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At the time the Tivoli Theater opened on March 19, 1921, it was considered "the finest theater in the entire South." Architecturally, it has changed little since 1921, and today it continues to play an active role in the cultural and entertainment life of Chattanooga.

The building of the Tivoli started as a project of the Signal Mountain Company. It was designed by Chattanooga architect R. H. Hunt in conjunction with <u>Rapp and Rapp</u>, a Chicago architectural firm. Supposedly, the theater was an exact, but smaller, replica of the<u>Tivoli in Chicago</u>. At the time it was built, the cost of the Chattanooga Tivoli was \$750,000 for a 2300-seat theater. In later years, it was to become the first public building in the South to install an air conditioning system, a Carrier plant which was one of the first five in the United States.

Numerous companies owned the Tivoli. In 1961, when it was being used as a motion picture house, the building was closed and its future was very uncertain. An agreement was reached between the owners, the Wilby-Kincey Service Corporation of Charlotte, North Carolina, and the city of Chattanooga, whereby the latter leased the structure for a fee of \$22,000. When the renovated Tivoli reopened as a cultural center on March 5, 1963, it was hailed as the beginning of the "revitalization of downtown Chattanooga."

Newer, larger cultural centers for Chattanooga have been and are being discussed, meaning the continued use and preservation of the Tivoli is not a complete certainty.

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OR TOWN:       STATE       CODE         Nashville       Tennessee       47         ATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION       NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION         s the designated State Liaison Officer for the Na- onal Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law       I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register and certify that it has been valuated according to the criteria and procedures set rth by the National Park Service. The recommended vel of significance of this nomination is: National       I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.         Michael       J. Smith       Date       4/11/73         ame       Michael       J. Smith       Date       4/11/73         itle       Executive Director Tennessee Historical Commission       Keepe of The National Refister	REET				00.111		<u></u>				<b>-</b>	····	
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County	Ham	ilton '
Invento	ry # _	1-31-587
Temp. F	ield #	ŧ <u>7</u>

## HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY

Historic NameCommon Name
OwnerCity of ChattanoogaAddressE. 11th Street
Property Location 709 Broad Street
Map: Quad Name Chattanooga No. 105-SE Edition 1969 Designed by Hunt in
Historical Data: Date of Construction 1921 SourceConjunction with Rapp & Rapp of Chicago
Built in 1921 as "the finest theater in the entire South" by the Signal Mountain
Company, it is reputed to be the first public building in the South to install
an air conditioning system, one of the first five installed in the U.S.; closed
in 1961 and scheduled for demolition, but saved through local efforts.
InformantAddress
Present Use Cultural Center Original Use Movie House
Original Location Yes Moved?Date
SiteBldg. <u>X</u> StructureObjectPart of District <u>Thematic</u>
Areas of Significance Architectural
Eligible for NR? <u>Yes</u> Why?
Property endangered? NO By what?
Photos: B&W: Roll #Frame #Date takenBy
Color: Roll #Frame #Date takenBy
Location of NegativeComments
Recorded by: <u>Martha Carver</u> Date Recorded: <u>February</u> , 1979
Address: Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission

200 City Hall Annex, Chattanooga, TN 37402

County <u>Hamilton</u> Inventory # <u>I-31-587</u>

Temp. Field # \_\_\_\_7

Architectural Data: Constructio	on: Frame	Log	Brick	X Stone	
No. of stories $3$ Roof type $F_{1}$	Lat	Material Asp	halt	_Original?	No
Wall covering: weatherboard	B&B	Vertical	board	None	<u>x</u>
Tongue and Grooved	Sawn	0	ther		
Chimness No. Looption		Mat	onial		
Chimney: NoLocation		Ma (			
Foundation: PierStone					
	Brick _	Other		<u> </u>	

brickworks and terra cotta detailing; the interior is elaborately decorated especially in the auditorium with its elaborate domed ceiling and proscenium. (Still used by the theater is a German pipe organ installed in 1931.)

Sketch Plan Below (include North, door and window locations, etc.):





NOV 2 0 1979

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