

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Dougherty Auditorium

and/or common Farris Theater

## 2. Location

street & number 203 West Main \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Richmond \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of #6 Honorable Thomas Coleman  
congressional district

state Missouri code 15 county Ray code 177

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name F.G. Weary

street & number 421 East Main

city, town Richmond \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state Missouri 64085

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ray County Court House

street & number Office of the Assessor

city, town Richmond \_\_\_\_\_ state Missouri

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Missouri State Historical Survey has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_\_\_ yes  no

date 1982 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Program  
MO Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176

city, town Jefferson City \_\_\_\_\_ state Missouri 65102

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### **Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Dougherty Auditorium, at 201 West Main Street, is located on a corner lot in Richmond's business district. The two-story rectangular structure, an altered Italianate building, as a frontage of approximately 60 feet on West Main Street and 100 feet on Camden Avenue. It is built on a slight grade that slopes to the west.

### Construction materials and colors

The building is constructed of brick, part of which has been painted light beige. Sheet metal is utilized for the Palladian window on the north facade. Wood, painted a pinkish beige, is used for the window framing, while stone is used for some of the lugsills and for the plinth along the east facade. A partial basement is located at the rear of the structure. The foundation, visible along the east facade, is of squared rubble. The northwest corner of the building and the first level of the north facade is faced with red and beige tile. The flat roof is edged with tile coping.

### North facade

The visual emphasis of this main facade, facing West Main Street, is the sheet metal Palladian-style window located in the center of the second floor. A circular window is located on each side of the Palladian window. These windows are set in brick surrounds and feature pie-wedge framing. Immediately above the Palladian window, in the loft area, are two narrow rectangular fixed windows, each divided into eight panes. The entire first floor level of the north facade is faced with tile. In the center of the first floor are three single, three-panel wood entrance doors, with a sheet metal inset located above them. On each side of the doors and below the circular windows of the second floor are display cases. The sheet metal marquee of the northeast corner of the building runs along the length of the north facade, serving as a string course between the first and second floors.

### East facade

This facade runs 100 feet along Camden Avenue. A lighted, projecting marquee dominates the northeast corner of the structure. Below the marquee along the east facade are three rectangular, one-over-one double hung sash windows. On the second floor of this facade are three rectangular, one-over-one double hung sash windows set in arched brick vouissoirs. A wood door is at the south end of this facade, also set in an arched brick vouissoir. A double hung sash window is located to the south of this door. The windows of this facade have stone lugsills. A stone plinth runs along this facade. Below the marquee on the east facade are three recessed entrance doors.

### South facade

This facade abuts a brick building that faces Camden Avenue.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1900-1901

**Builder/Architect** Shepard and Farrar, architects

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Dougherty Auditorium is the oldest surviving theater in Richmond, Missouri and has continually served as the main cultural resource for the small community. Built by a prominent Richmond citizen, Samuel Dougherty, who enlisted the aid of the community in the project, it is a good example of the desire of a town to provide for itself the amenities of a larger community. The theater is currently operated by the Weary family who have managed it since 1914. Although the exterior has been altered, the interior remains one of the better examples of turn-of-the-century theater decoration. The building was designed by the prominent Kansas City architectural firm of Shepard and Farrar.<sup>1</sup>

### Historical Data

As America moved west, every thriving town built what was called an "opera house", a small theater building that provided a variety of theatrical forms: tableaux, skits, vaudeville, medicine shows, and plays. They flourished all over the country, penetrating even the remote frontier.<sup>2</sup> Touring theatrical companies played these small theaters. For rural Missouri, which was certainly not a sophisticated society, these companies offered a way of participating in the vicarious experiences of the theater and offered a way of breaking the monotony of the lives of the hard working citizenry.<sup>3</sup>

The earliest known theater in Richmond, Missouri, was the Richmond Opera House, built in 1880 and owned by a joint stock company under the corporate name of Richmond Hall and Library Association. The same year Dr. W.W. Mosby and Son operated an opera house in the upper floor of their downtown business establishment. The Richmond Opera House flourished briefly and the Mosby Opera House operated until after 1900.<sup>4</sup>

In June, 1900, Samuel Dougherty made a proposition to the citizens of Richmond that he would build a \$15,000 modern and up-to-date opera house if the citizens would provide \$5,000 of the cost. Mayor Walter Shrop convened a meeting of a number of representative citizens to discuss ways of raising the money. Several speeches were made pointing out the need of the building. A committee of five was chosen to canvass the city to sell 500 tickets to subscribers at \$10 a ticket.<sup>5</sup> Within two weeks, \$3,000 had been raised. The only opposition to the theater was voiced by the pastor of the Baptist Church, who felt the proposed location near his church would interfere with services there.<sup>6</sup> His objections were overridden and by July 11th the last ticket had been sold.<sup>7</sup>

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

1. "A New Opera House." Richmond Conservator, 14 June 1900, p. 1.
2. Bowen, Elbert R. Theatrical Entertainment in Rural Missouri Before the Civil War. Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press, 1959.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name "Richmond, Missouri."

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 

1	5	4	1	5	5	5	10	4	13	4	17	9	11	10
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Richmond Old Survey North End Wt 123 and N. end East SD. Lot 124.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title 1. Sherry Piland

organization Architectural Historian

date March 12, 1982

street & number 4346 Charlotte

telephone 753-5746

city or town Kansas City

state Missouri

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Director, Department of Natural Resources and  
title State Historic Preservation Officer

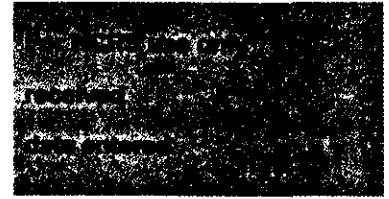
date



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DOUGHERTY AUDITORIUM



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Page 1

West facade

The brick of this facade has not been painted. This facade has an entrance door, approached by a concrete ramp, at the north end. A window to the north of this door has been bricked in. Four rectangular windows, with stone lugsills, on the second floor have also been bricked in. The parapet roof along this facade contains a brick chimney at the rear third of the facade. At the south end of this facade is a loading dock and altered stage doors.

Interior

A rectangular lobby, that has been modernized, runs east to west along the north portion of the building. Stairways are located at the east and west ends of the lobby, leading to office space on the second floor. The stage is located at the south end of the building. Steps on each side lead up to the stage from the sloping wood auditorium floor. At each end of the proscenium arch is a large, applied, gilded fleuron. Flanking the proscenium arch are ornate, fluted columns with modified Ionic capitals. Box seat areas are located on each side of the stage, set in arched openings. The actual seating has been removed, but otherwise is intact. Gilded keystones terminate each arch and join a molding that runs from the columns to the pilasters on each side of the arched openings. A more ornate projecting, denticulated molding runs above this. A small orchestra pit is located in front of the stage. The seating of the auditorium is arranged in three sections. A curved balcony, approached by steps in the rear of the auditorium, is supported by iron columns. Pilasters with decorative capitals are placed along the balcony walls. The basement area under the stage is divided into several dressing and storage rooms.

Alterations

Twice, in the 1930's and the 1940's, the theater underwent major alterations. The interior alterations were confined basically to the lobby area, leaving the stage and proscenium area intact. The main alterations to the exterior consisted of the removal of a projecting cornice, replacing windows on the first floor with display cases, altering the north facade entrance doors, and adding a marquee. Other alterations consist of:

- 1) removal of a scenery loft at the rear of the building
- 2) alteration of doors at the northeast corner
- 3) rearrangement of the seating, with removal of the center aisle, reducing the seating capacity from 1000 to approximately 500.
- 4) bricking in of several windows
- 5) addition to tile to part of the north and east facades.<sup>1</sup>

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Condition

The exterior and interiors of the building are in good condition.

Site

Commercial buildings are located to the south and east. A residential structure is located to the north. To the west is a small gravel parking lot and a residential structure is beyond that.

Present Status

The theater is used for various community events, such as beauty pageants, high school plays, and Kiwanis Club productions. Movies are shown on week-ends.

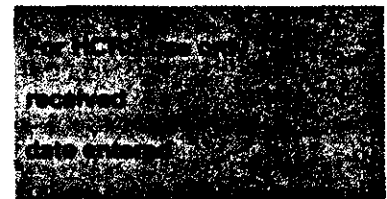
FOOTNOTES

1. Interview with F.R. Weary, owner, 14 April 1979.

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Page 1

Samuel Dougherty already had plans for the theater in hand when he made his proposal, drawn by the Kansas City firm of Shepard and Farrar, thus work on the building began almost immediately.<sup>8</sup> In September, 1900, work on the foundation began and the contract for construction of the building was awarded to Richmond contractors Alnut and Paulson, described as "competent and reliable workmen."<sup>9</sup> By May of 1901 the interior of the building was being completed and members of the William Eckart Decorating Company of Chicago arrived to complete the interior decoration. Mr. Dougherty traveled to Kansas City to consult with O.D. Woodward of Kansas City's Auditorium Theater concerning the opening night attraction.<sup>10</sup> Those who had purchased subscription tickets to the building fund had opening night seats reserved according to the amount they had donated. Every seat in the building was filled for the opening on June 20, 1901, "...the most fashionable and refined audience ever assembled in Richmond on a similar occasion." The opening production was "As You Like it" performed by a Kansas City company and featuring Hester Longeran. Opening night ticket prices ranged from \$1 to 25 cents. While the performance received a fairly negative review from the Richmond Conservator, the building was praised as "...a beauty, second to none in the state outside of the large cities and every citizen of Richmond is justly proud that such a building is located in our city."<sup>11</sup> Other events taking place in the Auditorium in its early months were a production of "East Lynne"; a production of "Ten Nights in a Bar Room", featuring child actress Verna Marie; a series of programs presented by the Glazier Lyceum Bureau of Chicago as fund raisers for the public school library fund; a vaudeville, drama, and comedy production by the Gibney Stock Company; and a speech by W.J. Stone, candidate for the United States Senate.<sup>12</sup> While the choices of production may seem unsophisticated and the artistic talent may have been inferior, the productions are important for revealing the tastes and prejudices of the audiences of the era. For example, "Ten Nights in a Bar Room" was a stand-by for stock and touring companies and the play offered strong support the forces of prohibition.<sup>13</sup>

In 1910 Dougherty sold the Auditorium to lawyer J.L. Farris.<sup>14</sup> In 1914 Farris began leasing the theater to F.G. Weary, Jr. and in 1921 sold it to him.<sup>15</sup> In 1930 Weary considerably modernized the theater in conjunction with its conversion to "talkies." The following year Weary leased the theater to the Dickenson Theater, Inc., chain. The theater has remained under the management of the Weary family since 1914.<sup>16</sup>

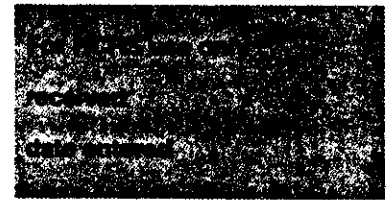
Samuel Dougherty

Samuel Dougherty was the discoverer of the famous Isabella gold mine at Cripple Creek, Colorado. After selling the mine, he moved to Richmond in 1893 and became a merchant. The contribution of a theater to his adopted city was in part an attempt to build a monument to the family name. The theater was reportedly based on the theater in Leadville, Colorado, built by H.A.W. Tabor, who had also achieved wealth during the Colorado gold rush. The original curtain of the theater featured a painted scene of a Colorado landscape. Dougherty's career as a theater manager was relatively brief, for although he was described as honest and courteous, he was "...not a good financier, booking agent, or theatrical man." Dougherty later moved from Richmond.<sup>17</sup>

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Shepard and Farrar

The Kansas City firm of Shepard and Farrar began in 1895 and lasted until 1910. That year Albert Wiser became a member of the firm and the name was changed to Shepard, Farrar and Wiser. Charles E. Shepard, the senior member of the firm began his career in his native state of Iowa, assisting in the design of the Iowa State capitol. He began working in Kansas City in 1887. Among his early works in Kansas City were the Grand Theater, the Auditorium Theater, and the First Congregational Church. The firm was very active in Kansas City and produced many commercial and residential structures. Their design of the Dougherty Auditorium is similar in scale and design features to the Folly Theater in Kansas City, designed by Louis Curtiss in 1900.<sup>18</sup>

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies in Missouri history as outlined in "Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan." The Dougherty Auditorium is, therefore, being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the themes of "Architecture," "Fine Arts and Humanities", and "Recreation."

FOOTNOTES

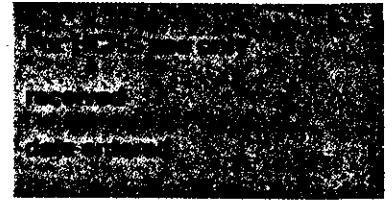
1. Kansas City Architect and Builder, September 1900, p. 266.
2. Jere C. Mickel, Footlights on the Prairie (St. Cloud, Minnesota: North Star Pffess, 1974), p. 6.
3. Elbert R. Bowen, Theatrical Entertainment in Rural Missouri Before the Civil War (Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press, 1959), p. vii.
4. History of Ray County, Missouri (St. Louis: Missouri Historical Company, 1881), p. 387; Ray County, Missouri History 1973 (Richmond: Ray County Historical Society, 1973), pp. 167-168.
5. "A New Opera House," Richmond Conservator, 14 June 1900, p. 1.
6. "The Fund is Growing," Richmond Conservator, 21 June 1900, p. 1.
7. "Opera House Will Be Built", Richmond Conservator, 12 July 1900, p. 1.
8. "A New Opera House," Richmond Conservator, 14 June 1900, p. 1.
9. "Opera House Contract Let," Richmond Conservator, 20 September 1900, p. 1.
10. "Local Matters," Richmond Conservator, 2 May 1901, p. 1.
11. "The Dougherty Auditorium," Richmond Conservator, 20 June 1901, p. 1; Ray County Missouri History 1973, p. 168; Richmond Conservator, 13 June 1901, p. 8.
- 12.



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8

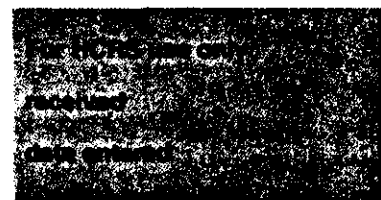
Page 3

12. Richmond Conservator, 29 August 1901, p. 5; "Local Matters," Richmond Conservator, 12 September 1901, pp. 1 and 3; "Splendid Entertainment," Richmond Conservator, 26 September 1901, p. 1; "The Packard Entertainment," Richmond Conservator, 17 October 1901, p. 1; "Hon. W.J. Stone Speaks," Richmond Conservator, 7 November 1901, pp. 1 and 9.
13. Glenn Hughes, A History of the American Theater 1700-1950 (New York: Samuel French, 1951), p. 188.
14. Richmond Conservator, 22 September 1910, p. 9.
15. "Farris Theater Building is Sold," Richmond Conservator, 22 July 1921.
16. Weary Family Scrapbooks.
17. Jewel Mayes, "Tribute to Samuel Dougherty," Richmond Conservator, 26 January 1933; Weary Family Scrapbooks; Interview with F.R. Weary, owner, 14 April 1979; Ray County, Missouri History 1973, p. 168.
18. "Charles Shepard Dies," Kansas City Star, 9 August 1932, p. 6.

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3. "Charles Shepard Dies." Kansas City Star, 9 August 1932, p. 6.
4. "Farris Theater Building Sold." Richmond Conservator, 22 July, 1921.
5. History of Ray County, Missouri. St. Louis: Missouri Historical Company, 1881.
6. "Hon. W.J. Stone Speaks." Richmond Conservator, 7 November 1901, pp. 1 and 9.
7. Hughes, Glenn. A History of the American Theater 1700-1950. New York: Samuel French, 1951.
8. Interview with F.R. Weary, Owner, 14 April 1979.
9. "Local Matters." Richmond Conservator, 2 May 1901 and 12 September 1901, p. 1.
10. Mayes, Jewell. "Tribute to Samuel Dougherty." Richmond Conservator, 26 January 1933.
11. Mickel, Jere C. Footlights on the Prairie. St. Cloud, Minnesota: North Star Press, 1974.
12. "Opera House Contract Let." Richmond Conservator, 20 September 1900, p. 1.
13. "Opera House Will Be Built." Richmond Conservator, 12 July 1900, p. 1.
14. Ray County, Missouri History 1973. Richmond: Ray County Historical Society, 1973.
15. Richmond Conservator, 13 June 1901, p. 8; 29 August 1901, p. 5; and 22 September 1910, p. 9.
16. "Splendid Entertainment." Richmond Conservator, 26 September 1901, p. 1.
17. "The Dougherty Auditorium." Richmond Conservator, 20 June 1901, p. 1.
18. "The Fund is Growing." Richmond Conservator, 21 June 1900, p. 1.
19. "The Packard Entertainment." Richmond Conservator, 17 October 1901, p. 1.
20. Weary Family Scrapbooks.

ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

2. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey  
and State Contact Person June 1982  
Department of Natural Resources 314/751-4096  
Historic Preservation Program Missouri 65102  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City

17'30"

EXCELSIOR SPRINGS 14 MI.  
ELKHORN 6.9 MI.

1 130 000  
FEET

T. 52 N.

T. 51 N.

39°15'

94°00'

CAMDEN 4.4 MI.  
25 MI. TO U.S. 71 BYPASS

R. 28 W. R. 27 W.

650 000 FEET

(CAMDEN)

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE

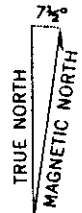
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods  
Aerial photographs taken 1947. Field check 1957

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Missouri coordinate system, west zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 15, shown in blue

Red tint indicates area in which only  
landmark buildings are shown

Dougherty Theater  
U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle  
"Richmond" (1957)  
Scale 1:24,000

UTM Reference  
15/415550/4347910



APPROXIMATE MEAN  
DECLINATION, 1957

COUNTY: Ray

LOCATION: Richmond

OWNER: F. G. Weary  
ADDRESS: 421 East Main, Richmond, MO 64085

DATE APPROVED BY A.C.: June 25-26, 1982

DATE SENT TO D.C.: August 10, 1982

DATE OF REC. IN D.C.: August 13, 1982

DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER: September 16, 1982

DATE CERTIFICATE AWARDED  
(AND PRESENTOR): April 20, 1983  
Mailed from Central Office

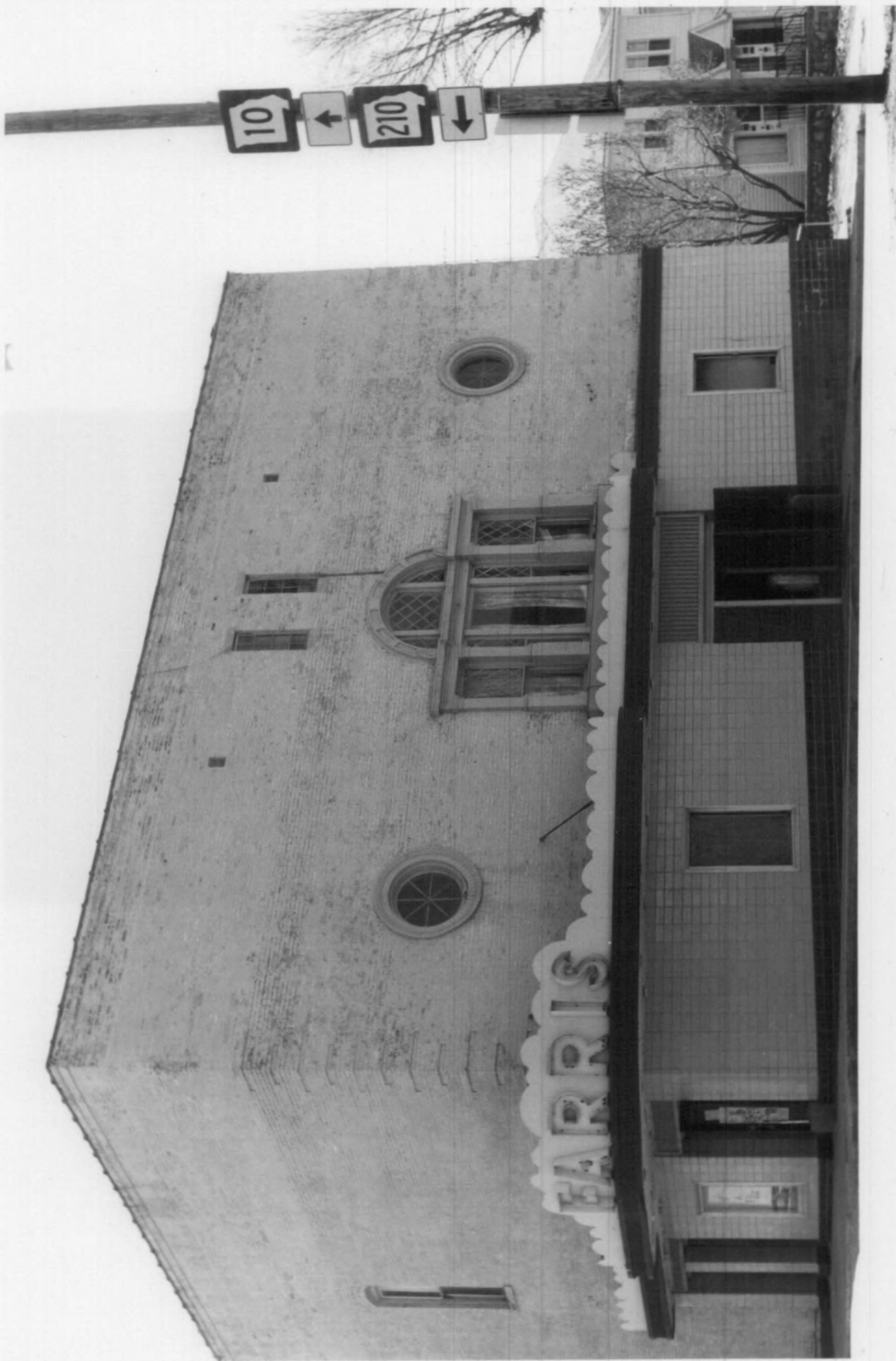
DATE FILE REVIEWED:

The Dougherty Auditorium is the oldest surviving theater in Richmond, Missouri and has continually served as the main cultural resource for the small community.

Dougherty Auditorium #1  
Richmond, Missouri  
photographer: Sherry Piland  
April, 1979

Ray County Historical Society  
and Museum  
West Royale Street  
Richmond, Missouri 64085

North facade; view looking southwest.



Dougherty Auditorium #2  
Richmond, Missouri  
photographer: Sherry Piland  
April, 1979

Ray County Historical Society & Museum  
West Royale Street  
Richmond, Missouri 64085

East facade; view looking southwest.





Dougherty Auditorium #3  
Richmond, Missouri  
photographer: Sherry Piland  
April, 1979

Ray County Historical Society & Museum  
West Royale Street  
Richmond, Missouri 64085

Detail of window, north façade.  
View looking south.



#4

Dougherty Auditorium  
Richmond, Missouri  
photographer: Sherry Piland  
April, 1979

Ray County Historical Society & Museum  
West Royale Street  
Richmond, Missouri 64085

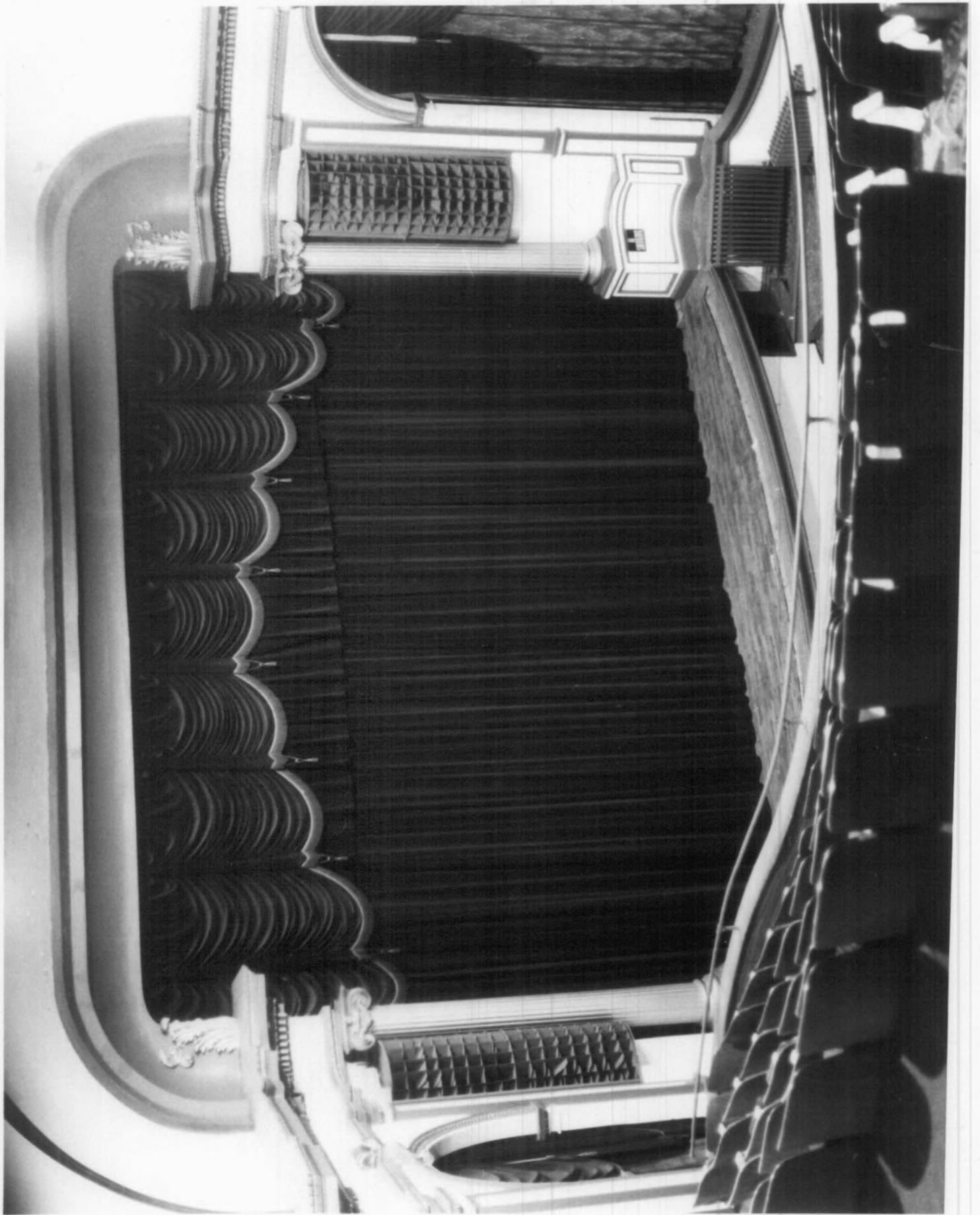
North facade on left, west  
facade on right. View looking  
southeast.



Dougherty Auditorium #5  
Richmond, Missouri  
photographer: Randy Battagler  
June, 1981

Ray County Historical Society and  
Museum  
West Royale Street  
Richmond, Missouri 64085

Interior, looking to stage from  
balcony.



Dougherty Auditorium #6  
Richmond, Missouri  
photographer: Randy Battagler  
June, 1981

Ray County Historical Society and  
Museum  
West Royale Street  
Richmond, Missouri 64085

Interior; box seat and auditorium  
floor.





Dougherty Auditorium #7  
Richmond, Missouri  
photographer: Randy Battagler  
June, 1981

Ray County Historical Society and  
Museum  
West Royale Street  
Richmond, Missouri 64085

Interior; balcony.



EXTRA  
PHOTOS







81









