

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Minnesota
COUNTY:	Redwood
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	AUG 30 1974

1. NAME

COMMON: Odeon Theater

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: off MN 273

CITY OR TOWN: Belview CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Sixth

STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22 COUNTY: Redwood CODE: 097

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<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"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: City of Belview

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Belview STATE: Minnesota CODE: 097

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER: Redwood County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Redwood Falls STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

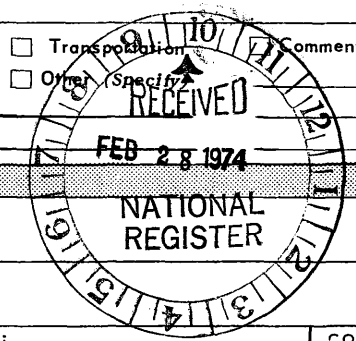
TITLE OF SURVEY: Minnesota Historical Society

DATE OF SURVEY: 13 December 1971 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Minnesota Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER: Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

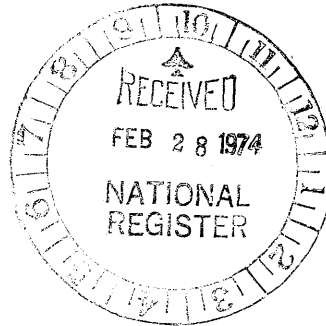
CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Odeon Theater in the small farming community of Belview in west central Minnesota was constructed in 1901 with a seating capacity of 750. It is a well preserved example of a rather simplified rural Queen Anne Style Theater.

The building is a single large hall with a stage at its rear end. Above the wainscoting, the walls and the barrel-vault ceiling are sheathed with pressed tin and a large tin "Welcome" adorns the wall above the stage. Backdrop curtains as well as the stage curtain, with advertising, used in early twentieth century theaters are intact.

All original characteristics of the theater have been well preserved including interior tin walls, barrel-vault ceiling, stage curtain. Adequate maintenance has been provided through the years to prevent any serious deterioration.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

A special act of the 1901 Minnesota Legislature permitted the small village of Belview to construct the Odeon Theater.

Home town talent shows were popular for a half century. Travelling vaudeville shows were featured regularly for the first two decades following construction.

It became the areas first motion picture house with the coming of silent films. Through the 20's and 30's double feature events were stages, usually home-talent or travelling or vaudeville acts, followed by a film.

Band concerts were regularly conducted by neighboring communities including the recognized home town "Belview Silver Cornet Band".

Overflow crowds were common. The overflow was often accommodated in a garage near by and the acts and actors moved between the audiences.

Basketball became popular in the area in the late 1920's and stationery seats were made portable to accommodate to permit Belview's participation in the popular sport.

Theater/cultural centers in Minnesota's small communities were normally combined with a business. The Odeon was a departure from the usual and is one of few such centers retaining its historic integrity.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Belview Independent", July 5, 1973
 "Story of a County", Webb & Swedlserg, pp. 444
 "Redwood Falls Gazette", Nov. 12, 1902

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

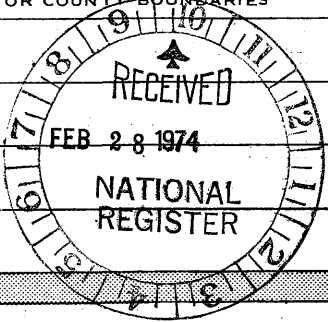
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . "	130.2 . "		44.0 36. 16 . "	93. 19 . 44 . "	
NE	0 . "	0 . "				
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

UTM
 15/315200
 4941450
 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: **Henry M. Harren, Survey Analyst** (Approved by **Charles W. Nelson, Supervisor**)

ORGANIZATION: **Minnesota Historical Society** DATE: **2/1/74**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Fort Snelling, Building 25**

CITY OR TOWN: **St. Paul** STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **22**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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: Russell W. Fridley
 Russell W. Fridley, Director

Title: Minnesota Historical Society

Date: February 22, 1974

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

A. R. Mortensen
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 8/30/74

ATTEST:

Markus A. Hennings
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 8.29.74

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Minnesota	
COUNTY Redwood	
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(Number all entries)

8. Significance

Architecturally, the Odeon Theater is the finest extant example in Redwood County and is one of the finest such buildings in southwestern Minnesota. It is truly representative of a type of building which, once commonplace in the architectural and social composition of nineteenth and early twentieth century rural communities, has all but disappeared. Its simple hall-plan made it important and continues to serve as a multifunctional asset to the community. It has retained its design integrity and function, and therefore merits high priority for historic preservation.

Odeon Theatre?