

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 20 1977

DATE ENTERED MAR 30 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC The Palace Theatre Building **

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Broadway and 6th Street

CITY, TOWN Lorain VICINITY OF 13- Donald Pease

STATE Ohio CODE 039 COUNTY Lorain CODE 093

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
☐ DISTRICT	☐ PUBLIC	☒ OCCUPIED	☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☒ BUILDING(S)	☒ PRIVATE-non-profit	☐ UNOCCUPIED	☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ STRUCTURE	☐ BOTH	☐ WORK IN PROGRESS	☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	☒ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ OBJECT	☐ IN PROCESS	☒ YES: RESTRICTED	☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
	☐ BEING CONSIDERED	☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED	☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
		☐ NO	☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME The Civic Center Committee, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER 319 Broadway

CITY, TOWN Lorain VICINITY OF Ohio STATE Ohio 44052

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Lorain County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER 2nd Street

CITY, TOWN Elyria STATE Ohio 44035

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

—EXCELLENT
☒GOOD
—FAIR

—DETERIORATED
—RUINS
—UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒UNALTERED
—ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ORIGINAL SITE
—MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Palace Theatre Building is a rectangular, reinforced concrete structure. Its classically inspired facade of terra cotta with cut stone details along the parapet and corners, contains wide office windows on the second floor, showroom windows for four stores along the street, and a central marquee and recessed theatre entrance.

The interior is even more elaborate. This includes a marble-floored foyer, a carpeted lobby with fireplaces at either end, and a .59 acre auditorium decorated in the Italian Renaissance style. The 3500 square foot stage has a Wurlitzer pipe organ, an orchestra pit, and ten dressing rooms with shower facilities. The broad proscenium arch has floral decoration encased in panels arranged in a sunburst pattern. Beyond this is a central 3/4 ton chandelier hanging from a dome 20 feet in diameter and side walls of round-arches, Tuscan pilasters, and intervening pateras. The auditorium, loge, and two box seats have a capacity of 1950 people.

The lobby is two stories in height with more of a Venetian Gothic character. This is conveyed by frescoes, antiqued stucco, and extensive terrazo and tile work which is carried into the smaller public spaces and restrooms.

The overall impression of the Palace Theatre is that of overwhelming size and grandeur coupled with lavish detail. One is constantly aware that the interior decoration has no functional purpose other than as a stage-set for the audience itself.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☒ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☒ THEATER
☐ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☒ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1928

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Palace Theatre was the largest theater of its kind in Ohio as well as an excellent example of the dramatic possibilities of the late 1920's architectural eclecticism.

The building replaced the Old State Theatre which was destroyed by a tornado that swept through Lorain on June 28, 1924. President Silverman of the Variety Amusement Company wanted the new theatre to be the best of his 16 other properties in Northern Ohio. He spent \$500,000 in eight months for a "tornado-proof" concrete structure which was then the largest one-floor theatre in the state. It featured one of the largest Wurlitzer pipe organs then available and an unusual fire-proof projection room. The interior's palatial image was made possible by craftsmen from the Venetian Art Mosaic Company, the Italian Fresco and Paint Company, and the Cleveland Plastering Company, all of which specialized in theatre decoration.

On the Palace's opening night, April 19, 1928, the talking movie device, the Vitaphone, was heard for the first time in Lorain. Legitimate theater, charity shows, and vaudeville acts soon brought large crowds to what was advertised as the "Temple of Amusement dedicated to the Future Progress of Lorain".

The Palace Theatre Building is an important landmark in the Lorain community, both at the time of its construction and now as the focus of a broad-based effort to restore it. The theatre is both unique for Lorain and typical of an era in which physical luxury and public entertainment were highly regarded.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Lorain Journal : April 19, 1928.

The Story of Lorain, privately published article.

Duff, History of North-Central Ohio, 1931, v.1, pg. 408-447.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one acre *less than 1 acre*

UTM REFERENCES Lorain

A 17 40.1 875 45 9.0 95.0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

Lebovich
2/22/78
B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Linda Nielson (planner) & Tom Fisher (preservationist)

ORGANIZATION

Community Development Department

DATE

February 1977

STREET & NUMBER

200 West Erie Avenue, 5th floor

TELEPHONE

216-245-1010

CITY OR TOWN

Lorain

STATE

Ohio

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

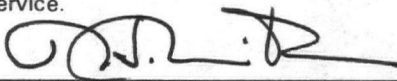
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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



TITLE

SAPO

DATE

12/16/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Watkinson D. Cole

DATE

3.30.78

DATE

3.10.78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

PUBLIC ALLEY

179.60

131.73'

223.71'

6TH STREET ALLEY

87.97'

100.04'

40.00'

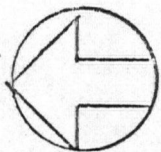
BROADWAY

SITE PLAN

PROJECT NO. 6-9-252

LORAIN CIVIC ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

SCALE 1" = 40'



FINKEL & FINKEL
ARCHITECTS

Masonic Building

Lorain, Ohio 43032

Phone 244-1675

NO. 583
FILE NO.
S-1
DATE 10/1/75
BY R.B.

MAR 30 1978



78002109

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: _____
Date Due: _____
Action: ACCEPT 5-30-78
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
 _____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name PALACE THEATRE BUILDING CORAIN CO.

2. Location BROADWAY & 6TH ST CORAIN, OHIO

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. 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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Palace Theatre Building, Lorain Co., Ohio
Photo: Linda Nielson, 1977
Negative: Palace Theatre

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Facade, Broadway at 6th St. Alley

DEC 20 1977

MAR 30 1978

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

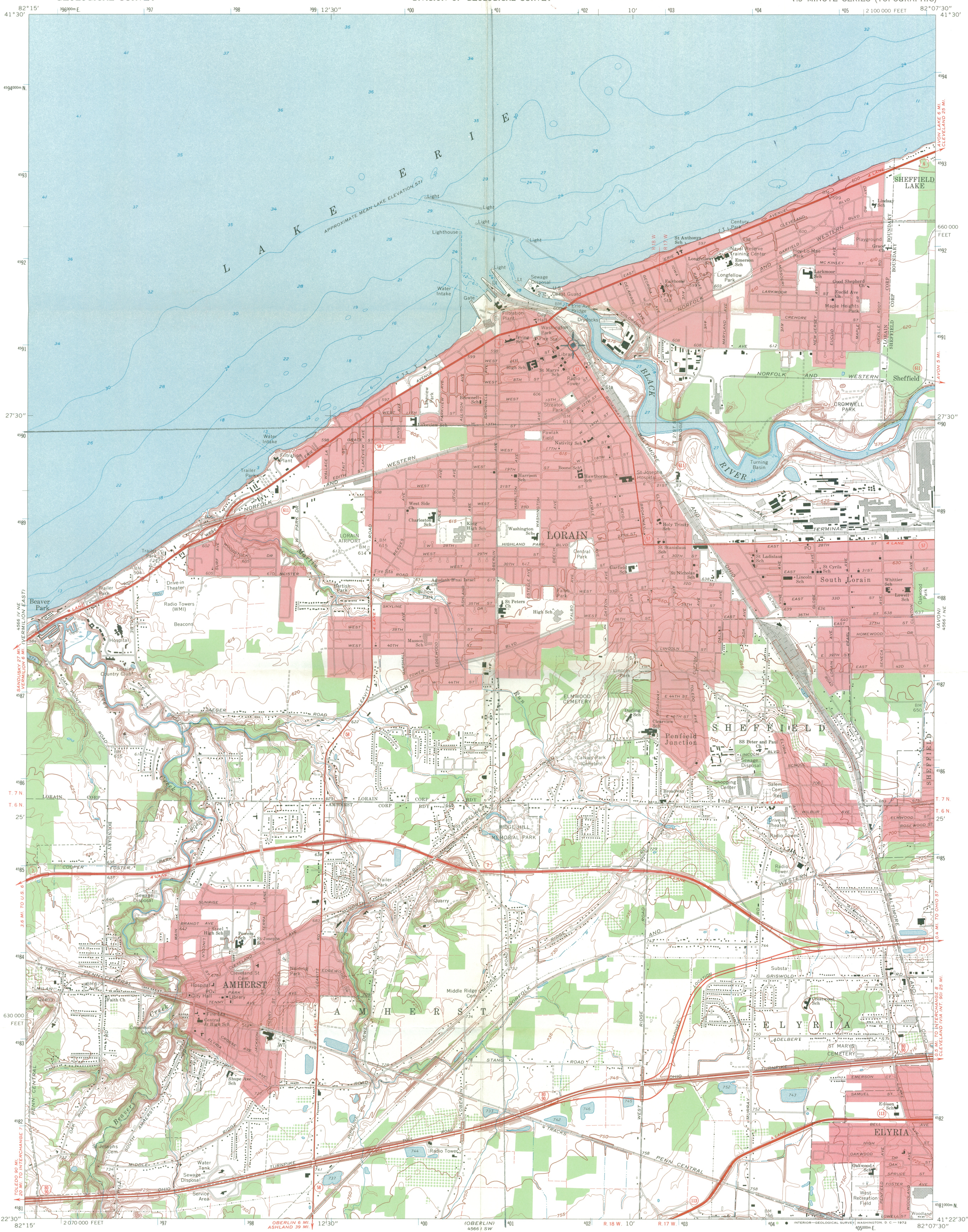
Palace Theatre Building, Lorain Co., Ohio
Photo: Linda Nielson, 1977
Negative: Palace Theatre

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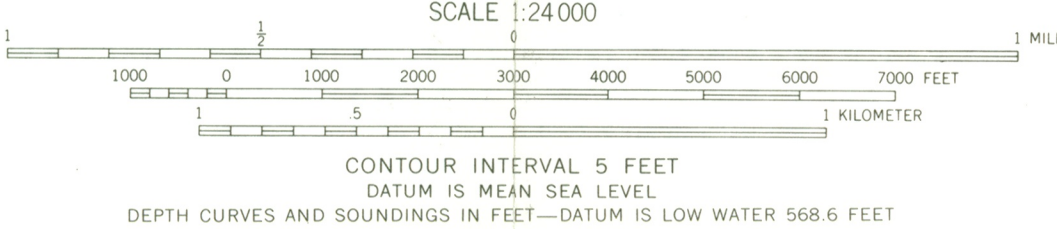
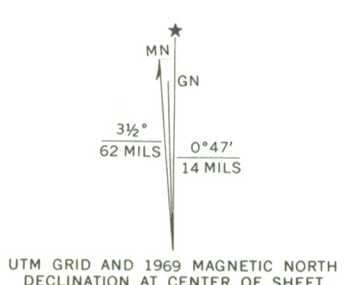
Facade, south end

DEC 20 1977

MAR 30 1978



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1958. Field checked 1960. Revised from aerial
photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1969
Selected hydrographic data compiled from U.S. Lake Survey Charts 357 (1967)
and 35 (1968). This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Ohio coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Entire area lies within the Connecticut Western Reserve
Dotted land lines established by private subdivision of the
Connecticut Western Reserve



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, all weather, Light-duty road, all weather,
hard surface improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, Unimproved road, fair or dry
hard surface weather
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route



LORAIN, OHIO
N4122.5—W8207.5
1969

AMS 4561 1 NW—SERIES V852



2-22-78

TELEPHONE REPORT

TIME OF CALL

2:10

AM
PM

1. CALL ☒ TO; ☐ FROM (Name)

Gretchen Klimoski

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

614-466-8727

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

The Palace Theatre Bldg.

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

agrees should be less
than 1 acre.

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

Handy

TITLE

OFFICE

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTERSTATE OHIODate Entered MAR 30 1978

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Buckner, Dr. Philip, House and Barn	Georgetown Brown County
Boesel, Julius, House	New Bremen vicinity Auglaize County
West Union School	Norwich vicinity Muskingum County
Palace Theatre Building	Lorain Lorain County
Devanney Site	Clermont County
Grant, William H., House	Middleport Meigs County
Roseville High School	Roseville Muskingum County

Also Notified

Hon. John H. Glenn, Jr.
 Hon. Howard M. Metzenbaum
 Hon. William H. Harsha
 Hon. Tennyson Guyer
 Hon. Clarence E. Miller
 Hon. Donald J. Pease

State Historic Preservation
 Officer
 Dr. Thomas H. Smith
 Director, The Ohio Historical
 Society
 Interstate 71 at 17th Avenue
 Columbus, Ohio 43211

880 Mott 4/7/78

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: Palace Theatre Building				② OTHER NAMES:		③ date of entry: MAR 30 1978		④ county code: 093		
⑤ LOCATION street & number Broadway and 6th St.		city / town Lorain		vicinity of		state OH		county Lorain		
⑦ OWNER ☒ PRIVATE ☐ STATE ☐ MUNICIPAL ☐ COUNTY ☐ MULTIPLE ☐ FEDERAL (agency name)				⑧ ADMINISTRATOR:						
⑨ EXISTING SURVEYS ☐ HABS ☐ HAER ☐ NHL				⑩ FUNDED? ☐ YES ☐ NO		⑪ CONGRESS. DISTRICT 13th		⑫ SOURCE of NOMINATION ☒ STATE ☐ FEDERAL		
⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ YES, NAME ☐ NO				⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? ☐ YES, NAME ☐ NO		⑮ ACREAGE		⑯ LOCAL ☐ PRIVATE ORGANIZATION ☐		
⑰ CONDITION ☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated ☐ original site ☐ good ☐ ruins ☐ unaltered ☐ moved ☐ fair ☐ unexposed ☐ reconstructed ☐ unknown ☐ unexcavated ☐ excavated				⑱ FEATURES: INTERIOR ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-4 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-7 EXTERIOR ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-5 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-8 ENVIRONS ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-6 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-9						
⑲ ACCESS ☐ YES-Restricted ☐ YES-Unrestricted ☐ No Access ☐ Unknown				⑳ ADAPTIVE USE ☐ YES ☐ NO		㉑ SAVED? ☐ YES		IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ yes ☐ no		
㉒ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE : ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 ☐ COMMERCE-6 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26 ☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 ☐ POLITICS/GOVT.-21 ☐ RECREATION-28 ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 ☐ COMMUNICATIONS-7 ☐ EXPLORATION-12 ☐ LAW-16 ☐ RELIGION-22 ☐ SETTLEMENT-29 ☐ AGRICULTURE-3 ☐ CONSERVATION-8 ☐ HEALTH-27 ☐ LITERATURE-17 ☐ SCIENCE-23 ☐ URBAN PLANNING-31 ☐ ARCHITECTURE-4 ☐ ECONOMICS-9 ☐ INDUSTRY-13 ☐ MILITARY-18 ☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 ☐ OTHER (SPECIFY) ☐ ART-5 ☐ EDUCATION-10 ☐ INVENTION-14 ☐ MUSIC-19 ☐ SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30 ☐ TRANSPORTATION-25										
㉓ functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CURRENTLY:				㉔ dates of initial construction: major alterations: historic events:				㉕ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION		
㉖ architectural style(s):				㉗ architect:		㉘ master builder:		㉙ engineer:		
㉚ landscape architect / garden designer:			㉛ interior decorator:		㉜ artist:		㉝ artisan:		㉞ builder/contractor:	
㉟ NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: EVENTS: INSTITUTIONAL:										

㊱ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP