

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Washington
COUNTY: King
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE AUG 30 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Moore Theatre and Hotel Building

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1932 - 2nd Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Seattle

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
#1 - Hon. Joel Pritchard

STATE:
Washington

CODE:
53

COUNTY:
King

CODE:
033

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Hotel</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. George J. Toulouse, Jr.

STREET AND NUMBER:
Dexter Horton Building, 710 - 2nd Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Seattle

STATE:
Washington

CODE:
53

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
King County Auditor's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Seattle

STATE:
Washington

CODE:
53

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Seattle

STATE:
Washington

CODE:
53

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

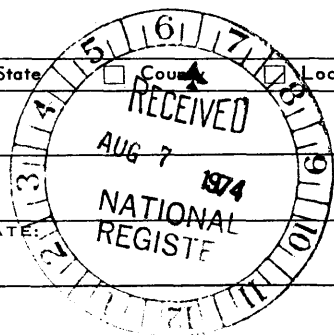
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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Moore Theatre, built in 1907 of reinforced concrete and faced with ceramic glazed brick, is seven stories high. Simple exterior detailing between floors and on window sills is of tan terra cotta. A rather simple circle-patterned frieze and cornice are of the same terra cotta.

The main entrance opens into a small octagonal foyer with ramps (with solid brass handrails) to the left and right leading to the balconies. The original hexagonal patterned tile floor now is covered with carpeting. The foyer drops by a wide ramp into the carpeted rectangular lobby. Hanging from the vaulted ceiling is the original brass chandelier. Imported Italian marble of red-brown and cream comprise Gothic columns and portions of the walls up to open balcony height. Four classic marble figures stand at the balcony promenade level.

The theatre itself, opening from the south side of the lobby, rises to the full height of the building. The domed ceiling has a 20' crawl space above it for maintenance of the original decorative lights in the dome and in the lighted arches. Present seating capacity of the theatre is 1,425. The second balcony, now closed, could seat an additional 228 people. The stage is 71' wall to wall, with a height of 44' from fly gallery to grid and the hardwood stage floor is noted for its quality of "life". The orchestra pit seats 23 musicians. Fourteen dressing rooms are located back and below stage, as is the original and still-used carpentry shop and hatch for raising props to the stage.

The hotel rooms surround the theatre on the upper floors and fill in many small angled areas. The fine original design included a separate interior side entrance into the theatre from the hotel so that the actors could avoid the press and fans. The hotel parts of the building are quite standard in design, but well built, with solid doors and large sash windows. The original heating system of the building also heated the adjacent New Washington Hotel and the Stewart Hotel across Stewart Street to the south beyond the New Washington. An underground salt water natatorium was a special feature, with "Turkish and Russian baths for men and ladies", massage rooms and dressing rooms, used into the 1950's despite the inconvenience of posts rising from the pool to support the floors above.

The building is generally in excellent condition. The roof has recently been retarred. The original entrance has been slightly modified to single sets of doors, and currently there is a rainbow spectrum painted around the marquee and entrance. Some window frames have been replaced in the hotel portion, although there have been no other significant alterations beyond periodic maintenance. Gold leaf decor could be uncovered on walls and arches, and

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#7 - Description
Moore Theatre and Hotel Building

electrical work could restore the magic lighting in the main theatre. The Moore is the only theatre in Seattle which remains a real "hemp house", with the lines for scenery still being pulled by ropes, by hand. Road companies are willing still to work with this vestige of the past because of the superior acoustics, fine seating arrangement, and workable theatre size.



SIGNIFICANCE

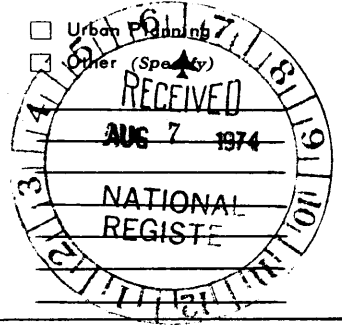
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1907 to date

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Moore Theatre was designed and engineered partly to accommodate anticipated crowds coming to the Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition in 1909, with hotel, sports, and entertainment all available in one complex. Its design was immediately noted nationwide, and its use made it the leading cultural house of the city.

The Moore Hotel opened in April 1907 and the Theatre portion in December. Built by James A. Moore, land developer and financier of several major office buildings, the Moore was designed by the well-known western architect E. W. Houghton. The building cost some \$350,000 with some \$40,000 worth of onyx and marble in the lobby and foyer of the theatre. Mr. Moore was simultaneously building the New Washington Hotel, the Moore, and the Moore Theatre. Each structure was built with possible adjustments for exterior grade in the basic design, since the regrading of Second Avenue was occurring at the same time.

Mr. Moore had turned to construction of a theatre at the urging of Mr. James Cort. Cort was manager of the Northwestern Theatrical Association, operating 135 theatres west of the Missouri, and was president of the Cort Theatre Company of Chicago. Mr. Cort had been the first man to organize a vaudeville circuit in the United States, and from 1886 to 1893 had operated all the vaudeville houses on the West Coast. He became manager of the Moore, and after the gala opening brought such stars to the Moore as Marie Dressler, Victor Moore, Ethel Barrymore, John Drew, and Billie Burke. Pavlova came in 1916, Feodor Chaliapin in 1923, and more. For a period in the 1920's, the Moore was part of the Orpheum Circuit, and was briefly called the Orpheum. Cecilia Schultz became manager in 1935 and brought the theatre to full potential with attractions under the Dance Theatre Series, the Great Artist Series, and others. After Mrs. Schultz retired in 1949, the Moore was leased for three years as a revival center. In the 1950's audiences dwindled and shows were less regular. Boxing, road shows, revival meetings, political rallies, movies, and the rock production "Hair" have shared the fine theatre in recent years.

The Moore is significant not only for theatrical contributions, but also for its outstanding theatre architecture. From the expensive

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Sayre, J. Willis. "Places of Theatrical Entertainment in Seattle," booklet.
Representative Citizens of the City of Seattle and County of King Washington, a volume of Memoirs and Geneology. New York: Lewis Publishing Co., 1903
Coast, August, 1907, p. 119.
Seattle Magazine, April, 1970.
Seattle Post-Intelligencer, 12/18/07, 12/29/07, 7/19/53.
Seattle Star, 12/30/07, 12/29/14.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

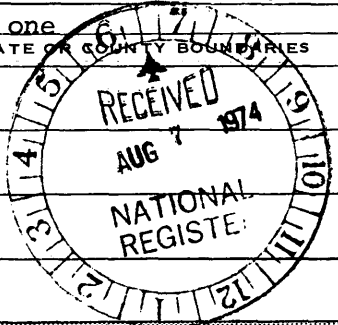
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		N47°	36'	43"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		W122°	20'	23"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

10/54962
527316
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Margaret A. Corley, King County Liaison

ORGANIZATION: Seattle Historical Society DATE: October, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
2161 East Hamlin Street

CITY OR TOWN: Seattle STATE: Washington CODE: 53

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

National State Local

Name Charles H. Odegard
 Charles H. Odegard

Title Director - Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission

Date 8/1/74

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

A. R. W. [Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 8/30/74

ATTEST:

Charles H. Odegard
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 8.29.74

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#8 - Significance
Moore Theatre and Hotel Building

exterior construction, withstanding both climatic and earthquake stresses, to the interior design features of exiting ramps, excellent sight lines, superior stage "life", and acoustics, the Moore is among the best examples of early theatre architecture and engineering to be found in the country. The Moore stands as a leader not only in cultural contributions but in theatre design and engineering developments as well.



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#9 - Bibliography
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Seattle Times, 12/29/07, 11/18/14, 10/22/38, 4/11/49, 1/12/55, 4/4/55,
5/22/55, 9/18/56, 3/22/59, 2/25/62, 10/15/63, 2/28/65, 2/19/70,
4/7/70.

(The) Argus, 1/4/08.

