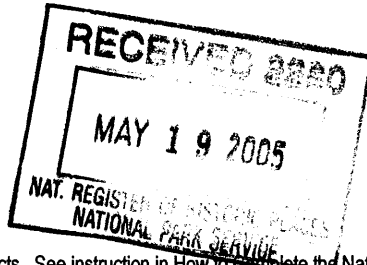


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instruction in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classifications, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Rogue Theatre

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 143 SE "H" Street not for publication

city or town Grants Pass vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Josephine code 033 zip code 97526

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide X locally.

James Hamrick
Signature of certifying official/Title - Deputy SHPO

17 May 2005
Date

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
Action

entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet.

_____ determined eligible for the National Register
See continuation sheet.

_____ determined not eligible for the National Register

_____ removed from the National Register

_____ other (explain): _____

Edson M. Beall Signature of the Keeper
6/30/05 Date of

Rogue Theatre
Name of Property

Josephine, Oregon
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many as apply)

Category of Property
(check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

- private
- public - local
- public - state
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation & Culture: Theater

Recreation & Culture: Music Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Modern Movement: Art Deco

foundation: concrete
walls: stucco, ceramic tile
roof: asphalt, composition shingle
Other: Neon signage

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

See continuation sheets.

Rogue Theatre
Name of Property

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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).

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- 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 and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance
1938

Significant Dates
1938

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B removed from its original location
- C a birthplace or grave
- D a cemetery
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F a commemorative property
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance Within the past 50 years

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
Keeney, Robert (architect)
Childers, Elmer (builder)

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite books, articles, and other sources used in preparing the form on one or more continuation sheets) See continuation sheets

- Previous documentation on file (NPS):
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36CFR67) has been requested
 - previously listed in the National Register
 - previously determined eligible by the National Register
 - designated a National Historic Landmark
 - recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
 - recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

- Primary location of additional data:
- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 10 473224 4698230
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing
4 _____

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Greg Tressel

organization Rogue Productions, LLC date June 2004

street & number 143 SE "H" Street telephone 541-476-0141

city or town Grants Pass state OR zip code 97526

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation sheets

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.

Photographs: Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

name Rogue Productions, LLC

street & number 143 SE "H" Street telephone 541-476-0141

city or town Grants Pass state OR zip code 97526

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 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Rogue Theatre
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Introduction:

The Rogue Theatre, located on the southwest corner of S.E. "H" and 7th Street, is at the edge of the historic commercial downtown of Grants Pass, Oregon. The Theatre, since its opening on November 8, 1938, has operated as a movie theater and playhouse until 1998. The theater lay dormant, and its fate in question, was saved from the wrecking ball in 2000 when it was reopened and is currently operating as a performing arts center.

Exterior Description:

The Rogue Theatre is located in a commercial retail area of the original downtown of Grants Pass, Oregon. The theater and surrounding lots are level. The facade faces north and is located on a rectangular .012 acre lot that is 50' by 100'.

The Theatre is a two story structure with no basement. The foundation of the structure is concrete with an exterior surface of stucco over concrete. The roofing materials are asphalt and composition shingle. The facade is adorned with the original tiles of black, green, and white which frame the unique two story signage and marquee. Original glass and tile ticket booth is at the center of the two recessed double entry doors. There are two wood sashed windows on either side of the sign tower. Four metal framed poster boxes, two on each side of the double entry doors, have interior lights for evening display.

The most prominent feature of the theater's art deco exterior are; the marquee and the vertical sign display. Newly restored neon surrounds the entire marquee and tower.

"The main vertical sign announcing the name "Rogue" is made up of super dreadnaught green colored neon, white tubes of white and yellow and red give background and at the uppermost point may be seen the "Sally Rand type" fan in gold and white tubing, which gives the appearance of swishing back and forth. Below the neon sign are two reader boards which will announce the current production in five rows of changeable silhouette cast aluminum letters. The reader boards, seven by 16 feet each, rise from a "V" shaped marquee which is easily discernible from any direction the facade may be viewed." (Courier, 8 November 1938)

Facing the front of the marquee where the two reader boards meet is a 3 foot "R" outlined in green neon with a matching miniature tower outlined in gold, red and white neon. At each edge where the reader board intersects with the building facade are columns of green neon lights. Outlining the vertical tower is red neon and curving around the top behind the neon fan is gold neon outlining the curve of the top of the sign tower. At the top is another grouping of green neon columns.

The marquee is painted in the original dreadnaught green, with original historic red and black accents lining the tower. During evening shows there is lighting under the marquee. A sloped tile entry leads you to the recessed double doors along side the original green and black tiled and glass windowed ticket booth.

Interior Description:

The original interior decorating of the theater was under the supervision of L. A. Melson of Seattle. The interior carpeted lobby, originally referred to as a foyer, had a large 8x10 foot mirror on the back wall flanked by two large, plush, royal blue mohair chairs on either side. Karagheusian Wilton carpet, with maple leaf design which were red and blue combined with two tones of silver and black set off the foyer. The original managers office can be entered to the left of the entry and along the entrance wall of the lobby is a small door, no more than 4 feet tall, that leads into the ticket booth. The mirror and chairs have since been replaced with a concessions

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counter with a veined mirror on the back wall. The carpet has been replaced with a wall to wall carpet which became more common in use in the later years.

"Lounge rooms", the Men's on the left of the lobby and the Ladies on the right are designated with the original glass-etched, lit art deco signs. Originally the ladies lounge was described as "harmonizes with the foyer, an overstuffed love seat in royal blue mohair, a make-up table and chair of blending color augmented by a round mirror lighted on either side by slender tube-shaped lights." (Courier, 8 November 1938) Currently the ladies restroom has a lounge area with couch and the round make up mirror with a long counter under a mirror and lighting for freshening up one's makeup. The restroom has the original tiled walls that extend up to 2/3 of the height of the wall. Curved black tiles cap the cream colored square tiles with raised dreadnaught green design tile creates a decorative border and surrounds the walls. The floors have the original small octagonal tile floors. The men's restroom has the same tiled walls and floors as the women's restroom although without the entry lounge.

Above the double doors, flanking the center counter and leading into the main auditorium of the theater, are recently added cornice of etched art deco style mirrors. Originally these "doorways were richly colored hanging drapes made of red silk plush falling from an oval track. The curtains were operated with pull cords and decorated with a mirror cornice." (Courier 8 November 1938) To the far left and right of the lobby are two curving staircases with chromium wrought iron handrails with curving designs typical of the art deco period that lead to the only existing balcony in the Grants Pass area. The hand rails have been painted over with a silver paint. The walls of the staircase are rounded true to the art deco design.

Entering through the lobby doors, into the main auditorium of the theater are three sections of seats separated by two aisles. The original seats, described as opera chairs and referred to as "O so easy chairs", were made by Heywood-Wakefield company, then the oldest maker of opera chairs in the United States. Some of the seats were equipped with earphones, and a switch so that the listener may control the sound volume to suit his needs. Originally the theater seated 720 with 212 of those seats in the balcony. The seats have been updated with seating for 500 with 200 of those seats in the balcony.

On the walls, "different from anything southern Oregon has to offer are the tapestry covered upholstered covered walls, which make for perfect acoustics." (Courier, 8 November 1938) The Royal blue, silk damask tapestry interwoven with a gold design, hang on either side of the theater. The two tapestries, each containing 200 lineal yards of material fashioned into a single piece, without seams, cover the two side walls and conceal the original sound -proofing material. The tapestry was hung by Henry Gromnerud of Seattle. On the back wall, next to the molding of the right set of double doors, is the original buzzer to alert the projectionist.

The main auditorium floor is concrete sloping down towards the stage so people could see over the person in front of them. The ceiling has the original "sound scoop" which continued the projection of sound to the balcony seats as well as original sound baffles to prevent echoes.

The original sconces are still in place, and in use, were considered a novel invention in the thirties because they projected light down the side wall and on the ceiling and illuminated a warm soft glow. The sconces, approximately 3 feet in height by 4 feet are two tiered. The top rounded tier of the sconce is bordered by bronze with an eagle centering the tier, arched by leaves. The bottom tier is cylindrical. There three sconces on either side of the main auditorium.

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The original stage was designed for use as a movie theater or for use as a play house. The stage curtain was made of heavy red silk, hand blocked damask, embossed in a striking silver floral design considered a "classic modern style" (Courier 8 1938) The "title" curtains and "leg" curtains were made of heavy brocaded silver satin. Today, the stage curtain and valance are gold in color with black wing curtains. The original tracks used to move the screen and curtains are still in place in the rafters, as well as the motor used to automatically open and close the curtains. The stage has been extended in recent years, but the original footlights and wood trim bordering the stage have remained. To the upper right and left of the stage are 4' by 4' openings with beautiful wood detail and underneath the stage was the air return for the heating and cooling system. The air return has been updated along with the heating and cooling system.

The picture screen and speakers were state of the art for their time. The screen described as a daylight screen was made of a rubberized composition with minute perforations through which the sound passed direct to the speakers. The sound system was a Motiograph and Western Electric latest type, Mirrorphonic sound equipment. Through the years of evolution of technology and wear the picture screen has been replaced, as well as, the original Mirrorphonic sound system.

The balcony of the theater can be reached via the rounded staircases from the left and right sides of the lobby. The balcony has the original wood floors which are stair-stepped allowing the patron to select a seat higher towards the projection room or lower towards the stage. The balcony is the width of the theater and has the original chromium wrought iron railing and detail work. There are three sections of seating in the balcony separated by two aisles. One of the aisles leads to the projection booth located on the center back wall. The projection booth was considered to have the most state of the art equipment. The sound equipment was "designed for a capacity larger than the theater required so that the equipment could be operated on a lower frequency thereby producing the clearest qualities in any voice. Projection arcs were manufactured by Brenkert Light Projection company in Detroit, Michigan. The lamps are the most modern in design, called Suprex burning a high amperage and low voltage. The method of changing alternating current to direct current to provide an even flow of electricity to the lamp houses is handled by a series of copper plates and transformers using a full range of adjustment to take care of any variation in voltage. All equipment in the projection room is entirely automatic, which protects the audience with safety that few houses can boast. (Courier 8 November 1938) Although the projection room has been modified in use there are still remnants of the gauges and dials used to monitor current and lighting. The heating and air conditioning system has been updated from the original blower system. The current heating and air conditioning units are on the roof of the theater.

Conclusion:

The Rogue Theatre was considered luxurious and modern in its day. Embracing all the most modern accomplishments in theater comfort, design and entertainment. The cost to build the theater in 1937-1938 was \$65,000, \$5,000 over original budget. The theater, built during the depression, was a great escape from the dreariness of the times. The use of the theater as a movie house has continued from the day it opened until 1998 when it was leased to a multiplex owner who closed its doors and let it lay dormant. Reopened under new ownership in 2000 the theater has been utilized as a performing arts center and has helped to revitalize the Grants Pass downtown.

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We are respectfully submitting The Rogue Theatre of Grants Pass, Oregon for nomination for National Registry based on Criterion C. The Rogue Theatre is an excellent example of Art Deco architecture. The exterior of the theater, marquee included, is the original Art Deco design. The interior still displays the distinct style of the Art Deco period as well. We feel the theater exemplifies the criteria for significance under Criterion C.

Grants Pass, Oregon was just a name on a map since 1865 when the post office was established. 1883 was the actual founding of Grants Pass. This was the year that the first buildings were built on a platted street parallel to the railroad tracks of the Oregon & California Railroad. The name Grants Pass was chosen to honor General Ulysses S. Grant after the news of his victories at Vicksburg in July of 1863. Development began with the coming of the railroad with businesses open and ready when the first train arrived in the winter of 1883. Located along the Rogue River, tourism, commercial fishing and lumber were the founding industries in Grants Pass, with the river continuing to be one of the attractions in the town and surrounding area.

Theaters were built in the town as early as 1891 with the opening of the Grants Pass Opera House. Around 1908 there appeared to be a theater building frenzy. The Electric theater, circa 1908; The Lyceum circa 1911, The Bijou, Joy, State, Oregon and Gaiety theaters were opened around 1912 to 1919. These theaters were built in existing buildings already in commercial use along the area known as Front Street and 6th street. All are no longer in use, although the brick structures still stand. The State theater which was apart of the Grants Pass Opera house, built in 1929, gave another option for theater goers, this structure was torn down in 1955. The Rivoli theater opened in 1920, shutting down all the theaters on Front Street. Then in 1938, the Art Deco Rogue Theatre was constructed on the SW corner of 7th Street and H streets. After the opening of the Rogue Theatre, the Rivoli theater closed due to competition and disrepair during the mid 1950's.

In the summer of 1938, the Grants Pass Amusement Company announced they would begin constructing the city's most up-to-date and ultra modern motion picture theater on the southwest corner of "H" and Seventh streets. Little did they know that they were to build a building which exemplifies Art Deco design. The design was furnished by Clark and Keeney, a Medford architectural firm, and the construction contract was awarded to Elmer Childers, also of Medford, at total cost of \$65,000. Work commenced on the building in August of 1938 and was rapidly completed under the direction of S.E. Mendenhall, the Amusement Company's manager, for its grand opening on November 9, 1938 and premier showing of "There Goes My Heart".

The Rogue Theatre was built during the period where movie theaters and other commercial buildings, were undergoing a radical departure from the ornate, gilded structures of the twenties. Coming out of the Depression, designers underwent a change in design brought forward from the 1925 World's Fair in Paris. The term Art Deco was derived from the Exposition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Arts. The fair's organizers required that the designs be "modern" and depart from traditional styles. The style spread internationally, and was most successfully used in architecture and architectural design.

Architecture and theater designers needed to create a new modern look that attracted moviegoers without the need for the royal, gilded treatment. The look was a rejection of the pre-Depression opulence and a belief in consumerism; a look of better things to come. Art Deco theater designers used rounded corners, triple striped decorative elements and black decoration. The look was sleek, imagery of technology and speed. Art Deco emphasized the use of modern glossy materials, smooth seamless surfaces, finned and bowed cinema facades and aerodynamic lines.

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The theater is most significant due to its architectural integrity. The Rogue Theatre is the last of the original theaters of the "downtown theater district". The other theaters in the "downtown theater district" were either torn down or their purpose and design modified for use as a more modern commercial building. The Rogue Theatre was one of the few commercial structures depicting the Art Deco design in Grants Pass, Oregon. No other commercial structures depicting this style of Art Deco architecture remain. The original "state of the art" acoustic design of the interior is still intact and continues to provide audiences and performers with the theater's acoustics. The community, audiences, and performers enjoy stepping back in time to the Art Deco period from the finned and bowed facade, to the curved staircases and handrails to the balcony, to the original wall sconces and tapestry. The painted striping of colors on the exterior promoting sleek speed, typified in the Art Deco period, as well as, the use of color glazed tiles that utilized black as an accent color.

The Rogue Theatre, praised as "a striking picture of color, line and architectural masses" (Grants Pass Courier, 8 November 1938), created quite a stir in Grants Pass when it was completed. The facade of black, green and white glazed tile and modern neon produced one of the city's most spectacular architectural landmarks that continues in reputation to the present day. The theater's most striking feature, as extolled in the Grants Pass Courier, was its unique signage and marquee provided by the Neon Display Company of Portland.

Architectural designers Clark and Keeney were well known in the Rogue Valley of Southern Oregon. Clark and Keeney worked in several architectural styles Franklin Chamberlain Clark was one of the most prolific architects in the valley from 1903 to 1950 and Medford, Oregon's first registered architect. R.J. Keeney joined F.C. Clark in 1936 and together they designed many commercial and residential buildings. Many still in use today and many are listed on the National Historic Registry. Elmer Childers of Medford, the construction contractor, was known for his concrete and stucco work which comprises the exterior of the theater. B.F. Shearer of Seattle was involved in the theater decoration and design. B. F. Shearer outfitted a larger number of movie theaters in the Pacific Northwest. The interior design of the theater, conceived by L.A. Melson of Seattle, was especially praised for its mirrored foyer, opera chairs, acoustics, lavish balconies, and handsome stage.

Most construction materials inside and out were provided by such local Grants Pass businesses as Rogue River Hardware, Copeland Lumber, Three-C's Lumber, and Rogue River Sand and Gravel. A logger for one of the lumber companies, Ben Jantzer who is in his late 80's, commented on the lumber that was used in constructing the theater. He had stated that some of the lumber came from timber in the Star buck Creek area of Azalea, Oregon. He remembered the steam engines used to run the power at the onsite saw mill and that only the finest pieces of wood from the planer were loaded on trucks to drive old highway 99 from Azalea to the theater site in Grants Pass, Oregon.

"Movie-goers" enjoyed the Rogue Theatre's splendor for 60 years. Due to competition with the multiplex theaters outside the downtown area the theater closed its doors. Grants Pass Amusement Company, with the original owners, maintained ownership until 1999. The Rogue Theatre was reopened under new ownership in 2000 and is currently being used as a performing arts center continuing to entertain performers and audiences alike. Performers such as Mickey Rooney who once graced the screen of the theater has done a live performance, as has Pat Boone. One statement that is a common thread among the performers, is that they are relieved that the theater has remained preserved in its design and use. The Art Deco exterior with its newly refurbished neon continues to be a reminder and a beacon of architectural design of the past.

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30 April 1992 GP Survey #31

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Grants Pass Bulletin, 11 November 1938

Grants Pass Daily Courier, 16 March 1982
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Josephine County Historical Society: Theater Archives
512 SW 5th Street
Grants Pass, OR 97526

Southern Oregon Historical Society: Architect Archives
106 N. Central Avenue
Medford, OR 97501

Josephine County Library: Grants Pass
200 NW "C" Street
Grants Pass, OR 97526

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First American Title Insurance Company, Josephine County Title Division
118 Northeast "C" Street
Grants Pass, OR 97526

Ben Jantzer of Grants Pass, Oregon: 11 June 2004
Phone interview
logger for wood for theatre

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Verbal Boundary Description:

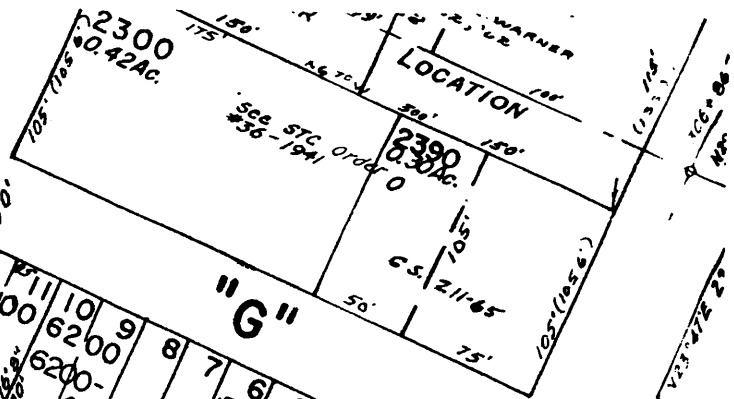
The real property consists of the property at 143 S.E. "H" Street, Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon, consisting of a movie picture theater.

All of lot 1 in Block numbered 59 in the Original Townsite of the Town, now City of Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon, as the same is shown on the plat of said Town, on file and of record in the office of the County Clerk of said County and State.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property includes the current parcel of land occupied by the Rogue Theatre.

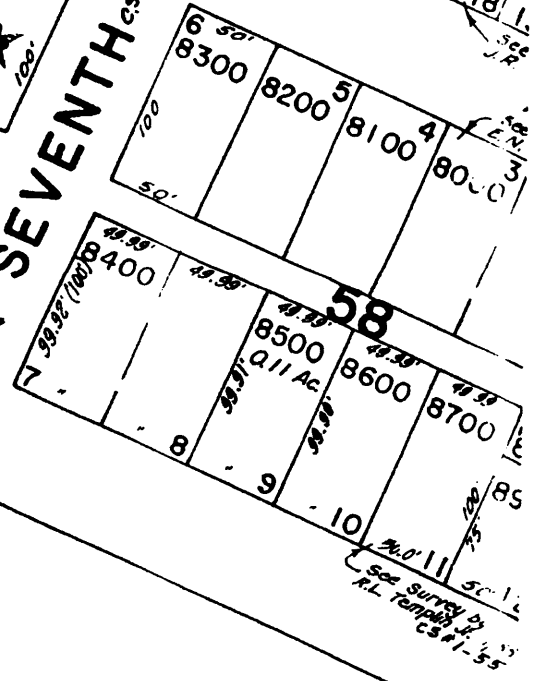
SEE MAP 36 5 18DA



S. SIXTH C.S. 80-93



S. SEVENTH C.S. 80-93



FIRST AMERICAN TITLE CO.
 Township 34 Range 5 Section 1732
 This map is for location purposes only. No liability is assumed for variations disclosed by survey.