

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 20 1978

DATE ENTERED FEB 9 1979

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

Fox Oakland Theater

AND/OR COMMON

Fox/Oakland Theater and Complex

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1807-1829 Telegraph Avenue

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Oakland (downtown)

__ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

9th

STATE

California

CODE

06

COUNTY

Alameda

CODE

001 ✓

CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**

__DISTRICT

 BUILDING(S)

__STRUCTURE

__SITE

__OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

__PUBLIC

 PRIVATE

__BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

__IN PROCESS

 BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS** OCCUPIED (partial)

__UNOCCUPIED

__WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE YES: RESTRICTED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__NO

PRESENT USE

__AGRICULTURE

 COMMERCIAL

__EDUCATIONAL

__ENTERTAINMENT

__GOVERNMENT

__INDUSTRIAL

__MILITARY

__MUSEUM

__PARK

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__RELIGIOUS

__SCIENTIFIC

__TRANSPORTATION

__OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mann Theater Corporation

STREET & NUMBER

9200 West Sunset Boulevard

CITY, TOWN

Los Angeles

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

California

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. City Planning Dept, City Hall

STREET & NUMBER

14th and Washington Streets

CITY, TOWN

Oakland, CA

94612

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

"Oakland Central District Study-Design Resources Survey"

DATE

August 1963

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDSCity Planning Department, City of Oakland,
City Hall, 6th Floor, 1421 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Oakland

STATE

California

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

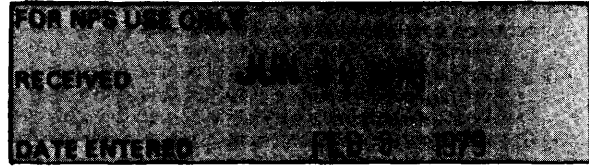
MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED FORM.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

ORIGINAL

Building permit number A27902, was issued in Oakland on July 7, 1927 for "permission to build a theater on the west side of Telegraph Avenue 84 feet north of 18th Street". 1.) Descriptive information was terse: "Exterior wall construction of steel frame, reinforced concrete; interior construction of same with metal lath and planter; roof construction of steel frame, reinforced concrete; roof covering of composition roofing." 2.) The gross dimension of the structure were listed as "118 feet (wide) by 256 feet (long): the entrance foyer was 50 feet across. 3.) No mention was made of the 2 Hindu gods that would flank the stage, the 100 foot tall entrance hall, the "Goddess of Fire" mural in the foyer, the marble pier bases on the ground floor, etc, etc.

By the time construction was completed in 1928 Oakland was the proud recipient of a Hindu-Deity mixed use complex of 37 shops, 91 offices and a theater that originally seated almost 4000 patrons. The 3 story commercial perimeter of street level shops and offices above expanded the overall dimensions of the project to 218 feet (along Telegraph Avenue) by 256 feet deep.

The actual theater space was 118 feet wide and 198 feet deep. The foyer was 92 feet wide and 34 feet deep. The surmounting tower was 50 feet by 50 feet and rose to 115 feet. Other relevant heights were as follows: the theater roof, 82 feet; the office block, 52 feet; the shop wings, 25 feet.

The main entrance was culminated by a color tiled dome with supported verticle towers "typical of the Brahmanian Temple of Northern India"¹ and climaxed by a neon glass ball beacon atop the dome. The entrance foyer, faced with a gilded marquee, rises 100 feet to the colored dome above Maynard Dixon's mural "The Goddess of Fire". The remaining exterior of ground floor shops and 2 levels of offices above, are masonry with marble pier bases, and possesses decorative features and panels with a parapet that harmonizes with the central towers and interior designs. The exterior shell of the theater proper is poured in place concrete which is enclosed by the masonry wings described above.

The interior lobbies, stairways and lifts can only be described as remarkable exhibits of decoration and craftsmanship difficult or impossible to match today. The large sweeping balcony and main theater and generous stage utilize cast plaster that have been designed, decorated and painted to give one a sense of several religious civilizations passing before one's eyes, including two large Hindu gods to the left and right of the stage.

The sweeping expanse of ceiling that is made up of an overpowering maze of seemingly islamic patterns set in plaster castings and highly decorated to appear as wood is illuminated by huge colored light chandeliers based on East Indian motifs. All of these elements could never be reproduced today. The artisans no longer exist.

1. "San Francisco Chronicle" Oct. 26, 1928, 'New Oakland Theater Opens Its Doors'

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	DEC 28 1978
DATE ENTERED	FEB 9 1979

OAKLAND THEATRE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Exotic imagery associated with the movies of the early 20th century inspired movie palaces of Moorish, Baroque, Neo Classical, Spanish, Italian Renaissance and Oriental design. The Fox Oakland utilizes the imagery of a Northern Indian temple and combines it with Art Deco elements of the late 1920's. The commercial complex flanking the main theatre portion echoes design elements of the temple theme in a manner which suggests the Zig Zag Moderne of the 1920's; Art Deco lettering styles were also used throughout the original complex. The complex was soon surrounded by other (more refined) Art Deco masterpieces. "The Fox's" economic success spurred development of the now restored "Paramount". The tiled "Oakland Flower Market" was (and still is) diagonally across Telegraph Avenue and the elegant green tiled I. Magnin was (and still is) nearby.

PRESENT

Most of these precious elements remain in good condition today. The glass beacon which served as an airplane signal was removed after World War II. On January 8, 1946 Cahill Brothers, a San Francisco construction firm received a building permit (based on plans by O. A. Deiehmman) to close off the 100 foot tall entrance foyer with a false (suspended) ceiling and remodel the vestibule by sheathing it in stainless steel.

The building is in sound physical condition. The chandeliers, Maynard Dixon mural, organ and original theater seats have been removed. Otherwise, with minor exceptions, the theater remains as it was when built.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

Maury L. Diggs

Blds.

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Weeks & Day

Arch.

Built 1927 (opened Oct 27, 1928)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENT.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENT.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.2 acres approx.

QUADRANGLE NAME Oakland West Quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5 min. series

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,0 56,43,4,0 4,18,46,6,0

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

East: Telegraph Avenue West: Unenclosed; bounded by adjacent, existing parking area
North: 19th Avenue to sidewalk at east, north & south, open access space at
South: 18th Avenue west boundary.

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 Jacquelyn Goudeau, Community Planner
for O.C.C.U.R.

DATE January 17, 1978

ORGANIZATION Neighborhood Design Center of Oakland

DATE

STREET & NUMBER 1419 Broadway Rm. 722

TELEPHONE (415) 834-7990

CITY OR TOWN Oakland

STATE CA 94612

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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 Knory Mellon

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 3/9/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER [Signature]

DATE 2-9-79

ATTEST: CHIEF OF REGISTRATION [Signature]

DATE 2/9/78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 20 1978
DATE ENTERED	FEB 9 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8. PAGE 1.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

At the time of its completion in 1928 (4 years before the completion of the Paramount), the Fox Oakland was the premiere "deluxe" theater of Oakland. "The Fox" was the last "grand theater" completed before the "crash of '29". The enormous expenditure for extensive details would never be repeated again.

The Fox Oakland represents "The Movies", the medium of entertainment for all Americans in the three decades that preceded the development of T.V. "Let's take in a show"; "Movies, downtown, Saturday night"; and "The Fox" are indicative of a way of life that has now passed. "The Fox" carried many Oakland residents through the depression and allowed them to "forget their troubles and (let's) get happy" for awhile. This was especially true for Oakland's many minority residents who were not allowed in other "deluxe" theaters.

"The Fox" is an early example of a current popular trend, "the mixed use complex". The combination of theater, office and street level shops, in 1928 was Oakland's first mixed use complex. It is a small scale predecessor of Oakland's vision for tomorrow, its new "City Center".

The Fox Oakland was unique at the time of its opening. Not only did it present first class vaudeville acts accompanied by a 20 piece band, but also it was one of the few downtown theaters to present first run pictures exclusively. Celebrity performers included Ginger Rogers, Frank Sinatra with the Jimmy Dorsey Band and Bing Crosby.

At the time of its construction, the Fox Oakland was the largest theater west of Chicago. While its seating capacity was soon surpassed by the Fox San Francisco, the Fox Oakland was unique in that during its first years of operation, first run films continually played to full houses. In fact, the financial success of the Fox Oakland spurred development of the Paramount (now the home of Oakland's Symphony and Ballet).

While downtown Oakland was once filled with Art Deco buildings, only a scattered few now remain. "The Fox" complex, in conjunction with the refurbished Paramount, I. Magnin and the Oakland Flower Market represent the only remaining nucleus for an image of how downtown Oakland "used to be".

NOTE: See additional packet of information.

M:37-3

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	8	Page	2
Takoma Park Historic District Montgomery and Prince George's Counties Maryland			4 April 1984	

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

"Because of its natural beauty, affording rare opportunity for investigation along many special lines, Takoma Park is becoming a favorite dwelling place for scientists connected with the great government work in Washington. Already there is quite a colony of these gentlemen established here,...."

Mrs. Alice Bruan, daughter of Dr. William Ortan, who researched plant use for diabetes, has compiled a list of scientists who lived in Takoma Park between 1900 and the present, and this includes Dr. Albert F. Woods, one-time Dean of Agriculture and President of the University of Maryland, Dr. B. Y. Morrisson, hybridizer of the Glendale Azalea, and Dr. Stuart Armstrong, developer of the "Takoma" azalea. The work of Dr. Morrisson and Dr. Armstrong bring into the 1940's an historic relationship between the suburb of Takoma Park and especially strong horticultural and landscape concerns.

The following Department of Agriculture employees were residents of Takoma Park, 1900 - 1950's.

Dr. William Ortan, 1905-1930
600 Cedar Avenue
researched plant use for diabetes

Mr. or Dr. Whitney
7100 Cedar

Dr. Albert F. Woods, 1900-1909
Dean of Agriculture and President
of University of Maryland, 1909
Piney Branch and Highland Avenue

Dr. B. Y. Morrisson 1920's to 1949
Hybridizer of the Glendale Azalea
Piney Branch Road

Dr. Werner Stockberger, early 1900's
500 block Cedar

Dr. E. H. Siegler
201 Tulip Avenue

Dr. Corbet
500 block Cedar

Dr. or Mr. Griffiths
Maple and Carroll

Dr. Hedgecox
Cedar Avenue between Eastern
and Tulip

Mr. Levitz
500 block Cedar

Dr. Humphrey
Tulip and Cedar

Dr. Stuart Armstrong
developed the "Takoma" azalea

Mr. Gore
Holly Avenue

Dr. or Mr. LeClare
Tulip and Cedar

Dr. Skeels
Holly Avenue

Dr. Fred Myers, current resident
internationally known plant taxonomist
Buffalo Avenue

Dr. Galloway
Piney Branch near Dahlia

March 24, 1984
Source: Mrs. Alice Bruan
daughter of Dr. Wm. Ortan
726-1449

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 20 1978
DATE ENTERED	FEB 9 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9. PAGE 1.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Newspapers:

San Francisco Chronical
Oakland Tribune
Montclarion, Oakland
San Francisco Examiner
East Bay Voice, July 1976

Magazines:

The Console, November 1965 p. 11

Books:

Panorama - Harry Gray, 1973 p. 74-77
The Earliest Entertainment and Theaters - William Wente, p. 28-43

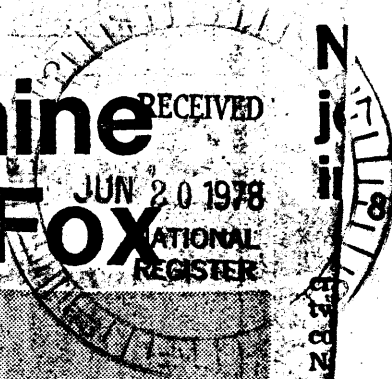
Places:

Oakland Public Library, California Room.
Oakland Museum, History Department.

Oral Traditionlist:

Mr. H. Minehart, Manager of Grand Lake Theatre, Oakland (Fox owned).
Mr. R. Raglan, native of Oakland.

The limelight may shine again for Oakland's Fox



By Brenda Payton

When Oakland's Fox Theater opened in October 1928, it was likened to the Temple of Chawmukh in India. Today it is abandoned and dark and scheduled to be auctioned Jan. 24. The building may be demolished after it is sold.

But a group of about 50 Oakland residents is organizing an effort to save the 50-year-old art deco building at 18th Street and Telegraph Avenue. According to one of the organizers, Marie Converse, the Save the Fox Group hopes to have the building declared an historic landmark.

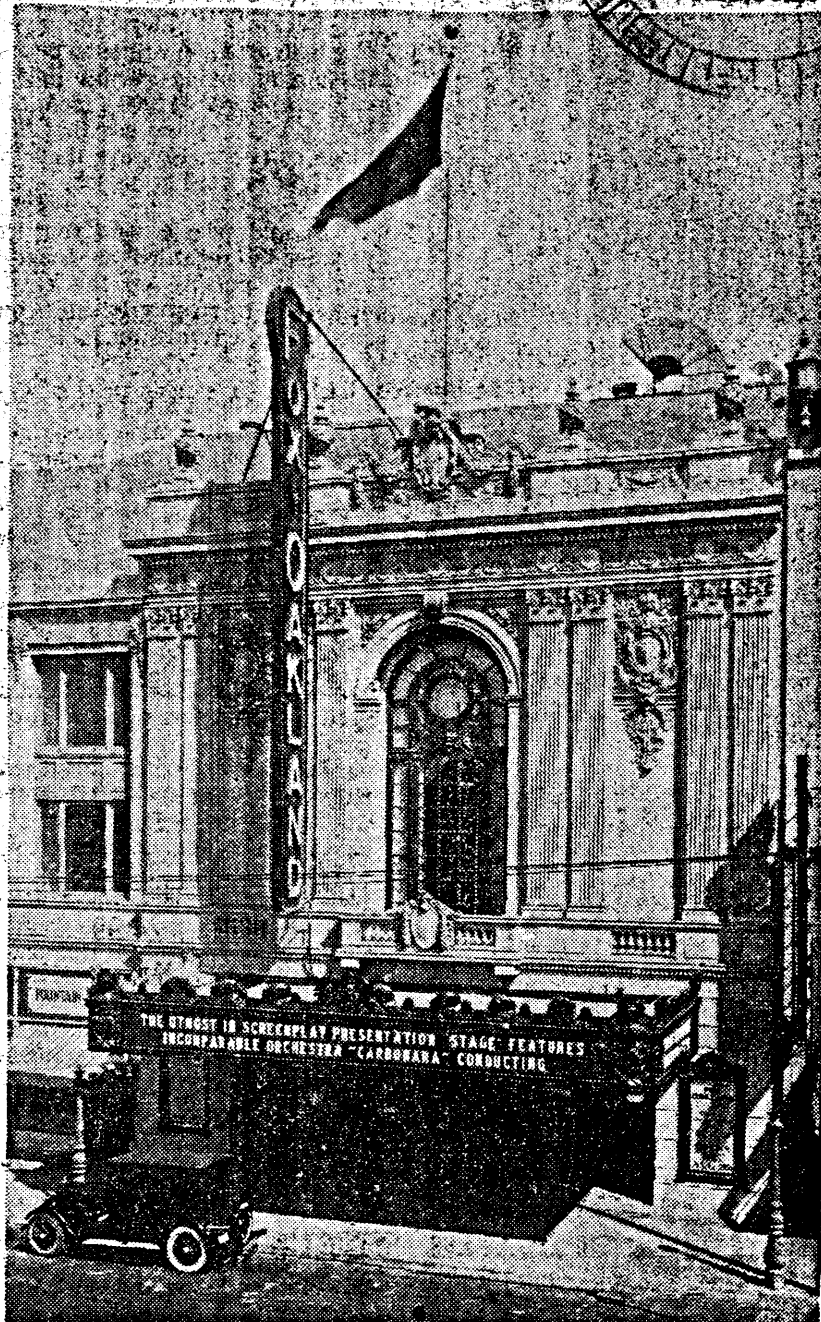
"It could be considered a landmark for both historic and architectural reasons," said Converse, president of the Board of Directors of the Oakland Citizens Committee for Urban Renewal (OCCUR). "The theater represents an era in film making we will never see again. And that wild, fancy kind of architecture can't be duplicated today."

Yesterday Oakland's Historical Preservation and Landmarks Commission voted to recommend landmark status for the building, and placed it on a study list, which protects it from destruction for 60 days. During that period, the Save the Fox group intends to go to the planning commission and then to the City Council in an attempt to save the building.

Jacque Goudeau, a community planner for the Neighborhood Environmental Design Center, said the state Landmarks Commission and the National Trust for Historic Preservation have already expressed interest in saving the Fox.

If the building is declared an historic landmark, Converse said, the auction would be postponed and the building would be protected from demolition and it might be eligible for government grants.

Meanwhile, the group hopes to raise the money to bid on the building. Converse said a limited partnership might be formed to



FOX THEATER WAS THE HEIGHT OF OPULENCE IN THE 1920s
Today, the art deco Oakland theater may be demolished

submit a bid. If that fails, she said the group hopes to influence the plans of whoever buys the building.

Goudeau said the Save the Fox Group has had difficulty obtaining

information about the pending sale from the building's owner, the Mann Corp. of Los Angeles. She said the corporation is asking for a starting bid of \$500,000.

A Bid to Save the Fox Theater

Fighting against time and the unknown, the Oakland Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board has launched action to designate the famous but vacant Fox Oakland Theater at 1817-23 Telegraph Ave. as a landmark to prevent its demolition.

The theater is scheduled to be sold at auction on Jan. 24. At this point, no one can predict who the new owner will be or what will happen to the building.

As requested by the Neighborhood Design Center of Oakland, with strong endorsement from Mayor Lionel J. Wilson, the board twice voted 7-0 yesterday to give the 3,200-seat facility the greatest protection possible at this time.

On a motion by board member Virginia Lawler, the board

voted to place the theater on its interim list for potential designation as a landmark.

On a motion by board member Marie Converse, the board voted to initiate the procedure for landmark designation, a process which will require concurrence by the Oakland Planning Commission and approval by the Oakland City Council.

Andrew Beckerman, coordinator of Neighborhood Design Center, told the board the Fox is "a form of art deco structure that has never been reproduced elsewhere. It's worth saving for that reason alone."

Beckerman said the theater is still in good condition.

Jacque Goudeau, community planner with the center, said: "I don't see getting rid of old

things that are still good..." She also pointed out that the Paramount Theatre of the Arts was built because of the success of the Fox.

After hearing Beckerman and Ms. Goudeau, Ms. Lawler said "I think it's important we do it right away to prevent its destruction" and offered the motion to place the theater on the interim list.

Carl Anglin, secretary to the board, said this action would be "a safeguard against indiscriminate demolition for 60 days."

After the meeting, he explained that if the council ultimately approves an ordinance to grant landmark designation to the theater, it does not mean that the facility cannot be demolished.

Such an ordinance, he said, means that demolition can be delayed for four months and extended another four months.

The board, in approving the two motions, also asked Anglin to notify the auctioneer and the owner of the theater, the Mann Theater Corp. of Los Angeles, of yesterday's developments.

The Neighborhood Design Center is a non-profit organization, at 1419 Broadway, funded by the city of Oakland to provide free architectural and landscape architectural planning to community groups.

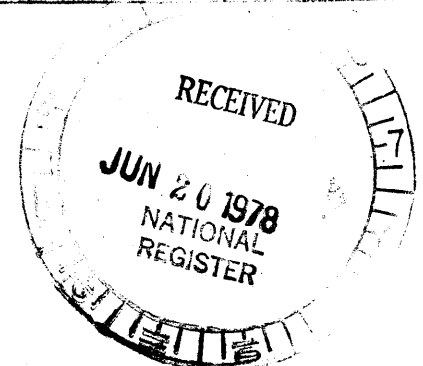
Among the speakers at the meeting was Bill McCrary, involved with several non-profit organizations, who proposed utilizing the Fox as a center of popular music in Oakland.

"The Fox could mean to this community what the Grand Ole Opry means to Nashville," McCrary said.

Besides the theater itself, which has a bigger stage than the Paramount, the steel and concrete structure houses 37 retail stores on the ground and has 91 offices on the second and third floors.

It has been vacant for several years. At one time, the city considered buying the property to use as a parking lot.

Ms. Converse, who heads a committee of about 20 residents trying to save the theater, said she has received "three full pages" of phone calls from people trying to join the committee ever since its activities became known.



Hoping To Save The Fox

Tribune
1/15/78

By ERNIE COX

The famous Fox Oakland Theater on Telegraph Avenue will be sold at auction Jan. 24, but a local citizens committee headed by Marie Converse hopes that will not be the end of the beautiful landmark.

Mrs. Converse, a community worker long active in preservation of Oakland landmarks, is heading a committee of about 20 local residents to "Save the Fox Theater."

The Fox stage with 'graceful mass of architecture'

She said no effort is being made to block the sale by the Mann Theater group but her committee hopes a buyer will come forth who is willing to restore the 3,200-seat theater auditorium to its once-glorious splendor and use it again as a center for movie attractions, film festivals and other related uses.

"It is a spectacular piece of architecture," said Mrs. Converse. "We need to get everybody excited about preserving such structures. This one is particularly vital to the downtown area. It is near the Grove-Shafter Freeway, a BART station, one block from Capwell's, and walking distance to the whole downtown."

She said her committee has "lots of ideas" for future use of the theater and urged prospective buyers to call her at 547-2025 for details.

"We are more than willing to work with any buyer in an effort to restore the old theater and find uses for it," Mrs. Converse said.

The auction will be held at 2 p.m. Jan. 24 on the site of the theater complex between 18th and 19th streets on Telegraph Avenue.

The steel and concrete building houses 37 retail stores on the ground level and has 91 separate offices on the second and third floors. Many of the offices are vacant. The theater has been dark for several years following an abortive attempt to revive it as a showcase for soul and rhythm and blues entertainment. In 1972, two fires that same year left the theater's elaborate electrical system and seats extensively damaged.

But it wasn't always like that.

urday Oct. 27, 1928 with Frank Newman as manager. The Tribune devoted much space to descriptions of what was then the largest theater on the Pacific Coast.

Its exterior, high and graceful dome was said to be "typical of a Brahmanical Temple of Northern India." The descriptions mentioned the colored tile inlays on the face of the main facade, mahogany doors, rich tapestries, a vestibule flanked by imported marble, four massive chandeliers of East Indian design, and above the screen itself a "graceful mass of carved architecture resembling the Temple of Chawmukh at Palitana in India."

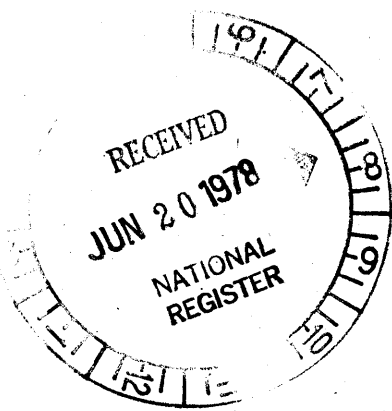
Opening day featured five showings of the film "The Air Circus," a show about young America's attempts to imitate Col. Charles Lindbergh. It starred Sue Carol, Arthur Lake, David Rollins and Louise Dresser. The stage show that went along with the movie was a production by Fanchon and Marco.

Stage shows went out with the Depression but in 1940 George White's Scandals came back to the Fox. And over the years all the "greats" have appeared either in person or on the screen.

Several years ago the city of Oakland seriously considered buying the theater complex and turning it into a municipal parking lot. The proposal was shelved, but Mrs. Converse is not certain the city has abandoned the idea.

She is sure about one thing.

"It would be a terrible tragedy to tear down any more of our distinctive old buildings for parking lots."



Montclairion Jan 18, 1978.



MOVIES ARE BACK. We all know that. Then why is the 3200-seat Fox Theatre in downtown Oakland sitting empty? The Fox is now owned by - Mann Theatres of Los Angeles which also has 37 retail stores and 91 office spaces. It is scheduled to be auctioned next Tuesday, Jan. 24 at 2 pm. An ad hoc group of Oakland Fox admirers called the "Fox Group" has spontaneously formed and is seeking petitions in their effort to consolidate interest in finding a buyer that will save the fox. The OCCUR board of directors has supported the concept of saving the Fox to become a revitalized part of the revitalized downtown Oakland. Fox group member and OCCUR president Mark Converse says interested persons may call 547-2025 or write to 5950 Romany Road, Oakland 94618.

