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 National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

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O.K. Theatre Name of Property		Wallowa Co., OR County and State
5. Classification		
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)	Category of Prope (Check only one box.)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)
		Contributing Noncontributing
x private public - Local	X building(s district	buildings district
public - State public - Federal	site structure object	site structure object
	object	1 0 Total
Name of related multiple (Enter "N/A" if property is not part Historic Resources of Do	of a multiple property listing)	Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
1888 to 1956		None
6. Function or Use		
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instruction	s.)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)
RECREATION AND CU	LTURE: Theater	RECREATION AND CULTURE: Theater
COMMERCIAL: General		COMMERCIAL: General
7. Description		
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instruction		Materials (Enter categories from instructions.)
LATE 19TH AND 20TH	CENTURY	foundation: CONCRETE
REVIVALS: Other		walls: CONCRETE
		roof: SYNTHETICS: Membrane
		other: N/A

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O.K. Theatre

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Completed in 1918, the O.K. Theatre is located at 206-212 W Main Street in downtown Enterprise, a rural community in Wallowa County, OR. The theater building communicates its function through a prominently displayed "O.K. THEATRE" name plate in the center of the stepped parapet. Designed with restrained classical details seen in the pilasters, paired slender engaged columns, and dentils, the building is constructed of reinforced pour-in-place, board-form concrete. The concrete walls extend below grade to the foundation creating a full-height basement that is illuminated on the rear (south) façade by windows on the south wall of basement apartment. Divided into four bays, the building originally housed three storefronts and the theater entrance. The western-most bay appears, and functions as, a stand-alone structure, set apart from the main two-story volume by its one-story height and simple parapet. Although the theater bay retains its original configuration, all the other storefront bays have been altered. The raised concrete pilasters, however, still distinguish the four separate bays. The original decorative details remain on the upper portion of the front facade including the four squat pilasters dividing the stepped parapet, and a wide lintel connected to horizontal bands decorated with dentils and connected by slender pilasters. The original projection room tripartite windows are below the parapet and have been enclosed. The concrete walls on the front façade have a stucco skim coat, providing a more finished surface. The rear (south) façade is comprised of a three-story board-form concrete fly tower wall punctuated on the lower level by doors and windows, and an one-story concrete wall of the west bay. A gable roof with a central cupola designed as part of the venting system, extends between the stage fly and the front parapet (Figure 4d).

The interior configuration of the 6,544 square foot building is planned around the theater auditorium with two commercial spaces on the west side of the theater bay and a former commercial space on the east (Figure 4b).2 Paired French doors, installed in the 1930s, lead into the theater fover that has the ticket booth positioned in the southwest corner.3 Another set of French doors open into the lobby. The concession area is on the east side of the lobby and a door to a hall accessing the office and women's room is on the south wall next to the double doors leading into the auditorium. A door to the men's restroom and basement is in the southwest corner of the lobby. The central ramp leads up from the lobby to the theater auditorium that was designed to maximize the view of the stage and movie screen by sloping the floor over the front commercial and lobby spaces (Figures 4b-c). The theater auditorium has fir floors, high ceilings covered with decorative metal ceiling panels, a stage and screen along the south wall, and three main sections of seating (Figure 4c). The projection booth and crying room are at the north end of the auditorium. Raised pilasters separate the auditorium sidewalls that are partially covered with newer sound proofing curtains and panels. Hallways on either side of the stage lead to doors to the alley. The interiors of the two western retail spaces have been remodeled, and the original storefront east of the theater lobby is now the concession area for the theater. The basement is divided into various rooms with the heating system located in the western-most section (4a). Two apartments are integrated into the plan of the theater, one under the stage and one at the south end of the west store

The ground slopes down towards the alley behind the building creating the daylight basement.

Currently, the concession's area. The storefront was remodeled for theater use in c. 1940s.
 The doors were installed in the 1930s remodel when the foyer was created. This modification was completed within the period of significance.

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Narrative Description

Setting

In the middle of downtown on south side of W Main Street, the O.K. Theatre is located mid-block between SW 1st and 2nd Streets (Figure 2). Flush with the sidewalk, the building faces north with commercial buildings on the east and west. The Bowlby stone Enterprise Fraternal Association Building to the east, shares a common foundation wall with the theater. A commercial building and a small downtown pocket park are across W Main Street to the north (Figure 3). An east-west alley and a paved parking lot are south of the building. Primarily rectangular in plan, the building measures 60'x110', and covers the entire tax lot, except for a fire corridor extending from the east rear exit door. No landscaping is associated with the property.

Exterior Description

Front (North) Façade

The north façade of the O.K. Theatre is divided into two distinct sections: the main theater bay with adjacent two storefronts under the stepped parapet, and a lower, single-story bay associated with the western-most storefront (Photo 1)(Figure4b). Although one building, these two sections are essentially separate structures. All the storefronts have been modified with newer siding material (horizontal boards and Roman brick veneer) covering the bulkhead and transom windows, and altering the window and door configuration. The westernmost storefront retains elements of the original configuration with a central door flanked by storefront windows.4 The concrete pilasters, however, flanking this bay, have been covered with Roman brick. The other raised concrete pilasters separating the eastern bays are intact, and are finished with a stucco skim coat over the board-form concrete surface. The tops of these pilasters terminate at a wide concrete lintel that spans the entire length of the facade above the original transom openings (Photo 2). Three sets of projection room windows, now boarded over, are above the lintel. The windows are grouped together in a tripartite-like configuration with square windows flanking the taller, central rectangular window that has narrow concrete mullions. Concrete sills project slightly from below the window openings. Slender classical pilasters separate the three tripartite windows. The horizontal banding above the windows is decorated with a row of dentils. Squat raised pilasters divide the parapet into three sections. Originally, these pilasters were capped with finials (Figure 6c). The center portion of the parapet, finished with coping, frames the O.K. THEATRE painted name. The parapet above the western-most bay is separate from the main stepped parapet. Lower in height, the west parapet is decorated with simple recessed panels defined by a raised concrete frame. The top of the parapet aligns with the dentilated coursing of the main parapet.

Back (South) Façade

The back façade is divided into two distinct sections: the tall, three-story concrete wall that comprises the back wall of the theater fly tower, and the lower, one-story west bay (Photo 3). Two sets of paired horizontal windows (one casement and three aluminum windows) at the bottom of three-story wall illuminates the basement apartment. Flanking the windows at each end of the wall are doors that access the interior spaces. The east door opening is an original five-panel wood door that accessed the backstage area. Directly above this door is another door that been enclosed with concrete (Photo 3). The door originally accessed the back stage area. The remainder of the three-story façade is void of openings or details. The wall of the western

⁴ The original storefront configuration was the traditional center recessed entrance flanked by storefront windows with low kickplates below and transoms above.

⁶ The fly tower is the structure above a stage in which scenery can be lifted out of sight of the audience.

Originally, the O.K. Theatre name plate was most likely created by raised letter. These letters were possibly removed when the name of the theater was changed to the Vista Theatre. After the name was reinstated, the name was painted in the shadow lines of the original name plate.

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one-story bay is constructed of board-form concrete and finished with a stucco skim coat. This portion of the building also has a newer aluminum slider window.

East and West Facades

The east façade is void of openings except for double-paired, paneled wood exit doors that are in the diagonal concrete wall, between the intersection of the theater building and adjacent stone building (Photo 4). The only area of the west façade visible above the roof is the concrete fly tower on the southwest corner of the building. The west side of the tower is covered with vertical wood planks, without any openings (Photo 5).

Roof and Cupola

The theater has a gable roof centered over the main, two-story volume of the theater. At the north end, above the projection room, a newer square vent was installed from the ridge. A large, wood cupola, with gable roof and wood louvered vents, is centered on the gable ridge (Figure 4d). The west slope of the gable extends fifteen feet over the one-story, western-most section of the building. The stage fly tower and the southern twenty feet of the building have flat roofs that drain to the alley. A tall, brick chimney that vents the basement furnace extends above this section at the west edge of the building.

Interior Description

The 6,544 square foot interior of the O.K. Theatre was efficiently designed to maximize the slope of the auditorium floor for optimal screen or stage viewing, while utilizing the space under the upper auditorium for the foyer, ticket booth, lobby, and two storefronts. The basement provided additional rooms for theater operations and apartments, and the western-most retail space was designed as a separate section, less integrated into the theater plan. The following interior description is organized around the theater that essentially has three levels: the service areas on the ground floor; the theater auditorium on the second floor; and the basement (Figures 4a-c). The majority of the room configurations are intact; however the wall, ceiling, and floors in most of the rooms have been covered with newer material.

Theater

Ground Floor Service Areas: Foyer, Lobby, and Restrooms

At the sidewalk, paired French doors with transoms above open into a foyer with the ticket booth in the southwest corner. The three-sided ticket booth has plate-glass windows separated by wood pilasters (Photo 6). The central window has a money-and-ticket pass-through and speaker opening. The inside of the ticket booth has an elevated floor, ticket counter with money drawer below, historic ticket counter machines, and a radiator on the north wall. On the south wall of the foyer, paired French doors with single-light panels open into the lobby. The foyer and lobby doors, and ticket booth were installed in the 1930s remodel.

The lobby has carpeted floors, painted plywood walls, and a reproduction metal ceiling that slopes down slightly towards the auditorium entrance hall. A curtained opening in the northwest corner of the lobby leads into the ticket booth. Double metal doors open to the auditorium. An original, varnished five-panel wood door, west of the auditorium entrance is labeled 'Mens.' The door, set at a diagonal, opens into a small stair hall that has a door to the adjacent commercial space on the west and a flight of stairs to the south (Photo 11). The stairway is lined with varnished plywood panels (1930s/40s panels). The stairs descend south to a landing with a door on the east that leads into the men's restroom, a door on the north to the basement, and a door on the west to the adjacent retail space. The men's restroom is a small space only big enough for the open door, a sink, and a toilet. The fixtures date to the historic period.

The women's restroom and an office are located on the east side of the lobby and auditorium. Stairs from the lobby lead down to a hallway that has partially sheetrock walls, a carpeted floor, and two doors to the room

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(office) south of the concession area. Stairs at the end of the hall lead to the women's restroom, which is a large room that has a sink in the northeast corner and a private toilet stall in the northwest corner (Figure 4b). The room has newer walls and floor coverings.

Concession Area (Former East Storefront) and Office

A large opening on the east side of the lobby leads into the concession area that is two steps below the lobby floor level (Figure 4b)(Photo 9). This area was formerly a separate storefront, originally a barbershop. The new opening was made when the barbershop was converted into the concession area in the 1940s or early 1950s. The northern portion of this room has one step up to the sidewalk level. This elevated area is twelve feet wide and spans the width of the room. A storefront window and an entrance door are located along the northern wall. The entrance door has a transom window above. The area has a newer wood laminate floor, walls covered with varnished plywood and sound proofing material, and a sloped ceiling covered with material simulating a tin ceiling. The concession's counter, at the southern end of the room, is made of plywood with a glass top (Photo 9). An original steam heat radiator (non-functional) is at the west end of the counter area. Behind the counter, a door in the south wall opens to a combination kitchen and supply area and office.

The supply room behind the concession area has vinyl flooring in the northern half, carpeting on the southern half, and a ceiling covered with fiberboard panels. Steps separate the two portions of this supply room and office, and are carpeted with an older carpet evident by the horsehair padding underneath, which was most likely installed in the 1930s (Photo 12). The office has Douglas fir floors, a door on the west wall opens to the hall, a Herring-Hall-Marvin Safe against the east wall, and a door in the south wall that opens to a low-clearance, dirt-floor storage area under the lower seating of the auditorium.

Auditorium and Equipment/Projector Room

A sloped incline, at the south end of the lobby, leads up to double metal doors that open to a central hallway into the auditorium. The hallway has wood-paneled walls capped with a wood rail and corner posts capped with ball finials. The entrance hall joins a carpeted aisle that extends east and west to carpeted north-south aisles (Photo 13). Carpet runners, over the original varnished fir tongue-and-grove floors, divide the auditorium into three major sections: two side sections and a central section (Figure 4c). The carpeted aisles on each side of the center section extend from the stage to the north wall. The theater slopes up to the north to enhance customer visibility of the screen and stage. The 1930s seats were replaced with newer theater seats in 2000.⁷ A majority of the historic seats are stored in the basement. The seats have metal side panels with an Art Deco design. There are two original seats in the lobby (Photo 10).

The upper part of the auditorium walls are covered with folded cloth soundproofing panels between interior pilasters on the east and west walls (Photo 15). Each pilaster has a 1960s box light placed above the site of the original lights. Newer angled wood partition walls, covered with folded cloth, extend from the southernmost pilasters to the proscenium arch of the stage (Figure 4c). The exit doors are in these newer partition walls. The ceiling is covered with two patterns of metal panels. Small, square-patterned panels are positioned around the perimeter of larger, central square classically-detailed panels in the center of the auditorium ceiling (Photo 16). A decorative colored-glass light fixture, from another historic theater, is in the center of the ceiling. Fans in the ceiling are for ventilation purposes.

The equipment and projector room, and the newer crying room are located along the north wall of the auditorium (Figure 4c). A door at the end of the eastern-most aisle opens into a new partitioned crying room that has a large window facing the screen, and a door at the end of the western-most aisle opens into the projector and equipment room. The original partition between the equipment and projector rooms has been removed, creating one long room. Galvanized tin lines the interior of the original projector room.⁸ The west

The metal used to line the walls was used to safeguard against fire when flammable nitrate films were used historically.

⁷ The original theater seats were replaced in 1937 with Art Deco style seats designed with pink & green mohair upholstered seats and side panels with an Art Deco design. These seats were removed in mid-2000, some of the original seats are in the basement.

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end of the room has fiberboard walls. The windows evident on the exterior parapet have been covered over with plywood panels. A vent has been added through the center window. Newer equipment and some of the older Wenzel Ace Motion Picture Equipment from Chicago, Illinois, dating from the 1950s/60s, are in the room.

Stage and Fly Tower

The proscenium stage, at the south end of the auditorium, is about 40' wide, 30' deep, and rises above the floor approximately four feet (Photo 14). The movie screen fills the proscenium. Constructed of tongue-and-groove board flooring, the stage floor was extended to the north in the 1940s or 50s to expand the stage's performance area. The back stage flooring was also extended to the south, partially covering an original back stage door to the alley. Newer track lighting hangs in front of the screen.

A heat and ventilation equipment storage room is behind the movie screen on the west side of the stage. Near the equipment room, an extension ladder accesses a trapdoor in the floor of the fly tower, which extends two stories above the stage (Figure 4c). The upper level of the fly tower was used for storage. A four-foot deep opening in the floor of the fly tower (the width of the proscenium) allowed a rope and pulley system to lift backdrops and stage props out of audience view during scene changes. The pulley equipment has been removed from the fly that is now non-operational.

Exits and West Corridor

An exit doorway on the east side of the stage leads behind the partition wall. Two five-panel, wood doors in the southeast corner of the hall lead to the south side alley while stairs to the right of the double doors lead up to the stage behind the screen (Figure 4c). Evidence of original mural paintings on canvas mounted to the original wall surface can be seen behind the newer partitions. Although in deteriorated condition, the canvas has fallen off the wall in places and is in poor condition. The presence of the paintings verify historic accounts that the auditorium walls once had painted scenes on them. It is not known whether there are more paintings behind the folded curtains on the auditorium walls.

Another exit doorway is located in the west side partition wall. Stairs immediately to the left, lead up to the stage in back of the movie screen. A fire hall leads south to a security door that opens onto a back foyer with three doors: a door to the under stage apartment, a door to the exterior at the alley, and a door to the southwest corner apartment (Figure 4c). A small east-west wall behind the partition wall has two doors. One door opens to a closet and one door to the southern (third) room of the west store (see description below).

West Commercial Stores

Western-Most Commercial Store

Originally, the western-most commercial space extended the length of the building (Figure 4b). Currently, the retail space is divided into several rooms. The front (north) room by the storefront windows has acoustic tiles on the ceiling, newer hardwood floors, and a combination of lath and plaster (west) and sheetrock walls. An open nook in the southeast corner is used as a changing room. In the southwest corner, a doorway opens to the second room that has the same newer floor, wall, and ceiling finishes. On the east wall, a door opens to a combination closet and toilet room, and centered in the south wall, a door opens to a third room. The third portion of the retail space is not currently used. The room has been remodeled with sheetrock walls and ceiling, and carpeted floor. A chimney, boxed in with drywall, extends through the room from the basement boiler room. Three doors along the east wall open up to a toilet room and closets, most likely constructed when the room was used as a childcare center. A door in the south wall opens into a small hallway that has two doors, one to a closet and one to the theater auditorium behind the partition wall. South of the small hall is the apartment built in the southern-most section of this commercial space (Figure 4b). Built in the early 1950s, the apartment (Apartment B) has newer finish material and walls.

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Middle Store

The middle commercial storefront, west of the theater lobby, is divided into four rooms entirely under the auditorium floor (Figure 4b). The entrance door and display window are on the north wall. The front room has a sloped ceiling of painted 4' x 8' panels with battens over the seams. The majority of the wall and floor coverings are newer. Stairs in the southeast corner of the front room lead down to a second room and a door in the east wall that opens into the stairway from the lobby to the men's restroom. These stairs in the southeast corner of the front room once extended the entire width of the store (structure is evident in the basement). The second room has a smaller room built in the corner that has windows above half-walls, which is a later addition (Figure 4b). Steps near the southwest corner of the room lead into a third room, now used for storage. The floor of the third room is covered with period checkerboard pattern linoleum. A door on the east wall leads into the stairway to the men's toilet. A door in the south wall opens to a fourth room, used for storage. A doorway in the south wall of the fourth room is closed off.

Basement

The finished basement area, sited under approximately the north-third of the theater and the west retail store, has concrete floors and walls finished with a variety of materials including lath-and-plaster, horizontal planking, drywall, and wood paneling. Built-in shelves or counters are along some of the walls (Figure 4a). The ceiling is either unfinished with exposed beams and cross-braced joists, or finished with rough-texture fiberboard panels or sound-absorbent 2' x 4' panels.

The main access to the basement is through a five-panel wood door in the stair landing near the men's restroom. The door opens to a landing with a sink and counter on the east wall, and an open stairway on the west wall. The stairs lead down to the east-west cement corridor that connects the storage rooms under the original east and west storefronts. A door in the north wall of the corridor leads into an original retail space once associated with the east storefront; stairs originally went up to the east storefront.

A workroom, under the concession area, is at the east end of the corridor (Figure 4a). This room was originally the location of the bathing rooms under the barbershop (current concession area). The west end of the corridor opens to the basement under the west commercial store. This basement extends to the south wall of the building. The basement floor is concrete, and the south, west, and north walls are board-form concrete. A partition wall, with a single door, separates the north two thirds of this part of the basement from the south third. A concrete pit in the floor of this south room once held the original steam heat boiler (removed). The basement ceiling is open to the sub-floor with east-west joists supported by a center beam and posts.

Basement Apartment

An apartment (Apartment A on Figure 4b) is located at the south end of the basement under the stage; its north wall abuts the unfinished basement under the lower seating of the theater (Figure 4a). The south wall has two-paired windows, one casement and three aluminum sliders, that illuminate the apartment from the alley. At the west end of the apartment, a stairwell accesses the theater exit hall and a second door opens to the basement area. This apartment may have been the theater's original dressing rooms.

Unfinished Basement Area

The unfinished basement area is under the auditorium seating in the southeast portion of the building, and has a dirt floor (Figure 4a). The concrete wall joins the foundation wall of the adjoining building that has a random rock rubble foundation capped with a Bowlby stone coursing. The west, north, and south walls are covered with vertical or horizontal boards. North-south beams support the 2" x 10" east-west floor joists that have cross bracing and carry a sub-floor of 12" wide lumber. Wood posts support the beams.

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Alterations

Alteration within the Period of Significance (1918-1956)

The original arched marquee canopy over the entrance was removed by the 1950s. The original recessed foyer was enclosed with French doors, the ticket booth was relocated to the foyer, and doors to the lobby were added in the 1930s remodel.

The east storefront, originally a barbershop, was converted into the concession area by cutting an opening in the east wall of the lobby sometime in the 1940s or early1950s. The width of the stage was expanded in the 1950s along with removal of the fly mechanical system and installation of new stage lighting. An apartment (Apartment A) was constructed under the stage in the 1940s, and a second apartment (Apartment B) was built in the southwest corner of the building in the 1950s.

Alterations after the Period of Significance (Post-1956)

All three of the commercial storefronts were altered within the last thirty years. Alterations to the storefronts include: removal of the original recessed doors and windows, covering the original transoms, and placing new siding over some of the ground floor facades elements. All of the windows at the second story of the front (north) façade have been covered, at an unknown date. Four of the window sashes in the rear south façade have been replaced with aluminum sliders in the 1970s/1980s. Most likely, the door on the rear elevation above the east door was enclosed after the Period of Significance (post 1956).

The doors from the lobby to the auditorium have been replaced with metal fire doors. Paneling has been added to the auditorium entrance hall. The stairs leading to the basement of the original barbershop in the east store were covered over in the 1980s. Wall and ceiling surfaces have been covered with new materials in the lobby, concession area, and women's restroom. Partition walls have been added in the auditorium at the southeast and southwest corners to hide ventilation ducts and to create an enclosed fire exit. Partition walls have been constructed in the commercial bays to accommodate specific uses. The 1930s Art Deco style theater seats were removed and replaced with cloth covered metal seats in c. 2000.

G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

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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.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.)		
10) National Register listing.)	COMMERCE		
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	RECREATION AND CULTURE		
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	Period of Significance		
and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	1918-1956, Date of Operation		
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information			
important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates		
	1918, Date of Construction		
Criteria Considerations			
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Person		
Property is:	(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)		
A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	N/A		
B removed from its original location.	Cultural Affiliation		
b Tellioved from its original location.	N/A		
C a birthplace or grave.			
D a cemetery.			
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Architect/Builder		
	Samuel R. Haworth, designer		
F a commemorative property.	John Oberg, builder		

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Period of Significance (justification)

The Period of Significance spans the period between 1918-1956. The beginning date of 1918 corresponds to the date the theater was completed, and the end date corresponds to the end of the period of significance defined in the MPD, the *Historic Resources of Downtown Enterprise, Oregon, 1888-1956.* The significance of the building spans three historic contexts defined in the MPD; the *Railroad, Automobile, and the Timber Boom, 1908-1928; The Decline, Depression, and WWII, 1929-1945; and the Post World War II Boom, 1946-1956.*

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary): N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The O.K. Theatre, erected in 1918 in downtown Enterprise, Oregon, is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Entertainment/Recreation for its long association with the cultural and recreational development of the town. The theater is also significant in the area of Commerce for its sustained contribution to the commercial development of downtown and the local economy. The O.K. Theatre meets the registration requirements established in *Historic Resources of Downtown Enterprise*, 1888-1956 Multiple Property Document (MPD) as defined in Section F. The Period of Significance (POS) begins in 1918 with the completion of the theater, and ends in 1956, the end date of the POS defined in the MPD.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

The O.K. Theatre is eligible for listing in the National Register for its local significance under Criterion A in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Commerce. The O.K. Theatre has important and lasting associations with the development of entertainment and recreation in the Wallowa Valley community of Enterprise. Since its construction in 1918, the theater has served as a social center and focal point for community entertainment, bringing live and screen productions to generations of Enterprise residents. The theater, constructed during one of the most prolific building booms in the city's history, provided residents with an entertainment venue at a time when silent movies were making their debut in small and large communities throughout the country. Contextually, changes in motion picture technologies are reflected in the evolution of the building. During the 1920s, Great Depression, World War II, and Post-War periods, audiences kept up with current events through newsreels shown before the evening film, which offered a respite from their daily lives. The movies also brought a new popular culture and mass media to Enterprise, connecting the small town with the rest of the world. The theater was a conduit for exposing the local population to a wider world-view through mass media. The theater also served as a community hall where local productions, meetings, fundraisers, service and award programs, civil defense sessions, and other events were held.

The O.K. Theatre is also significant under the area of Commerce for its long association with the economic development and sustainability of downtown Enterprise. The theater contributed to the vitality of downtown attracting patrons from all over the county that not only attended movies but also patronized other businesses before and after attending the theater. The original owner of the theater also took full advantage of the Main Street frontage by incorporating three commercial stores into the design as a way to generate more income and provide additional retail space downtown. Over the years, the managers/owners of the O.K. Theater often offered promotions to their customers as a way to generate interest in other Enterprise businesses. The O.K. Theatre continues to add to the economic vitality of downtown Enterprise.

The theater meets the general registration requirements and property-type specific registration requirements established in the *Historic Resources of Downtown Enterprise*, 1888-1956 MPD. As required for listing under the MPD, the O.K. Theatre displays a high degree of integrity of association, feeling, setting and location specifically in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Commerce for listing under Criterion A, and retains

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sufficient integrity of workmanship, design, and materials to convey the historic period. The POS, 1918 to 1956, spans three historic contexts within the MDP, reflecting the theater's important and lasting associations with the entertainment and recreational development of the isolated Eastern Oregon community.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

The O.K. Theatre

Wagner A. and May Hackbarth announced plans to build a commercial building on Lots 3 and 4 in Block 9 of the Original Plat of Enterprise in November 1917. The couple purchased the property from G.J. and Fanny Wagner in October 1917, for one dollar. *The Wallowa County Reporter*, stated that Hackbarth planned on constructing a two-story, concrete building for use as commercial space on the first story, and fraternal lodge and office rooms on the second story. The lot was directly west of the Enterprise State Bank, formerly the Enterprise Fraternal Association Building, and east of the J.C. Penney store. Before the new building was started, his crew moved two structures off the west portion of property to make way for the structure. Hackbarth, a retail lumberman, used his logging crew to start the basement and foundation work on the new building in January 1918. By mid-April 1918, Hackbarth's plans for the new structure had changed, deciding to build a theater with attached retail spaces and instead of a retail and lodge/office building. This decision may have been in response to the new interest in the silent movie industry and entertainment venues, the war in Europe, and the fact that the local lodges had plans to construct their own lodge hall, potentially limiting Hackbarth's ability to rent to the fraternal organizations.

Hackbarth, like many other business people, was still riding high from the downtown building boom that began with the arrival of the railroad in 1908, the completion of the Wallowa County Courthouse, and introduction of automobiles in the first decade of the twentieth century. This building boom escalated in 1914 when the Eastern Oregon Lumber Company (EOLC) opened a mill and logging operation in town. Hundreds of people moved into Enterprise to service the mill and the logging operation. As more activity and people frequented Main Street, the opportunity for a new entertainment venue was apparent. This period is defined in the MPD as the Railroad, Automobiles, and Timber Boom: 1908-1928, sub-sections entitled "The EOLC" and "World War I."

Newspapers were filled with notices about new downtown businesses being erected including the new Gotter Hotel, several service stations and retail stores, the massive EM&M building, and the Enterprise Library and High School. The town had new service-related businesses on Main Street and institutional buildings, like the new library and school, attracting more people to downtown who also wanted more cultural and recreational opportunities. The City Beautiful Movement made an impact on Enterprise, as sanitation and improvement projects were instigated, and many social and recreational groups formed. Hackbarth, like other Enterprise residents, was optimistic about Enterprise's future when he announced details about his new building.

In April 1918, Hackbarth stated that his new 60' x 110' building would be constructed of modern material, reinforced concrete, and heated by steam. Many of the new movie houses across the Northwest were being erected using board-form, poured-in-place concrete, a material used by Samuel R. Haworth who designed the new theater. Haworth, who engineered and planned many of Enterprises earlier stone buildings, incorporated restrained elements of the Colonial Revival style into the design, including classical pilasters and dentils across the parapet. Although a simplified version of the style, perhaps because of the concrete construction, Haworth may have chosen classical elements to connote a civic landmark, often used in designs for public buildings. The 1914 Enterprise Library was designed with elements of the Colonial Revival style. Designer

The Wallowa County Reporter, November 8, 1917.

Reporter. January 2, 1918.

In 1915, the Enterprise Fraternal Association (IOOF and Knights of Pythias) sold their lodge building to the Enterprise State Bank with the agreement that the lodges could use the upstairs lodge hall until 1917 when the lodges would move to other facilities. This may be why Hackbarth wanted to build a structure with lodge rooms on the second floor.

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Haworth incorporated newer East Coast concepts into the plan for the Hackbarth project. An April 1918 article states,

There will be two stores on the street and a barber shop equipped with baths and thoroughly modern in all respects. The main part of the structure will be devoted to a theater, which will take up a space 42 feet wide by 110 long, and will seat upwards of 500 persons. The floor will be sloping, running up over the stores at the front. This is a new idea in small theater construction just brought from the east. The entrance will lead up an incline, taking patrons to the middle of the room. Turning backwards, they ascend another incline taking them to the highest part, over the stores. Going forward, they descend to the front of the room, which, of course, is lowest in front of the stage. The theater will be suited for moving pictures or speaking productions.¹²

The reinforced-concrete building was designed with an ornamental-concrete facade rising thirty-two feet above the street with a stage fly fifty feet high. The contract for the construction of the building was awarded to local contractor John Oberg who built many of Enterprise's concrete structures in the 1910s. Hackbarth provided all the wood for the project from his lumber business. An October 1918 newspaper reported that Hackbarth expected the new theater to open by New Year's Day under the name of the O.K. Theatre. Anticipating the completion, Hackbarth signed a lease agreement with Portlander J. A. Van Wie in November 1918 to manage the theater. Van Wie, who owned other theaters in Oregon, came to Enterprise to oversee the final construction phase. He hired Howard and Vesta Goodfellows, also of Portland, to run the new theater. Winter weather slowed the construction, but in December the building was completed. Van Wie reported that the new theater was "the most beautiful and comfortable in eastern Oregon. It will be seated with 500 upholstered opera chairs made accessible by spacious aisles, decorated in effective color harmony and embellished with mural paintings by leading artists of the coast; heated with steam heat; perfectly ventilated; and lighted by indirect bowls and wall brackets controlled by a dozen circuits."

Despite the advanced planning and completion of the building, the O.K. Theatre opening was delayed because of the 1918 influenza pandemic restrictions on public gatherings. The December 18, 1918 *Chieftain* newspaper reported that, while waiting for the ban on gatherings to be lifted, Van Wie prepared for the opening by decorating walls, finishing wiring, and installing chairs and the "picture machines, and the large boiler in the basement under the west store that would heat the large new building.¹⁶ With World War I over and the building finished, Hackbarth now waited to open his new theater that would began a new era of entertainment in Enterprise (Figure 6b).

The Grand Opening

The flu ban lifted, and Van Wie scheduled a grand opening for Saturday, January 25, 1919. The January 23 edition of the *Chieftain* states: "

In opening the O.K. Theatre, we offer to the citizens of Enterprise and Wallowa County a complete modernly equipped comfortable theater. The first year's program we dedicate to unparalleled photo productions of Paramount-Art-Craft Pictures . . . at a fixed price of fifteen cents for children and twenty—five cents for adults, which includes war tax. . . . The theater marks an advanced step in amusement facilities in the county. . . . The management promises that the pictures shown will be of as high order as the house itself, and the theater is bound to attract patronage from far and near.

¹² Enterprise Recorder Chieftain, April 18, 1918.

¹³ Hackbarth sold his lumber business after he started this project.

¹⁴ Record, November 21, 1918.

Enterprise Record Chieftain, December 5, 1918.
 Enterprise Record Chieftain, December 19, 1918.

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The newspaper ad for the opening explains: "Each show will consist of feature productions of not less than five reels, and a comedy or educational of one or two reels." On opening night people filled the lobby waiting to be ushered into the theater. The attendees were asked to sit in alternate seats, except families, allowing enough space between people to safeguard against close contact because of the previous flu epidemic. The Before the movie, a series of guest speakers took the stage and praised Hackbarth for erecting such a beautiful and modern building, the finest in Eastern Oregon with the only possible exception being the theater in Baker, Oregon. The speakers praised Hackbarth for completing the building under adverse times brought on by the war in Europe. Projectionist, Austin Haughey, and the pianist, Henry Bell, readied themselves to start the movie anticipated by all.

Large weekly advertisements in local newspapers occasionally featured rows of cameo photos of the various stars in the Paramount-Art-Craft productions (Figure 6a). Shows played at 7:15 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. each day except Sunday. The following year, Van Wie announced his intention to open the theater on Sundays, explaining the practice was common in other Oregon towns and no law prohibited theaters from being open on Sunday. Some people worried that it would interfere with church and baseball games. Van Wie circulated petitions, collecting enough signatures of citizens in favor of Sunday matinees that the town council agreed to allow the theater to show movies on Sunday.

By February 1919, the O.K. Theatre opened for Sunday matinees. However, the manager of the People's Theatre, Lon Davis, decided to keep his theater closed on Sundays. In early March, Attorney J. A. Burleigh, representing citizens opposed to Sunday movies, went to the city council with petitions in hand against allowing Sunday shows. This petition did not change the city council's mind about allowing Sunday movies. The People's Theatre's management was steadfast in its resolve to keep their theater closed on Sundays, a day of rest. Van Wie continued to promote the O.K. Theatre by enlisting twelve downtown merchants in giving free Saturday matinee tickets to anyone outside the City of Enterprise.

Many different venues used the grand proscenium stage at the O.K. Theatre between movie shows. The theater hosted local plays, musicals, fundraising events, and charitable activities as well as traveling groups, such as Chautauqua or minstrel groups. Stage performances of local talent often raised funds for social organizations. Many Enterprise couples went to the theater on their first dates when tickets were twenty-five cents and popcorn cost a nickel. The theater became the new gathering place for the community.

Hackbarth's idea for adding retail space to the theater building paid off. The three retail spaces in the theater building were rented to local businesses. W.C. Calvin, a barber, leased the small retail space directly east of the theater entrance. Patrons could get a cut and shave, and also take bath in the basement under the barbershop. George Hillstrom leased the west storefront for his plumbing business and used the large area in the basement for storing his supplies. He shared this store with Fred Cole who started the Enterprise Transfer Company. The western-most store was rented for use as a clothing store. The new theater was the pride of the community, one of the major venues for entertainment that brought people into town from the surrounding areas. These same patrons also frequented other businesses before taking in a movie or seeing a stage production. The arched canopy over the entrance topped with electric lights distinguished the building from other commercial structures. Visually, the brightly lit marquee was a sign that Enterprise's Main Street had "made it" and was keeping up with entertainment trends in larger cities.

The owners of the other two theaters, the Opera House and People's Theater, responded by making some changes to their buildings to stay competitive with the new movie house. Enterprise now had three theaters within blocks of each other, but the O.K. Theatre was the only theater to have a prime location on Main Street

¹⁷ Chieftain, January 30, 1919.

¹⁸ Chieftain, February 13, 1919.

¹⁹ The current location of theater's concession area.

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and show movies on a regular basis. Optimism about the town's future began to as the business community and civic leaders slowly realized that the pre-World War economy might not rebound despite the continued building activity in downtown.

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The 1920s

The 1920s started off optimistic. The IOOF Lodge completed their new hall complimenting the Carnegie Library next door, a new private hospital was erected, and other buildings were completed that were started during World War I. Despite the downturn in the local economy, the automobile industry grew in the mid-1920s. Auto touring became popular as visitors came to the Wallowa Mountains to camp, hunt, fish, and enjoy the national forests. In 1925, residents celebrated the opening of the new La Grande-Wallowa Lake Highway, a road that would make travel easier for the area's residents. This optimism gradually faded by the mid-to-late 1920s as the demand for local agricultural products decreased, and the EOLC and the Enterprise Flour Mill closed their doors. Despite the downturn, the O.K. Theatre managers continued to strive to bring the latest film and technologies to Enterprise, and build its reputation as a community gathering place.

The development of the O.K. Theatre was part of the emerging importance of mass media and culture brought by the mass production and distribution of records, book, radio, and movies. These all became popular forms of mass entertainment. Movies drew the nation together by bringing news, entertainment, and advertisements to households throughout the nation, and created a new popular culture with common speech, dress, behavior, and heroes. Information about other cultures and countries were disseminated through movies. The movies brought the mass media to rural communities, like Enterprise, for the first time, especially after talking pictures made their way into the local theaters.

Talking Pictures and the Great Depression

As technology advanced, Hollywood movie studios began producing feature length films. These were silent films at first, and then in 1927, sound was introduced when the *Jazz Singer* was released. Two years later, talking pictures made their debut in Enterprise, and were shown under the new management of M. E. Ward, who had been living in Pendleton, Oregon. Hackbarth installed Royal Tone sound equipment in time for a September showing of the first talkie, "Street Girl" by R.K.O. Pictures to a full house. This film opened in Portland only one day earlier, a fact of which management was justifiably proud as illustrated by the following: "Music is reproduced beautifully and the spoken word can generally be distinguished." ²¹ The O.K. Theatre entered the world of sound, only to be overshadowed a year later, when the stock market crashed, signaling the start of the Great Depression.

The Depression literally halted building in Enterprise as people struggled to keep their businesses open and care for their families. Many of the stores in downtown were forced into foreclosure due to outstanding loans and back taxes. People moved from the area to find work in the cities, and falling commodity prices cost downtown business owners. Theater owner Hackbarth diversified his interest at the start of the Depression, opening an animal food production plant in Echo, Oregon. He also hired Alvah B. and Anna Stockdale, and G. A. Reed to manage the theater business in 1931. Despite the new management, the effects of the Great Depression resulted in the theater going into foreclosure in 1932. Shortly afterwards, the building was sold to Dr. James H. and Laura A. Thompson at a sheriff's auction for \$2,820.²² When the theater reopened in 1933, the new owners and the Stockdales presented the new name for the theater, the Vista Theatre. The new owners installed new vocalite screen and sound equipment to improve the quality of the talkies.

The theater was one of the few businesses that seemed to stay afloat in downtown as hundreds of properties in Wallowa County were repossessed for delinquent taxes. By the mid-1930s, the county owned many of the buildings in downtown Enterprise including the large EM&M Building, the Gotter Hotel, and the J.C. Penney Building. Vacant buildings stood along the main streets of downtown. Despite the economy, people still frequented the theater as a way of escaping troubles of daily life.

The context of the 1920s is further defined in the Railroad, Automobiles, and Timber Boom: 1908-1928, sub-sections entitled "The Gradual Decline."

²¹ Chieftain, September 19, 1929.

Wallowa County Clerk's Office, County Commissioners' Meeting Minutes and tax delinquency records.

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In 1935, the management modernized the building on the interior and exterior. 23 At that time, the paired double doors were built on the exterior entrance creating a fover before entering the lobby. The ticket booth was moved to the southwest corner of the fover, and most likely, the marquee canopy was removed at this time when the building was painted bright colors. The foyer was covered with a heavy cork floor. The lobby received new carpeting and the seats were slightly rearranged creating an aisle along the walls and creating more space between the seats. Partition walls were constructed on either side of the stage to help with soundproofing. The ceiling lights were replaced and lights were installed along the sidewalls and along the aisles, and new sound equipment and projectors were also installed. Under Stockdale's management, more people attended events and movies. By this time, the other two original theaters, the People's Theatre and Opera House had closed their doors.²⁴ The Vista Theatre was the only movie house in Enterprise.

The Stockdales (1937 to 1971) Era and Subsequent Owners

After James Thompson died in November 1936, Mrs. Thompson sold the building in 1937 to the Stockdales for \$10,000 (the deed was transferred in 1945). The Stockdales purchased a house in Enterprise the same year. At this time, the Gritton & Bird Barbershop (east shop), Sam Moore's Café, and Mrs. Chick Whitman's Beauty Shop occupied the commercial spaces in the theater building.²⁵ One of the first improvements the Stockdale's undertook was the replacement of the original seats in the auditorium. In May 1937, new pink and green mohair upholstery chairs with metal trim were installed in the theater (Photo 10). Fifty more seats were installed at that time and each chair was "grounded" so as not to shock the patrons when moving across the carpeted aisle. The couple continued to modernize the building as trends in the movie industry changed. In 1939, a new heating and ventilation system was installed that included a cooling system. Vents were installed in the ceiling to distribute air and draw hot air up through the center cupola. The radiators were removed and a new heating system was installed. The air would be heated around steam pipes and forced out through vents and re-circulated, changing the air every three minutes at capacity.

The theater was also used for community performances and movies. Groups such as the Lions Club put on their popular amateurs' night with hundreds of people in attendance, and the American Legion sponsored a fashion show as a fundraiser. The theater brought relief to Enterprise residents during World War II and citizens escaped the war by viewing new movies made to entertain the war-laden country. Yet, the theater also helped the public stay abreast of the war, as newsreels showed the progress and setbacks of the war. The local economy began to stabilize after World War II had created a new market for local agricultural industry. After the war, returning soldiers wasted no time in getting married and starting families. The theater became a popular gathering place where many post-war courtships took place. Oid, the Stockdales youngest son, came back from the war and lived with his bride in a small, one bedroom apartment the Stockdales built under the stage while the couple worked at the theater.

The end of war signaled a shift in the economy that many long-time Enterprise residents had not experienced since the later 1910s. The local paper was filled with news of the improved economy, and new people and businesses moved into Enterprise. The demand for goods not available during the war grew, and signaled an upturn in the Wallowa County economy. Agricultural commodities remained strong immediately after the war before tapering off; then new technologies, mechanization, and chemical use helped farmers reach new levels of crop productivity; wheat remained the mainstay of the agricultural community.

The Stockdales continued to keep up with the latest in movie technology when a new Custom Cycloramic screen was installed in 1949. The most current movies were shown on the new screen and the managers continued to bring in touring groups to entertain the area's residents. This period is marked by post war optimism and another building boom that started in the few years following the war as outlined in the Post-World War II Resurgence: 1946-1956.

23 Chieftain, March 21, 1935.

²⁴ The People's Theatre on North Street and the Opera House on Greenwood Street were built in the early 1900s but could not compete with the O.K. Theatre, especially after talking movies made their debut in Enterprise.

25 Chieftain, November 11, 1937.

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In 1950, the movie actor, Walter Brennan, erected a modern movie house along the main street in the neighboring community of Joseph, and leased the new theater to Frank McCully. The new building was a metal Quonset-hut structure that seated 500 people. On July 27, 1950, the new Rainbow Theater in Joseph opened with a Walter Brennan movie, "Curtain Call at Cactus Creek." Walter Brennan and other Hollywood stars attended the opening. Three years later, the Rainbow Theater was closed because of the lawsuit brought forward by Walter Brennan against lessee, Frank McCully, who owed over \$10,000 in payments.

The Stockdale family started a new business venture in August of 1953 when the family opened a drive-in theater located about a mile south of Enterprise.²⁷ The new Gay Drive-In Theater had a 60' screen tower, a concession building, restrooms, and spaces for 350 to 500 cars (no longer extant). Alvah Stockdale died the following March, and their son, Oid, and daughter-in-law Bonnie helped operate this theater.²⁸

The Vista Theatre continued to run two shows a week. In August 1954, the Vista Theatre announced a Grand Opening on the 22nd of August with the new Cinemascope format, "The most forward step in the 59 years of motion pictures . . ." ²⁹ Anna Stockdale, with the help of her family, maintained ownership and management of the theater, keeping the dual use of the theater going by hosting community events, traveling productions and musical events, and showing first run movies. Anna Stockdale sold the theater to Richard Campo on a contract in 1971, ending the family's long-standing involvement with the theater. Russell Ford owned the property in 1982 and changed the theater name back to O.K. Theatre, adding "ultra-stereo surround system" for the Star Wars re-release. The O.K. Theatre closed temporarily when the owners David and Lori Brandt closed the business in December 2008 prior to selling the property to Bill and Melisa Bush.

The Bushes re-opened the building for its original use as a stage and movie theater. Once again a social gathering place in downtown Enterprise, the theater is currently a venue for plays, community events, fundraisers, musicals, film festivals, organizational meetings, touring groups, and special presentations. The current owners plan on rehabilitating the building and updating the equipment with the latest in digital film technology, much like the original owners of the theater did when talking movies made their debut.

Theaters in Enterprise and Wallowa County

Enterprise Theaters: The earliest theaters in Wallowa County were built for live stage performances and included the Enterprise Opera House, the People's Theater, and the O.K. Theatre. The first theater erected in Enterprise was the Enterprise Opera House, built in 1906 on corner of River and E Greenwood Streets. The building first served as a venue for stage productions, and later in 1913, silent movies were shown in the Opera House. The building served in that capacity until 1921 when the stage was removed and the Opera House modified for use as a dance hall. The building was demolished in the late 1940s/early 1950s. The second theater constructed in Enterprise was the People's Theater, built circa 1913 on the northeast corner of North and River streets. This was used for stage production and moving pictures. By the early 1930s, the building had been converted into a commercial space and later demolished. The O.K. Theatre, completed in 1918, is the only surviving theater in Enterprise and still serves its original function as a movie house and venue for stage productions and community events.

Wallowa County Theaters: According to the Oregon SHPO Historic Sites Database and local resources, there were only two other theaters built in Wallowa County; the McLean Theatre in Wallowa and the Rainbow Theatre in Joseph. The McLean Theatre, constructed in 1917, served as a stage and movie theater into the 1960s/1970s. The one-story brick building had a central pointed arch parapet and recessed center entrance. The building was converted into a retail store and all the theater equipment, stage, and screens were removed. Although the building is extant, the theater does not retain architectural integrity on the interior to convey the historic use or function.

27 Recorder, July 30, 1953.

18

Brennen had a ranch near Joseph, Oregon. The theater was shorted lived and closed never to be reopened.

Anna Stockdale remarried and became Anna Stockdale Herrington by the time she sold the theater in the early 1970s.
 Wallowa County Courier, 19 August 1954.

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The Rainbow Theatre (1950): Joseph, Oregon. Financed by movie actor, Walter Brennan, the theater was a metal quonset-hut type structure that seated 500 people. The operation of the theater was short-lived, and closed in 1953. The building, now a church, has been extensively altered on the exterior and interior, and does not retain architectural integrity.

Registration Requirement

The O.K. Theatre meets eligibility for NRHP listing under the *Historic Resources of Downtown Enterprise*, 1888-1956 MPD for its local significance under Criterion A in the areas of Commerce and Entertainment/Recreation. Below is a discussion of the general and specific registration requirements set forth in the MPD, Section F-1 that pertain to the theater as an example of a two-part commercial block building.³⁰

Commercial Property Building Type

General Registration Requirements:

To be eligible for listing under this property type a building must: a) be located within the geographic area defined in Section G; b) have been originally used for a commercial purpose or converted into such use during the historic period; and c) have been built between 1888 and 1956. The O.K. Theatre meets all the general requirements of the MPD. The building is a) located in downtown Enterprise on Main Street, b) used for its original commercial use, and c) built in 1918.

Specific Registration Requirements:

To be eligible under Criterion A in the area of Commerce and Entertainment/Recreation, a two-part commercial block building must express the elements of the type. These buildings are the second most common property type in the downtown with twelve (12) resources categorized in the type. Built in 1918, during the historic context *Railroad*, *Automobile*, *and Timber Industry Boom: 1908-1928*, the O.K. Theatre reflects the basic elements of the type in its two-story height, concrete construction, rectangular form that covers the entire tax lot, and Main Street frontage with an alley behind. The theater retains a strong visual distinction between the more public first-story, and the second story with its wide concrete lintel separating the two stories. Although not a flat roof structure more common to this building type, the theater has high parapet like other two-part blocks that conceals the gable roof and theater fly tower. The upper façade treatment reflects the original design in its stepped parapet, nameplate, pilasters, tripartite windows, and horizontal coursing with dentils.

The O.K. Theater originally had storefronts common to these building types, with central recessed entrance doors capped with transoms, large plate-glass windows with band of transom windows above, and wood bulkheads. Over the years, the theater's storefronts have been changed when the transom windows were covered, new windows and doors installed, and bulkheads covered with masonry or wood veneers. Alterations to the storefronts were common to two-part block commercial buildings and do not preclude eligibility.

A slight variation on the typical two-part block, the theater has different window configurations and proportions than the typical double-hung upper story windows. This window pattern was dictated by its specialized use as a theater. Most of the original interior room arrangements are intact in the theater; however, wall, flooring, and ceiling treatments have been changed over the years.

Evaluation of Significance

Significant under Criterion A in the areas of Commerce and Entertainment/Recreation as defined in the MPD, Section F-1 Significance, a two-part, block commercial building type must retain a strong association with

31 These windows illuminate the projection room at the north end of the upper story; the floor quickly slopes down to the south end of the auditorium which is at the level of the alley.

Reference Section F-1 *Historic Resources of Downtown Enterprise, 1888-1956* MPD for a more in depth discussion of two-part block commercial buildings.

These windows illuminate the projection room at the porth end of the upper story; the floor quickly slopes down to the

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growth, development, and expansion of commerce in Enterprise as the commercial center of Wallowa County. The O.K. Theatre meets this criterion for its long-standing presence in downtown that spanned a 38-year period and three historic contexts. The theater was a mainstay of downtown, even during times of economic hardships, and its three retail stores on Main Street also helped the downtown economy. The theater played an important role in the cultural and social lives of Enterprise's residents, and contributed to the vitality of the downtown economy bringing mass media and culture to the isolated Eastern Oregon community. The exterior of the building conveys its historic function and significance through its prominent Main Street frontage, the name plate in the parapet, marquee, series of French doors enclosing the ticket booth in the foyer, and the fly tower. The austere exterior expresses the use of early poured-in-place reinforced concrete, which only afforded minimal detailing seen in the simple banding and raised pilasters. The interior of the theater also conveys its function and significance in its original layout including the lobby, double doors that open into the large auditorium, the stage and movie screen, stage fly, projection room, and basement apartments/dressing rooms. The changes in the theater within the POS express the changes in the movie industry. An example of this is the current concession area, which was added after World War II when concessions became a more important and integral part of the theater business.

Evaluation of Integrity

Additionally, buildings designated under Criterion A in the areas of Commerce and Entertainment/Recreation also must retain a high degree of integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association, and retain *sufficient* exterior integrity of design, material, and workmanship to convey a sense of the building's original design and/or architectural style. The O.K. Theatre meets this level of integrity. The building is located on its original site, maintains its historic setting between two historic commercial buildings that front Main Street, and maintains integrity of feeling and association in its continued use as a theater. Although altered through the years, especially the storefronts, the O.K. Theater maintains sufficient original workmanship, materials, and design to convey the historic period and two-part block building type in its distinct separation between the upper and lower stories, pilasters defining the storefront bays, and original design elements on the upper story that include horizontal banding, dentils, grouped tripartite-like window openings, slender and squat pilasters, the original location of the O.K. Theatre name plate, and the distinctive theater fly tower above the gable roof. According to integrity threshold for two-part block buildings, alterations to associated storefronts do not preclude eligibility if other character-defining features are present on the upper story.

The theater maintains enough of the interior design, workmanship, and materials to convey the historic period, especially the later periods associated with the *Post-World War II Resurgence* historic context. The 1930s front doors, foyer, ticket booth, lobby doors, lobby location, auditorium layout and seat configuration, projection room, and stage are intact along with a majority of the basement rooms and the 1940s and 50s apartments. The construction of the concession's area in the eastern-most storefront was completed within the post-World War II era and reflects the changing trends of theater management. Although much of the original interior materials and workmanship in the theater have been covered over during various renovations, evidence of the original material and workmanship still exists under the new coverings, like the lath and plaster under the wall veneers and the original painted landscapes behind the new partitions and soundproof panels in the theater. Based on registration requirements of significance, building-type, and architectural integrity, the O.K. Theatre meets the eligibility requirements identified in Registration Requirement, Section F-1 of the MPD.

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sally@donovanandassociates.net

e-mail

NPS Form 10-9		OMB No. 1024-0018			(Expires 5/31/2012)
O.K. Thea	atre				/allowa Co., OR
Name of Pro	perty			Co	unty and State
Bibliogra	phy Continue	d			
12		er. Newspaper articles, 11/08/1 3/1919, 02/20/1919, 02/27/191			
Wallowa	County Chieftai	in. "Wallowa County 1887-198"	7, 100 Ye	ears of Pioneer S	pirit." February, 1987.
Wallowa	County Courtho	ouse. Assessor's and Clerk's C	office. En	terprise, Oregon.	
World Wa	ar I Draft Regist	tration http://www.ancestry.con	n		
Previous do	cumentation on file	(NPS):	Prim	ary location of additio	nal data:
prelimini requeste previous previous designal recorded recorded	ary determination of ed) sly listed in the Nation sly determined eligible ted a National Historic d by Historic America d by Historic America	individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been nal Register e by the National Register		State Historic Preserval Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other e of repository: Past 0	tion Office
	de previously listed r	ess than one acre esource acreage.)			
(Place addition	onal UTM references	on a continuation sheet.)			
1 11	478229	5030030	3		
Zone 2	Easting	Northing	Zone 4	Easting	Northing
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
Verbal Bo	undary Descrip	tion (Describe the boundaries of the pro	perty.)		
Lots 3 & 4 Section 2		the Original Town of Enterprise	, Tax Lo	t Number 4100, in	n Township 2S, Range 44E,
Boundary	Justification (E	explain why the boundaries were selected.)		
		ers the tax lot that has been as tax is the historic boundary for			since the building was
11. Form	Prepared By				
name/title	Sally Donov	an. M.S.			
organizatio	on Donovan a	and Associates		date April 30,	2011
street & nu	umber 1615 T	aylor Avenue		telephone (54	1) 386-6461
city or tow	n Hood River			state OR	zip code 97031

United States Department of the Interior	
National Park Service / National Register of	Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900	OMB No. 1024-0018

O.K. Theatre	Wallowa Co., OR
Name of Property	County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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. Key all photographs to this map.

- Continuation Sheets
- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

O.K. Theatre
Name of Property

Wallowa Co., OR County and State

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: O. K. Theatre

City or Vicinity: Enterprise, Oregon

County: Wallowa State: Oregon

Photographer: Sally Donovan and Adrienne Donovan-Boyd

Date Photographed: Summer 2010; Fall 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

Photo 1 of 16: OR_WallowaCounty_OKTheatre_DowntownEnterpriseMPD_0001

Contextual view across W Main Street at the north façade, looking southeast.

Photo 2 of 16: OR_WallowaCounty_OKTheatre_DowntownEnterpriseMPD_0002

North façade, looking south.

Photo 3 of 16: OR_WallowaCounty_OKTheatre_DowntownEnterpriseMPD_0003

South (rear) facade, looking north.

Photo 4 of 16: OR WallowaCounty OKTheatre DowntownEnterpriseMPD 0004

East façade, looking northwest.

Photo 5 of 16: OR WallowaCounty OKTheatre DowntownEnterpriseMPD 0005

Cupola on top of the roof used for ventilation and vertical boards on west side of fly

tower, looking northeast.

Photo 6 of 16: OR_WallowaCounty_OKTheatre_DowntownEnterpriseMPD_0006

Looking southwest at the ticket booth.

Photo 7 of 16: OR_WallowaCounty_OKTheatre_DowntownEnterpriseMPD_0007

Looking northwest at the main lobby and steps to the concession area.

Photo 8 of 16: OR WallowaCounty_OKTheatre_DowntownEnterpriseMPD_0008

The interior lobby doors, looking north.

Photo 9 of 16: OR_WallowaCounty_OKTheatre_DowntownEnterpriseMPD_0009

The theater's concession area, looking south.

Photo 10 of 16: OR WallowaCounty OKTheatre DowntownEnterpriseMPD 0010

Historic seats displayed in the theater's lobby, looking northwest.

Photo 11 of 16: OR_WallowaCounty_OKTheatre_DowntownEnterpriseMPD_00011

The stairwell to the men's restroom, looking south.

Photo 12 of 16: OR WallowaCounty OKTheatre DowntownEnterpriseMPD 0012

Detail of the historic carpet in the office behind the concession stand, looking northeast.

O.K. Theatre
Name of Property

Wallowa Co., OR
County and State

Photos Continued

Photo 13 of 16:

OR_WallowaCounty_OKTheatre_DowntownEnterpriseMPD_0013

View of the side seating section in the auditorium, looking northeast.

Photo 14 of 16:

OR WallowaCounty OKTheatre DowntownEnterpriseMPD 0014

View of the screen and stage, looking southeast.

Photo 15 of 16:

OR_WallowaCounty_OKTheatre_DowntownEnterpriseMPD_0015

The stage, exit, and the theater's sloped wood floor, looking west.

Photo 16 of 16:

OR WallowaCounty OKTheatre DowntownEnterpriseMPD 0016

Detail of tin ceiling in auditorium (light fixture is not original).

Property Owner: (Complete this item at the requ	est of the SHPO or FPO.)
name William and Melisa E. Bush	
street & number P.O. Box 105	telephone (541) 886-5255
city or town Enterprise	state OR zip code 97846

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Documents

Page 26

O.K. Theatre

Name of Property

Wallowa Co., OR

County and State

Historic Resources of Downtown
Enterprise, 1888-1956

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

List of Figures

Figure 1: Topographic Map of Enterprise

Figure 2: Tax Lot Map

Figure 3: Site Map

Figure 4: a. Basement Floor Plan

b. Ground Floor Planc. Theater Floor Plan

d. Roof Plan

Figure 5: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map updated 1941 and location of other theaters in Enterprise

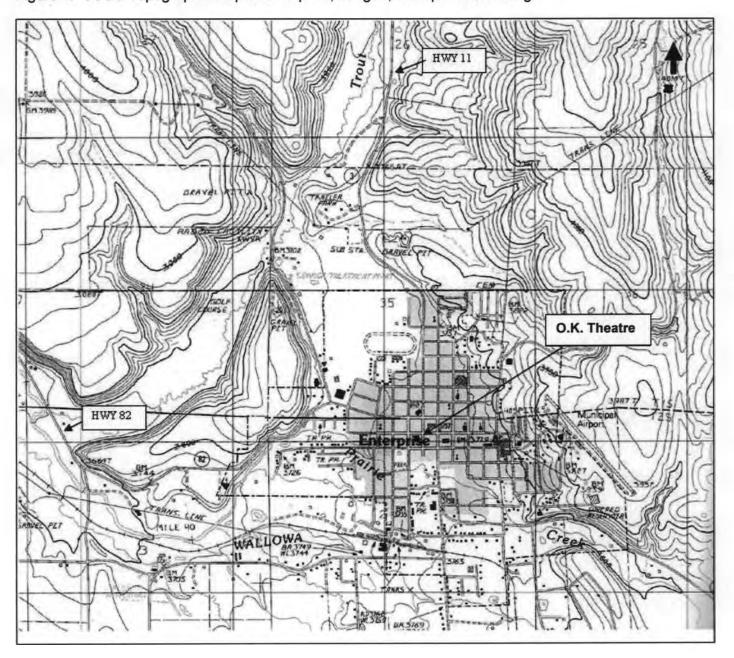
Figure 6: a. Newspaper Advertisement 1919

b. Newspaper Article 1919c. Historic Photograph c. 1919

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number <u>Documents</u> Page <u>27</u>

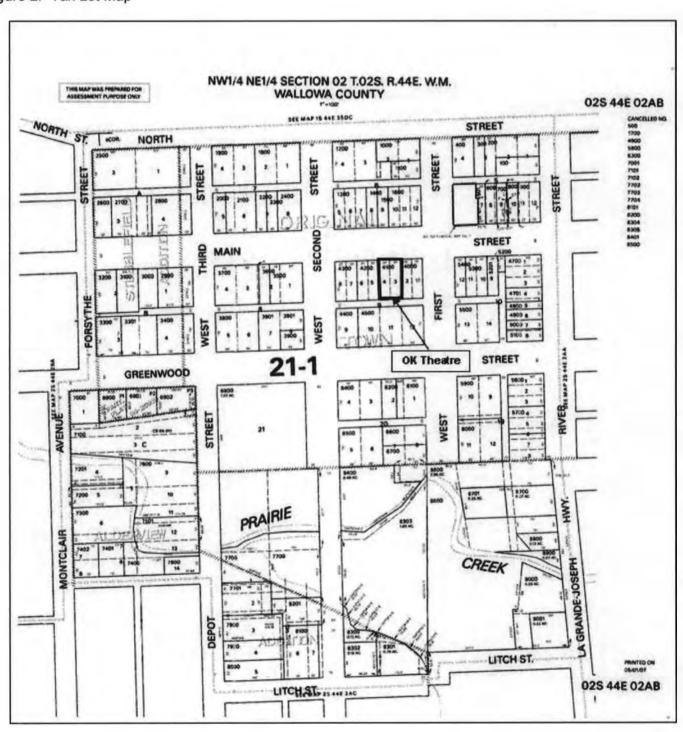
Figure 1: USGS Topographic Map of Enterprise, Oregon, Enterprise Quadrangle



National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number <u>Documents</u> Page <u>28</u>

Figure 2: Tax Lot Map

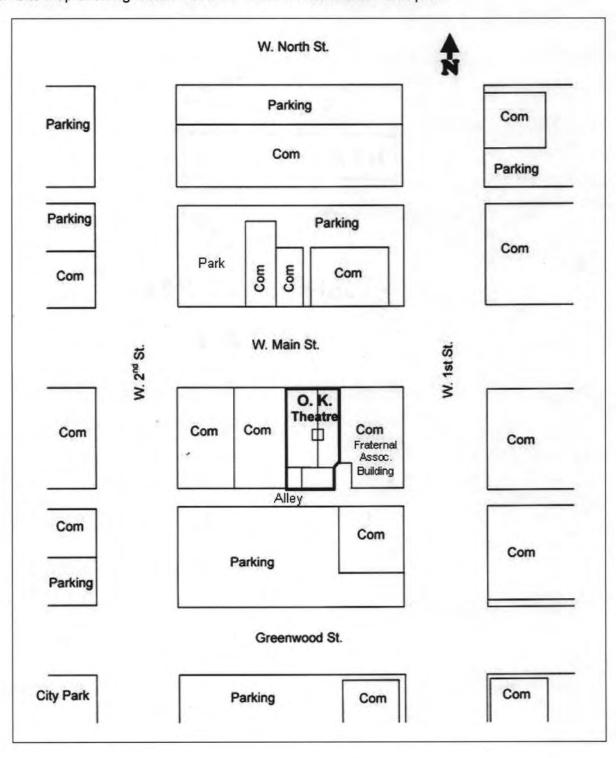


National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Documents Page 29

O.K.	Theatre
Name	of Property
Wall	owa, Oregon
Count	y and State
	ic Resources of Downtown
Er	terprise, 1888-1956
	of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 3: Site Map showing location of O.K. Theatre in downtown Enterprise

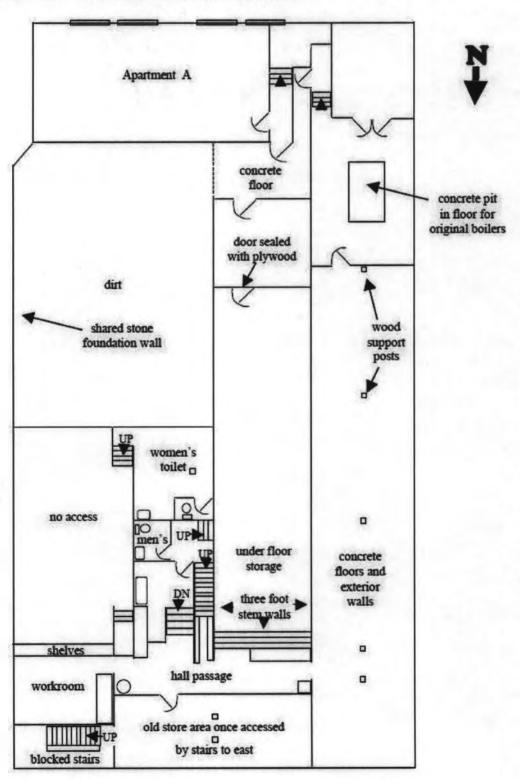


National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Page 30

Figure 4a: Basement Floor Plan beneath theater and storefronts

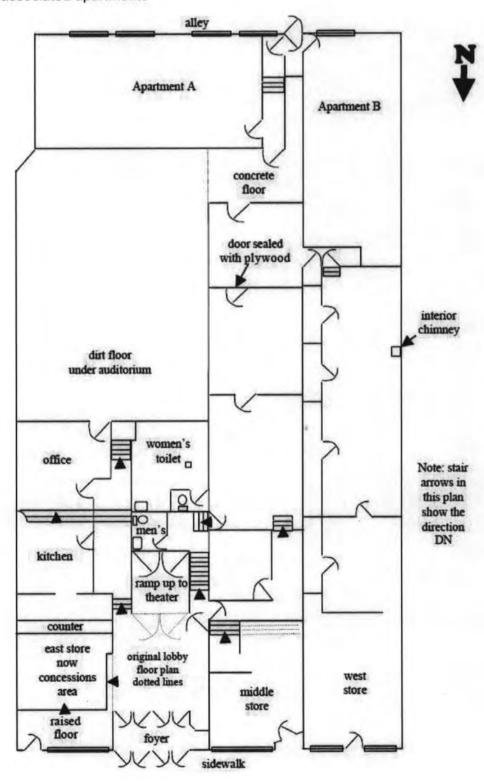


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Figure 4b: Ground Floor Plan showing theater service areas, western two commercial bays, and associated apartments

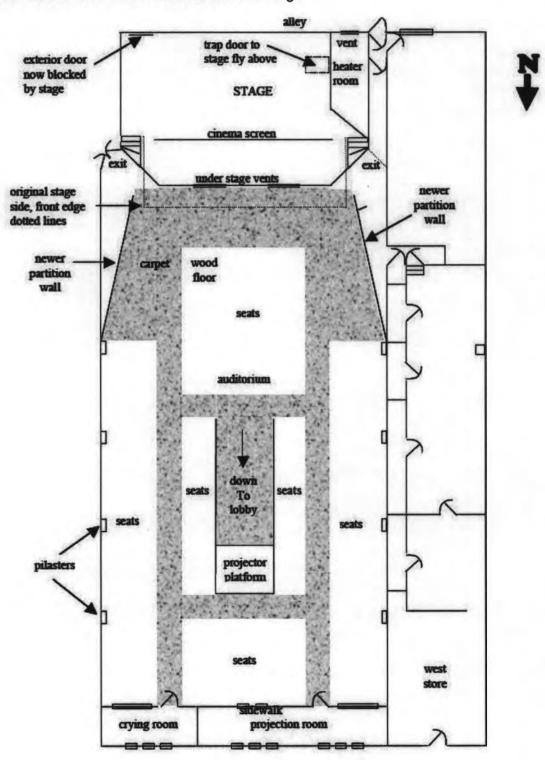


National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Figure 4c: Floor Plan of O.K. Theatre auditorium and stage



National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Documents

Page __33___

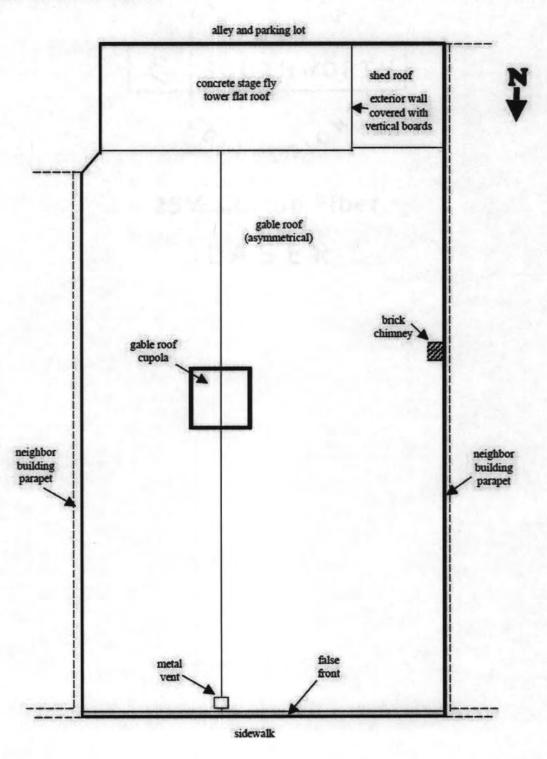
O.K. Theatre

Name of Property
Wallowa, Oregon

County and State
Historic Resources of Downtown
Enterprise, 1888-1956

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

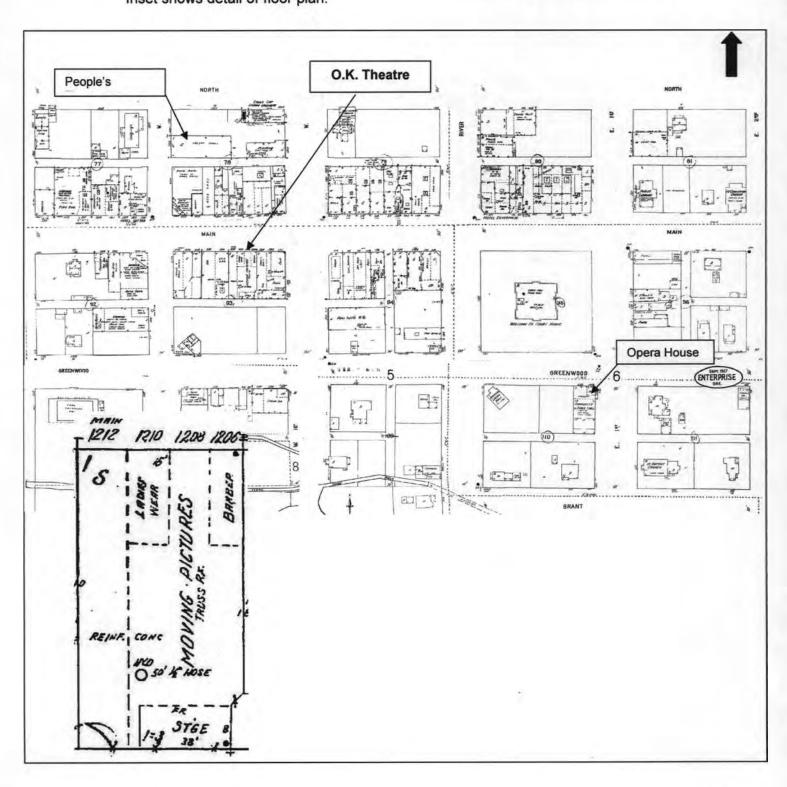
Figure 4d: Roof Plan of O.K. Theatre



National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number <u>Documents</u> Page <u>34</u>

Figure 5: 1917 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map updated to 1941, and location of other theaters in town. Inset shows detail of floor plan.



National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Documents

Page 35

O.K. Theatre

Name of Property

Wallowa, Oregon

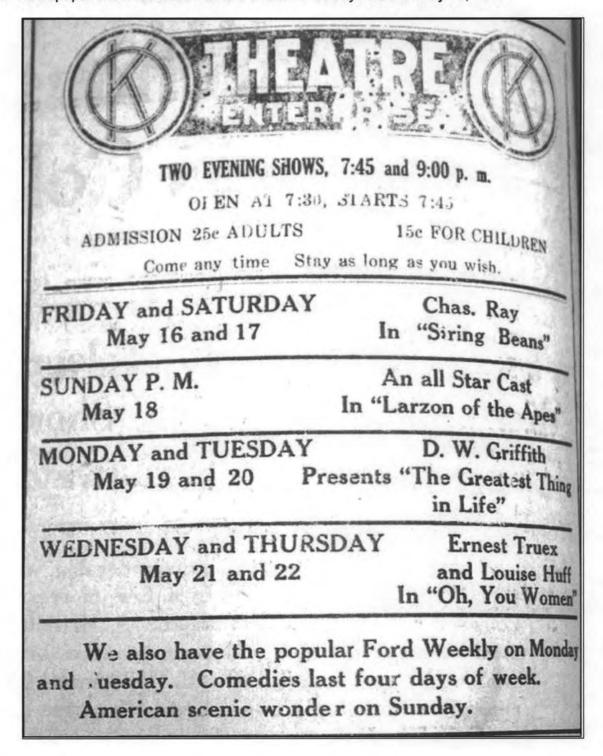
County and State

Historic Resources of Downtown

Enterprise, 1888-1956

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 6a: Newspaper advertisement from the Wallowa County Record May 15, 1919



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Page 36

O.K. Theatre

Name of Property
Wallowa, Oregon

County and State
Historic Resources of Downtown
Enterprise, 1888-1956

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 6b: Newspaper article from the Enterprise Record Chieftain December 30, 1948



Figure 6c: Historic photograph c. 1919 reprinted in the Wallowa County Chieftain June 28,1951



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION
PROPERTY O.K. Theatre NAME:
MULTIPLE Downtown Enterprise MPS NAME:
STATE & COUNTY: OREGON, Wallowa
DATE RECEIVED: 1/20/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/21/12 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/07/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/07/12 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:
REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000085
REASONS FOR REVIEW:
APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL:
COMMENT WAIVER: N
ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 3/1/18 DATE
ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS: Commercial luster hat's O-K.
RECOM./CRITERIA
REVIEWER DISCIPLINE DISCIPLINE
TELEPHONE DATE 8/1/17
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



10=16 OK THEATRE DOWNTOWN ENTERPRISE MPD WALLOWA CO, OR



20=16 OK THEATRE DOWNTOWN ENTERPRISE MPD WALLOWA CO, OR



3 OF 160 OK THEATRE DOWNTOWN ENTERPRISE MED WALLOWA CO, OR



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A. Di



OK THEATRE DOWNTOWN ENTERPRISE MPD WALLOWA CO, OR



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DOWNTOWN ENTERPRISE MPD
WALLOWA CO, OR

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January 9, 2012

JAN 2 0 2012

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Parks and Recreation Department
State Historic Preservation Office
725 Summer St NE, Ste C
Salem, OR 97301-1266
(503) 986-0671

Fax (503) 986-0793 www.oregonheritage.org



Ms. Carol Shull National Register of Historic Places USDOI National Park Service - Cultural Resources 1201 "Eye" Street NW, 8th Floor Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: National Register Nomination

Dear Ms. Shull:

At the recommendation of the Oregon State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation, I hereby nominate the following Multiple Property Documentation and accompanying properties to the National Register of Historic Places:

HISTORIC RESOURCES OF DOWNTOWN ENTERPRISE MPD: 1888 – 1956 ENTERPRISE, WALLOWA COUNTY

ENTERPRISE IOOF HALL

107 NE 1ST ST ENTERPRISE, WALLOWA COUNTY

ENTERPRISE MERCANTILE & MILLING COMPANY 113 E MAIN STREET

ENTERPRISE, WALLOWA COUNTY

OK THEATER

208 W MAIN STREET ENTERPRISE, WALLOWA COUNTY

We appreciate your consideration of this nomination. If questions arise, please contact Ian Johnson, National Register & Survey Coordinator, at (503) 986-0678.

Sincerely,

Roger Roper

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Encl.