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 installed it MAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See installed it MAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See installed it MAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The properties and districts. See installed it MAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The properties and districts. See installed it MAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The properties and districts. See installed it MAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The properties and districts. See installed it MAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The properties and districts. See installed it MAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The properties and districts. See installed it MAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The properties and districts. See installed it MAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The properties and districts. See installed it MAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The properties and districts. See installed it MAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The properties and districts. See installed it MAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The properties and districts. See installed it MAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The properties and districts. See installed it MAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The properties and districts. See installed it MAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The properties and districts. See installed it MAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The properties and districts. See installed it MAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The properties and districts. See installed it MAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The properties and districts. See installed it MAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The properties and districts. See installed it MAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The properties and districts. See installed it MAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The properties and districts. See insta

OMB No. 1024-0018

RECEIVED 2280

JUN 1 9 1598

choose (11 5 1 5 m) 15 5554). Soo a type miles, field processor, or company, to complete an itemic.
1. Name of Property
historic name ANNIE RUSSELL THEATRE
other names/site number 8OR8148
2. Location
street & number 1000 Holt Avenue N/A not for publication
city or town Winter Park N/A vicinity
state <u>FLORIDA</u> code <u>FL</u> county <u>Orange</u> code <u>095</u> zip code <u>32789</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this \(\triangle \) nomination \(\triangle \) 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 \(\triangle \) meets \(\triangle \) does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \(\triangle \) nationally \(\triangle \) statewide \(\triangle \) locally. (\(\triangle \) See continuation sheet for additional comments.) State Of The Part 60. In my opinion, the property \(\triangle \) nationally \(\triangle \) statewide \(\triangle \) locally. (\(\triangle \) See continuation sheet for additional comments.) In my opinion, the property \(\triangle \) meets \(\triangle \) does not meet the National Register criteria. (\(\triangle \) See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of certifying official/Title Date State or Federal agency and bureau
4. National Park Service Certification
hereby certify that the property is: Define the National Register See continuation sheet determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet. ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register ☐ See continuation sheet. ☐ removed from the National Register. ☐ Register.
□ other, (explain)

ANNIE RUSSELL THEATRE Name of Property		Orange Co., FL 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 any previously listed resources in the count)					
☑ private ☐ public-local	buildings district district	Contributing	Noncontribut	ting			
□ public-State □ public-Federal	site structure	1	0	buildings			
	☐ object	0	0	sites			
		0	0	structures			
		0	0	objects			
		1	0	total			
Name of related multiple pro (Enter "N/A" if property is not part o		Number of contril listed in the Nati	buting resources onal Register	oreviously			
N	/A	0					
6. Function or Use							
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instru	ctions)				
RECREATION & CULTURE/The	eater	RECREATION & CULT	TURE/Theater				
EDUCATION/College		EDUCATION/College					
7. Description							
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from	instructions)				
LATE 19 TH & 20 TH CENTURY R	EVIVALS/Romanesque	foundation Concr	ete				
Revival		walls Stucco					
		roof Clay Tile					
		other Stone					

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

ANNIE RUSSELL THEATRE	Orange Co., FL
Name of Property	County and State
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.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
M.A. Dranosty is apposisted with events that have made a	ARCHITECTURE
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our	EDUCATION
history.	PERFORMING ARTS
☑ 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	Period of Significance
individual distinction.	1932-1948
□ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.	
Criteria Considerations	Significant Dates
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	1932
Property is:	
☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Person Russell, Annie
☐ B removed from its original location.	Cultural Affiliation
☐ C a birthplace or grave.	N/A
☐ D a cemetery.	
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Architect/Builder
☐ F a commemorative property.	Arch: Kiehnel, Richard
☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years	Blder: Hessler G.W.
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 r Previous documentation on file (NPS):	nore continuation sheets.) Primary location of additional data:
 □ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 36) 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	#

ANNIE RUSSELL THEATRE	Orange Co., FL
Name of Property	County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property Less than one acre	
UTM References (Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)	
	asting Northing North
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 Linda Dunyan, Joan Grever, Consultants; Carl Shiver, Historic Sites Spec	cialist
organization Bureau of Historic Preservation	date June 1998
street & number R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street	telephone <u>(850)</u> 487-2333
city or town <u>Tallahassee</u> state <u>Florida</u>	zip code <u>32399-0250</u>
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	on.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreag	e 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 SHPO or FPO.)	
name Rollins College, George Herbst, Vice President and Treasurer	
street & number 1000 Holt Avenue	telephone (407) 646-2117

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 amend listings. Response to this required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

state Florida

32789

_ zip code

Winter Park

city or town

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including 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 Projects (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	ANNIE RUSSELL THEATRE
		-		ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
				PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY

The Annie Russell Theatre, located at 1000 Holt Avenue in Winter Park, Florida, is a three-story, Italian Romanesque Revival style building constructed in 1932. The structure has an irregularly shaped footprint and rests on a reinforced concrete foundation. The major core of the structure houses the auditorium and stage, while extensions abutting the main part of the building contain offices, dressing rooms, restrooms, and a workshop. The exterior walls are constructed of terra-cotta tile and brick surfaced with Florida Travertine (limestone) and textured stucco. Major roof areas are covered with Spanish tile. Stylistically, the building is a modern interpretation of Italian Romanesque structures—like Pisa Cathedral (1053-1272)—which were constructed in northern Italy during the late middle ages. The major distinguishing feature of the exterior of the building is the multiple arcaded loggias and galleries found on the major elevations and the crenellated parapet surrounding the roof covering the stage area.

SETTING

The Annie Russell Theatre is located on the 67 acre main campus of Rollins College, which is located just two blocks south of downtown Winter Park, Florida, a city of about 25,000 residents that borders the northern limits of the city of Orlando in Orange County, Florida. The majority of the buildings on the campus are noted for their distinctive Spanish/Mediterranean Revival style, and Rollins College is often described as one of the most beautiful college campuses in the United States. The residential comprehensive liberal arts college has approximately 1400 students and offers 28 majors and a variety of interdisciplinary programs. Slightly fewer than half of Rollins' students are from Florida. One-third of the students are from Mid-Atlantic and New England states. Foreign students, representing more than 56 nations, comprise about 5 percent of the college population. The theater occupies the northern one-third of the same city block where the Knowles Memorial Chapel (N.R. 1998) and the Chapel Garden cloister—which separates the two buildings—are found. The site is found in the northeastern sector of the campus about two block west of Lake Virginia.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Exterior

The exterior's primary massing is a gabled main auditorium abutting a higher stage section around which service rooms have been set up in tiers (photo 1). The walls of the original part of

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	7	Page	2	ANNIE RUSSELL THEATRE
				ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
				PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

the building are composed of oversized bricks in some areas. No documentation was found referencing all walls, although the original plans indicate concrete masonry units using today's architectural drawing conventions. Some of the original walls are constructed of terra cotta block, similar to the nearby Knowles Chapel which was built at the same time. Although the two projects had different architects, both were built by the same contractor. The foundation is constructed of reinforced concrete, and all of the roof areas have been covered with Spanish barrel tile. Exterior walls are surfaced with two-tone stucco, and decorative details and trim are made of Florida Travertine stone. The side walls of the auditorium are broken up by lower flanking sections which provide for side aisles and by somewhat higher stairwell roofs.

The main (west) facade is distinguished by the entrance arcade and by the second floor arcaded gallery. The major feature of the south elevation is the loggia that runs nearly the whole length of the main theater building and forms part of the cloister surrounding the garden that separates the theater from Knowles Chapel. The two buildings and the garden form the Knowles Chapel-Annie Russell Theatre Complex which was completed c. 1932. On the west, the arcade extends the full width of the main facade, terminating a short distance after it wraps around the north elevation.

The north elevation of the building is rather plain, the wall spaces being devoted mainly to textured stucco, having few windows or doors. The high mass of the stage area that rises from the rear part of the theater building is made distinctive by the arcades placed at the front and rear of the stage ventilator. The central mass of the stage area is flanked by lower gabled roofs. These extensions have gable roofs and their end walls contain blind arcades with a series of stepped arches supported by small stone engaged columns. The stage massing is embellished with a crenellated parapet with gargoyles at the corners (photo 2). The gabled extensions flanking the central stage area feature blind arcades with a series of stepped arches supported by small stone engaged columns.

The rear (east) elevation exhibits the multi-level roofs of the one and two-story extensions of the theater that house the offices and other support facilities, including a large set storage area and workshop at the northeast corner of the building (photo 3).

Interior

The main entrance of the building is located on the west facade which overlooks Rollins Mall (Interlachen Avenue). Leading to the entrance are six wide Travertine steps flanked by

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	7	Page	3	ANNIE RUSSELL THEATRE
		•		ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
				PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Travertine coped knee walls that ascend to the arched loggia. The steps also have wrought iron railings that terminate at the columns that support the central arch of the central loggia. Flanking the outside arches of the central loggia are large wrought iron sconces with yellow glass panels. They are repeated in a smaller size in other areas of the arcade. Two octagonal Travertine columns with capitals in a leaf motif support the central arch which has a decorative dedication stone cartouche dated 1931.

Three sets of double wood paneled doors provide entrance to the lobby. The lobby (standee) has a segmented vaulted ceiling, painted cornice, and textured plaster walls (photo 3). The cornice runs laterally from arch to arch along both sides of the length of the lobby. The painted design was executed by Winter Park artist and interior designer Edith Tadd Little. It has been painted in the "secco" technique rather than the fresco method that she employed for her wall paintings in the auditorium. At both sides of the lobby are arches that frame stone stairs with wrought iron railings leading to the balcony. An arched opening leads from the balcony promenade to the seats. The balcony also houses a projection booth which is three steps up from the balcony floor. There is access via a ladder (to the right of the projection booth) that leads through the narrow space between roof and ceiling to the stage light platform which is approximately two-thirds of the way into the auditorium. There are doorways leading from the balcony to the second floor gallery at the front of the building. The wrought iron railing separating the balcony from the auditorium space railing is composed of wavy verticals with designs of symmetrical flower-like motifs interspersed. Under the stairs are small rooms which originally contained rest rooms but today contain concession (south) and storage (north) areas.

There are three openings leading into the auditorium which today provides seating for 375 people. The dominant colors are caramel and green. The auditorium is intimate because of the relatively small size of the space. Access to seats is via side aisles. Originally there was a center aisle that was eliminated during a renovation of the theater in 1977. The side aisles are lined by arches separated by piers and stone columns with composite capitals and applied wooden impost blocks (photo 4). The piers have wood trim following the column architrave with a seashell ornament on the auditorium side and a single candelabra wrought iron lamp on the other. The same seashell motif is continued in the niches of the two Patrons' boxes located near the stage which are trimmed in stone (photo 4).

The simple proscenium arch is also decorated with stone. The large painted wooden beams which span the ceiling of the auditorium are richly ornamented and supported on both sides by large bolsters. The stage has an orchestra pit (entrance from understage) and apron.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	7	Page	4	ANNIE RUSSELL THEATRE
				ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
				PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Removable trap doors provide access to the understage which is part of the basement. Additional access to the stage is from a stairwell across from the Green Room. The understage area has electrical panels and storage as well as makeup areas. Stenciled and painted decoration in the auditorium was designed and executed by artist Edith Tadd Little. Pigments soluble in water were applied directly to wet plaster (fresco), a practice common in Italy during the Middle Ages and Renaissance. The color scheme for the decorated areas includes blue-green, red, and tan in various patterns (photo 5). Another notable feature of the theater is the use of wrought iron chandeliers in the lobby and auditorium (photos 3 & 5).

Alterations

An air conditioning system that served both the theater and nearby Knowles Chapel was installed in the theater in 1961. In 1975, the stage was rewired and a new \$8,000 sound system installed. A major renovation program was undertaken in 1977, made possible by a grant from the Edyth Bush Foundation. The seating arrangement was changed to eliminate the center aisle (photo 4) and the number of seats was reduced from 421 to 375. Dale F. Amlund was the designer responsible for the interior modifications which also included walls repainted in brown earth tones complemented by darker brown velour curtain along the railings of the orchestra pit, balcony and boxes. The proscenium arch and volutes over the boxes were chocolate brown. The deep brown of the carpeting had glints of red. This is the interior decor today. Lights that had been suspended from the ceiling from pipes were replaced by a "lighting position" that hid them from view. A new stage floor was also installed.

New restrooms and a box office were installed on the north side of lobby. The former restroom locations were converted to concession areas. An exterior ramp was incorporated into the arcaded entrance to provide handicapped access. Some additional changes were made in 1980. A new set construction shop was added to the north side of the stage. Five faculty offices were constructed southeast of the stage, adding 3,000 square feet of floor space to the building.

Viewed from the main (west) facade, the new construction does not seriously affect the aesthetic qualities of the original building. The massing of the auditorium still reads as an individual entity, with the additions reading merely as a continuation of the ground floor arcade. The offices and scene shop additions carefully meld their massing with that of the original building.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	8	Page	1	ANNIE RUSSELL THEATRE
				ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
				STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

The Annie Russell Theatre at Rollins College is a significant at the local level under criteria A, B and C in the areas of Performing Arts, Education, and Architecture. Since 1932, it has played the important role of providing theatrical productions not only for the benefit of the students and faculty of Rollins College but also for the residents of the cities of Winter Park, Orlando, and other surrounding communities. The theater has also been a major element in teaching the students of Rollins College all aspects of the performing arts, including dance, drama, and other stage productions. Annie Russell Theatre was designed in 1931 by Richard Kiehnel, a major architect working in the Central and South Florida areas. The architectural style of the building represents a novel interpretation of the late Italian Romanesque style that provides both a continuation of and counterpoint to the Mediterranean Revival architectural theme of the buildings on the campus of Rollins College. The theater is also significant for its association with Annie Russell, a major figure of the American stage in New York City during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Russell was also instrumental in formally establishing the dramatic arts program at Rollins College after her retirement from acting in 1918. She raised the funds to build the theater that bears her name and was its director from its opening in 1932 until her death in 1936.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Founding of Winter Park

The origins of the city of Winter Park go back to 1858, when David Mizell, Jr. and his family acquired eight acres between lakes Virginia, Mizell, and Berry. The settlement that grew up around their homestead was originally called Lake View. The name of the settlement was changed to Osceola in 1870 and a post office was established in the home of Colonel E.B. Livingston. The settlement was well east of what is now downtown Winter Park. In 1875, Captain John K. Coiner began operating a sawmill on the present site of Rollins College. By July 1880, the tracks of the South Florida Railroad had been laid as far south as the present site of Winter Park. Train service between Sanford—a community located about 20 miles north of Winter Park—and Orlando began in November of the same year. Completion of the rail line created a real estate boom that drove land prices along the railroad to \$300 an acre. Loring Chase and Oliver Chapman, both natives of Massachusetts, bought 600 acres of land in 1881 and platted the town of Winter Park. The plat included a grid network of streets, a 10 acre park next to the railroad tracks, a lakeside resort hotel, and a black residential district for domestic servants

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	8	Page	2	ANNIE RUSSELL THEATRE
		_		ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
				STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

and citrus grove workers. A railroad depot was constructed in March of 1882, and by September a road had been constructed between Winter Park and the Osceola settlement. A post office was established at the Rogers House, a small inn, which was the second building erected in the village. A telegraph office opened at the train depot on January 1, 1883, and a public school opened in the town hall two weeks later.

Origins of Rollins College

A number of the first residents of Winter Park were Congregationalists from New England. The "carpenter Gothic" style First Congregationalist Church was erected in Winter Park in 1884, with The Reverend Edward P. Hooker assuming the pulpit. It was the Reverend Hooker who first suggested the founding of a college in Winter Park. The idea was brought before the General Congregational Association, which held its meeting in Winter Park in March 1884. A committee was formed to sound out interest in central Florida communities about underwriting a college. Only the communities of Mount Dora and Winter Park were willing to provide funding for the new institution. Mount Dora's bid of \$35,000 was dwarfed by the \$114,000 pledged in Winter Park—including a \$50,000 gift by Alonzo W. Rollins. Rollins, born in 1832, was another New Englander who had been successful in business and came to Florida in the 1880s to improve his health. Rollins died in September 1887, little more than two years after funding the college that bears his name.

The Reverend Hooker was chosen to be the first president of the college. At first, classes were held in the First Congregational Church, then on the second floor of one of the commercial buildings on Park Avenue in Winter Park. The first college building, Knowles Hall—a gift of Francis Bangs Knowles—was completed early in 1886. The two-story, wood frame building contained the president's office, classrooms, a lecture hall, and a study room. The next building erected was Pinehurst, a girl's dormitory, located immediately south of Knowles Hall. This was followed by Lakeside, a men's dormitory. Of the original buildings, only Pinehurst still survives. New buildings were constructed over the decades as college enrollment grew.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The construction of Annie Russell Theater in 1932 was conceived in 1931 by Hamilton Holt, who served as the president of Rollins College from 1925 to 1949. Holt established Spanish-Mediterranean Revival architecture as the architectural theme of the Rollins campus, which he felt was appropriate amid Florida's palms and climate. During his term as college

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	8	Page	3	ANNIE RUSSELL THEATRE
				ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
				STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

president, 32 buildings were added to the campus, all in the Mediterranean-Spanish style. The crowning achievement of his tenure was the completion of Knowles Chapel-Annie Russell Theatre Complex. The Knowles Memorial Chapel was the gift of Mrs. Frances Knowles Warren, built to memorialize her father, Francis Bangs Knowles, who was one of the greatest benefactors of Rollins College during the early years when the college was experiencing growing pains.

ANNIE RUSSELL

The theater was named for renowned stage actress Annie Russell (1864-1936), who was born in Liverpool, England, but raised in Canada. She made her first professional appearance in Montreal, in 1872, playing opposite Ruth Eytinge in Miss Multon. Her New York debut was in 1879 as Josephine in a traveling company performing Gilbert and Sullivan's H.M.S Pinafore. She continue to play with various tours, including one that took her to South America and Australia, before scoring a major success in the title role of Esmeralda (1881), a girl whose newly rich parents were determined to prevent her from marrying for love.

Russell became famous for her effectiveness in emotional and comic roles. Among her notable roles was the title part in <u>Elaine</u> (1887), a dramatization of Tennyson's <u>Lancelot and Elaine</u>. Ill health prevented her from working for three seasons (1891-1894), but afterward she returned to the stage in triumph in the title role of Bret Harte's <u>Sue</u> (1896), about a girl who marries a man she does not love to escape a brutal father. She also played Winifred, the daughter of a kleptomaniac in Fitch's <u>The Girl and the Judge</u> (1901). In 1905, she created George Bernard Shaw's heroine in <u>Major Barbara</u> for the American stage and afterward gave memorable performances in the Shakespeare plays <u>A Midsummer Night's Dream</u> (1906), <u>Twelfth Night</u> (1909), and <u>Much Ado About Nothing</u> (1912). In her final years as a professional actress, she organized her own theater group, The Old English Comedy Company, and specialized in such roles as Lady Teazle in Sherridan's School for Scandal (1914).

She became known as an innovator of stage production, being among the first to introduce the use of electric lighting for dramatic effect to the New York theater scene. She also made contributions in costuming and stage set design. She retired from the stage in 1918 and moved to Winter Park, Florida, where in 1929 she became head of the dramatic arts program at Rollins College. In her effort to improve the facilities for the performing arts on the campus—which until that time had been held in the gymnasium—Annie Russell enlisted the support of her long-time New York friend Mary Louise Bok Zimbalist, daughter of magazine and newspaper publisher Cyrus H.K. Curtis, who agreed to fund construction of a theater on the campus of Rollins

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	8	Page	4	ANNIE RUSSELL THEATRE
				ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
				STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rollins College. To commemorate the grand opening of the new "Annie Russell Theatre" in 1932, Miss Russell appeared in Robert Browning's In the Balcony, ending a 14-year absence from the stage. Russell directed plays and supervised operations of the theater that bears her name until shortly before her death in 1936 at the age of 72. Her leadership created the foundation for a dramatic arts program at Rollins College that would graduate such notable performers as Buddy Ebsen and Anthony Perkins.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Annie Russell Theater was designed in 1931 by Richard Kiehnel (1870-1944), one of the principal architects in the firm of Kiehnel & Elliott, which had offices in Pittsburgh, Miami, Miami Beach, and St. Petersburg. Kiehnel help spread the influence of the Mediterranean Revival style of architecture that had been made popular by architect Addison Mizner and his followers in Palm Beach and Miami Beach in the early 1920s. In the late 1920s, then Rollins College president Hamilton Holt saw the Roylat Hotel in St. Petersburg, Florida, that had been designed by Kiehnel. He was so impressed by the attractiveness and utility of the building that he commissioned the firm of Kiehnel & Elliott to design several buildings for the campus of Rollins College. Rollins Hall, built in 1929, was the first to be constructed. After two more buildings were completed, Kiehnel formulated an architectural design plan based on the Mediterranean Revival vocabulary for future buildings at Rollins College. This plan was to be largely realized during Holt's tenure as college president. Annie Russell Theatre was the fourth of the buildings designed by Kiehnel.

The choice of a design based on the Romanesque style cathedral in Pisa, Italy, seems somewhat unusual compared with most of the other Mediterranean Revival architecture erected in Florida during the 1920s and 1930s. Usually, architects drew upon the forms of the Italian and Spanish Renaissance and Baroque periods, with their greater use of classical architectural details, especially in designs for large public buildings. The drawing upon building traditions prevalent in Europe, especially Italy and Spain, prevalent before the 15th and 16th centuries was very uncommon in Florida at the time Annie Russell Theatre was designed. Medieval designs usually drew from the monuments of High Gothic ecclesiastical architecture, with its elaborate sculptural elements rather than the simpler and attenuated forms of the Late Romanesque of the 10th and 11th centuries. Pisa Cathedral (begun c. 1053), however, was a famous landmark, in part because of the nearby "leaning tower" baptistery. The multi-tiered arches of the cathedral borrowed by Kiehnel in his design for Annie Russell Theatre allowed the architect to make the theater building distinctly different in appearance from nearby Knowles Chapel, while preserving the overall formula for the construction of buildings on the campus of Rollins College.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	9	Page	1	ANNIE RUSSELL THEATRE
•		_		ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
				BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Books

- Banham, Martin. <u>The Cambridge Guide to the Theater</u>. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1995 (biography of Annie Russell).
- Bordman, Gerald. The Oxford Companion to American Theatre. New York: Oxford University Press, 1984 (biography of Annie Russell).
- Bottineau, Yves. <u>Living Architecture</u>: <u>Iberian-American Baroque</u>. New York: Grosset & Dunlap, Inc., 1970.
- Byne, Arthur and Stapley, Mildred. Spanish Architecture of the Sixteenth Century. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1917.
- Campen, Richard N. Winter Park Portrait: The Story of Winter Park and Rollins College.

 Beachwood, Ohio: West Summit Press, 1987.
- Discover Winter Park, "History of Winter Park." Spring/Summer 1991 ed.
- Hanna, Alfred J. The Founding of Rollins College. Winter Park, FL: Rollins Press, Inc., 1935.
- Kennedy, Roger G. Mission: The History and Architecture of the Missions of North America (David Larkin, ed.). Houghton Mifflin Company, 1993.
- Kiehnel & Elliott, Architects. <u>A Monograph of The Florida Work of Kiehnel & Elliott, Architects, Miami, Florida, 1938, Foreword.</u>
- Lane, Jack C., ed. Rollins College: A Pictorial History. Tallahassee: The Rose Printing Company, Inc., 1980.
- McDowell, Claire Leavitt. Chronological History of Winter Park. Winter Park, FL: n.p., 1950.
- Rollins College. <u>The Knowles Memorial Chapel, Rollins College</u>. Winter Park, FL: Rollins College, 1937.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	9	Page	2	ANNIE RUSSELL THEATRE
				ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
				BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Rollins College (Trustees). The Rollins College Adventure in Common Sense Education. Winter Park, FL: Rollins College, 1929.

Thompson, Tommy L. Rollins College: Then and Now. Louisville, KY: Harmony House, 1991.

Tingling, Marion. A Guide to Landmarks of Women's History in the United States. New York: Greenwood Press, 1986 (biographical note on Annie Russell).

Wagner, Paul A. Rollins College and Dr. Hamilton Holt: Pioneering Higher Education in Florida.

New York: Newcomen Society in North America, 1951.

Interviews

Rich, John Oliver. Alumnus of Rollins College, Winter Park, Florida, Interview, 21 March 1996.

Newspapers

Miami Herald. "Richard Kiehnel, 74, Dies at Home Here." 4 November 1944.

Orlando Reporter-Star. Article about Edith Tadd Little. Untitled, 29 November 1937.

Orlando Sentinel Star. "Rollins Dramatic Center In Annie Russell Theater." 23 February 1941.

Orlando Sentinel. "New Annie Russell Theater Worthy of Toast." by Sumner Rand, 28 January 1977.

Winter Park Outlook, "Winter Park was just a sleepy little College town," 1 June 1989.

Winter Park Sun Herald, "Where Were You in 1932?- Year of the New Deal." by Mark Coleman, 26 September 1974.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	10	Page	1	ANNIE RUSSELL THEATRE
		- <u>-</u>		ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
				VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Verbal Boundary Description

The northern one-third (approximate) of Block 80, Rollins College section of the City of Winter Park, bounded on the north by Old Fairbanks Avenue on the north, Interlachen (Rollins Mall) on the west, Chase Street on the east, and Chapel Garden on the south.

Boundary Justification

The above described boundaries encompass all of the physical elements associated with Annie Russell Theater.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	Page	1	ANNIE RUSSELL THEATRE
			ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
			PHOTOGRAPHS

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

- 1. Annie Russell Theater
- 2. 1000 Holt Avenue, Winter Park (Orange County), Florida
- 3. Christopher Doncsecz
- 4. April 1996
- 5. Rollins College Archives
- 6. Main (West) Facade and South Elevation, Looking Northeast
- 7. Photo 1 of 10

Items 1-5 are the same for all remaining photographs.

- 6. West and South Elevations, Looking Northeast
- 7. Photo 2 of 10
- 6. Interior, Lobby, Looking North
- 7. Photo 3 of 10
- 6. Interior, Balcony, Looking West Toward Stage
- 7. Photo 4 of 10
- 6. Interior Detail, Chandelier and Wooden Beam
- 7. Photo 5 of 10
- 6. Interior, Balcony, Looking West Toward Patrons' Box
- 7. Photo 6 of 10
- 6. East and South Elevations, Looking Northwest
- 7. Photo 7 of 10
- 6. North Elevation (Bathroom Addition), Looking Southwest
- 7. Photo 8 of 10
- 6. Rear (East) Elevation, Looking West
- 7. Photo 9 of 10

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number	Page	2	ANNIE RUSSELL THEATRE
_	-		ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
			PHOTOGRAPHS

- 6. North and West Elevations, Looking Southeast
- 7. Photo 10 of 10



