

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Idaho
COUNTY:	Ada
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	NOV 21 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Ada Theater

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Egyptian Theater, Fox Theater

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
700 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Boise

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Second

STATE: Idaho CODE: 16 COUNTY: Ada CODE: 001

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION:	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Arthur Oppenheimer, Jr., Oppenheimer-Falk Realty

STREET AND NUMBER:
700 West Idaho

CITY OR TOWN:
Boise

STATE:
Idaho

CODE:
16

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Ada County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Boise

STATE:
Idaho

CODE:
16

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Idaho Historic Preservation Plan, 1972

DATE OF SURVEY: 1972

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

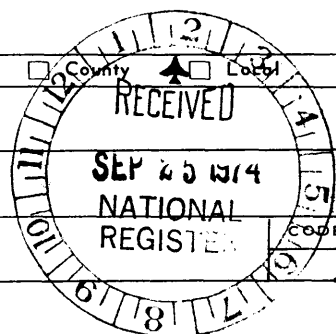
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

HABS

Federal State County Local



NOV 21 1974

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Hailed in Boise at its completion in 1927 as one of the most beautiful cinema houses in America, this Egyptian-style movie palace remains practically unaltered today. The two-story rectangular structure has reinforced concrete walls which are incised to give the appearance of large blocks of rock such as those used in the pyramids. The walls were originally covered with tan stucco but are now painted white. The roof over the main structure is of wooden and steel arch-truss construction and is finished with built-up asbestos roofing. The shed roofs over the front and side bays are covered with red tile.

Dominating the building are two square battered towers that rise three stories in height. These towers flank the two-story front bay which contains three large shop openings on the first floor and three tall, evenly-spaced windows on the second floor. Along the Seventh Street side of the building are a two-story bay, similar to the front bay, and a one-story bay. The two-story section has two blocked shop openings while the one-story section has three shop openings. All windows and shop openings in the three bays are matching, with upper corners cut by rounded decoration. Second-story windows are further decorated with shallow, non-functional iron balconies. The original brightly colored striped awnings over the windows and shops have deteriorated, but the framework remains.

The tall windows in the second story of the towers are trimmed by pilasters along the sides and non-functional iron balconies across the front. A projecting lintel above each of these openings is decorated with a relief sculpture of the sacred Egyptian vulture. This design is repeated at the top of the tower in the cornice which contains a similar sacred vulture symbol. These reliefs were originally painted colorfully, with the background in the cornice painted with vertical stripes. The Egyptian decorations on the exterior are continued with the two sphinxes set on the shed roof of the front bay.

The main entrance is at the southeast corner of the building under one of the main towers. The corner is cut diagonally, with a large concrete column set at the corner for support. The box office was originally set behind this column, but is now incorporated in it. A large marquis overhangs the entrance to the theater, with the three support chains firmly anchored in the mouths of decorative lions set in the second floor wall of the tower.

The vaulted lobby was originally richly painted, giving a mosaic effect of gold and precious stones on the ceiling. The concrete walls are finished to resemble cut stone and are adorned with figures from the Book of the Dead and hieroglyphic quotations from the papyrus of Ani. Originally the ceiling of the house was a deep blue, and an indirect lighting system combined with a tile cornice to give the effect of an outdoor theater under the stars. The ceiling has been repainted in a lighter color.

The sweep of the long walls is broken by recesses decorated with sacred symbols from Egyptian literature. High above the stage in the center of the arch is a large gold scarab, winged and with conventional designs radiating from it. Below is a Nile boating scene, and below that is an abundant series of Egyptian scenes. Every interstice in the pictorial array is filled with appropriate designs. Four pillars, patterned after those in the Hall of Karnak flank the stage, and between each pair sits a large statue

patterned after the Memnon statues of Thebes. Behind each is a section of the original mammoth pipe organ with horns, drums, bells, etc. actuated by solenoi

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

4. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

On April 17, 1927, the magnificent Egyptian Theater was completed. Two days later, people were trampled in the crowd on opening night as masses pressed in to see John Barrymore in "Don Juan". Through the years, the theater has maintained its reputation as one of the best in Boise, showing first run features. One of the major attractions recently was the world premiere of "Jeremiah Johnson" on December 2, 1972 with the star Robert Redford in attendance.

The building was designed by Frederick C. Hummel of the well-known Boise firm of Tourtellotte and Hummel. A local investment house, Childs and Co., financed a \$100,000 bond issue for the construction of the theater. Jordan and Sons were the main builder, with help and materials from local suppliers.

Architecturally, the theater is important as an excellent example of Egyptian-style architecture, and the only one of this kind in Idaho. The full use of Egyptian symbols (sphinxes, scarabs, ~~scarabs~~, sacred vultures, etc.) reflects the contemporary fascination with Egyptology, instigated by the recent (early 1920's) discoveries in Egypt.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Idaho Statesman, April 17, 1927

HABS, December, 1973

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

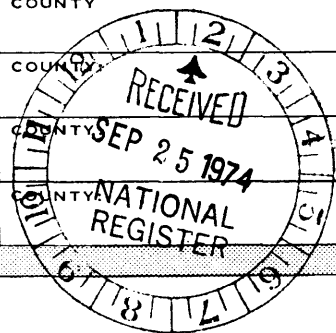
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		43° 36' 54"	116° 12' 05"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

NO
FORM
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Nancy F. Renk, Site Survey Staff

ORGANIZATION: Idaho State Historical Society DATE: 10 April 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 610 North Julia Davis Drive

CITY OR TOWN: Boise STATE: Idaho CODE: 16

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Merle W. Wells

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date 20 September 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

A. R. [Signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 11/21/74

ATTEST: [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date 11.13.74