

# 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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Hollywood Theater

other names/site number Same

### 2. Location

street & number 401 Delaware

not for publication

city, town Leavenworth

vicinity

state Kansas

code KS

county Leavenworth

code 103

zip code 66048

### 3. Classification

#### Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

#### Category of Property

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

#### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

Ramon Powers State Historic Preservation Officer September 17, 1990  
Signature of certifying official Date

Kansas State Historical Society

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. 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 the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and culture:

Theater; movie theater

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and culture:

Theater; movie theater; playhouse hall

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Modern movement: Art Deco

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Concrete

roof Asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Hollywood Theater (c. 1937-1938) is located at 401 Delaware Street in Leavenworth, Leavenworth County, Kansas (pop. 33,656). The building has a southern facade orientation.

The Hollywood Theater is a stucco finished rectangular building measuring 108' deep, 48'3" wide, and 44' high. Its facade has the bold, sharply delineated composition of the later phase of the Art Deco movement. The interior contains numerous Art Deco features including distinctive murals and lighting fixtures. The most interesting interior space is the second level lobby, which is visually unified by use of bold, circular forms.

The theater was built with air conditioning, this system is still operable. The original Motiograph Mirrophonic sound system which permitted "the sound to range evenly to every seat in the theatre" is extant. The theater also retains its early Super Simplex projection system.

It has managed to maintain a surprisingly high degree of integrity. It now provides a home for the Performing Arts Center for the City of Leavenworth, a use which has necessitated some changes to the stage and proscenium, which were not originally designed to accommodate live theatrical performances.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1937-1938

Significant Dates

1937-1938

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Boller, Robert - Architects

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Hollywood Theater (c. 1937-1938) is being nominated to the National Register under criterion C for its architectural significance as an Art Deco theater. The Hollywood Theater is located at 401 Delaware Street in Leavenworth, Leavenworth County, Kansas (pop. 33,656).

The Hollywood Theater is Leavenworth's only movie palace. Its decorative Art Deco exterior and opulent interior treatments are hallmarks of the movie palaces that were built across America in the 1920s and 1930s. The theaters were designed to be showplaces, with sumptuous appointments, inviting the rich and poor alike to share the lavish surroundings and escape into celluloid fantasies.

Built in 1937-1938 to the design of Robert Boller, it was part of the Dubinsky theater chain. Boller Brothers were the prominent Kansas City, Missouri movie theater design firm responsible for many movie palaces built throughout the midwest and southwest. Some Boller Brother designed theaters in Kansas are the Fox in Hutchinson, the Fox-Watson in Salina, the Granada in Emporia, and the Booth in Independence.

The Hollywood Theater is a stucco finished rectangular building measuring 108' deep, 48'3" wide, and 44' high. Its facade has the bold, sharply delineated composition of the later phase of the Art Deco movement. The interior contains numerous Art Deco features including distinctive murals and lighting fixtures. The most interesting interior space is the second level lobby, which is visually unified by use of bold, circular forms.

The theater was built with air conditioning, this system is still operable. The original Motiograph Mirrophonic sound system which permitted "the sound to range evenly to every seat in the theatre" is extant. The theater also retains its early Super Simplex projection system.

It has managed to maintain a surprisingly high degree of integrity. It now provides a home for the Performing Arts Center for the City of Leavenworth, a use which has necessitated some changes to the stage and proscenium, which were not originally designed to accommodate live theatrical performances.

See continuation sheet

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

---

Edward Dubinsky acquired the downtown site that the theater stands on for \$10,090 in 1936. The Dubinsky Brothers (Irvin, Edward, and Bill) operated the theater from 1938 until 1947, when they sold the concern to H.L. Amusement Company, who operated the theater until 1969. Durwood, Inc. operated the theater until 1977 when it was acquired by the City of Leavenworth and has since been maintained by the city for use by the Leavenworth Performing Arts Council.

July 23, 1938 marked the opening night for the Hollywood Theater, 1,040 people attended the sellout performance. "Excited crowds filled the sidewalks and overflowed into Delaware street in front of the Hollywood before both the first and second shows." The opening night performance consisted of a Paramount news popular science feature, a Silly symphony cartoon, and a sports novelty, and the feature, "Little Miss Broadway," starring Shirley Temple, George Murphy, Phyllis Brooks, Jimmy Durante, and Edna Mae Oliver. Admission prices for the lower floor and loge seats were \$.35 and \$.25 for the balcony seats. The theater had a segregated section for blacks.

Dubinsky Brothers advertised that "family ties will be strengthened at the Hollywood Theater by providing a common meeting ground and upholding family ideals. Here you will meet your friends and tradesmen- for through the doors of this theater will pass the solid citizenry of the community."

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Cawthon, Richard J. Hollywood Theater. (State Register nomination, 1984).

Kansas Writers' Project. A Guide to Leavenworth, Kansas. Leavenworth: Leavenworth Chronicle, 1940.

Leavenworth Times, 22 July 1938; 24 July 1938.

Naylor, David. American Picture Palaces - The Architecture of Fantasy. New York: Van Nostrand Rheinhold, 1981.

Pildas, Ave. Movie Palaces. New York: Clarkan Potter, 1980.

See continuation sheet

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
- Specify repository:  
Kansas State Historical Society

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than 1 acre.

UTM References

A 

1	5
---	---

3	3	4	9	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	3	5	3	6	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
Zone Easting Northing

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
Zone Easting Northing

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description The nominated property is located on Lots 1 and 2, Block 70 in Leavenworth City proper on Delaware Street. It is bounded to the south by Delaware, to the east by 5th Street, to the north by an alley, and to the west by adjacent property lines.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all property historically associated with the theater.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Martha Hagedorn-Krass, Architectural Historian  
organization Kansas State Historical Society date September 17, 1990  
street & number 120 W. 10th Street telephone 913-296-5264  
city or town Topeka state Kansas zip code 66612





14 MI. TO MO. 45  
 KANSAS CITY (VIA MO. 45) 27 MI.  
 (PLATTE CITY)  
 7062 IV SE

HOLLYWOOD THEATER  
 LEAVENWORTH, KS.  
 LEAVENWORTH QUAD  
 UTM COORDINATES  
 15 334900  
 4353610