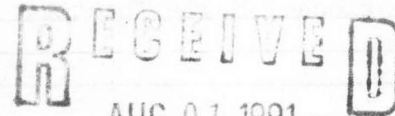


1231

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

AUG 01 1991

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Rialto Theater
other names/site number Resource # WH2018

2. Location

street & number Race and Spring Streets ☐ not for publication N/A
city, town Searcy ☐ vicinity N/A
state Arkansas code AR county White code 145 zip code 72143

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic and Architectural Resources
of White County, Arkansas

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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 ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

5-13-90

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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): _____

Patrick W. Andrews9/13/91

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreational/ Movie Theater

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreational/ Movie Theater

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Modern Movement/ Art Deco

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls stucco

brick

roof tin

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Description

Searcy's Rialto Theater, located on the corner of Race and Spring Streets on the courthouse square, has been in continuous operation since it was first constructed in the early 1920's. The theater underwent extensive remodeling in 1940, at which time the present brick and stucco facade and Art Deco style marquee and signage were added to the front elevation. Because of these alterations, the building's eligibility is being considered from the date of its 1940 renovations, rather than from the period of its original construction.

The one-and-a-half story, rectangular floorplan is of brick construction that has been covered with stucco and brick wall material. This smooth wall surface, along with the stepped, vertical projections above the roofline, are two of the Art Deco features exhibited by the building. However, its most notable design elements reminiscent of the Art Deco style are the neon-lit marquee and signage spelling out the theater's name. The five-colored, 67-foot sign had 300 feet of neon tubing when it was installed in November of 1940, making it the largest neon sign in White County.

Although there is not an actual porch, the marquee provides a flat-roofed shelter over the building's entrance. The ticket window and two display windows on the front (south) elevation are newer, single-pane stationary windows; the doors allowing access to the interior are also new aluminum and glass models replacing the original six-pane wooden french doors. The building's foundation is made of cast concrete, and its flat, parapeted roof is covered with the original rolled tin.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1940

Significant Dates

1940

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Lightle, W. H.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See "Historic and Architectural Resources of White County, Arkansas," Section H.

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 # _____

☐ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data *Map 3*

Acreage of property _____

UTM References

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal ~~Boundary~~ Description _____

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification _____

☒ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth Story, National Register Coordinator

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 2 April, 1990

street & number 225 E Markham, Suite 300 telephone 501-371-2763

city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

Significance

The Rialto Theater, which has stood on the courthouse square since the mid-1920's and has been in continuous operation since that time, is being submitted for listing on the National Register under Criterion C with local significance. It is one of only a few structures in White County that possesses Art Deco details; it is the only such theater to possess this type of architecture; and its neon marquee, which still illuminates each evening, is the largest and most elaborate in the county.

The structure stands on the site of another theater that was torn down in 1923 to make way for this one. The original builder, W. H. Lightle, died during the building's construction, and his sons, J. E. and J. B. Lightle, finished the project the following year.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1

Acreage of property: Less than one

UTM References:

A 15/614835/3901400

Verbal Boundary Description:

Lot 20, Ten Acre Donation to the Town of Searcy.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AUG 1 1991

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

White County MPS
ARKANSAS

Date Listed

91001276	Missouri--Pacific Depot	Substantive Review	7/20/92
91001277	✓ Moody House		7/20/92
91001210	Moore House	Substantive Review	9-5-91
91001332	✓ Morris Institute Dairy Barn		7/20/92
91001178	National Guard Armory Building	Substantive Review	9-5-91
91001356	✓ Neaville, J.A., House		7/22/92
91001331	New Mt. Pisgah School	Substantive Review	7/20/92
91001360	✓ Nimmo Clubhouse		7/22/92
91001286	O'Neal, Howard, Farm	Substantive Review	7/20/92
91001290	Pangburn, Austin, House		9-5-91
91001203	Paschall House		9-5-91
91001292	Patman House		9-5-91
91001255	Pemberton House		9-5-91
91001305	Pence--Carmichael Farm, Barn and Root Cellar	Substantive Review	7/20/92
91001247	✓ Plummer House		7/22/92
91001249	Powell Clothing Store		9-5-91
91001307	✓ Prince House		7/22/92
91001361	✓ Ransom, Edward, Farmstead, Livestock and Equipment Barn		7/22/92
91001213	✓ Rascoe House		7/23/92
91001296	✓ Ray, Sam, House		7/23/92
91001343	✓ Rhew, J. C., Co. Packing Shed		7/23/92
91001231	Rialto Theater	Substantive Review	9-13-91
91001245	Robertson Drugstore	Substantive Review	9-13-91
91001221	Robertson House		9-5-91
91001195	✓ Rock Building		7/23/92
91001230	Rodgers, Porter, Sr., House		9-5-91
91001219	Rogers, Bob, House	Substantive Review	9-13-91
91001346	Roper House		9-5-91
91001271	✓ Russell Jail		7/23/92
91001306	Scott--Davis House	Substantive Review	7/20/92
91001227	Searcy City Hall		9-5-91
91001200	✓ Searcy Post Office		7/20/92
91001208	✓ Sears, Dean L. C., House		7/20/92
91001261	Sellers House		9-5-91
91001257	Shue House		9-5-91
91001299	Shutter, John, House	Substantive Review	9-5-91
91001367	✓ Siler, Luther, Gin	Substantive Review	7/20/92
91001342	Simpson, Stanley, Farmstead Picking Sled		9-13-91
91001218	Smith House		9-5-91
91001223	Smith, A. J., House		9-5-91

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Rialto Theater

MULTIPLE NAME: White County MPS

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, White

DATE RECEIVED: 8/01/91
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/31/91
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/15/91
DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/15/91

REFERENCE NUMBER: 91001231

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 9/13/91 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

This small Art-Deco theater, with fancy neon sign, is significant as architecture

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept/C
REVIEWER Harper
DISCIPLINE Historian
DATE 9/13/91

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

CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification
___materials
___descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

___summary paragraph
___completeness
___clarity
___applicable criteria
___justification of areas checked
___relating significance to the resource
___context
___relationship of integrity to significance
___justification of exception
___other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



Rialto Theater
Searcy, Arkansas

white

Photograph by Joe DeRose

November, 1988

Negative on file at AHPP

South elevation

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500033