

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received APR - 7 1983  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Coleman Theater

and/or common

2. Location

street & number ~~Corner of First and Main Street~~ <sup>1st</sup> NA not for publication

city, town Miami \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of

state Oklahoma code 40 county Ottawa code 115

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple ownership (see continuation sheet)

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of County Clerk

street & number County Courthouse - Ottawa County

city, town Miami \_\_\_\_\_ state Oklahoma

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1982 \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Oklahoma Historical Society - State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Oklahoma City \_\_\_\_\_ state Oklahoma

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>  N/A  </u>

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Coleman Theater Building is a 120 X 150' theater/commercial structure of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture. Completed in 1929, the red brick exterior wall construction materials have been finished with a buff-colored stucco on east and south sides which face the streets. The majority of the rear brick wall has been painted to match the stucco color as has the third floor wall on the north side of the building. The first floor of the north wall adjoins the next building to the north on Main Street. The eastern half of the building is two stories and the western half is three stories. The two story section has a flat roof surrounded by ornate parapeted walls. The three story section has a red-tiled low pitched gable roof.

The building was originally constructed to house several commercial shops on the first floor of both the east and south sides, a theater in the western half of the building with entrances on both east and south sides, and the Masonic Lodge Hall on the second story of the eastern half of the building.

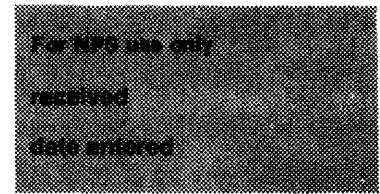
The facade (east side) of the building features the main entrance to the theater on the south end of the first story. Located also in the first floor of the east side are three store fronts and the Miami Chamber of Commerce office front. The store fronts retain original window and door surrounds and are separated by stucco finished pilaster-like columns. The original glazed tile bases located below store front windows have been retained. An elaborately decorated portal (used in the original context as a shelter over the door) extends over the sidewalk as one enters the Chamber of Commerce office. The second floor of the east side is highlighted by two curvilinear gables characteristic of the Spanish Colonial Revival style. The larger of the two is located on the south end above the main entrance to the theater and is adorned with three ornate finials. Below the southern curvilinear gable is a compound arched window surrounded by hand-carved terra cotta ornamentation of considerable elegance. The smaller curvilinear gable is located on the northern end of the second floor directly above the portal. It is also topped with three decorative finials. A smaller compound arched window is located between the curvilinear gable and the portal. The window is set in a compound arch with no decorative features. Also on the second floor of the east side, there are fourteen lintel-type window openings. They are paired in seven sets with one set south of main entrance, four sets in the center, and two sets on north end. The parapeted wall on the east side of the building is sumptuously decorated with ornate low-relief carvings and topped with six finials.

The south side of the Coleman Theater building faces First Street. There are four store fronts, two on either side of a second entrance to the theater. The original glazed tile below and above the store front windows has been retained as has the original door surrounds. Each store front is separated by pilaster-like columns. The east side also has an elaborately decorated portal over the First Street entrance. Above the portal is a compound arched window with sumptuous hand-carved terra cotta decoration. The second floor of the east side contains six rectangular-shaped windows with enriched cornice window heads. The second floor of the east half of the south side features same type of decorative parapeted walls as the facade (east side) of the building. The third story on west half of the south side includes several Spanish Colonial Revival applications. The most outstanding of these is the twin bell towers with red-tiled hip roofs. Arched window openings are located on three sides of the bell towers and each opening leads to balconets with wrought iron railings. Between the bell towers are nine rejas (window grilles) topped with ten decorative finials.

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 4

Page 1

Ann C. Coleman  
1001 Rockdale Blvd.  
Miami, OK 74354

Sarah C. Cecconi  
% George L. Coleman  
P.O. Box 709  
Palm Beach, Florida 33480

Susan C. Bassett  
P.O. Box 303  
Pebble Beach, CA 93953

Video Independent Theatres, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1334  
Oklahoma City, OK 73101

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

The west side of the building includes on the south end near the street a decorative band of terra cotta molding above the first floor and a false window with an enriched cornice window head. The third floor on the west side has the west side of the bell tower. There are three upper story doors on the west side which provide exits to fire escape stairs at different levels. Also on the first floor of the west side are two sets of double-door service entrances. The remainder of the west side is red brick painted with buff-color to match the stucco on east and south sides.

The north side of the building includes a common wall to adjoining business on the first floor, however, the second and third stories are exposed. They include four pilaster strips which break the monotony of the buff-painted red brick. A square unit is located above the third story on northwest corner which houses the heating and cooling system for the building.

Set between the second and third stories near the center of the building is a spire-like bell tower with red-tiled gable roof. Pointed arch window openings are located on all four sides at the top of this bell tower.

The only major alteration to the Coleman Theater was the removal of the original marquee from the east to south side. It was replaced on the east side by a larger version in the 1950's. Minor alterations include replacement of some window lights and the glazed tile above store front entrances on the east side have been replaced by wood paneling.

The Coleman Theater building continues to serve the community of Miami, Oklahoma as an outlet for businesses, social organizations, and as an entertainment center--the same role it has performed for the past 53 years. Located at the four corners section of downtown Miami, it remains as the historic centerpiece for the central business district.

# 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** April 18, 1929-Present **Builder/Architect** Boller Brothers (Architects) Rucks-Brandt Construction Co. (Builders)

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Coleman Theater is significant because: (1) it is one of the most outstanding examples of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture applied to a commercial building in Oklahoma, and (2) it has provided continuous commercial and entertainment services for the central business district of Miami, Oklahoma for over 53 years.

George L. Coleman, Sr., who had acquired considerable wealth through his lead and zinc mining industries in northeastern Oklahoma, decided that Miami, Oklahoma needed an elegant theater during the 1920's. He hired Boller Brothers architectural firm of Kansas City, Missouri to design the building and Rucks-Brandt Company to build the theater which took almost a year to complete. Constructed at an estimated cost of approximately \$600,000, the Coleman Theater opened its doors on April 18, 1929 to a capacity crowd of 1600 people.

Built during the peak of the Spanish Colonial Revival period of 1915-1940, the Coleman Theater's architecture is characterized by the outstanding twin bell towers on the south side, the unique spire-like bell tower in the center, and the ornately designed curvilinear gables on the facade. Additional Spanish Colonial Revival vocabulary applied to the building includes the elaborately designed parapet walls, enriched cornice window heads, iron window grilles, balconets with wrought iron railings, stucco finish, and the red-tiled gabled roof on the western half. These features make the Coleman Theater one of the most significant examples of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture applied to a commercial building in Oklahoma. Only Oklahoma County (Oklahoma City) has commercial buildings of comparable Spanish Colonial Revival style.

Billed as the most elaborate theater between Dallas and Kansas City at the time of its completion in 1929, the Coleman opened its doors during an era considered to be a watershed in theater history. It was a time when vaudeville was declining, talking motion pictures were on the rise, and opulent theaters designed with stage facilities and orchestra pits was in a state of demise. The Coleman combined all three during the 1930's as witnessed by their daily programs. The Coleman was a member of the Orpheum Circuit of Vaudeville Theaters and presented many of the senior vaudeville acts such as O'Donnell and Blair. In Oklahoma, only Tulsa and Oklahoma City had theaters which were members of the Orpheum Circuit. The Coleman also presented talking motion pictures from its inception, e.g., "The Dummy", a Paramount All-Talking Comedy drama starring Frederic March, Jack Oakie, and Ruth Chatterton; and the Fox-Movietone News. Furthermore, the Coleman always presented an overture to the daily programs played by organist Owen James at the Mighty Wurlitzer and selections from Broadway musicals performed by the Coleman Theater 10-member resident orchestra.

The Coleman Theater Building has continuously provided northeastern Oklahoma with cultural and economic services during its 53-year history and remains an integral part of Miami's downtown business district.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

INTERVIEWS: Ann Coleman - June 29, 1982 - Miami, Oklahoma  
 Miami Daily-NEWS-Record - Sun. April 14, 1929  
 Frank Love (Theater Manager) - June 28, 1982

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Miami, N.W., OK

Quadrangle scale 7.5"

**UTM References**

A 

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

B 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

C 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

D 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

E 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

F 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

G 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

H 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

Lots 35-36-37-38-39-40 of Block 54,  
 Original Townsite of Miami, Oklahoma

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael L. Pooler Directed by Dr. George O. Carney  
 organization Northeast Oklahoma County Survey date December, 1982  
 street & number Oklahoma State University telephone 405-624-6250  
 city or town Stillwater state Oklahoma 74078

# 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**

title Consultant date 3/18/83

For NPS use only

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

Patrick Andrews date 5/19/83  
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date