

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 10 1978
DATE ENTERED	JUL 7 1978

**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 ****** Arcade Theater

AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 822 Ryan Street

CITY, TOWN Lake Charles

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
7th - John Breauz

STATE Louisiana

--- VICINITY OF
CODE 22

COUNTY Calcasieu
CODE 019 ✓

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Southern Amusement Company and Mrs. Clyde M. Williams ✓

STREET & NUMBER

Moss Building, 818 Ryan Street

CITY, TOWN

Lake Charles

STATE

Louisiana

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Calcasieu Parish Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER 1000 Ryan Street

CITY, TOWN

Lake Charles

STATE

Louisiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Louisiana Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1978

--- FEDERAL STATE --- COUNTY --- LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

Baton Rouge

STATE

Louisiana

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

The Arcade is a 1910 brick theatre which is set in the main commercial area of Lake Charles. It is situated immediately to the rear of the Miller Commercial building on Ryan Street. The theatre is entered from Ryan Street by means of a one story passageway which passes through the center of the Miller Building and into the theatre lobby. This is the only public entrance. The Miller Building and the passageway were replaced in 1927 after a fire. The present passageway was remodeled in 1935. It is divided into bays by Corinthian pilasters and recessed ceiling panels.

The theatre itself has brick bearing walls and a wood truss roof with steel tie rods. Thin steel columns support the theatre's two balconies. The total seating capacity is 920.

The most conspicuous aspect of the interior is its plaster decorative work. Decorative features such as moldings, aedicules, entablatures, ornamental grill work, brackets and medallions were ordered from the Decorator's Supply Catalogue of Chicago. These features were applied without regard to unity of style or character. For example, the lower balcony is decorated with heavy rococo scroll panels and cartouches. By contrast the upper balcony is decorated with delicate Adamesque garlands.

The area of the stage presents similar contrasts. The proscenium is richly ornamented with Baroque cartouches, cherubs and other forms. Other areas, notably the ceiling above the stage, have restrained classical ornamentation. This type of contrast can be seen in the bay seat balconies as well. Despite these disparities, all the plaster ornamentation is well executed and in good condition.

The theatre itself is structurally sound and has not been significantly altered. The boundaries of the nomination include the theatre, the passageway and the Miller Building. Although the passageway is not original, the present one is over 50 years old and it follows the original plan. The passageway could not stand independently of the Miller Building so it was decided to include the Miller Building as well.

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 <i>LB F 6-30-78</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN <i>6-30</i>	
<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 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

From its inception the Arcade was an important and popular focal point for the performing arts in the Lake Charles area. It drew crowds from the surrounding parishes as well as eastern Texas. On the theatre's opening night, for example, a special train brought people from the DeRidder area. Other towns including Welsh, Longville, Lake Arthur, and Jennings, were also represented. The regional significance of the Arcade is also shown by the fact that when famous performers came to the area, the Arcade was where they entertained. Raymond Hitchcock appeared in traditional Shakesperian roles, while Ethel Barrymore played in popular melodramas. Johnny Jones and other popular vaudville troupes appeared regularly. Other performers included renowned dancers Isadora Duncan and Ruth St. Denis, as well as the Russian Ballet, and John Philip Sousa with the U. S. Marine Band. Famous magicians including Blackstone and Houdini also appeared.

Because of its location midway between New Orleans and Houston, many traveling performers stopped and entertained at Lake Charles. This importance as a stopping place was enhanced by a "blue law" in Texas which forbade theatrical performances on Sundays. As a result, the Arcade was often a convenient place for traveling theatrical troupes to stage a Sunday night performance enroute to Texas.

In addition to its theatrical significance, the Arcade also served as a center for social life in Lake Charles. From 1910 to 1973 when it closed, the Arcade was the place where townspeople met for all types of community activities. These included political gatherings, charity benefits, amateur theatricals, Thanksgiving and Easter Services, high school plays and graduation ceremonies. Numerous clubs, civic groups, and associations used it for regular meetings. As a result, many Lake Charles residents have a strong personal relationship with the Arcade, because they identify it with memorable events in their lives.

The Arcade also enjoys minor architectural significance. It was designed by I. C. Carter, a prolific local architect who was responsible for many buildings in the Lake Charles area. The theatre is also notable for its high quality, catalogue ordered, plaster ornamentation.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lake Charles American Press, 327 Broad Street, Lake Charles, Louisiana.
 Set of original blueprints of the project, I. C. Carter, Architect, 1910.
 Set of blueprints, Favrot and Reed, Architects, F. J. Behrbass, Associate -
 Remodeling entrance to Arcade Theater, 1935.
 Interview with Maude Reid covering personal recollections and scrapbooks containing
 programs and handbills.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	47,910,0	3,34,39,3,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The exterior wall of the theater building and the Miller building are the boundaries for this nomination.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

ORGANIZATION

Calcasieu Historical Preservation Society

DATE

November 1977

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 5621, Drew Station

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Lake Charles

STATE

Louisiana

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

J. Bernard Larimer

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Office

DATE

24 April 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles W. Henry

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

7-7-78

ATTEST:

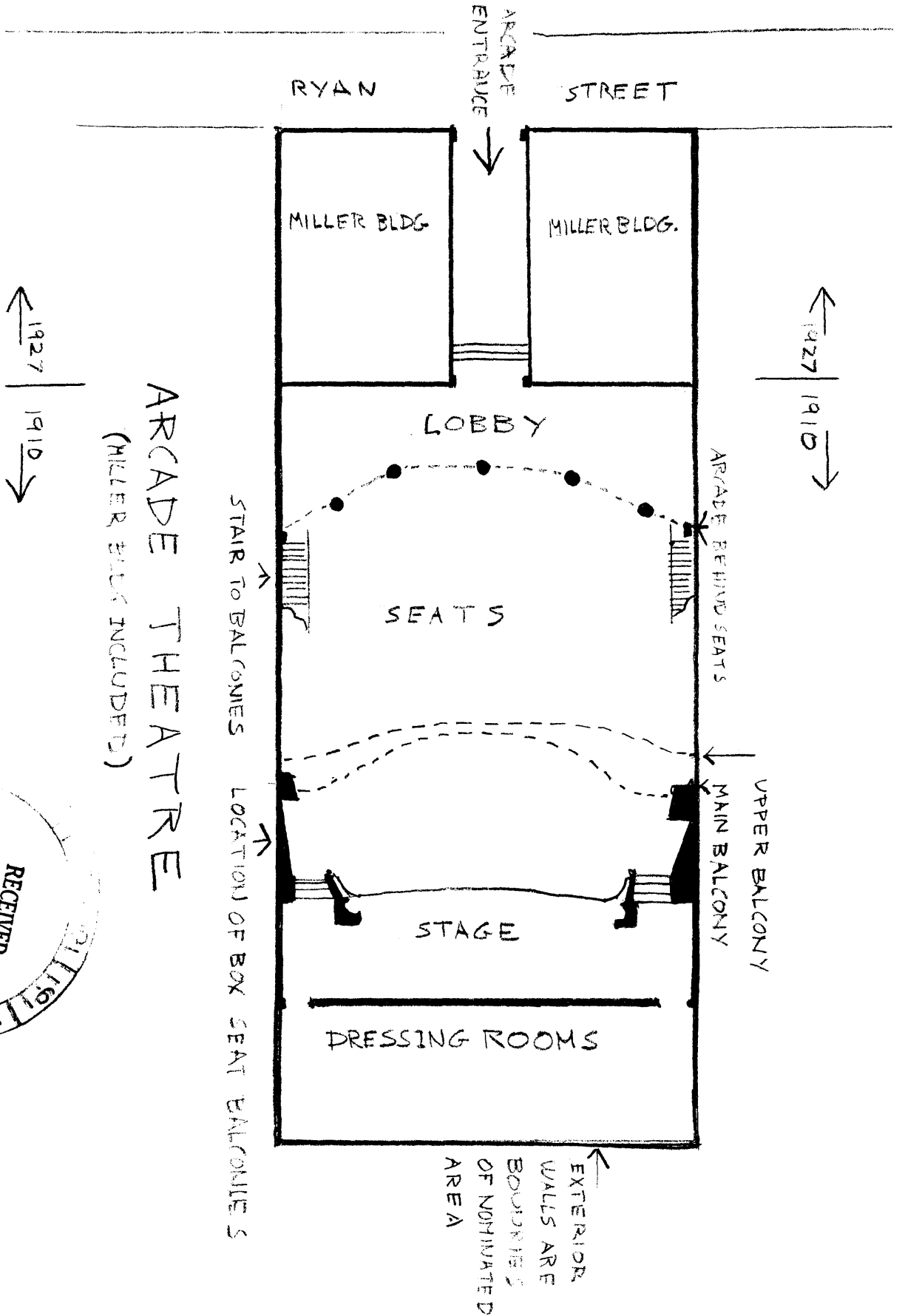
William Cole

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

7-6-78

NEEDED OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



ARCADIE THEATRE
(MILLER BLDG INCLUDED)

