

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

DRAFT 3/1/2025

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 Burley Theatre

other names/site number IHSI No: 31-13779

Name of Multiple Property Listing Motion Picture Theater Buildings in Idaho (1897-1949)

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

2. Location

street & number 136 W. Main Street

☐ not for publication

city or town Burley

☐ vicinity

state Idaho

code ID

county Cassia

code 031

zip code 83318

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance: national statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria: x A B x C D

Signature of certifying official/Title: Tricia Canaday, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date

Idaho State Historic Preservation Office

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

Burley Theatre

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | private |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - Local |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - State |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - Federal |

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | building(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | structure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | object |

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		site
		structure
		object
1	0	Total

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.)

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:

Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: BRICK; STUCCO

roof: SYNTHETICS (TPO)

other:

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity).

Summary Paragraph

The Burley Theatre is located at 136 W. Main Street in the heart of Burley (2023 pop. 12,146), Cassia County, a community on the southern bank of the Snake River in south-central Idaho. Main Street is U.S. Highway 30, the old east-west route connecting Burley with Twin Falls to the west and Pocatello to the east. Completed in 1917, the Burley Theatre was built as a combination house that offered audiences live performances and moving pictures. It has served as a community gathering place since it opened more than a century ago and continues to host community theater performances.

The building is classified as a motion picture theater property type as identified in the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) *Motion Picture Theater Buildings in Idaho*. Its character-defining features include the voluminous rectangular plan which provides space for a large auditorium with seats facing the stage and projection screen, a lobby and concession area, a projection room, a balcony with seating, a basement beneath the lobby with the original restrooms, and a separate basement beneath the stage for dressing rooms, restrooms, and building systems. The building is in good condition and retains good integrity of its historic design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, association, and location. Through its character-defining features, historical spaces, and materials, the building clearly conveys its original function as a dual-purpose or combination house theater, as well as its significant associations and period of construction.

Narrative Description

LOCATION & SETTING

Burley is located in south-central Idaho along the Snake River in Cassia County (figures 1 and 2) at the junction of U.S. Highway 30 (Main Street) and Idaho State Highway 27 (Overland Avenue). Heyburn (pop. 3,726) is across the river to the north in Minidoka County. Cassia County is the eighth-largest county in Idaho and comprises approximately 2,565 square miles of land. Irrigation canal systems installed in the early 20th century have turned the surrounding sagebrush desert landscape into the Magic Valley, transforming arid uninhabitable land into productive farmland.¹ Today, Cassia County includes five incorporated communities—Albion, Burley, Declo, Malta, and Oakley. Cassia County assumed its present configuration in 1913, and Burley became the county seat in 1918.

Burley is organized around two intersecting, four-lane thoroughfares, the east-west Main Street and the north-south Overland Avenue. The Eastern Idaho Railroad passes through downtown north of Main Street. The commercial district lines both sides of the thoroughfares and adjacent secondary streets. It consists of one- and two-story buildings built throughout the 20th century, as well as parking lots, vacant lots, sidewalks, trees, and plantings. The Burley Theatre is located on the north side of Main Street at the intersection of Oakley Avenue, just a block west of Overland Avenue and two blocks south of the railroad. The property encompasses 0.13 acres (5663 sq. ft.) in block 104 of the Burley Townsite plat. The building faces south and occupies the entire parcel (lots 1 and 2), abutting public sidewalks on the south and west, the rear alleyway on the north, and the property line on the east.

¹ The name Magic Valley refers to the area's rapid transformation when irrigation systems made water available to farmers in the early 20th century.

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BUILDING EXTERIOR

The Burley Theatre is an imposing, two-story brick building with modest Classical Revival embellishments. The building has a rectangular plan that measures approximately 45' x 115' and it is situated on a concrete foundation. The south and west elevations face streets and reflect a more finished appearance than the north and east sides. The exterior walls are clad in two shades of buff-colored brick with terra cotta and cast stone details and extend above the roofline as parapets with cast-stone coping. The sloped roof is obscured by the parapet walls, although a hipped roof fly space extends above the parapet at the north end of the building. The roof was recently replaced with insulation board and TPO membrane.

The **south-facing primary façade** is symmetrical and composed of three bays (photos 1 through 3, 7, and 8). Four yellow-tinted, brick-faced pilasters with cast-stone Doric capitals in the upper story define the bays. The pilasters rest on cast-stone Doric bases situated within a cast-stone beltcourse that extends the width of the façade. The pilaster shafts are accented by square, buff-colored terra cotta tiles, with green accent tiles at the top and bottom. Between the pilasters are bays faced with light-brown tinted brick accented by square, red terra cotta tiles, with blue accent tiles at the top and bottom. The pilaster capitals are integrated into a stepped brick beltcourse to give the appearance of supporting the entablature above. The yellow-tinted brick entablature includes a frieze with white terra cotta accent tiles that spell BURLEY THEATRE and a brick cornice that flares out toward the corners of the building. Cast-stone coping tops the wall. A non-historic, backlit marquee hangs flush from the façade above the center entrance, partially obscuring the center bay of the upper story and three small second-story windows visible in historic images (figures 12 and 14 through 16). It reads BURLEY THEATER and includes a signboard to advertise shows and performances. Traces of where earlier vertical blade signs were attached to the façade are evident in the brick exterior (photo 2).

The first story of the primary façade is a continuation of the upper story (photos 1, 3, 7, and 8). Below each pilaster is a projecting brick base with a flared cast-stone cap. The caps are integrated into the similarly flared beltcourse that visually divides the two stories. These four brick bases serve as areas to display movie and performance advertisements within metal frame cases (photo 8). Three entrances are located between the brick bases. The entry doors are modern, commercial-style, glass swinging doors. The center bay entry has been modified to include a single door flanked by vertical wood-siding infill, whereas historically it included two sets of swinging doors. The outer double-door entries occupy the original openings, although the doors are shorter than the originals as evidenced by the wood infill above the doors. At the base of each outer entry is a white hexagonal tile floor that carries through into the lobby area beneath the carpet.

The **west-facing facade** features a parapet wall that steps down from south to north and back up at the north end where the hipped roof fly space extends (photos 3 through 5). The only opening at grade level is a standard-sized pedestrian door located toward the north end, accessing the theater auditorium area near the stage. The west wall is otherwise dominated by a row of 13 tall inset rectangular panels finished with cementitious parging. The tallest parts of the west wall—at the north and south ends—each includes three inset rectangular panels. Shorter panels occupy the center part of the elevation, where the parapet wall is lowest. The painted panels are made of textured parging, and each panel is encircled by a projecting brick border.

The **north-facing rear elevation** overlooks the alleyway and is the rear of the stage house (photos 5 and 6). This wall has a utilitarian appearance, with light-colored brick cladding and no embellishment, except for a painted sign that reads BURLEY THEATRE across the top of the wall at the roofline and can be seen for blocks. There are six openings on this wall, each with a segmental arch lintel and cast-stone sill. Dominating the lower wall is a garage door opening that is located slightly off-center to the right with a wood frame and a modern roll-up garage door affixed to a track on the interior. There are two tall window

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openings, one at each end, with wood framing and plywood boarding the sashes. A pedestrian door opening at the east end also is boarded with plywood. The second story includes two windows: the west window retains some of the historic, two-over-two wood sashes, while the east opening is a wood louver window.

Until recently, the **east-facing elevation** had been largely obscured by the adjacent two-story commercial building erected in the early 20th century, sometime after the Burley Theater was built (figures 12, 14, 15, and 16). The discolored bricks indicate where the building once stood (photos 6 and 7). The east wall is faced entirely in brick, with no window or door openings or any architectural embellishment. The parapet wall stairsteps down from south to north and back up at the north end where the hipped roof fly space extends.

BUILDING INTERIOR

The interior is arranged like many early 20th-century combination house theaters, with a lobby and concession area at the entrance, a long rectangular auditorium with balcony seating and second-floor projection room, a stage with a proscenium arch and an orchestra pit, a back-stage fly space to accommodate a movie screen and theatrical sets, and a basement beneath the stage for theater dressing rooms and mechanical systems.

Entry and Lobby

Inside the three entry doors is a lobby where tickets and concessions are sold at the center of the space (photo 9). The lobby extends the full width of the building and has been modified at various times with non-historic dropped ceilings, carpeting over the historic tile flooring, wood and carpet wall claddings, partition walls to enclose the staircases to the balcony, and added restrooms. An L-shaped concessions counter with a glass display case is situated near the entrance between the center and west entry doors. Behind the counter is an enclosed concession area, which originally may have functioned as an office (figure 10). The space has non-historic cabinets and finishes. At the east end of the enclosed concession area is a wood ships ladder to the projection room above. This is the only way to access the projection room, tucked below the balcony seating area. The staircases to the balcony are located on the outer east and west walls of the lobby space. Behind the west staircase is a separate door that accesses stairs to the basement where the building's original visitor restrooms are located. The area behind the east staircase includes men's and women's restrooms that were added at an unknown date but likely during a 1960s renovation.

Along the outer side of the north wall of the enclosed concession area is an east-west hallway that accesses a partially enclosed area at the back of the auditorium (photo 10). There are no visible historical features within this space. Today, the space functions as a tech booth where audio and lighting are controlled.

Auditorium

Two doorway openings located on the north wall of the lobby and opposite the main entry doors provide access to the voluminous rectangular auditorium (photo 10). The wood floor slopes down from the rear of the auditorium toward the stage at the north end of the building. (The floor rests on large concrete footings with four channels that run the length of the auditorium that were used in the ventilation system.) Two aisles access the three sections of non-historic theater-style seats (photos 12 and 13). The center-section seats are arranged in straight rows facing the stage, while the seats in the outer sections are situated at an angle toward the stage. The theater's current capacity allowed by code is approximately

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270 but was 500 when it was completed in 1917.² The two aisles terminate near the base of the elevated stage, which has been extended from the original rounded stage to now cover the orchestra pit (photo 18). The proscenium walls that separate the stage from the auditorium do not have any visible embellishments (photo 14). The rectangular proscenium opening may have been modified to reflect its current appearance. Behind the proscenium opening, the fly space soars high above the elevated space (photo 19).

Classical embellishments are found on the walls and ceiling of the auditorium (photos 15 and 16). Encircling the auditorium at the flared plaster base of the ceiling is classically inspired crown molding with decorative urns and egg-and-dart bands. It is painted black to blend with the black ceiling, making it difficult to distinguish details. The crown molding forms an arch over the rectangular opening of the stage proscenium. The flat plaster ceiling is embellished by a rectangular border with molding reflecting similar classical motifs. Historic square light fixtures that are flush with the ceiling are set within a classically inspired border. The side walls have pilasters that mimic those of the front exterior, with the crown molding serving as the column capital. Similar pilasters form the corners of the auditorium space on either side of the stage.

At the base of these corner pilasters are two pairs of wood doors that access the stage (photo 13). Each side has wood staircases that lead backstage to the orchestra pit and basement dressing rooms. The orchestra pit is accessed via the west stair by a hinged wood door at the landing. The basement space is subdivided only by a mix of old and new wood structural framing (photo 20). Some areas of lathe-and-plaster walls and ceiling remain. The dressing rooms and a restroom were once located beneath the stage, while a coal room and furnace were situated along the east wall, and a swamp cooler along the west wall. The floor is concrete.

Balcony

Additional seating is located in the second-floor balcony, which is accessed via quarter-turn staircases on the east and west sides of the lobby. At the top of each staircase is a pair of wood-panel doors that open to the balcony (photo 11). The U-shaped balcony extends from the rear south wall of the auditorium. The outer edges of the balcony have an enclosed wood-panel base topped with metal-pipe railings (photos 12 and 13). Balcony seating is arranged like that below, with two aisles accessing three sections. The outer sections extend farther into the auditorium along the side walls. The balcony floor and stairs are carpeted.

CHANGE OVER TIME & INTEGRITY

The property has functioned as a combination house theater since it was completed in 1917. It has experienced changes typical of community theaters, including major and minor renovations in the 1960s, 1990s, and early 2000s to the interior and exterior.

Below is a list of known changes made within the period of significance (1917-1975):

- The building did not originally have any signage but has featured at least three different marquee signs over the years. The earliest photo of the building (figure 12) shows it with no marquee or canopy at the entrance. By the 1920s, a 2-sided vertical blade sign extended from the building's second story above a flat-roof canopy that covered the full width of the façade (figures 14 and 15). The blade sign remained into the 1940s, but by then the flat-roof canopy had been replaced with a

² "Burley," *The Idaho Statesman*, Dec. 10, 1917, p. 14.

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trapezoidal marquee hanging above the entrances (figure 16). By the 1950s, the blade sign had been replaced by a similar 2-sided blade sign with neon lights (figure 17).

- Men's and women's restrooms were added to the space beneath the east staircase in the lobby, at an unknown date but likely during the 1960s renovation.
- The auditorium seats are not original and include older- and newer-style theater seats. The original seats are shown in figure 13. The green seats in the balcony section date from the 1940s or 1950s. The red seats date from the 1970s.
- The orchestra pit at the base of the stage has been covered to extend the stage (date unknown, but likely during the period of significance).

Below is a list of known changes made after the period of significance (post-1975):

- The 1950s-era trapezoidal marquee was removed, and the current backlit signboard was installed in the late 1990s or early 2000s.
- The primary entrances retained their original configuration (figure 12) into at least the 1960s (figure 18). They were modified to reflect their current configuration about the same time the trapezoidal marquee was removed, and the first-story exterior received a stucco finish in the late 1990s or early 2000s (figure 19). The stucco finish was removed in 2024.
- The roof was recently replaced (2024) with insulation board and TPO membrane. It replaced several layers of asphalt shingles covered by tin.
- The lobby was updated with new finishes in the 1990s to include new wood panel and carpet finishes and to update the bathrooms beneath the east staircase.
- The burgundy-color auditorium seats were installed in the 1990s or early 2000s. (When it was completed in 1917, the theater had a capacity of 500. The current capacity allowed by code is approximately 270.)
- The walls and ceilings have been painted black in recent years, obscuring the still-intact classical crown molding. An early historic photograph of the auditorium suggests stenciling also graced the walls and ceiling (figure 13).

The Burley Theatre retains a good degree of the seven aspects of integrity, including setting, feeling, association, location, design, workmanship, and materials, and meets the registration requirements for integrity outlined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form *Motion Picture Theater Buildings in Idaho*. The theater remains at its original location where it was built in 1917, along Main Street in Burley's business district, and thus its integrity of location is strong. The setting has changed some, primarily as the commercial district around it has evolved. Despite some changes to the theater (noted above), the property clearly exhibits the characteristics of a combination house theater exhibiting the Classical Revival style. The theater retains its original massing, scale, key design features, and materials, including exterior cladding, interior spatial arrangement, and some interior finishes. As a result, the property clearly conveys its historic associations with early 20th-century Burley and the greater Cassia County community.

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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/RECREATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1917-1975

Significant Dates

1917 – building completed

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 (if applicable)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1917, when the theater was completed and placed into service, and ends in 1975, the 50-year cut-off date recommended by National Register guidelines for properties with continued importance where no more specific date can be defined. This period encompasses the years the building operated as a combination house theater.

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, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations).

The Burley Theatre, located at 136 W. Main Street, Burley, Cassia County, Idaho, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the multiple property nomination *Motion Picture Theater Buildings in Idaho* under Criterion A in the area of ENTERTAINMENT / RECREATION and under Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE. The property illustrates the evolution of entertainment and motion picture theaters in Idaho. It offered live performances, silent motion pictures with pianist or orchestral accompaniment, and later feature-length motion pictures with sound. The combination theater is locally significant for its association with the recreational history of Burley as a place where the community has gathered for entertainment for more than a century. The imposing corner building was completed in 1917 and is locally significant for its modest Classical Revival style. The building's siting, scale, and styling reflect the optimism and growth of early 20th-century Burley when the theater was constructed.

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

The Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF), *Motion Picture Theater Buildings in Idaho*, provides the context and history of the development of motion picture entertainment in Idaho from 1897 to 1949. The MPDF further identifies the motion picture theater property type as the physical representation of this development. To be eligible for the National Register as part of this multiple property nomination, a motion picture theater must exhibit its historic and architectural character in both physical and associative ways. The MPDF provides registration requirements for individual properties, including retaining sufficient integrity to convey historic function and character. The Burley Theatre meets these registration requirements and thus uses the historic context provided in the MPDF. The theater served an important role in the community, both as a motion picture theater and live performance venue, as well as a community gathering space.

The Burley Theatre is locally significant under **Criterion A** in the area of ENTERTAINMENT / RECREATION for its association with local entertainment history during Burley's formative years, as well as with the evolution of motion picture entertainment in the 20th century. As demonstrated in the narrative below and the MPDF, "the development of motion picture theaters in Idaho is reflective, although to a much less flamboyant extent, of the industry's development in the broader United States."³ The Burley Theatre was developed, owned, and operated by local interests throughout its history, as was the majority of Idaho's motion picture theaters of the early- and mid-20th century, and became an early cornerstone of the Harris-Voeller Theatres, Inc., circuit.⁴ The venue has accommodated live performances and movie showings and hosted community events throughout its century of use.

The Burley Theatre is locally significant under **Criterion C** in the area of ARCHITECTURE as an excellent example of a combination house theater in its design and craftsmanship, and because it embodies distinctive characteristics of a type and period of construction. With its imposing scale and restrained Classical Revival style, the building reflects all the hallmarks of a combination house theater including a large auditorium with seats facing the stage and projection screen, a lobby and concession area, a projection room, a balcony with seating, and theater dressing rooms. Classical Revival stylistic references are found on the building's primary façade and in the auditorium.

³ Linda Morton-Keithley, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form *Motion Picture Theater Buildings in Idaho* (Boise: Idaho State Historical Society, 1999), p. E1.

⁴ Linda Morton-Keithley, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form *Motion Picture Theater Buildings in Idaho* (Boise: Idaho State Historical Society, 1999), p. E8.

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COMMUNITY CONTEXT

Cassia County is situated along the southern bank of the Snake River in south-central Idaho. It occupies the ancestral lands of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, which encompass vast stretches of land in present-day Idaho, Oregon, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, and Montana. The Snake River Valley was an important transportation corridor, not only for native tribes but also for European American fur traders, missionaries, gold-seekers, and Oregon-bound settlers in the 19th century. Idaho Territory was established in 1863 following an influx of gold-seekers and miners. The lack of a developed transportation network attracted few to the large, rugged, and arid Idaho Territory, where only 14,999 residents lived in 1870. The Idaho Territorial Legislature created Cassia County in 1879, and Albion became the county seat.

The Oregon Short Line (OSL) and Union Pacific (UP) railroads developed through the Snake River Valley, bringing some settlement activity to south-central Idaho. Completed in 1884, the OSL connected the main UP line at Granger, Wyoming, with Huntington, Oregon. In Idaho, it connected Montpelier, Soda Springs, Pocatello, Minidoka, Shoshone, King Hill, Mountain Home, Nampa, and Weiser. In subsequent years, branch lines developed connecting the towns and rural districts.⁵ Burley developed when the Minidoka-Wells branch of the OSL was completed through the area in 1905.

Population (US Census)			
Year	Idaho	Cassia County	Burley
1900	163,822	3,951	
1910	325,594	7,197	1,575*
1920	431,866	15,659	5,408
1930	445,032	13,116	3,826
1940	524,873	14,430	5,329
1950	588,637	14,629	5,924
1960	667,191	16,121	7,109
1970	712,567	17,017	8,279
1980	943,935	19,427	8,761
*Burley precinct			

The Burley townsite was surveyed in 1905, and efforts to build canals and irrigation systems on the south side of the Snake River began in earnest to make the area a viable community.⁶ Burley was incorporated as a village in 1909. The 1910 census reflected the rapid change and continued promise brought by irrigation; Burley's population had surpassed that of nearby Oakley and Albion to more than 1,575 people.⁷ Eventually irrigation ditches constructed in the early 20th century as part of the Minidoka Dam system and the

Minidoka Project crisscrossed the landscape, bringing water from the Snake River to farms throughout south-central Idaho.⁸

A special edition of *The Burley Bulletin*, published April 10, 1914, proclaimed that "during the year 1913 the town has made such a wonderful growth and the surrounding country has developed to such an extent that it is impossible for us to present the complete picture in a regular edition of the newspaper."⁹ It called Burley a "thriving, prosperous, modern town," with rail connections, water, sewer and electrical systems, street lights, sidewalks, and a residential section with six churches.¹⁰ This heyday of development coincided with the growing broad popularity of nickelodeons and combination theater houses. In the span of a few years, between 1911 and 1915, *The Burley Bulletin* advertised several entertainment venues including the Diamond Theatre, Good Luck Theatre, Star Theatre, Burley Theatre, and Orpheum Theatre (figure 9). Most of these were rudimentary venues in converted commercial spaces that offered a combination of live performances and motion pictures and were rather short-lived; however, the proprietors of the Burley Theatre found enough success in their converted commercial space to build a new, grand, combination house, purpose-built theater in 1917.

⁵ Leonard J. Arrington, *History of Idaho*, vol. 1 (Moscow, ID: University of Idaho Press, 1994), 322.

⁶ Andrew Jenson, *Encyclopedic History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* (Salt Lake City, Utah: Printed by Deseret News Publishing Company, 1941), 98

⁷ Kathleen Hedberg, *Cassia County, Idaho: The Foundation Years*, (Burley, ID: Cassia County Commissioners, 2005), 111.

⁸ Both the Minidoka and Milner dams are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

⁹ As quoted in Hedberg, *Cassia County, Idaho*, 111.

¹⁰ As quoted in Hedberg, *Cassia County, Idaho*, 112.

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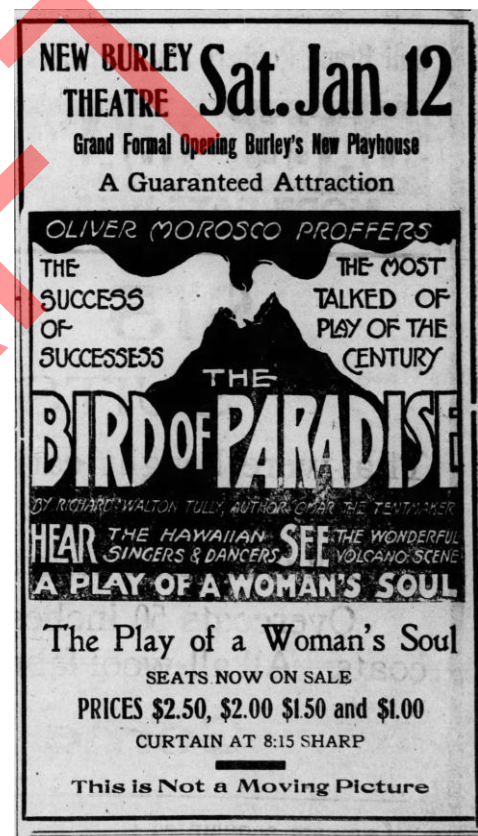
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PROPERTY HISTORY

In October 1914, two trained professional musicians resigned from their respective positions with Salt Lake City-based theaters to move to Burley and open a moving picture venue. *The Burley Bulletin* reported that trombonist Stanley J. Osika and percussionist Fred Weber had leased the building formerly occupied by the Burley Mercantile Company and were remodeling it for use as an "up-to-date show house."¹¹ It went on to report that both men and other hired musicians would supply music for their patrons. In this venture, Osika and Weber capitalized on the opportunity to merge live music performance with the increasingly popular motion picture technology.¹² (Reels and films remained without sound until the first "talking pictures" in 1927.)

The apparent success of the Burley Theatre led Osika to partner with S. Grover Rich of the Burley State Bank in 1917 and announce plans for a new "modern playhouse and moving pictures emporium."¹³ Plans called for a \$30,000 structure to be constructed of brick and terra cotta with tile and marble floors.¹⁴ The construction costs had risen to \$50,000 by the time the theater was completed in late 1917. It was described in *The Idaho Statesman* as "one of the most up to date theaters in southern Idaho," with "a seating capacity of 500, an elevated floor and a modern, up to date stage."¹⁵

Stanley J. Osika (1884-1965) was born to German-speaking parents in what is now Poland. His family immigrated to the United States in 1888 when he was a child, living first in New York and then in Park City, Utah, where he attended school. Osika studied music in Salt Lake City under Antone Peterson, specializing in harmony and trombone. Osika reportedly "figured prominently in musical circles at Salt Air resorts and the Liberty and American theatres..."¹⁶ He spent the early part of his working life as a musician and a theater owner and manager. The 1910 U.S. Census identified Osika as a musician living in Salt Lake City with his wife Mary Edith and young daughter Ruth Marie. The 1920 census noted the family living in Burley, Idaho, where Osika worked as a theater proprietor. Subsequent censuses recorded the Osika family living in Los Angeles, where Stanley worked as a tailor and merchant in the clothing industry.¹⁷



Ad, *The Burley Bulletin*, Jan. 11, 1918, p. 9.

Under Osika's management, the new Burley Theatre first opened its doors to the community on Christmas night in 1917, while its formal opening took place on Saturday, January 12, 1918, with the theatrical performance *The Bird of Paradise*.¹⁸ As was typical of Osika, he contracted with a big-city traveling production company to perform the opening night event, with native Hawaiian singers and

¹¹ "New Picture Show," *The Burley Bulletin*, Oct. 2, 1914, p. 1.

¹² Linda Morton-Keithley, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form *Motion Picture Theater Buildings in Idaho* (Boise: Idaho State Historical Society, 1999), p. E5.

¹³ "\$30,000 Theater for Burley is Under Way," *The Idaho Statesman*, May 4, 1917, p. 4.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ "Burley," *The Idaho Statesman*, Dec. 10, 1917, p. 14.

¹⁶ James Henry Hawley, *History of Idaho: The Gem of the Mountains*, Vol. 3, (Chicago: SJ Clarke Publishing Co., 1920), 750.

¹⁷ Ancestry.com, United States Federal Census, 1910-1950.

¹⁸ "Burley," *The Idaho Statesman*, Dec. 27, 1917, p. 2.

Burley Theatre

Name of Property

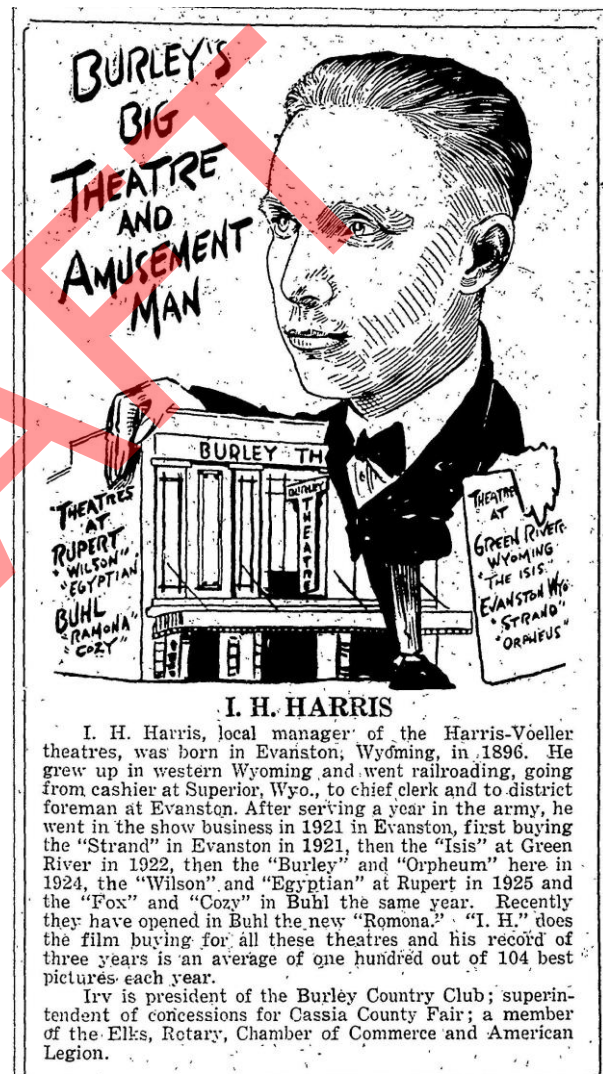
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dancers. He charged \$2.50 and \$2.00 for orchestra-level seats; \$2.00, \$1.50, and \$1.00 for balcony seats.¹⁹ Based on advertisements in *The Burley Bulletin*, Osika alternated offerings between live performances and motion picture reels. Among the earliest motion pictures shown in the theater, were *The Honor System*, a crime drama directed by Raoul Walsh; *France In Arms*, with wartime reels and a lecture by Prof. Chas. Elliot Clark; *The Cold Deck*, a Western film directed by William S. Hart; and *The Whip*, a thrilling silent drama with a train wreck, automobile wreck, and races directed by Maurice Tourneur.²⁰ In addition to theater and motion picture entertainment, Osika and his successors offered the theater for various community gatherings, including high school events, patriotic and holiday observances, fundraisers, and programs by local businesses.²¹

During this period, Osika also owned and operated the Orpheum Theatre at 438 Overland Avenue (today's 1220 Overland Avenue; demolished), a smaller combination house theater. In 1922, Osika sold the Burley and Orpheum theaters, as well as his residence at 214 N. Miller Street, to Arthur Bowen of Evanston, Wyoming, and relocated to California to "rest for a time and look over the field with a view to entering business."²² Bowen had owned and operated Evanston's Strand Theatre, which he commissioned to be built in 1917, and had a good reputation for managing successful picture houses. During his brief tenure in Burley, he successfully urged the community to allow the showing of films on Sundays. To thank the community, Bowen donated proceeds from the first Sunday film, *Trailing Wild Animals in Africa*, shown on March 30, 1924, to the local tourist park improvement fund.²³

Much like his predecessor Osika, Bowen sold the Burley and Orpheum theaters, as well as his residence at 214 N. Miller Street, to someone from Evanston, Wyoming—Irvine H. Harris. When Harris took control of the theaters on July 1, 1924, he also managed the Strand Theatre in Evanston and the Isis Theater in Green River, Wyoming.²⁴ He would soon grow his management to include theaters in Rupert and Buhl. In 1925, he partnered with C. C. Voeller of Buhl, who also had connections to Evanston, to form the Harris-Voeller Theaters Inc., which purchased and managed independent theaters throughout the region. By 1945, Harris-Voeller Theatres operated 12 theaters in ten cities, including Burley, Rupert, Montpelier, Emmett,



The Burley Herald, Aug. 7, 1928, p. 1.

¹⁹ [Ad], *The Burley Bulletin*, Jan. 2, 1918, p. 2.

²⁰ [Ad], *The Burley Bulletin*, Jan. 25, 1918, p. 6. [Ad], *The Burley Bulletin*, Feb. 1, 1918, p. 11.

²¹ "Local and Personal," *The Burley Herald*, May 21, 1921, p. 3. "Flag Day Will Be Observed By Elks," *The Burley Herald*, Jun. 11, 1921, p. 4. "Armistice Day In Burley," *The Burley Herald*, Nov. 5, 1921, p. 1. "Sunday Picture Show Nets 100 for Park," *The Burley Bulletin*, Apr. 3, 1924, p. 1. "L. D. S. Priesthood Entertains 800," *The Burley Herald*, Mar. 1, 1928, p. 1. "J. C. Penney Co. Presents Drama of Style at Theater," *The Burley Herald*, Mar. 8, 1928, p. 1. "Spring Style Show," *The Burley Herald*, Mar. 5, 1929, p. 5. "Burley Jay-C-Ettes Set Fashion Show," *The Burley Herald*, Sep. 23, 1948, p. 1.

²² "Burley Picture Houses Bought by Wyoming Man," *The Burley Bulletin*, Jul. 6, 1922, p. 1.

²³ "Petitions Circulated for Sunday Shows," *The Burley Bulletin*, Jan. 31, 1924, p. 1. "Burley People Vote in Favor of the Sunday Show," *The Burley Bulletin*, Mar. 27, 1924, p. 1. "Sunday Picture Show Nets 100 for Park," *The Burley Bulletin*, Apr. 3, 1924, p. 1.

²⁴ "Burley Theatre Under New Management," *The Burley Herald*, Jul. 3, 1924, p. 1. "Contracts for Best Pictures," *The Burley Bulletin*, Jul. 10, 1924, p. 6.

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Jerome, and Buhl in Idaho; Carson City and Lovelock in Nevada; Evanston, Wyoming; and Nyssa, Oregon.²⁵

As the Burley Theatre's longtime owner, Harris oversaw upgrades and renovations to the building over the years. In 1945, he recalled that when he purchased the Burley and Orpheum theaters, ...there were no carpets in the aisles; no stage drapes; not much ventilation or air conditioning; no marquee over the theatre fronts. Music accompaniment was by piano, or by orchestra when possible to secure musicians capable of playing a picture score. Each picture had its own music score and the pianist or orchestra leader had to have a large library of music to properly cue a picture.²⁶

In 1928, Harris installed a marquee and blade sign on the front of the building (figures 14 through 16). The marquee not only furnished shade and cover from the rain, the new "vari-colored lights" added "a decidedly metropolitan appearance."²⁷ When promoting the new marquee, he also boasted about the theatre's "splendid cooling and ventilating system," making it a perfect place to spend a warm summer evening.²⁸

Harris oversaw the Burley Theatre's transition from silent films to talking pictures. In early 1929, electricians and contractors made the necessary changes to the theater's wiring, projection booth, and auditorium to accommodate the new sound equipment.²⁹ He recalled:

In 1928 talking pictures were being shown in the larger cities, but the amount of talking picture equipment was very limited and only the larger cities were able to secure equipment. The Western Electric equipment, which was the first good equipment, was very expensive and impossible for small towns to get. Other smaller companies began to put out competitive sound equipment which was available for the smaller towns, and in March, 1929, a Pacent Reproducer was purchased for the Burley theatre because Western Electric would not guarantee a delivery 11 months later, and people were crying for talking pictures. When it was possible to get Western Electric equipment, in March, 1930, the Pacent equipment was moved over to the Orpheum theater where it operated another year until a R.C.A. sound reproducer was installed. Both the Western Electric and the R.C.A. systems used the 'sound on film' method of reproduction and it was just a matter of time until the Vitaphone principle was discarded.³⁰

On March 31, 1929, the first "talking picture" shown at the Burley Theatre was *My Man*, a Warner Brothers production starring Fannie Brice. The soundtrack was recorded using the Vitaphone sound-on-disc system. To accommodate the new Western Electric system in 1930, the projection booth was enlarged and a new screen was installed together with huge horns.³¹ Ads and promotions for the Burley Theatre in 1945 foreshadowed the coming of television, which Harris-Voeller Theaters promised to provide patrons and assured them they would "keep up with the times."³² Ads also reflected an emphasis on showing first-run movies featuring popular stars of the day to keep movie-goers returning week after week.³³

²⁵ "Right Here in Burley," *The Burley Bulletin*, May 1, 1945, p. 21.

²⁶ I. H. Harris, "'Movie History' Runs Back to Early Days," *The Burley Bulletin* (40th Anniversary Edition), May 1, 1945, pp. 38-39.

²⁷ "Colored Lights for New Theater Marquee," *The Burley Herald*, Jul. 31, 1928, p. 1.

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ "Talking Pictures to Be Shown Here Soon," *The Burley Bulletin*, Feb. 28, 1929, p. 1. "Burley Theatre Being Put in Readiness for Talking Pictures," *The Burley Herald*, Mar. 26, 1929, p. 1.

³⁰ I. H. Harris, "'Movie History' Runs Back to Early Days," *The Burley Bulletin* (40th Anniversary Edition), May 1, 1945, pp. 38-39.

³¹ "New Equipment at Burley Theatre," *The Burley Herald*, Mar. 14, 1930, p. 1.

³² "Right Here in Burley [ad]," *The Burley Bulletin*, May 1, 1945, p. 21. I. H. Harris, "'Movie History' Runs Back to Early Days," *The Burley Bulletin* (40th Anniversary Edition), May 1, 1945, pp. 38-39.

³³ Examples include an ad for the film *Dark Delusion*, starring Lionel Barrymore and Lucille Bremer in *The Burley Herald*, Oct. 13, 1947, n.p. and an ad for the film *The Best Years of Our Lives*, which won an Academy Award for Best Picture in 1947, in *The Burley Bulletin*, Jun. 10, 1947, p. 6.

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Harris expected film technology to continue improving right alongside movie-goers' expectations. Not only did the equipment need updating, but so did the theater itself. In 1957, Harris-Voeller made cosmetic updates to the interior that included "erasing murals" that had been part of the theater for about two decades, transforming the interior into a "pastel array of pink, white, green, and lavender," (figure 18).³⁴ This project may also have included updates to the stage to cover the orchestra pit, which was used less after Harris bought the theater. Additional improvements in the late 1950s or early 1960s included installing a new marquee and neon sign on the façade (figure 19), adding restrooms on the main level near the entrance, and installing some new seats in the auditorium and balcony. Additional updates were made in the 1990s to the restrooms; new carpeting and finishes were installed in the lobby; and some new seats were installed. The entrances and façade were updated in the early 2000s. The old blade sign was replaced with the current triangular sign and the marquee was removed. Regular movie screenings were phased out in the 2010s as the old reel-to-reel projection technology became obsolete.

Beyond the Burley Theatre, the Harris-Voeller organization expanded its movie entertainment offerings in the Burley area. In 1948, they opened the Alfresco Theatre, a new drive-in theater two miles north of Burley, and opened a newly refurbished Harris Theatre in 1965.³⁵

MOTION PICTURE THEATER CONTEXT

The *Motion Picture Theater Buildings in Idaho* MPDF provides statewide context on the history of the development of motion picture entertainment in Idaho, from the retrofitted live performance venues of the late 19th century through the heyday of the purpose-built motion picture theaters of the early- and mid-20th century. A fixture in most Idaho towns at the turn of the 20th century was some sort of **live performance space** where the public could gather for vaudeville and other performances. These spaces included opera houses, theaters, and community halls, which often served multiple functions and were adapted to accommodate changing needs and preferences.³⁶ Many Idaho towns also had a **nickelodeon**, a type of rudimentary theater often in a converted commercial space dedicated to showing projected moving pictures, often characterized by a continuous series of short films and illustrated music that ran most of the day and into the evening. These venues, most prevalent in Idaho from 1904 to 1917, "blossomed virtually overnight, flourished for nearly a decade, then disappeared almost as quickly as they arrived."³⁷ **Combination houses**, on the other hand, reflected the emergence of the motion picture industry in the 1910s and the effort to accommodate both live and motion picture forms of entertainment. Combination houses could be retrofitted existing spaces or purpose-built, and they "had a heavier emphasis on live entertainment," reflected in areas like dressing rooms and a large backstage. Many of Idaho's historic **motion picture theaters** were built "first and foremost for the purpose of showing film." Built after 1917, these theaters "were designed to provide a certain special experience for the public and began to incorporate features such as plush seating, distinct architectural characteristics, restrooms, and other specialized areas such as crying and smoking rooms."³⁸ These theaters generally did not need extensive stage areas or dressing rooms, and "emphasis was placed instead on comfort for the patron and the most up-to-date projection equipment."³⁹

The Burley Theatre was completed in 1917 as a **combination house theater** that offered audiences live performances and motion pictures from the outset. The impressive building includes all the hallmarks of a live performance venue, with dressing rooms, a large backstage, a roof fly space, and a projection room

³⁴ "Burley Theater Gets New Look," *The Burley Herald*, Feb. 7, 1957, p. 1.

³⁵ "New Drive-in Theatre Opens," *The Burley Bulletin*, May 18, 1948, p. 1. "Grand Opening," *The Burley Herald-Bulletin*, Jul. 14, 1965, p. 6.

³⁶ Morton-Keithley, *Motion Picture Theater Buildings in Idaho*, p. E2.

³⁷ Maggie Valentine, *The Show Starts on the Sidewalk: An Architectural History of the Movie Theatre*, Starring S. Charles Lee (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1994), 27.

³⁸ Morton-Keithley, *Motion Picture Theater Buildings in Idaho*, p. E5.

³⁹ Ibid.

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to house motion picture theater equipment. Its first proprietor, Stanley Osika, was a trained musician who artfully mastered blending silent film with orchestral scores, providing Burley with an exciting way of enjoying live music with motion picture technology in a single performance. This type of performance was short-lived and largely phased out by 1929 with the availability of motion picture sound technology. The subsequent owners, Harris-Voeller Theatres, emphasized motion picture entertainment at the Burley, investing in the latest motion picture and sound technology throughout their long tenure as owners and proprietors.

Author Linda Morton-Keithley notes that, during the first half of the 20th century, "the majority of Idaho's motion picture theaters were locally owned and operated, as opposed to being owned by one of the major studios, as was the case in many other states."⁴⁰ She adds, "Even in the instances where several Idaho theaters were operated in a circuit, the owner was still generally from Idaho or a neighboring state." The Burley Theatre fits squarely within this dynamic, developed and operated by local individuals and later operated by the Burley-based Harris-Voeller Theatres, which owned and managed a circuit of venues locally and throughout the region.

CLASSICAL REVIVAL ARCHITECTURE

The 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago revived interest in classical architecture as the nation grew and expanded. Cities and towns across the United States include commercial, civic, and residential buildings from the late 19th and early 20th centuries with Beaux Arts and Classical Revival styling. These styles draw on longstanding Western architectural tradition for inspiration and typically include classically inspired columns and pilasters and cornices or eaves with an entablature embellished with dentils and a wide frieze. Beaux Arts and Classical Revival buildings were designed as monuments and commanded attention. The styles were used in banks, churches, post offices, city halls, courthouses, and schools in towns and cities across Idaho, including Burley.

The stately Burley Theatre was built at the dawn of the movie palace era of the late 1910s and early 1920s. Nationwide, movie palaces were "ornate, period revival extravaganza[s]," where the "silent film was almost incidental to the live show, the architectural appointments, and the entertaining qualities of the large staff that served the theatre."⁴¹ While no Idaho theater of this or any period "reached the epic proportions in size and décor of the theaters in cities such as New York, Chicago, Seattle, or Los Angeles," the Burley Theatre is architecturally significant for its modest reflections of the Classical Revival style.⁴² Its monumentality and modest classical styling communicate its importance within the community. Its monumentality was matched by a few other prominent buildings in the downtown, including the nearby hotel at the northwest corner of Main Street and Overland Avenue (figure 16) and the Cassia County Courthouse. Theater owner Stanley J. Osika almost certainly engaged an architect or designer to develop the building. However, the identities of such professionals remain unknown but would most surely be revealed in *The Burley Bulletin* from 1917 if copies survived.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

The nine Idaho movie theaters currently listed in the National Register of Historic Places span a range of dates and architectural styles. The earliest to open was Glenns Ferry's Gorby Theater (NRHP #82000339), a combination theater, in 1914. The latest to open was the Nu Art Theater (NRHP #01001304) in Moscow in 1935. Architectural styles represented include Spanish Mission/Colonial Revival (Grangeville's Blue Fox, NRHP #99001412); Moorish Revival (Buhl's Ramona Theater, NRHP

⁴⁰ Morton-Keithley, *Motion Picture Theater Buildings in Idaho*, p. E8.

⁴¹ Valentine 34.

⁴² Morton-Keithley, *Motion Picture Theater Buildings in Idaho*, p. E7.

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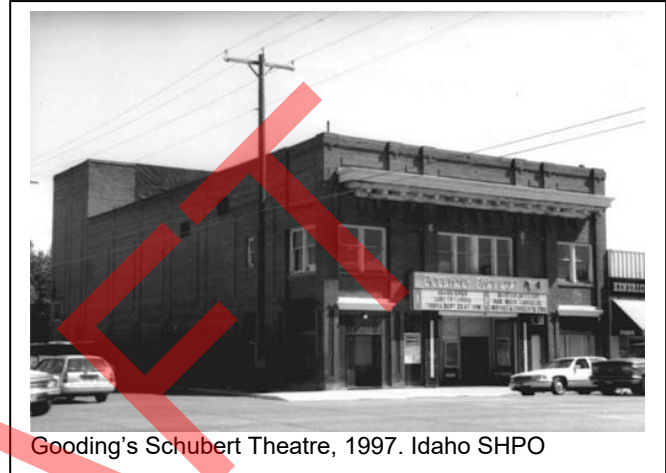
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#76000682); Commercial Style with hints of Classicism (Gooding's Schubert Theatre, NRHP #03001367); Modern Movement Art Deco and Moderne (Weiser's Star Theatre, NRHP #99001413, and Moscow's Nu Art Theater); and Egyptian Revival (Boise's Ada Theater, NRHP #74000724). Beyond these National Register-listed theaters, there are few, if any, extant examples of combination house theaters completed during the second half of the 1910s for comparison. As a result, the Burley Theatre is one of Idaho's few early extant purpose-built combination theaters, and it would be the only National Register-designated theater in Idaho to exhibit the Classical Revival style.

Gooding's Schubert Theatre, a combination theater completed in 1920, is comparable to the Burley Theatre in its community setting, design, function, and integrity.⁴³ Like the Burley, the Schubert occupies a prominent corner lot in the downtown business district and features a similar two-part commercial block design with some Classical stylistic elements. It also includes a roof fly space at the rear of the building indicating its function as a live performance theater. One notable exterior design feature of the Schubert not seen in the Burley is the incorporation of revenue-producing storefronts on either side of the theater entrance.

Although both theaters are imposing, the Burley is more monumental than the Schubert. The Burley is taller and more imposing overall, in part due to the comparative starkness of its exterior. Both theaters were built to maximize auditorium space and seating capacity, as demonstrated by the inclusion of balcony seating, which was notable in small, growing Idaho towns at that time. Both buildings feature small lobbies tucked beneath their balconies. The theaters also have similar integrity today. Each underwent numerous remodels during their periods of significance to keep up with changing technology and stylistic preferences. Although the Schubert has retained more of its original auditorium décor, it has a drop ceiling and other major alterations.



SUMMARY

The Burley Theatre was completed in 1917 during a period of growth and optimism in south-central Idaho and remains one of Burley's most iconic buildings. Generations of Cassia County residents recognize and enthusiastically recall this place, although its history is largely told in the pages of the local newspapers, which document its significance to the community for more than a century. The stately Classical Revival-style building not only reflects early 20th century Burley and its place in motion picture theater history, but it also stands as a reminder of the generations who have maintained and preserved it so it can continue its original purpose of entertaining the public.

⁴³ For more information on the Schubert Theatre, see Carrie Wakely, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form *Schubert Theatre* (Boise: Idaho State Historical Society, 2003).

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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: Idaho State Historic Preservation Office

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1 42.538366° -113.794375°
Latitude Longitude

2 _____
Latitude Longitude

3 _____
Latitude Longitude

4 _____
Latitude Longitude

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

The Burley Theatre is located in Section 10, T10S, R23E in Cassia County, Idaho. The parcel number is RPBB001104001A. The property encompasses 0.130 acres and is described as follows by the Cassia County Assessor: B TWST LOT 1 BLK 104 LOT 2 BLK 104

Deed Reference #'s: 2023-002352, 113415, 113416

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The above-noted property reflects both the historic and present-day property boundary and includes the Burley Theatre.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sarah J. Martin, consulting historian date Mar. 1, 2025
organization SJM Cultural Resource Services telephone 785-342-1665
street & number 3901 2nd Ave NE #202 email sarahmartincrs@gmail.com
city or town Seattle state WA zip code 98105

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Regional Location Map (Figure 1)
- USGS Map (Figures 2 and 3)
- Tax Lot Map (Figure 4)
- Aerial Image of Site (Figure 5)
- Site Plan (Figure 6)
- Floor Plans (Figure 7)
- Historical Maps, Clippings, and Images (Figures 8 thru 19)
- Recent Photographs (Photos 1 thru **ZZ**)

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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property:

Burley Theatre

City or Vicinity:

Burley

County:

Cassia County

State:

Idaho

Photographer:

Sarah J. Martin

Date Photographed:

September 13, 2024

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo #1	Descriptions forthcoming with final edits
Photo #2	
Photo #3	
Photo #4	
Photo #5	
Photo #6	
Photo #7	
Photo #8	
Photo #9	
Photo #10	
Photo #11	
Photo #12	
Photo #13	
Photo #14	
Photo #15	
Photo #16	

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 100 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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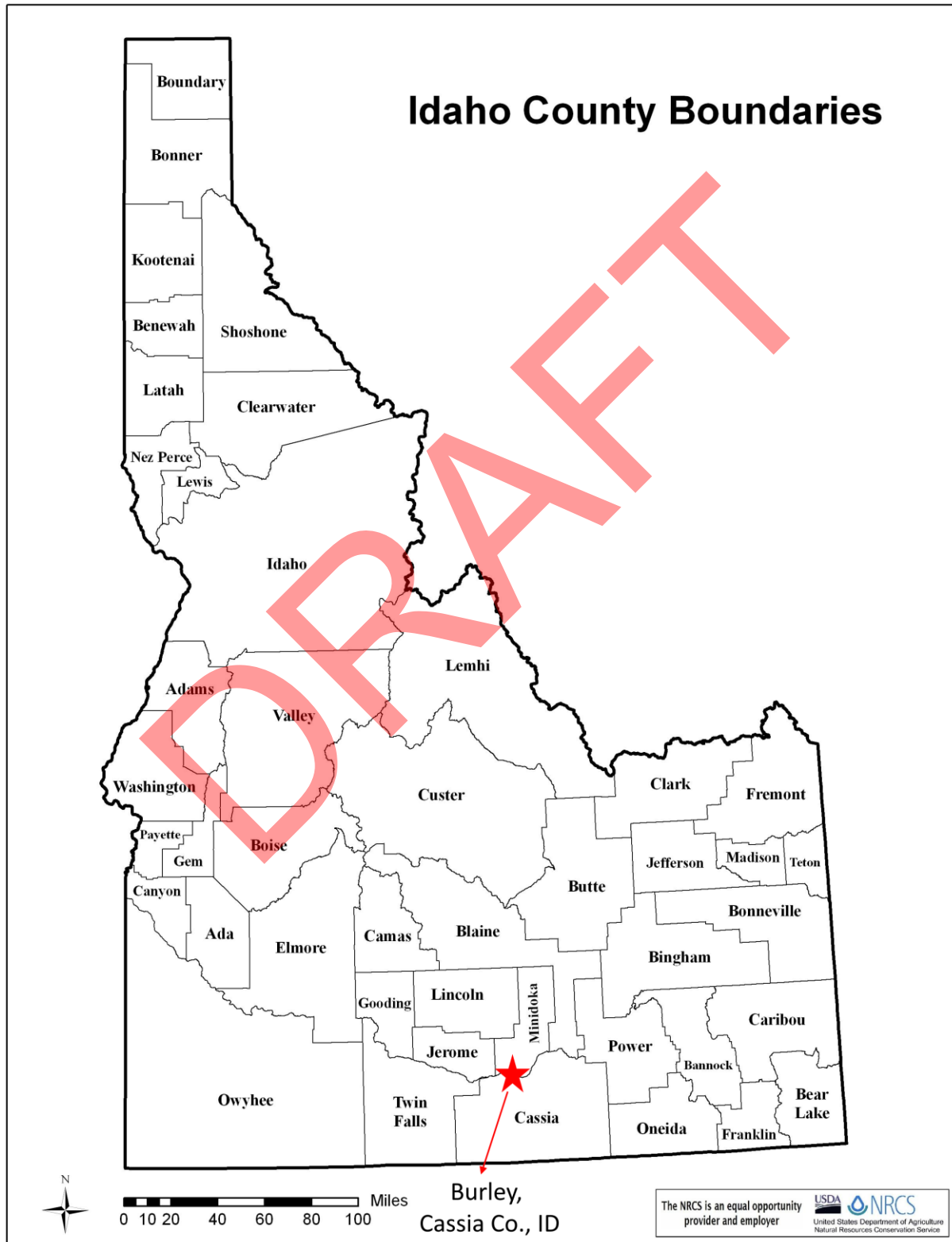
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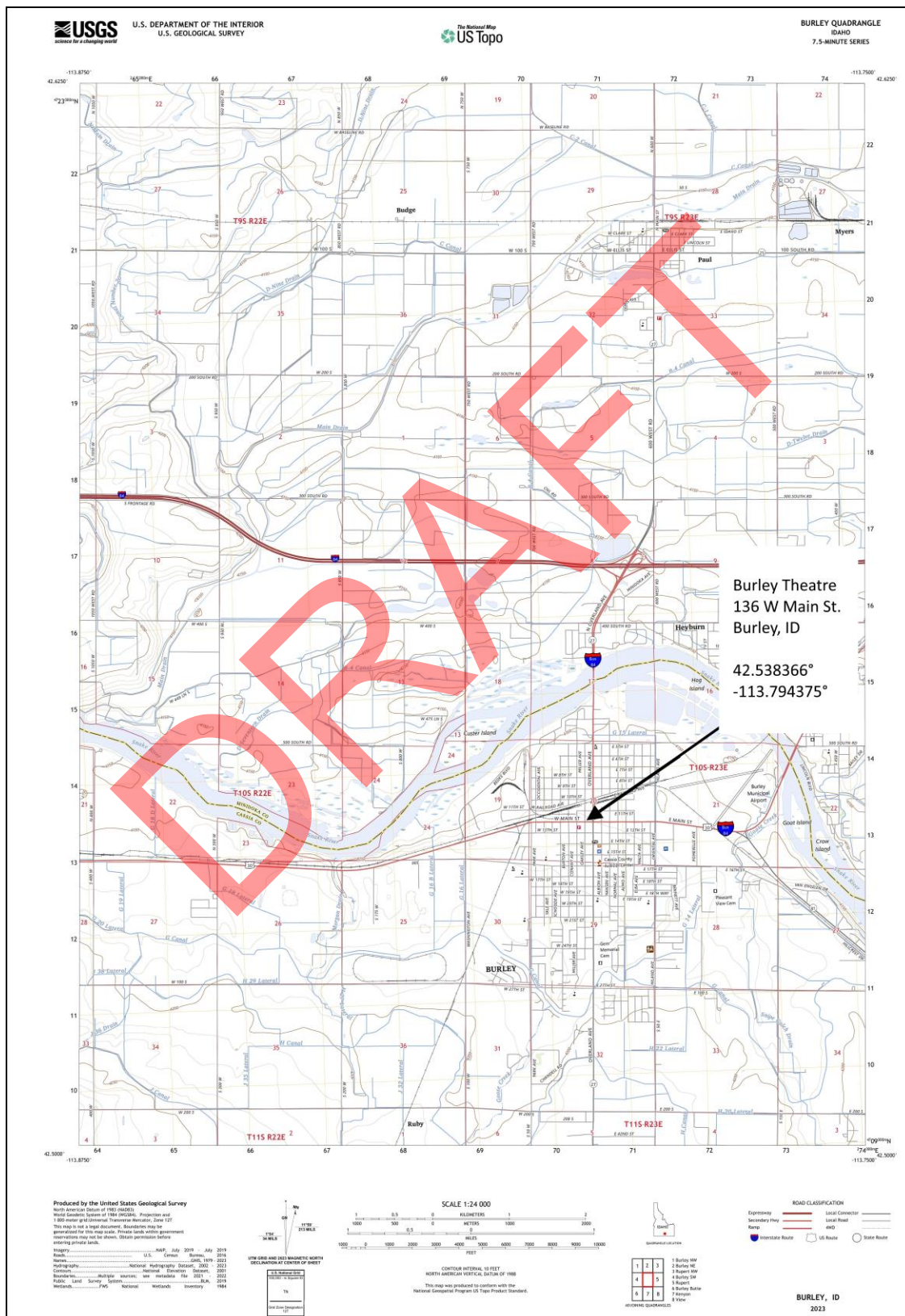
Figure 1. Regional Location Map

Map of State of Idaho showing counties and the location of Burley in Cassia County.



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Burley Quadrangle, 2023, 7.5-minute series, Scale: 1:24,000 (North is at the top of the image.)

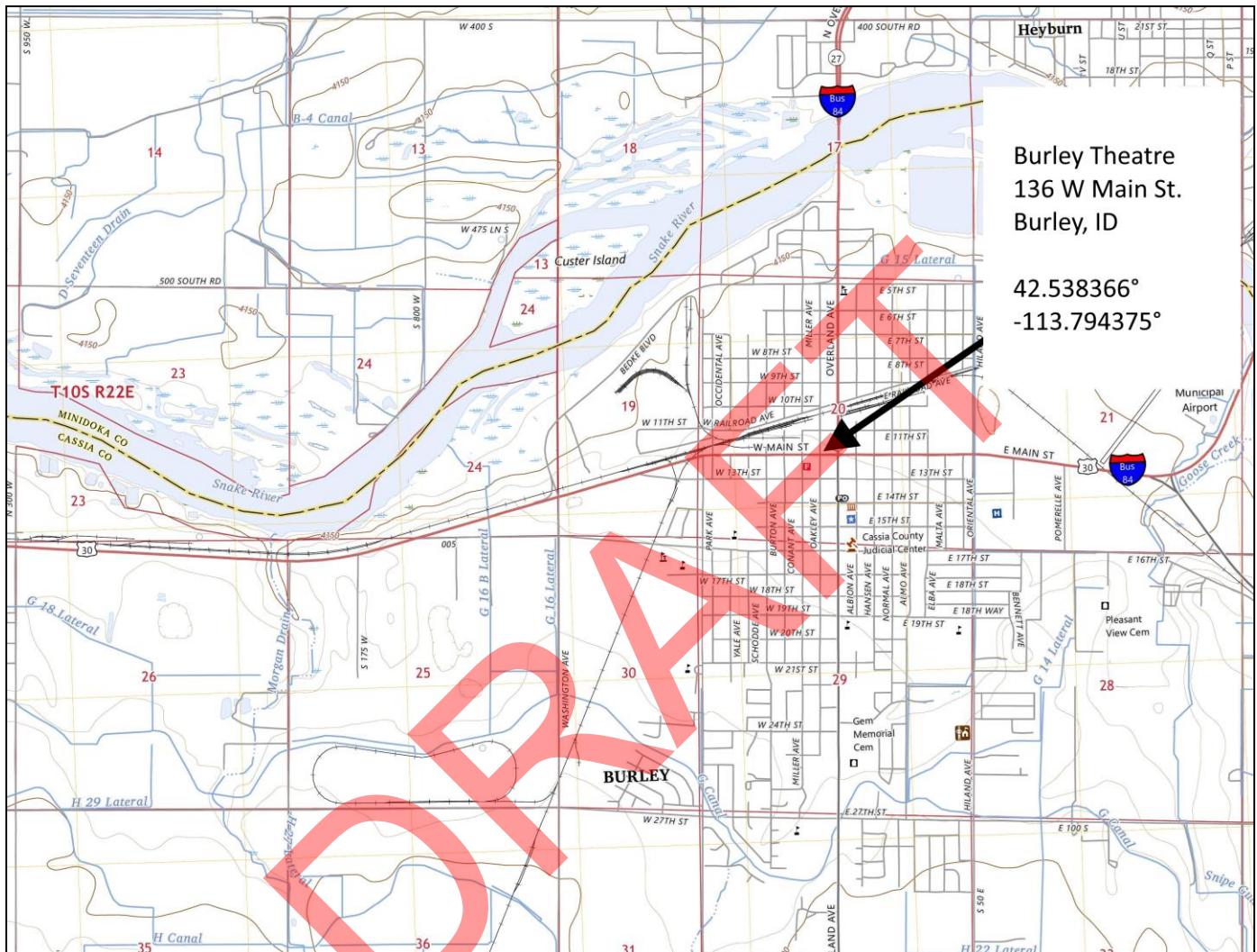


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Figure 3. USGS Quadrangle Map (Close-in)

Burley Quadrangle, 2023, 7.5-minute series, Scale: 1:24,000. (North is at the top of the image.)



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Figure 4. Cassia County Parcel Map

Arrow points to Burley Theatre, Parcel RPBB001104001A. North is at the top of the image. Source: Cassia County Parcel Map.



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Figure 5. Aerial Image

The parcel is outlined by a solid orange line. The parcel boundary is also the nomination boundary. North is at the top of the image. Source: Cassia County Parcel Map.



Burley Theatre

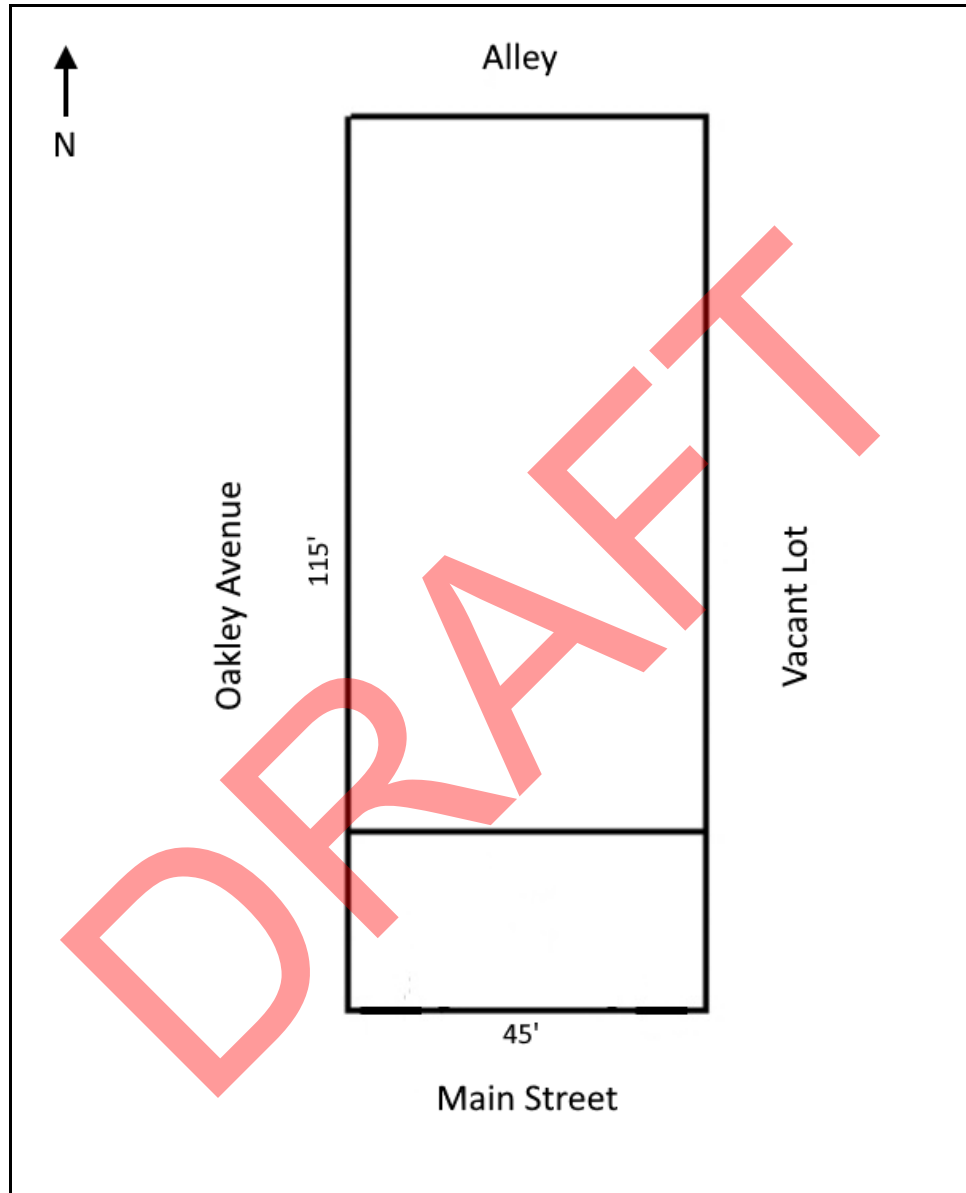
Name of Property

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Figure 6. Sketch Site Plan

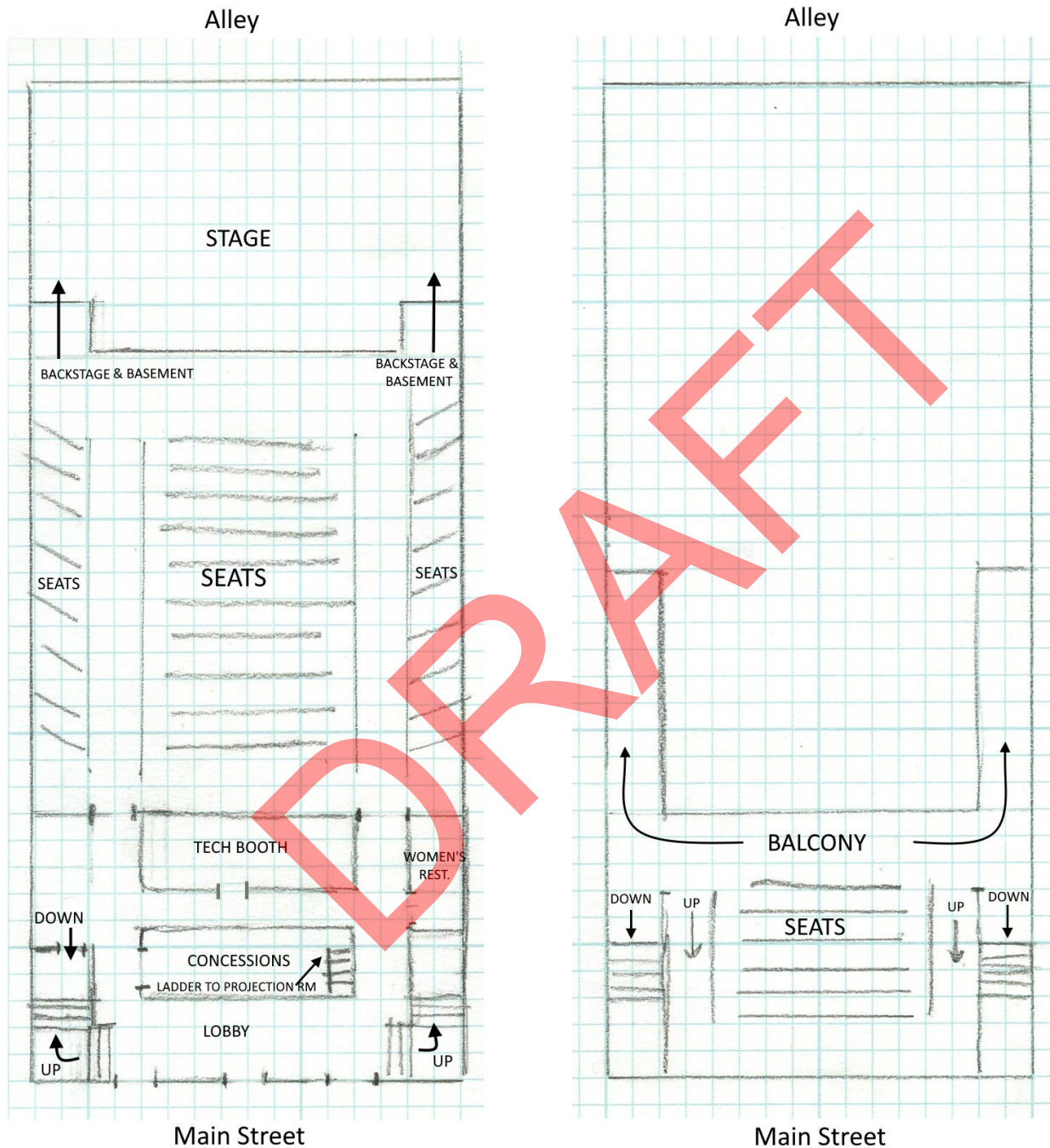
Source of approximate measurements: Cassia County Assessor



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Figure 7. Sketch Floor Plans (Not to Scale)
First floor (left) and Second floor (right).

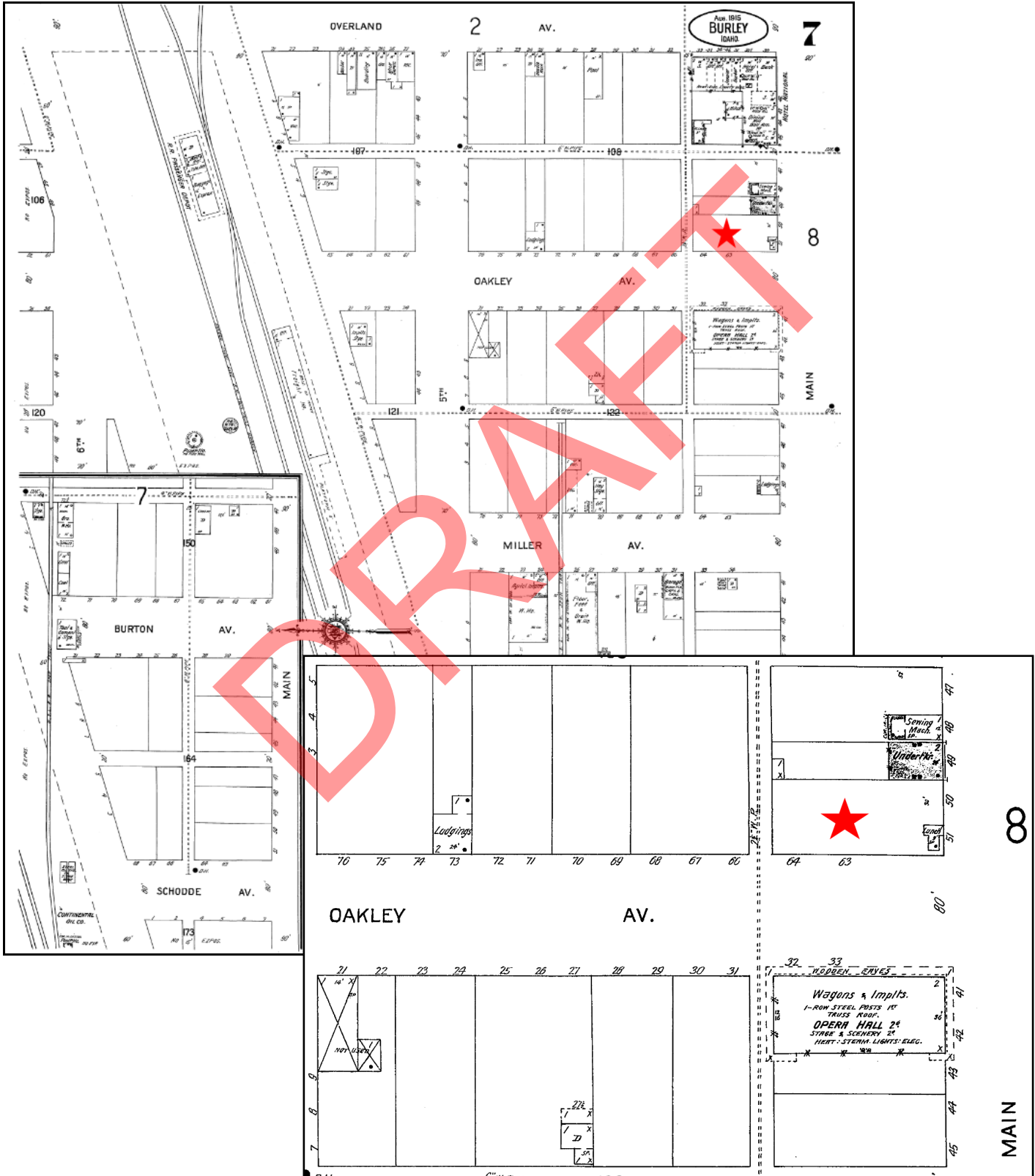


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Figure 8. Sanborn Company Fire Insurance Map, 1915, Burley, Idaho, p. 7.

This map shows downtown Burley. The star notes where the Burley Theatre would be built in 1917. Note the 2nd floor "opera hall" at the northwest corner of Oakley Ave. and Main St.



Burley Theatre

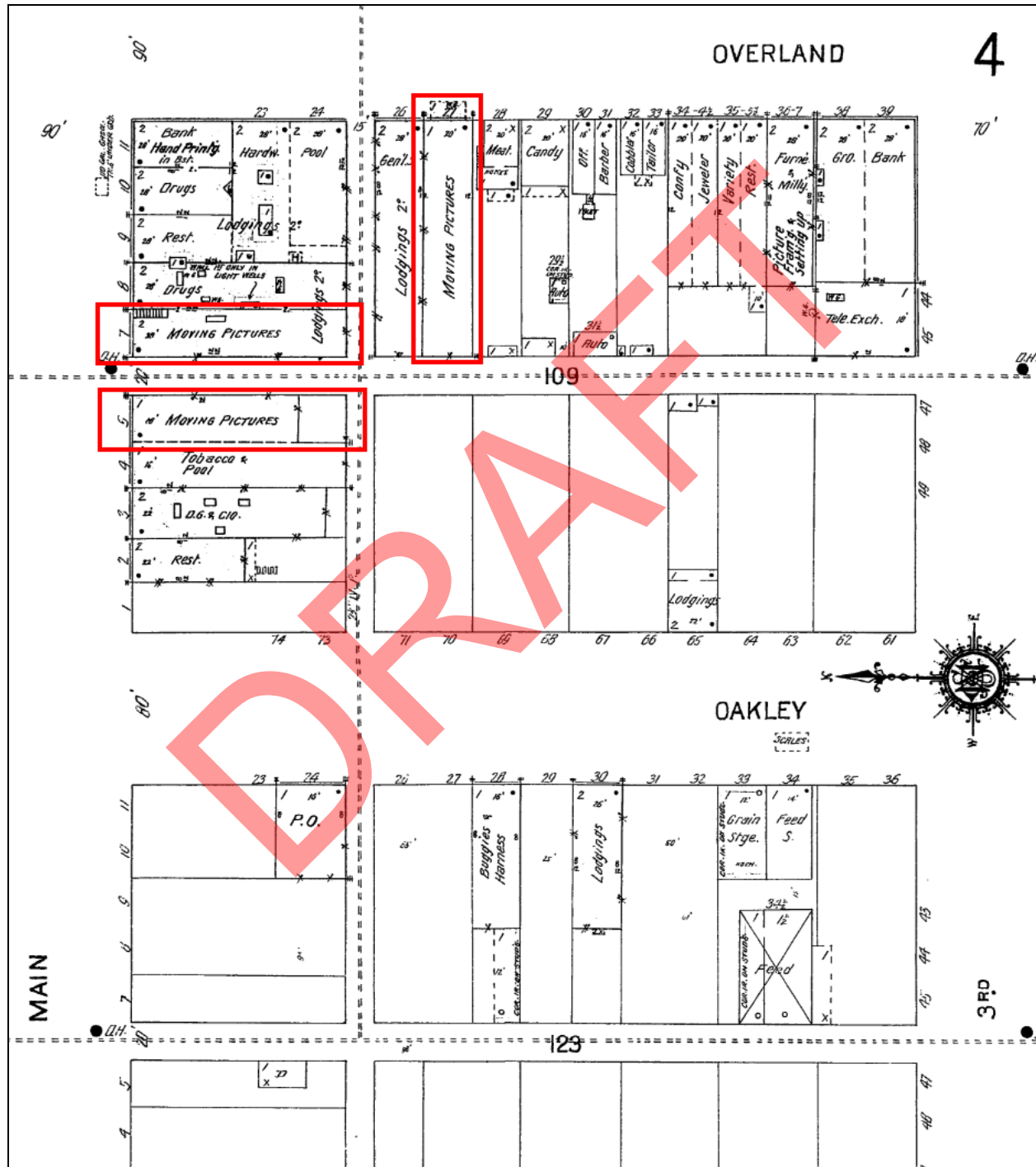
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Figure 9. Sanborn Company Fire Insurance Map, 1915 (partial), Burley, Idaho, p. 8.

This map shows a portion of downtown Burley. The red-highlighted parcels note "moving picture" venues in close proximity to where the new theater would be built. The Orpheum Theatre is the highlighted venue on Overland Avenue.

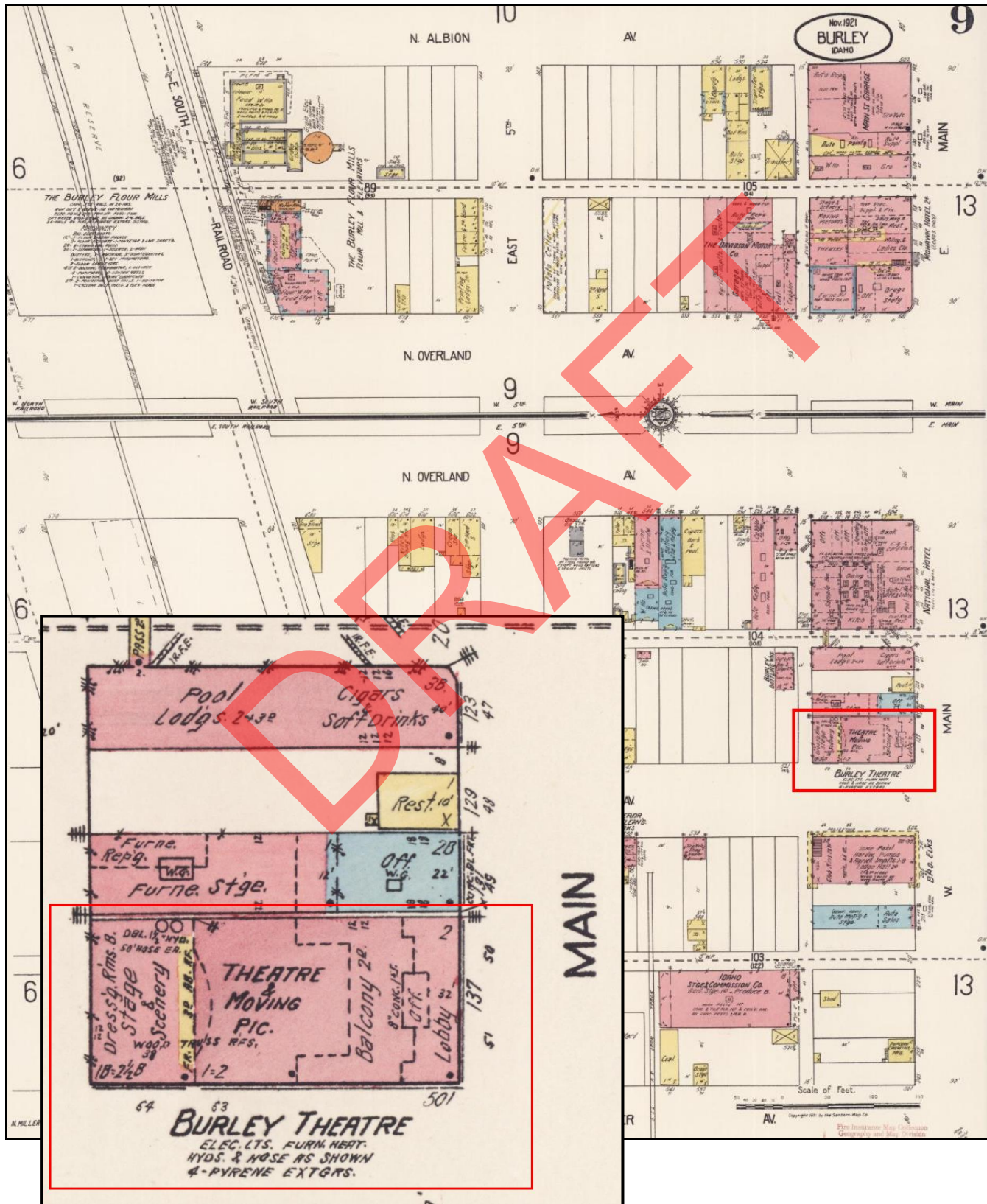


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Figure 10. Sanborn Company Fire Insurance Map, 1921, Burley, Idaho, p. 9.

This map shows a portion of downtown Burley. The star notes where the Burley Theatre is located.



Burley Theatre

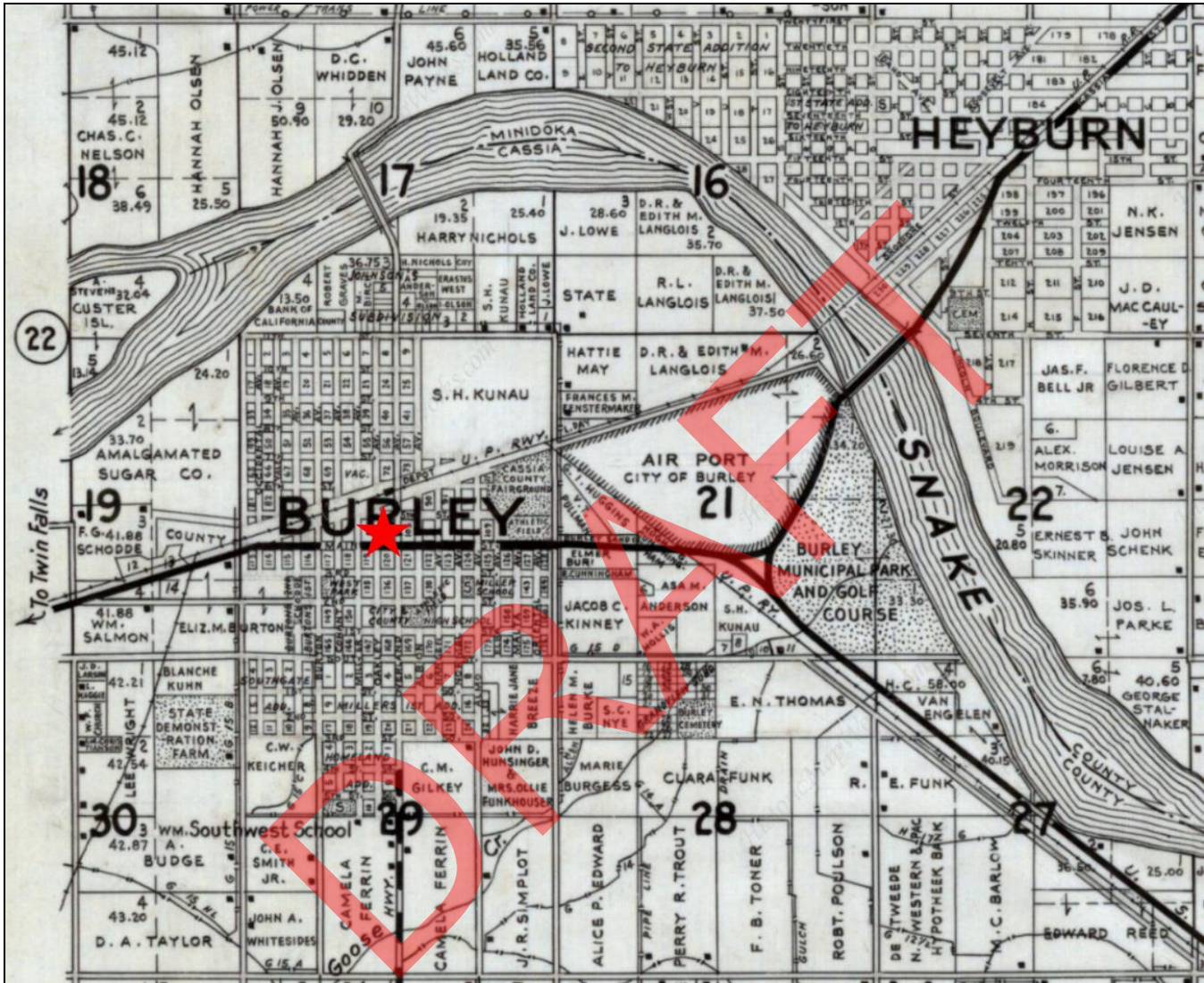
Name of Property

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Figure 11. Historical Image

Partial image of Township 10S, Range 23E. *Metsker's Atlas of Cassia County, Idaho*. Charles Metsker, 1939. The star notes where the Burley Theatre is located.



Burley Theatre

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Figure 12. Historical Image

Burley Theatre, ca. 1918.

Source: Cassia County Historical Society.



Burley Theatre

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Figure 13. Historical Image

Burley Theatre interior, date unknown.

Source: Cassia County Historical Society.



Burley Theatre

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Figure 14. Historical Image

Burley Theatre, ca. 1928

Source: Cassia County Historical Society.



Burley Theatre

Name of Property

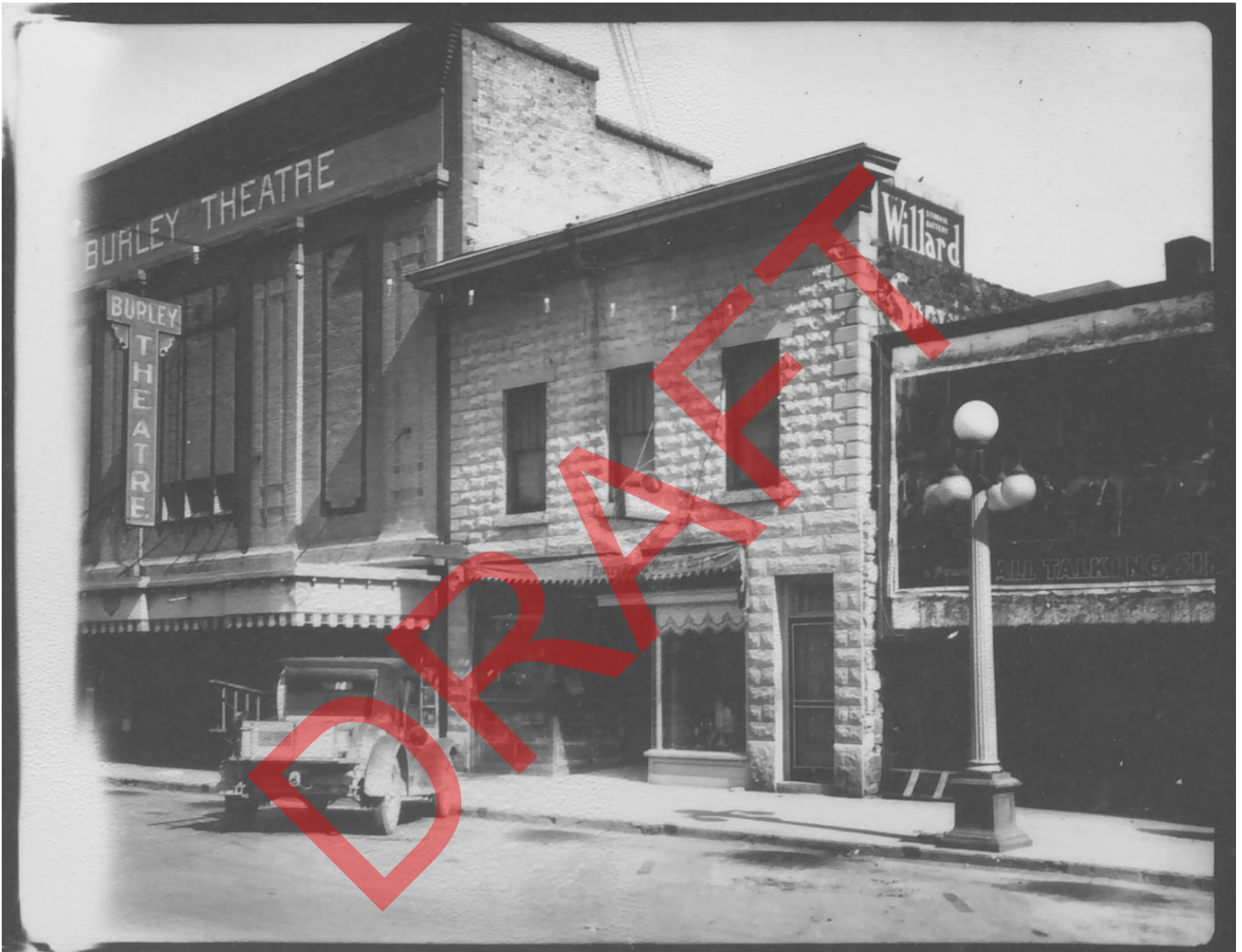
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Figure 15. Historical Image

Burley Theatre and neighboring buildings along Main Street, ca. 1928

Source: Cassia County Historical Society.



Burley Theatre

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Figure 16. Historical Image

View east along Main Street, with the Burley Theatre at left, ca. 1940s.
Source: Unknown (Facebook).



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Figure 17. Historical Image

View west along Main Street, with the Burley Theatre at right, ca. 1950s.
Source: Unknown (Brian Muir)



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Figure 18. Historical Newspaper Clipping

Source: *The Burley Herald*, Feb. 7, 1957, p. 1.

charges against him and was capable of rendering assistance in his defense.

The pair had given Boan tests at the Bingham county jail in Blackfoot where Boan had been taken for examination by court order earlier this year.

A prosecution witness, Dr. William D. O'Gorman, who identified himself as a practicing neuropsychiatrist from Ogden, Utah, agreed with the conclusions of Castore and Ward that Boan was able to defend himself.

Personality Disorder

There was agreement among the mental experts that Boan was suffering a serious personality disorder. The defendant, Castore said, had the verbal intelligence of a 13-year-old. His "performance intelligence", however he said, was

Burley Theater Gets New Look

Unsentimental rollers and paintbrushes, wielded by employees of the Thaxton Paint co., are slowly but surely erasing murals that have been part of the scene in the Burley theater for about two decades.

Working high on a scaffold, the painters are transforming the theater's interior into a pastel array of pink, white, green, and lavender.

The scaffold is about 30 feet high and 25 feet in width. The job will take about four days. During the reconditioning, however, the regular film schedule will be carried out.



A CHANGE OF SCENERY: Here painters cover murals that have seen two decades of service at the Burley theatre. On the scaffold from left are Foy Cunningham, Olean Wells, and Harlo Cheney. At the bottom is Eiel Hansen.

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Figure 19. Historical Image

View west along Main Street, with the Burley Theatre at right, 1961.
Source: Unknown (Brian Muir)



Burley Theatre

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Figure 19. Recent Image

Burley Theatre, 2023

Source: Brian Muir



Burley Theatre

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Photo 1. Primary south façade.



Burley Theatre

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Photo 2. Second-story close-up of the primary south façade.



Burley Theatre

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Photo 3. Primary south side facing Main Street, and the west side overlooking Oakley Avenue.



Burley Theatre
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Photo 4. West elevation overlooking Oakley Avenue.



Burley Theatre

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Photo 5. West elevation overlooking Oakley Avenue and north elevation overlooking the alleyway.



Burley Theatre

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Photo 6. The north elevation overlooking the alleyway, and the east side overlooking the adjacent lot.



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Photo 7. The primary south façade and east side.



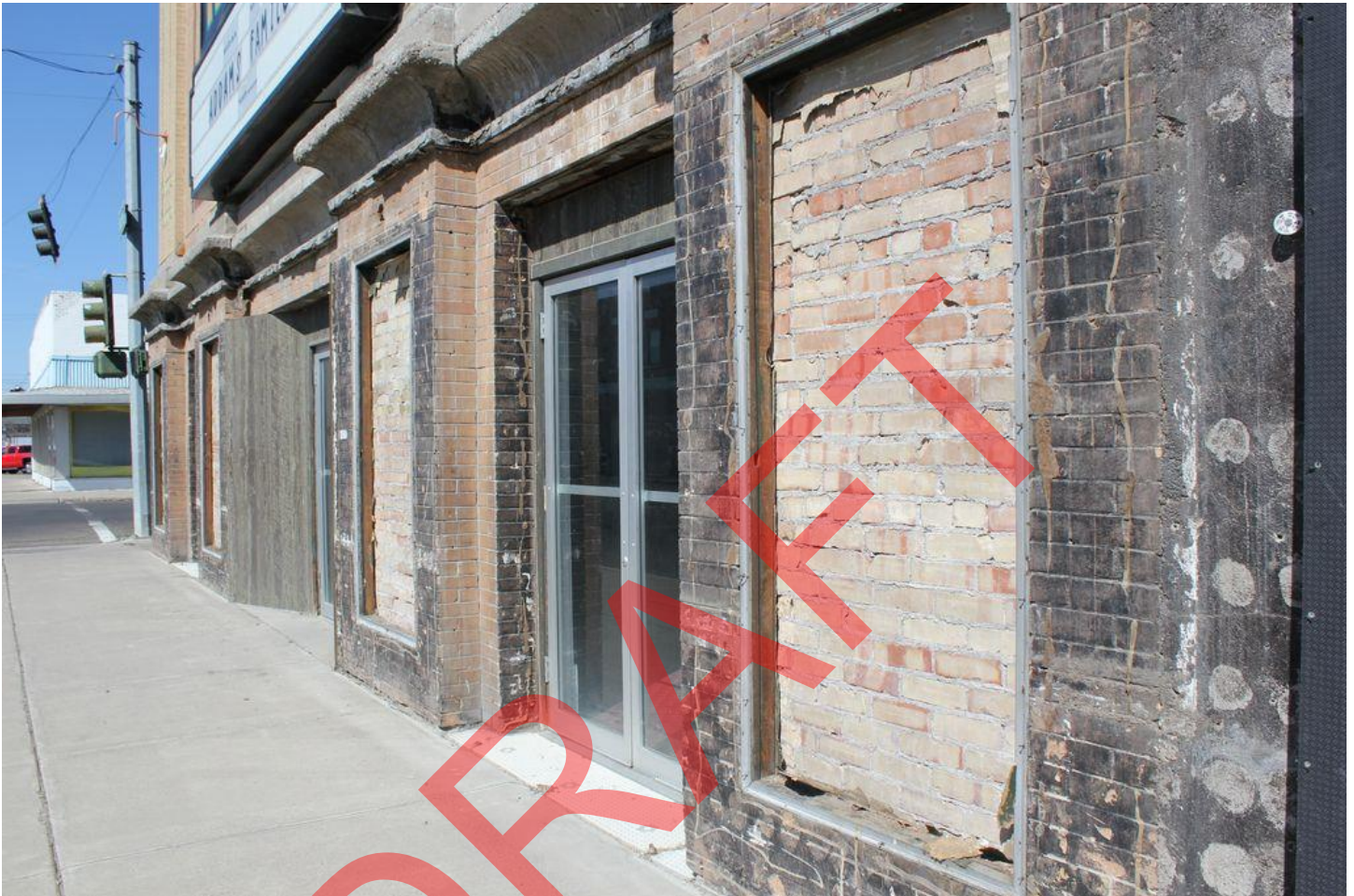
Burley Theatre

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Photo 8. Sidewalk-level view of the main entrances.



Burley Theatre

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Photo 9. Interior lobby, camera facing east.



Burley Theatre

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Photo 10. Interior hall behind the concession area. The door (at right) leads to the auditorium.



Burley Theatre

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Photo 11. Double doors at the top of the stairs taken from the balcony.



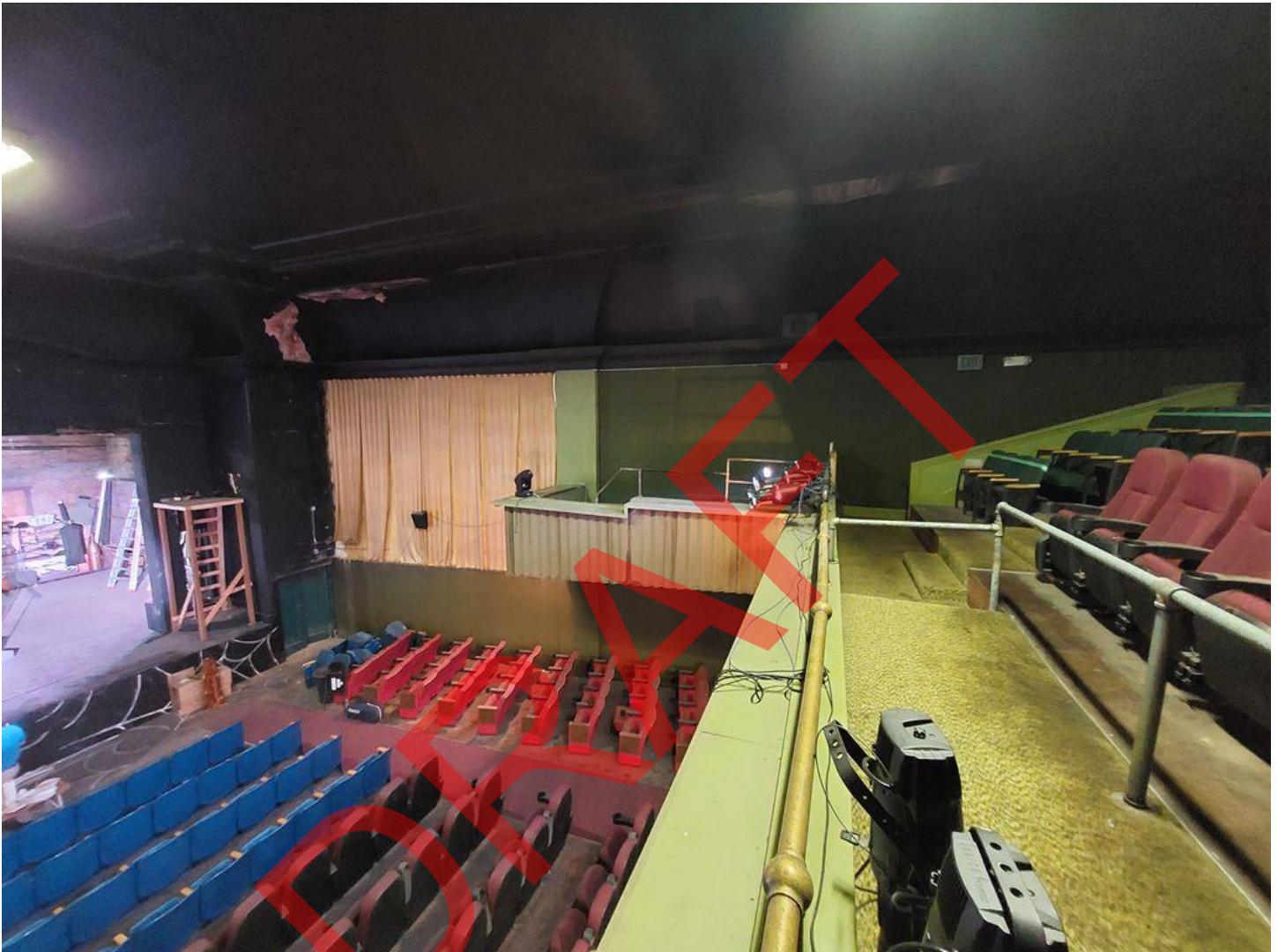
Burley Theatre

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Photo 12. Auditorium from balcony, facing east-northeast.



Burley Theatre

Name of Property

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Photo 13. Auditorium from balcony, facing northwest.



Burley Theatre

Name of Property

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Photo 14. Proscenium arch.



Burley Theatre

Name of Property

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Photo 15. Ceiling detail along east wall.



Burley Theatre

Name of Property

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Photo 16. Ceiling detail near west wall.



Burley Theatre

Name of Property

Cassia County, ID

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Photo 17. Projection room



Burley Theatre

Name of Property

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Photo 18. Stage, facing west.



Burley Theatre

Name of Property

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Photo 19. View of west wall and area above stage. Note the garage door opening at right, which is on the building's north wall.



Burley Theatre

Name of Property

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Photo 20. Basement

