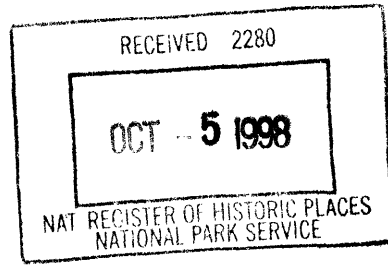


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Roxy Theatre
other names/site number 32CV527

2. Location

street & number 714 Third Street N/A not for publication
city or town Langdon vicinity
state North Dakota code ND county Cavalier code 019 zip code 58249

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title *Samuel J. Wegner* 10/1/98
Samuel J. Wegner Date
State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

- I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper *Sandra McClelland* Date of Action 11/18/98

Roxy Theatre
Name of Property

Cavalier, ND
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
RECREATION AND CULTURE:
Theater

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
RECREATION AND CULTURE:
Theater

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
Commercial Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation Concrete
walls Brick
roof Asphalt
other Metal, Steel

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery
- E** a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1936-1947

Significant Dates

1936

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

John Marshall, architect

Welworth Enterprises

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Cavalier County Library

Roxy Theatre
Name of Property

Cavalier, ND
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	Zone	Easting	Northing	3	Zone	Easting	Northing
	14	5 4 6 4 2 0	5 4 0 0 7 2 0				
2	Zone	Easting	Northing	4	Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carol Hart
organization Northern Lights Arts Council date August 11, 1997
street & number P. O. Box 162 telephone (701)283-5458
city or town Langdon state ND zip code 58249

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Northern Lights Arts Council, Carol Hart, President
street & number P. O. Box 162 telephone (701)283-5458
city or town Langdon state ND zip code 58249

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Roxy Theatre
Cavalier County, ND

DESCRIPTION

The Roxy Theatre, a high, narrow building, is located in the center of Langdon's business district. It was built in 1936 by Eddie Reuben as part of Welworth Enterprises of Minneapolis, Minnesota. According to the December 31, 1936, issue of the Cavalier County Republican, John Marshall of Devils Lake, North Dakota, was the architect for the Roxy Theatre. The building is a Commercial design which has been modified to meet the needs of a small town. The Roxy is located on the west side of Third Street, better known as Main Street. Site dimensions are 25 feet north and south and 140 feet east and west; the building to land ratio is 100%.

The Roxy's exterior is exceptionally well preserved and maintains a high level of integrity. Because the building was designed to be as fireproof as possible, it has a concrete foundation and the concrete exterior walls are faced with brick. Both side walls are shared with neighboring buildings. Granger described these buildings in the following manner: The one on the north, 32CV529, is described as Art Deco/Moderne. The one on the south 32CV525, is described as Corporate International. According to Granger, neither were sites which merited further research toward an assessment of National Register eligibility.

Two brick chimneys rise from the roof of the building. The one on the north is utilized by the O.S. Johnson building, 32CV529. The one on the south is used by the Roxy. The asphalt covered wood roof, which needs repair, slopes from east to west. Two metal turrets visible from the front of the building are connected to the air exchange unit. To heighten the fireproof status, the three windows above the marquee have steel frames. Two windows are functional; the center one has been covered with boards for years.

The marquee, designed by Bartl Brothers of Minneapolis, is described as a "bold Streamlined Moderne marquee" (Granger). The curved surface of this over-sidewalk canopy has been repainted in its original colors of red, yellow, and white. The marquee was designed to be lighted with 9700 watts of neon and bulb lights. Recently many of the bulbs were replaced and lit for an evening parade in Langdon. Underneath the marquee, the Roxy is entered through windowed swinging doors. Tickets can be purchased outside on the north side of the entrance through a window opening on the street or inside from another window in the lobby.

The basement floor is a concrete slab; basement dimensions are 23 feet east and west and 25 feet north and south. This space includes a boiler room and public rest rooms. The west end space under the stage houses the air conditioning unit and other mechanical equipment. Another original feature is a tunnel which runs along the north side of the building from basement to backstage. This tunnel, which functioned as part of the heating/cooling system, is 4 feet wide and averages 5½ feet high. The Roxy is the only building in Langdon designed with such a feature. The main floor has 3500 square feet. This includes a 25-foot by 13-foot lobby, a 24-foot by 8-foot foyer, a 107-foot seating area, and a 12-foot stage. The entire theatre seats 280, and the main floor is sloped to the west.

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Section number 7 Page 2

Roxy Theatre
Cavalier County, ND

DESCRIPTION (continued)

The integrity of the interior of the structure is well preserved; however, the furnishings have been changed several times. The interior walls of the main theatre are plaster, covered with special acoustical sound tiles. Currently, a plywood wainscoting covers the lower portion of the wall in the auditorium. The ceiling is also finished in acoustical tile. Because of a roof leak, ceiling tiles near the stage need to be replaced. Although the interior needs cleaning and paint the acoustics are excellent. Ten Art Deco fixtures of three-tiered, funnel-shaped lighting are utilized on the sidewalls of the main floor. The seating on the main floor, which slopes to the west, is not original; however, the original aisle lights are preserved. In keeping with the fireproof design, two concrete stairways with original wrought iron railings are found on the north and south sides of the foyer leading to the balcony. The stairway from the foyer to the basement is also concrete. In addition, the doors do not have wood molding, but are cutouts in the concrete walls.

The second floor, built of concrete, is 44 feet by 24 feet totaling 616 square feet. This upper level consists of terraced original seating for 80, a projection room, plus a half bath and a small office. The projection room is a sealed chamber constructed of steel reinforced concrete throughout, including ceiling and floor. A steel fire-door protects the only entrance to the chamber. Of the two windows within the projection room, one is boarded up, and the other is constructed of fireproof glass. The projection room still has its original battleship linoleum.

Between 1936 and 1978, the theatre kept pace with modern theatre developments. According to the Cavalier County Republican, it was well maintained with periodic redecorating, including replacement of all seats. In 1949, a 3-D screen was installed. In 1954, a complete four-track stereophonic sound system was purchased to accommodate Cinemascope. A new wide screen was also installed to compliment the system, which caused some remodeling of the stage area (Roxy Celebrating). The proscenium stage drapery is from 1950s remodeling, but there is no painted proscenium arch. The original public address system, complete with speaker horn, is available for display.

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Section number 8 Page 3

Roxy Theatre
Cavalier County, ND

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Roxy Theatre, which was open continuously from 1936 till January 1995, is historically significant for its positive impact on community activities. The Period of Significance is 1936, the building's construction date, through 1947, the 50-year cut-off date established by the National Register. The building meets National Criterion A because it functioned as a meeting place for entertainment for people of all ages, and also a patriotic entity which took an active part in preserving freedom in times of national crisis. The Roxy meets National Criterion C as it is a well-preserved example of the Commercial style modified to fit the needs of the small town of Langdon, North Dakota.

At the present time no Langdon sites are listed in the National Register, although an architectural inventory by Granger and Kelly identified 24 sites, the Roxy included, which merited further research. Nine commercial sites were noted (one has been demolished). All are within a block of the Roxy; two have been vacated within the last year. The former First National Bank building is the "largest and most ornate Victorian-era commercial structure using Richardsonian Romanesque style (32CV531)." The present Eagles Club is a one story building of the Beaux Arts style on a small commercial scale (32CV533). Two large two-story brick commercial buildings with ornate brickwork share the intersection of Third street and Eighth avenue (32CV534 and 32CV535). Another is a Romanesque Revival style (32 CV 544) and one is a restrained, Chicago style (32CV517). The Post Office is Neo Classical style (32CV425).

According to an architectural inventory of Langdon completed in 1986-87, the Roxy is "important" as a good example of movie theatre design and as one of Langdon's best examples of post-World War I architecture." (Granger)

Historical Background:

The town of Langdon, ND, population 2,200, is located in Cavalier County, population 5,474, and is 17 miles south of the Canadian border and approximately 50 miles west of Minnesota. The economy is based on agriculture, although the city is searching for information-age businesses to diversify the economy. In addition, Langdon has joined with the communities of Pembina, Cavalier, and Walhalla to create the Rendezvous Region. The purpose of this group is to feature the unique geographic Pembina Gorge created by the Pembina River and to emphasize the recreational, historic, and cultural aspects of the area as well as promote the cities involved.

The Roxy was designed by Devils Lake architect John Marshall, a former president of the North Dakota State Architects Association. The Devils Lake World newspaper described Marshall.

He was born April 12, 1864, at Edinburgh, Scotland, where he received his education. Where he was 25 years old he came to the United States and worked as a contractor and architect in Illinois, Indiana and Nebraska while headquartering in Chicago. He was married in 1892 to Amanda E. Kaley at Chicago.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Roxy Theatre
Cavalier County, ND

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

In 1895 he came to North Dakota and lived at Devils Lake before going to Starkweather where he took up a homestead and farmed for 10 years. He later returned to Devils Lake and became actively engaged as an architect. He designed many buildings in Devils Lake including the school and also was the architect for schools at Grafton, Lakota and Edmore.

In 1942 his wife died and in 1946 he retired from active work and spent his time traveling and visiting his children. He was a member of the Masonic lodge, the Eastern Star, Elks and Presbyterian church. At the time of his death (10 October 1949) he was North Dakota's oldest architect.

Using Marshall's design, Eddie Reuben of Welworth Enterprises of Minneapolis, built the theatre in 1936. According to the Cavalier County Republican, it was Langdon's second theatre; the first was the Electric Theatre, built by Henry Waldron. The first theatre closed in the early 1930s. The Roxy Theatre was the sixth theatre opened by Welworth Enterprises. Welworth began with the Pan theatre at Hennepin and Seventh in Minneapolis and then acquired the Hollywood theatre in Sioux Falls, SD, the Lake and Hollywood theatres in Devils Lake, ND, a theatre in New Ulm, MN, and built the Roxy in Langdon. Both theatres in Devils Lake have closed and become other commercial businesses; however, the history of the out-of-state Welworth theatres is unknown. Eventually, the Welworth company grew to more than 40 properties, and then expanded into outdoor theatres and radio (Roxy Celebrating).

In 1965, Welworth sold the Roxy to Swede Bartlett who had managed it since 1937. Bartlett operated the theatre until 1978 when he sold it to John Dunford. Dunford operated the Roxy till it closed in January 1995. After this, the theatre was purchased by the Northern Lights Arts Council in March 1997.

The Roxy Theatre had a strong social impact on the Langdon community by providing affordable local entertainment and by promoting community spirit through hands-on activities. In addition to showing movies, the Roxy philosophy was one of positive civic activity which involved people of all ages. Easter egg hunts, kiddie parades, and visits from Santa delighted children. One boy asked Santa for a warm coat; the Roxy provided a warm coat under his Christmas tree. The Roxy also hosted talent shows, magic shows which included hypnotists, and provided a winter series of amateur boxing following the rules of the state boxing commission.

The Roxy's patriotic role was varied. During World War II, the Roxy was headquarters for the sale of war bonds. Also, the Roxy collected rubber from children for admission to matinees. The proceeds from the sale of this rubber was paid to the army and navy relief funds, Red Cross, and USO. The Roxy also supported charities such as the Heart Fund and fund drives for polio victims.

During the Cold War, the Roxy was one of six buildings in Langdon designated as fallout shelters. According to the Cavalier County Emergency Management coordinator, fallout shelters were selected on the basis of the shielding power of the mass of the structure so the concrete structure of the Roxy was

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Roxy Theatre
Cavalier County, ND

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

an excellent choice. When cleaning the building, boxes of stale crackers and cylinders of water were discovered in the tunnel. The tunnel is believed to be designed for air exchange.

Another attraction was Bank Night. Patrons signed-up for a drawing which was held each Wednesday during the intermission between the first and second movie. The winner had to be present to collect the cash award. Each week the amount increased if the person whose name was drawn was not present. When the former manager was hospitalized after a stroke, a nurse from a neighboring city said, "Of course I'll take care of you. Winning at bank night financed my nursing school" (Bartlett). On the 25th anniversary of the Roxy, the Cavalier County Republican responded in this way: "the Roxy policy in Langdon, like the Welworth policy in the Midwest, has been one of effective civic activity and keeping pace with the community in property improvement and modernization" (Roxy Celebrating).

The Northern Lights Arts Council plans to reopen the Roxy by January 1998. The goal is to keep the building as historically accurate as possible. To date, the marquee has been painted to its original colors of red, yellow-gold, and white. Plans are being made to purchase 570 light bulbs in the original size and shape to illuminate the marquee as it used to be. Plans also include replacing the neon in the original format used in 1936. The front entrance of the building was painted a dark forest green; scraping this area did not reveal the original color. The office area that was added in the upper part of the lobby during the 1970s has been removed allowing theatre goers to enjoy the original 15-foot ceiling. Future plans are to update the projection and sound system and install a handicapped restroom, sympathetic to the historic structure, its architecture style, and detail.

The goal is to cooperate with the Chamber of Commerce and city of Langdon to return the Roxy to its former leadership role in the civic activities of the community. This can be accomplished by showing movies as well as reviving the original multipurpose use of providing a home for school and community drama, piano recitals, and variety shows.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9, 10 Page 6

Roxy Theatre
Cavalier County, ND

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bartlett, Nancy (daughter of manager from 1937-1978). Interview with Carol Hart. June 23, 1997.

Cavalier County Republican, Dec. 29, 1936.

"John Marshall Prominent City Architect, Dies." The Devils Lake World. 12 October 1949, p.1.

Granger, Susan and Scott Kelly. "The Langdon Historic Sites Inventory Project; North Dakota Cultural Resources Survey, 1986-1987." Ms. Archeology & Historic Preservation Division, North Dakota Heritage Center, Bismarck.

"Roxy Celebrating Welworth Silver Anniversary." Cavalier County Republican. August 8, 1957, p.9.

"Roxy Is Sold to Bartlett; Manager Here Since 1937." Cavalier County Republican. February 25, 1965, p. 1.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

Township 161 North, Range 60 West, Section 23, Lot 6, Block 22, original townsite of Langdon, North Dakota.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Roxy Theatre.