


APR 21 1980

## ARIZONA STATE HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY

|  |                             |   |  |
|--|-----------------------------|---|--|
| <b>PROPERTY NAME</b><br>Gandolfo Theater                                 |                             | Yu151   |  |
| <b>LOCATION</b><br>200 <del>South</del> First Avenue                     |                             | <b>CURRENT PHOTOGRAPH</b>   |  |
| <b>CITY/TOWN/VICINITY</b><br>Yuma  | <b>COUNTY</b><br>Yuma       |  |  |
| <b>OWNER</b><br>Dr. and Mrs. H. R. Linden                                |                             |   |  |
| <b>OWNER'S ADDRESS</b><br>330 West Twentyfourth Street<br>Yuma, AZ 85364 |                             |   |  |
| <b>FORM COMPLETED BY</b><br>Yuma County Historical Society               |                             |   |  |
| <b>ADDRESS</b><br>240 Madison Avenue<br>Yuma, AZ 85364                   |                             |   |  |
| <b>PHOTO BY</b><br>P. Callahan   | <b>DATE</b><br>4/78         |   |  |
| <b>VIEW</b><br>Main facades from northeast                               |                             |   |  |
| <b>PRESENT USE</b><br>Gymnasium  | <b>ACREAGE</b><br>less/acre |   |  |
| <b>STYLE OR CULTURAL PERIOD</b><br>Early 20th Century Commerical Block   |                             |   |  |
| <b>SIGNIFICANT DATES</b><br>Constructed 1917; fire in 1925               |                             |   |  |

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Originally built with three stories, the Gandolfo Theater currently stands as a two story structure after a 1927 fire destroyed most of the upper floor. Only the fly loft retains segments of the original cornice and brickwork. Parapets with corbeled string courses conceal the flat roof; rectangular corner elements and a central pediment with decorative brickwork project above the main parapet line. The front facade has three bays. The central bay, deeply recessed and spanned by a segmental arch, contains the main entry. Rectangular side bays, containing offices, are only slightly inset. The two story auditorium space lies behind these offices. Overall the building measures 50 ft. by 125 ft.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Gandolfo Theater is one of the most important landmarks in Yuma. Built by local entrepreneur John Gandolfo the building was a center of community activity from 1917 to 1950. Designed with a seating capacity of 635, the auditorium served as a movie house and theater. Theater offerings were drawn from a touring circuit which included road shows from New York and Los Angeles. Before fire destroyed the third floor, the building also housed dances and meetings of social groups such as the Masons and Elks. Since 1950 the building has served a variety of functions. The character of the structure is substantially intact or recoverable.

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Block 95; Lot 5; Yuma Townsite