

Indiana Theatre  
683 Ohio Street  
d. 1921

Owner: United Artists Theatre Circuit  
2545 Hempstead Turnpike  
East Meadow, New York 11554

Description:

Photo #3, Bldg. #52

The Indiana Theatre, built in 1921, is located at the southwest corner of Ohio and Seventh Streets in downtown Terre Haute. The building is constructed of red brick and is basically rectangular in plan, with an extension on the north providing frontage on Ohio Street. The building was the work of noted Chicago theatre designer, John Eberson, and features elaborate terra cotta trim and a Spanish Baroque design motif.

The main entry to the theatre is located at the intersection of Ohio and 7th Streets, where the building's facade curves to negotiate the corner. The theatre ticket window is located at the center of this section of the facade, and is flanked by the large double entry doors. On the second floor, large windows with articulated, rounded-arch tops appear over the ticket window and the theatre doors. Each of these windows features an elaborate terra cotta hood mold whose exuberant detailing includes coats of arms festoons, and volutes. These windows are flanked by large pilasters which feature terra cotta quoins, rope molding, and cornice work along with gauged brickwork in a repeating pattern. Terra cotta pinnacles are also employed atop the parapet wall at several locations. On the Ohio Street and 7th Street facades, the ground floor contains a series of retail shops, with each bay enframed by terra cotta banding. The second floor features a number of identical, double-hung windows positioned at regular intervals across both the north and east facades. These windows also feature elaborate terra cotta hoods with volutes and pinnacles, although they are less lavish than the three large window hoods on the corner facade. The attic area contains small round windows positioned over each second floor opening. The north and east facades terminate in a tile facade roof.

The interior of the theatre is also lavishly decorated and remains unaltered. The lobby features extensive marble work, caryatids, and a fountain. The auditorium, which seats 1600, features two balcony levels over the main floor and decorative false boxes on either side of the stage. The ornate ceiling in the auditorium area remains intact.

Significance:

The Indiana Theatre is architecturally significant as a highly intact example of the lavishly ornamented movie palaces of the early 20th century. Designed by well-known Chicago theatre architect, John Eberson, the building features abundant terra cotta detailing, much of it executed in high sculptural relief. The building is one of Terre Haute's few examples of Spanish Baroque architecture.

The Indiana Theatre, like Eberson's Hippodrome further to the west (#54), was one of Terre Haute's leading theatres throughout the first half of the 20th century. Typical of the ornate movie palaces being built in major American

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Indiana Theatre  
683 Ohio Street

Building #52, Continued

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cities in the 1920's, the Indiana Theatre featured lavish interior appointments, including ornate plasterwork, mosaic tile, and a fountain. The exterior made abundant use of terra cotta ornamentation manufactured by American Terra Cotta and Ceramic Company, of Chicago. Constructed by the John A. Schumacher Company, of Indianapolis, the building cost over \$750,000 when it was completed in 1921. Flourishing throughout the first half of the century, the Indiana was, by 1980, the only functioning theatre in the central business district.

Eberson also was responsible for the design of the Embassy Theatre in Fort Wayne, listed on the National Register in 1975.

#### Geographical Data

Acreage: Less than one acre

UTM Reference: 16/464960/4368280

Boundary: Map #1806-21, Block 479, Parcel 14

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Indiana Theatre  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Downtown Terre Haute MRA  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: INDIANA, Vigo

DATE RECEIVED: 10/17/97 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/28/97  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/13/97 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/01/97  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 83004578

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 11/13/97 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the  
National Register

RECOM. / CRITERIA Accept

REVIEWER Edson Beall

TELEPHONE 202.343.1572

DISCIPLINE Historic Preservation

DATE 11/13/97

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



Removal  
of  
D.O

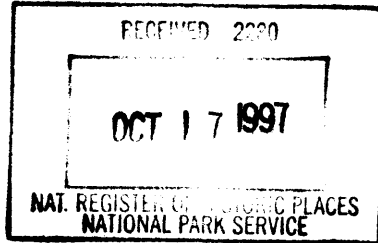
INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LARRY D. MACKLIN, DIRECTOR

Division of Historic Preservation  
and Archaeology  
402 W. Washington St., Rm. 274  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
tel: 317-232-1646  
fax: 317-232-0693

83-4570

September 30, 1997



Carol D. Shull, Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
800 N. Capitol St. NW  
Washington, D. C. 20002

Dear Ms. Shull:

I am forwarding for your consideration a notarized letter from the current owners of the Indiana Theatre building in Terre Haute, Indiana. As their letter states, the building was determined eligible for listing in the National Register on June 30, 1983 but not listed due to owner objection.

The current owners are requesting that the building be listed and have provided current photo documentation to prove that the building is in the same condition it was when nominated by the Indiana Historic Preservation Review Board and determined eligible.

I concur with this request and endorse the listing of the Indiana Theatre Building in the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Larry D. Macklin  
State Historic Preservation Officer

enclosure

"EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER"



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

**United States Department of the interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number photos Page 1

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Photo 1: Indiana Theatre  
Vigo County, Indiana  
Marshall Davis  
February 5, 1997  
Historic Landmarks Foundation, 340 West Michigan St., Indianapolis, IN 46202  
Looking Southwest, view of main entrance of building at SW corner of 7th and Cherry Streets

Photo 2: Indiana Theatre  
Vigo County, Indiana  
Marshall Davis  
February 5, 1997  
Historic Landmarks Foundation, 340 West Michigan St., Indianapolis, IN 46202  
Looking Northwest, view of South 7th Street facade

Photo 3: Indiana Theatre  
Vigo County, Indiana  
Marshall Davis  
February 5, 1997  
Historic Landmarks Foundation, 340 West Michigan St., Indianapolis, IN 46202  
Interior view of atrium

Photo 4: Indiana Theatre  
Vigo County, Indiana  
Marshall Davis  
February 5, 1997  
Historic Landmarks Foundation, 340 West Michigan St., Indianapolis, IN 46202  
Interior view of lobby and stairs to balcony

Photo 5: Indiana Theatre  
Vigo County, Indiana  
Marshall Davis  
February 5, 1997  
Historic Landmarks Foundation, 340 West Michigan St., Indianapolis, IN 46202  
Interior detail of lobby ceiling

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Photo 6: Indiana Theatre  
Vigo County, Indiana  
Marshall Davis  
February 5, 1997  
Historic Landmarks Foundation, 340 West Michigan St., Indianapolis, IN 46202  
Interior view of stage from balcony

Photo 7: Indiana Theatre  
Vigo County, Indiana  
Marshall Davis  
February 5, 1997  
Historic Landmarks Foundation, 340 West Michigan St., Indianapolis, IN 46202  
Interior view of north wall of auditorium from the stage

Photo 8: Indiana Theatre  
Vigo County, Indiana  
Marshall Davis  
February 5, 1997  
Historic Landmarks Foundation, 340 West Michigan St., Indianapolis, IN 46202  
Interior view of original lighting equipment located stage left