NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90)

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 Malek Theater

other names/site number The Malek

2. Location	
street & number116 2nd Avenue NE	not for publication <u>N/A</u>
city or town <u>Independence</u>	vicinity <u>N/A</u>
state <u>lowa</u> code <u>IA</u> county <u>Buchanan</u>	code <u>019</u> zip code <u>50644</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	an

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 X\_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_\_\_\_ statewide

•										
(	(	S	ee	continuati	on sl	heet fo	or ad	Iditional	comment	s.)

Barlana a-Marchael Signature of certifying official	DSHPO	March 31	2009
Signature of certifying official		Date	•

### STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

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

Malek Theater Buchanan County, Iowa

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	Eben H.	Beall	5.21.09
removed from the National Registe	r	-	
Signature	of the Keeper	Date of Act	ion
5. Classification		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

#### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- X private
- \_\_\_\_ public-local
- \_\_\_\_ public-State
- \_\_\_\_ public-Federal

### **Category of Property**

(Check only one box.) X building(s) district site structure object

#### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_1	_0_	buildings
		sites
		structures
1	0	objects Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: \_0

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

<u>N/A</u>

Malek Theater Buchanan County, Iowa

6. Function o	r Use		
	ons (enter categories from instructions) REATION AND CULTURE	Sub:	Theater
Current Functic Cat:	ons (enter categories from instructions) VACANT/NOT IN USE	Sub:	
7. Descriptio	n		
	assification (enter categories from instru ERN MOVEMENT	ctions): Sub:	Art Deco
Materials (enter foundation roof walls	METAL/Steel CONCRETE STONE		
other	<u>GLASS</u>		

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.
- X 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.

USDI/NRHP Registration Form Name of Property or District County, State

Malek Theater Buchanan County, Iowa

#### Criteria Considerations

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

 А	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
 В	removed from its original location
 С	a birthplace or a grave
 D	a cemetery
 Е	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): <u>ARCHITECTURE</u>

Period of Significance

<u> 1947</u>

Significant Dates 1947

Significant Person (complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** 

Architect/Builder Wetherell & Harrison

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

#### 9. Major Bibliographical References

(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

- <u>X</u> State Historic Preservation Office
- \_\_\_\_ Other State agency
- \_\_\_\_ Federal agency
- Local government
- \_\_\_\_ University
- \_\_\_ Other

Name of repository

#### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	<u>591016.77</u>	<u>4702485.105</u>	3		
2				4		

\_\_\_ 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.)

1	1.	F	0	rr	n	F	're	p	a	re	d	By	
---	----	---	---	----	---	---	-----	---	---	----	---	----	--

name/title Anthony Fitz, trustee/Camilla Deiber, Architectural Historian (The Louis Berger Group, Inc.)
organization date <u>3/2/09</u>
street & number <u>809 6<sup>TH</sup> Avenue, NE</u> telephone <u>319-961-1387</u>
city or town Independence state lowa zip code 50644
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 Jodeen Fitz
street & number <u>1345 4<sup>th</sup> Street</u> telephone <u>319-827-1993/319-961-1375</u>

city or town <u>Jesup</u> state <u>Iowa</u> zip code <u>50648</u>

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.0. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section <u>7</u> Page <u>1</u>

name of property: county, state:

Malek Theater Buchanan County, Iowa

#### DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Malek Theater, built in 1947, is a one-story Art Deco style building constructed of concrete blocks and a steel truss roof. The main façade features a central stepped tower of structural glass and glass block with Lannon stone finished walls on either side. The interior arrangement is largely original and most of the Art Deco style decorative features include light fixtures, coved ceilings with neon lighting, and stylized stair handrails.

#### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Malek Theater is located at 116 Second Avenue NE in the center of downtown Independence, just a half block off the main street downtown. An alley runs along the south side of the building leading to a parking lot located in the rear. A one-story commercial building is adjacent to the theater on the north.

The thirty feet tall, one hundred-forty feet long, and fifty-eight feet eight inch wide commercial building is constructed of concrete blocks and steel walls finished with stone and structural glass on the main façade, and a steel I-beam trussed roof clad with galvanized steel and built-up type roof. Eighty-thousand concrete blocks were used. The outside perimeter walls have dual-layers interwoven beside each other; all inside rooms have a single layer. Large steel frames and I-beams were used for headers and load-bearing walls and openings (e.g. windows and doorways, wall joists and ceiling rafters).

The main (west) façade features a central stepped tower consisting of glass blocks, Lannon stone, Glastone panels, and white-metal trim. Glass blocks in the central section are curved and are surrounded by a section of beige Glastone panels, which was a Vitrolite-faced concrete masonry tile fabricated by the Libby-Owens-Ford company in the 1940s (Dyson and Mansberger 1995). Glastone was discontinued in the early 1960s, but continues to be produced today in Czechoslovakia and Japan. Three stepped sections of white Glastone cascade down from the central tower. A wider area of Glastone on either side of these sections has narrow horizontal bands of blue Glastone and curved edges. The remainder of the main façade is clad with Lannon stone, a dolomite limestone that is one of the hardest and most versatile limestones used structurally or as a veneer. Lannon stone was used to clad the Des Moines Art Center, designed by Eliel Saarinen in 1945. A permanent steel marquee with fabricated sheet-metal letters prominently displays the founding owners' name "Malek." Originally, this marquee would come to life with dozens of glowing neon tubes racing across and up and down its face with a red and blue aura inviting everyone to come in for the show. Included in the marquee are three signs in which "Wagner" slotted dimensional letters are used, a changeable signage created in 1928 by Irwin Wagner Sign Service. These letters are red when lit-up from behind using medium base light bulbs.

Underneath the marquee are five wood entrance doors to the lobby of the theater. Situated on either side of the entrance are curved walls clad with blue structural glass. The wall on the north side houses a display window accented by curved whitemetal trim that informs patrons of the current attraction. The south side contains the box-office and two more display windows, all of which are also accented by curved white-metal trim.

#### Interior Arrangement

The lobby of the Malek has a painted scroll border that was re-created in 2003 based on the original two and-a-half foot design painted by hired artist Merle Reed from California in 1945, who hand-painted all of the interior designs. The concessions counter is on the south side of the lobby and coming attractions display windows are on the north side. The attractions windows still include the original drapes and upholstery. The lobby floor is terrazzo, custom designed for the

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section <u>7</u>	Page 2	name of property:	Malek Theater
	-	county, state:	Buchanan County, Iowa

theater having a terrazzo M in the center. The parallelogram-shaped terrazzo panels point to the five entrance doors that lead to the foyer.

The foyer is a capsule-shaped space with curved walls illuminated with indirect orange neon lighting. Through the foyer and down four stairs is a lounge with restrooms on either side. The lounge has a stepped cove ceiling illuminated with indirect original green neon lighting. The south wall formerly displayed a twenty foot wide and ten foot tall aerial mural of Independence photographed by Ray Walton in an airplane flown by theater owner Bob Malek. This photo was also put into calendars made by Hawkeye Calendar Co. in 1946. The mural is now in the historic feed and grain mill in Independence, cut into four sections. If restorable, this mural needs to be placed back into the lounge where it originally was.

The foyer provides access to the theater on either side by wide curved ramps illuminated by original bent orange neon lights. The walls have curved round-stock wood handrails, and painted stripes. These rooms used to be carpeted in red wool carpet with a diagonal gold floral pattern, and with the curved walls and diagonal pattern, created the perception of larger rooms. This carpet was described as four-times as thick as household carpeting by the *Independence Bulletin Journal* in 1946. The carpet is no longer present.

The auditorium is an eight-thousand square foot space that originally held eight hundred sixty-two seats; now it holds five hundred more modern seats. There are two sections of seats with an aisle between them, and a huge stadium-seating balcony. The walls are solid acoustic concrete block, that are inter-woven with the outside blocks to provide a stronger structure, giving a renaissance castle-like décor, and curve inward towards the stage, producing an amplifying effect to fill the auditorium with sounds from the stage. Eight metal indirect-lighting fixtures on the walls, four on each side, grow in length, smaller in back and bigger in the front of the room. These original metal fixtures use medium-base light bulbs that illuminate the walls with a multicolor light.

The concrete balcony walls are curved at the same radius as the stage and rows of seats. In 2003, these walls were painted with re-creations of the original painted western-scroll and stripes, presumably done by artist Merle Reed, using the original pencil drawn lines and penciled color guides found underneath layers of paint. These stripes run up the entrance ramps across the balcony face, and up the banister. The two staircases to the balcony are accentuated with curved banisters and short curved pillars with backlit glass blocks.

Behind the balcony are three rooms, the projection booth, the "party room", and a "crying room". The projection room houses the control for the lighting and curtains on the stage, and is the center of the film operations. The "party room" is a room at the southwest corner of the auditorium, and was rented to groups up to fifteen people. The "crying room" is located on the northwest corner and served as a haven for parents with young children. These rooms have large sound-proof plate glass for clear view of shows and speakers inside to hear the show. The speakers are no longer present in the rooms, but they are in storage at the theater. These rooms haven't been used since 1982, and after the Malek is re-opened, the plan is to utilize and advertise them for the originally intended use.

The projection room included a metal door and a mechanical fire containment system that used a hollow bar mounted to the ceiling and attached with small chains to sliding sheet-metal plates over port-hole windows. This bar was then twisted raising the metal plates, using them as counter-weights. The bar was held in place with a metal wire that was easily manipulated with high temperatures, causing it to release using gravity to drop the metal plates over the windows to contain any potential fires. There was also a buzzer system that was installed for communication between the first floor and projector room, using a Morse-type code to relay pre-determined messages for emergencies. All of these safety features were installed because of the new standards for building construction, but extra attention was towards fire safety because of

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7	Page <u>3</u>	name of property:	Malek Theater
		county, state:	Buchanan Coun <b>t</b> y , Iowa

the destruction of the previous theater by fire, which was believed to have started in the Grand theater projection booth from faulty wires.

The concrete stage is thirty-two feet wide, seventeen feet deep, and twenty feet tall, curving outward into the auditorium with a radius matching seat rows and balcony walls. The original "silver-screen" was destroyed when previous temporary owners chose to divide the auditorium into two screening rooms. The stage was originally illuminated with indirect neon lighting from a trough in the floor at the front of the stage. The trough remains but the neon lights have been removed. Two tall columns located on each side of the stage are also gone, but are planned to be re-built from the blueprints obtained from Wetherell Ericsson Architects in Des Moines, Iowa. On each side of the stage are two sets of stairs from the auditorium floor up to stage-level. The stage curtains, now gone, were green/jade with a jagged embroidered design weaving across the front, with gold velvet curtains in front, and a gold valance. Running between the stage stairs and above the two exit corridors on each side of the stage was a western scroll design; which is no longer there, but will be re-created when the area is ready for restoration.

The auditorium/balcony floors are a polished red-dyed concrete with aisle carpeting that matched that in the foyer, lounge, and ramps. The ceiling is a type of stucco which may include asbestos. This material was used to create the very clear and non-echoing acoustics that the theater has.

In 1982, the auditorium was divided into two screening rooms, and in 2002, the dividing walls were removed. The theatre is currently not in use and the roof is in need of repair as water is leaking into the auditorium and lobby. However, the current owner is in the process of restoring the building to its original use as a theater for either motion pictures or theatrical productions. During her visit in 2003, Dorothy Malek stated that the building "Looks almost exactly like it did when the theater opened".

The theatre maintains a high degree of all seven aspects of integrity including location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The exterior of the building has remained virtually unchanged since its construction with all of the original materials intact, though some deterioration is evident in the Glastone. The interior retains its original plan arrangement, light fixtures, and even bathroom fixtures and finishes. Original carpeting has been removed as has some of the theatre seating. Many of the original decorative paintings have been restored or replicated. The principle change on the interior was made to the concession stand area.

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET



ORIGINAL BASEMENT AND FOUNDATION PLAN, MALEK THEATER, 1945 Wetherell Ericsson Architects, Des Moines, Iowa

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section \_7\_ name of property: Page 5 **Malek Theater** county, state: Buchanan County, Iowa Ν . .... 64 94 ..... 6 6110 36 íř °, ° 613 SΤ GĿ 02 Country. The second ļ 1.0.1 14 ..... н́-Te 20.02 · AUDITORIUM ω. 1 to 1 (100 . 1? 10 c 11 00 0 83.0P 2110 ėų. ATT CHASE 1.1 644 LOUNGE ास्त्र छाख्रा 4.6.88.47 Bool From 701683-8722"14 524825 17445 æ Exit ER F o ò p 10 17-10 AN PRIAD DVIE BASTMINT WHO ج. Nop · 1.000Y · 11011 (21.731) 1961 y fl lind - A 15-6

ORIGINAL FLOOR PLAN, MALEK THEATER, 1945 Wetherell Ericsson Architects, Des Moines, Iowa

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET



ORIGINAL STADIUM (BALCONY) PLAN, MALEK THEATER, 1945 Wetherell Ericsson Architects, Des Moines, Iowa

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET



ORIGINAL SECTION, MALEK THEATER, 1945 Wetherell Ericsson Architects, Des Moines, Iowa

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 8

name of property: county, state: Malek Theater Buchanan County, Iowa

#### SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Malek Theater is locally significant under Criterion C as an excellent example of an Art Deco style theater that has a high degree of integrity on the exterior and interior, designed by Des Moines architectural firm of Wetherell & Harrison. The exterior of the theater exhibits characteristics of the Art Deco style including a central stepped tower, smooth finished surfaces of Glastone, and curved walls of Glastone and glass block. The interior has a high degree of integrity with Art Deco features such as curved walls, coved ceilings backlit with neon, bent neon fixtures, stylized floral motifs, and decorative metal light fixtures. The theater retains its integrity of design, workmanship, materials, feeling, association, location, and setting.

#### RESOURCE HISTORY AND HISTORIC CONTEXT

The Malek Theater was built by Bob C. Malek, born Bohumil Malek, Jr. On August 4, 1914 in Cicero, Illinois, he graduated from Sterling Morton High School and then attended dry cleaning school in Silver Springs, Maryland. During World War II, he became a flight instructor, training Air Force Cadets in primary and secondary training, and later became a pilot for American Airlines. During a pheasant hunting trip from Chicago to meet with relatives in Gladbrook, Iowa; Bob and his cousins went out for an evening to Gladbrook's Uptown Theater. They had to wait for the second show and sat next to the box-office. Working in the box-office as a high-school job was a young lady named Dorothy. Knowing the Malek cousins, she was introduced to Bob. Dorothy claims to have never given any one of them a second thought. Six weeks later, Dorothy received a letter from one of the boys from Chicago, and to be polite, she wrote back. More letters followed, and finally an invitation for a date to attend a dance at The Electric Park Ballroom in Waterloo, Iowa, with the music of Lawrence Welk and his orchestra. In December, 1938, Bob Malek and Dorothy Mae Rowden were married in Gladbrook, Iowa.

During a Thanksgiving meal, Dorothy's mother mentioned that the Uptown Theater was to be for sale, and that Dorothy may lose her job there. Bob and his father then looked over the theater and learned how much revenue the theater was bringing in. Bob's father loaned Bob and Dorothy the money for the asking price of twenty-thousand dollars. They purchased the theater. Fifteen months later, Bob asked film salesman Gilly Wells to find a larger theater for them. He called and told them about a theater in Independence, Iowa. That night Bob, Dorothy, and their little dog, Brown Boy, drove sixty-two miles to Independence and purchased the Grand, an old opera house with two balconies, box seats on each side of the stage, wooden floors, and about 500 seats—all part of a hotel named the Gedney Hotel. Included in the purchase price of forty-thousand dollars was the Iowa Theater, another theater on main street, where westerns were shown.

On March 3, 1945, a fire destroyed the quarter of a block that not only the Gedney Hotel and Grand Theater were located on, but also five other businesses leaving only a three-story wall on the south, and a tall smokestack on the southeast corner of the lot.

Bob purchased a lot on the southwest corner of the burned property and built a new theater which was started as soon as the lot could be cleared of debris. Malek commissioned Architects Wetherell & Harrison, known for theater design, and a contractor by the name of Gus Kacharo, all of Des Moines, Iowa to design and construct the new theater. Eighty-thousand concrete blocks were used, and over \$100,000 was paid to create this "fire-proof" building replacing the Grand Theater. In 2006 dollars, \$100,000 is in equivalent of over one-million dollars. The dominant design of this theater was its focus on safety. Its construction was designed sturdy and considered one hundred percent fire-proof, using concrete blocks double-layered, and very large steel beams framing headers and ceiling trusses. Taking a little over a year to build, the Malek,

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section <u>8</u>	Page <u>9</u>	name of property:	Malek Theater
		county, state:	Buchanan County, Iowa

dubbed "Iowa's finest theater", premiered at 7:15 P.M. Tuesday, October 29th, 1946. The Malek may be the last theater designed by the Wetherell & Harrison firm.

The Maleks' sold the theater four times, but three times getting it back. In 1992, Jodeen Fitz of Jesup, Iowa purchased the theater, finalizing the new ownership. The theater was closed in 1996. Bob Malek died on March 20, 2001, in Independence following a long illness.

Bob Malek was also an important person in the city of Independence, Iowa. In 1955, Mr. Malek built Midwest Wood Products Co., which manufacturing all types of juvenile furniture, toys, and picture frames sold throughout the United States. This business was later managed by Bob Malek's son Robert Jr. in 1976, but selling the business shortly after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 1999. Robert Jr. died December 17, 2001.

Mr. Malek served as an elder in the First Presbyterian Church, where he was a member for over sixty years. As a board member of People's Hospital in Independence, he was instrumental in procuring the county's first iron lung during the polio epidemic. He was a member of the Independence Masonic Lodge #87 A.F & A.M., the El Kahir Shrine and the Sheehan-Tidball American Legion Post #30.

The Malek Theater clearly defines the Art Deco style in the ornate details of its façade. The use of Glastone, Lannon stone, neon, fabricated sheet-metal, glass blocks, and white-metal, spares no expense in providing genuine craftsmanship. The Malek Theater was and still is a stepping stone into the modernization of Independence, and a bold display of art in its architecture. The Art Deco style began to emerge in the United States in the late 1920s. This style, which consciously rejected historical styles for a new sleek modern look, was first exhibited at the Exposition Internationale des Arts Decoratifs et Industriels Modernes in Paris. In Iowa, Art Deco became popular in the mid-1930s. The style's emergence coincided with the increased construction of movie palaces and theatres across the country. Art Deco was a popular style for this particular building type. The only other Art Deco style building in Independence is the Buchanan County Courthouse, built in 1940 with PWA funding. The building, designed by Dougher, Rich & Woodburn of Des Moines, features a central three-story section with one-story wings on either side.

The Malek Theater is a monument not only in its presence, but also a chapter in a true story of a man's love for his wife, and the name Malek proudly installed on the marquee is a reminder to Independence of accomplishments by a great man.

#### Wetherell & Harrison

In Des Moines, Iowa in 1905 or 1906, Frank Eli Wetherell formed the firm of Smith & Wetherell with Oliver O. Smith. In 1907, Alvah J. Gage joined the firm to form Smith, Wetherell & Gage. One year later, Smith left the partnership. The new firm of Wetherell & Gage became the principal firm for the Des Moines school system. In 1925, Roland Goucher Harrison joined the firm, renamed Wetherell & Harrison. Harrison was born in Des Moines and started his career in architecture at Hallett & Rawson in 1903. Harrison then worked for Proudfoot, Bird & Rawson as a draftsman from 1910 to 1916 and chief draftsman from 1917 to 1925. In 1927, Frank's son Edwin Henry Wetherell joined the firm, eventually taking over the practice in 1931 after Frank's retirement. The name of the firm remained Wetherell & Harrison. In 1933, the practice was reorganized as Wetherell & Harrison, Partners. Under Edwin's leadership the firm became prolific in the area of theatre design, designing at least five other theatres besides the Malek: Hiland Theatre, Des Moines (1938); Charles Theatre, Charles City (1935); Castle Theatre, Manchester (date unknown); Capitol Theatre, Burlington (1937); and the Mahaska Theatre Building, Oskaloosa (1930). In November 2007, Wetherell Ericsson Architects merged with RDG Planning & Design of Des Moines.

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 10

name of property: county, state:

Malek Theater Buchanan County, Iowa



### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET



ORIGINAL PLOT PLAN BY WETHERELL & HARRISON ARCHITECTS, 1945 Wetherell Ericsson Architects, Des Moines, Iowa

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 12

name of property: county, state: Malek Theater Buchanan County, Iowa

#### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Buchanan County Genealogical Society

Var. Newspaper article files on Malek Theater. On file at the Buchanan County Genealogical Society, Independence.

Dyson, Carol J., and Floyd Mansberger

1995 Structural Glass: Its History, Manufacture, Repair, and Replacement. CRM No. 8.

Gebhard, David, and Gerald Mansheim

1993 Buildings of Iowa. Oxford University Press, New York, NY.

Malek, Bob

1993 Personal communication with Anthony Fitz, current owner of Malek Theater.

#### Malek, Bryce

2007 Malek Family History website accessed at <u>http://home.earthlink.net/~brycem/new\_page\_1.htm</u>.

Malek, Dorothy

2003 Personal communication with Anthony Fitz, current owner of Malek Theater.

#### Recent Past Preservation Network

2007 Illustrated Glossary of Architectural Terms. Website accessed on March 27, 2007 at <u>www.recentpast.org/glossary/index.html</u>.

Poppeliers, John C., S. Allen Chambers, Jr., and Nancy B. Schwartz

1983 What Style Is It? Preservation Press, Washington, D.C.

Shank, Wesley I.

1999 Iowa's Historic Architects: A Bibliographical Dictionary. University of Iowa Press, Iowa City, Iowa.

#### Wetherell & Harrison

1945 Blueprints for Malek Theater. Originals on file at RDG Planning & Design in Des Moines, Iowa [Wetherell Ericsson Architects merged with RDG in November 2007].

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

#### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

#### Verbal Boundary Description

Commencing at a point 6 feet north of the southwest corner of Lot 4, Block 3, Stoughton and McClure's Addition to Independence, Buchanan County, Iowa, thence north 59 feet, thence east to the west line of Lot 2 in said Block, thence south 59 feet, thence west to place of beginning.

#### **Boundary Justification**

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the theater.

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section <u>Photos</u>	Page <u>14</u>	name of property:	Malek Theater
		county, state:	Buchanan County, Iowa

The following items apply to all photographs:

Property Name:	Malek Theater
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- Location: Independence, Buchanan County, Iowa
- Photographer: Camilla R. Deiber
- Date of Photographs: March 10, 2007
- CD-R No. & Location: CD-R #89; State Historical Society of Iowa, Historic Preservation Office, Des Moines
- Digital Ink and Paper: HP Gray Photo Print Cartridge (HP-100) and HP Premium Plus Photo Paper, High Gloss

Individual Photograph Identifications:

- 1. Overall view, looking east
- 2. Overall view, looking southwest
- 3. Overall view, looking west
- 4. Overall view, looking east by northeast
- 5. Main façade, view northeast
- 6. Main entrance, view northeast
- 7. Display windows, view east
- 8. Main façade storefront awning, view southeast
- 9. Main lobby, view east
- 10. Main lobby, view northeast
- 11. Main lobby, view southwest
- 12. Foyer, view east
- 13. Foyer, view southeast
- 14. Women's restroom, view north by northwest

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

- 15. Lettering on women's restroom door, view east
- 16. Hallway from auditorium to lobby, view southwest
- 17. Hallway from auditorium to lobby, view southwest showing curved neon light fixture
- 18. Auditorium, view northeast
- 19. Balcony stairs and wall, view north by northwest
- 20. Auditorium light fixture, view north

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Historic Photos

Page 16 name of property: county, state: Malek Theater Buchanan County, Iowa



FIRE AT GRAND THEATER, MARCH 3, 1945

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Historic Photos

Page 17

name of property: county, state: Malek Theater Buchanan County, Iowa



MALEK THEATER, 1947

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Historic Photos

Page <u>18</u> name of property: county. state: Malek Theater Buchanan County, Iowa



MALEK THEATER LOBBY, 1947

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Historic Photos

Page <u>19</u> name of property: county. state:

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Malek Theater Buchanan County, Iowa



MALEK THEATER FOYER WITH ORIGINAL PHOTO MURAL, 1947

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#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Historic Photos

Page 20 name of property: county, state: Malek Theater Buchanan County, Iowa



MALEK THEATER FOYER/AUDITORIUM HALLWAY, 1947

OMB No. 10024-0018

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Historic Photos

Page 21 name of property: county, state: Malek Theater Buchanan County, Iowa



MALEK THEATER AUDITORIUM, 1947

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Historic Photos

Page 22 name of property: county, state: Malek Theater Buchanan County, Iowa



MALEK THEATER BALCONY, 1947

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Historic Photos Page 23

name of property: county, state: Malek Theater Buchanan County, Iowa



MALEK THEATER LADIES RESTROOM, 1947