

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 5 1976

DATE ENTERED APR 22 1976

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

NAME

HISTORIC

Ramona Theater

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

113 Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Buhl

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

STATE

Idaho

CODE
16

COUNTY

Twin Falls

CODE

083

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☒ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Bowen Theater Company

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Burley

VICINITY OF

STATE

Idaho

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Twin Falls County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

425 Shoshone North

CITY, TOWN

Twin Falls

STATE

Idaho

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Idaho State Historic Preservation Plan

DATE

1972

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

610 N. Julia Davis Drive, Boise

STATE
Idaho

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 Ramona Theater in Buhl is one of Idaho's last survivors of the "movie palace" decade of 1920's. Its style combines Spanish Mission and Islamic elements, suggesting something from the movie sets of the day--perhaps those in Douglas Fairbank's "Thief of Bagdad," produced in 1924.

Its pink stucco mass is accented with a four story corner tower 41 feet tall, topped by a mosque-like dome. Tall, graceful finials rise from four corners of the tower and the top of the dome. Crenellated battlements finish the tower. Window openings are framed with Moorish arches or Spanish Baroque quatrefoils. A Baroque false gable balances the tower, and other facade walls are capped with red roof-tiles.

Few changes have been made to the exterior, aside from general deterioration of paint and some lost windows. The color was originally light beige, accented with red, green, and pink. On the interior, mural decorations have been painted over and a decorative chandelier removed. There is local interest in preservation and restoration of this unique community landmark.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1928

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In January 1928, plans were drawn up by architect Burton Morse for a new theater for the Harris-Voeller Company. The new building was to be on the site of the old Wade building, and parts of the old building built about 1917 were to be incorporated into the new. The wrecking began early in February with the removal of the rear wall, partitions and floors. A new floor was built on an incline. With the partitions gone, the roof and ceiling were supported by a system of four immense steel trusses, leaving no posts in the building.

The Ramona was thought to be very modern in every way, right down to the ladies room off the lobby. The electrical work was done by L.G. Nelson at a cost of \$3500. In the operator's room there were two Motiograph projectors, a spotlight with six different colors and a complete signal system connecting the operator's room with the stage. On the exterior were colored lights and floodlights to light the dome. Steam heating and air cooling were installed by C.M. McQueary for \$3800. Fans brought in fresh air and a complete change of air was made every few minutes. The general contractor was George Stitchter of Buhl whose bid was \$22,000. The total cost was expected to run \$40,000.

While the new theater was being built, Manager Voeller sponsored a contest to name the theater. The name had to be of Spanish or Moorish character and not more than five or six letters. M.C. McQuivey, a pharmacist at the Buhl Pharmacy, won the contest with the name taken from the novel by Helen Hunt Jackson. The lucky winner won a lifetime pass to the theater.

The new Ramona Theater opened on Friday, June 29, 1928 and played to a capacity crowd. The town of Buhl was excited about its new theater and the building was highly praised. (An editorial in the Buhl Herald ended with the statement, "There is little enough of art in this work-a-day world and the beauties of the new theater are thrice welcome." June 28, 1928, p. 1). The Ramona is now used only part of the year, and in the summer is often used for live productions by the Antique Festival Theater.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Buhl Herald, 12 January 1928 through 5 July 1928

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	1
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6	8	3	8	8	5
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4	7	1	8	4	7	5
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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

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D

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Only the building is included

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Arthur A. Hart, Architectural Historian and Director, the Idaho State Historical Society

ORGANIZATION

Idaho State Historical Society

DATE

March 26, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

610 N. Julia Davis Drive

TELEPHONE

384-2120

CITY OR TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Merle Wells

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 26 March 76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12/22/78

DATE 12/28/76



1. Ramona Theater
2. Buhl, Idaho
3. Arthur A. Hart
4. February 1971
5. Idaho State Historical Society
6. Street side facade, facing west.
7. One

Twin Falls Co.