call 816-277-3388 or 816-277-4486

Who is the best person to contact for more information?

Margaret Block or Don Arrow

I am sending you some info on Semple Opera House. As you can see by the picture of their St. that Huntsville hasn't taken every to their historical properties. All the buildings were except the 1st floor of the Opera House - 100 w. A new Post Office Bank built on this block in 1860's. We have 6 seats from the Grand Opera Front History Museum.

Thank you for your assistance.

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203
Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

Randolph County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

- Apgar's Opera House
- Halloran's Opera House
- Hegarty's Opera House
- Higbee Opera House
- Semple Opera House

- Moberly
- Higbee
- Huntsville

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

- Apgar's Opera House
- Halloran's Opera House
- Hegarty's Opera House
- Higbee Opera House
- Semple Opera House

- Moberly
- Higbee
- Huntsville

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

- Apgar's Opera House
- Halloran's Opera House
- Hegarty's Opera House
- Higbee Opera House
- Semple Opera House

- Moberly
- Higbee
- Huntsville

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

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

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

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

What days and times is your library open to the public? Monday 10 - 12 p.m., 1 - 3 p.m., Saturday 9 - 12 p.m.

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

[ ] yes

Who is the best person to contact for more information? Carla Buchanan 263-3301

Thank you for your assistance. Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203
Mr. Joe Haines, owner of the building, housing Thogmartin's Drug, and the Fixit Shop, will remove the upper floor of the building, which is known as the Semple Opera House and place a roof on the first floor structure.

Workmen are at present placing the roof structure over the first floor ceiling, and will construct a new roof over the area before the demolition of the upper floor is started.

After the new roof has been completed the second floor structure will be torn down, leaving a one-story building. The height of the parapet wall will be even with the second floor window sills. These sills will be removed and a smooth coping will be placed over the top of the wall. This will eliminate a historic structure in Huntsville, but landmarks must give way to progress.

SEMPLTE OPERA HOUSE—
(Taken from History of Randolph and Macon Counties 1884)

The elegant building was finished in February, 1884 and is the property of Charles Semple. It has a frontage of 42 feet on Cour Square and is 90 feet deep with a 19 foot ceiling.

The lower part of the building is divided into two store rooms each 21 by 90 feet.

The stage is 42 feet wide by 20 feet deep and is supplied with drop curtains and fly-wings which are done in the best of scenic art.

The building is a great credit to Huntsville.

The carpeting matting and chairs were all specially designed and ordered from St. Louis by the John N. Taylor Furniture Co. of Huntsville.

Many were the operas, plays, fine talent staged in the early 1900s — with talent from New York, St. Louis, and Chicago, and several balls held here were staged with much finesse, with orchestras imported from Kansas City, and the hand painted engraved invitations were much sought after.

The present owner of the building is Joe Haines.
Moberly is blessed with as cozy and comfortable a theatre as could be devised for its needs. The Halloran was built at an expense of some $30,000 and is located in the heart of the business district of Reed street. Mr. F. Halloran, the owner and manager, is a genial and hustling purveyor to the public amusement and has made a study of the likes and dislikes of his patrons with the result that packed houses attend any performance that is guaranteed by Mr. Halloran. The building is of brick and stone, with an auditorium and balcony capable of seating 1,500 people. The arrangement of the boxes is one of the most convenient and novel in theatre building. The stage, forty feet deep, sixty-six wide and sixty high, gives ample room for the largest attractions. There are plenty of dressing rooms and the equipment is modern with all the latest novelties and necessities known to stagecraft. A few of the attractions played are, "Peggy From Paris," "The Gingerbread Man," Bertha Kalick, "The Land of Nod," "Wizard of Oz," "Parsifal," "The Lion and the Mouse," "San Toy," "Babes in Toyland," Nat M. Wills, "The Merry Widow," etc. Mr. Halloran also controls the Air dome, a summer amusement resort, with permanent stage and auditorium, with the blue sky roof, capable of seating 1,500 people. During the summer months stock repertoire companies of reputation play two week stands to crowded houses. The bill posting plant run in connection with the other enterprises consists of 2,500 running feet of boards built of steel and matched lumber. 

It was in 1905 that the theatre took on a new look here. It was then that Pat Halloran, auto business man, and for many years a part of the Hegarty Opera House management, became a more prominent figure in the local world of show business. He opened his own theatre, which carried on its marque this sign: "Halloran Theatre, Mr. P. Halloran, Prop." It was built at a cost of $80,000 and the opening of the new playhouse, the first three years ago, was truly a gala affair. It took place on December 14th, with seats at five and ten dollars each, and reservations were made by the drawing of names. The offering was "Peggy from Paris", and the costuming of the cast was no more elaborate than the dress of the local viewers, for the order of the evening was formal dress for the audience. The fashionable women of the day carried flowers, and two beauteous young socialites, it is reported, were dressed in gorgeously gowns and carrying long-stemmed American beauties, stood at the back until the last minute, intending to make the most dramatic entrance of the evening. But just a fraction of a minute was too much, and as they began to sweep down the aisle, the lights were suddenly dimmed for the opening curtain and they had to find their seats in semi-darkness! With W. H. Griffith, 1911 Edition of the Monitor, of the Halloran Theatre, "The theatre is one of the largest and most expensive structures in Moberly, a two-story structure, modern from pit to dome, one of the few in Missouri affording ample stage room and fly galleries and scenery done for all scenery carried by the largest Eastern attractions..." The special Christmas 1911 Edition of the Monitor, of the Halloran Theatre, "The theatre is one of the largest and most expensive structures in Moberly, a two-story structure, modern from pit to dome, one of the few in Missouri affording ample stage room and fly galleries and scenery done for all scenery carried by the largest Eastern attractions..." The electric equipment enables the manager to present sunlight, daylight, and moonlight effects and the management employs a large force of stagehands to handle the scenery. Among attractions were the opening "Peggy from Paris", "Babes in Toyland", "The Merry Widow", "Wizard of Oz", "Gingerbread Man", "The Red Mill", "The Rose Maid", "The Lion and the Mouse", "Parsifal", and Tolstoi's "Resurrection", with the great Blanche Walsh, Scores of stars, even yet great names, trod the boards in Moberly. There was Hal Reid, father of screen star Wally Reid, Mrs. Flaneau, Otto Skinner and Maude Durbin, James K. Hackett, DeWolfe Hopper, Louis Mann, Theodore Roberts, William Jefferson, Thomas Jefferson, Leslie Carter, Eddie Foy, Frank Mayo and Bertha Kalich. Boxing greats Jim Jeffries and John L. Sullivan made appearances here also. Full orchestras were not always transported with these shows, usually the pianist and musical director traveled with them and made up an orchestra of local musicians. Mr. J. W. Fleming, Sr. recalls that he played trumpet for many of the musical shows, and Victor Herbert operettas. Here the great of the day's actors and actresses emoted through one-reelers, Mary Pickford and Owen Moore, and Florence Lawrence and King Baggot and J. Warren Kerrigan among them.

Shortly after opening Halloran's Theatre impresario Pat Halloran built a summer theatre of impressive proportions, the Air dome, with a permanent stage and auditorium and the blue sky for a roof, seating 1,500 people. Here beneath the stars, stock companies with the cream of the national theatre played one-and-two-week stands of musical and dramatic hits, with crowded houses nightly. People from neighboring towns drove many miles in those horse and buggy days to enjoy the summer theatre. The Air dome was built where the Bell Telephone building now stands, but was later moved to a location on West Reed.

It was in August of 1913 that George W. Sparks, Sr., bought the Halloran Theatre and renamed it the Sparks Theatre Company. A year later, on September 9th, 1914, the building burned. Mr. Sparks rebuilt it and re-leased it to two season theatre men, Messers. Truitt and Corbett, and in 1915 the new theatre was renamed the Grand. Another disastrous fire took the building down in November of 1925 and again it was rebuilt, this time by George W. Sparks, Jr.
The old in all things give way to the new. So Hegarty's Opera House on North Clark Street gave way to the new commodious Halloran's Theater located on Reed Street in 1903. Hegarty's opened in 1881 by Fred War in "The Virginian." Mr. Pat Carmody was the manager. From that time until 1903, hundreds of plays were presented at Hegarty's which in popular favor succeeded the Old Apgar.
Many theatrical activities of a home talent nature supplemented the imported shows. The Railroad Employees' Library was the moving power behind a Railroad Literary Club which sponsored these performances, with the usual price of admission 10¢. These were held in Hegarty's and the Academy of Music, if the offerings grew too large for their club rooms. The name of Maude Durbin, Moberly girl, who was later to be Mrs. Otis Skinner, appears on the roster of these plays. Quite ambitious were the selections, with Shakespeare presented often.
# Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

**Ray County Historical Society and Museum**

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Auditorium</td>
<td>Richmond</td>
<td>yes ✚ no ❌</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mosby's Opera House</td>
<td>Hardin</td>
<td>yes ✚ no ❌</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opera House</td>
<td>Hardin</td>
<td>yes ✚ no ❌</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Odeon</td>
<td>Hardin</td>
<td>yes ✚ no ❌</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardin Opera House</td>
<td>Hardin</td>
<td>yes ✚ no ❌</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Auditorium</td>
<td>Richmond</td>
<td>yes ✚ no ❌</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mosby's Opera House</td>
<td>Hardin</td>
<td>yes ✚ no ❌</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opera House</td>
<td>Hardin</td>
<td>yes ✚ no ❌</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Odeon</td>
<td>Hardin</td>
<td>yes ✚ no ❌</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardin Opera House</td>
<td>Hardin</td>
<td>yes ✚ no ❌</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Richmond</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mosby's Opera House</td>
<td>Hardin</td>
<td>yes ✚ no ❌</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Odeon</td>
<td>Hardin</td>
<td>yes ✚ no ❌</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardin Opera House</td>
<td>Hardin</td>
<td>yes ✚ no ❌</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

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

What days and times is your library open, to the public? Ray County Library - 9-5 p.m.

Ray County Museum Library - Wed thru Sat 1-5 p.m.

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

Who is the best person to contact for more information? John Champeen

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

I am enclosing a brochure concerning the restoration of the Fairrie Theater which was originally called Daugherty Auditorium. We have much information, especially local newspaper coverage, about the Fairrie.

The Mosby Opera house site is still standing. It is the second floor of a building on our square but it has been converted into apartment space.
We have completed the outside restoration and have begun on the interior.

We are attempting to obtain some grants to complete our restoration. We have done all the funding thru NAP Credits, so far.

We would be happy to show you our theater and what we have done to date.

Any other information you would like we will furnish.

The theater in Hardin is not known to anyone. We contacted no newspaper accountants.

Yours truly, Jean Hamscher
Tornado of 1878 destroyed most of the buildings on the square. Built about 1880. Front remodeled during the thirties. Two new apartments constructed on second floor in 1978 where the opera house used to be, now a total of 3 apartments on second floor. Second floor front covered with pressed metal, possibly dating to period of buildings purchased by Darneal in 1916.

History and Significance
See attached articles and excerpts from Abstract.

Description of Environment and Outbuildings
Urban

Sources of Information
**Historic Inventory**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Faded</th>
<th>Address Faded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>54th Street</td>
<td>1234 Street</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Property Faded:*
- Date: 1950-1960
- Street: 54th Street

*Address Faded:*
- Date: 1970-1980
- Street: 1234 Street

**Mattingly's**

*54th Street*

*Address:* 1234 Street

*Date:* 1970-1980
There is to be a new apartment on the second story of the Darneal Dry Goods store in the district of Richmond. For many of those years as a part of an 1890 opera stage. One of the two one-bedroom facilities being built in the second-story area will contain the old opera house, removing it was "nearly impossible." "We (Mrs. Terry and contractor Herb Mansell) first thought we'd simply take out the stage but, when we got to digging into it, found that there was so much masonry and concrete underneath it that it would be too much work and too expensive to remove it. So, we're going to build around it and use the stage for an elevated kitchen and dining area. Actually, in retrospect, I think it will be more unusual this way." The end result will certainly be interesting. But perhaps more interesting has been the historical sleuth work done in tracking down the opera house's history. Although many people seem to remember there was once an opera house there, not much has been recorded about the 19th century facility. At least, not in one place. But Mrs. Terry is curious about historical things, especially in Richmond. Her father and grandfather operated businesses here for more than 50 years — many of those years as the Darneal's Dry Goods store in the lower level of that building. With her help, and that of her mother, it's been possible to find and put together at least a sketchy history of the once popular Olympic Opera House of Richmond.

Mrs. Darneal recalls she had "heard about" the opera house, built by the late Dr. W. W. Mosby and his sons; but when she arrived here, it was no longer in existence. A native of New Franklin, Mrs. Darneal began visiting Richmond in World War I days, as a friend of Clara Woodson. Mrs. Woodson's husband was a former partner in a dry goods business with W. H. Darneal, jr. A friendship, and eventually, a courtship, developed between Mr. Darneal and the young lady from Clay county. In 1916, they were married. "The one thing I remember the upstairs being used for," she noted, "was storage."

"But once, before we were married, my husband has a dance up there in my honor." By coincidence, while looking for other information, an interesting social note was discovered in the March 9, 1916 issue of The Richmond News: "About ten couples attended the dance given in the old Mosby opera house last Monday evening." Undoubtedly, that was "her" dance. Overhead, Mrs. Darneal recently pointed out old fashioned electrical wiring where chandeliers had once hung. "At one time," she said, "there must have been three, but there were only two left." Period wallpaper, with bordered-designated areas for the fixtures, still remains with its intricate design and dark colors. The two fixtures which did remain were donated by Mrs. Darneal to the Ray county museum. A. Lester Mansell, the fixture, which helped make the former Opera House over the store was furnished in metropolitan style — but it is now a thing of the past, and has been for years, though the stage has just been removed. The floor space upstairs is 26 x 110 feet and will be used for carpets, rugs, etc.

GLITTERING REMNANT OF THE PAST: This chandelier was constructed from parts of two which survived from the old Olympic. J. A. Lester did the craftsmanship after Mrs. Anna Rose Darneal donated the fixtures to the Hay county museum. Long pieces of mirror line the inside of the fixture, which help reflect the light. It now hangs in the Indian room at the museum. [News photo by Mary Ann Lowary]
Remembering the Farris

FARRIS

a restoration project...
The Farris Theatre
The Story of Ray County's Opera House

The following was adapted by Pete Maher from an article written by Mrs. Clara (Weary) Chenault for the Thursday, December 17, 1970, edition of The Richmond News. It provides a comprehensive, personal glimpse of the historic Dougherty Auditorium/ Farris Theatre of Richmond, Ray County, Missouri.
(Hazel Dougherty Boucher of Florida, also, contributed to this article.)

There is no business like show business.
Comedy and tragedy - the two are wedded for better or worse. They go through life and, therefore, the theatre, hand-in-hand, trailing offspring in their wake; farce, melodrama, satire, ballet, burlesque, opera, and hoedown.

On October 2, 1855, in Franklin, Kentucky, a red-headed, blue-eyed boy, a seventh son, opened his eyes to see the world for the first time. He was named Samuel E. Dougherty.

He laughed, cried, played, fought, and dreamed as most boys do; but his dream came to be that there was gold in the west to be had for the asking.

Attaining his majority, this young Irishman could stand it no longer and, in the early 1880s, left for the gold fields to seek his fortune. Evidently, his leprechaun kept him good company as he landed in Colorado; for, in no time at all, Dougherty found his pot of gold.

His was one of the first finds in the Cripple Creek area. He named his find "The Isabella."

From this ore he smelted and made a ring for a bonny lass he had met while on his trek over the rugged mountain trails. Melinda Earles and Samuel Dougherty were wed in 1886.

About this time, in Huneston, Iowa, a black-haired boy entered the world. His name was Franklin G. Weary, a second son. How the paths of this young Dutchman and this wandering Irishman would cross were left for fate to re-
Dougherty in the Colorado Gold Fields

veal.

Cripple Creek, essentially a mining camp at the time, was a rowdy place, unsafe for a decent woman. Soon the Doughertys moved to Cole City, some 20 miles distant. Here they began a family when two daughters were born, Anna and Hazel.

But the mine which young Samuel had opened soon began to founder because he lacked funds to develop the property.

In 1892, Dougherty struck a deal with a mining corporation, taking half the value of the mine in cash and the other half in stock.

Dougherty was once more prospecting, this time for a new home for his family.

In the interim, his parents had come to Ray County, Missouri. Dougherty visited and liked it so well he decided to make it "his town". In 1893 he and Melinda purchased a beautiful brick home with a wide lawn and 120 acres.

The family loved all they saw and those they met. Sam soon became an active participant in the business community. He purchased an additional 320 acres on which he fattened feeder calves for the Kansas City market. He invested in a

"Six large maple trees lined each side of the front walk; an orchard was in the back, and a row of low branching cedar trees on the east, screening off a view of the stables, barn, and vegetable garden. It was an ideal place for garden parties and family gatherings," his daughter, Hazel, recalled.

The family loved all they saw and those they met. Sam soon became an active participant in the business community. He purchased an additional 320 acres on which he fattened feeder calves for the Kansas City market. He invested in a
men's clothing store and a bicycle agency, leaving the management to his partners. This decision later proved to be a financially disastrous one.

All this was of little consequence, for the dividend checks were still arriving from Cripple Creek on time. But, since he didn't enjoy farming much, Sam's interest in the farm-ranch eventually dwindled. He began looking for a new investment.

A fellow prospector, H. A. W. Tabor, had, also, struck pay dirt and built an impressive opera house in Leadville, Colo. Sam Dougherty became fascinated with the idea.

By this time, five of his children were enrolled at the Woodson Institute in Richmond and were active in the fine arts curriculum. Don't forget that he was, after all, an Irishman and had a natural inclination for the dramatic.

But Sam, also, believed it could be a profitable venture as well. He felt deeply about "his town", Richmond; and he wanted to erect a suitable monument to his family name, a structure which would keep green the Dougherty name for generations unborn.

But he couldn't do this alone; he was not quite that affluent.

On June 11, 1900, Richmond Mayor Walter Shoop called a meeting of the citizens to ascertain if they would be receptive to such a proposal. Then Dougherty explained that a $15,000 opera house could be built on his corner lot located at Camden and West Main streets, providing the citizens of the town would raise the sum of $5,000 to his $10,000.

Within two weeks, the sum of $3,000 had been subscribed by public-spirited donors. The committee to raise these funds was composed of W. E. Settle, A. M. Fowler, J. Allen McDonald, and James L. Farris.

There were those then, as now, resistant to such fresh ideas.

It was reported in the Richmond Missourian that "Rev. J. E. Davis, pastor of the Richmond Baptist church, attended a meeting of the men in charge of the campaign and objected to the structure, claiming its proximity to the church would greatly interfere with services. Mr. Farris, an attorney, then replied to Rev. Davis from a legal standpoint."

On September 17, 1900, a contract was awarded to two local firms, Woodson Alnutt & Sons and Charles Paulson & Sons. Under their skillful direction and supervision, an opera house second to none in the country, then or now, for its size, materialized.

Upon the flat roof covering the domed ceiling was a "fly" loft from which hand painted "flats" could be raised or lowered in a matter of
seconds for each scene. Lights placed along the top of the proscenium were raised through a series of pulleys and weights; and, by a catwalk, defective lights could be replaced.

A trap door, to aid magicians in disappearing acts, was cut into the stage. Dressing rooms for the "stars" took shape in the basement, and an entrance from that basement lead musicians into the orchestra pit.

The 30-foot tubular boiler furnace was lowered into place. Artists and painters were brought from New York to decorate the massive interior. Acoustics were honed and perfected, allowing the merest whisper on stage to be heard in the most remote corner of the building.

Throughout it all, Dougherty maintained his connection to his humble beginnings. On the curtain which would slowly disappear into the upper loft was painted a mural of "The Valley of the Gods" in Colorado, the mountains dwarfing one small burro being led by a miner with a pick.

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dren all week to be invited to sit in the family box. Often, it was overloaded; and, on one occasion, Forrestine Conrow fell into the orchestra pit. There hadn’t been enough seats to go around; so she had been sitting on the ledge."

Other recollections held a different impact than that suffered by poor Forrestine.

Another local resident, a man named Ernest Dale, added, “I attended The Port of Missing Men in 1907 or ’08. The production simply overwhelmed me. I can still recall the wonderful scenery and the high caliber characters on the stage with sound effects so natural the audience must surely have thought a thunderstorm was actually in progress outside. I have never seen anything to equal it since.”

During this time, Frank Weary was winning medals for public speaking and taking the lead in all the school plays in St. Joseph. He had a girl, Ruth Jordan, whom he would take to shows in the local theater. Since they often could afford only seats in the upper reaches of the balcony called the “roost,” Weary shyly gave his love a dainty pair of mother-of-pearl opera glasses. “The better to see me with,” he said. They married in 1909.

It was at this time that the Dougherty Auditorium began to falter, and something else both remarkable and unthinkable occurred. The vein of gold played out.

In a later tribute written for Dougherty by local newsman Jewel Mayes, he said, “Brother Sam was not a good booking agent or theatrical manager; but he was all the time on the square, honest to a fault, courteous and fine of spirit - that manly man. Col. Sam Dougherty, during his administration of his beloved theatre, brought many a good show to Richmond - and some bum attractions. The former heavily outweighed the latter, however; and he was a true friend to humanity!”

But, to add insult to injury, there was, also, the upstart motion picture industry to contend with. Movies captured the imagination and interest of the ever-fickle public.

As 1911 arrived, Frank and Ruth Weary opened their variety store in Richmond.

(It was a strictly cash business. Weary’s own father had been a country doctor, and young Frank knew the consequence of non-payment on credit extended.)

The Mormon Tabernacle Choir, in town to dedicate the newly-refurbished Mormon Cemetery on North Thornton Street, was engaged to perform at the Dougherty Auditorium. Frank and Ruth entered that building on that occasion for the first time and were immediately captivated by both the performance and the magnificent acoustics and interior of the theater.

But theatrical competition at the time in Rich-
mond was fierce. Col. Childs had built a theater only a block away and, also, operated an outdoor air-drome. Yet another theater operated closer to the town square.

Heartsick and disillusioned, Sam Dougherty decided to sell what remained of his assets. Yet, he could not and would not let his beloved opera house be converted into a cheap five and ten cent movie house.

However, he did eventually sell it for a fraction of its cost to Thomas J. Wollard, president of the Ray County Savings Bank. The family then moved to Kansas City where the once proud entrepreneur took a job with the street maintenance department. He died June 13, 1919, never returning to “his town” again.

Lawyer James L. Farris had always been a strong supporter of the auditorium and had some ideas of his own on the subject.

The story is told that “Farris traded a no-good coal mine for a no-good theater.” Be that as it may, in September, 1911, he reopened the doors of this theater with his son, Russell D. Farris, as manager.

A picture machine was ordered from New York, and a projection booth was built. The building was re-decorated, and there were restrooms added.

As there were no public sewers in that day, Farris dug his own, both to drain away water in the theater’s basement and to accommodate this latest convenience. It went down west Main to Whitmer and down Whitmer to drain into the Crooked River (also servicing his mansion, just one block below the theater).

The citizens along the route of the sewer line were delighted and paid Farris handsomely to tap into it.

For a time, the name of the Dougherty Auditorium became the Dougherty Theatre; but finally, a change was made to the name of the building itself. A large marquee arose over the main entrance, bearing the FARRIS name.

For the next four years the Farris family operated the theater in a desultory manner, not really clearing a great amount of profit. In 1915 they were glad to sell the building and lease the associated equipment.

All this time, Frank Weary had been watching from a distance. The Theater pianist, a Mr. Franklin, and he had become friends; and they decided to pool
their meager resources to make the deal to lease the theater. With Ruth to sell the tickets, they were in business with little more than a prayer and a dream of what could be. They resolutely turned deaf ears to predictions of businessmen around the square of sure and total disaster. It was a good thing they did, because that first year held more than a few disasters.

"The electric company was home-owned and could not be relied upon," Ruth later recalled. "Even after the weather had been nice all day, it could become perverse just before opening; and invariably a stroke of lightning would knock out the current just as the performance was due to begin. We worried and fretted nightly about the possible return of admissions."

To add hazard to confusion, the films of the time were on highly flammable celluloid film stock. More than once, harried film projectionists were forced to throw flaming film stock from the outer windows of the theater.

But soon the Wearys added a second projector, avoiding the inconvenience of the dreaded "One Moment, Please" slide while projectionists changed reels on the sole projector. The second projector pleased both operator and patron in equal portions.

With the advent of motion pictures as the mainstay of the theater's profitability, the "fly loft," long troublesome for the difficulties it caused in heating and cooling the building, was removed. Soon, the Wearys also replaced the worn and faded boom curtain with a maroon "traveler" curtain.

But all was not going well. By that fall, a disgusted Mr. Franklin sold his share in the venture to Frank's brother, U. S. Weary, who, also, had a growing law practice to deal with. In 1917, Frank and Ruth became the sole partners.
They still had the dream. On July 6, 1921, the dream was completed with the sale of the building, contents and all, to the Wearys from the widow of James Farris. The only stipulation in the sale was that the building would forever carry the name Farris, succeeding in creating a family namesake where the less astute Dougherty had failed.

As the silent films out of Hollywood enjoyed their heyday and played across the silver screen of the Farris, live performances continued to entertain crowds as well. The population of Richmond, having burgeoned, caused the schools to grow correspondingly; but the schools had no auditorium, and school plays were staged at the Farris.

The first Richmond Chamber of Commerce gave a burlesque show to raise funds for band uniforms members would wear during summer concerts on the court house lawn. (Weary served as president of the Chamber.)

Minstrel shows were the rage, and the Chamber also produced the White Way Minstrel, so named for the row of gleaming street lamps which lighted the way from Richmond’s train depot to the town square.

There were local talent competitions; dancing teachers gave recitals; and
the "Farris MirthMakers" entertained the crowds between film showings with their lively nine-piece band. These dandies, and the lone female, Maxine Slaughter, were the heroes of every boy and girl who aspired to a musical career. They wore gray corduroy outfits, red tams, and neckties.

In 1921, Frank worked with Howard Shirkey to bring the first radio broadcast to Richmond. An audience in the Farris heard a band concert.

In 1925, Price L. Collier, Richmond Superintendent of Schools, organized a boys band. A full-size backdrop, manufactured by Ruth and her assistants, was sewn for their performances.

Every high school pep rally ended on the stage at the Farris. The snaking shirt-tail parade would wind 'round the bonfire, down the street and through the aisles of the theater, led by the "Angel Gang," a group of local girls, during the roaring twenties.

The audience was comprised of all colors, sizes, and shapes of people, from all walks of life and backgrounds. Where else could you get a babysitter on Saturday night for 10 cents (plus five cents for a box of popcorn)? Occasionally, parents would be lax in counting noses when they would pick up their charges at evening's end. "Mr. Weary, little Johnny must still be in your theater for he sure isn't home," they would call and say. And, sure enough, the wayward youngster would be found, fast asleep, either on the floor between the seats or sitting in one of them.

Many young lovers held hands for the first time or perhaps stole a kiss in the friendly darkness, and there were some not-so-innocent assignations as well.

There was "dish night," with a different piece of a set of dishes given with each adult ticket; there were family nights, and even cash giveaway nights.

The cash nights were through the lean years when the Wearys would wind their way through crowds to open the theater doors. The shows were usually terrible, and many
patrons bought tickets and went to sit in their seats holding on to the precious stub that could be the lucky number.

When the number was called over the loudspeaker between shows, both North Camden and West Main streets would be blocked by anxious humanity. The largest prize was around $400.

It was about this time that Lexington and Excelsior Springs theaters announced Sunday shows. Frank Weary, attempting to remain competitive, decided to show films on Sunday as well. This decision threw the local ministers into near apoplexy.

The ministerial alliance, announcing the matter to be a "cause," denounced the decision. The Richmond Kiwanis Club, which would play such a vital role in the story of the Farris in years to come, even drafted a resolution against it.

Weary quietly passed out handbills which explained, "We consider that a great majority of the population seeks some sort of entertainment and recreation on Sunday; and that, in a very great many cases, the recreation sought is more undesirable than that offered by a good, clean entertainment at the theatre."

On October 3, 1924, The Richmond News reported, "The directors of the Kiwanis club hereby rescind the action passing a resolution declaring that it is the sentiment of the group that Sunday shows..."
should not be tolerated."

"We've made jackasses of ourselves," a club spokesman said. "The question of a Sunday show should never have been discussed. We acted like schoolchildren.

While the records do show it, the resolution is not the opinion of the majority but of a small minority. Half of the members did not vote, lacking the necessary 'nerve' to vote against Rev. McCullough."

Sunday shows began; and, despite the ominous tones used by area pastors, priests, and ministers, the heavens did not fall nor the rivers dry up.

Then sound arrived. The pictures talked!

The "Great Depression," also, arrived at about the same time sound was introduced. In other industries, the despair and extreme hardship was felt; but to stay in business at all, renovations were required at the theater if it were to accommodate this new innovation.

It was while contemplating such changes that Frank Weary came into contact with a hitchhiker he picked up while on a trip to Des Moines to visit Ruth's mother. This man, "Tex" Roles, listened as Frank talked of the challenges he faced in adapting the theater to talking motion pictures.

Roles, who appeared to be a down-on-his-luck drifter, announced he was an interior designer; and Weary took him on for the project. Roles soon proved he was as good as his word. He soon brought about changes to the Farris Theatre which would make the building truly beautiful.

In 1925, the entrance on Camden street was opened, a separate stairway for Negroes (used only briefly) was removed; and a stairway on the east end of the lobby was built to match one on the west. The restrooms had

Advertisements as they appeared in local newspapers.
Individually by hand. Although the building would be redecorated in 1939 and again in 1945, the flair and imagination exhibited by “Tex” and his understudy, Bob Wright, was never again duplicated.

But, with the advent of sound, many of the silent motion picture stars soon found their voices did not record well and were doomed to failure in the new medium.

New stars, with names such as Clark Gable, Shirley Temple, Myrna Loy, Bette Davis, William Powell, Mickey Rooney, Joan Crawford, and a plethora of talking cartoons such as Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, the Three Little Pigs, been enlarged and modernized.

In 1930, the lobby was tiled; heavy carpeting went into the foyer and down the aisles; upholstered seats replaced old wooden ones; the second story boxes were removed; and a porous movie screen with rearmounted speakers went into place.

Heavy velveteen drapes were hung along the foyer “window”; the lights around the boxes and proscenium were replaced with indirect lighting, and a chandelier, which could be lowered for bulb replacement, hung from the center of the ceiling.

The stage drapes, manufactured by experts in Kansas City, were hung. The projection booth was enlarged to hold the more expensive sound equipment. It took months; but each of the hand-carved ornaments around the stage opening was painted individually.
and others soon filled the screen at the Farris.

The films got bigger and bigger, becoming what were to be billed as "extravaganzas," and culminating in that epic film, Gone With The Wind.

After the Second World War, progress picked up where it had left off. Ignoring the infant television industry, the film moguls unloaded their libraries of old titles to small companies without restrictions.

And, just as talkies had killed vaudeville, television soon came to have a disastrous impact on the motion picture industry.

The naysayers of 1915 were right, the Farris Theatre was not to be a profitable venture after all.

In 1957, the doors to the Farris Theatre, open throughout the Depression and two World Wars, closed for the first time in 46 years. Ruth Weary would vacate, for the final time, her seat in the ticket booth.

Shortly before his death, Richmond newsman Jewell Mayes would write, "When I see the Farris, I am well reminded of the unfading glory of that fine young Mrs. Frank G. Weary's smile, bearing in mind that we have been good friends as a-down the years, unto this very day!"

In the 1960's the story of the Farris would come full circle. Live performances were once again heard on the stage Dougherty built. Country music shows were attracting crowds from miles around every Saturday night. The registration book kept from those shows reveals signatures from every state in the union.

But the most exciting and elaborate productions in the history of that building were brought to the Farris in its twilight years by the Richmond Kiwanis Club.

From 1963, with their inaugural production of Oklahoma, and with annual productions of Brigadoon, Annie Get Your Gun, Music Man, South Pacific, etc., the group delighted audiences with their staging and performances.

Throughout its existence, the Farris Theatre has been an integral part of life in Ray County. It stands
unique; a monument not to any one family but to Richmond and Ray County.

There is not a person born and reared here who is not a part of it in one way or another, either as one of the delighted audience or an active participant. And, by the same token, it is a part of all it has met and housed with a personality and dignity peculiar to it alone.

The story is not told in its entirety; it never can be as long as the building stands. Until then, the show must go on.

If you slip quietly into its shadows and listen closely you can hear the whispers of the ghosts of performances past and feel the silent stage waiting for the lights to flicker, once again heralding the arrival of the next act....

For the next decade and a half after Clara Chenault wrote the foregoing history of the Dougherty Auditorium/ Farris Theatre in 1970, country music reigned within the walls of this historic edifice.

Films shown at the theater became more and more infrequent, gradually disappearing altogether as the Weary family relinquished ownership of the building to country music entrepreneur, Byron Jones.

As the seventies became the eighties, the "Richmond Opry" continued to attract weekend crowds; but the once-grand theater was more than beginning to show its age. Productions staged there became more and more makeshift as permanent repairs were postponed, and the glory that once was the Farris became more imagined than real.

In the eighties, Jones decided to sell this theater and take his show and performers to other venues; and the local theatrical community began their efforts to purchase and revive the theater.

In 1988, negotiations began between a trio of theatrical entrepreneurs from Independence and Jones, with the fullest moral support of the newly-created Ray County Community Arts Association.

In spite of the highest ideals for the restoration of the theater and the increased involvement of local patrons in the operation of the theater, the deal ultimately fell apart when the money offered didn't approach the
money requested.

Soon, however, there were new players on the scene with the arrival of businessmen, Wade Williams and Ben Mossman, who were already in the business of restoring theaters. Unlike the Independence trio’s plans to include community involvement in the restoration, Williams and Mossman made plans on their own, excluding local involvement and earning them the enmity of some in the local theatrical group.

As Williams and Mossman drew up their plans to restore the theater inside and out, skeptics watched as the paint was stripped from the building’s exterior and chairs, curtains, and lighting were removed, with the owners’ promising their return at some point in the refurbishment.

Hopes in the community that the Farris would receive the resurrection it had waited so long and so patiently for, however, began to fade as work stalled in the early nineties, slowing to a crawl and quietly coming to a stop as Williams and Mossman became entangled in other restoration projects.

Years began to slip by with the once-grandest opera house in this region of the country boarded up with no more dignity than a warehouse.

Then, in early 1995, Williams announced he would be selling the theater. The only condition of the sale, he said was that any new owner would finish the work he and Mossman had begun. With that in mind, he offered the building to the Ray County Community Arts Association.

While the desire among the local theatrical enthusiasts to purchase the theater had never waned, the asking price proved to be a deal-breaker; and it appeared the Farris was once more headed for the scrap-heap.

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Exterior of Farris Theatre
efforts were begun to incorporate into a new not-for-profit organization with one sole purpose to return the Farris Theatre to its former glory and preeminence as a historical landmark in the region.

With the purchase completed, plans were drawn up for the future of this historic structure. What the future brings still holds many unanswered questions; the answers to which will depend greatly on the support of the community.

Will The Farris be restored? These enthusiastic volunteers certainly hope so. Should it be restored?

Many in the community with lifelong ties to the theater and the countless memories it holds think it impossible to consider a future without it.

But, whatever happens, it's certain that this building, once considered folly and a poor business venture, has carved out a special niche in the local consciousness.

Farris Theatre as it appears today.
Questions and Answers

Question: What is FRIENDS OF THE FARRIS?
Answer: It's a "Not for Profit" Corporation formed to purchase and restore the historic old theatre.

Question: How old is the Farris Theatre?
Answer: It was built in 1901 and named the Dougherty Auditorium. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was renamed the Farris In 1908.

Question: Is the building structurally sound?
Answer: Yes. However, the brick needs to be "tuck-pointed," and the interior needs total restoration.

Question: Do you plan to modernize it or restore it the way it was in 1901?
Answer: We plan to select a time period, e.g. 1901 or 1915, and restore it to that time period.

Question: Will it be a "museum" or will it be an operating theatre?
Answer: It was built as an "opera house", and we plan to restore it with the capability for live stage performances, as well as movies, and for use as a "community" center.

Question: Will it be an expensive project and if so, how much?
Answer: Yes. Our estimate is around $300,000.

Question: How will you raise the money?
Answer: Most of the money will have to come from the community. We will apply for any and all state, federal, and private grants that become available.

Question: How much have you raised thus far?
Answer: Approximately. $30,000 in cash and another $40,000 pledged over the next few years.

Question: How can I help?
Answer: With money and/or volunteer labor (both skilled and unskilled).

Question: What amounts of money are people giving?
Answer: An annual membership is $25.00 per person. We have had one gift of $10,000 (assets & cash), one of $7,000, and many more of $1,000, $500, $200, etc.

Question: What do you mean by "annual membership"?
Answer: It means that you endorse the project and will support it with money and/or labor and attendance at events.

Question: Is a gift to the Farris tax deductible?
Answer: Yes, we will have a 501C3 designation which will date back to July 1, 1995.

Question: How can I join and/or make a gift?
Answer: Fill out the enclosed form and mail it along with your check to PO Box 711.
Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

Reynolds County Genealogy and Historical Society

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

________________________________________
The Strand Movie Theater
________________________________________
Torn down and Ellington Library on site now.

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

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

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

We have never had any vaudeville or acting theaters in this county.

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

Mon-Fri 9AM to 5PM

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

no

Who is the best person to contact for more information?

________________________________________

Thank you for your assistance.

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203
Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

Ripley County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

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<td>Wall’s Opera House</td>
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Is this theatre(s) still in operation?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Star Theatre</td>
<td>Doniphan</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wall’s Opera House</td>
<td>Doniphan</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Star Theatre</td>
<td>Doniphan</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wall’s Opera House</td>
<td>Doniphan</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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

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

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

No. Mrs. Buergel did have some notes about the past, though. I don’t have any of those. Buergel was the last one to sell the lease to a bank in 1976.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Times</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday-Saturday</td>
<td>9-7 Daily, 9-noon Saturday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Yes, 207 Hours, or by appoint.

Who is the best person to contact for more information?

I’ll keep asking around...

Thank you for your assistance.

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

HISTORIC Auditorium Theater

AND/OR COMMON Cinema 1,2,3

**2. LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 118 E. North

CITY, TOWN Marshall

STATE Missouri CODE: Saline CODE 65340

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>PRESENT USE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>district</td>
<td>public</td>
<td>X occupied</td>
<td>agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>building(s)</td>
<td>private</td>
<td>unoccupied</td>
<td>X commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>structure</td>
<td>both</td>
<td>work in progress</td>
<td>educational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</td>
<td>ACCESSIBLE</td>
<td>entertainment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| | | | |
| | | | |

**LOCATION**

VICINITY OF

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

Recorded of Deeds, Saline County courthouse, Marshall

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

Recorded of Deeds, Saline County courthouse, Marshall

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>DETERMINED ELIGIBLE?</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>FEDERAL</th>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>COL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**7. DESCRIPTION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONDITION</th>
<th>CHECK ONE</th>
<th>CHECK ONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>_</td>
<td>original site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>good</td>
<td>_</td>
<td>altered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fair</td>
<td>_</td>
<td>moved date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESCRIPTION THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>upper story windows are bricked in and new 6-course brick replacement on the SE corn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>upper story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most of building is former movie theater, but front lobby is enclosed with later br</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walls; in the front enclosures are stairs leading to apt/offices above.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NW front corner is enclosed with the &quot;newest&quot; brick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>east lower story door below exterior stairway is enclosed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>note chain and block over pulley on east stairway as an antique artifact.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (IN ONE PARAGRAPH)

Sanborn

1833 - vacant site
1889 - 
1894 - 
1900 - 
1910 - dance hall and skating rink
1929 - auditorium theater

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

McChesney, Photo Album, 1925
Sanborn maps

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

FORM PREPARED BY

Kristen and Lynn Morrow
Missouri Valley Regional Planning Commission
1162 S. Brunswick, Marshall, Missouri, 65340
DATE 1/83
TONITE and SATURDAY

10-25c

(2:10-7:25-10:00)

TOM SAWYER DETECTIVE

PLUS!

HOPALONG CASSIDY!

"IN OLD MEXICO"

(3:30-8:30)

STARTS

SUNDAY!

Missouri's Most
Colorful Outlaw . . . the most exciting picture you ever saw!

STARS

JESSE JAMES

In Glorious TECHNICOLOR!

starring

TYRONE POWER
HENRY FONDA
NANCY KELLY
RANDOLPH SCOTT

Henry Hull - Slim Summerville
L. Edward Bremer - Brian Donlevy
John Carradine - Donald Meek
John Russell - Jane Darwell

Cont. from 2:00
25c 'til 6 then 30c

AUDITORIUM

DEMOCRAT-NEWS 2-3-1939
1. **NAME**
   - HISTORIC: Masonic Hall
   - AND/OR COMMON: Pete's Tavern

2. **LOCATION**
   - STREET & NUMBER: 59 W. North
   - CITY, TOWN: Marshall
   - STATE: Missouri

3. **CLASSIFICATION**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>PRESENT USE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Occupied</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X_building(s)</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Unoccupied</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>Work in progress</td>
<td>Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</td>
<td>ACCESSIBLE</td>
<td>Educational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td>In process</td>
<td>yes: restricted</td>
<td>Religious</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>being considered</td>
<td>yes: unrestricted</td>
<td>Scientific</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. **OWNER OF PROPERTY**
   - NAME: Mr. A.J. Hilerenner
   - STREET & NUMBER: Waverly
   - CITY, TOWN: Waverly
   - VICINITY OF: STATE Missouri

5. **LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**
   - Recorder of Deeds, Saline County courthouse, Marshall

6. **REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**
   - TITLE: N/A

7. **DESCRIPTION**
   - CONDITION: X_fair unexposed
   - CHECK ONE: unaltered
   - CHECK ONE: altered
   - DESCRIPTION: The present and original (if known) physical appearance:
     - pressed tin ceiling and modest cornice intact
     - Christopher and Simpson iron mouldings intact except for east cornice bracket missing
     - 2nd and 3rd floor windows boarded up
     - rear stairway similar to Van Dyke's building
AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE - CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRID</th>
<th>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE</th>
<th>CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>prehistoric</td>
<td>archaeology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1400-1499</td>
<td>archaeology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1500-1599</td>
<td>agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1600-1699</td>
<td>architecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1700-1799</td>
<td>art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1800-1899</td>
<td>commerce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1900-</td>
<td>communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SPECFIC DATES 1891 - Sanborn

1881 - carriage repository
1889 - Colvert Bros. transfer
1894 - vacancy, implements, clothing
1900 - vacancy in all 3
1910 - grocery, billiards, 2nd hand store
1929 - movie theater

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (IN ONE PARAGRAPH)

Tavern; Knight of Columbus formerly met here (see attached documents that were found in the building)

Sanborn maps

1. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Sanborn maps

2. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ZONE EASTING NORTHING ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Kristen and Lynn Morrow
ORGANIZATION Missouri Valley Regional Planning Commission
ADDRESS 162 E. 5th St., Collinsville, IL 62234
DATE 11/83
## Historic Inventory

**1. No.** L87  

**2. County.** Schuyler

**3. Location of Negatives.** NEMO Regional Planning Comm.

**4. Present Name(s).** Norman Funeral Chapel

**5. Other Name(s).** The German Hotel, Opera House

**6. Specific Location.** E4 lot 7, W5 lot 6, Blk 5, Old Town, Lancaster NW1/4 of SE1/4 of Section 13 T66N, R15W

**7. City or Town.** Lancaster

**8. Site Plan with North Arrow.**

**9. Coordinates.**  

| UTM (Lat) | 15/540035
| UTM (Long) | 4485700

**10. Site ** 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Structure</th>
<th>Object</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**11. On National Register?** Yes

**12. Is It Eligible?** Yes

**13. Part of Established District?** Yes

**14. District Eligible?** Yes

**15. Name of Established District.**

**16. Thematic Category.** Vernacular

**17. Date(s) or Period.** 1900

**18. Style or Design.** Vernacular

**19. Architect or Engineer.** Brice & Francis Norman, Lancaster, MO 63548

**20. Contractor or Builder.**

**21. Original Use, If Apparent.** Hotel

**22. Present Use.** Funeral chapel

**23. Ownership.** Public

**24. Owner's Name & Address.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brice &amp; Francis Norman</td>
<td>Lancaster, MO 63548</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**25. Open to Public?** Yes

**26. Local Contact Person or Organization.** NEMO Regional Planning Comm.

**27. Other Surveys in Which Included.**

**28. No. of Stories.** 2

**29. Basement?** Yes

**30. Foundation Material.** Stone

**31. Wall Construction Material.** Brick

**32. Roof Type & Material.** Parapet

**33. No. of Bays.** Front: 7

**34. Wall Treatment.** Common bond

**35. Plan Shape.** Rectangular

**36. Changes & Addition.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Addition</td>
<td>Explained in #42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moved</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**37. Condition.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interior</th>
<th>Exterior</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**38. Preservation Underway?** Yes

**39. Endangered?** Yes

**40. Visible from Public Road?** Yes

**41. Distance from and Frontage on Road.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dist. from Road</th>
<th>Frontage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**42. Further Description of Important Features.** Projecting corner blocks accent the heavily corbelled cornice and alternating sawtooth course of the parapet. The 1/1 attenuated windows have extended segmentally arched headers. A frame porch extending across the S facade and having a 2nd story balustrade now affords protection to an altered 1st story. The porch is not original. A comparison of the current photo and that of the historic photo attached will indicate alterations. The 1st story does retain the cast metal columns. The W wall is a common wall. There are no openings on the E wall. A large polygonal area has been added to (over

**43. History and Significance.** Between 1900-1909 this new building was constructed and in 1909 it was listed as the German Hotel with a restaurant W and hotel office E with rooms above. As can be seen from the historic photo, there was also a saloon in the E part. Later the building was altered to a Opera House and Movie theatre. A large stage area was added to the rear, the 1st story floor was sloped and the 2nd floor was completely changed (over

**44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings.** The building is located on the N side of the Lancaster Square and faces S. There are no outbuildings.

**45. Sources of Information.**

- 1898 Atlas
- Sanborn Maps
- Personal Interview with B. Norman, Jr. 3/81
- 1910 History

**46. Prepared by.**

Linda Harper, HPS

**47. Organization.**

NEMO Regional Planning Comm.

**48. Date.** 3/81

**49. Revision Date(s).**

3/81
42. the rear. It has an exposed basement level and 1st story and served as the stage area. The 3 bay rear facade is accented by double rowlock, segmentally arched headers. The interior has been remodeled several times. It was reworked extensively when used for an Opera House and later movie house, and again has been altered as the funeral chapel.

43. by taking out all the rooms except 4 across the front facade and adding a balcony area. Large plaster ceiling medallions and a wide ceiling molding was added in this open 2nd story area. John Sommer* ran these businesses and later added silent movies. Dr. Earl Mitchell, a local dentist, succeeded Sommer (c 1930). Later the building housed a restaurant operated by Lizzie Sommer. Following that it was partitioned and Mooreheads had a furniture store W and a funeral chapel E. Now under the ownership of Brice Norman, it is being altered and remodeled again. The 1st floor has been panelled, etc. with the E section used as a large chapel area, the W as an office, the stage area as a storage area and prep room, the balcony as storage and the open area has been enclosed once again and is now the casket display area.

*John Sommer, son of Jacob and Elizabeth Krupp Sommer, was born 1881 in Indiana. He farmed until 1901 when he came to Lancaster, entering into the hotel business. He was proprietor of the German Hotel until 1910 when he converted the hotel into a cafe and opened a moving picture show in part of the building. The "Star" was listed as "one of the best moving picture shows in north Missouri. His building is especially adapted and prepared for this business".
Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

Scotland County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kenney Opera House</td>
<td>Memphis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mason's Opera House</td>
<td>Memphis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ree's Opera House</td>
<td>Gorin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opera House</td>
<td>Gorin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kenney Opera House</td>
<td>Memphi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mason's Opera House</td>
<td>Memphi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ree's Opera House</td>
<td>Gorin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opera House</td>
<td>Gorin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kenney Opera House</td>
<td>Memphi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mason's Opera House</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ree's Opera House</td>
<td>Gorin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opera House</td>
<td>Gorin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

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

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

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

Who is the best person to contact for more information? Dr. Donald St. George Theater

Thank you for your assistance. Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203
There were many Rees mentioned in old history books, but no opera house by that name. They seemed to have owned a lumber yard and general store.

There was a Kinney Opera House prior to 1920s. No mention in our history books. It was located just off the NW corner of the square in what is now Nancy I. apartments. My source believed it beened. Again no mention in any one of our 3 history books. Correct spelling was probably Kinney, and probably a part of Kinney Hotel.

Enclosed are 2 copies which may help you.

Thank you for your $20.00 bill donation.

Sincerely,

Regene Badgett
Clayton County Historical Society

Upon checking further I found mention of the Rees Opera House.
**Gorin Post Office**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>H-24</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>Scotland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location of Negatives</td>
<td>NEMO Regional Planning Comm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific Location</td>
<td>SE¼ of SE¼ of Section 8 T 64 N, R 10 W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City or Town</td>
<td>Gorin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site Plan with North Arrow</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coordinates</th>
<th>UTM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lat</td>
<td>15/582855/4467990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Date(s) or Period | c 1930 |
| Style or Design | Vernacular |
| Architect or Engineer | |
| Contractor or Builder | |
| Original Use, if apparent | Commercial |
| Present Use | Post Office/Cafe |
| Ownership | Public |
| Owner's Name & Address | Fred Gerth, Memphis Jim Peterson LaVerne Peterson |
| Open to Public? | Yes |
| Local Contact Person or Organization | NEMO Regional Planning Comm. |
| Other Surveys in Which Included | |
| Condition Interior | Interior good |
| Condition Exterior | Exterior good |

42. Further Description of Important Features

At the SW corner of the building is an inset entrance with single leaf entrance, transom & sidelights. A large battered column forms the corner support. Above this bay & the 4 grouped windows along the W facade is a hung canopy. These windows are repeated along the S facade. On the W facade is a single leaf entrance with transoms flanked by double hung windows. These windows & the 9 windows in the 2nd story are 1/1 with squarish concrete lintels & sills. Along the S facade there are 3 storefronts; the corner section, a middle section with an inset entrance & a eastern

43. History and Significance

Gorin Savings once occupied a building at this corner. They closed during the depression & shortly after this building & several adjoining structures burnt. Second story businesses included a movie/opera house, offices of which Dr. Johnson's was one, & the telephone office. The 1st story businesses have changed several times throughout the years.

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings

The building sits on the NE corner of Broadway & Jackson Sts. with its storefronts facing S. There are no outbuildings. This large property sits to the W of the railroad tracks & is located in the business district of the town.

45. Sources of Information

1898 Atlas
SCM-1976
Interview with F. Smith & Mr. Ammons

46. Prepared by
Linda Harper, HPS

47. Organization NEMO Regional Planning Comm.

48. Date | 9/82
49. Revision Date(s) |
42. section which does not have a 2nd story above. Both central & east sections have their large storefront windows boarded up, but their multi-light transoms remain. Between the corner & middle sections is a single leaf doorway which leads to the 2nd story. The building has an extremely tall parapet with inset panels, 3 corbeled courses & a decorative soldier course. The E & mid-sections have single leaf entrances on the N facade.
# Historic Inventory

## Klopfers, Creasons / Lodge Building

### Location
- **County**: Scotland
- **City or Town**: Gorin
  - **Rural, Township & Vicinity**: Gorin

### Specific Location
- **Block**: 3, **Weber's Add.**, Gorin, **Section B**
- **T**: 64 N, **R**: 10 W

### Coordinates
- **UTM**:
  - **Low**: 15/582910/4468000

### History and Significance
Currently the lodge hall is over the storefront which faces S. This storefront is owned by the Klopfers, the corner building is owned by the Creasons.

The corner building once housed the Citizens Bank with Tom Anderson as cashier. It is thought that James Thomas was the owner. The bank folded during the depression. Above where the lodge is now located was the Opera House & office space. At one point, the building sat at the NW corner of Broadway & Jackson with its storefront facing S. Located on the W side of the tracks it is an integral part of the central business area of Gorin.

### Further Description of Important Features
The primary entrance is set obliquely at the SE corner of the building. It is a doubleleaf doorway with transom. Above is a window. Generally windows are 1/1, rectangular, & have stone lintels & sills. On the E facade, 1st story there is a wide window which has been boarded up as the S bay; the N bay is a full sto front with inset central entrance & large display windows flanking it. The doorway is double leaf with a transom. This storefront is capped by a pent roofed porch.

### Description of Environment and Outbuildings
The building sits at the NW corner of Broadway & Jackson with its storefront facing S. Located on the W side of the tracks it is an integral part of the central business area of Gorin.

### Sources of Information
- 1898 Atlas
- SCM-1976
- Interview with F. Smith & Mr. Ammons

### Preparers
- **Prepared by**: Linda Harper, HPS
- **Organization**: NEMO Regional Planning Comm.

### Date
**Revision Date**: 4/82
42. which gives access to the upper story. Further to the W is a 2 story brick addi-
with an east bay entrance & 2 windows. This section sits on concrete & has a Go-
#72 Lodge sign on it. The N facade of the main block indicates a 1 story build-
was attached to it, but it has been razed. There are 3 2nd story windows.

43. time a dentist had an office here. The storefront housed several businesses but
from 1937 to 1980 Pearl Creason ran a grocery and restaurant here. Later his so-
ran a sports shop & recreation center for a couple of years.
BITS AND PIECES

Early 1900s: East of the square was Eckman Lumber Company. (Mr. Eckman was father of Miss Lilly who married Adam Schenk, a relative of Paul Schenk.) Later, it was purchased by Harry Trovillo, then by Walter Hopkins, and is now owned in 1991 by Jack Dannenhauer.

North across the street in the brick building in the early 1920s was a roller-skating rink, later M.F.A., then Pepsi-Cola, and now (1991) part of the Memphis Garment Factory and Hopkins Lumberyard. West of that building was a laundry owned by a Mr. DeBord in 1915-1919.

The early post office was in the Kinney block, then moved to the new J. M. Jayne building south of where Aloha Cofigin's Shoe Shop is now (1991), then to the new building north of the northeast corner of the square where it is today.

I can faintly remember a church on the corner across the street from the present post office; the first funeral I ever attended was that of Dr. Pile, my childhood doctor. I must have been four years old, and I know that was the first time I heard "Onward Christian Soldiers." The two houses there now were built of lumber salvaged from the church.

1900s J. H. Mulch furniture store was where Rose Hardware Store is today. Above it was a photographer, Symington.

1914 to 1920s: Tucker's Barbershop was in back of People's Bank building. They sold licorice sticks and hard candies sideline. School children were good customers.

About 1911-12: George Bratz shoe repair.

1920s: Allen & Hackett Grocery and Meat Market. (A charge accounts; when bills were paid, large sacks of candy given to the customers.) Bon Ton Cafe was in the northwest corner building. Hattie Walton's restaurant was next door to the Kin Hotel. In the early 1920s Dutch Volkman's bakery was located south of the building. Before I was born, Dad said there was a Town Wagon Shop across the street west of Wiegner's Lumber Company, now (1991) known as Memphis Lumber Company, owned by the Middleton's and located west of the southwest corner of the square.

1930s: In middle of south side: Mrs. Wayne Wagner and Harry Wagner Dress Shop, later purchased and managed by George Rudy, Bennie Sandknop (Edina) Dress Shop; E. E. Bess Shoe.

Before 1920s the grocery was owned and run by Oyler and Emerson Oyler.

1930s and 40s: Where Cook's Men's Store is now (1930s and 40s: Where Cook's Men's Store is now) Ben and Polly Morris owned and operated one of the most complete hardware stores in the area. It was on the west side of the square. Their two sons, Leo and Milton, were good business men. They had the Chevrolet agency in a large building south of the People's Building. Their sister Pearl married Mr. Maurice Z. Hockett, he moved next door east of the present V.F.W., was located in the rooms where the Memphis Library was. Later, Dr. Keethler had his office in the same room in the library and was later joined by Dr. Lowe.

NAGGS BAKERY AND CONFECTIONERY

The Naggs Bakery and Confectionery, located near the center of the south side of the square in Memphis, was a true storybook shop. The proprietor, Mr. Naggs, was a pink and white, roly-poly Englishman, white-aproned, always a broad smile on his rosy-cheeked face, laughing bright blue eyes and a fringe of curling white hair around his bald head. He concocted mouth-watering goodies of candy, cakes, pies, rolls and various pastries and kept them fresh daily in shiny glass display case in the front room of the shop. Through a wide double doorway patrons could see into the ice cream parlor where tables and chairs, some for children, were placed.

There was a small dance floor and a piano at which Mrs. Luther Hudson (Olive), Red Streffan or other same musician presided.

At Christmas time Mr. Naggs fashioned red and white striped candy canes of many sizes, displaying some of them by hanging them from a rod across the double doorway. He knew how to entice both parents and children.

The one and only time I ever saw the circus showman Billy Hall of Lancaster, Missouri, was at a candy counter in the Naggs Store. His shiny silk hat, Prince Albert coat, gold-headed cane and oversize diamond ring impressed me so that I have never forgotten. My father said the Colonel Hall often came to my grandfather Allen's farm to purchase horses.

To me another unforgettable stopping place during my childhood was a converted railroad dining car called The Little Red Wagon. It was a short-order diner located beside the Zumsteg Brothers Drugstore at the southwest corner of the square. It was a convenient stop for a snack after a movie or any evening outing.

Ben and Polly Morris owned and operated one of the most complete hardware stores in the area. It was on the west side of the square. Their two sons, Leo and Milton, were good business men. They had the Chevrolet agency in a large building south of the I.O.O.F. building. Their sister Pearl married Mr. Maurice Z. Hockett, he moved next door east of the present V.F.W., was located in the rooms where the Memphis Library was. Later, Dr. Keethler had his office in the same room in the library and was later joined by Dr. Lowe.

NOTES ON MEMPHIS

by George Simon

1959 talk given to patients in a rest home of Memphis, Missouri, by George Simon. His notes were taken by Aunt Alta Simon who said, "The articles in this sketch will not win the author an illustrated page in Time Magazine."

"I give this sketch of Memphis (Missouri) to those who are interested in a bygone era that is still bright with memories to the man who is telling it when he is 84 years young."

"The 1899 population of Memphis—3500 and growing."

"I will start this sketch 1873."

"My parents, both born in Germany, met in Warsaw, Illinois."

Submitted by Mrs. Henry Boucher.
married in Alexandria, Missouri, at the home of Mr. John Mulch's father. They came to Memphis in 1873. At that time there were a few frame houses on the west side of the square. My father rented a house, had his harness shop in the front part and lived in the back rooms.

"They had been there a short time when one night a fire broke out and burned most of the buildings and their home was one of them. At that time, my father thought he could not afford to carry any insurance so they lost what they had.

"When there was a fire on the square in the early days, men would form a bucket brigade and carry water from nearby wells to extinguish a fire.

"Again, my father started business on the south side of the square, where he remained until he moved into a new three-story hotel built where the Flower Hotel is now located. He was the first man to open his place of business in this new Wabash Hotel. It was in the Mackley block.

"I was born on the south side of the square where the Ben Franklin Store is now located, in 1875.

"That year my father bought the lot on the west side of the square and built the building I now occupy. We lived upstairs.

"There were a number of vacant lots on the west side. There was a building where the Gerth Store is located. Upstairs in this building was the first opera house in Memphis, the Mason Opera House.

"Where the Hertenstein Store is now there was a big frame building that set back and a large board platform where they sold farm machinery. The next building was the Pitkin and Leslie Bank, later Citizens Bank building, at present Farmers and Merchants Bank.

"There were two livery stables west where Weigner Lumber Company is located and across the street west was a wagon factory, owned and operated by J. J. Townsend.

"Where the Missouri Store is located on the southwest corner of the square was a vacant lot for years. Pattersons had the only dry goods store on that street.

"The Odd Fellows Lodge bought the lot and built a three-story building. Several years later it was destroyed by fire.

"South of this building where the Second Hand Store is now located was another livery barn and across the street another barn.

"On the south side of the square, where the Lord's Coast to Coast Store is located, was a three-story brick building owned by Paxton and Hudson. They operated a dry goods store for years.

"Several vacant lots east of this building.

"There was a popcorn and peanut stand, a barbershop, a cigar factory, with an old Indian sign out in front of their door.

"On the corner was a brick and frame building called the Central Hotel, operated by Mr. Drew.

"Where the present Chevrolet building is was another livery barn. On the east side of the street was Saloon Row-four in all.

"Beginning with the building now Peoples Bank of Memphis on the south—sure were tough places. South on this street was a large frame hotel, Daugherty, on the corner a carpenter's shop.

"Of the dozen or more livery stables, not one is left.

"The street east from there was Reese's Opera House, a large frame building used as an opera house, skating rink and dance hall.

"A few buildings on the east side of the square. The three-story brick building on the southeast corner was a clothing store owned and operated by H. G. Pitkin. Also, a few frame houses north of the building. A meat market, a small building where they sold and repaired sewing machines. A large produce house owned and operated by C. R. Combs where the Masonic Temple is located now.

"The first market for poultry and eggs at Memphis, Missouri, was established by C. R. Combs—he was a busy man. He employed several men in the poultry house and every week sent out six or eightuckster wagons, drawn by mule teams, often in bad weather—four mules to a wagon. They made regular trips to the country stores for produce and on the return trip picked up produce from the farmers. He paid his help $1.00 per day.

"Keller and Hover Grocery Store was on the corner where Tippett Oil Station is now located.

"For years there was a wagon factory where the Leach Hatchery is located. It was destroyed by fire. This lot was vacant for years. It was a much-used lot—by merry-go-rounds, pony and dog shows and often used for tent revival meetings. This building was owned by H. G. Pitkin.

"On the northeast corner of the square was a double building used by Mrs. Jewett for her furniture store. The buildings were owned by Mr. H. G. Pitkin.

"A frame building was the next door west. In it was a laundry and tin shop. There was a vacant lot next—Mrs. Davis' Millinery Shop was in the next building. Joining this was a two-frame buildings, but later a brick building replaced them and was used as a furniture store by Mr. Wellington who made coffins. There was a butcher shop in a frame building on the north side. It changed hands about once a year. The Green Clothing Store Front, operated by Humphrey.

"The northwest lot was vacant. For years it was a playground where boys gathered to play marbles.

"After many years the brick building, now used by Morgan and Burns, was erected and was used as a clothing store.

"When I was a boy, sickness in a household had its compensation. It was the coming of the family doctor. Always, he was in a jovial mood and had the entire family around him as a reception committee.

"I shall never forget the saddle bags from which Dr. Murphy and Parrish used for the medicines, produced the medicine, which always was in powder form and usually taken from two viles. If the trouble was diagnosed as bilious attack, powders were prepared from the Calomel vial. If it appeared to be malaria, they prepared it from the Quinine vial. There was no weighing or measuring, as in a drugstore. It was done with the blade of a knife. The doctor would produce little squares of paper from his saddlebags or cut them from any newspaper that might be at hand. How he measured each dose on that knife blade, then deposited it on the little square of paper, then folded it in accordance with established order. There were no written directions. The mother or wife was told at what intervals to administer the medicine.

"The capsule had not come into vogue when I was a boy. The family doctor prescribed medicine the patient couldn't keep down once it had been swallowed or which the patient couldn't swallow because it was so awful to the taste, the trick was turned with slippery elm.

"Around the first courthouse lawn I remember, was a hitch rack they used to tie the horses. At that time the only means of travel was with horses. Saturdays often it was difficult to find room to tie a horse. No paved streets. In the spring it would get muddy and require four horses to pull an empty wagon around the square.

"The following clipping was taken from a Memphis newspaper dated 1894:

""We see many changes in the business firms, and the town: eight churches, eight ministers, one band, one orchestra, one college, one public school, one Grand Army Post, one Odd Fellow Lodge, one Masonic Lodge, two photographers, two dentists, one
opera house, three newspapers (one a daily, *The Daily Chronical*, published by J. W. Bence), three banks, four hotels, eight doctors, ten lawyers, three real estate agents, one washing machine factory, one cigar factory, two wagon factories, two pressed brick factories, three restaurants, four drugstores, three millinery shops, two harness shops, five barber shops, three jewelry shops, one marble shop, two tin shops, five blacksmith shops, one cooper shop, three lumberyards, five livery stables, six plasterers, 12 carpenters, three contractors, one button factory, four brick masons, two shoe shops, three meat markets, two bakers, one foundry, two flour mills, seven grocery stores, two hardware stores, two furniture stores, three clothing stores, four dry goods stores, four saloons, two billiard halls, one poultry dealer, one pant factory, one ax handle factory, pickle tanks, two flour mills, two bakeries, one daily newspaper, three weekly newspapers.

"My closing thoughts for the day—

Stars and Stars
There was when we
Could Celebrate,
The Good old field
of forty-eight
Alaska made it 49-
We're not complaining
It's just fine
And now Hawaii
Makes it 50,
And half a hundred,
Pretty nifty."

Submitted by Mauretta Smith, niece of George and Alta Simon

BIG HORN SADDLE
by Irvin Johnston

I grew up on a mini-like ranch
Split by a stream we called Long Branch.
Dad had a horse and a small herd of cattle,
But he didn’t have any sign of a saddle.

Well, I got tired of ridin’ bare-back
On a worn out blanket or an old gunny sack.
So I talked Dad out of two head of cattle,
And traded them both for a Big Horn saddle.

I was the proudest boy in the entire state.
When I went to bed, I could hardly wait
’Til the roosters crowed at the break of morn
To get my seat in my new Big Horn.

My friends came in from miles and miles
With congratulations, praise, and smiles
And volunteered to help work cattle,
Just for a turn in my Big Horn saddle.

I remember well all through my teens
My cowboy hat and my Levi jeans.
Most every day you’d find me astraddle
Of Dad’s old horse in my Big Horn saddle.

We lived on bacon, eggs, and greens,
Corn bread squares, and pinto beans.
Just to survive was a constant battle
But I was happy in my Big Horn saddle.

There came a dry spell and times got bad
And Dad lost everything he had.
He lost the ranch, the horse and the cattle
But I hung on to my Big Horn saddle.

Now Dad was broken from stress and strain,
His lifelong savings down the drain.
The Lord didn’t give him time to wander;
He soon joined Mother in the great up Yonder.

There I was at that point and time,
Out of job without a thin dime.
I was left up Long Branch without a paddle,
But I still had my Big Horn saddle.

Well, I traveled west and got me a job,
As keen as a briar and rough as a cob.
Where the coyotes howl and rattlesnakes rattle,
But I had no fear in my Big Horn saddle.

With determination and a lot of sweat,
A buckskin horse and a lariat,
Just look out there at all them cattle,
And I did it all in my Big Horn saddle.

Now the moral of this story is short and sweet.
Don’t give up. If you do, you’re beat.
If you’re going to win your success battle,
You’ve got to keep your seat in the saddle.

Now I’ll soon be leaving this world behind,
So, if you’re concerned, please bear in mind:
Do what you wish with ole’ Buck and the cattle
But, p-l-e-a-s-e bury me with my BIG-HORN-SADDLE.

Submitted by Irving Johnston

INTERESTING BITS ABOUT THE CIVIL WAR
IN SCOTLAND COUNTY

There were 1,162 battles and skirmishes fought in Missouri. The largest one in Scotland County was the one fought at Vassar Hill near Bible Grove July 18, 1862. There were 83 men killed and wounded in the fight. Some of the rebel soldiers that were killed in the battle were buried where they fell. The Federals that were killed in battle and those that died of their wounds were buried at the Maggard Farm (the house was used as a temporary hospital) in the south pasture. Ten of the soldiers were disinterred and moved away by relatives. Thirteen others were interred at the National Cemetery at Keokuk, Iowa, by order of the government. In the skirmish there were 13 Federal horses killed and 27 wounded. During the battle many families around the area saw horses
The fourteen-member cast in Love Is Too Much Trouble and the names of the characters were as follows: Dr. Pillsy the college president by Pearl Cotton; Miss Emily Ross the dean of women by Elizabeth Hardy; Toasty the harassed proprietor of the Poison Pot by Charles West; Connie Ashton a college girl working-her-way-through by Bernadine Locke; Ebb and Flo Dunham the two happy-go-lucky college sisters by Ellen Kirkpatrick and Melba Jacobs; Oggy McCloskey the student with the 'scientific theory' by Roger Opie; Joe Burke and Pinky Hamilton the two college boys with many problems by Dwight DeRosear and Paul Pence; Shirley Bradford a college belle by Joan Hoskinson; Cliff Hayward the leader of the band playing for the prom by Harold Prather; Sugar Lou Jackson a college girl with a southern accent by Josephine Franklin; Monica Bates a visiting high school senior by Lorraine Leeper; and Mrs. J. Worthington Bates the mother of Monica by Marilyn Hudnall.

THE MEMPHIS THEATRES with memories for many have an interesting history. A few brush strokes here will "add some paint to the sets of the stage scenery". The Kinney Opera House, 108 West Madison off the northwest corner of the square, was fashionable in its heyday. In November 1915 J. C. Kinney leased the Kinney Opera House to Alex and Peyton Campbell. (The Majestic Theatre appears.)

In December 1926 Peyton Campbell sold the Majestic Theatre to Dr. and Mrs. H. L. Bridgeman of Knoxville, Iowa. In August 1928, Mrs. H. L. Bridgeman sold the Majestic to R. S. Dougherty of Mystic, Iowa.

MEMPHIS THEATRE SOLD
Ray McIntire of Fairfield, Iowa has bought the Memphis theatre on the west side of the square from Miss Alice Johnson, who has managed it for about two months. He took possession, Wednesday and will open the show Friday evening. The new manager has been in the theatre business for several years and will move his family here as soon as he can find a house.

Memphis Reveille
Feb. 27, 1941

In February 1941, Ray McIntire of Fairfield, Iowa purchased the Memphis Theatre on the west side of the square from Miss Alice Johnson. In the 1940's, the Time Theatre was operated and managed by Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Locke. In October 1956, Richard Davis of Des Moines, Iowa leased the Time Theatre and Air Way Drive-In Theatre. These continued to be managed by Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Ross.

THE MEMPHIS THEATRES
In 1971, remodeling of the Time Theatre was completed in time for the showing of Love Story. On July 31, 1992 the Memphis Cinema (Time Theatre) burned. It was owned by the Memphis Community Players and plans are to build a new theatre for Memphis and the community.

About 1950 television home-sets were viewed with poor reception. Shortly the KTVO tower at Lancaster beamed programs to local homes on November 21, 1955. James 'Jimmy' Russell, owner of the Strand Theatre at Lancaster, was forced to close his theatre doors. He started working for the TV studio (Lancaster-Ottumwa) east of Lancaster as an engineer. And Hal Oyler was popular on Channel 3 for many years. The studio - equipped with single, mostly stationary camera - offered "Town and Country" as a live program sponsored by the University of Missouri and hosted by Jack Bernard and this writer during the 1960's.

Theatre-goers often travel to Kirksville. The early movie theatres - Family, Princess, Kennedy - have closed. The Petite 3 Cinema now serves the city and surrounding area. The Travellers Community Theatre was busy each season with live theatre during the 1980's.
Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

Scott County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

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<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stubblefield's Theatre</td>
<td>Oran</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kendall's Theatre</td>
<td>Sikeston</td>
<td>no</td>
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</tbody>
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Is this theatre(s) still in operation?

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<td>Sikeston</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Sikeston</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

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

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

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

Who is the best person to contact for more information?

Thank you for your assistance.

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

There is a young man going around asking about old theatres. I'm wondering if he is doing this for you. I don't know his name but the Choffee librarian told me about it. Sincerely, Ramona Glastetter
Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

Scott County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Stubblefield's Theatre
Kendall's Theatre

Oran
Sikeston

yes ___ no ___

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

Stubblefield's Theatre
Kendall's Theatre

Oran
Sikeston

yes ___ no ___

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

Stubblefield's Theatre
Kendall's Theatre

Oran
Sikeston

yes ___ no ___

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

Pioneer Theatre
and Rex Theatre in Sikeston - both have been destroyed.
The Fouke Theatre in Benton and Reels Theatre in Scott City, MO

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

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

Edson Shrum's books on Scott County, MO
Scott County Democrat and Sikeston Standard

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

(Not at this time.)

What days and times is your library open to the public?
M-F 9AM-9PM; Saturday 9AM-5PM, Sunday 1PM-4PM

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

Not to my knowledge.

Who is the best person to contact for more information?

Margaret C. Shrum
1-573-335-4446 - evening

Thank you for your assistance.

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

P.S. - The Kent library at Southeast Mo. State University in Cape Girardeau may be useful. Dr. Frank Nickell is Director of the Regional History Center at SEMO. His number is 573-651-2633.
January 28, 1998

Becky L. Snider
1008 Sunset Drive
Columbia, MO 65203

Ms. Snider:

On behalf of the Scott County Historical Society I hope the enclosed information you requested is not too late to help you with your dissertation. If there is more time available, I will do more research for you.

Enclosed is your completed questionnaire on Historic Missouri Theatres. Also enclosed is a copy of a picture and description of the Illmo Opera House from Edison E. Shrum’s book *Graysboro to Ancel, A History of the Scott City Area*. Additionally I have enclosed adds from two movie theatres in Scott County back in 1939. I know these are out of business but I do not know if the buildings are standing.

A window of time is now available to do more research for you if your deadline has not closed. You may write me at the address above or Email me should you want me to continue researching Scott County Theatres.

Best wishes on your dissertation and future career.

Sincere regards,

[Signature]

Margaret Cline Harmon
Member, Scott County Historical Society
HISTORY OF ORAN NEWSPAPERS

"Chaffee Signal". It is now called "The Signal" and "North Scott County News", because under other publishers.

The Oran Tribune was established in 1918 with H. L. Matthews as editor. The paper was discontinued in June of 1923.

In 1945 the Oran Chamber of Commerce began to publish a monthly bulletin of local news. It was printed in a Cape Girardeau job shop. The bulletin was called "The Oran Chamber of Commerce and Local News" and soon became a semi-monthly and then a weekly.

Ray Robinson who was then president of the Chamber of Commerce bought an ancient 12x18 inch press from Walter Temme in Illrro. Trouble was it had collected dust, rust and mold in the basement of Mr. Temme and was doubtful if it would run and it weighed three thousand pounds.

While the bulletin was being printed it was the duty of Elwood Thompson as town booster to pick up the bulletins and bring them home for distribution. He could take them to his home spread them out on the bed, scan their makeup, fold them, address them by hand and put them in the mail.

Now this job did not go unrewarded for Elwood because he liked to watch the machinery go around and at the job shop he got his first glimpse of a press in action. He inquired of operator how long it would take to learn to operate one and learned it would take some four years.

After Mr. Robinson bought the press which Elwood moved to Mr. Robinson's enclosed back porch, the work really began. It took lots and lots of sandpaper, gasoline, paint remover and elbow grease to put "Betsy" to rolling but finally the "News" was launched.

Elwood scrubbed the ink off his hands and prepared to go to the foms for ads and subscriptions for the "News". On the back of his car he built a cart in which to put chickens in lieu of cash. He picked up many stories along the route of the fom's.

One day the press caved Robinson's porch floor in, the roller broke, parts flew every which way through adjoining bedroom window and the whole press had to be weided together. Mr. Robinson became ill soon after and had to sell the paper.

Elwood, wanting to know more about newspaper, went away to study photo engraving.

Roman Ressel then bought the "News" from Mr. Robinson and moved it into his filling station. Somehow Roman hung onto the paper until Elwood came home. They put old "Betsy" in retirement and bought a flat-bed Whitlock press. Elwood picked up each week the machine-set type that was done by Ralph Mattocks in his printing shop at Chaffee. Then he and Roman would set up display ads, arrange the type in 6-column page form and run it off on the Whitlock. In 1950 there was a 900 circulation and not a deadline had been missed.

It was in September of 1954 that George Allen Westland purchased the Oran News from Roman Ressel. Early in 1955 the paper was moved from the Ressel Garage to the building owned by Corona Harper, next door to the Oran Cafe. In 1957 the Oran News and Chaffee Leader was sold to Neil Amundson and later was sold to Millham. The next owner of the little paper was Ralph Mattocks who bought it in 1960. In 1961 the office was moved into the home of Mrs. Olive Westland where it remained until Mrs. Roman Ressel took over the paper in her home. Mr. Bob Kielhofner of Chaffee bought the paper in 1966, who also owned the Chaffee Signal. The papers are now combined and name changed to "THE SIGNAL AND NORTH SCOTT COUNTY NEWS".

ORAN OPERA HOUSE

In 1914 C. and A. J. Matthews built the Oran Opera House where now is Cook's Garage. Contractors for the building were from Cape Girardeau. Some of the local men who helped in the building were Will Grice and George Bowman. Arthur McCray and his brother Otto hauled sand for the concrete and lathes for the framework by wagon from Chaffee and Rockview. Down front ran the large stage with dressing rooms on each side. The large auditorium held hundreds of people. Across the back ran a large balcony. Here was the scene of many stage shows, revival meetings and in 1920 the first graduating exercise of the Oran High School was held. In the first year there were three seniors Early Crader, Alpha Lyons, and Helen Bowman. The exercises were held here until in 1925 when the high school building was built. In the late twenties a Mr. Kibby operated the "MASJESTIC THEATRE" in the building with silent films. Between the reels as they were then called piano music was played. Some of the ladies

COOK'S GARAGE

who played for this was Mrs. John Metz, Mrs. Frank
ORAN OPERA HOUSE

Metz, Mrs. Charles Durris, Mrs. Corona Harper, and Evelyn Tenkoff. At the front of the building on each side were office rooms. In one, Mr. William Oliver had his law office, in the other was Mrs. Chole Engle, a seamstress. In 1931 Fred Sturgeon bought the building and operated a forage shop and garage. He sold to his brother A. R. Sturgeon in 1939 who with John Diebold as partner ran the garage until 1945. In 1953 Albert Cook bought the building and has since operated a garage.

DIASTERS IN ORAN
FIRES IN ORAN

The above buildings were known as the Metz Block and burned early Sunday morning, November 19, 1922. The building where the Oran State Bank now stands was known as the Lemp Building which contained three business places and was purchased by Andy and George Metz, who operated the Metz Brother saloon in the corner room on the site of the present bank. The next room in this building was a barber shop operated by Charles Merrit and Frank Carter and the room on the right of the Lemp building was a cafe operated by Adolph Schaefer. The upstairs was known as the Lodge Hall, rented by several lodges.

The large two story building also owned by the Metz Brothers and the large room on the left was occupied by Moore and Stubblefield General Store, handling groceries, clothing, hardware, implements, furniture, etc. This room was later occupied by the late Mr. William Oliver. The next room was the Banks Saving Store which sold ladies and men's clothing exclusively. The room on the very right was a butcher shop operated by Frank Miller and George Driskill and later by the Halter Brothers. Part of the large upstairs was used as a furniture display room and the remainder was used at one time as an arsenal where weapons were stored in case an outbreak occurred.

The large two story building on the far left is the Heisserer Department Store. The building was built in 1901 and 1902 by Stubblefield. In 1904 it was operated as the T. S. Heisserer and Company, a General merchandise store. In 1924 it came under the ownership of Z. A. Heisserer, G. J. Slickman with Valerie Heisserer as a silent partner. It operated under the name of the Heisserer Department Store until on Sunday morning August 31, 1952 when a fire destroyed the building which also housed the Majestic Theatre in the upstairs.

In the far left corner was the Oran Bank and the room where the Burger Barber shop is now located, it was the Lutes Drugstore up until 1910. Harry C. Watkins had a complete men's furnishing store from 1910 until 1930 in this location after the drugstore was vacated. De. Westcoat and C. and A. J. Matthews had offices upstairs where Mr. and Mrs. Ed Burger now lives.

CYCLONE SWEEPS THROUGH ORAN

In May of 1917 the eastern part of the town of Oran was badly damaged by a cyclone that swept through Scott County. The church building that belonged to the people of the Church of God Faith was demolished, it being located where now stands the home of Mrs. Ida Halter. The roof was torn off and moved, and the floor was shoved ten feet from the foundation. Despite the ferocity of the wind, the seats in the church were practically as they had been left after the last services. The homes of Mrs. Lizze Walters and the Lester Turners were completely demolished. A Buick automobile belonging to John P. McCarty was stripped of its steering gear and top. The brick walls of the Metz building and the Hale block were damaged, the City Hall which at that time was a frame building located where now stands the old fire house, was shoved off its foundation. Jap McCord's barn was blown away, several of the out buildings at the Harry Watkins and J. B. Bowman homes changed locations from one lot to another, a pump at the Lyman Matthews home was pulled up six feet, part of the roof of the Oran Bank was blown away, and the roof was torn off the J. Banks business block. Damage at Oran was estimated at $5000, which was a lot of money back then. Charles Burris, south west of Oran, was one of the heaviest losers in the storm-swept section. He had a fine house and $1500 worth of furniture which was completely destroyed. Mr. Burris saw the twister heading for his place and together with his family took refuge in a culvert near his home.
The Theater in ILLMO on Saturday, September 22:

- **The Avengers** starring John Carroll
- **Serial**

Sunday and Monday, September 23-24:

- **Go For Broke**
  - Starring Van Johnson

**Plaza Theatre** in ILLMO, MO.:

- **Thursday**, September 22:
  - Two Big Features: Claudette Colbert and Robt. Young in *I Met Him in Paris*
  - Nan Grey and John Howard in *Let Them Live*
- **Friday-Saturday**, September 23:
  - Matinee 2:30 Saturday BARGAIN NIGHTS
  - Harry Carey and Hoot Gibson in *The Last Outlaw*
- **Sunday and Monday**, September 23-24:
  - Robert Taylor & Barbara Stanwyck in *This Is My Affair*

**Majestic Theatre** in ORAN, MO.:

- **Thursday, Feb. 23, 1939**
  - Two Feature Program—The Jones Family in *Down on the Farm*
  - Plus Feature Number 2—*Road Demon*
  - You'll call it the fastest picture even after you catch your breath.
  - Both for 10-21c.
  - **Friday and Saturday**, Feb. 24-25:
  - **Sunday and Monday**, Feb. 26-27:
    - Another mighty and grand feature in technicolor—Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy in *Sweethearts.*
    - M. G. M. brings you its biggest show Plus news and comedy. 10-26c

**Hartner Theater** in ILLMO:

- **Saturday**, September 22:
  - **The Avengers** starring John Carroll
- **Serial**

**Frobase Theatre** in Benton MO.:

- **September 13-14**
  - Howard Duff, with a great supporting cast, in a thrilling story of Blackmail. His Camera was more deadly than a gun.

**Shakedown**

---

I couldn't find any information on these theaters. I do have an article on the Majestic Theatre at Oran. I found these ad's in the Scott County Democrat newspaper. I have no idea who to get in touch to find out more on them. Maybe the Mayor of each town but I don't know who they are.
### Majestic Theatre

**Oran, Mo.**

Program January 5th to 12th

**Thursday, Jan. 5**
**Rich Man Poor Girl**
Starring Robert Young, Lew Ayres, Ruth Hussey and Guy Kibbee. 10-21c

**Friday and Saturday, Jan. 6-7**
A great western—The 3 Mesquiteers in
**Pals of the Saddle**
Featuring John Wayne and Ray Corrigan, Max Terhune. 10-21c

**Sunday and Monday, Jan. 8-9**
**Submarine Patrol**
With Richard Greene and Nancy Kelly. To be young, madly in love, this was the great war’s great adventure. Plus News, Golden California and Strangers Ride Again. 10-26c

**Tuesday, Jan. 10**
The Jones Family in
**Safety in Numbers**
Family Night. 10-15c

**Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 11-12**
Two swell features
**Vacation From Love**
A new design for romance. Feature No. 2—Jane Withers in
**Keep Smiling**
She made you laugh a lot and cry a little, but you haven’t seen anything until you watch Jane take Hollywood apart and then put it together again. 10-21c

---

### Plaza Theatre

**Illmo, Mo.**

**Thursday—Last Time Today**
Shirley Temple, Chas. Farrell and Bill Robinson in
**Just Around the Corner**

**Friday Only**
Free chinaware to ladies
Joe E. Brown and Leo Carillo in
**Flirting With Fate**

**Saturday Only—Mat. 2:30**
The biggest picture ever offered at Bargain prices—Robert Donat and Rosalind Russell in
**The Citadel**
Bargain Night

**Sunday and Monday—Mat. 2:30**
Here comes the musical hit picture of the year—Hear Dick Powell sing “You Must Have Been A Beautiful Baby” to Olivia DeHavilland in
**Hard To Get**

**Tuesday—Mat. 3 O’clock**
Lew Ayres and Lionel Barrymore in
**Young Dr. Kildare**

**Coming Wednesday and Thursday—2 Big Features**
Richard Greene and Preston Foster in
**Submarine Patrol**
And a new Columbia picture
**Man’s Castle**
LIGHTNER'S OPERA HOUSE, built in 1910 and destroyed by fire in 1930. The above card was part of Lightner's advertising campaign designed to bring first-class vaudeville entertainment to Illmo. Lightner must have developed a deep love for the theater during his years as a showboat entrepreneur, in order to dare to erect as pretentious an opera house as the above in Illmo, then a rough new railroad town that in 1910 had a population of only 976.

View northeast from the Amrhein drugstore corner toward the Southern Hotel, which was located where Dr. Steven F. Roth's dental office now stands. The Southern Hotel, once one of the area's best known hostelries, burned on Dec. 15, 1950, leaving a huge pile of bricks, of which I salvaged a few and used them to build a walk in my back yard.
Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

Shelby County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

- Miller Opera House (Shelbina)
- Rutledge B P (Clarence)
- Shelbina
- Rutledge B P

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

- Miller Opera House (Shelbina)
- Rutledge B P (Clarence)

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

- Miller Opera House (Shelbina)
- Rutledge B P (Clarence)

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

SHELBYVILLE
SHELBYVILLE
SHELBYVILLE
SHELBYVILLE
SHELBYVILLE

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

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

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

What days and times is your library open to the public? __________ / 11-5

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

Who is the best person to contact for more information? ____________________________

K. WILHAM GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH & PUBLISHING
RR 1, BOX 150 573-633-2206
SHELBYVILLE, MO 63469-9755

Thank you for your assistance.

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203
August 31, 1997

Shelby County Historical Society
215 South Center Street
Shelbina, MO 63468

Dear Shelby County Historical Society Representative:

I am a graduate student in the Environmental Design Department at the University of Missouri - Columbia working on a PhD in Historic Preservation. My dissertation focuses on historic theatres, halls, and opera houses in outstate Missouri. I am attempting to compile a database of information about the theatrical venues which have existed in Missouri. I am particularly interested in the theatres and opera houses which still exist even if they are no longer functioning as a performance space. Eventually, I hope to produce a book about historic theatres in Missouri.

In your area, I am aware of the following theatres and am interested in any additional information about them that you can provide:

- Shelby Miller Opera House
- Clarence Rutledge B P

However, there may be or have been other theatres, halls, or opera houses in your area that I have yet to discover. I would appreciate your help in locating information about the theatres and opera houses in your area. I am enclosing a short questionnaire to help guide you to the type of information I am interested in obtaining.

For your convenience, I have enclosed a self-addressed, stamped envelope for you to return the questionnaire to me. In addition, I am enclosing a small donation to your organization.

If your organization charges a fee for research inquiries, please advise me of the anticipated cost prior to beginning any searches. I can be reached by phone at (573) 443-3241 or you may simply send the information to me in the postage-paid enclosed envelope.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Becky L. Snider
1008 Sunset Drive
Columbia, MO 65203
The Opera House built around 1890 as it appeared around 1900. Other pictures on this page show it in various stages as it went down for the final count in the conflagration which struck the town Sunday, April 6, 1958.

Hunnewell Suffers Devastating Fire

Damages Estimated From $80,000 To $100,000 By Early Morning Blaze, April 6, 1958.

Above, flames are shown sweeping through the three-story building formerly occupied by the postoffice and Pope Crate Mfg. Co. On the right is the front of the Hunnewell Standard newspaper. Shelbina and Monroe City firemen are shown at the scene.

Above is the gutted three-story building known as the old opera house, in which was located the postoffice and the Pope Crate Mfg. Co., after the fire had destroyed half a block of buildings in Hunnewell.
The Old Chautauqua

A highlight of the first hundred years in Shelbina was the Redpath-Vawter Chautauqua, an institution that entertained and delighted the community for a period of seventeen years, beginning in August, 1911.

A meeting was held in October, 1910, for the purpose of bringing the Chautauqua to Shelbina and the Shelby Democrat of October 12th reported that "George Gose and other business men are securing signers to the guarantee". In order to get the Chautauqua, a fixed amount of money was required as a guarantee, and about one hundred business men and citizens of the town signed the necessary agreement, supported by individual signed agreements to purchase season tickets at $1.50. In later years the season tickets sold at $2, and toward the end of the series at $2.25, but this community probably never had, before or since, quite so much entertainment at such low cost.

There were three sessions daily of the program, morning, afternoon and evening, for a full week. The first Chautauqua, held August 17 to 23, 1911, advertised a program of 33 events, and described the Chautauqua as "The People's University. The Most American Institution in America".

Morning sessions were usually devoted to lectures by prominent people, including senators, governors and professional speakers, although later the morning program was changed to the children's hour. At times a well known speaker was presented in the afternoon or evening, depending upon the travel schedule from one town to another in the circuit, or upon his popularity. William Jennings Bryan, the "silver tongued orator" of his generation, spoke in Shelbina in August, 1912, at which time, in the course of his address, he observed that not even our greatest scientists could understand or explain how a red cow could eat green grass and produce yellow butter. Bryan could speak the language of the common man, and was widely known as the Great Commoner. Many other speakers appeared through the years, including: Thomas Brooks Fletcher, Senator Luke Lea, Senator James K. Var- daman, Judge Ben B. Lindsey, John Temple Graves, Henry J. Allen, Quinn O'Brien, Francis J. Heney, Victor Murdock, Dr. Frank Church, and many others.

Good music was an important part of the entertainment, and many fine musical organizations were presented, including orchestras by Schildhret and Krantz, and such concert bands as Thaviu, Quintana, Kryl, John C. Weber, and Signor Quaglia with his Italian band.

Dramatic plays were presented on the stage of the big tent (located in the school yard) by such groups as the Ben Greet Players and the Wm. J. Keighley Players. The dramatic productions included: Comedy of Errors, Strange Bedfellow, Broadway Jones, Robin Hood, Adam and Eve, Captain Applejack, The Melting Pot, Nothing But The Truth, Applesauce, It Pays to Advertise and Turn to the Right.

Other entertainment included: Garett's Trained Animals, The Riner Sisters, Grand Opera Singers, Royal Hawaiians, Dunbar Singing Sextette, Russian Cathedral Quarte, and the Filipine Serenaders. In the 1916 program, for example, there were fourteen musical numbers and twelve speakers, of whom Senator Thomas P. Gore of Oklahoma was a headliner.

Mrs. Florence Nolin Sullivan, well known here as a talented violinist, was the only person in this area who was included as a Chautauqua entertainer. She served with Redpath-Horner and Redpath Vawter as a member of a women's string ensemble, but did not appear in the Shelbina circuit.

By 1927 the Chautauqua was beginning to run into trouble. The Shelby County Fair and the Chautauqua were usually held during the month of August, and the community perhaps was beginning to tire of the double feature during hot weather. Some thought the quality of the programs had declined, and a few business men observed that no one guaranteed their businesses against loss. By then, also, the radio and the automobile had came along to offer diversion and competition. Season ticket subscribers and guarantors became more reluctant to sign agreements, so for 1927 the Chautauqua was reduced from a seven day circuit to a five day program.

At the end of the 1927 Chautauqua, only 200 people signed for season tickets for the following year. The guarantors, who had stood by for seventeen years, now refused to sign an agreement for 1928, and that was the end of the Chautauqua in Shelbina. Too many people seemed to consider themselves as graduates of "The People's University", and it was not long thereafter before other communities began to experience similar difficulties and the Chautauqua was forced to fold its tent and quit, leaving behind it a fine and memorable contribution in adult education and community culture.
The Opera House -
Memories of Bygone Days

By Mrs. Roselle Miller Humphrey

Long before moving pictures, the most widespread place of entertainment for the family was the "Opera House". Minstrel shows, plays and musical programs were a few of the activities which took place on the opera stage. In 1888, Shelbina, too, was to have its own opera house.

The idea for the opera house came when Mr. Charles Miller and Mr. Jess White decided to go into partnership and build a building to have stores on the ground level and the opera house would be above them. Later Mr. Miller became the sole owner and for many years, Miller's Furniture Store was on the ground floor. C & R Market today occupies part of the building and Mr. Charles Brown owns the old Opera House upstairs.

The Opera House, with 30-40 foot ceilings, was quite elegant in its day and had three different sections in which patrons were seated. The reserve section consisted of two sections with a central aisle and aisles at each side. The seats were folding chairs, all connected in a row. Underneath each seat was a rack for a gentleman's hat. The less expensive seats were located in the back under the balcony—these were wood straight chairs. The "gallery" was reserved for negroes. Footlights lighted the stage while kerosene lamps down the center aisle furnished other lighting. Two huge pot-bellied stoves heated the building with a smaller stove backstage for the performers. Small windows near the ceiling let out hot air during the summer.

The footlights for the stage was painted. Red velvet curtains draped and held back by gold cords revealed a scene, probably a waterfall. Sometime later this curtain was painted with names of local advertisers and patrons of the Opera House.

Traveling troupes played here for a one-week, ten days or two week stands at a time. The players were lodged in the old Waverly Hotel, or occasionally, in private homes. Usually a band consisting of five or six instruments played a concert before the opening act or between acts. Some of the most popular plays presented in Shelbina were "East Lynne", "Uncle Tom's Cabin", "The Count of Monte Cristo", and "Little Lord Fauntleroy".

There were, also, minstrel shows, reviews and an occasional concert. One of the favorite performers was Blind Boone. William Jennings Bryan once spoke at the Opera House.
The Opera House was, also, used for high school plays and graduation ceremonies. During the 1920's one such opera produced locally was "H. M. S. Pinafore" and one of the plays, "Patty Makes Things Hum" and several minstrels. Sometimes around 1930, when the new high school was built, the old Opera House closed. The building is now used for storage by Brown's Furniture Store.
Memo From: 
LOIS GRAVES
Shelbina, Missouri 63468

To: Frederick

Date: 1937

Play (monthly) - East Lynne - Othello
Bumping Matches - Lullin and Howlett
Traveling Minstrel Shows (William Jennings Bryan)

less expensive seats under balcony
gallery (recess)
(footlights) Kerosene lamps down center ache
stone pat-halls
small windows that in summer

Grace Broughton (high school play)
small girl pink crepe paper dress

Virginia Moore, graduate from stage

Bumping Matches
Mutt Leach - Bud Carson

Brown's Furniture

BROWNS

May 27, 1913

OPERAHOUSE

ACT II

encement, 1913
Shelbina

Pre-paved Center street

Main street looking North.

Main street looking South.
started at the east edge of Shelbina, curving to the northwest and intersected Highway 15 three blocks north of the old highway, continuing west to intersect the original highway at the west edge of the city. More than a block of houses were either torn down or moved to provide a clover-leaf at the intersection of the two highways; this clover-leaf was never constructed, however. Some of the houses which were relocated north of the new highway and east of Highway 15, was made into a new addition to the city and called 'Threlkeld’s Addition'.

In 1967, "The Shelby Plaza", a new shopping center, was opened just north of the new Highway 36. There are seven places of business in the Plaza at this time. Also, a large grocery, two motels, two restaurants and two service stations adjoining.

The Salt River Nursing Home was built in 1971-72 just west of the new shopping center and was opened in January, 1973. It is a beautiful, modern 120 bed home - one Shelby County citizens can be proud of.

The Town and Country swimming pool (a private one) was built in the 1960’s.

In 1867 the city began plans on major water system improvements and voters approved a $150,000 bond issue for this purpose.

This same year a contract was signed to have natural gas and construction got underway on both water and gas improvements.
Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

Augusta Historical Society/Friends of Historic Augusta

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

_Historic Augusta sponsored theater in its Harmonie-Verein Hall in the 1800s. Drama was a prominent art at churches and schools in the 1900s. The village had no theater building per se.

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

- ___ books about specific theatres
- ___ photographs
- X newspaper articles (German) St. Charles Demokrat, 1800s
- ___ scrapbooks
- ___ county or town histories
- ___ other, please specify

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

Palosis Theater of St. Louis played in Augusta 1879, 1880 (See above newspaper 22 May 1879, 22 Jan 1880)

St. Charles entertainment group "The Clerks" played Augusta 1897. (See 26.11. 1897 newspaper)

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

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

Who is the best person to contact for more information? ___ Translator and book author

Anita M. Mallinckrodt, PhD - 314/228-4821 (498 Schell Rd., Augusta, MO 63332)

Thank you for your assistance. Thank you for your donation to Friends of Historic Augusta.

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

[Signature]
September 10, 1997

Becky L. Snider
1008 Sunset Drive
Columbia, MO 65203

Dear Ms. Snider:

We have received your letter concerning the old theatres, etc., in St. Charles. We do have considerable information in our files on these theatres. None of the ones you mentioned are still in existence. But most of the buildings still stand. There is material on newer theatres also.

We are enclosing a card which contains our hours and other information. If you do your own research, we charge $2.50 per day and 15 cents for copies. If we research for you, we charge $8.00 per hour. It would probably run approximately $20.

We are enclosing a few samples so that you have an idea of what is here.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Lucille Shelton, Researcher
STRAND THEATRE FIRM HAS
DISSOLVED PARTNERSHIP

1921

J. Hoffman and Sam Steinberg who have been operating the Strand Theatre have dissolved partnership, Mr. Hoffman retiring and Mr. Steinberg will continue the business. These men came here from St. Louis about three months ago. Two weeks ago they purchased the lease on the Grand Opera House. Mr. Steinberg says he is going to give St. Charles the best pictures that can be secured and hopes the public will continue to give him liberal patronage.

THE LYRIC AIRDOME

The Lyric Airdome, the Family Theatre has opened for the summer season and will present an excellent selection of pictures to its patrons.
Theatre Reality Still a Question

Curtains-Up
In St. Charles?

By WENDY BLUMENTHAL
Feature Editor

The dust of the old St. Charles Theatre and Opera House has settled. As it settled, the dreams of 100 years of vaudeville and theatre in St. Charles have all faded; save for those of the Opera House's last tenants, Friends of the Director, Ltd.

Frank and Sandy Wersching, the backbone of Friends of the Director, Ltd., are confident they will have another theatre. The only question is where.

The Werschings and their steering committee are studying potential locations for their theatre's new home. A front runner is the century-old Grand Opera House, located above The Famous store at 311 N. Main St.

"At this point, the Famous building is one of the leading possibilities, but it's not the only one. We like the St. Charles community and we've received support from the business community to re-establish here. But, now that the ordeal of the other theatre is past, we have time to sit back and organize first." Wersching said.

Wersching is understandably both cautious and optimistic when he talks about again bringing theatre to life in St. Charles.

"There are three groups of people who should be involved in this project," the director explained. "The first is a board of directors. At this point we're interviewing people in the community who might assume a position on this board. The second group is the steering committee, which has already been formed and has around 50 people. From this group all the smaller committee activities will work.

"Finally, we're looking for the names and addresses of all the people in the community who will support the theatre by attending performances."

Because Friends of the Director, Ltd. are affiliated with Urban Renewal, Wersching pointed out that his group needs to prove that the Famous building is the most logical relocation site before plans move from the drawing board. They also have to demonstrate that the community is interested.

The Famous Building and it's Grand Opera House are owned by Irvin Koplowitz. While the Opera has not housed live theatre for almost 50 years, those who attended graduation and dances there in the ensuing years could view the curling poster and Victorian appointments which still remain.

"We've come to a tentative agreement with Koplowitz on a reasonable rent and a long term lease," Wersching noted. "Koplowitz is also interested in having a theatre in the Main Street area.

Koplowitz told the Journal that he hasn't "really gone into the specifics of a lease," but he is definitely behind the Werschings in their attempt to re-establish theatre in the community.

"I think they'd prefer this location above the others they're considering in St. Louis and I believe having a theatre here would help draw people downtown." Koplowitz said.

The Grand Opera House, which Wersching believes could seat 300 to 400 patrons, will be 100 years old in 1976. While it's historical aspects are an attraction, Wersching estimates that $50,000 to $200,000 worth of renovation would be required before the first curtain goes up.

"We've had a preliminary structural test made by a private firm and we have every indication that the building is structurally sound," he commented. "But to comply with city standards, a complete study must be made. Fire and safety regulations must be complied with and our biggest alteration will be making a rear entrance. This will make us a first floor enterprise, facilitate parking and eliminate walking up steps."

Where will the money come from? The decision will rest with the new Board of Directors. One possibility Wersching sees is applying for Bicentennial funds, since the building will be 100 years old on the nation's 200th birthday.

As for past debts, Wersching said that "Most of our creditors have encouraged our growth and suggest we try to establish another theatre here and pay off what we owe as we can."

"I think you have to remember that we were successful before. In our 18 months we had 20 productions, 12 full credit college courses, numerous classes for children through high school students and youth group participation. The theatre would not only be of an artistic, but of civic interest as well. I know there's enough people in this community to support this project. But if theatre stays in St. Charles it must through a total community effort."
Opera House
TONY HAAKE, Manager.

St. Charles, Mo., March 1, 1905.

ERNEST CRAWFORD
in the new Four-Act War Drama

“A Russian Spy”

CAST OF CHARACTERS.
COUNT IVAN PETROSKY, A Russian Spy known as
Dr. Petri----------------MR. ERNEST CRAWFORD
Harold Horton, a wealthy young man about town------
---------------------------Mr. H. Howard Harding
Timothy Skinner, a wharf rat in San Francisco------
---------------------------Mr. Edwin B. Hadsall
Bill Ralston, a gambler----------------Mr. Charles Williams
Gen. Hitomara, Governor of New Chwang--Mr. Wm. Bach Jr.
Capt. Matsada, a Japanese Officer----------------Mr. Claude Russell
Kai-Kau, a Singalese strangler----------------Mr. Daniel E. Hogan
Nun Raswan, Korean High Priest----------------Mr. Charles A. Zitz
Henry, Horton’s man-----------------------------Mr. Louis Miller
Japanese Officer-----------------------------Mr. Adam Sandford
Mrs. Bessie Horton, Harold’s mother----------------Miss Marie Crane
Victoria Webster, Mrs. Horton’s niece----------------Miss Regina Aus
Aya-San, daughter of Gen. Hitomara----------------Miss Lillian May
Kat-i-shi-ha, Aya-San’s aunt--------------------------Miss Daisy Gunn
Susan, Mrs. Horton’s maid--------------------------Miss Florence Martin
Yo. San, Aya-San’s baby sister---------------------Baby Fontella

SYNOPSIS.
ACT I—The Horton Mansion on Nob Hill, San Francisco.
ACT II—The Gardens and Gambling House, Chemulpoo, Korea.
ACT III—Ante-Room in Governor’s Palace, New Chwang, Korea.
ACT IV—Zenda Vesta Temple on Korean Coast.

SPECIALTIES.
ACT I—Comedy Songs.
ACT II—Japanese Songs.
The Grand Opera House

A view of the interior of the old Grand Opera House, found upstairs of the Famous Building at 311 N. Main. The old theatre, which dates back almost 100 years, is one of the locations that Friends of the Director are considering for re-establishing live theatre in St. Charles. Initial plans call for retaining the original name of Grand Opera House.
Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

St. Clair County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opera House</td>
<td>Appleton City</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durley Hall</td>
<td>Osceola</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House's Opera House</td>
<td>Osceola</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calendar Hall</td>
<td>Osceola</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opera House</td>
<td>Appleton City</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durley Hall</td>
<td>Osceola</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House's Opera House</td>
<td>Osceola</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calendar Hall</td>
<td>Osceola</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Lowery City "Opera House" still standing above a restaurant.

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

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

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

- no

What days and times is your library open to the public? Mon-Fri 8-5

Sat 8-12

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

- no

Who is the best person to contact for more information? Librarian Margaret Smith

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

OF

Henry and St. Clair Counties,

MISSOURI

CONTAINING

A HISTORY OF THESE COUNTIES, THEIR CITIES, TOWNS, ETC., ETC.,

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF THEIR CITIZENS, GENERAL AND LOCAL STATISTICS, HIST­
TORY OF MISSOURI, MAP OF HENRY AND ST. CLAIR COUNTIES, ETC.

ILLUSTRATED.

12255

ST. JOSEPH, MO:
NATIONAL HISTORICAL COMPANY,
1883.
is anxious and willing to work in harmony with people of its own county, and contend for trade and mastery by business energy. This is the right spirit, and Appleton City has grown and prospered since it has taken this course. The county seat craze made, however, sad havoc with its early prosperity. Since 1876, it has made wonderful progress.

In 1878, A. D. LaDue and A. F. Wyckoff, each, laid out a part of lot 1, of section 5, and in 1880, A. Buskirk plotted a part of lot 2, northeast quarter of section 5, as additions to the city.

Up to 1876, the town had no brick buildings within its limits, in fact, its main street was like all railroad towns, nearly all being one story buildings. W. D. Clark, that year, built the first brick, being a two story business house, which he occupied as a grocery store. On January 1, 1883, there were seventeen brick and stone buildings in the city. That the business of the city may be known in future years, we give from the Journal of the city, Charles Hilton, editor and publisher, the following brief synopsis of its business interests:

It says: When we consider the fact that not half the soil of the country tributary to Appleton City has ever been under cultivation, the result in the building up and advanced progress of Appleton City, has been a wonderful success. With an inexhaustible supply of coal, water plenty, and other favorable conditions, we believe that almost any branch of manufacturing would find this a good point.

The first good grain elevator between Sedalia and Fort Scott was built at this place by Luchsinger & Streiff, in 1881. It is now occupied by G. W. Johns & Co. Wyckoff & McFarlane have just completed an elevator, and these two firms, having each ample warehouse room, are handling an immense amount of grain and seeds.

Fourth Street is the principal business street of the city, is macadamized with the blue limestone that abounds in the vicinity.

The pride of our city is Durley Hall, built in 1881 by our townsman, H. W. Grantley, containing one of the finest opera halls in Southwest Missouri, and is the pride of our city. It is a magnificent two story brick, 110 feet deep, fifty feet wide and forty-five feet in height, and cost $20,000. It has a front and rear entrance, the former eight feet wide, leading to the hall by an easy stairway. The lower story contains two fine stores, and the upper or second story is given, with the exception of two front rooms, entirely to the hall and its dressing rooms, etc. The hall was named after a friend of the proprietor who resides at Bloomington, Illinois, in which city is another opera house of the same name. The Durley Opera House stands as a monument of business energy and enterprise in which the proprietor, as well as the citizens can feel a just pride.

From the first Appleton City commanded the trade of a large extent of country and as the fertile lands were put under the plow and the-natural
Older Feed Stores—Ed Elder, Charles Duval.


In former years there were two banks, The Farmers State and the Lowry City Bank. A new drive-in bank building has been erected by the Lowry City Bank. Their grand opening was March 21, 1971.

Suiter & McClain were in the hardware business here for a number of years. Mr. McClain and son, Clarence, were the managers. Mr. Suiter lived in Warsaw. Besides hardware, they sold windmills, farm implements, buggies and wagons, paints, etc. Schell Douglass was their maintenance man and pipe fitter. After the death of Clarence McClain, Schell Douglass was manager until the business was sold to Mr. S. F. Eversole.

"The Opera House" is a pleasant memory. It was the setting for silent movies, commencement exercises, home talent plays, The Roving Minstrels, Revival Meetings, roller skating rink, political rallies, school plays, etc. The player piano was a main attraction and it was quite an honor to be chosen to manipulate it.

Later businesses are Scott's Mobile Homes, Elton’s T. V. Repair Shop, City Tavern, The Country Store and Scotgas Company. New businesses along the Highway are Patio Drive-In, Manuel Auto Parts, Chester Realty, Nu Charm Beauty Shoppe, Davis Barber Shop, Skelly Oil Station, Derby Service Station, Smitty’s Mercantile, MFA Insurance, Hart’s Motel and Restaurant and Hart’s Apco Filling Station.


Hardware—Bunch & Sons, Shoemaker & Clayton, Scott’s Super Stores.

Restaurants—Perry Hagan, George Kitterman, Roy Foster Don and Blanche Hoover, Jimson, S. M. LaRue, and present

Jewelers—Elli Neuenschwan

Hotels—Vannice Hotel, Scliss. Anna Kubachek (Cottage)

Telephone Operators—Effie Edna Moore Daugherty, Essie Lyon, Leona Sorter.

Real Estate—LaRue Reading, R. D. Gordon, G. W. Witty, C.

Barbers—C. E. Breon, Ar Douglass, Fred Wears, Everett

Milliners—Mrs. Cora Ha Hettie Snyder.

Livery Stables—Sam Rooksley Park, Tom Sanders & Elma

Flour Mill & Elevator—M.

Blacksmiths—Tom Yost, J. Raney, Charlie Jones, Carl. Lawler, Walter Van Gorden, Or

Doctors—Leo S. Wright, M Stratton, M. D., Edwin Peele, Arthur E. Bourland, D. C.


The Capitol Garage and Servi Bales and J. C. Sullivan, They end of Main Street for six ye the present Capitol Garage. Tl Mr. Sullivan carried on the be after the death of Mr. Bales. A Mrs. Sullivan sold the business who are the present day owners
mer desire was satisfied with the coming of the area, and hundreds of people were involved in the manufacturing of gas, heaters, furnaces, water heaters, etc., hence the demand rose, and the Scotts started handling gas under the Scotgas name.

The expanded demand for LP gas for cooking purposes led the Scotts to build the first stage of a modern LP gas bottling plant on South Hiway 13, on land purchased by Donovan Scott. The initial plant had two storage tanks. Thus in 1955 was born a new city, being known as the Scotgas Division of Lowry City, being known as the Scotgas Division.

In the following year, a third 6000 gallon tank was added, making a total of 30,000 gallon storage. A 1400 gallon delivery bulk truck, the Scotts delivering in one 2000 gallon and one 2200 gallon tank, was added, and these delivery trucks are backed up by five locally built trucks especially equipped to take care of the increased demand for LP gas. Curiously, the Scotts operate seven Radio-controlled trucks, now three at the City store, in conjunction with three at the

In the spring of 1952, R. O., and Donovan Scott, in partnership with Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Scott, purchased the Clyde Forrest Home Furnishings Co., in Osceola, and changed the name of that store to the Scott Furniture Co. Two years later, the partnership purchased the Nash Furniture store, and combined the two Osceola stores, into one store on the Osceola square.

After purchase of the Osceola store, the Lowry City store showed a small stock of furniture in the limited space available in the balcony of the hardware building. The store was renamed Scotts Stores, to reflect the multiple location factor.

The Jesse Daugherty grocery, 306 Main, just north of the Scott Store, was closed in December 1951, upon Mr. Daugherty's retirement, and this building was purchased by the Scotts from R. D. Gordon, and after making new doorways and entrances between the two buildings, this new acquisition was stocked with an expanded line of home furnishings.

When the Scotts observed their 10th anniversary, in June 1957, the community was aware of a quite different store than that known 10 years previous. By this time, they no longer carried fencing, roofing, and glass, but were rapidly moving into a complete home furnishings department store.

In the following decade, Scotts absorbed the old Theatre building to the south, and had purchased the old Austin building to the north, as well as the burned-out building, formerly housing the Neilsen Tire Shop, which burned in 1957. These newly-acquired buildings were now housing various departments in the expanding business.

Those hundreds of people who attended the Scott's 2 day Twentieth Anniversary Open House in June, 1967, noted that not only had the store stock changed, but that the name was now appropriately called Scott's Super Stores. They were now able to shop leisurely through the five air-conditioned Scott buildings housing one of the largest selections of merchandise in West Central Missouri.

Two years later, the burned out building at 304 Main was all torn out and completely rebuilt and thus formed the final bridge to bind together the six inter-connected buildings extending from 302 through 312 Main Street. In a five-year remodeling program begun in 1955, these six buildings, all with different type store fronts, were now combined into a
NEWELL DRUG STORE 1892

Opera House over store on location of present Corner Cafe.

ELMER BREON IN HIS BARBER SHOP.

IN TELEPHO!
Frank Kirtley, Dorothy Daugherty at switchboard

ALBERT NEUENSCHWAN COUNTER IN HIS STORE.
from Lowry City Centennial Book
1971
### Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

**St. Francois County Historical Society**

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I.O.O.F. Opera House</td>
<td>Farmington</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyric Theatre</td>
<td></td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyceum</td>
<td>Bonne Terre</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
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<th>Location</th>
<th>Status</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Lyric Theatre</td>
<td></td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyceum</td>
<td>Bonne Terre</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
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</table>

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

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<tr>
<td>Lyric Theatre</td>
<td></td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyceum</td>
<td>Bonne Terre</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Times</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon-Thur</td>
<td>10AM-5PM, 6PM-9PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>10AM-5PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>10AM-2PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmington Public Library Hours</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Yes/No

Who is the best person to contact for more information?

**Thank you for your assistance.**

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203
There is some information available on other theaters in St. Francois County.
I have in my private collection some articles and pictures. I could copy for you.

Farmington and three other theater locations
The Show - Monarch + Ritz - all gone.
Flat Rock - or Park Hills - Roosevelt still in use
Elkins - Regal gone
Desloge Grand gone
Bonne Terre - O'Beirne gone
Laurinburg - gone

Some photos of these would be available.

Let me know if can be of further help.
I checked with Fort Leonard - they don't have much of any.
I could also get you address of Park Hills and
Bonne Terre Library.

Yours

Jack Clay
Corresponding Sec.
Historical Society
P.O. Box 575
Farmington, Mo. 63640
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO.</th>
<th>177</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NO.</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUNTY</td>
<td>St. Francois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUNTY</td>
<td>St. Francois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOCATION OF NEGATIVES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION TOWNSHIP</td>
<td>120 East School Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IF CITY OR TOWN, STREET ADDRESS</td>
<td>Bonne Terre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IF RURAL, VICINITY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CITY OR TOWN</td>
<td>Bonne Terre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THREATENED CATEGORY</td>
<td>Entertainment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE(S) OR PERIOD</td>
<td>ca. 1890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STYLE OR DESIGN</td>
<td>Italianate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT</td>
<td>Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRESENT USE</td>
<td>Athletic Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OWNERSHIP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SITE ( )</td>
<td>Structure ( )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUILDING ( )</td>
<td>Object ( )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ON NATIONAL REGISTER ( )</td>
<td>YES ( )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IS IT ELIGIBLE? NO ( )</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOURCES OF INFORMATION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREPARED BY</td>
<td>Thompson and Assoc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORGANIZATION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE</td>
<td>1989</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
42. Architectural Description: The Lyceum is a 1 story frame, 3 bay, rectangular plan, gable front building built ca. 1890. The building has a stone foundation, gable roof with composition shingles, bracketed cornice and weatherboard siding. Within the gable field on the main facade are wood shingles. Windows on the side facades are 6/6 light rectangular wood sash. To the rear is ca. 1900 addition with concrete foundation, gable roof with composition shingles, 6/6 light rectangular wood sash windows and weatherboard siding. Attached to the main facade is a 1 story frame, 7 bay, ca. 1980 addition. The addition has a shed roof, vertical frame siding, bay windows and metal frame entrance doors. To the left side facade is detached 2 story concrete block addition connected to the original building by an enclosed passageway.

43. History and Significance: The Lyceum has lost its original architectural character due to the addition on the main facade. However, it is one of the original social buildings constructed by the St. Joseph Company in the late 1880s. It was built as a meeting hall and theater building by the company and was a center for entertainment for many decades.

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings: The Lyceum located on E. School Street is sited on a rectangular urban lot in a commercial section of Bonne Terre.

Ralph Perry, veteran theater historian, wrote about the St. Louis theatres, including the Old Market, which was later known as the St. Louis Grand Opera House, and the Grand Theatre, in his book "25 Famous St. Louis Theaters: Many of nation's greatest entertainers graced their stages in early 1900s." Perry's work is a treasure trove for those interested in the history of St. Louis theater.
Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

Stone County Historical Society

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

Movie theatres were in Crane, Mo., Galena, Mo., and Reeds Spring, Mo. in early thirties and forties. They are all gone now, but the buildings are still there at Crane and Galena. The one at Reeds Spring was torn down for a parking lot.

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

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

Stone County library could probably help with all of these.

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

These were just movie theatres.

What days and times is your library open to the public? Mon. thru Fri. 8 to 4:30 till noon on Saturday

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

You would need to contact them.

Who is the best person to contact for more information? Fred Daugherty

The Doggy River Boys had a theatre at Kimberling City for awhile, before Branson boom.

Also, the Swiss Villa down by Baxter, West of Lampe, Mo., still is in operation. It is an amphitheatre and some big name people have been there.

And Artie Ayres had a country outdoor theatre at Lakeview for awhile, before they changed to Branson West.

Thank you for your assistance.

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

They also have a couple of theatres at Silver Dollar City.
Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

Sullivan County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Harmon Theatre Milan yes ___ no X ___

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

Harmon Theatre Milan yes ___ no X ___

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

Harmon Theatre Milan yes ___ no X ___

What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area? ALMOST ALL TOWNS IN THE COUNTY HAD AN OPERA HOUSE UNTIL MOVIE CAME. NONE EXIST NOW EXCEPT FOR AN OLD BUILDING OR TWO CALLED OPERA HOUSES.

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

___ books about specific theatres
___ photographs
___ newspaper articles
___ scrapbooks
___ county or town histories OFTEN MENTION OLD THEATERS
___ other, please specify

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

ONE VAUDEVILLE BROCHURE

What days and times is your library open to the public? OPEN TUESDAY MAY THROUGH SEPTEMBER. OTHER TIMES BY APPOINTMENT.

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

YES.

Who is the best person to contact for more information? MILDRED BALDRIDGE

Thank you for your assistance.

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203
Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

Texas County Missouri Genealogical and Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Opera House  Cabool  yes ___  no __

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

Opera House  Cabool  yes ___  no __

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

Opera House  Cabool  yes ___  no __

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

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

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

Do you have any information on which theatre or vaudeville circuit played in your area? None that we know of.

What days and times is your library open to the public? Each Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times? Sometimes if the President and or the Corresponding Sec. is ava available.

Who is the best person to contact for more information? Velma E. Adams, Corresp. Sec.

Thank you for your assistance.

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

Dear Ms. Snider:

Sorry to be so long in answering your request about the Cabool Opera House.

I had a great deal of trouble finding someone who had even heard of the Opera House. First I talked to our local attorney who lives in Cabool. He told me he vaguely remembered his parents mentioning it. He knew where it was located before it burned. He knew nothing of it otherwise. He suggested Mrs. Simonsen.

Then I called Mrs. Walter Simonsen--Mrs. Walter at 320 Grant ave.; Cabool, Mo. 65689. She remembered her parents talking of it and she too knew that it had been over a store and then had burned. Sometime later they had another one and that building is still standing and it too has another business it now. There is no longer an opera house.

Mr. Tindel suggested you might research some of the early editions to the Cabool Enterprise in the newspaper section of the State Historical Society there in Columbia and perhaps they might be something in them about the Opera House. He thought that would probably be the most logical to find something since it has been so many years ago that all of the old timers of that time is gone.

Most of the vaudeville circuit who played the area were done in tents that they either carried with them or the town furnished them and they were dismantled as soon as the show was over.

Sorry that is all the info that I could come up.

Sincerely,

Velma E. Adams
Corresponding Secretary
Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

Vernon County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fox Theatre</td>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>Yes ____ No ____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moore's Opera House</td>
<td>Yes ____ No ____</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moore's Theatre</td>
<td>Yes ____ No ____</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rink Theatre</td>
<td>Yes ____ No ____</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nickel Theatre</td>
<td>Yes ____ No ____</td>
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Is this (these) theatre(s) still in operation?

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</tr>
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<td>Rink Theatre</td>
<td>Yes ____ No ____</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nickel Theatre</td>
<td>Yes ____ No ____</td>
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What other historic theatres were located or are currently located in your area?

[Text about other historic theatres]

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

- Books about specific theatres
- Photographs
- Newspaper articles
- Scrapbooks
- County or town histories
- Other, please specify

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

[Text about theatre or vaudeville circuit]

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

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

Who is the best person to contact for more information? Patrick Brophy Quinn 667-7167

Thank you for your assistance. Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203
1. NO. | 4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S)  
---|---
D-10A | Wild Bill's Pool Hall & Recreational Center

2. COUNTY | 5. OTHER NAME(S)  
---|---
Vernon | H. T. Hildebrandt Saloon, The Nickel Theater

3. LOCATION OF NEGATIVES | 6. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION
---|---
Main Street Nevada | TOWNSHIP RANGE SECTION

7. CITY OR TOWN | 16. THEMATIC CATEGORY
---|---
Nevada | architecture

8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION | 17. DATE (S) OR PERIOD
---|---
c. 1880-1884 | 1926

9. COORDINATES UTM | 18. STYLE OR DESIGN
---|---
LAT LONG | Single entry

10. SITE ( ) | 19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER
---|---
STRUCTURE ( ) | 

11. ON NATIONAL REGISTER? | 20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER
---|---
YES ( ) | 

12. IS IT COMMERCIAL? | 21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT
---|---
YES ( ) | commercial

13. PART OF ESTABLISHED HIST. DISTRICT? | 22. PRESENT USE
---|---
YES ( ) | commercial/recreational

14. DISTRICT POTENTIAL? | 23. OWNERSHIP
---|---
YES ( ) | PUBLIC ( )

15. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTRICT | 24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS
---|---
| Wiley & Ella Simhauser, R.R. 4, Box 112, Ft. Scott, KS 66701

25. OPEN TO PUBLIC? | 26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION
---|---
YES ( ) | Main Street Nevada

27. OTHER SURVEYS IN WHICH INCLUDED | 28. NO. OF STORIES
---|---
N/A | 1

29. BASEMENT?
---
YES ( )

30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL
---
Not visible

31. WALL CONSTRUCTION
---
Frame

32. ROOF TYPE AND MATERIAL
---
Flat

33. NO. OF BAYS
---
2

34. WALL TREATMENT
---
Brick/plaster/ceramic tile

35. PLAN SHAPE
---
Rectangular

36. CHANGES
---
| ADDITION ( ) | ALTERED (X) |

37. CONDITION
---
INTERIOR | unknown

38. PRESERVATION
---
YES ( )

39. ENDANGERED?
---
YES ( )

40. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD?
---
YES ( )

41. DISTANCE FROM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD
---
approx. 10 feet

42. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES
---
The main entrance faces north. The facade has been substantially altered including plastering much of the facade, terra-cotta tiles and three multi-light recessed entrances. The second story has been removed, date unknown.

43. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE
---
This building was originally two stories in height and appears in the 1885 Sanborn Map. Sometime after 1926 the second story was removed. The original address was 342 E. Cherry. The first verifiable occupant was in 1888, H. T. Hildebrandt Saloon. By 1890, a billiards building was added in the rear. In 1907 it became the Nickel Theater.

44. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS
---
This building is located near the downtown square of Nevada. To the north, east, and west are other commercial buildings.

45. SOURCES OF INFORMATION
---
Sanborn Maps 1885, 1890, 1906, 1914, 1926.

City Directory, 1888.

46. PREPARED BY
---
Becker/Millstein

47. ORGANIZATION
---
Architectural & Art Historical Research

48. DATE
---
01/92

49. REVISION DATE (S)
---

**MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

**ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM**

**MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

**ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORIC INVENTORY SURVEY FORM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO.</th>
<th>B-17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. COUNTY</td>
<td>Vernon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. LOCATION OF NEGATIVES</td>
<td>Main Street, Nevada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION</td>
<td>TOWNSHIP RANGE SECTION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. PRESENT LOCAL NAME(S) OR DESIGNATION(S)</td>
<td>Fox Theater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. OTHER NAME(S)</td>
<td>Cockrell and Winston Livery; N. L. Winston Livery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION</td>
<td>Commercial (livery)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. CITY OR TOWN</td>
<td>Nevada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION</td>
<td>Commercial (theater)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. COORDINATES UTM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. SITE ( )</td>
<td>STRUCTURE ( )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 11. ON NATIONAL REGISTER | YES ( )
| 12. IS IT ELIGIBLE | YES ( )
| 13. PART OF ESTABLISHMENT | YES ( )
| 14. DISTRICT | YES ( )
| 15. NAME OF ESTABLISHMENT DISTRICT | |
| 16. THEMATIC CATEGORY | Architecture |
| 17. DATE(S) OR PERIOD | c. 1889; 1917, 1955 (remodel) |
| 18. STYLE OR DESIGN | |
| 19. ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER | |
| 20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER | Au |
| 21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT USE | Commercial (livery) |
| 22. PRESENT USE | Commercial (theater) |
| 23. OWNERSHIP | PUBLIC ( )
| 24. OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS | 110 S. Main Street, Nevada, MO |
| 25. OPEN TO PUBLIC? | YES (X) |
| 26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION | Main Street Nevada |
| 27. OTHER SURVEYS IN WHICH INCLUDED | N/A |
| 28. NO. OF STORIES | 2 |
| 29. BASEMENT | YES (X) |
| 30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL | Not visible |
| 31. WALL CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL | Flat |
| 32. ROOF TYPE AND MATERIAL | Flat |
| 33. NO. OF BAYS | FRONT ( )
| 34. WALL TREATMENT | Brick veneer/alum. sheathing |
| 35. PLAN SHAPE | Rect. |
| 36. CHANGES | ADDED ( )
| 37. CONDITION | INTERIOR GOOD |
| 38. PRESERVATION | UNDERWAY ( )
| 39. ENDANGERED | BY WHAT? |
| 40. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD? | YES (X) |
| 41. DISTANCE FROM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD | Approx. 10' |

**PHOTO MUST BE PROVIDED**

**12. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES**
The main facade faces east. It has been substantially altered with aluminum frame doors, brick veneer, aluminum awning and aluminum sheathing.

**13. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE**
The building was originally used as a livery. The first verifiable occupant was Cockrell & Winston Livery Stables (1890). In 1917 the building was remodeled into the "Star" Theater by J. E. Haggard, owner. At that time an additional story of 28 inches was added. In 1955 the name of the theater was changed to "The Fox".

**14. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND OUTBUILDINGS**
The building is half a block from the downtown square of Nevada. To the north, east and west are other commercial structures, and to the south is an vacant lot.

**15. SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

**16. PREPARED BY**
Becker/Millstein

**17. ORGANIZATION**
Architectural & Art Historical Research

**18. DATE OF SURVEY**
10/91

**19. REVISION DATE(S)**
Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

Mine Au Breton Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

Temperance Opera Hall Potosi yes no

Is this theatre still in operation?

Temperance Opera Hall Potosi yes no

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

Temperance Opera Hall Potosi yes no

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

The other one was first built by Sons of Temperance Lodge Hall in 1849, left unfinished. Purchased by Potosi Lodge 131 AF & AM then was used as an Opera House.

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

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

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

No

What days and times is your library open to the public? Monday 9:00 - 9:00 PM
Tues - Fri 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Sat 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM

Can special arrangements be made for the library to be open at other times? No

Who is the best person to contact for more information? Dorothy A. Lounge, Librarian

She only has information that I have provided.

Washington County Library
235 E High St
Potosi MO 63664
(573) 436-4691

Thank you for your assistance.

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203
MISSOURI OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION / INVENTORY SURVEY FORM

1. NAME  Potosi Masonic Lodge
HISTORIC  Temperance Opera Hall
AND / OR COMMON

2. LOCATION  T37N. R3E. SUR1851
STREET & NUMBER  Breton Ave.
CITY, TOWN  Potosi
STATE  Missouri

3. CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>PRESENT USE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>district</td>
<td>public</td>
<td>occupied</td>
<td>agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>structure</td>
<td>X private</td>
<td>unoccupied</td>
<td>commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>site</td>
<td>both</td>
<td>work in progress</td>
<td>educational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</td>
<td>ACCESSIBLE</td>
<td>entertainment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in process</td>
<td>X yes: restricted</td>
<td>government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>being considered</td>
<td>yes: unrestricted</td>
<td>scientific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>X N/A</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>military</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  Potosi Masonic Lodge
STREET & NUMBER  Potosi
CITY, TOWN  Potosi
VICINITY OF  Breton Township
STATE  Missouri

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Assessor’s Office
Phelps County Courthouse
Rolla, Missouri 65401

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE (None)</th>
<th>Determined Eligible?</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Federal</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Local</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

7. DESCRIPTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONDITION</th>
<th>CHECK ONE</th>
<th>CHECK ONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>deteriorated</td>
<td>X unaltered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>good</td>
<td>ruins</td>
<td>altered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fair</td>
<td>X original site</td>
<td>moved</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| date June 18, 1986 |

DESCRIPTION THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Potosi Masonic Lodge is a two story building of a rectangular plan shape. Windows are of simple sash design. This building has a simple gable roofline with return cornices. The Potosi Masonic Lodge is an example of Utilitarian architecture.
8. SIGNIFICANCE - Washington County Survey - Potosi Masonic Lodge

PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE - CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

prehistoric archaelogy - prehistoric community planning landscape architecture religion
1400-1499 archaelogy - historic conservation law
1500-1599 agriculture economics literature
1600-1699 architecture education military
1700-1799 art exploration / settlement music
1800-1899 commerce philosophy
1900- architecture

SPECIFIC DATES 1849 BUILDER / ARCHITECT the 'Sons of Temperance'

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (IN ONE PARAGRAPH)

Art - This building was once used as the Opera Hall.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY one lot size QUADRANGLE NAME Potosi Quad SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A [115] [614410] [42110140] B [41211041]
ZONE EASTING NORTHING ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C [614111] [41211041] D [41211041]

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION The Potosi Masonic Lodge is located in Breton township at the above referenced UTM coordinates. This location recognizes the building and the parameter of the grounds upon which it rests.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Barbara S. Black - Assistant Historic Preservation Coordinator

ORGANIZATION Meramec Regional Planning Commission

ADDRESS 101 West Tenth Street, Rolla, Missouri 65401 DATE 6-18-86
WASHINGTON COUNTY SURVEY

REPORT NO. /3/ 

POTOSI MASONIC LODGE
Breton Township
T37N. R2E. SUR1851.
Potosi, Mo.
'OLD POTOSI' WALKING TOUR GUIDE
JUNE 23-24, 1990

1. Mine Au Breton Historical Society Museum, 206 West Breton Street
This building was originally a Presbyterian Church, believed to be the oldest Presbyterian Church building west of the Mississippi River. It was built in 1832-33. It earlier had a steeple, since removed. Still remaining inside is the slave gallery, or balcony, at the back of the building. The famous architect, John Anderson Langford, once went to church here in this building. His parents were slaves born. This building served as Potosi's movie theater. Silent movies were shown here for many years. It served as a Boy Scout Hall until the 1930's. The building was converted into a museum during Potosi's Bicentennial in 1963.

2. Henry Edgar House
(Clara Hall House), 308 N. Pine St.
This house was built in 1819 by Henry Edgar. It was sold to James N. White who was a son-in-law of John Smith T. White sold it to John F. Cowan who sold it to Stephen T. Dunklin, a son of Governor Dunklin. Gov. Dunklin set in motion while he was governor the legislation which resulted in the founding of the State Public School System.

3. Masonic Hall
204 West Breton Street
The Masonic Hall was built in 1849 by the Sons of Temperance League. In 1849 news reached Potosi that gold had been found in California at Sutter's Mill. Many members of the Temperance League went west to search for gold. The building was then purchased by the Masonic Lodge No. 131. The ground floor of the building served as a community center for years. Reportedly, the first opera house west of the Mississippi was located here. Miss Pearl Pollard, author of the famous Patience Worth books, gave several music recitals here. Charles Lindbergh attended some operas here while he was visiting the Higginbotham family in the 1920's.

In the 1930's and 1940's the ground floor was used for school proms. Later when the County Library burned, the Masonic Hall was used for a library. It was used for high school classrooms after the grade school building burned in 1944-45.

Russ house. It was moved from its original location on the current Newcomer farm. It was built approximately 1792. Thomas Russ was one of the early American settlers who came west of the Mississippi River after the Revolutionary War and received a Spanish Land Grant to settle in what was then the Spanish Territory of Missouri.

In May of 1786, Russ was admitted as a subject of the King of Spain and granted a land certificate entitling him to claim 640 acres of land in the Spanish Territory. This was ten years before Moses Austin came to Missouri. It was at a time when settlers in the area were mostly French working the surface lead mines.

In 1844-45, the Masonic Hall was built in 1849 by It was at a time when settlers in the area were mostly French working the surface lead mines.

4. Isaac Jamieson House
309 West Breton Street
This house was built in 1816. (Date is marked on the house.) Possibly it is the earliest built house remaining in Potosi. It was remodeled in 1983 by Joe Bust. He found a carving on the west wall which read, "I remodeled this house, 1873. J. D. Pendergrast." It could have been part of the Mine Au Breton Fort that is mentioned in the history of St. Genevieve. The ceiling is actually built as a floor and may have housed another story for look-out purposes. The joists in the roof also are odd shaped. The location itself commands a view of the surrounding country.

5. Henry Edgar House
(Clara Hall House), 308 N. Pine St.
This house was built in 1819 by Henry Edgar. It was sold to James N. White who was a son-in-law of John Smith T. White sold it to John F. Cowan who sold it to Stephen T. Dunklin, a son of Governor Dunklin. Gov. Dunklin set in motion while he was governor the legislation which resulted in the founding of the State Public School System.

This house was also known as the Clara Hall House. The house was later sold to Dr. James H. Hall Jr. Clara was his daughter. She was a prominent school teacher in the Potosi school system from the 1920's through the 1940's.

For many years the words "I spent the day in the berry patch with Alice. July 23, 1844" were written on the wall.

In 1936 this house was used by Dorothy Cresswell for teaching business classes.

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In 1936 this house was used by Dorothy Cresswell for teaching business classes.
Anderson Langford, once went to church here in this building. His parents were slaves here. This building served as Potosi's movie theater. Silent movies were shown here for many years. It served as a Boy Scout Hall until the 1950's. The building was converted into a museum during Potosi's Bicentennial in 1965.

2. Moses Austin's Tomb
206 West Breton Street
Moses Austin, considered by many as the founder of Potosi, died in 1821 and buried first on the family farm at the home of his daughter, Emily Austin, at Hazel Run in what is now St. Francois County. In 1824, Maria Brown Austin also died and was buried beside Moses. In 1832 the last remaining member of the Austin family decided to join Stephen Austin in Texas. One of the family's last acts before leaving Missouri was to authorize the moving of the bodies of Moses and Maria to the Old Presbyterian-Masonic cemetery in Potosi. This old cemetery was the only established public cemetery in the territory at the time.

The Austins were buried in the ground with graves being enclosed by a rock wall. About 1890 the wall was torn down and the present tomb was erected. Since then, an old cherry tree near the tomb was cut down, and the tomb was repaired. In 1936 some Texans tried to steal Moses out of the tomb, but were stopped by local citizens.

4. John S. Brickey House
220 West Breton Street
The land was deeded to John S. Brickey by Moses Austin in 1816. The house was built about 1818. The architectural style is similar to colonial houses found in Williamsburg, Virginia. The front door and an interior door have the original cast-iron hinges in the arrow shaped style used in the colonial period. One wall of the house is concrete which leads us to believe that the house was built around part of the old Mine Au Breton Fort mentioned in history.

This John S. Brickey was a justice of the peace and could have been one of the first State Legislators and possibly an early circuit court recorder. (info from abstract deed of house.)

5. Weber-Russ Cabin
304 Clark Street
This cabin was known as the Weber-Russ Cabin. It is now Mr. and Mrs. Frank Teasdale's home. The house, 1873. J. D. Pendergrass. It could have been part of the Mine Au Breton Fort that is mentioned in the history of Ste. Genevieve. The ceiling is actually built as a floor and may have housed another story for look-out purposes. The joists in the roof also are odd shaped. The location itself commands a view of the surrounding country.

7. Judge Dinning House
401 West Breton Street
This house was built c. 1890 and is currently owned by Marvin and Judy Wright. Further information is being researched at this time.

8. Frank Teasdale House
301 Mineral Street
Judge Dinning first owned this house. He gave it to his daughter for a wedding present when she married Frank Teasdale. The deed reads that Judge Dinning gave the house to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Teasdale for one dollar and love and devotion. The Teasdales lived in this house.

CONTINUED
Supreme Court of Missouri. According to Goodspeed’s History of Five Counties, p. 498, the State of Missouri was divided into four judicial districts; each to hold two terms of the Supreme Court annually. The fourth district was composed of 16 counties. For this district the terms of the Supreme Court were to be held in Potosi, Washington County, beginning on the fourth Mondays of May and September of each year. These sessions of the Supreme Court were held until another session of the Legislature had the court moved to Jefferson City, the new capital.

This block may have been the state capital if early plans had materialized. Potosi’s first courthouse was built in 1814; designed to be big enough for the capital of the new state-to-be. Money ran out before this building could be finished. Then Potosi lost to St. Charles by only one vote to be the capital which would serve until a new capital could be built at Jefferson City.

The building currently serves as the R-3 School District Administrative offices and Kindergarten.

W. A. Ryan House
307 Mineral Street at Market
Mr. Ryan was a Methodist preacher. Built in 1843, the house has hand-hewn beams put together with wooden pegs and square nails. It is currently owned by Gervis Eye who has remodeled the house.

James Shields House
207 State Street
This house was built in 1873. James Shields was an early abstractor. His office was located at 113 North Missouri (where the Ozarks Federal Savings and Loan office is located now), adjacent to the old Arlington Hotel. He had three sons, Charles, James and John.

Long Banta House
North Mine Street at Clara Street
This house was built in 1865 by James Long, a Potosi businessman. This house is one of the finest examples of Victorian architecture in this area. It is classic Victorian, display-the house for $1200. They were a well known family who had eight children. The Connelly family lived in the house for 34 years. The small house in the back is referred to by old-timers as the slave house. The slaves were free but continued to live with the Connelys. The slaves slept in the little house but ate in the kitchen of the big house.

Edmond Casey House
103 Market Street
This house represents the stick architecture style of the late 1800's. It has gable ends on the roof. It has stained glass windows and stained glass fanlights around the door. The house was built by an Irish immigrant in the late 1800's. There were three sisters’ homes in the Old Courthouse Square area. The homes were all built with the same style and grandeur.

The home is the Rebecca Richards family home.

Presbyterian Church
194 West Breton Street
This church was founded in 1832, but the present building was not built until 1908. The plans for the building were drawn by John Anderson Langford, a famous American Negro architect. Mr. Langford grew up in Potosi as the son of slaves.

Two distinctive features of the building are the stained glass windows made with lead moldings and the natural cooling system of the church. The design allows the air to circulate freely inside the building creating a naturally cool interior. The inside features a beautiful cross design. The church has a large pipe organ.

St. James Catholic Church
201 North Missouri Street
This church was built in 1859. When
13. James McDermott House  
201 State Street  
James McDermott built this house in 1873 as well as several other houses in this area. The original house was very ornate, similar to the houses of Williamsburg, Virginia. It had high porches on the front and sides. There were high steps into the entrance and much lattice work. Mr. and Mrs. Russell Simmons bought the house from Robert Brown.

14. Old City Square - Old School Lot, 400 North Mine Street  
The Old City Square of Potosi was laid out in 1814. The first courthouse and school house were built on land donated by Moses Austin and John Rice Jones, Austin’s business partner and one of the first three judges of the Ozarks.

15. Long Banta House  
North Mine Street at Clara Street  
This house was built in 1863 by James Long, a Potosi businessman. This house is one of the finest examples of Victorian architecture in this area. It is classic Victorian, displaying the massive, yet graceful, ornate wooden gingerbread trim. The house is still surrounded by a shady veranda and a spacious lawn which contains a gazebo or summerhouse.

For many years the house was occupied by Mr. Long’s daughter, Mrs. Minnie Hutchison, then by Mr. and Mrs. Parke Banta. Mrs. Banta was the granddaughter of James Long. The Banta family recently donated the house to the Mine Au Breton Historical Society for display and preservation.

16. Francis X. Connelly House  
107 West Breton Street  
As far as we know, the builder is unknown. G. I. Van Alen bought the house in 1869. He was the Washington County Prosecuting Attorney. In 1871 he married Harriet Van Alen. In 1881 he married Mary Francis. In 1887 James and Elizabeth Homan bought the property from Van Alen for $550. In 1893 Francis X. Connelly purchased the house from the Homan family.

17. Townsend House  
101 West Breton Street  
This house was built in 1905 and most recently has been known as Old Town of Potosi Antiques. As Potosi grew northward in the 1890’s, huge homes such as the Townsend house were built in the area between the downtown business district and the school square. The homes reflected the growing influence of their builders and of Potosi. This house was built by Dr. J. F. Townsend, and was occupied by him and his family until they moved to St. Louis in 1925. Their daughter, Helen Lucy, still lives in Potosi.

The house was built by Acquilla Cole. It had wooden gingerbread, scalloped shingles at the eaves, and diamond-shaped stained glass windows. It had beveled and etched door glasses. The porch and posts were of Georgian marble.

The house was also known as the Roy Nicholson House since the Nicholson family lived there from 1925 until the 1970’s.

18. Dr. Townsend House  
101 West Breton Street  
This house was built in 1905 and most recently has been known as Old Town of Potosi Antiques.

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19. St. James Catholic Church  
201 North Missouri Street  
This church was built in 1859. When Father Timon arrived in Potosi in 1825, he found that a small wooden church had been built some time previously at a site on Ciudad. It was called Potosi Chapel. In 1854 land was purchased to build a church rectory and school. T. W. Bradley was hired to design the church. The building was completed in 1861.

The rose window in front has the original framing although new glass was placed in it in the late 1940’s or 1950’s. There are memorial windows among which are the names of Joe Teasdale, Daniel Dunklin and Firmin Desloge.

The present church measures 76'6" x 40'6". The exterior is made of bricks hand molded by slaves from clay mud from the Frank White farm. It originally had a three-tiered tower. A bell was cast in 1880 for the tower by J. G. Stuckstade and Brothers in St. Louis.

THE MINER’S PROSPECT.  
Published by WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
Prepared and Edited By Kris Richards/Neil Richards from information and articles by George Showalter and from the files of "The Independent-Journal"
Programme

Potosi

Operahouse.

Wednesday, October 26th, 1893.

Literary and Musical Entertainments

and

Festival.
Programme

OF THE

Musical and Literary Entertainment.

PART 1.

1. The Star and Stripes Forever—March—John Phil. Sousa.
   Miss Pearl Wood.

   Miss Janey Watkins.

3. Carnival in the Lower Regions—Grand Quadrille,
   Camille Schubert.
   The Misses Ann Watkins and Pearl Wood.
   a. The infernal guests depart for the ball-room. b. Their arrival.
   c. His satanic majesty makes his bow to the company. d. Grand
      banquet. e. But infernal pleasures are short-lived: At the sound
      of satan's trumpets the infernal legions make their exit at a gallop.

(Programme continued on page 5.)

We recommend to your kind consideration the herein printed
Business Cards of our Leading Merchants. The fact that they public-
ly solicit your patronage goes far to prove that they are prepared to
satisfy your reasonable demands and that they deserve this patronage.

You will also find that most, if not all, of the Political Candidates in
the present spirited campaign do not shrink from the light of publicity,
and are neither afraid to blow their horn nor to advocate their claims
before a discriminating public. How difficult to make a choice from
among such an array of gentlemen eminently fitted to become consci-
cuous and able public servants! Pick out the very best thumper and tell
your neighbor all about it, and how to vote. If permitted, the printer
would whisper in your ear, that you will find the names of the right
men in these pages.
Programme.

(Continued.)

   Mr Benjamin Kendall.
   a. The Anvil Chorus (from Verdi's Il Trovatore) as played by Gilmour's Band.
   b. Cornet Solo (Arbucklerian Polka).
   c. Grand Festival March (from Wagner's Taunhauser).
   d. Cornet Solo (Ecstasy Waltz).
   e. Overture to Rossini's Semiramis.
   f. Piccolo-Solo (Skylark Polka) by Schweinfurt.

N.B.—That we may all be able to enjoy the beauties of the great American Scientist's masterpiece—and also duly express our appreciation to MR. KENDALL for his kind services—PERFECT STILLNESS is requested during this number.

5. The Wanderer—Song............................................ Franz Schubert
   Miss Pearl Wood.

   Miss Janey Watkins.

7. Guitar and Mandolin Duet.
   a. La labbra—Valse—Pierluigi Casciolini.

INTERMISSION

30 Minutes.

At the REFRESHMENT STAND you will find our DR. WEY Ice-cream served with a regulation piece of SHAFTER Cake. 'Tis delicious! —Nicer Lemonade than the HOBSOON Brand was never concocted! Try it!—Do you know that SCHLEY Candy is the best in the market? Come and be convinced.

You are also cordially invited to inspect the SADDLES (gentleman's and lady's, either one at the choice of the winner) to be voted to the most POPULAR CANDIDATE; still more cordially to cast your votes (only 10 cents each) for the Candidates of your choice.

If 'n straw will show
How the wind does blow,
A contest lets you know
How the election will go!

And are we not all anxious to know? What a good 'investment' for your dimes!

Contest closes and votes counted at 1.30 a. m.
Programme

OF THE

Musical and Literary Entertainment.

PART II.

1. Off to Cuba—Military March—Respectfully dedicated to the POTOSI Regulars and Volunteers U. S. A. by C. P. K.
   Miss Ara Watkins.

2. The Jewish Maiden's Lament—Song........................................ Kucken
   Miss Pearl Wood.

3. My mother, my country, my God—Recitation—
   Miss Pearl Ramsey.

   Mr., Benj. Kendall,
   a. Miserere from Il Trovatore.
   b. Clarinet Solo (Polka);
   c. Selections from La Traviata (as played by Sousa's Band.)
   d. Bridal March from Wagner's Lohengrin.
   e. Cornet Solo (Franz Schubert's Serenade).
   f. Trombone Solo: "Then you'll remember me" from Balfe's Bohemian Girl.

   (Programme concluded, page 7.)

Immediately after the Concert the FLOOR will be cleared for the dancers, and the disciples of the new-fangled school of music will give way to the far famed BRUSHY-RUN ORCHESTRA (Mr. Stephen Polite, leader), who will have their inning, and show us what good old-time music is.
Programme.

(CONCLUDED.)

5. The Wanderer's Dream—Idyl—Brinley Richards
   Miss Ada Watkins.

6. The Inventors's Wife—Recitation—Anon
   Miss Janey Watkins.

7. Grande Valse de Concert—Anton Rubinstein
   Miss Pearl Wood.

8. Guitar Duet.
   Messrs Rob Smalley and Elmer Hugg.
   b. Fall of Sebastopol—Quick Step—Timothy O'Houligan.

Having—as we hope—satisfied your esthetic tastes and enjoyed our musical and dramatic efforts, step up please to the LUNCH COUNTER and regale the inner man with a cup or two of our delicious COFFEE and a few (say twelve or fifteen—there is plenty on hand) of our unexcelled SANDWICHES. Take your choice between sugar-cured ham, tongue, spring-chicken- and cheese-Sandwiches. Or better still, try them all.

Do not fail to view, admire and patronize the display on our Fancy-Table.
Don't forget...
Headlee & McGregor
keep a good stock of
General Merchandise,
and will sell you goods
at
Bottom Prices.

Hugh Murray,
Wagonmaker and
Undertaker,
My work guaranteed to be the
BEST.
Best and most complete stock in
the Town and County of every-
thing in my line.
Come and inspect my
Caskets and Robes.
Remember the good old Chinese
adage:
Nothing good is cheap,
Nothing cheap is good.

Your vote and influence respectfully solicited

Robert H. Evens
Republican Candidate for
County Treasurer,
Washington County, Mo.

Election, Tuesday Nov. 8th, 1898.
Eug. O'Meara

General Merchandise.

A share of your patronage is respectfully solicited.

At my store you will always find and get

Good Goods,

Fresh Goods,

Courteous Treatment.

Cast your vote for

P. T. RAMSEY

Candidate for

Representative of Washington Co.

If elected, I will advocate your real interests, be you Republicans or Democrats.

However, Fellow-Democrats bear in mind the important fact, that in case of the removal from office of one of the two U. S. Senators (through death, resignation or otherwise) YOUR REPRESENTATIVE at Jefferson City will cast a vote for his successor—in other words, for a Democratic NATIONAL Policy. So do not be imposed upon by the spurious plea that this is "Merely a County Office".

Bust Milling Co.,

Potosi, Mo.

Bust Bros, Managers,

Manufacturers of and Dealers in

Roller Flour

(Rose of Breton,

BRANDS

Our Pride,

Purity,

Favorite

Meal,

Bran,

Shipstuff.

E. M. Deering

Attorney at Law,

will practice and fight your legal battles in all the Courts of Missouri

Democratic Candidate

for re-election to the office of

Prosecuting Attorney.

Vote for him!
Racket Store.

They are Wise People,

Who do the right thing at the right time.

Do you know why this store is headquarters in this town? It is because our customers know we are right. We trade fair and square; our store's reputation is as bright as a new dollar. The right thing for you to do is to come NOW. Our prices are right, also now is the right time to buy Millinery galore, Muslin 8½c, 6c, 6c, 8c. Cotton Hats 8c, 10c, 12c. Jeans Pants 50c 70c 85c 1.20.

All goods at take-me-quick-prices. You will be doing the right thing to call on us often, and examine our goods, keep yourself posted, you will always receive courteous treatment here.

W. H. GAY, Manager.

Morgan A. Casey,

Proprietor of

Potosi Livery Stable,

Candidate for Re-election to the office of

Treasurer for Washington Co.

Your kind vote and influence solicited.

Alex. Harrison,

Republican Candidate for the office of

Clerk of the Circuit Court

respectfully solicits your VOTE!
Here is an Opener!

And what is it?
You may ask.
Well it's just this—and don't fail to remember it

The Flag Store

is the only one of its kind in the State.
If you want to be made happy by
A First Class Bargain come to the

FLAG STORE, *

POTOSI, MO.

---

Vote for...

John O. Long,
Democratic Candidate for the office of County Clerk.

---

James B. Whitehead,
Rep. Candidate for SHERIFF.
Subject to the will of the voters,
Nov. 8th, 1898.

Your Vote and Influence solicited.
At Slais's you get full value and best work for your money.

W. J. SLAIS,
Manufacturer and Dealer in
Harness & Saddlery,
Whips, Collars, Sewing Machines &c.
Repairing promptly attended to.
Fresh Fall Goods just received:
Buggies, Harness, Saddles.

M. E. ROHDES,
Attorney at Law, 
Candidate for
Prosecuting Attorney

Your support solicited.

If elected, I promise to put forth every effort to have the laws enforced.

Vote for
W. M. Bennett
for
Representative.
y! Peace! Plenty!

Prepare for Battle!

...too old to learn where to buy the best goods for the least money!

Come and learn how cheap goods are sold at

the Great Trading Palace
of the

R. M. BUGG Mercantile Co.

We advertise because we HAVE SOMETHING to advertise:

A cordial invitation extended to all to come and inspect our

New Furniture Warehouse.

you

Vote and Influence

is respectfully solicited for

THOS. S. WHITE

Candidate for the Office of

- COLLECTOR -

Duty well done in the past is a guarantee that it will be well done in the future.

W.T. HUNTER

Rep. Candidate for

- County Clerk -

Subject to the will of the voters

Tuesday, November 8th, '98.

Your vote and influence solicited.
Vote for
John R. Higgins
FOR
Presiding Judge
of the County Court.

My past record in this office is a positive guarantee to the intelligent voter, that if I am elected the affairs of the County shall be administered

HONESTLY AND ECONOMICALLY:

Alex. Harrison,
Republican Candidate for
CIRCUIT CLERK,
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MO.

Election, Tuesday, November 8th, 1898.

Your Vote and Influence solicited.
Potosí

ANNEÉS 200 YEARS

$150
A Bicentennial Scrapbook

By George W. Showalter

Commemorating The
200th Anniversary of Potosi
At The Heart of The Historic
Mining Country of Missouri

The French and The Lure of Lead

The rich Mississippi Valley country and the hills surrounding were claimed by the French through the travels of hardy French missionaries, explorers, trappers and traders in the late 1600s.

In years succeeding, the early French moved farther inland from the river, learning from the Indians the existence of lead and possibly gold and silver.

Early mention of lead in the area is made by Father James Gravier, 1700, and LeSueur, 1701. Crozat, under a 1712 charter from Louis XIV, began mineral explorations, as the Illinois-Missouri Country of 'Louisiana' came under the government of 'New France', or Canada, and French settlements grew on the east bank of the Mississippi.

Claude DuTisne, making one of the early trips across the interior of Missouri, followed an old Indian trail across Washington County in 1714, returning with iron ore samples.

LaMonte Cadillac, governor of Louisiana, in 1715 led a 9-month expedition across the area in search of mineral wealth, discovering lead fields that later were to be opened. The formation of the Royal Company of the Indies quickened the tide of immigration into the 'Illinois Country' from Canada and France.

Sieur de Renaudier began mining operations in the area of the Meramec Valley, moving into Big River and Washington County. The 'Cabanage de Renaudiere', referred to in a 1719 Renaudiere report, is believed by some to possibly mark the beginning of a settlement at Old Mines.

The most successful of the early French miners was Philippe Francois Renault, son of a prominent French iron-mining family. Leaving France in 1719 for Upper Louisiana, he brought with him 200 workmen, tools, and furnace bricks embossed with his name.

Stopping at Santo Domingo, he purchased slaves to work the mines, the first slaves in what is now Missouri.

Concentrating his operations in what is now Washington County, Renault mined up and down Big River, Mineral Fork, the Fourche au Renault and their branches. Lead he smelted was molded into pigs and carried on the necks of pack horses to the river and shipped to France by way of New Orleans. By 1725 Renault obtained 1,500 pounds of lead a day.

He returned to France in 1742, with many workmen remaining behind in the 'New World'.

Following Renault, mining activity lagged, as it was carried on on a seasonal basis by French settlers from Kaskaskia and Fort Chartres, harassed by periodic Indian attacks.

A wagon trail was hacked to the Mississippi bank, and the lead was moved from the mine fields on two-wheeled carts called 'charettes'.

As the mining activity continued, Ste. Genevieve was set up principally as a shipping point for lead on the west bank of the Mississippi.

Carvings of thunderbirds and other symbols in the rock above Big River in what is now Washington State Park mark one of the earliest-known records of man in the area.

At the junction of war and of hunting trails, the sacred spot was visited frequently by the Mid-Mississippian Indians of a thousand years ago for ceremonial gatherings. Meeting here, they performed initiation ceremonies and renewed the carvings on the stones.

At the time of the coming of the early French settlers to what is now Washington County, the wooded hills and lush river bottoms were the hunting grounds of the Osage, the Kaskaskias and others, later to be joined here by the Shawnees and Delawares.

The Osage, a Siouan tribe, were described by Catlin (famous Indian artist), as the tallest race of men in North America. Although chiefly hunters, the Osage maintained villages and practiced agriculture, and also crudely smelted the lead so plentiful in the area.

Remains of early Indian camp grounds are still to be found in the Michaux Springs area, at the east edge of Potosi.

The Delawares and Shawnees, of Algonquin stock, came to the area during the last quarter of the 18th century from original homes in the east. Among the settlements were villages on the Courtois and Huzzah.

All three tribes were later to cede land claims here, and move still further westward before the onslaught of European colonization.

The 1830's were to see the last major Indian traces in the county. Indians here earlier had moved west, with further migrations moving other tribes from the east across what is now Washington County.

The famous Cherokee 'Trail of Tears' crossed Washington County. And on November 13 and 14, 1832, a band of Seneca and Shawnee Indians, moving westward, camped a mile west of Potosi to gavel their horses shod and to give the squaws an opportunity to wash the clothes and blankets.

Then they, too, moved on westward, removing one civilization to make way for another.
Breton and The Bear

In 1763, France lost her North American possessions, ceding her territory east of the Mississippi to England, and west of the river to Spain.

French settlers in the Illinois Country, rather than live under English rule, began a steady migration to the Spanish-ruled Missouri country, with many of them setting up homes at the mines.

Among them was a hardy French soldier, hunter and adventurer, Francis Azor, called The Breton, because of his birthplace in the province of Brittany, France.

Breton had served as a soldier in the low countries in Europe under Marshal Saxe, fought at Fontenay, and was at the siege of Berg-op-Zoom. Coming to the New World, he was at the building of Fort Chartres, major French outpost in Illinois, and was present at the defeat at Fort Necessity of British troops under Braddock - troops which included the young George Washington, whose name the county was later to honor.

From the life of a soldier, Breton passed to that of a hunter. While chasing a bear in the mining country, he discovered a rich surface outcropping of lead ore at what is now Potosi. The mineral wealth drew other settlers, and along the south side of the creek and up into the mines of The Citadel grew a mining camp, and later a village. The mines, the creek and the village were named for the Breton - Mine A Breton.

Under the Spanish regime, Mine A Breton, as a part of Upper Louisiana, was governed by the District of Ste. Genevieve, one of five Spanish districts in what is now Missouri.

The American Revolution found Spain and France forming an alliance against England. English-inspired Indian attacks harassed the Missouri settlers, and tradition has it that lead from the Washington County mines was used by American troops in the Revolution.

At the close of the Revolution, and with the encouragement of the Spanish, eager to populate the new territory, Spanish Grants were issued to American settlers, bringing into the new land a restless ambition and drive for new land that were to bring many changes. Many American settlers joined the French at the mining settlements, with slave-holders coming through the Cumberland Gap from Virginia, Kentucky, and the Carolinas to begin farming in the Bellevue Valley and other parts of the county.

The new village of Mine A Breton grew, and the mines continued to pour forth their riches, as the French and Americans, under the Spanish rule, joined to develop the territory that was to become Washington County.

The Austin Years

A Connecticut Yankee who was to become "Missouri's First Industrialist" and the "Grandfather of Texas" was Moses Austin, a major figure in the early history of Potosi.

Born in Durham, Connecticut, in 1761, he was the owner of a dry goods and importing firm in Philadelphia, later moving with the business to Richmond, Virginia. There he also became a pewter manufacturer and a lead and zinc miner.

In 1797, learning of the rich lead deposits in Missouri, he visited Missouri and obtained a grant from the Spanish officials, including a large part of Azor's grant at Mine A Breton. He brought his family here in September, 1798, and the next year he settled in his magnificent home, Durham Hall.

Here the hard-driving entrepreneur transformed lead mining and smelting into Missouri's first major industry. Here he sank the first mine shaft in Missouri and built the first reverberatory furnace west of the Mississippi. He built a store, sawmill, flour mill; blacksmith shop, bridges and roads, and a shot tower, turning out the first lead sheet and cannonballs made in Missouri.

By 1802 he was smelting all the lead for the district, and in 1804, as his business prospered, he was named presiding judge of the Ste. Genevieve District. Moving north, he founded Herculaneum in 1809 as a shipping point for his lead, and for shot production.

In 1816, with other prominent citizens of Missouri, he sponsored the bank of St. Louis. Failure of the bank, along with other financial reverses, left him financially ruined in 1819.

Seeking to retrieve his fortune, he set out on horseback for San Antonio in November, 1820, to obtain permission from the Spanish government in Mexico to settle 300 families in the province of Texas.

He was first ordered to leave Texas. However, with the help of Baron de Bastrop, whom he had known in Missouri, his petition was forwarded to Monterey.

As Austin returned to Missouri the hardships and exposure of the journey undermined his health, and he died at the home of his daughter at Hazel Run on June 10, 1821, a few weeks after his colonization plan was accepted.

He was at first buried at Hazel Run, and later the bodies of Austin and his wife, Maria, were re-buried in the Old Presbyterian Cemetery in Potosi.

Moses Austin

Austin Tomb In Potosi

Old Presbyterian Cemetery in Potosi
Carrying out Austin's Texas plans and known as 'The Father of Texas' was his son, Stephen F. Austin. Stephen spent his boyhood in Potosi, was educated in Connecticut and Kentucky, and was associated with his father in business at Potosi. He served as Washington County representative from 1814 to 1821, and was later appointed a judge of Arkansas territory.

Following his father's death, he moved westward to the Brazos in Texas in 1822, taking with him as the first settlers in Texas many Missourians from Washington County and the surrounding area. He re-confirmed the land grant with the Mexican government, which had since gained its freedom from Spain, and helped his colonists prosper.

As friction between the Americans and Mexicans grew, Stephen carried on the delicate diplomatic relations between the two.

On a mission to Mexico City in 1833, he was jailed and his health undermined.

Returning to Texas in 1835, he was chosen commander-in-chief of the Army of Texas in the struggle for Texas independence.

With the defeat of the Mexican armies and the formation of the new Republic of Texas, Austin was named the first Secretary of State of the Republic. He died soon after, on December 27, 1836, at Columbia, Texas.

His name was given to Austin, Texas, capital of the state.

In the period before and after the Louisiana Purchase, Mine A Breton continued its position as a focal point for inland settlement in Missouri.

Land disagreements at the time of the Purchase were frequent and it was many years before the conflicting French claims and Spanish Grants were recognized and settled.

Under American government, Missouri and Mine A Breton were first successively under the District of Louisiana, the Territory of Louisiana, 1805; and the Territory of Missouri, 1812.

Under Austin, a nucleus of an American settlement grew up around Durham Hall, on the hills north of Mine A Breton and the creek.

Businesses remained for a time on what was to become Jefferson Street, as Mine A Breton served as the trading point for all the country south into Arkansas. People came from miles around to trade, and on some days a hundred pack mules and ponies, some of them belonging to Indians, could be seen tied on the street before the stores of the Mine A Breton merchants.

Washington Countians were prominent in the territorial legislature, and were active in the movement for Missouri statehood petitions to Congress. The War of 1812 also saw local citizens active in the territorial militia, and lead from the diggings, according to legend, was sent down the Mississippi and used by General Jackson in the Battle of New Orleans.

The formation of the new county came on August 21, 1813 when Washington County was the first county organized from the original five counties (once Spanish districts).

Mine A Breton was first set as a temporary seat of justice for the county, with the county's first court meeting at the house of Zopher P. Evans there in January, 1814.
On February 26, 1814, the permanent county seat was established on 40 acres of land given by Austin and ten acres given by John Rice Jones. A public square and 22 blocks with 147 lots were laid out. The new town, growing around Durham Hall, was briefly called St. George, and then was called Potosi, in honor of the Spanish silver mining town in Bolivia.

Potosi and Mine A Breton remained as separate villages until May 2, 1826, when they were incorporated under the single name - Potosi.

The new town, home of business and political leaders of Missouri, was to come close to becoming the capital of the new state.

A large courthouse, suitable for a capitol for the state-to-be, was planned for Potosi. In July, 1814, 79 lots in Potosi were sold for $5,080, with the money to be used to build the courthouse. But because of the large size and ornamentation of the building, it could not be completed for that price, and only the central section was ever built.

In the territorial convention, Potosi first lost out to a new town on the Missouri River as the site of the permanent capital of the new state, and later, by only one vote, to St. Charles as the temporary capital until the capitol at Jefferson City could be built.

As the new town grew in size and population, it also grew in the estimation of early travelers.

Lawyer-historian, Henry Marie Brackenridge, visiting the then village of Mine A Breton in 1811 wrote: "Mine A Breton is situated on a handsome stream, large enough to turn a mill the whole year. The situation of the village is pleasant, there are some handsome dwellings. The surrounding country, although broken in many parts, yet affords a great deal of fine land."

New York historian Henry Rowe Schoolcraft described Potosi in 1818 as "the last village of white inhabitants between the Mississippi River and the Pacific Ocean." "Potosi," Schoolcraft wrote, "is built in a better style than the villages in the country generally, has a neat and thriving appearance and contains several handsome edifices. It has 3 stores, 2 distilleries (one by steam), 2 flour mills, 9 lead furnaces, 1 saw mill and a postoffice."

by 1819, roads connected Potosi with Ste. Genevieve, Herculaneum, St. Louis, Jackson and the Mississippi River country, and mail between St. Louis and New Orleans was carried on a route through Potosi."

As Potosi grew into the principal inland town in Missouri and its lead fields attracted settlers from throughout the country, the town drew into its midst 'Giants On the Land', men who were to figure prominently in the new state and in the opening of the west.

Making a major contribution to Missouri was John Rice Jones, a business partner of Moses Austin, an author of Missouri's first Constitution, and one of the three judges of Missouri's first Supreme Court.

Jones was born in Wales, February 10, 1759, was educated at Oxford, later studied medicine and law, and practiced law in London for a time.

He came to America during the Revolutionary War and settled in Philadelphia, and in 1786 was with George Rogers Clark's army at Louisville.

Later, as the first English-speaking lawyer and first attorney general in Indiana Territory, he served as president of the legislative council and at the state constitutional convention. He later lived at Kaskaskia, with a law practice extending from Cahokia to Louisville and up and down the Ohio River.

Soon after 1800 he came to Missouri, and then on to Mine A Breton, as a partner of Moses Austin. Here, in 1813, he gave 10 acres of ground on which the new town of Potosi was founded.

He was elected from Washington County to the second General Assembly of Missouri Territory in 1814, and served two years later as president of the legislative council.

In 1820, Jones, along with Samuel Perry and John Hutchings, was elected a delegate to the state's first Constitutional Convention in St. Louis, and here he made a major contribution to the new state that was to be.

At the Convention, he served as chairman of the select committee, which wrote a complete constitutional draft which served as the ground plan that guided the delegates in framing and adopting Missouri's first Constitution. Of the 41 delegates he was the most learned, he was the most accomplished, and the most successful financially.

He was one of five delegates credited as the principal authors of the new Constitution.

Defeated by David Barton and Thomas Hart Benton in the election for one of Missouri's first United States senatorships, he was appointed to Missouri's first Supreme Court on November 7, 1820. Noted on the bench for his dissenting opinions, he delivered the opinion of the court in twenty-eight of 140 decisions.

He died in St. Louis on February 1, 1824.
Our Schools

An early Washington Countian who was to become Missouri's fifth governor and the 'Father of the Common School System of Missouri' was Daniel Dunklin. Born in North Carolina in 1790, he moved shortly after 1810 to a farm near Potosi, later setting up a tavern on Jefferson Street in Potosi. During the War of 1812, he served in the Washington County militia, and was elected the county's second sheriff in 1815, serving until 1821.

In 1816, Dunklin was instrumental in organizing the Potosi Academy, the second academy in the Territory of Missouri, chartered by the Territorial Legislature on January 31, 1817.

Trustees of the Academy were Dunklin, William H. Ashley, Lionel Browne, John Rice Jones, Moses Austin, David Wheeler, Moses Bates, Benjamin Elliott, James Austin, William Perry, John McIlvaine, Andrew Scott, John Hawkins, and Abraham Brinker.

Five hundred books for the Academy library were donated by Dunklin, and the board of trustees was granted the right to hold a $4,000 lottery to raise funds for the school.

The Academy opened classes in two frame buildings near the present railroad branch in Potosi, and an early advertisement for the Academy noted that the school, under the direction of James McAlester, of Bardstown, Kentucky, "is now open for the instruction of youth in mathematics in all of its various branches of science and literature usually taught in academies".

In July, 1822, at a meeting at his tavern in Potosi, Dunklin was elected representative in the state legislature. He returned to Potosi after his term, and was elected lieutenant governor in 1828. In 1832, he was elected governor of Missouri.

As governor, Dunklin actively backed school legislation. On March 19, 1835, he sponsored a school bill that was adopted as the first major attempt to unite local school units into a statewide system, leading to the naming of Dunklin as the 'Father of the Common School System of Missouri.'

Hearing of Dunklin's sponsorship of the school bill, President Jackson wrote him, "This is your bid for eternal fame." Dunklin himself, ever the strong exponent of schools, once wrote to Henry Geyer, "Why sir, we might as well have an educated people without a government as a government without education."

Governor Dunklin resigned three months before the close of his term to accept an appointment as surveyor general of Missouri and Illinois. He moved to Herculaneum in 1840, and three years later was appointed Missouri commissioner to adjust the Missouri-Arkansas border.

He died on July 25, 1844, and is buried at Herculaneum.

Daniel Dunklin

Across The Wide Missouri

Potosi's contribution to the opening of the west, begun by the Austins, was to be continued by Major Andrew Henry and Colonel William Ashley, whose fur trading exploits were open and explore much of the central Rocky Mountains.

Andrew Henry, born in Pennsylvania, came to Upper Louisiana about 1800. In the summer of 1808 he went up the Missouri River with the first fur-trading expedition of the Missouri Fur Company, and led the first American fur traders to operate west of the Rockies.

Returning to Missouri, he mined in Washington County, and during the War of 1812 was a major in a Washington County regiment commanded by Col. William H. Ashley.

Ashley, born in Virginia in 1778, came to Missouri about 1803, where he first met Henry. While Henry mined in Washington County, Ashley was a lead miner and gunpowder manufacturer at Potosi.

Prominent in public affairs, Ashley moved to St. Louis, and was elected Missouri's first lieutenant governor in 1820.

An ad in the "Missouri Republic" on March 6, 1822, was to continue the main phase of the Ashley-Henry career. The ad read:

"To Enterprising Young Men:

The subscriber wishes to engage one hundred men, to ascend the Missouri, and to its source, there to be employed for one, two, or three years. For particulars, enquire of Major Andrew Henry, near the Lead Mines in the County of Washington (who will ascend with, and command the party) or to the subscriber at St. Louis - Wm. H. Ashley."

That year, the first "Ashley-Henry Men" ascended the 'Wide Missouri,' beginning expeditions that over the next four years were to bring back the Rocky Mountain fur trade to its peak.

Their company originated the 'fendevous system' of fur trading, with independent trappers meeting annually in the mountains for their exchanges.

And as they worked the mountain men explored, the Tetons, the Great Salt Lake Basin and the South Pass, opening the way west through which the great Overland Trail was later to pass.

Henry sold his share in the fur trade, returned to Missouri and served in Congress from 1831 to 1833. He died in 1833. He is believed to be buried near Palmer.

Ashley amassed a fortune in the fur trade, returned to Missouri and served in Congress from 1831 to 1833. He died in Cooper County, Mo., in 1838.

John Smith 'T'

A fascinating mixture of gentleman and scholar, swashbuckler and duelist was John Smith T.

A frequent adversary of Moses Austin in land claims, Smith came to Missouri from Tennessee in 1804 and added the letter 'T' to his name to show he was from Tennessee and was different from other John Smiths. In Washington County, he opened a prosperous mining claim at Shibboleth.

A one-time judge in the district, Smith always went, so the story goes, with two pistols under his coat, two powder horns, and dirk at his bosom. Tradition says he killed 15 men, mostly in duels where his own life was in danger. Washington County's first sheriff, Lionel Browne, a nephew of Aaron Burr, was killed by Smith in a duel.

Smith later opened a cotton plantation near Memphis, where he died in 1835.

"He was", a contemporary has written, "As polished and courteous a gentleman as ever lived in the State of Missouri, and as mild a mannered man as ever put a bullet into the human body."
Smelting At Cresswell's Furnace -- A Latter-Day Re-Creation

Paying The Louisiana Purchase

As the new town and county grew, new lead mines and furnaces were opened to produce the ore so plentiful near the surface of the earth.

Early miners used only a pick and shovel, along with a driller, rammer and priming rod, when needed to blast, to remove the ore. Shallow shafts were often sunk in the clay to bed rock.

As the ore was mined, it was cleaned with small, sharpened picks, beat into lumps of nearly equal size, and then taken to the furnace for smelting.

The early furnaces were the 'log and ash' furnaces, consisting of merely an inclined hearth, walled on three sides, open at the top, with an arch at the bottom for air. Large logs were piled on the grates, the 'charge' of ore piled on the logs, more logs added, and the fire then started to melt the lead from the ore. The lead was caught and molded into equal size, and then taken to the furnace for smelting.

The Reverberatory furnace, with the flame passing over an arch, had a grate. Later developments were to bring the Scotch hearth furnace, much like a blacksmith's forge, powered by large bellows.

Diggings worked under the French and Spanish included Mine A Breton, Old Mines and Fourche Au Renault, with mines going into operation in the first quarter of the 19th century including Shibboleth, Richwoods, Mine Astraddle, Bellefountain, Perrys, Elliott's, Cannon Mines, Courtois, New Diggings, and others.

From 1803 to 1819, Washington County produced three million pounds of ore annually, with a value equal to one-fourth of the entire purchase price of Louisiana.

In the years before the Civil War, as surface lead mining neared its peak, towers of lead furnaces rose throughout the county, and diggings throughout the area were opened with such colorful names as Pigeon Roost, Polecat, Coffee Pot, Ishmael, Graveyard, Old Dutch, Horse Battle, Crawfish, Picayune, and Hypocrite.

Iron mining was begun in the county as early as 1823, when the Springfield Iron Furnace was opened on Furnace Creek, with zinc also to be mined near Irondale in later years.

In the years between 1820 and the Civil War, Potosi continued as a dynamic community, prominent in state affairs and center of the mining industry.

As some settlers came, prospered and moved on, still others arrived to take their place as community leaders.

Among them was a 20-year old French merchant, Firmin Desloge, who came to Potosi from France in 1823, set up a store on High Street, and became engaged in mining. He built a home on the south side of High Street, opposite his store, and was married to Cynthia McIlvaine, daughter of a Potosi Academy trustee. Here their family of 12 children was born. Most prominent of them was to be Firmin II, born in Potosi in 1843, who was later to be active in opening up the Lead Belt mines. Still later generations of the family were to become prominent in St. Louis.

Both Firmin Desloge I and his wife died in Potosi, and are buried in the St. James Cemetery.

Although Potosi had been unsuccessful in becoming the state capital, the State Supreme Court did meet here twice a year, between 1837 and 1843, in Potosi's first courthouse.

As a business center, Potosi also continued to prosper.

The earliest merchants had been the Perrys - Samuel, John William and James - on Jefferson Street, with other merchants before 1830 including a Mr. Hastings, Luke Risley and Smith and Glenn. Joining them in the 1830's were John Brickey, J.W.B. Covington and Henry Pease.

The first hotel in Potosi was the Breton Hotel, built in 1825 by Zopher P. Evans, with a Mr. Bingham the first landlord. Early physicians included Dr. Israel McGready, Dr. Joseph Brown and Dr. William P. Harrison.

Potosi's first newspaper, 'The Miner's Prospect', was published from 1846 to 1849, by Philip Ferguson and S. A. Dalman, to be followed by the 'Washington County Miner', published by Napoleon B. Buck from 1856 to 1861, and others.

The year 1849 saw the erection of a lodge hall on Breton Street. Construction was started by the Sons of Temperance, but before the building was completed, word came of the California Gold Rush. So many of the members went west, the society was disbanded. The hall was later bought by Potosi Lodge 111, A.F. & A.M., for a Masonic Hall, and the first floor assembly hall was to be used for many years as an Opera House.

The gambling was to come to Potosi on July 1, 1839, with the completion of the Potosi Branch of the St. Louis Iron Mountain Railway from Mineral Point.

The population of Washington County also continued a steady growth through the years. In 1821, the population was 3,741; in 1830, 6,779; 1840, 7,213; and 1850, 8,311.

Mrs. John Casey & Child
Painted In Potosi In 1840

The Years Between

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The beginning of the Civil War found Potosians, with both strong Southern and Northern sympathies, going on record at a public meeting early in May, 1861, in favor of armed neutrality.

The first slaves in Missouri had been introduced in Washington County by Renault, and in 1860 the county had a total population of 1,028 slaves in a total population of 9,723. Through the century before, slaves had worked in the mines, and in the fields and homes of farming settlers coming from the Southern states.

At their May meeting, Potosians organized a home guard company to maintain their armed neutrality by force of arms.

But action by Federal troops from St. Louis soon forced them to take sides. On May 16, a Federal battalion took possession of Potosi, and a number of citizens known or suspected of Southern sympathies were arrested, and about a dozen of them taken to St. Louis, held for a time as prisoners of war, and then released.

The die was cast. Countians quickly began to choose sides in the struggle. Several Union companies organized in the county, with a number of countians leaving to form the bulk of Confederate companies behind rebel lines.

Loyal Home Guard companies were also organized to guard county bridges and railroads, with one such company keeping their headquarters and arsenal at the Douglas Hall, at the upper end of High Street. On an August evening in 1861, with most of the men home for supper, a Confederate cavalry detachment commanded by a Col. White rushed into town, fired upon the few remaining guards, and quickly took the arsenal. Col. White, after his brief foray, then rode on and left the Home Guards in possession.

Many such brief skirmishes and guerilla raids raged about Potosi during the war years, but it was not until 1864, near the close of the war, that Potosi was to bear the full brunt of battle.

From Arkansas, Confederate Sterling Price mounted his Missouri raid and headed northward through Missouri. Price was stalled for a time by Union troops at Pilot Knob, but General J. O. Shelby, leading an advance unit of Price's raiders, lashed into Washington County.

Raiding parties destroyed railroad bridges at Irondale and Mineral Point, while Shelby, in the center, attacked the rail line near Mineral Point, missing only by minutes a train load of Union troops making their escape northward. Tearing up the rail lines and burning ties and trestles, Shelby moved on to Potosi on September 27, 1864.

Potosians fled the town, hid in cellars and behind shuttered windows and moved their valuables to safe keeping. Loyal troops barricaded in the Courthouse were bombarded by Shelby with eight shells from a cannon near the depot. The loyal troops, heavily outnumbered and suffering a number of casualties, surrendered.

Shelby's troops stripped the defenders of money, clothing, shoes and blankets, and several of their number, believed to be too strong in Union sympathies, were marched before their fellows and shot. Shelby, continuing the destruction, burned the depot and other buildings.

Rebel raiding parties, flocking in and headquartering at Potosi, careened throughout the county in scattered skirmishes with Union defenders.

After the Union retreat from Pilot Knob, General Price moved on northward to join the advance guard camped at Potosi. The rebel troops re-assembled here, and continued on north to Union, then west across the state, ending Missouri's and Potosi's last desperate struggle of the war.
WATER STREET, SOUTH ACROSS BRETON CREEK, 1860
The Earliest-Known Photograph Of Potosi

WOOD-BURNING LOCOMOTIVE ON POTOSI BRANCH
Branch Railroad Completed In 1859, Photo Taken 1890

"Rattlebox Days" In The Barite Fields
Barite Capital of The World

At the close of the Civil War, as surface lead deposits ran out in Washington County, and lead mining and smelting declined, a new industry, the barite industry began to develop in Washington County.

As new industries, such as the paint and rubber industries, began to require the use of the white, chalky mineral, activity picked up again in the mining areas.

Long periods of digging for surface lead had provided a general evaluation of the Washington County fields, and it was known that there were tremendous reserves of fine quality barite in the area. The area was also favored by its location on the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad, and St. Louis, because of its closeness to supplies of coal, sulphuric acid and zinc, became the center of the barite milling and processing industry.

Beginning in this era, was the long colorful period of hand-mining 'tiff', as barite is called in the area.

The hand miners conducted the search for new barite deposits with a simple, but successful and widely used prospecting methods. A steel bar was driven into the ground, and when it encountered a large lump of 'tiff', the telltale white mineral showed on the tip of the bar when it was removed. The presence of lumps of barite in the clay mean good hand mining ground, for they yielded enough weight to justify the necessary digging.

The holes dug into the barite-bearing clay by many hand miners were works of art. They were almost perfectly circular, and in some cases so small in diameter that it was almost unbelievable a man could wield a pick and shovel in such cramped quarters. Nevertheless, the holes were sunk quickly into the ore zone.

From the bottom of the hole, drifts and larger excavations were extended following the lump barite deposit.
If the excavation reached an appreciable depth, the hand-operated windlass was an inevitable item of equipment, with the miner's partner hoisting the 'tiff' to the surface in a bucket as the mineral was dug loose from the clay.

The next step, cleaning the 'tiff', was usually done right at the mining site. Barite and clay were usually separated in a 'rattle box', a frame with a screen deck, built somewhat like a baby's cradle, so it could be rocked back and forth to rattle the chinks around and break off the clay.

If the clay was too moist to remove, the lumps were first dried over an open fire. Silica or iron oxide accretions were chipped off by hand.

The cleaned barite, ready for market, was then hauled to the nearest weighing station for sale, with the hauling done in horse or mule-drawn carts and wagons.

From the 1860's to about 1905, the mining of barite in Washington County was on a relatively small scale, and there were only a few buyers. From 1905 to the 1930's, however, hand-mining activity greatly increased as the chemists found more and more uses for the white mineral and more jobbers bought and shipped barite to the users.

At the peak of activity during this period, several thousand people were engaged in hand mining in Washington County, and several hundred houses were constructed by owners of barite-bearing property as homes for the miners.

The 'tiff' was hauled in long processions of wagons over the maze of trails to the main roads. Each load, of perhaps one to three tons, was paid for by individual check, and a major weighing station is known to have processed as many as 300 loads in a day. Royalty was paid by buyers to property owners on the word of the miners as to where his production came from.

Until the mid-1920's, no important inroads were made in hand-mining methods. Not only was hand mining peculiarly suited to the Washington County deposits, but available mechanical equipment was generally inadequate.

About 1905, the first attempt at mechanical washing was made, but it was unsuccessful.

During the mid-20's, the Eagle Picher Company and the National Pigments and Chemical Company built the first real barite washing plants patterned after those in operation in Georgia. Around 1926 the use of barite as a weighting agent in oil well drilling was introduced, with that use increasing steadily since that time.

Despite the breakthrough to successful mechanical mining and concentration of barite in Washington County, hand mining continued to thrive after the mid-twenties. In 1931, in deference to large scale unemployment created by the depression, the large producers of mechanically processed barite discontinued washer operations and depended entirely on hand-mined sources.

World War II and the 1940's saw the final conversion from hand-mining to mechanical mining and washing.

Since that time, mechanization has continued, with many Washington County companies' mining the ore in strip-mines with large shovels, washing, and milling the ore, and then shipping it through out the country for such uses as in oil-well 'mud', in face powders, in chocolate coatings, with X-rays, and many other uses for the unsung mineral of Washington County.

The location of Potosi at the center of the barite-producing area, has led to it often being called 'The Barite Capital of the World.'
And The Band Played On

The 1890's and early years of the present century were to find Potosians, when time was available from busy work schedules, joining in the many-faceted 'pleasures of the simple life' of the small town.

Oyster suppers, balls at the Opera House, ice cream and strawberry socials, afternoon musicales, torchlight political rallies, quiltings, taffy pulls, picnics at Haunted Springs, concerts by the Potosi Cornet Band, train rides over the Potosi Branch, hay rides and square dances all combined to give pleasure and pastime.
A Tale Of Two Court Houses

Washington County's first Court House, built in 1815, was razed in 1850, and materials from it were used in building the county's second Court House, on the corner of High and Missouri streets.

A spectacular fire on January 9, 1907 (above) destroyed the second Court House. The county's present Court House, its third (at left), was dedicated on the same site on March 25, 1908.

Business As Usual

In good times and bad, fat years and lean, Potosi has continued as a business center serving a wide surrounding area.

Following the miners to Mine A Breton, early merchants set up shop under the Spanish Regime, and were to continue to grow up and down High and Missouri Streets as Potosi grew, to occupy a large east-west, north-south axis through the city today.

General mercantile stores, hotels, wagon and coffin works, blacksmith shops, tinsmith shops, banks, flour and grist mills, harness makers, milliner's shops, hardware stores, druggists, watchmakers and many others were to continue through the years the varied picture of Potosi's businesses.

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The Face of High Street

"The Weekly Independent" -- 1895

High Street East From Missouri Street -- 1910

Bust Brothers Mill -- 1900

South Side Of High Street, At Missouri St. - 1915

Hotel Austin - 1930

High Street West From Stone Street -- 1916
Lions Club Picnic Parade -- Labor Day, 1931

The Potosi Civic League
Potosi's First Federated Club

AN ERA ENDS -- OXEN MEET AUTO ON HIGH STREET

Potosi Grade School -- 1865-1890

School Days, School Days

Potosi Grade School
Built In 1890

Potosi Grade School
Burned In 1946
Houses of The Lord

The churches of Potosi have played an important part in the lives of the town's citizens through the years, and as early as 1819 historian Henry Rowe Schoolcraft visiting Potosi, wrote: "It would be difficult to point out a town or village west of the Mississippi where there is a greater attention to industry, morality and religion than at Mine A Breton".

Many congregations of many denominations have served as a guiding force in the community through Potosi's two centuries, and a brief summary of their histories includes:

The Methodist Church was in existence as early as 1816 in Potosi. Meetings were held in the Courthouse until the first church was built between 1825 and 1830. The congregation's present edifice was built in 1903, and plans are now underway for a new church.

The Presbyterian Church was organized in Potosi in 1832, and the congregation's first church is still standing on Breton Street. The present Presbyterian Church was completed in 1908, from plans drawn by Potosi-born John Anderson Lankford, the 'Dean of American Negro Architects.'

The original Baptist Church in Potosi was organized in 1832 with the church, located on the corner of North Mine and Breton, later becoming what is now the First Baptist Church in Potosi. Other congregations of this denomination now active in Potosi include the Potosi Baptist Church on Clark Street; the United Baptist Church on Towle Street and the Bethel Baptist Church on Bonnie Street.

The Catholic Church in Potosi was organized in 1828 and the first church was completed in 1844. The present Saint James Church was built in 1862, on Missouri Street, and the parish's school, adjoining the church was opened in September, 1952.

Other denominations joining the list of Potosi's fine churches during the present century include the Assembly of God, on North Missouri Street; the Church of God on Cordia Street; the Pentecostal Church of God on Austin Street; and the Church of the Nazarene on Nipper Street.

The first Negro Church in Potosi was located in the Presbyterian Cemetery, and in 1902 the present church was built on Wreath Street. The church was first called the Union Church and was used by the Free Will Baptists, Trinity Methodist, Missionary Baptist and A.M.E. Methodist. Now only the Trinity Methodist and the Church of God use the church.
The Towns Around

The rich historic past of Potosi, a noted mining center, is shared by numerous towns, communities and settlements which throughout the years have worked together to build the Washington County of today.

Among these many communities are:

BELGRADE, near the headwaters of Big River, is about 15 miles southwest of Potosi. It is at the center of an agricultural area and received its name after the Yugoslavian capital city of Belgrade.

CALEDONIA, 12 miles south of Potosi, is in the center of the Bellevue Valley agricultural area. The first store was built in 1817 by Alexander Craighead, who named the town for Caledonia in his native Scotland. The Old Bellevue Collegiate Institute was located here for many years, and the first Presbyterian Church west of the Mississippi was organized here in 1816.

IRONDALE, on Big River and the Missouri-Pacific Railroad in southeast Washington County, was laid out in 1858 by John G. Scott. It received its name from the presence of early iron works and furnaces, and was once called briefly Savoy. It is near one of the proposed lake sites of the Meramec Basin project.

OLD MINES, six miles north of Potosi, among the county’s oldest settlements, was founded by early French lead miners in the 18th century, and still cherishes much of the rich French tradition of the founders. Saint Joachim’s Church at Old Mines was completed in 1830 and is still in use today.

MINERAL POINT, four miles east of Potosi on the Missouri-Pacific main line, was laid out in 1858 by William C. Inks. Several barite plants are located here, and it has one of the most modern schools in the R-3 district.

RICHWOODS, in the northwest part of Washington County, was founded in the early years of the 1800’s as the center of early lead work in the county. The picturesque community continues today as the center of an agricultural and mining area.

PALMER, earlier named Webster, is 15 miles southwest of Potosi. It was founded in 1830, and was the scene of a number of lead ‘booms’ in the later years of the 19th century. It is now owned by the Palmer Lead Company.

HOPEWELL, on the railroad five miles southeast of Mineral Point, was laid out in 1859 by John Evens. The pre-Civil War Hopewell Union Church and adjoining cemetery have been the scene of large Decoration Day gatherings for many years in the county.

SHIRLEY, nine miles west of Potosi, was once called Waltonsburg, and forms the center for a farming and lumbering area. Tradition has it that its present name was in honor of William Shirley, an early resident and father of the bandit queen, Belle Starr.

CADET, in central Washington County, was founded before the Civil War, and has served as a major railroad shipping point for mineral products from the county for many years.

EBRO, nine miles northwest of Potosi, is near the site of some of the county’s oldest and newest mining works - the old Renault Diggings of Fourche au Renault, and the new Indian Creek lead mine of St. Joseph Lead Company.

To the list may be added Stony Point, Berryman, Quaker, Delbridge, Anthonies Mill, Bellefountain, Blackwell, Fertile, Cruise, Kingston, and many, many more, joining together to make up the present day county, with many of them retaining much colorful history from out of the county’s historic past.

The Past Is Prelude

As it rounds out its second century, Potosi takes a fond look back at the days that were, and then turns ahead to the days that are yet to be.

It is appropriate that its 200th anniversary sees Potosi entering a period as exciting and promising as any since the days of its founding fathers.

Mining, every important in the county during the past centuries, is again coming to new peaks in the Bicentennial year. The mammoth new Pea Ridge iron ore deposits in northwest Washington County are scheduled to enter production this year. Deep shaft lead mining has been underway at St. Joseph Lead Company’s Indian Creek mine for several years, with more production to come this year at Viburnum, at the county’s southwest corner.

Shoe production continues at two Brown Shoe Company plants in Potosi, and Potosi citizens have just given an overwhelming majority to a $500,000 bond issue to build a new Brown Shoe plant, also to be opened during this Bicentennial year. 1963 will also see the opening of the ultra-modern new Washington County Memorial Hospital at Potosi.

The drawing boards of the Army Corps of Engineers hold exciting plans for two large lakes in Washington County, in the Meramec Basin projects, and mining operations continue at barite plants throughout Washington County.

From its position as county seat, Potosi serves a county embracing the Sunnen Lake YMCA camps, Boy Scout Camp Irondale; national prize-winning Hereford cattle; lumber mills; fertile farms; free-flowing fishing streams; a hunter’s paradise of wooded hills; and a friendly people with a ‘glad to have you’ hospitality.

In the exciting new pioneering spirit of its Bicentennial Year, Potosi enters the future, knowing that the past has been but a prelude of what is yet to come.
Acknowledgments

This brief word and picture story of Potosi might well be termed 'Notes For A Work In Progress'. Although Potosi is one of the most historic towns in Missouri, no definitive history of the town or Washington County has yet been written, and many facets of its fascinating past remain buried in long forgotten tomes and record books.

It is hoped that this work, prepared to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Potosi, may serve as the beginning of a continuing project to gather and preserve the history of the town and county in words and pictures for future generations.

The cooperation of many Washington Countians, past and present, has gone into the making of this book. Because of size limitations, all research materials and photos gathered could not be used, but all will be maintained for reference for future works of this type.

For pictorial material used in this book, acknowledgement is extended to Richard Marshall, Museum of Anthropology, University of Missouri; the 'Independent-Journal'; the State Historical Society of Missouri; Frank White, Wm. Cresswell, Mrs. James Swift, Wm. Cresswell, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bust; Mr. and Mrs. Joe D. Casey, Wiatt Richeson, Margaret Wood, Alfred E. Portell, Guy Maxwell, Ray B. Carl, Mr. and Mrs. A.S. Higginbotham, Mrs. E.T. Banta, Mrs. George Wallace, Sr., Mrs. Rudy Kilgore, Miss Ann Campbell, Mrs. Eunice Simpson, Mrs. Wilson Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Gibson, Emery Wilson, Sr., Mrs. R.C. White and Clyde Loomis. Photos were also drawn from Schoolcraft’s ‘View of the Lead Mines’, histories of Missouri by Violette, Houck, and Shoemaker and Williams; and American Heritage’s ‘Book of Indians’. The O.E. Berninghaus sketch of the barite fields is from the collection of the DeLore Division, National Lead Co.

Credit is due, also, to Mr. Earl Sackett for material on barite mining, drawn from his definitive paper prepared for the American Institute of Mining Engineers, and to the ‘Independent-Journal’ for photo copies of pictorial material.

And, credit, too, to Jon Bust for his fine cover sketch.

Prepared By The
Bicentennial History Committee

Mr. and Mrs. James Swift, George Showalter, Miss Jane Moor

Under The Direction Of
The Bicentennial Committee

Clyde A. Loomis, Chairman
Harry Chapman, Vice-chairman
Mrs. Elbert Waide, Secretary
Jack Biggers, Treasurer
Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

Worth County Historical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

New Opera House  Grant City

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

New Opera House  Grant City

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

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

We had a Chautauqua Company (origin Grant City). It performed in a Legion Hall, now demolished.

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

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

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

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

Historical Office: Open by request or appointment.

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

Who is the best person to contact for more information?

Thank you for your assistance.

Please return to: Becky Snider 1008 Sunset Dr. Columbia, MO 65203
Historic Missouri Theatres Questionnaire

Wright County Historical and Genealogical Society

Does your organization have information about the following theatres?

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

Johnson Opera House - Hartville - Building still exists.

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

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

Enclosed

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

Historical Society open 9-9:30 weekdays - 9-12 Saturday

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

Check with library

Who is the best person to contact for more information?

Edsel Yeager at Richards Bros Grocery.

Thank you for your assistance.

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

With reference to your letter of August 31 regarding Opera Houses in the Wright County Area, I am enclosing material which relates to the former Johnson Opera House in Hartville. As you will note, it no longer functions as an Opera House but the building is still in existence and has recently undergone some extensive repairs - new roof and replacement of deteriorating brickwork. It will not, of course, be restored to its former role as an opera house.

The building which contained the opera house in Mountain Grove still exists as the central portion of Richards Brothers Grocery on the north side of the square. I have no photo available of this building at the present time. We have recently moved our historical society office into the former Wright County Bank building and most of our material of this nature is still in boxes waiting to be filed.

I have no information regarding an opera house in Norwood. Larry Dennis, editor of the Mansfield Mirror, mentions an opera house in Mansfield during his discussion of the city in Mansfield, the First Hundred Years, published in 1983. He gives no additional details in the book.

Good luck on your project,
plan to be here, as are the teachers of that year.

To start the celebration this group will be in charge of the program on Saturday night, a memorial service will be held in honor of the deceased members of the class. "The Good Shepherd" is the theme for this memorial.

Our last meeting was five years ago for our 45th. At this time we made plans for our golden celebration to be held this weekend.

Shown above is the graduating class of 1926, taken from the original class picture of that year. Look the picture over and see how many you recognize after 50 years. Pictured from left to right, front row: Dorless Turner Schweinhheimer, Marie Curry Evans, Ferrel Claxton Mallory, Rita Carter Burney, Jewell Palmer Johnson, Cadie Shull Nichols, Edna Goswick Claxton, Laura Rayburn Jevons, Hossie Peaman Widmer, Alma Rayburn, Clara Hightower Colton, Emogene Jones Fuge. Second row: Dillard Mallory, Lee Burney, Archie Newton, Haskell Hutton, John Pope, Clifford Dunn, Dee Hutton, Chester Claxton, and Buster Fuge.

Standing, back row: Lloyd Tracy, class sponsor; Bill Clark, Loan Mallory, Forrest Hutton, Alva Rainey, Lester Newton, Virgil Rippee, Elmer Wood, Arnold Crewse, Theodore Nickle, and Lawrence Pyatt.

The Johnson Opera Building was the only gym the basketball team of 1922-26 had. Their games were played here. The Hartville basketball team of 1926 was the first Hartville team to play district meets at Lebanon where they won and in the regional in Springfield that year. It was also the first year the local team wore furnished sweaters sporting the letter H. Mrs. Clifford Dunn still has her treasured sweater.

The Hartville Public School building, built in 1911, is shown in this 1926 photo. The first gym was added in this photo. Mr. Lloyd Tracy was superintendent in 1926 and attended this reunion. Other teachers of that year who attended the alumni and 50th reunion of the 1926 class are Robinett and Mrs. Rachel Carter Barnes.

Everyone has a congratulation to attend on morning church and service at the Hartville School on May 11 a.m.

The alumni banquet and 50th reunion of the class of 1926 is listed in the Calendar Service, published by the American Bicentennial Commission in Washington.
T. J. "Tommy" Farmer

Young T. J. Farmer, son of a prominent Hartville physician and pharmacist, had a new camera in 1912 and was naturally anxious to try it out.

He took pictures of everything, his friends, buildings, a great snowstorm, the town's first autos, the first airplane to fly the skies of Wright County.

Today, the photographs are frozen moments of history and Farmer is an able guide to Hartville's early days. Farmer's father, Dr. A. J. Farmer, had immigrated to Wright County as a boy of 10, along with many other Southerners who fled the disordered post-Civil War period in the South.

He became prominent in Hartville and served for a time as postmaster. In 1891, he took his medical degrees at Keokuk Medical College in Keokuk, IA and returned to Hartville, where he was both doctor and pharmacist.

His son helped out in the pharmacy, and after a year of pre-medical training in St. Louis, joined the firm as fulltime pharmacist in 1923. The doctor died in 1924 and the son has continued Farmers Drugs to the present. The store looks much the same as it did in the 1920s.

Besides Farmer's own early photographic efforts, he has a number of other early photos and momentos of his years as a pharmacist.

The store includes antique shop furnishings and an accumulation of product advertising accumulated through the 60 years of business.

Recalling the days of the photographs, Farmer remembers that in those times taking pictures was a little more complicated than taking the film to the corner drug store to return shortly as prints or slides. He had to develop the film and make the picture prints himself, in a darkened room at night.

He took a picture of his father's new auto, a Ford purchased from a dealer in Mt. Grove named Douglas. It was the second car in town, preceded a few months by another Ford purchased by Mr. Prophet. Young Farmer himself drove the new auto back from Mt. Grove to Hartville, over the dirt road that then connected the two. All roads were unpaved in those days. The journey to Springfield took more than two and a half hours.

The first airplane in Wright County was flown by Delay Thompson in 1913. Farmer got a picture of the pilot perched in his flimsy appearing aircraft, soaring over a barn.

In 1918, Farmer took his own first airplane ride in a two seater bi-plane.

Earlier in 1915, Farmer had acquired a powerful Indian motorcycle, an object of great pride to judge by the number of pictures he took of the vehicle. That same year, he recorded on film a 15-inch snowfall that stopped traffic, both horses and motorized, and toppled timber. (The above article taken from a 1970s newspaper account. Born in 1895, Tommy Farmer died in 1979.)

Entertainment

Wright County entertainment in the "good old days" before TV and the movies was limited, by today's standards, but ignorance of things to come was no cause for dismay—there was always something to do or somewhere to go!

The Chautauqua Circuit brought entertainment each summer, presenting music, drama and elocution under the big top, which in Hartville was set up on the Methodist church lot every year. In Mt. Grove, Chautauqua Park was located on the present site of Brown Shoe Company.

The Lyceum series of lectures and concerts, etc., was presented by professional entertainers in Johnson Opera House (over the old locker plant) in Hartville and in Mt. Grove at the Opera Hall located at the present site of Richards Brothers.

Blind Boone, the phenomenal black piano player from Columbia, MO, gave his fifth and last Hartville concert Sept. 26, 1925 at Johnson Opera House. Sightless since he was six months of age, Boone had the gift of replaying any selection he heard. His crowd pleasers in Hartville were Mrs. H.E. Frink's "Ripples of the Gusanode" and his own composition "The Marshfield Tornado."

The Musical Grays, a family of entertainers, made Mt. Grove their winter quarters, taking their "Toby" show through the northern states during the summer. Erman Gray became the first band director for Hartville High School.

Clubs of all descriptions abounded in Wright County circles. There were literary clubs, embroidery clubs, Shakespearean clubs, WCTU, Missouri Women's Development Association, church clubs, farm and garden clubs, quilting clubs, etc.

Lodges were plentiful as well, with the Oddfellows and Rebekahs, A.F.& A.M. and Eastern Star, the Red Men and Pocahontas, also Royal Neighbors in both urban and rural areas of the county.

Johnson Opera House served as a multipurpose auditorium, gymnasium, meeting place and occasional house of worship. It doubled as the only indoor basketball court in the Hartville area for many years. School and town teams from Wright and surrounding counties tested their mettle in the Opera house until 1936, when a gym was added onto the high school. Spectators sat only at the ends of the hall due to the narrowness of the facility.

Archie Newton, a member of the basketball team, had the misfortune of jerking the third finger off his right hand. The accident occurred in Johnson Hall when he placed his hand on the side of the stage and jumped to the floor. The ring on his third finger hung on a nail, the weight of his body and the jerk tore his finger apart in the joint. He was taken to Dr. B.E Latimer's office where the finger was severed from the hand. (Democrat Dec. 3, 1925)

In the spring of 1936 Wright County was agog with the grand opening of Casador Lodge on the lake at Hartville. Harry Gorman was proprietor of the summer resort which boasted six cabins ready for use with more to follow, also a dance pavilion of unique construction and other amenities for recreation and enjoyment.

A grand celebration of Casador was climax ed on July 4, 1937 with "a big dance at evening in the pavilion which is one of the best dance floors in the state and already widely known and popular in all surrounding towns as well as gathering devotees of the Terpsichorean art from Springfield, Kansas City and St. Louis."

Three years later, on April 18, 1940, Circuit Judge C.H. Skinker issued a restraining order and Casador Lodge was padlocked. Years afterward it was converted into a lodge hall for the IOOF and in the 1990s, weathered and for lorn, it has become just another house, betraying no hint of the excitement it evoked more than fifty years ago.

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