

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received OCT 10 1984  
date entered NOV 13 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic ~~THE~~ PONCAN THEATRE

and/or common Same

**2. Location**

street & number 104 E. Grand Ave. N/A not for publication

city, town Ponca City N/A vicinity of

state Oklahoma code 40 county Kay code 071

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name L. Enloe Baunnert

street & number Box 470, 205 First National Building

city, town Ponca City N/A vicinity of state OK 74601

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk's Office, Kay Co. Courthouse

street & number 115 N. Main

city, town Newkirk state OK

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date Fall 1983  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Dept. of History, Okla. State University

city, town Stillwater state OK

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Poncan Theatre, completed in 1927, was designed by J. D. Forsythe. The three story brick and terra cotta building which faces North on East Grand Avenue has a basement under the stage on the south end. The focal point of the 75 foot wide Spanish Colonial facade is a large curvilinear gable outlined with terra cotta ornament and accented with five finials. In the center of the arched gable, bell arch opening contains a round stained glass window over a rectangular window and is highlighted by a sun-burst terra cotta decoration. A red-tiled hip roof rests on a molded terra cotta cornice. Six rectangular third story windows are topped with rectangular terra cotta window heads while the six windows on the second story have enriched scrolled window heads. The ground level center box office is flanked by two stucco walled openings to a vestibule triple door entry. The center door was replaced by a solid wall about 1974. Movie billboard display areas separate the theatre from two shallow store front businesses. Arched doorways with electric lantern style light fixtures complete the facade of the first floor. The right door was originally designated as the black patrons' entrance and exit. The only major change in the facade was the substitution of the angled style marquee in 1940 for the original flat style marquee.

Almost all of the original ceiling and wall ornamentation, chandeliers, and decorative ventilation grilles in the auditorium and lobby areas are intact. The arched windows and ornamental grillwork which flanked the proscenium style stage are now hidden behind pleated floor to ceiling fabric. A temporary wood wall was erected on stage to support a movie screen. The light control panel, loft, catwalk, and west stairway to the lower dressing rooms are all original and remain in good condition. The below stage orchestra pit now contains the heat and air vents for the theatre. However, on the third floor behind the projection booth, huge fans are evidence of equipment originally used to circulate air throughout the theatre. Few interior details have been permanently altered. The light ceramic entry tile is original but the white foyer tile has been replaced by red quarry tile. Stucco walls in the foyer and lobby areas were covered with v-groove wood paneling in the 1970's, but were not altered before being covered. The 1300 original red velour seats in the auditorium and balcony have been replaced.

## 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	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1927 **Builder/Architect** John Duncan Forsyth, Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Poncan Theatre is significant as an excellent example of the Spanish Colonial Revival Style.

Architect John Duncan Forsyth, educated in Edinburgh, Scotland, and the Sorbonne, Paris, France, designed the theatre in 1927. Forsyth is one of the outstanding architects to practice in Oklahoma having designed such notable structure as the E.W. Marland Mansion (National Historic Landmark). He was licensed to practice architecture in Oklahoma in 1925 and continued practice until death in 1963.

The Poncan Theatre is the best example of Spanish Colonial Revival style found in Ponca City. Features such as red tile hipped roof, low relief carvings, an enriched compound bell arch, curvilinear pediment featuring ornate finials, and a mixture of brick and stone giving contrast of materials typical of the style make the structure an outstanding representation of the style.

During the era of live performances at the theatre such famous entertainers as Will Rogers, Mary Pickford, and Ethel Barrymore appeared on stage at the Poncan. When this golden age of theatre had passed, the Poncan Theatre was adapted for use as a motion picture theatre and continues in that capacity today.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Oral interview with Nelson Myers, Manager  
Barnie Austin, employee since beginning

## 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Ponca City

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

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

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 9, 10, and 11, Block 49m Hartman Addition to City of Ponca City,  
Kay County, Oklahoma

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carol Borman, supervised by Mary Ann Anders

organization Okla. Hist. Pres. Survey

date December 1983

street & number Dept. of History, OSU

telephone 405/624-5678

city or town Stillwater

state Oklahoma

## 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

*C. M. Metcalfe*

9/27/84

title

date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*Beth Groover*  
for Keeper of the National Register

date

11/13/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration