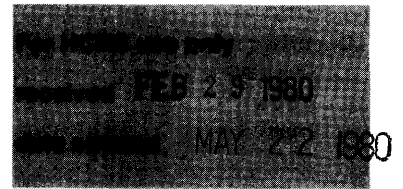


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Lyric Theatre

and/or common Ritz Theatre

2. Location

street & number 1302 Noble Street ___ not for publication

city, town Anniston ___ vicinity of congressional district 3

state Alabama code 01 county Calhoun code 015

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<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 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input 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 Anniston Community Theatre (Mr. George H. Deyo, Jr.)

street & number P. O. Box 1454

city, town Anniston ___ vicinity of state Alabama 36202

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calhoun County Courthouse

street & number West 11th Street

city, town Anniston state Alabama

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Alabama Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978-present federal state county local

depository for survey records Alabama Historical Commission

city, town Montgomery state Alabama 36130

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Lyric Theatre is located on the northeast corner of Noble and 13th streets in the commercial section of downtown Anniston. It is a rectangular, masonry building which measures 75' x 195' and has its facade facing east onto Noble. It is divided into two main sections: a two-story eastern portion which is constructed of hollow clay tile covered with stucco and a four-story brick portion which contains the fly loft and stage. A partial basement is located under this section.

The eastern facade is topped with a paneled and crenelated parapet raised central pediment in the center of the three bays. A tall sign hung at right angles to the facade dates from the 1930's. The ground floor was altered around 1954 when a marquee and bright orange tile was added. At this time aluminum framing was substituted for wood for the ground floor openings. The side elevations and the rear portion have not been altered, other than the coat of green paint which presently covers much of the building.

The lobby interior has always been flanked by the two stops, but the original floor has been changed to terrazzo and the original plaster walls covered with paneling. The offices located above the lobby have had the ceiling covered with Celotex, but are in poor condition. The auditorium has had a concrete floor poured over the wood framing, leaving a crawl space beneath. Other floors, however, are of pine. Ceilings in the retail spaces are of pressed tin. The building is structurally sound, but in need of minor repairs and reconditioning.

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1900 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Lyric Theatre is significant as a very good example of early 20th century entertainment facilities in the smaller Alabama cities. It is particularly noted for its flyloft - an unusual feature for Alabama. Constructed in 1918, it served as a vaudeville theatre and center for cultural events until it was adapted for motion pictures in the late 1920's. Although Anniston, a late 19th century planned industrial community, had an opera house, the building no longer stands, leaving the Lyric as the oldest building in the city associated with popular entertainment.

The building was constructed for the Anniston Theatre Company in 1918 and sold to the Anniston Amusement Company the following year. From its opening until 1928, the building hosted the main circuit of Keith Vaudeville of New York and a summer chautauqua circuit. It served, too, as the main source of entertainment for the 27, 753 men at Camp McClellan, who were training there for World War I. In 1924, the building was purchased by F. T. and E. D. Banks, but due to financial difficulties, the F. T. Banks Realty Company, Inc. was formed in 1926 and shares sold.

In 1927 or 1928, the building was leased by Publix, a major theater chain and adapted for motion pictures. At this time a minor remodeling took place, and the name was changed to the Ritz. The first picture, Al Johnson's "The Jazz Singer", was shown in October of 1928. In the early 30's the building was leased by Wilby and Kincey, a local subsidiary of Paramount Pictures. In 1975, the Anniston Little Theatre purchased the building. The group hopes to restore it for local productions.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Anniston

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	6	0	8	4	6	0	3	7	2	5	0	0	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 5, 6, and 27, Block 135 with the vacated portion of a 10 foot alley between lots 5 and 27, measuring 95' x 195'

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 Ellen Mertins

organization Alabama Historical Commission date February 28, 1980

street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone 832-6621

city or town Montgomery state Alabama 36130

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Miss A. Howard Jr.

title SAPO Alabama date Feb. 28, 1980

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>for W. Ray Luce</u>	date <u>5/22/80</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Carol A. Dubis</u>	date <u>5/19/80</u>
Chief of Registration	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 29 1980
DATE ENTERED MAY 22 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Interviews. Tom Coleman, son of owner, by Grace Gates, city historian (2/8/80).

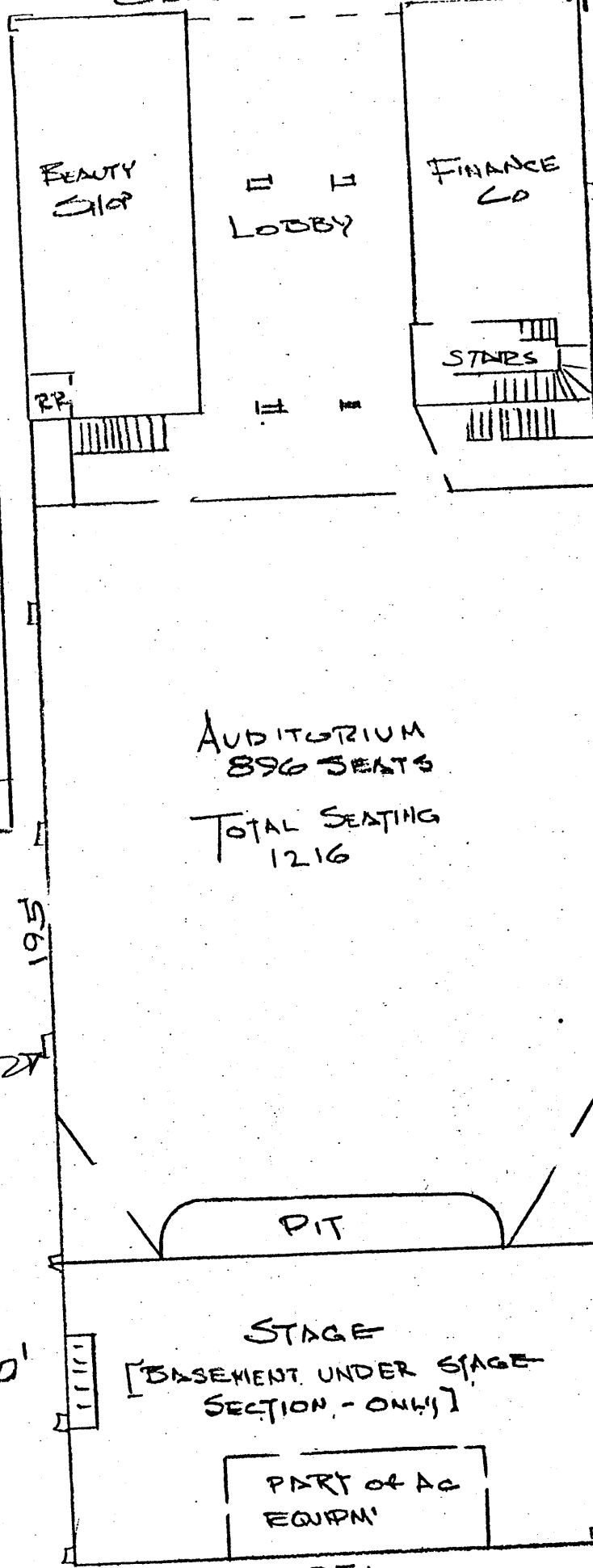
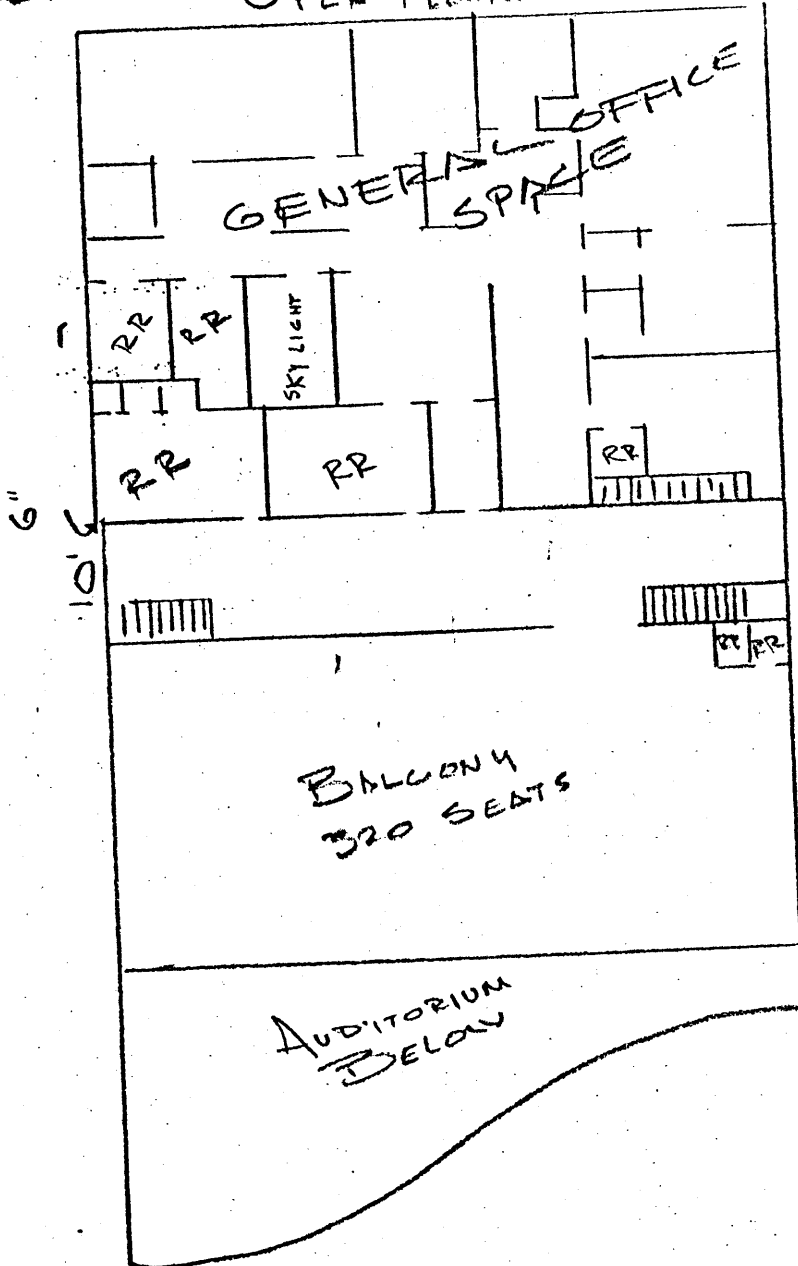
Jay Wallis Rainwater, former projectionist, by Grace Gates, February 8, 1980.

Louise Nonnemacher, shareholder in F. T. Banks Realty, by Dough Hale, East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission, 1975.

Frank Jones, local stage performer at Lyric, by Doug Hale, 1975.

UPPER FLOOR

GROUND FLOOR

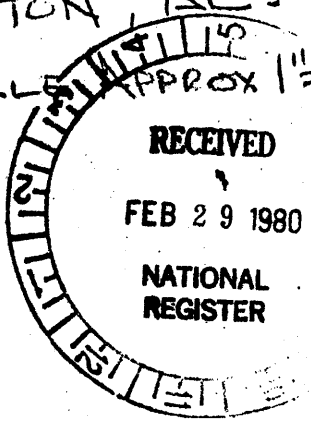


AUDITORIUM
896 SEATS
TOTAL SEATING
1216

GENERAL FLOOR
PLAN

RITZ THEATER
ANNISTON, AL.

SCALE APPROX 1"=20'



75'