

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name LIBERTY THEATER
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 849 NW WALL STREET not for publication N/A
city or town BEND vicinity N/A
state OREGON code OR county DESCHUTES code 017
zip code 97701

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (X See continuation sheet for additional comments)



April 20, 1998

Signature of certifying official Deputy SHPO Date

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet
 determined eligible for the
National Register
 See continuation sheet
 determined not eligible for the
National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper:

Date of Action:

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**
(Check as many boxes as apply)

private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
	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)

Cat: RECREATION & CULTURE
Sub: THEATER**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCIAL/TRADE
Sub: SPECIALTY STORE/BUSINESS
RESTAURANT**7. Description****Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY
REVIVAL
SPANISH COLONIAL REVIVAL

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation LAVA ROCK
 roof ASPHALT (BUILD-UP)
 walls STUCCO
 other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheet

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.

Criteria Considerations

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

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION _____

ARCHITECTURE _____

Period of Significance

1917-1941 _____

Significant Dates

1917 _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

KEANE, EDWARD H. (Architect) _____

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of repository: Deschutes County Historical Society _____**10. Geographical Data****Acreage of Property** 25' X 135', or 0.08 Acres _____**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 Zone _____
 Easting _____
 Northing _____2 Zone _____
 Easting _____
 Northing _____3 Zone _____
 Easting _____
 Northing _____4 Zone _____
 Easting _____
 Northing _____ See continuation sheet.**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

See Continuation Sheet

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

See Continuation Sheet

11. Form Prepared Byname/title MICHAEL HOUSER: Associate Planner, Historic and Cultural Resources _____organization Deschutes County Community Development Department date NOV 25, 1997 _____street & number 117 NW Lafayette telephone (541) 388-7927 _____city or town Bend state OR zip code 97701 _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**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.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name TOM & MARILYN CIRELLO

street & number 543 NW BROADWAY STREET telephone (541) 317-0976

city or town BEND state OR zip code 97701

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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**LIBERTY THEATER
DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON**

Narrative Description:

SETTING

The Liberty Theater is located on the west side of Wall Street in the heart of downtown Bend, Oregon. The Theater faces southeast and is ten lots north of Franklin Avenue. The surrounding buildings vary in architectural style, building material and date of construction, with the Theater being one of the earliest buildings standing on the street. Within the 135' x 25' lot the building encompasses the entire lot and abuts to the adjacent buildings to the north and south. No landscaping exists on the site. One large maple tree is located on the sidewalk in front of the Theater approximately in the middle of the facade.

EXTERIOR

The Liberty Theater is a two story, shoebox design, movie house in the Spanish Colonial Revival style. Retaining its original location, setting and association, some of the historic fabric of the theater has been lost, however an abundance of historic photographs and existing evidence found on the building should make restoration of the Theater a relatively simple task. The main facade has remained in its altered state since the early 1950s.

Built in 1917 the front of the Liberty Theater is finished in white stucco. A raised stucco trim surrounds the exterior edge of the building, finished in a red color. Now removed, the original decoration on the facade included two sculptural reliefs, two round vents and two arc lights. The crest shaped plaster sculptural ornaments boasted musical instruments in sculptural relief. Just below those were round plaster grills that allowed fresh air into the theater space. At each top corner of the parapet wall were globe style arc lights that illuminated the main facade during evening shows. Also removed, at the top center of the building was a large flagpole which reportedly flew one of the largest flags in Bend.

The main roof of the theater is flat with a built-up composition roof system. The street facade was originally designed with a sloping pent roof covered with red clay tiles, typical of the Spanish Colonial style. The roof, which hung approximately five feet from the facade, was supported by four large, oversized A-Frame style eave brackets. In the early 1950s the roof was cut flush with the facade and now is covered with a brown standing-seam tin roof system.

The main facade windows are arranged in a pyramidal, three-tiered design. Each window is surrounded by a heavy Baroque tabernacle style stucco frame, painted out in a contrasting red color and boasts a round arched top. The upper most single, window is an eight pane casement style. Below are two double hung four-over-one style windows. At the base, now removed, were three transom style windows. In the center, a large six-pane window cover the quad entrance doors (see attached historical photos). On either side, was a small six-pane rectangular window just above the movie poster billboards. Today shadow lines on the building show the location these windows.

Unlike most movie theaters, the Liberty Theater's ticket booth was located inside the building. Accessed via four, full light wood doors, the entrance was originally highlighted with a simple projecting entrance marquee. True to the modernization of the facade that occurred in the 1950s, the entrance has been pushed back two feet, the marquee has been removed, and the facade is now punctured by four modern style doors. Two double doors led to

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**LIBERTY THEATER
DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON**

Narrative Description: Cont'd

a restaurant on the south end of the building. A center door, solid wood, leads directly to a stairwell that climbs to the second floor. The forth door leads to the retail shop on the first floor.

On the rear facade, a concrete block wall, built for a rear stairwell, and T-1-11 siding hide the original brick wall. Access to a basement space has been covered with the addition of a rear extension to the building to the south three years ago. It is unknown what the configuration of the basement space is like.

INTERIOR

The interior of the Liberty Theater has been divided into several office and retail spaces on the first and second floors. The original projection room and balcony space however remains intact at the second floor level. Historical photos (see attached) show us that the original theater space was long and narrow. At the screen end was a large stage, capable of holding vaudeville performances and small plays. Newspaper accounts also report a small orchestra pit at the base of the stage. At the entrance side was a lobby and ticket booth area.

Today, remnants of the original first floor interior space are non existent. On the south side of the building, a 9'6" x 58'0" restaurant space has been boxed in. On the north side, a 13'6" x 97'0" retail space has been established. A stairwell, which leads to a small 10'0" x 24'0" mezzanine level, divides the two spaces. The rear 1/4 of the building has been divided into storage and office space.

On the second floor the 10'0" x 20'0" projection room space has been lined on the floor, walls and ceiling with metal to a prevent fire the spreading to the rest of the building. Small windows on the west wall allow the projector to shine on to the movie screen. What originally was the balcony space remains intact, and has been extended throughout the building to create a second floor. The original balcony space boasts Art Deco style movie seats (a circa 1930 remodel), and large oversized ceiling crown molding from the 1917 theater space. Walls and ceiling are finished in a heavy textured plaster.

The newly created upstairs space has been divided into five offices/storage rooms and one bathroom. The walls are covered with wood paneling and a drop ceiling has been installed. A three foot wide cubby space extends along the north wall to provide for storage space. The upstairs bathroom and rear stairwell are additions beyond the original footprint of the building.

ALTERATIONS AND REHABILITATION PLANS

Alterations to the Liberty Theater include a complete reworking of the interior space and a modernizing of the exterior facade. Many of the alterations occurred in the early 1950s after the Theater had shut down due to competition from more modern theaters.

Rehabilitation work to return the main facade to its historical appearance is planned. Using historic photos and existing physical evidence a return to the original exterior facade should be a simple task. Work will include the reinstallation of the transom windows, the reconstruction of the red tile roof, and installation of a marquee and full light doors. Shadow lines showing the location of the first floor transom windows are evident and investigative analysis reveals that the window framing still is intact.

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**LIBERTY THEATER
DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON**

Narrative Statement of Significance:

The Liberty Theater is historically significant under criterion "A" for its association to events that made a significant contribution to the board patterns of history in Bend, Oregon. Like many historic theaters, the Liberty Theater was built to be the focal point of community cultural life. Here movies, lectures and plays entertained local residents for twenty-four years.

The construction of the Liberty Theater (1917) was a result of the influx of people moving into the region. Spurred on by the formation of Deschutes County just a year prior (1916) and the establishment of two large, world-class size lumber mills, Shevlin-Hixon and Brooks-Scanlon Lumber Company, the need for entertainment was obvious. So many people were moving into the area in 1916 that Bend was declared as having the fastest increase in population anywhere in the United States.

Realizing the need and the profit to be made, financier T. Monty O'Donnell, had the Liberty Theater built for a cost of \$15,000. The building replaced O'Donnell's outdated Bend Theater on Bond Street that held less than one-hundred people. The Liberty Theater was designed by local Bend architect, Edward H. Keane. It was designed to house movie and vaudeville shows, with a large stage and orchestra pit. Keane's design for the Liberty Theater is his only known work in Central Oregon, although it is likely he is responsible for more (Much Building..).

The new theater opened with great fanfare on July 29, 1917. Billed as Bend's newest and best, manager Ward Coble, was elated to announce that the biggest hit of the season "Broadway Jones" with George M. Cohan, would be the first movie shown. In accord with the spirit of the times, the theater was named the Liberty, and paralleling the policy of some of the leading playhouses of the northwest which had adopted the same name, only the best films would be shown. Services secured for the theater included Paramount Pictures, Artcraft, World, Mutual Weekly, and Universal. The new theater had a 500 seat capacity on two levels. Admission was 15 cents for children and 25 cents for adults. Fredrick P. Cobb, a well known Seattle artist at the time, painted scene decorations, and Mr. Abbott, a local Bend artist painted the drop curtain. Violinist Bruce Healy, Mrs. Horton, a pianist and Frank Bennett who handled special affects, were the proud performers who offered the prose for the silent movies of the day.

Events at the Liberty Theater events included not only movies but plays and lectures. One such event was a lecture by internationally famous medical missionary Dr. Wilfred T. Grenfell who spoke about "Midst Ice and Snow in Labrador". Other events included boxing exhibitions, and amateur night acts where locals were awarded prizes for dancing, vocal and instrumental solos, comedy, and monologue readings.

Over the next six years the Liberty Theater operated at full capacity having its heyday in ticket sales and popularity. Fulfilling the need for entertainment and news to the hundreds of mill workers and thousands of locals, the only competition for the Liberty was a small movie house in the O'Kane Building called the Dream Theater, later renamed the Grand Theater. In 1921 the Liberty Theater, along with the Grand Theater, was sold to Sparks Amusement Company for \$20,000. Realizing the two theaters were now approaching ten years old, the company quickly announced that the two theaters would undergo a complete overhaul. Work on both theaters included a new venting system, seat repairs, new house lighting, and new generators for more light behind the movie reels. Just two short years later, Sparks Amusement Company sold the theaters to Claude Smith and O.M. Whittington.

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**LIBERTY THEATER
DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON**

Narrative Statement of Significance: Cont'd

In 1924 Smith and Whittington hired Byron A. Stover to manage both theaters. (Byron A. Stover's home in Bend is listed on the National Register of Historic Places)

Seeing the noticeable profits being made by others, D.T. Carmody opened a theater, The Capitol, in January of 1923. Larger and more modern than the Liberty Theater, the completion of the Capitol Theater began the slow decline of the popularity of the Liberty. No longer billed as Bend's newest and best theater, the Liberty Theater would attempt to play a catch-up game for the next eighteen years.

By the early 1930s Byron A. Stover had purchased Smith and Whittington interests in the Liberty and Carmody's interests in the Capitol. In his advertisements of the day, Stover was proud to proclaim that both movie theaters in town were strictly a local concern. He went on to boast that he continually improved his theaters and equipment to provided the best entertainment for the citizens of Bend. After a complete modernizing of his Capitol Theater to a Streamlined Modern facade in 1935, the Liberty seemed destined to be rendered obsolete. Stover attempted to improve things for the Liberty by adding a large neon sign on the main facade of the building, that was capped with an eagle. The marquee was also replaced with a more modern full facade design. His efforts however would soon fail.

Without fanfare the Liberty Theater was temporarily closed in October 1941 and apparently never re-opened. Once again the Liberty had been up staged by a more modern theater. The latest and greatest theater, The Tower Theater, had opened less than a year before just two doors down from the Liberty. Its opening forever put an end to the big screen movies in the Liberty Theater, which was now a twenty-four year old building.

By the early 1950s the Liberty had been converted into office space by dividing the theater space into two floors and its facade was modernized. Modernization included: removal of the large neon sign, cutting the red tile Spanish roof flush with the building and filling in the transom windows with stucco. Eventually a new screen was installed on the newly constructed second floor to show second run movies.

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**LIBERTY THEATER
DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON**

Bibliography:

“Absolutely The Biggest Show.” The Bend Bulletin 22 January 1923: 4.

“Bend Theaters are Purchased.” The Bend Bulletin 20 June 1921: 1.

“Boxing Exhibition.” The Bend Bulletin 23 February 1923: 5.

“Formal Opening of Liberty Theatere to be Sunday Night.” The Bend Bulletin 26 July 1917: 1.

“Grenfell Lecture Will Be Tonight.” The Bend Bulletin 19 March 1923: 3.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf: 1992.

“Movie House Have Reserve Pictures.” The Bend Bulletin 8 January 1923: 1.

“Much Building Now Going On.” The Bend Bulletin 21 June 1917: 1.

“Sparks Sells Two Theaters.” The Bend Bulletin 1 November 1923: 1.

“Two Theaters Are Given Overhauling.” The Bend Bulletin 14 July 1921: 1.

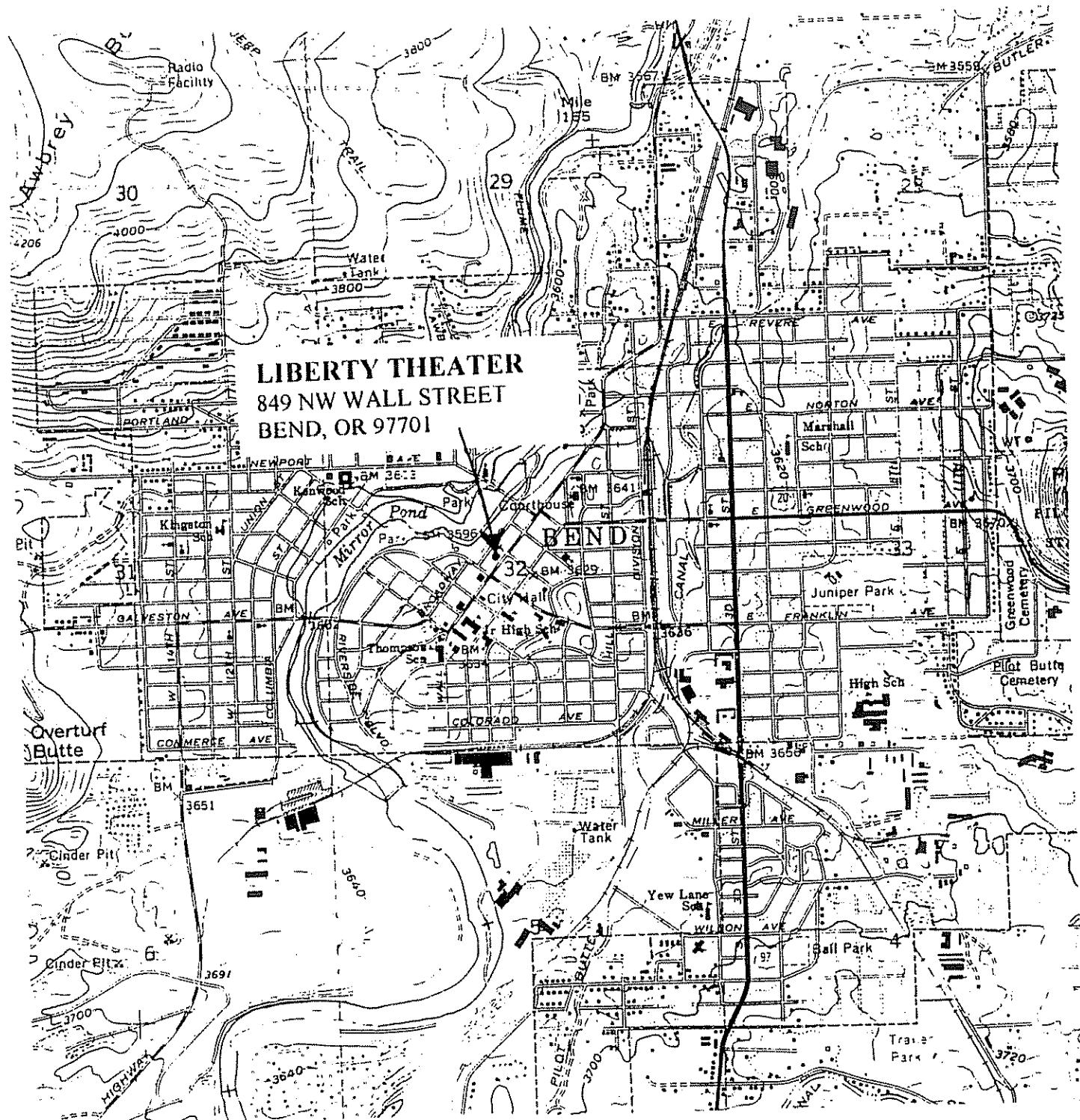
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

The Liberty Theater is located within the original plat of the townsite of Bend on Lot 17 of Block 4. Township 17S, Range 12E, Section 32.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Liberty Theater.

BEND QUADRANGLE
OREGON-DESCHUTES CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



UTM GRID AND 1981 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

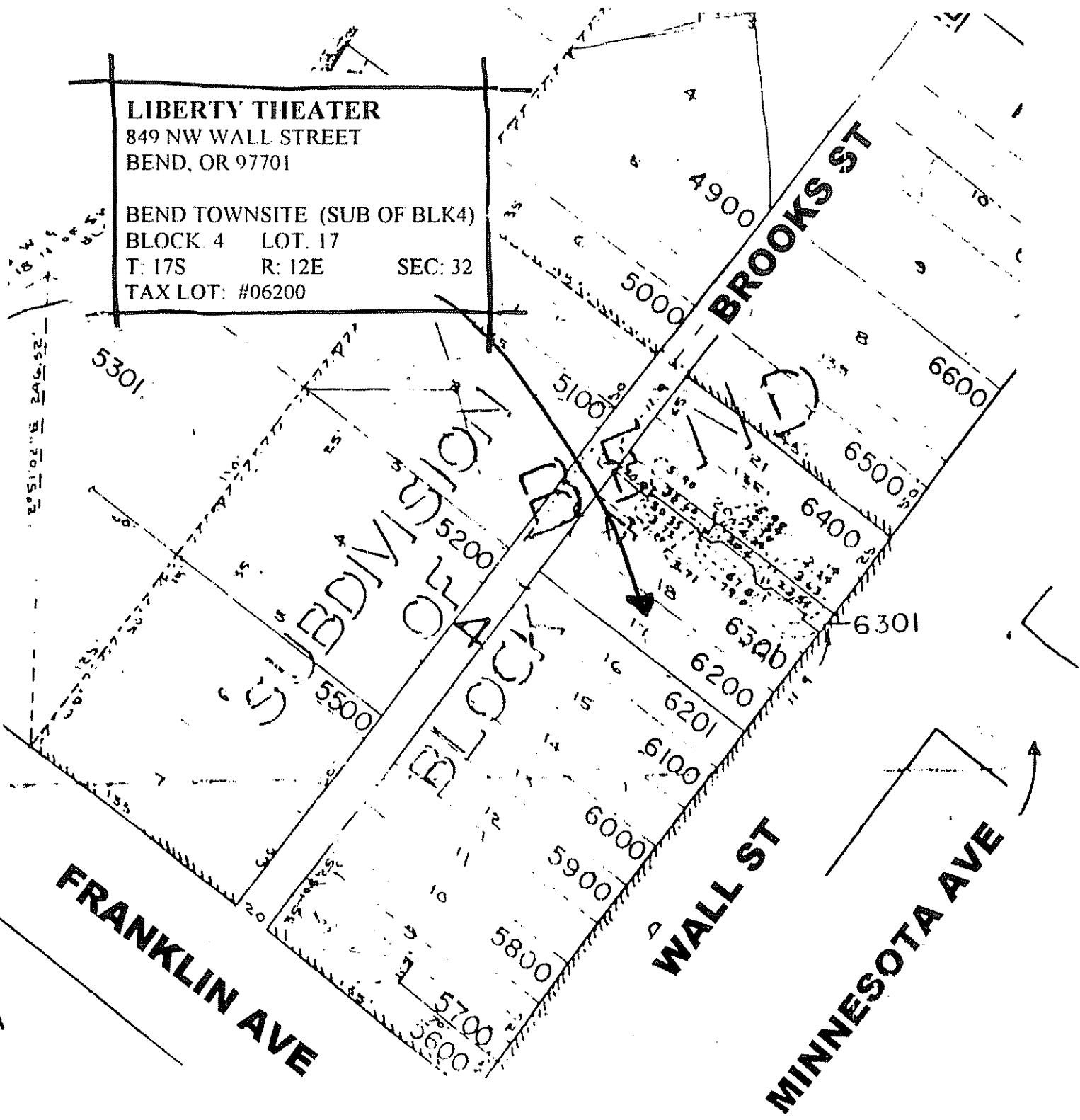
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1973 and other source data. This information not
field checked. Map edited 1981

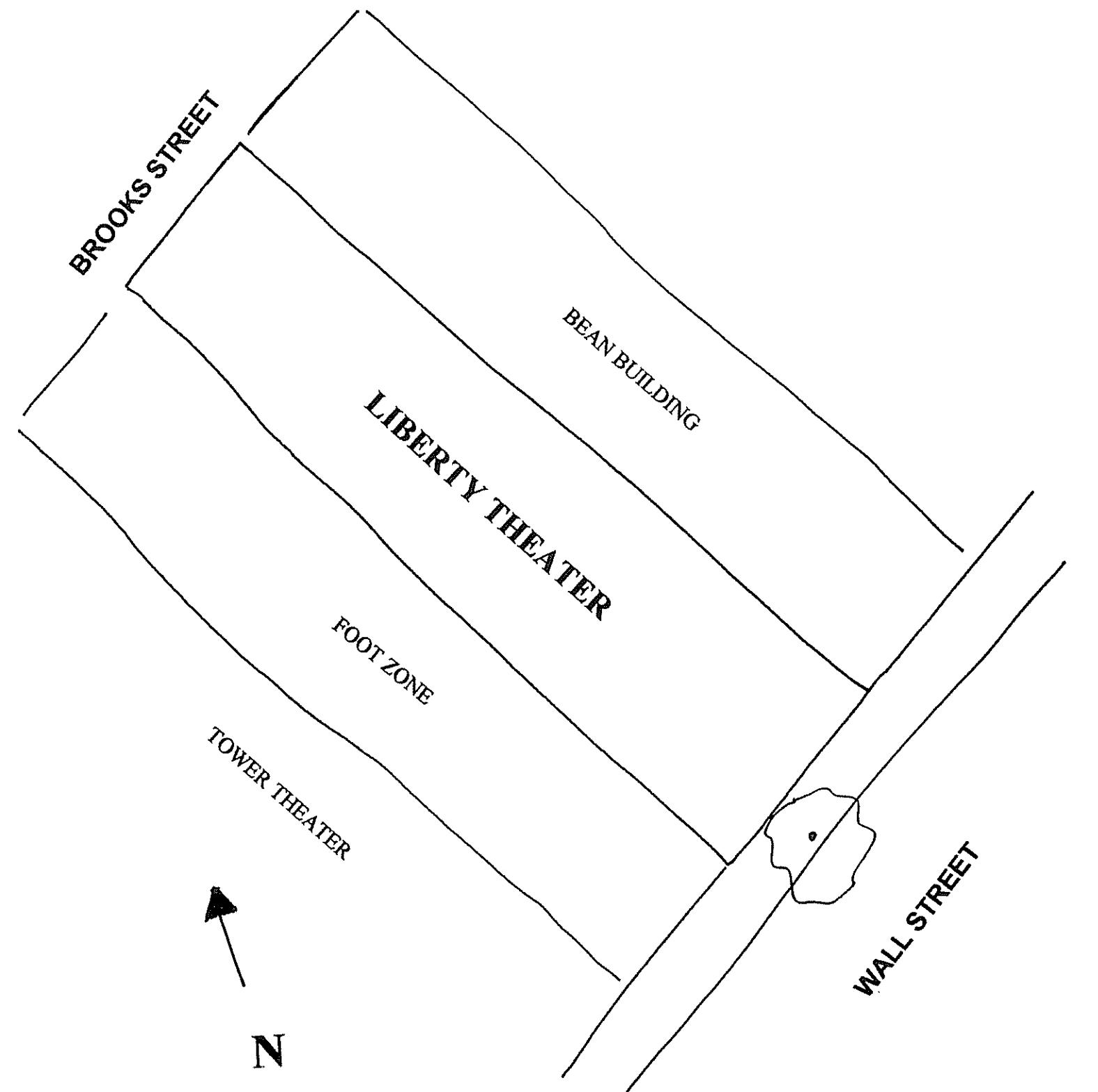
BEND, OREG.
44121-A3-TF-024

1962
PHOTOREVISED 1981
DMA 1772 III SE-SERIES V892

LIBERTY THEATER
849 NW WALL STREET
BEND, OR 97701

BEND TOWNSITE (SUB OF BLK4)
BLOCK 4 LOT 17
T: 17S R: 12E SEC: 32
TAX LOT: #06200

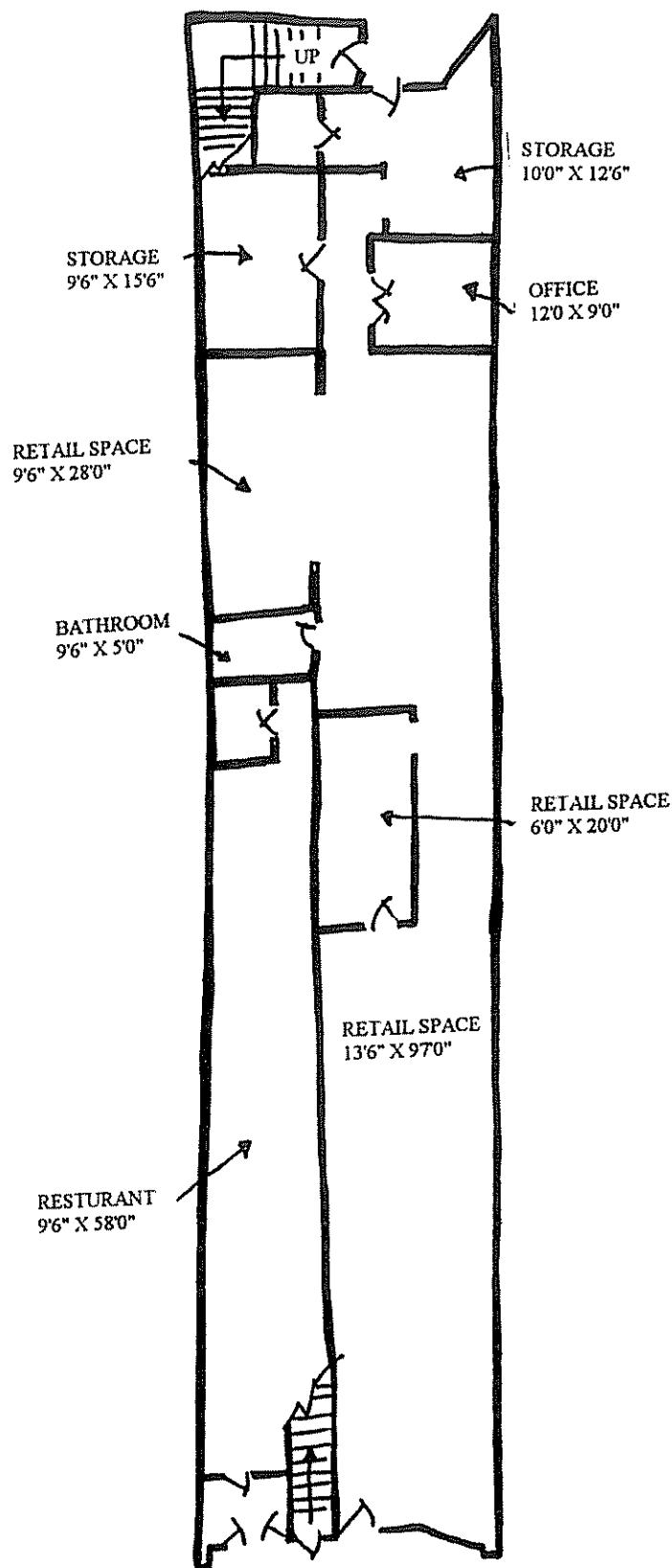




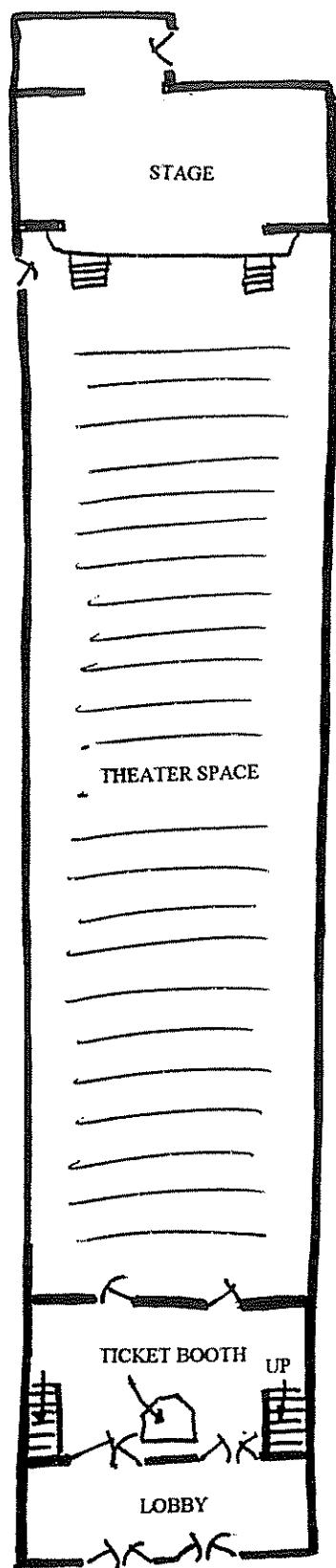
SITE PLAN
NOT TO SCALE

LIBERTY THEATER
606 NW WALL ST
BEND, OR

CURRENT PLAN



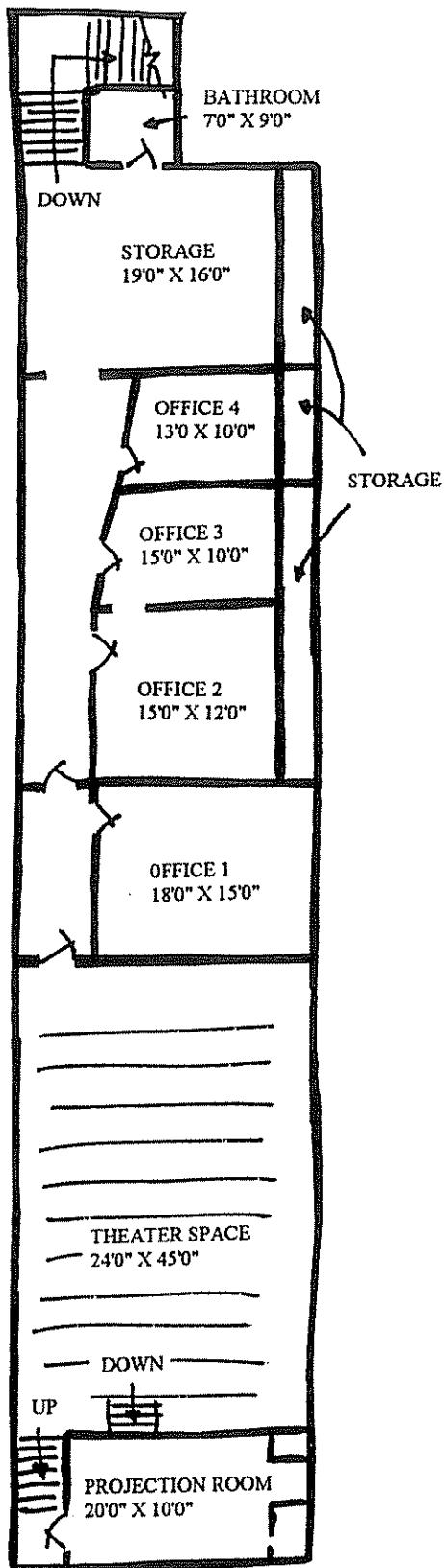
PROBABLE ORIGINAL PLAN



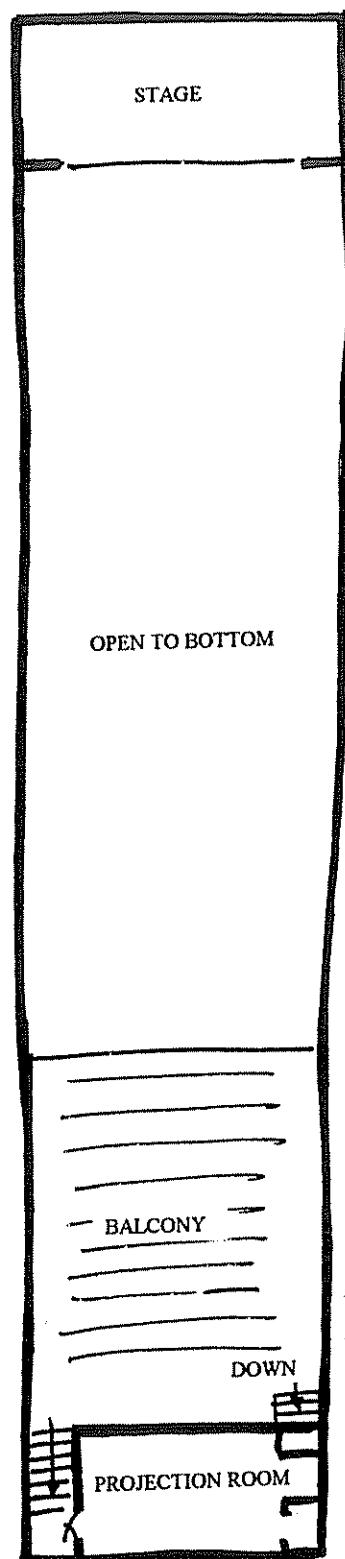
FIRST FLOOR
NOT TO SCALE

LIBERTY THEATER
606 NW WALL ST
BEND, OR

CURRENT PLAN



PROBABLE ORIGINAL PLAN



SECOND FLOOR
NOT TO SCALE

LIBERTY THEATER
606 NW WALL ST
BEND, OR

ANNOUNCEMENT!

LIBERTY
THEATRE
BEND'S NEWEST AND BEST

OPENS
SUNDAY
JULY 29
8:00 P. M.

*We could get poorer pictures
BUT WE WON'T*
*We would get better pictures
BUT WE CAN'T*

THE BUILDING--
A Modern, Artistic and Thoroughly Up-to-Date
Theatre. Perfect Ventilation. Comfortable Seating.
New Projection Equipment—the best money can buy
YOUR PLEASURE AND COMFORT
At Our Hands

THE MUSIC--
By Healey's Enlarged Liberty Theatre Orchestra
in Special Musical Features.

THE PHOTO PLAY--
GEORGE M. COHAN, in his own Great, Big
American Play,
"Broadway Jones"
The Biggest Hit of the Season.

*The price of our opening
there will not be advanced*
Adults 25c
Children 15c
We'll claim You All



The Bend Bulletin
July 26, 1917

The Bend Bulletin
August 15, 1921

LIBERTY TONIGHT
Only



Joseph M. Schenck presents
NORMA TALMADGE
"A Daughter of Two Worlds"

ALSO
'King Of The Circus'

Admission, 20c and 40c. One Ticket Free
with each admission.
Two Shows, 7:30 and 9:00
Your Free Tickets Are Good Tonight.



The Bend Bulletin
May 12, 1941

The Bend Bulletin
February 18, 1931

