

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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

For HCRS use only

received **NOV 2 1982**
date entered

1. Name

historic Great Southern Hotel ^{and} Theatre

and/or common

2. Location

street & number South High ^{and} East Main Streets. not for publication

city, town Columbus, Ohio vicinity of congressional district 12 th

state Ohio code 039 county Franklin code 049

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. William R. Mnich

street & number 4567 Ravine Dr.

city, town Westerville vicinity of state Ohio

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Franklin County Court House

street & number 369 S. High Street

city, town Columbus state Ohio

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Ohio Historic Inventory has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 5/26/82 federal state county local

depository for survey records Ohio Historic Preservation Office

city, town Columbus state Ohio

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 Southern Hotel and Theatre is a 6-story structure built of hollow tile veneered with red press brick. Of monumental scale, the rectangular building features elements of the Colonial Revival including flared brick lintels and attenuated pilasters. The original storefronts and entrances have been altered from their original appearance; present development plans call for the sensitive rehabilitation of these elements whenever possible. The original entrance to the hotel (on the High Street side) was set around a stone frontespiece with slightly battered walls and stone pilasters. The original entrance to the theatre (on the Main Street side) featured a massiveround-arched void with Sullivanesque stone ornament. The original plans called for the first story to be built of buff stone with the remaining upper portion of gray brick and stone; this scheme gave way to the all-brick exterior, perhaps for financial reasons. Distinctive detailing and full se-backs define the three major entrances to the building. The theatre area projects slightly and features an arcaded upper portion. Similar projecting sections also highlight the corner entrance and the High Street access into the Hotel. Windows are round arched with molded brick surrounds or flat-arched with flared lintels of brick. On the Main Street side, the round arched voids feature transom lights of stained glass. Colonial Revival elements of the facade include the use of delicate attenuated colonades at the major corners of the building and above the entrance to the hotel. Originally, a metal cornice was located below a parapet wall at the roof line. This cornice was removed, but will be restored during the planned rehabilitation. Behind this parapet was a roof garden, described in an early twentieth century promotional publication as "the only place of entertainment of its kind in Central Ohio."

The interior of the structure has only been minimally altered and plans call for as accurate a restoration as possible. The 1200-seat theatre is entered through a lobby and vestibule. The theatre's auditorium is set on a bowl floor and roofed with concentric vaulting. The original lights for the auditorium were concealed in the arches and were shaded with orange-tinted globes for diffusion of light. The space is lavishly ornamented with delicate molded plaster. Two balconies rise above the main floor seats.

The hotel lobby was a handsome example of classical proportion and detailing. Trimmed in marble and molded plaster the bay spacing was articulated by fluted Corinthian pilasters. A mezzanine was offset by elliptical arches, typical of the overall Colonial Revival tendencies of the rest of the building. The beamed ceiling originally formed panels of stained glass; these will be restored as part of the overall project. The hotel also has a grand ballroom, 46' x 90' with intact original stained glass. Originally fitted with 222 rooms, rehabilitation plans call for 196 rooms of a somewhat larger scale.

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/
☐ 1700-1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800-1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☐ 1900-	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates 1894-1896

Builder/Architect Dauben, Krumm, & Riebel, architects

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Menno G. Detweiler, designer
Yost & Packard, consulting architects

The Great Southern Hotel and Theatre stands today as Columbus' only remaining original 19th century hotel and theatre, and as an extremely important work of a prominent local architectural firm. The building exhibits many characteristics of the Colonial Revival style on the exterior, including the flared brick lintels on some of the windows, the delicately attenuated colonnades, and overall symmetry of massing. The lobby of the hotel exhibits many of these same characteristics, including the pilasters, the relief ornament, and the semi-elliptical mezzanine arches. Additionally, the Theatre exhibits exterior ornament of the sort associated with pre-eminent Chicago architect Louis H. Sullivan. This ornament includes an intricately-carved Romanesque arch of stone framing the entry to the Theatre. Finally, the interior arrangement of the theatre closely resembles Sullivan's Auditorium Theatre (1890) in Chicago, especially in the concentric arches which extend forward from the proscenium arch and cover the auditorium.

The building was built over a two-year period by a 400 member stock company, The Great Southern Fire Proof Hotel Co. Formed by south-side businessmen, the hotel and theatre were built to enhance the city's southside as commercial and residential development moved to the north. Because of the number of fires that had plagued such buildings, this new structure was designed to be fireproof, and was built of a combination of tile, brick, steel, and cement. The Theatre opened in September, 1896 and the hotel in 1897. The great names of the theatrical world played the Southern including, Julia Marlowe, Ethel Barrymore, Sarah Bernhardt, Lillian Russell, and George M. Cohan. The great Isadora Duncan refused to play Columbus unless she could play the Southern.

The Hotel was once one of Columbus' finest. President William McKinley and members of his cabinet were among its earliest guests. Long a center of political activity, inaugural balls were held in its spacious ballroom. Today, while some of its past grandeur has been lost, the Great Southern Hotel and Theatre remain a pivotal part of Columbus' architectural scene.

The architects of the building were the Columbus firm of Dauben, Krumm, and Riebel who secured the services of Menno G. Detweiler as a principal designer. Dauben and Riebel were in practice in the city for many years. Joseph Dauben was a German native who practiced in Chicago from 1871 until his arrival in Columbus in 1877. In addition to the Southern, he designed many public and private buildings as well as no less than three Ohio court houses. Riebel practiced in Columbus until his death in 1937, and served as architect for the Board of Education for many years. Little is known of Menno Detweiler, except that he was one of the designers of the 1892 Chicago World's Fair buildings. Thus, it may be that either Dauben or Detweiler was very familiar with Sullivan's Auditorium and designed their new theatre accordingly.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Architecture Columbus Robert Samuelson, et al. (Columbus, 1976)
Columbus Dispatch, 10 November, 1894.
Columbus Dispatch, 22 September, 1896.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Southeast Columbus

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	7
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3	2	9	9	8	0
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4	4	2	4	5	8	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Located at the southeast corner of Main Street and High and consisting of Inlots 352, 353, and 354.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title David L. Taylor, Executive Director

organization Columbus Landmarks Foundation

date 5/26/82

street & number 22 N. Front Street

telephone 221-0227

city or town Columbus

state Ohio

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

W. Ray Luce

title

SHPO

date

10/25/82

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

12/2/82

for Nelson Byrum
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Great Southern Hotel and Theatre
Franklin County
OHIO

Working No. 11/2/82-2982

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83

Date Due: 12/2/82 12/17/82

Action: 1 ACCEPT 12/2/82

Entered in the 1 RETURN

National Register 1 REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

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

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

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

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	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ moved
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	☐ date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

8. Significance

Period _____ Area 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

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UMT 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: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



GREAT SOUTHERN HOTEL & THEATRE
Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio
Photo by Baker Art Gallery, Col. ca. 1915
Copy negative at CLF
View from NW corner High & Main St
looking SE



GREAT SOUTHERN HOTEL & THEATRE

Columbus, Franklin Co., Ohio

Photo by David Taylor, 1982

NW perspective, at Main & S. High Streets



HOTEL SOUTHERN

PUBLIC SALE
SOUTHERN HOTEL CONTENTS
OPEN DAILY 10 TO 6, SUNDAY 12 TO 5
CONTENTS UNTIL SOLD OUT
FOR INFORMATION CALL 444-2400
NATIONAL CONTENT LIQUIDATORS INC.

COCKTAIL LOUNGE

HOTEL SOUTHERN

DINING ROOM

GREAT SOUTHERN HOTEL & THEATRE

Columbus, Franklin Co., Ohio

Photo by David Taylor, 1982

Detail of Main Street elevation, showing
entry to Hotel & collonade



GREAT SOUTHERN HOTEL & THEATRE
Columbus, Franklin Co., Ohio
Photo 1982, by David L. Taylor
View of Theatre entrance (Main Street)



GREAT SOUTHERN HOTEL AND THEATRE

Columbus, Franklin Co., OHIO

Photo by David Taylor, 1982

Detail of stonework on Theatre entrance

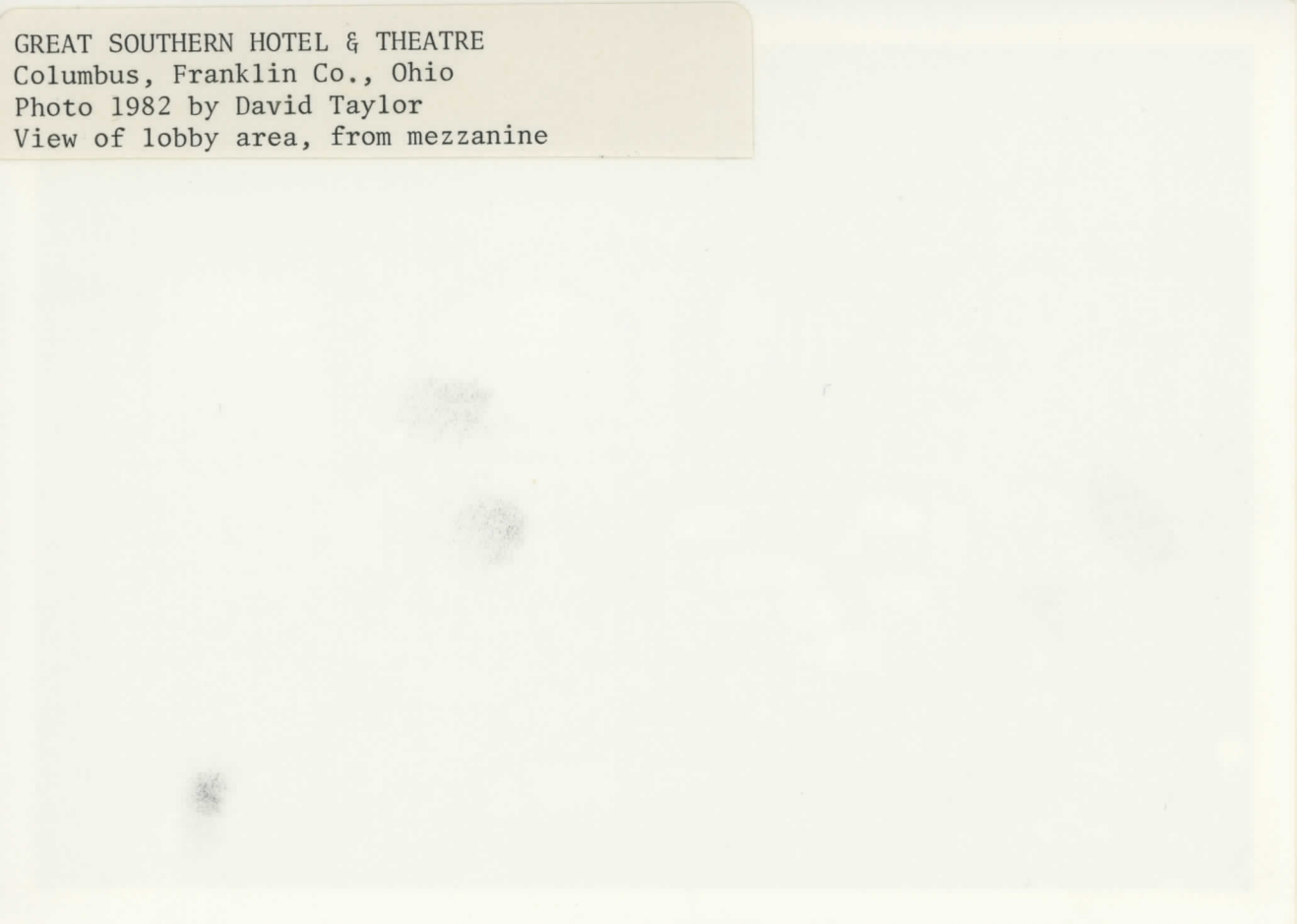


GREAT SOUTHERN HOTEL & THEATRE

Columbus, Franklin Co., Ohio

Photo 1982 by David Taylor

View of lobby area, from mezzanine





GREAT SOUTHERN HOTEL & THEATRE

Cols. Franklin Co., Ohio

Photo 1982 by Steve Hamm

Negatives filed at CLF

Interior of theatre, looking from
balcony toward proscenium



GREAT SOUTHERN HOTEL & THEATRE

Cols. Franklin Co., Ohio

Photo 1982 by Steve Hamm

Negatives filed at CLF

Interior of theatre, looking from
stage to balconies



GREAT SOUTHERN HOTEL & THEATRE
Cols., Franklin Co., Ohio
Photo 1982 by Steve Hamm
Negatives filed at CLF
Interior of theatre, looking up
side aisles



GREAT SOUTHERN HOTEL AND THEATRE
Columbus, Franklin Co., Ohio

Photo by David Taylor, 1982

Grand Ballroom, showing ornamental plaster
pilasters and lighting fixtures on
ceiling



GREAT SOUTHERN HOTEL & THEATRE

Columbus, Franklin Co., Ohio

Photo by David Taylor, 1982

View of mezzanine hallway, showing ornamental
plasterwork on pillars and cornice area



GREAT SOUTHERN HOTEL & THEATRE

Columbus, Franklin Co., Ohio

Photo by David Taylor, 1982

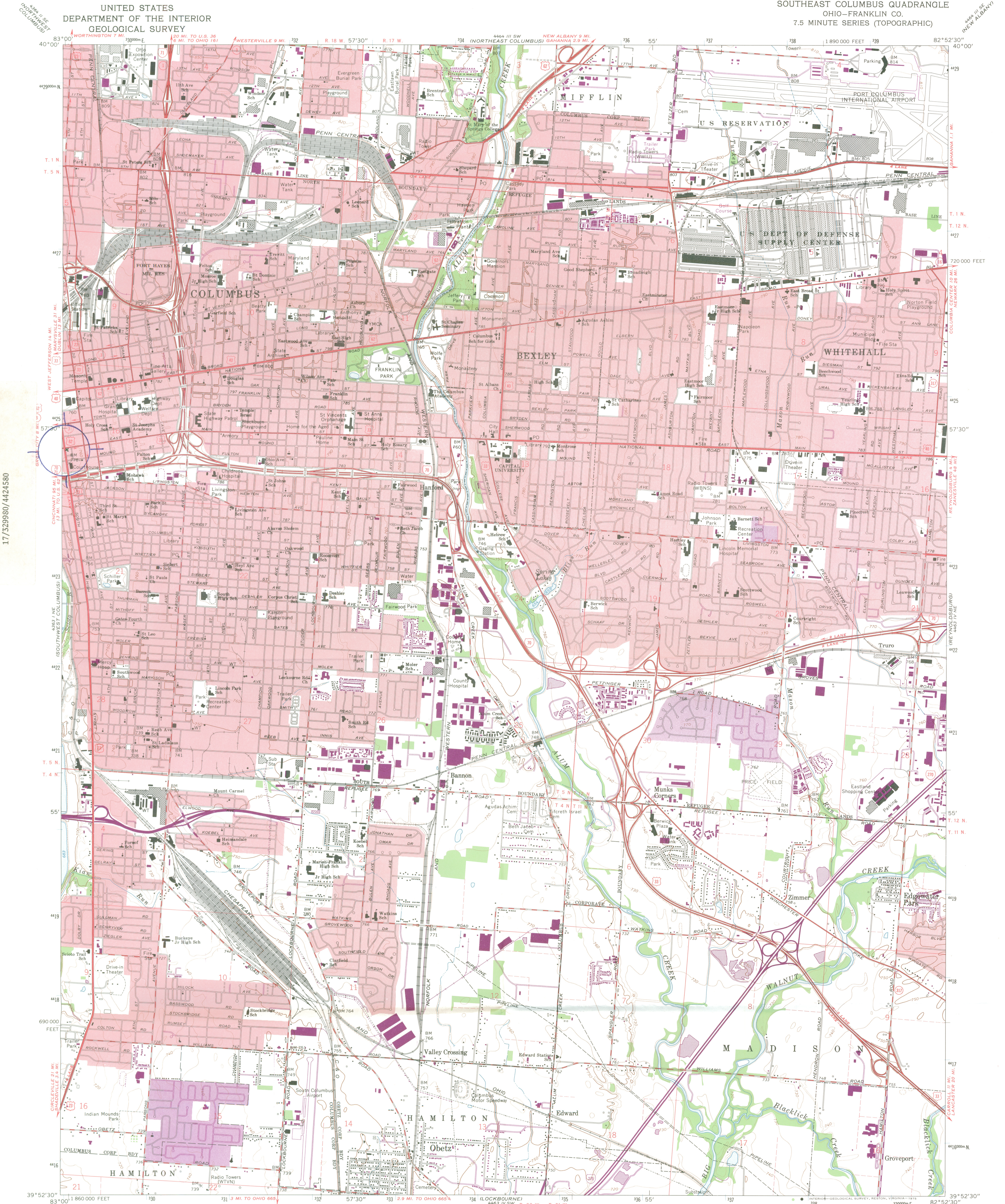
Hotel lobby (detail), showing ornamental
plasterwork

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SOUTHEAST COLUMBUS QUADRANGLE
OHIO—FRANKLIN CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

GREAT SOUTHERN HOTEL & THEATRE
Columbus, Franklin Co., Ohio
UTM reference:

17/329980/4424580



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Revised in cooperation with State of Ohio agencies
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and City of Columbus
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken
1953 and 1954. Topography by planetable surveys 1955. Revised 1964
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Ohio coordinate system, south 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
Area north of Base Line lies within the United States Military District
Land lines based on the Base Line of the United States Military District
Area south of Base Line lies within Congress Lands east of the Scioto River
Land lines within T. 4 and 5 N.-R. 22 W. based on the Scioto River Base
Land lines within T. 11 and 12 N.-R. 21 W. based on the Ohio River Base

UTM GRID AND 1973 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24,000
1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 KILOMETER
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

SOUTHEAST COLUMBUS, OHIO

N3952.5—W8252.5/7.5

1964
PHOTOREVISED 1973
AMS 4463 IV NW—SERIES V852

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with
State of Ohio agencies from aerial photographs taken
1973. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

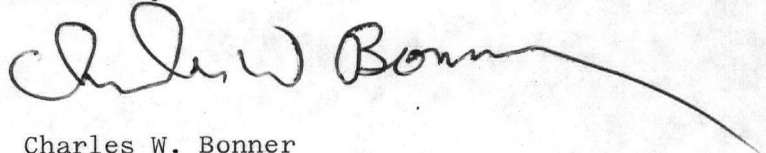
June 9, 1982

Dr. W. Ray Luce
State Historic Preservation Officer
I - 71 & 17th Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43211

Dear Dr. Luce:

Please be advised that I am a principal in the partnership which owns the Great Southern Hotel and Theatre in Columbus, Ohio. I wish to formally consent to the nomination of this structure to the National Register of Historic Places. I am aware of the provisions which come with listing on the National Register including those provided by the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981. In order to expedite the listing, I hereby waive the comment period and ask that the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board give the property final approval for nomination on June 11, 1982. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charles W. Bonner", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Charles W. Bonner

The City of Columbus
Mayor Tom Moody



Department of Development
140 Marconi Boulevard
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Director Ralph W. Smithers
614-222-7763

June 10, 1982

Dr. W. Ray Luce
Ohio Historic Preservation Office
Ohio Historical Society
I-71 and 17th Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43211

Dear Dr. Luce:

Because the City of Columbus recognizes the historical significance of the Southern Hotel and Theatre, it is pleased to lend its support to the nomination of this building to the National Register of Historic Places.

The City also recognizes that the rehabilitation of the Southern will have a major impact on efforts to revitalize the adjacent downtown area. Therefore, in order to facilitate the present owners' attempts to preserve both the hotel and theatre, the City would like to request that at the June 11 meeting of the Ohio Historic Sites Preservation Advisory Board the preliminary hearing be waived in favor of a final hearing.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

RALPH W. SMITHERS, DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT

Building Regulation
222-7433

Code Enforcement
222-7260

Community Development
222-7336

Economic Development
222-8135

Planning
222-8172

RWS/KB/sl



02 1982

TOM MOODY
MAYOR

**CITY OF COLUMBUS
OHIO**

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

June 28, 1982

Dr. W. Ray Luce
Ohio Historic Preservation Office
Ohio Historical Society
I-71 and 17th Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43211

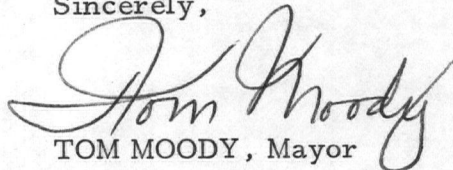
Dear Dr. Luce:

Because the City of Columbus recognizes the historical significance of the Great Southern Hotel and Theatre, the City is pleased to lend its support to the nomination of this building to the National Register of Historic Places.

The City also recognizes that the rehabilitation of the Great Southern will have a major impact on efforts to revitalize the adjacent downtown area. Therefore, in order to facilitate the present owners' attempts to preserve both the hotel and theatre, the City would like to request that, at the June 11 meeting of the Ohio Historic Sites Preservation Advisory Board, the preliminary hearing be waived in favor of a final hearing.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,


TOM MOODY, Mayor

TM: pm

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

Ohio Historical Center I-71 & 17th Avenue Columbus, Ohio 43211 (614) 466-1500

October 26, 1982

Ms. Carol Shull, Chief
Department of Registration
National Register of Historic Places
440 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Carol:

Enclosed are twelve new National Register nominations and two resubmissions. All the appropriate notification procedures have been followed for the new submissions.

New Submissions

The Salem China Company
Eight Black History Resources in Cleveland
Sandusky Street Historic District
Schlee-Kemmler Building
Great Southern Hotel and Theatre
Theodore Krumberg Building
African Jackson Cemetery
Commercial Building
St. John's Lutheran Church
St. Matthew's Protestant Episcopal Church
St. Henry Roman Catholic Church
Serquet, Emanuel and Frederick Farm

County

Columbiana
Cuyahoga
Delaware
Franklin
Franklin
Hamilton
Miami
Montgomery
Muskingum
Muskingum
Noble
Stark

Resubmissions

Capital University Historic District
Valley Dale Ballroom

County

Franklin
Franklin

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

W. Ray Luce

W. Ray Luce
State Historic Preservation Officer

WRL:BP:dd

Encl.

X.c: Regional Coordinators (5)

RECEIVED

NOV 1 1982

NATIONAL
REGISTER