

DATA SHEET

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

APR 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

Wieting Theater

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

101 S. Church Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Toledo

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

Iowa

__ VICINITY OF
CODE

COUNTY

Tama

CODE

171

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Toledo ✓

STREET & NUMBER

103 S. Church St.

CITY, TOWN

Toledo

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Tama County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Toledo

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Wieting Theater was built in 1912. It is two stories, 50' x 100', with exterior walls faced with brick laid in stretcher bond. It features a Colonial Revival front facade beneath a brick parapet. Side windows and doors have round-arched heads, with stone imposts and keystones. This feature is repeated in the three-bay entrance arcade and flanking windows. On the second story, windows with jack-arch lintels flank a Palladian window centered in the slightly protruding front pavilion. Above the window is a gable with partially returned modillion cornices. Modillions are absent from the cornices of the side elevations. Completing the "classical" atmosphere is a flat-roofed porch, four fluted columns with square capitals supporting the entablature. (the capitals were originally Ionic)

The interior, which has been remodelled in the last 10 years, contains an auditorium, balcony, stage, dressing rooms, and an orchestra pit, the latter now covered to enlarge the stage area.

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 1912

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wieting Theater is significant, among Iowa's small-town opera houses, for its Colonial Revival character, expressed in the columned porch, Palladian window and modillion cornice. The result is somewhat artificial, particularly when viewed against the parapet above, which is reminiscent of the days of false-front commercial construction. The singular character of the Wieting may be due to its singular history. The Wieting was one of three, possibly identical, opera houses funded by Ella W. Wieting as memorials to her husband, C.W. Wieting. The Wietings came to Toledo in 1867 from Worcester, NY. Wieting was a dentist by training, but took advantage of opportunity in a relatively new town to involve himself in the mercantile and abstract businesses. He was also co-founder in 1878 of the Toledo City Bank. Around 1900, Wieting and his wife returned to New York, this time to Syracuse, where he died in 1906. Subsequently, Ella Wieting commissioned the construction of three opera houses, in Toledo, Iowa; Syracuse and Worcester, NY, in memory of her husband.

Like many such small-town opera houses, the Wieting Theater served a variety of community uses. Travelling road shows were the highlight of activity in early years, augmented by local school productions, political meetings and lyceum courses. As early as 1913, movies were a frequent fare. The Wieting closed in 1958, and reopened in 1960 under the supervision of a local women's club. It functions today in the traditional way, offering films, and plays performed by school, church, and at-large community groups.

