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NATIONAL REGISTER

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Capital Theater

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 460 Aultman Street not for publication

city or town Ely vicinity

state Nevada code NV county White Pine code 033 zip code 89301

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ronald M. Jones SHPO 6/17/93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Patricia Andrews

8/5/93

Capital Theater
Name of Property

White Pine County, Nevada
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
one		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
one		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture/Theater

Commerce and Trade/Business

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/Not in use

Commerce and Trade/Business

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century Amer.

Movements/Mission-Spanish Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete/steel

walls concrete/brick

roof flat-wood decked asphalt roof-

other only 4 to 5 years old

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture

Architecture

Period of Significance

1916

Significant Dates

1916

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

C.O. Fleming, Percy W. Hull

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Capital Theater
Name of Property

White Pine County, Nevada
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1, 1	6, 8, 1, 7, 5, 0	4, 3, 4, 6, 2, 2, 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ron James and Michelle McFadden

organization Div. of Historic Preservation and Archeology date May 1993

street & number 123 W. Nye Lane, Room 208 telephone (702) 687-5138

city or town Carson City state Nevada zip code 89710

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Norman Goeringer

street & number 5th and High Streets telephone

city or town Ely state Nevada zip code 89301

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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The Capital Theater was constructed in 1916 by its owners, C.O. Fleming and P.W. Hull. The building served as a movie house in Ely until approximately 1965, when it closed. Two businesses remain in operation in the building, a radio station in the west corner and a jewelry shop in the east corner. While the lower one-third of the facade has been altered, the remainder of the facade above is in excellent condition and survives as one of the most elaborate elevations which front on Aultman Street in Ely. The design of the elevation may date to the reconstruction in 1929 after a fire, and appears to be the local interpretation of Spanish Colonial Revival.

The theater is located on the main thoroughfare through town, and is approximately six blocks west of the central square and White Pine County Courthouse. The other two-story commercial structures on Aultman Street have survived with varying degrees of integrity; most date to the early twentieth century. There is the potential of a National Register Historic District in downtown Ely.

The theater is a tall, rectangular brick building which faces north. Only the north and south elevations are visible as the neighboring buildings abut the theater. The facade is divided into a lower third, which houses three businesses, and the upper two-thirds, separated by a concrete band, which remains unaltered. Although original sources are sketchy, the building seems to have been constructed for housing independent retailers in the east and west corner as well as the movie house in the rear of the building. Each business is flanked by square brick piers and has large, plate glass windows. The jewelry store, in east corner, retains its window-door-window design with transom windows above prevalent in late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century retail architecture.

The upper section of the theater features a central section with two enriched classical door motifs in stone, one above the other, which rises to scalloped parapet with stone coping. The door motifs are carved in low relief with elaborate capitals and column decoration; there are stone vases in niches above the lower door and a stone cartouche below the apex of the parapet. The side sections, slightly recessed, have low relief designs in brick, including glazed, slightly projecting headers in a large recessed panel and blind arcading below the cornice, and flat

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parapets with stone coping. The large marquee for the theater has been removed. Two electric signs, perpendicular to the facade, project from the concrete band above the retail shops.

The interior of the theater is in poor condition due to neglect and water damage. However, the space retains its original wall, ceiling and proscenium arch decoration of recessed panels alternating with vertical molded banding. The stage is located at the rear of the theater. The auditorium is divided into two sections: a lower seating area, and, separated by a low wall, the upper seating area which gradually rises from floor level. The lobby is no longer extant.

Although the building has been altered with new windows and doors on the lower section of the facade, and the interior is in need of repair, the theater retains its historic integrity and is eligible for listing on the National Register. Future plans for the building include restoration of the lobby, rehabilitation of the theater, and a development of a community arts center.

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The Capital Theater at 460 Aultman Street in Ely, Nevada is significant under criterion A for its role in the local history of motion picture houses and under criterion C for its local interpretation of Spanish Colonial Revival design.

Ely, a small nineteenth-century mining community, became the seat of White Pine County government in 1887. The town grew slowly for the next decade in the midst of the depression of the 1890s which caused statewide stagnation. With a turn-of-the-century boom in the copper mining industry, Ely grew into a major mining community. The ore body used by the local mine promised long-term economic stability for the community. Because of a promising future and of the fact that Ely was remote, it was necessary to build a town which would be self-sustaining and lasting, but tied as much as possible to the outside world. The mining boom occurred just when the movie industry was initiating its role as an economic and unifying cultural force for the nation. The Capital Theater, constructed between 1913 and 1916, serves as a symbol of the early importance of the movie industry to small-town America and of the simultaneous growth of Ely and the movie industry.

Documentation of the early history of the Capital Theater is sketchy, but local deeds indicate that by March of 1913 a local bar on the location included the showing of motion pictures as part of its economic viability. This structure was demolished soon afterwards, and the owners, C.O. Fleming and P.W. Hull, replaced it with the Capital Theater before 1916. A promissory note indicates that the two men spent \$6,000 to build their new theater, a debt to be repaid to the First National Bank of Ely within four years. Local testimony indicates that M.T. Miller and J.W. Hofheins were the brick masons for this project. Coincidentally, they also served as brick masons for the Central Theater built over twenty years later. In addition, P.W. Hull and his brother Warren were responsible for commission of the construction of the Central Theater. A nomination for the Central Theater is being submitted separately.

Fleming and Hull, under the corporate name of Eastern Nevada Theatres, sold the property to Associated Amusements Company on December 10, 1959. The theater subsequently changed hands in 1978 to ownership by Donald E. and Portia A. Kancilia who in turn sold it to Norman and Mary Goeringer in 1987 who maintain

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ownership of the property.

A neighboring fire in 1929 caused some damage to the structure which consequently needed remodeling. In 1938 the Ely Theater underwent a yet another remodeling that including replastering of the interior, but the integrity of the original theater appears to have remained intact.

The architecture of the Capital Theater is also significant. The facade is an interesting interpretation of Spanish Colonial Revival with classical elements. The Spanish Colonial Revival style was popular during the first three decades of the twentieth century. Just as the east coast looked to their Colonial past for architectural precedents, the west looked to early Mission architecture of California for inspiration. Ornamentation on the Capital Theater which speaks to this heritage includes the low-relief surface decoration, the sculptural niches, the arcade motif below the roofline, and the curvilinear parapet. The classical entryways of carved stone are reminiscent of classical revival styles popular in the first two decades of the century, especially the Renaissance Revival. The interior of the theater, replastered in 1938, is inspired by Art Deco with its clean lines and geometric banding.

This theater serves as a reminder that local interpretations of popular architectural styles, such as Spanish Colonial Revival and the Renaissance Revival, were unique in their appearance. The theater is a popular landmark, and plans are underway to rehabilitate the building in the near future.

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Continuation Sheet**

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Bibliography

Russell R. Elliott, Nevada's Twentieth-Century Mining Boom: Tonopah, Goldfield, Ely (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1966).

Other documents on file:

"Deeds and Mortgage agreements related to the Capital Theater" on file with the nomination, the Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology, Carson City, Nevada.

Helen J. Lewis, "Historical Summary of the Capital Theater" on file with the nomination, the Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology, Carson City, Nevada.

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*Verbal boundary description

Legal parcel number 001-173-06.

Verbal boundary justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the theater.