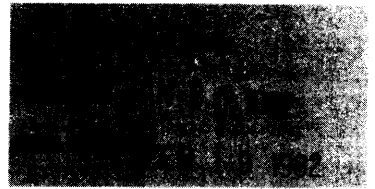


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic - Walkers Orange County Theater

and/or common - Fox West Coast Theater

RECEIVED
OCT 20 1980

OHP

2. Location

street & number - 308 N. Main St. _____ not for publication

city, town Santa Ana _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 38th

state California _____ code 06 _____ county Orange _____ code 059

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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 type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Compton, Blanche et al / Olivas, Lewis

street & number 2224 Greenleaf St.

city, town Santa Ana, CA 92706 _____ vicinity of _____ state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. - Records Office County of Orange

street & number 630 N. Broadway

city, town Santa Ana, CA 92701 _____ state

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

1) Santa Ana Historic Properties Survey 3) City of S. A. Cultural Heritage Committee E-117
title 2) S. A. Transportation Terminal Historic has this property been determined eligible? yes no

Property Survey
date 1) 6/15/80 2) 8/30/80 3) N/A _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records 1) State Office of Historic Preservation, Sacramento, CA
2) Orange County Transit District, Garden Grove, CA
3) City of Santa Ana - City Clerk - Santa Ana, CA

city, town _____ state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Fox West Coast Theater is a large reinforced concrete theater and motion picture building with a terra cotta facade. The building is a three level flat roofed structure with an elevated fly loft at the rear of the building.

The facade has a strong Spanish Renaissance theme. The topmost portion of the facade has a false roof that is tiled and pitched with ornate brackets providing additional embellishments. Corner parapets extend above the tiled roof and baroque styled ornaments with finials cap each parapet. A flagpole extends from the roof. The upper portion of the theater has not been altered.

Midway above the neon marquee, five arched openings are evenly spaced across the facade. Six engaged columns flank the arches. The columns have twisting bases and are capped by modified Corinthian capitals. The columns are tied together at the base by a cornice-like projection which is supported by consoles. Wrought iron balcony railings complete the Revival theme.

The columns are topped by an ornate cornice with dentils and string courses. Above the cornice is a series of square openings which are evenly dispersed across the facade. Cast terra cotta decorative features flank each side of the windows.

The lower level was altered from its original three-arched theme. The existing Moderne marquee covers the upper portion of each archway. Below the marquee the alterations have simplified the entryway's decorative features, and today only the basic three-part layout is the same. Moderne influenced terrazzo is located in front of the box office and in the major entrance. The alterations were completed in 1935 when the theater was known as the Fox West Coast Theater.

The building seats 1000 persons in a tri-level interior layout. The second mezzanine level has two small offices, a large intermission area and restrooms for the patrons. The third level is a large balcony with projection rooms at the uppermost portion of the theater.

The main theater area has extensive Art Deco Moderne motifs on the walls and flanking the movie screen. Each wall has seven gold leaf pilasters that merge with a U-shaped Moderne decorative crown that runs along the perimeter of the theater ceiling. The center of the ceiling is a white acoustical foam bordered by purple neon lighting. On each side of the movie screen large ornate intertwining gold leaf decorative features highlight and surround the screen. These interior decorative features are primarily cast plaster. The balcony level has a white balustrade inset into the balcony front. The balustrade was at one time gold leaf also. The original wood stage and subterranean dressing rooms are intact. There are eight dressing rooms and a hatch door entering the stage area. The fly loft is intact with rigging and proplifts still workable. The original 800-piece pipe organ was removed by Mann's Theaters and taken to Hollywood in the 1940's.

The lobby has a gold leaf Moderne hood over the concession stand and the circa 1935 lighting fixtures remain utilizing green glass decorated with stylized flower motifs. The interior of the building is unaltered from the 1935 remodeling. Even such smaller Moderne details as water fountains and switch plates are authentic and unaltered.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1940	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates - 1923

Builder/Architect House & Graham/Carl Boller

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The West Coast Theater was the third theater on that site. The West Coast, originally known as the Walker Theater, was preceded by the Princess and the Bell Theaters. The site has been used continuously for movie houses since 1910 when it was converted from a livery stable into a movie house. (Blue Front Livery) The Walker opened on January 29, 1924, and its first silent movie starred J. Warren Kerrigan in The Man from Brodney's. The first talking picture to be shown here was the Lights of New York on November 1, 1928.

The movie house was an impressive building architecturally, and construction costs exceeded \$150,000. The style of architecture and ornamentation is unmatched in the city and throughout the county. The reinforced concrete building was fireproof (for that time) and the building had an 800 pipe Wurlitzer organ. The theater remains as an important part of the heyday of Hollywood in the 1920s.

The exterior marquee and street level area was altered in approximately 1935 to a Moderne style theater front, but the detailing of the marquee represents a style of design rare in Santa Ana--and historic in its own right. The movie house was converted to Spanish language films approximately ten years ago and has an active patronage by Santa Ana's Hispanic Community. The Fox West Coast and the Yost Theater in Santa Ana are the most popular Spanish-language movie houses in the county.

The building is threatened by redevelopment agency plans for a downtown parking structure. The loss of this important movie house will disrupt the historical continuity of the Main Street Corridor of the Downtown Historical District. Its architecture and location provide an important feature in the Central Business District. The loss of a major Hispanic movie house will serve to concentrate Hispanic activities further east in downtown Santa Ana.

Summary

The West Coast Theater is significant to the local community for the quality of its architectural design and its broad, general role as one of Santa Ana's major movie houses. The building is a notable example of its type and period, expressing the period revivalism popular in architecture during the 1920's. Here, the romantic imagery of the Spanish Renaissance is especially appropriate for this small-scaled movie palace. The quality of the original design and the fine terra cotta detailing are still clearly evident, although the 1935 remodelling of the ground floor and interior has introduced Moderne elements which are expressive of their own period. The grand opening of the theater in 1924 as a first class movie and vaudeville house in Orange County's major city was an important event. The new theater reflected the prosperity of the 1920's and Santa Ana's emerging role as the social and economic center of the growing county. It served the community as a major movie house throughout most of its existence.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Santa Ana's Architectural Heritage Environmental Coalition of Orange County, 1980.

Los Angeles Sunday Times Dec. 29, 1923

Santa Ana Register 1-28-24

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .16

Quadrangle name Justin

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>11</u>	<u>419710</u>	<u>3734300</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification Boundaries are drawn along the lot lines which have encompassed the building throughout its existence.
 Santa Ana City Lot 4, Block 11 and the East 15 ft Lot 3, Block 11, forming a 50' x 140' parcel. See enclosed Assessor's Parcel map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
<u>n/a</u>			

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Harold Thomas, Executive Director

organization Environmental Coalition of Orange County, Inc. date 10-7-80

street & number 206 W. Fourth Street telephone (714) 836-4314

city or town Santa Ana state California 92701

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature K. M. Ellen

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 10-13-81

For HCRS use only

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

Shelton S. ...
 Keeper of the National Register date 2/19/82

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

