

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Liberty Theater
other names/site number Tilford Theatre

2. Location


street & number 1333 Walnut not for publication
city or town Murphysboro vicinity
state Illinois code IL county Jackson code 077 zip code 62966

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

 DSHPO 4-24-12
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Liberty Theater
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Jackson, Illinois
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only one box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)
N/A

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and Culture: Theater

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and Culture: Theater

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Modern Movement: Art Deco

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete
walls: Glass: Vitrolite
roof: Asphalt
other: Marquee: glass, plastic, fiberglass

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Liberty Theater opened in 1913 as a storefront flick theater originally named the Tilford at 1333 Walnut Street, on the main thoroughfare of Murphysboro, Illinois. The facility is very much the same today as it was after the last update in 1938. The structure is a simple one and a half story rectangular storefront building with an Art Deco period façade shares walls with buildings on the east and west sides. During 1938 the Liberty was updated inside and out in the Art Deco style with a black vitrolite façade containing marble inlay "Liberty Theater," a trapezoid neon marquee, double doors, and movie poster display windows.

The auditorium is a raked dual aisle space with a performance stage and movie screen. The floor is concrete, and the stage is surrounded by a proscenium. Seating 362 the seats are a combination of red vinyl and assorted fabric styles. The lighting and soundproof walls are the 1938 Art Deco lighting and rectilinear decoration.

At the rear of the structure is an attached building that held the original 1910 Sturtevant Multifan unit.

Narrative Description

The Liberty Theater is located in the center of downtown Murphysboro, midway down the 1300 block of Walnut Street, on the south side of the street. The front walk before the theater has been demarcated by a one-half foot concrete platform with low pitched ramps on either side. The platform is decorated with brick pavers and flanked by cast-iron urns on pedestals. The one-and-one-half story five-bay building is covered in black vitrolite with "Liberty Theater" articulated in marble inlay front and center. (Is it white vitrolite beneath the marquee and separating the bays? Symmetrically placed neon lit movie poster cases flank the front aluminum-framed double doors on the east and west. Rectangular transoms top the doors and the outer poster cases. A three quarter sized neon lit trapezoid marquee is centered on the fenestration and above the doors.

The foyer is an enclosed area containing a ticket stand and snack counter, standing room, men's and ladies restroom, stairs to the projection room, and entrance doors to the auditorium. The ceilings are very high and the floor is the original 1913 terrazzo. The snack counter is curved with a partial Formica front and top surfaces, glass display and table top popcorn popper.

The projection room is at the rear of the auditorium and occupies the aforementioned half story with updated projection equipment. Entrance to the projection room is behind the snack counter. An administrative office is included in this area and has an exterior window facing Walnut Street and an interior window over the foyer.

The auditorium architectural elements, seating and lighting look as they did in 1938. The dual aisle auditorium seats 394 and contains Art Deco lighting, raked seating and soundproof walls and wainscoting. Art Deco imitation red leather and fabric seats from American Seating Company, Style 12-009, are in situ.

The proscenium, stage and film screen are at the rear of the building flanked by two exit doors. A red velvet stage curtain hangs from the proscenium arch covering a large

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downstage area. The stage is large enough for musical and theater productions and the film screen is upstage.

Alterations/ New Additions:

The theater retains sufficient integrity for listing on the National Register of Historic Places; very few changes have occurred since the 1938 remodeling and the recent alterations, which were made to comply with safety codes and adaptive reuse. These were minor changes and do not detract from the property's historic character. The theater operated under Marlow's ownership until 1969 when it was sold to Kerasotes Theaters who continued to operate the theater until 1998. When sold to the City of Murphysboro for one year's taxes there were specific conditions regarding the future operation of the theater; it would not be used for first run motion pictures. The City of Murphysboro and Murphysboro Main Street organization came together to rehabilitate the theater with the intent to provide a space for community events, performances by musicians etc. The restoration was completed including the restoration of the old marquee. The theater opened a year and half later at which time the City of Murphysboro conveyed the theater to Murphysboro Main Street on January 13, 2000. Safety concerns warranted downsizing the marquee in 2001. When driving down Walnut Street large trucks would come within inches of the marquee. Approximately 27,000 automobiles and trucks pass by the Liberty daily. It was commonly thought that eventually the marquee would be pulled from its girding if not downsized. Part of the original was reused to create the newer marquee. The replacement/ downsized marquee was designed by architect Andrew Eggemeyer and reconstructed by three different companies: Topper Easton of Iron Eagle Welding reconstructed the frame, Christine Brunk-Deshazo completed the façade and Clutts Electric Service wired the marquee.

A five foot arch-shaped extension was added to the stage. Two rows of seating were removed to allow room for the new stage area. Other than cleaning the facility, the marquee and the stage were the only changes made to the theater in 1999.

2002 Rehabilitation:

Murphysboro Main Street applied for a grant to the Elizabeth Smysor Charitable Trust for \$25,000 to restore and renovate the theater interior and replace a couple of broken pieces of vitrolite on the exterior façade. The grant was awarded. Within the renovation plans was the need to replace the 1999 stage which did not meet the needs for theater productions. Mr. Bill Murphy of Murphy Construction Company submitted design plans and a bid to complete the work. His plans and bid were accepted.

Foyer:

The interior restoration began by removing the 1970s changes to the foyer made by Kerasotes. The previously lowered foyer ceiling was removed and the ceiling plastered and painted. The 1913 terrazzo floor was uncovered. The original iron supports were covered with decorative wood. The mid century paneling was removed and the walls were painted. The bathrooms were updated. The concession stand was painted. The mid century popcorn popper and the automated ticket machine were kept.

Auditorium:

Restoration of the auditorium was not terribly difficult because the 1936 seats, celotex covered walls with wainscoting, and wall sconce lighting remained. The walls were painted and seats were cleaned. The seats were not repainted or recovered. The auditorium originally seated three hundred and ninety four. Thirty two seats (two rows) were previously removed to provide room for the stage extension and orchestral pit.

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Stage:

Additions to the stage house/screen area were made to allow for live performances and included 1) a new stage proscenium/surround; 2) the squaring off of the 5 foot stage extension; 3) stage lighting; 4) stairways on both sides of the stage; 5) speaker insets over the rear doorways; 6) new curtains over the rear exit stairs. Previously the rear exit walkways were a continuation of the slanted concrete floor. The plans allowed for stairs and a level walkway to the rear exits. The previous stage did not offer the ability for backstage wings limiting the type of productions offered. Squaring the stage allowed for more space to perform and was safer. The arched stage presented a significant drop to the orchestra pit and was dangerous. The stage curtain had dissolved on the runners and was replaced with one of the same style made by a local seamstress.

Projection Room:

The film projection area opening was enlarged and spot lights were installed along with a new film projector.

The Liberty Theater reopened completely renovated in September of 2002 for the annual Apple Festival.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Entertainment and Recreation

Period of Significance

1913 - 1962

Significant Dates

1913, 1928, 1938

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance is from 1913, the year the Liberty Theater was built, until 1962, the fifty-year cutoff for significance for the National Register.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Liberty Theater is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The theater meets the requirements under Criteria A and is associated with a specific historic pattern in American history. Tilford Theatre as it was originally called was constructed in 1913 specifically as a storefront flicker venue at the beginning of America's romance with movies. Movies influenced the lives and dreams of Americans. People learned how and how not to behave at the movies. Small town theaters were specifically important for the magic, dreams and global reality they brought to rural communities. Picture show environment and content contributed to the social development of Americans. As the American movie industry developed architecture rose to meet entertainment changes to seduce and entice the viewer. The Liberty Theater is an excellent example of collective architectural changes that took place in American movie houses, from storefront theaters to an Art Deco movie venue. As films became longer, originally five to twenty minutes and then two hours by 1915, viewer comfort became a major concern. Movie houses focused on offering a place of escape and were designed and decorated accordingly. Velvet ropes, flashing lights and comfortable seats were available for anyone with a nickel or twelve cents offering most social equality. As the national history progressed theaters became a place to approach the public with movements that supported the current trends, 1918 patriotic renaming, Charles Fetty's *A Day In Hollywood* movement, national Bank Night fad, selling war bonds, and addressing mid century civil right issues. During the Great Depression approximately half of American movie houses closed and the viewing audience shrank by a third. Art Deco style replaced earlier flashy exotic theatre design and became the accepted style. The film industry progressed and eventually small town theaters were considered outdated and were left in the wake of the multiplex only to rise again as town entertainment centers such as the Liberty is today. The Liberty is the only early twentieth century film theater in the region still showing movies and will celebrate its centennial birthday in 2013.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Murphysboro, Illinois, was a thriving town in 1913 and a stellar example of American invention, entrepreneurship, and development. Home to many first generation Americans, the town exhibited the quest many had for the American dream. When life is going well and a community is thriving numerous recreational activities and businesses develop. The Tilford Theater opened in 1913 and was one of the first of five theaters in downtown Murphysboro. The others included the Hippodrome on north 9th, the Comedy Theatre on north 11th, the Gem Theatre at 8th and Walnut, and the Star Theatre across the street from the Tilford. John Carico and David Rolens opened the storefront Tilford Theatre offering film shorts and eventually films like *The Squaw Man* or a Charlie Chaplin film. The Tilford originally had straight back chairs typical of the entertainment venues of the time. A new inventive cooling system, the Sturtevant Multifan, was installed for the movie goer's comfort. The Multifan fan was the first of its kind in the area. Mr. Carico purchased the theatre from his partner in 1914 and unfortunately died shortly after in 1918. His widow, not a Murphysboro resident, leased the theater to John Marlow and the Marlow Amusement Corporation who already owned the Murphysboro Opera House and was opening the grandest movie palace in southern Illinois, the Hippodrome. Marlow was an avid businessman in the entertainment field in Herrin and Murphysboro. When he saw the early

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fascination Americans had for movies he learned his craft well, and formed the Marlow Amusement Corporation.

Storefront theaters quickly developed as neighborhood amusement centers throughout America. The new venues were easily developed from existing storefronts and so the industry grew quickly. The five theatres in town offered a combination of amusements from short films to light vaudeville. Amusement centers that offered vaudeville and films were called and spelled "theater." Centers that offered strictly films were called and spelled "theatre." The Murphysboro 1913 City Directory lists all five entertainment venues under the heading of "theatre". The Tilford Theatre followed the nickelodeon style architecture with a carnival lit recessed lobby, show placards on the sidewalk and a box office salesperson to attract the attention of passersby. Films were short and customers could spontaneously decide to watch a fifteen or twenty minute movie.

The Tilford was leased by James Marlow and renamed the Liberty Theater in 1918. Theater marketing and architecture changed to meet the needs of feature films which were much longer. The first full feature movie theatre opened in 1915 in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania with the distribution of *Birth of a Nation*. Prior to this most film houses showed film shorts in which the film was promoted, and the actors were not given special billing nor were their names acknowledged. After 1918 venue names were changed to be patriotic. Hence, the name Liberty fit within the national contemporary context of the upbeat post WWI American demeanor. Along with the name change from the Tilford to the Liberty the spelling of "theatre" was changed to end in "er." The running time for *Birth of a Nation* was 190 minutes, much longer than any previous film. Owners wanted customers to be comfortable during the longer show time and for this reason shows were refitted with softer more substantial chairs. Seating prior to this was comprised of individual straight back folding chairs. The Liberty showed the full feature film *Daddy Longlegs* starring Mary Pickford in 1919. In the same year owner James Marlow and Marlow Amusement Corporation partners opened the Hippodrome Theatre at a new address, 17 South 13th Street, around the corner from the Liberty. Marlow intended for the Hippodrome to offer musicals and films meeting the need for live music which the Liberty did not offer. The new theatre seated 1600 and contained a \$15,000 organ. All went well with the Liberty and it was eventually purchased by the Marlow Amusement Corporation in 1928.

Director Donald O. Newland of the Consolidated Film Producing Company of Los Angeles and Charles Fetty a cameraman from Chicago came to Murphysboro to make a film using local people as the stars in 1926. Newland began making these itinerant films in the early 20s. These types of films, using local citizens as the stars and the same scripts, became a novelty across America. James Marlow and Fred Rolens enlisted the film company to come to Murphysboro to make the film *A Day in Hollywood*. Rolens, the editor and owner of the *Daily Independent*, attended to successfully marketing the movie. A local contest was held to see who would be the "leading lady." The process of selecting the people for starring roles became the talk of the town. Shooting the film took place over three days using a cameraman, two crew members and the director. The film was made on a 35 millimeter silver nitrate base film. Part of the film covered candid shots of Murphysboro showing churches, schools and the downtown area. The staged production is the second part of the film which included a high speed car chase, the straightening out of a marital mix-up and a marriage. The film was shown several times in Murphysboro and even as recently as May 2011.

The movie industry suffered tremendous casualties during the '30s. By 1930 only two theaters survived the economic downturn, the Liberty and the Hippodrome both of which were owned by Marlow. National theater attendance dropped from 90 million per week in 1930 by one third within two years while over half of the operating theatres closed their doors.

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Business owners became creative to stay afloat. Money was tight and family leisure dollars declined, so businesses developed ways to attract customers. One of these techniques was *Bank Night* or *Dish Night*. The fad began as a lottery game franchise in 1931 and was invented by an agent for 20th Century Fox. The franchise was leased to theaters for five to fifty dollars per week and allowed the owner to run an event called Bank Night. Owners were given a film with a Bank Night trailer, registration book and lottery wheel from which to pick the winners. Participants placed their name in theatre manager's book and a name was drawn at random. People had three minutes to get to the stage to claim the prize. The clincher was that folks did not have to purchase a movie ticket to participate and skipped around local lottery laws of the time. This game was regularly advertised and played weekly at the Liberty Theater.

Art Deco style replaced the older styles of theatre architecture and became the standard. The first Art Deco movie palace, the Hollywood Pantages, was designed in 1930 by Marcus Priteca. Some say the new style was a reflection of difficult economic time during the 30s and was a rejection of the national depression. Maggie Valentine, movie theater architectural historian, states that Art Deco style reflects the move toward romance and domesticity and away for exoticism in film content. The Liberty Theater reflects the national trends of the time. The front foyer was enclosed and exterior was covered with black vitrolite facing with the name "The Liberty" inset with marble on the center front of the façade. It is possible that the front of the theater was involved in the *Modernize Main Street* competition sponsored by the Libby-Owens Company. They offered \$11,000 in cash prizes for plans revitalizing storefronts with vitrolite facades on main streets in America. The theater moved into the '30s with a new look to fit the times, sleek modern Art Deco style.

Movie theaters served as an excellent venue for the dispersal of information on WWII, war bonds and the conservation of resources. During WWII the Office of War Information was instrumental in producing a successful campaign to motivate citizens to conserve and purchase savings bonds. Called War Bonds or War Loans the government presented movies of patriotic nature to support the purchase of savings bonds. Films such as *Avenge December 7* or *A Letter from Bataan* starring well known film stars were shown weekly. Newsreels were also shown to educate viewers on frontline activity. Italian American James Marlow was extremely patriotic and supported the federal movement by showing the WWI films and newsreels and selling war bonds at the snack counter beginning in 1942.

By the 1950s the Liberty was one of only two theaters left in Murphysboro, Illinois. In 1954 a new wide angle lens was installed by the projectionist to better fit the picture to the new wide screen when an electrical fire started and destroyed the theater's interior. Marlow quickly renovated the venue and reopened. Mr. Marlow had become an admired town citizen. The daily paper reveals accounts of his illness and hospital stays. When he died in 1969 the Liberty was sold to Kerasotes Decatur Theaters. The Hippodrome, by now called Marlow's Theater, was destroyed leaving the Liberty as the only movie house in town. Unfortunately the Liberty became a "B" movie house and eventually only showed dollar movies. The last movie shown at the Liberty under Kerasotes ownership was, *Halloween H20*, on Sept 10th 1998.

The theater was sold to the city for a year's taxes with the stipulation that there would not be any first run movies shown. Restoration began immediately with the city and Murphysboro Main Street partnering to complete the restoration with the goal of using the venue as a community arts center and returning it to theatre status. The marquee was returned to its former glory, the interior was restored, the stage was enlarged to support musicians and a new curtain was made. The 1936 seats were cleaned and are in the theater

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today. The city gave Murphysboro Main Street the theater in the year 2000 and they began hosting events. Today the Liberty is a not-for-profit organization that offers musicians a place to entertain and shows vintage films a couple of times a week. Recently the movie *The Scientist* held its world premier at the Liberty and the well know Big Muddy Film Festival shows its annual award winners at the Liberty.

The Historic Liberty Theater is a mainstay of the community and holds the town's history well. The 98 year old venue will be 100 in 2013 and with it will bring an annual celebration chronicling the entwined history of the community and the Liberty and hopefully a National Register of Historic Places designation.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Archival Sources:

"Tilford, Star, Gem and Comedy Theater advertisement", Daily Republican Era, Jan 14, 1914, p4. Murphysboro, Illinois. John A. Logan Museum Archive.

"Liberty and Hippodrome Advertisement for War Bond Night", Murphysboro Daily Independent, September 20, 1945. John A. Logan Museum Archive.

Jackson County Deeds and Records, 1909, 1910, 1912, 1913, 1928.

1913 Murphysboro City Directory, John a. Logan Museum Archive, Murphysboro, Illinois.

1924 Murphysboro City Directory, John a. Logan Museum Archive, Murphysboro, Illinois.

1930 Murphysboro City Directory, John A. Logan Museum Archive, Murphysboro, Illinois.

Articles:

"Who Will Star?" Daily Independent, Friday May 7, 1926, p 1.

John Marlow, Motion Picture News, vol. 20-24, p 3579, Nov 15, 1919.

Cinema: *Bank Night*, TIME, Monday Feb 03, 1936

Heale, M.J. *American Anticomunism: Combatting the Enemy Within, 1830-1970*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1990.

Books:

Kimble, James J. (3006). *Mobilizing the home front: war bonds and domestic propaganda*. Dallas: Texas A & M University Press.

Sparrow, j. T. (2008). "Buying our boys back: The mass foundations of fiscal citizenship in world War II. *Journal of Policy History*, 20(2), 263-286.

Valentine, Maggie. (1994). *The Show Starts on the Sidewalk: An Architectural History of the Movie Theater*, Starring S. Charles Lee. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Waller, Gregory Albert (2001) . *Moviegoing in America: A Sourcebook in the History of Film Exhibition*.

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Electronic sources:

Our Vanishing Vitrolite, (<http://www.victoriansecrets.net/vitro7.html>)

Cinema Bank Night (<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,755762,00.html>)

Xroads.virginia.edu/~cap/palace/thirties.html

Post WWI American Anticommunism: Patriotic Organizations and The Big Red Scare, 1918-1920
(<http://www.suite101.com/content/american-anticommunism-part-1-a41539#ixzz1VyChh7oD>)

Interviews:

Interview with Topper Easton by Rachel M. Ensor, May 26, 2011. Mr. Easton owns the Iron Eagle Welding and Tool Company Incorporated in Creal Springs, Illinois and is an iron restoration expert.

Interview with Stephen Hunt by Rachel Ensor, August 5, 2011. Mr. Hunt is the District Manager of American Seating the Company from which James Marlow purchased the current theater seats.

Interview with Vincent Tocco, Jr. by Rachel Ensor, June 6, 2011. Mr. Tocco is the archivist for the now closed Sturtevant Fan Company.

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 294083 4182227
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Beginning at a point in the North line of Lot 2 in Block 25 in J.A. & T.M. Logan's First Addition to the City of Murphysboro, Illinois, 72 feet East of the Northwest corner thereof: From said point of beginning running thence East with the North line of Lot 2 for a distance of 34 feet 3 inches; thence south to a point 10 feet North of the South line of Lot 3 in Block 25 of said addition: thence West 34 feet 3 inches and thence North to place of beginning.

Lots 2 and 3 in Block 25 in J.A. and T.M. Logan Addition to the City of Murphysboro, Jackson County, Illinois

Commonly called: 1333 Walnut, Murphysboro, Illinois 62966

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the property historically associated with 1333 Walnut Street.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rachel M. Ensor, Senior Research Historian
organization Historic Properties Consultants date 8/24/11
street & number 1515 Oak Street telephone 618-684-6292
city or town Murphysboro state Il zip code 62966
e-mail rachel@historicpropertiesconsultants.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Historic Liberty Theater

City or Vicinity: Murphysboro

Liberty Theater

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County: Jackson

State: Illinois

Photographer: H. Blaine Ensor

Date Photographed: March 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of 9

Photo List

Il_JacksonCounty_HistoricLibertyTheater_0001

Tilford Theater Exterior Front View 1913

Il_JacksonCounty_HistoricLibertyTheater_0002

Liberty Theater Exterior Front View 2011

Il_JacksonCounty_HistoricLibertyTheater_0003

Liberty Theater Interior Snack Counter 2011

Il_JacksonCounty_HistoricLibertyTheater_0004

**Liberty Theater Interior Auditorium facing the stage
2011**

Il_JacksonCounty_HistoricLibertyTheater_0005

Liberty Theater Interior Auditorium from the stage

Il_JacksonCounty_HistoricLibertyTheater_0006

Liberty Theater Interior Art Deco Wall Sconce

Il_JacksonCounty_HistoricLibertyTheater_0007

Liberty Theater Interior Art Deco Seating

Il_JacksonCounty_HistoricLibertyTheater_0008

1926 Advertisement for Hippodrome and Liberty

Il_JacksonCounty_HistoricLibertyTheater_0009

**1944 Opening Screen from War Bond movie shown at the
Liberty**

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Historic Liberty Theater NFP and City of Murphysboro Illinois

street & number 1333 Walnut

telephone 618-684-5880

city or town Murphysboro

state Illinois

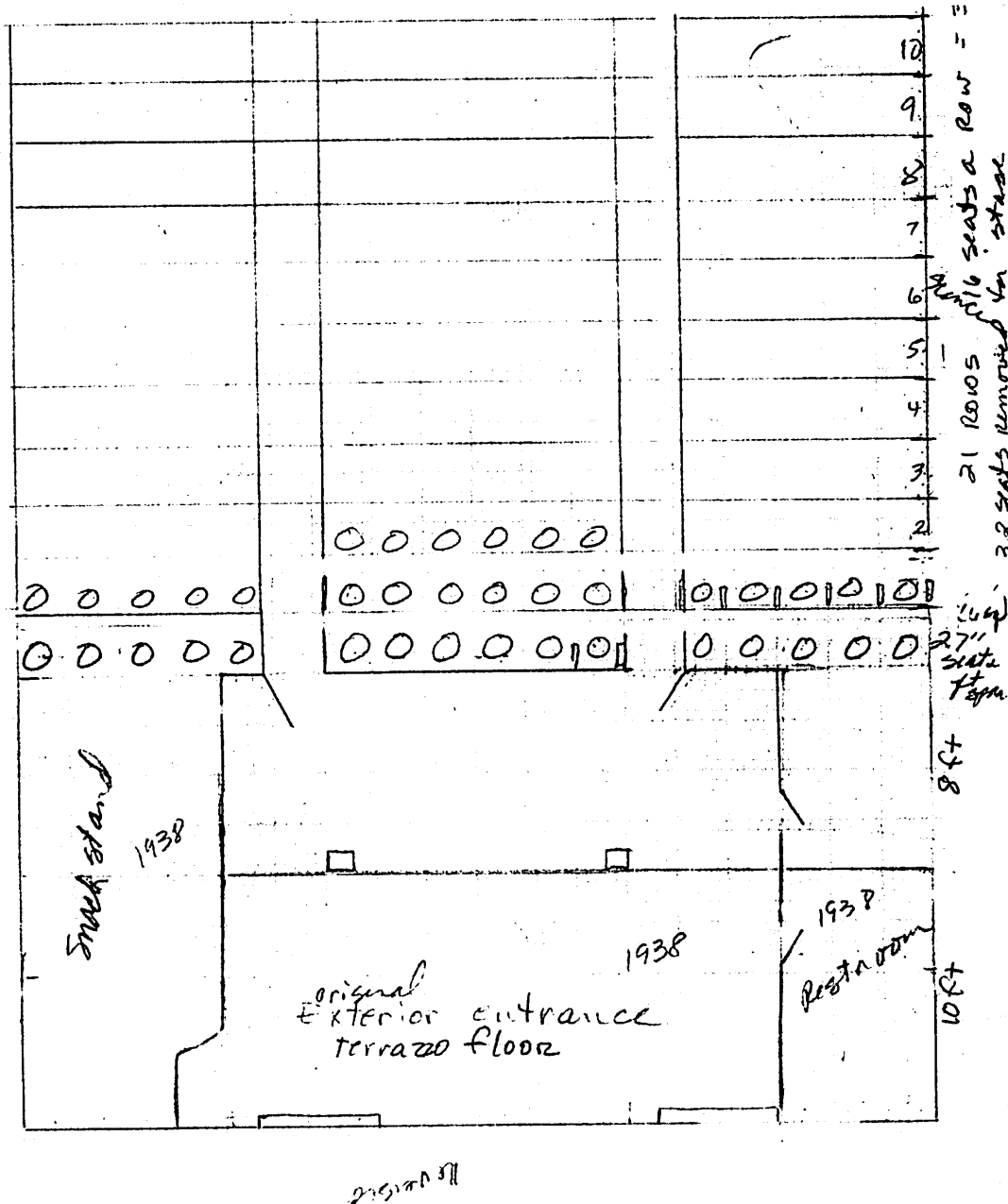
zip code 62966

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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Floor plan showing lobby, restrooms, and back half of the auditorium

Liberty Theater 1333 Walnut Street
Murphysboro
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