

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received OCT 16 1985  
date entered

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

NOV 14 1985

1. Name

historic Delchar Theatre

and or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 20 West Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Mayville N/A vicinity of

state North Dakota code 38 county Traill code 097

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name James and Charlotte McMullen

street & number 433 NW 2nd Avenue

city, town Mayville N/A vicinity of state North Dakota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Traill County Registry of Deeds

street & number Traill County Courthouse

city, town Hillsboro state North Dakota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Cultural Resources Investigation  
of Mayville, ND

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 8-17-82 N/A federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records North Dakota State Historical Society

city, town Bismarck state North Dakota

## 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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The Delchar Theatre is a one-and-a-half story brick building built in 1927-28. The building contributes both in scale and design to a contiguous downtown block of commercial buildings. The theatre is a simplified Art Deco building. Constructed of tan raked brick, the facade has a contrasting band of brown brick around the facade perimeter. The building exhibits a cubic form with little surface ornamentation with a major focal point being the large flat arch opening which penetrates the facade. Recessed within this arch on the first floor is a centrally located ticket/popcorn booth flanked by wood double door entries. The marquee was added in 1945 and is accented by neon which is still operational. The marquee has strong deco lines which are highlighted by the neon. It is this feature which dominates the front facade. Fenestration consists of two 1/1 wood sash windows which are located on either side of a flat arch in the upper facade. Located just below the simple brick cornice and in opposite upper corners of the building are small cement numbers ("19" on the west and "27" on the east) which document the building's year of construction. At the street level, aluminum poster marquees skirt the entry. The interior lobby is unchanged. Vine-like plaster relief moulding borders the ceiling and frames the interior ticket booth. The same treatment surrounds a round mirror in the lobby and theatre doors.

The general contractor was Olaf Holmquist of Sharon, North Dakota while all interior painting and interior decorating was done by Peter Dahl of Mayville. New seats, blue in color, were installed in 1937. The interior was repainted in 1950 "in color tones of Chartreuse and Flamingo Red and accented with deep Forest Green." In 1955, a larger screen was installed as well as cinemascope projectors. In February of 1977 new seats and carpeting were installed. The building's exterior has sustained few alterations and except for decorative interior changes, the Delchar Theatre is well preserved and retains its original integrity.

One Contributing Building.

# 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 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 checked="" 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**    Builder - Olaf Holmquist

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Delchar Theatre is significant to the City of Mayville for its role as a major entertainment site. The theatre was built by Charles M. Tolan who had operated theatres in Mayville since 1917. The Delchar Theatre's name was taken from the first names of his wife, Della and his own name. The theatre had its grand opening on Monday, February 6, 1928, when the film "The Senorita", starring Bebe Daniels, was shown. The movie was supplemented by a musical performance featuring the "Colligiate Four Quartette". Seats were 25 cents and 50 cents. It was common throughout the 1920's to supplement the movies with vaudeville and stage acts. Much of the Delchar's live entertainment was locally derived. When the building was first opened in 1928, it represented a milestone in Mayville. The City did not have a movie house and Tolan wisely decided to capture the new market. Entertainment for Mayville's residents was mostly limited to activities sponsored by the Mayville Normal School. The "theatres" that Charles Tolan had operated previously to the opening of the Delchar were small and meant only to house traveling vaudeville acts. The Delchar, therefore, represents the first "full time" public entertainment facility in Mayville. This remains true even today. The theatre also provided a place for local talent to perform as well as the well known acts of the 1920's and 1930's popular in North Dakota.

The building is being nominated to the National Register for its contribution to the cultural and entertainment environment of Mayville. The building has served as a major social focal point in the community and region for fifty-seven years. Architecturally, the building is an example of a small vernacular movie house which exhibits excellent craftsmanship both in design and detailing. The theatre is locally significant because it is the first, and only, movie house in Mayville, N.D.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.7 acres

Quadrangle name Mayville North

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	4	6	2	6	0	2	0	5	2	6	1	9	0	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

Lot 3 Block 32 of the original Mayville Townsite

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

state N/A code county code  
state N/A code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title James R. Schimmer and Daniel Cornejo

organization Cornejo-Schimmer Planners date June 1, 1985

street & number Suite 814 Black Building telephone (701) 235-3147

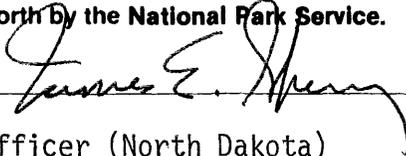
city or town Fargo state North Dakota

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

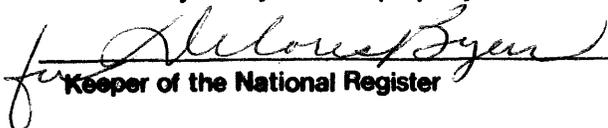
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

James E. Sperry  
State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota) date September 30, 1985

### For NPS use only

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

  
Keeper of the National Register Entered in the 11-14-85  
date

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet

Item number 9

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Bibliography

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1982 "Historical and Architectural Survey of Portions of  
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Burner, Thea and Merilla Brasel  
1980 Pillars of Time: A History of Pioneering on the  
Goose River Area of North Dakota from 1860 to the 1920's.  
Jostens/American Yearbook Company, Visalia, California.

Trail County Auditor  
Real Property Assessment Records, Trail County Courthouse.  
Hillsboro, North Dakota.

Trail County Register of Deeds  
Deed Records, Trail County Courthouse, Hillsboro, North Dakota.

Mayville Tribune

August 18, 1927  
November 5, 1927  
November 27, 1927  
December 17, 1927  
February 2, 1928

Trail County Tribune

October 21, 1937  
November 25, 1937  
December 2, 1937  
September 12, 1940  
July 9, 1955  
January 5, 1977  
December 12, 1977