

PH036193x

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 12 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUL 30 1976

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Grand Theatre

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1139-1149 G Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Douglas

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

STATE

Arizona

VICINITY OF

CODE

04

COUNTY

Cochise

CODE

003

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER: none

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Golden Cinema Corporation

STREET & NUMBER

350 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1302

CITY, TOWN

New York

VICINITY OF

STATE

New York

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Cochise County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Bisbee

STATE

Arizona

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The classical Revival Grand Theatre has a 3-panel facade and a first story accentuated by raked joints. The second floor windows have pediments and simulated balconies. The building is 66'x134'x60' high.

The front of the building and 16 feet on the 15th Street side are faced with white terra cotta. The remainder is stuccoed concrete. There are two small shops on either side of the main entrance. The floor of the lobby is tiled and the marble walls have terra cotta decorations. Three sets of French doors lead to the foyer which is similar to the lobby except for its mahogany walls.

Reinforced concrete stairways at either end of the foyer lead to the mezzanine, which formerly contained a tea room in addition to the still existing manager's office and restrooms. The stairs and balcony are carpeted in blue and grey. Dominant interior colors are grey and ivory with accents of other colors in the murals painted by A. Cedarbrant.

The orchestra floor was designed to seat 500 people and there were seats for 120 in the front balcony and 580 in the rear balcony. About 1930 the original 18-inch seats were replaced by 21-inch seats and the seating capacity was reduced to 1136. Loges were added at that time.

The building has a concrete foundation and reinforced concrete exterior walls. The framing and beams are of steel, and the floors are concrete and tile. Interior and ceiling finish is of lath and plaster.

The basement under the stage contains several dressing rooms and the original heating system. There is also a basement under the foyer. In 1931 an air conditioning system was devised of coke and wire fencing combined with a water hose and a fan on the roof. The roof is deteriorating.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1919

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Eugene Durfee, Architect

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Grand Theatre was billed as the "finest theatre building between San Antonio and Los Angeles" when it opened 25 January 1919. The 1600-seat, terra cotta front building was one of a chain of theaters owned by Nick Diamos in the Southwest.

Diamos was born in Greece in the 1880s and came to this country about 1900. He worked as a laborer for a few years and then became a partner in a nickelodeon venture in Bakersfield, California in 1910. Two years later he sold his interest, intending to move to Texas, but when the train stopped briefly at Tucson, he decided to stay there instead.

Diamos' Lyric Theatre in Tucson was the first in Arizona to present continuous performances. This venture was extremely successful, so Diamos was joined by his three brothers and his uncle, James Xalis. Together they formed the Lyric Amusement Company and built or acquired theaters in Phoenix, Bisbee, Douglas, Nogales, Tombstone, and Cananea, Mexico, as well as two more theaters in Tucson. This successful corporation was not dissolved until 1962.

In 1918, Diamos commissioned architect Eugene Durfee of Santa Monica to design and supervise the construction of the Grand Theatre in Douglas. Contractor J. M. Sparks completed the building at a cost of \$150,000- \$175,000. The theater was used for vaudeville and road shows as well as films and once a week, performers from the Orpheum Keith or Pantages circuits appeared at the Grand. In the 1920s the theater became the first in Arizona to show Mexican films. The first talking picture arrived in December of 1929.

The theater was a focal point in the cultural life of the town and its facilities were provided without charge for high school commencements and plays. However, after the corporation was dissolved, George N. Diamos wished to present the building to the City of Douglas.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cochise County Records
Douglas Dispatch 1919
 George N. Damos, Tucson
 George K. Damos, Tucson
Tucson Weekender 1934
Pacific Coast Showman 1939

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/5

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>12</u>	<u>63,70,00</u>	<u>34,6,85,7,5</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 102, Lots 17, 18
 N 16 ft. of lot 19

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marjorie Wilson, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arizona State Parks Board

DATE

May 11, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1688 West Adams

TELEPHONE

(602) 271-4174

CITY OR TOWN

Phoenix

STATE

Arizona

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Dorothy H. Hall

TITLE

Chief, Natural & Cultural Resources Section, Ariz. State Parks

DATE

May 11, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Signature]
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST: *[Signature]*
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

7/30/76

DATE

7-30-76

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GRAND THEATRE (Continued)

The offer was not accepted, so the stage lighting system was dismantled for tax purposes. The theater was purchased by the Golden Cinema Corporation in 1967 but has not been reopened. In June of 1975, concerned citizens formed the Grand Theatre Restoration Committee, and, with the owner's permission, have been working to restore the building for use as a theater and auditorium.