

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

(State use only)
 Ser _____ Site _____ Mo. _____ Yr. _____
 UTM _____ Q _____ NR _____ SHL _____
 Lat _____ Lon _____ Era _____ Sig _____
 Adm _____ T2 _____ T3 _____ Cat _____ HABS _____ HAER _____ Fed _____

IDENTIFICATION Cat. III

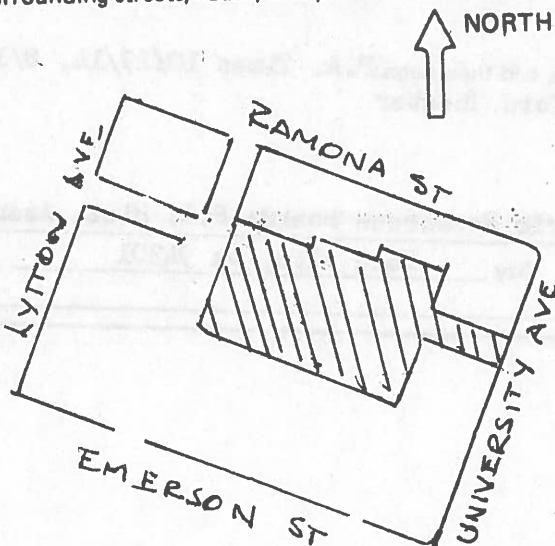
1. Common name: Stanford Theater
2. Historic name, if known: Stanford Theater
3. Street or rural address: 223 University Avenue
 City: Palo Alto ZIP: _____ County: Santa Clara
4. Present owner, if known: Stanford Theater Partnership Address: 664 Gilman Street
 City: Palo Alto, Ca 94301 ZIP: _____ Ownership is: Public Private
5. Present Use: Theater Original Use: Theater
6. Other past uses: _____

DESCRIPTION

6. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

The very narrow entrance provides access to the theater proper in the interior of the block—a standard arrangement for preserving profitable street-front commercial space. As was common for theaters of the twenties, this is a mixture of wide-ranging decorative motifs. Some alterations have occurred at the street level.

7. Locational sketch map (draw and label site and surrounding streets, roads, and prominent landmarks):



8. Approximate property size:

Lot size (in feet) Frontage 25
 Depth 224
 or approx. acreage _____

9. Condition: (check one)

- a. Excellent b. Good c. Fair
 d. Deteriorated e. No longer in existence

10. Is the feature a. Altered? b. Unaltered?

11. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary)

- a. Open land b. Scattered buildings
 c. Densely built-up d. Residential
 e. Commercial f. Industrial
 g. Other

12. Threats to site:

- a. None known b. Private development
 c. Zoning d. Public Works project
 e. Vandalism f. Other

13. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s): 1978

NOTE: The following (Items 14-19) are for structures only.

14. Primary exterior building material: a. Stone b. Brick c. Stucco d. Adobe e. Wood
 f. Other
15. Is the structure: a. On its original site? b. Moved? c. Unknown?
16. Year of initial construction 1925 This date is: a. Factual b. Estimated Major remodeling, 1932
 Weeks and Day (San Francisco); Robert E. Powers Studio, ornamentation
17. Architect (if known): _____
18. Builder (if known): Barrett & Hilp (San Francisco) (Marquee Theater, 1914; E.A. Hettinger for Boardman Estate, Oakland)
19. Related features: a. Barn b. Carriage house c. Outhouse d. Shed(s) e. Formal garden(s)
 f. Windmill g. Watertower/tankhouse h. Other i. None

SIGNIFICANCE

20. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site when known):

The theater is an inventive example of its kind, now rapidly disappearing. On the site occupied in the first decade of the century by shops, an early motion picture house, the Marquee Theater, was placed by Henry C. Schmidt in 1914 (see also 543 Emerson St). Ten years later, Ellis P. Arkush, with associates F.A. La Suer and E.A. Karelsen, bought the Marquee and changed its name to Stanford Theater, and then, in its rebuilt form, the New Stanford Theater. It was one of a group of Peninsula motion picture theaters which Arkush had acquired and modernized to suit the glamorous image then being promoted by the major distributors of Hollywood films. The New Stanford boasted an eye-catching marquee, superficially sumptuous interior lobby and decorations, and a fine theater organ. For nearly a half-century it was one of the city's two "first run" film theaters. Then as audiences declined in the last quarter-century, it too faltered to intermittent use for special events and touring performances of musical and theatrical groups, as well as motion pictures

21. Main theme of the historic resource: (Check only one): a. Architecture b. Arts & Leisure
 c. Economic/Industrial d. Exploration/Settlement e. Government f. Military
 g. Religion h. Social/Education

22. Sources: List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews, and their dates: P.A. Times 10/29/14, 8/1/24, 6/8/25, 12/19/31; P.A. Historical Assn. file, Stanford Theater

23. Date form prepared: 1978, 1985 By (name): Historic Resources Board; P.A. Hist. Assn.
 Address: 250 Hamilton Ave City Palo Alto, Ca 94301 ZIP: _____
 Phone: _____ Organization: _____

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