

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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**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 THE STATE THEATRE

and/or common Neumeyers Vaudeville House

**USE THIS COPY
FOR DUPLICATING**

2. Location

street & number 454 Northampton Street ___ not for publication

city, town Easton

___ vicinity of

congressional district

15

state Pennsylvania

code 42

county Northampton

code 095

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4.

new owners

name

Friends of the State Theatre, Inc

street & n

453 Northampton St

city, town

Easton, Pa. 18042

stat

ew York 11021

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Northampton County Courthouse

street & number 7th and Washington Street

city, town Easton

state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historic & Museum Commission

city, town Easton

state Pennsylvania

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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 State Theater is a beautiful Beaux Arts structure whose interior and exterior fabrics represent some of the finest architectural design in the city of Easton. Constructed during the early years of the 20th Century, the State has continued to dominate the 400 block of Northampton Street.

The State is an asymmetrical building that is approximately 221 feet long on its West side, 107 feet long on its North side, 166 feet long on its East side and has a South side (Northampton Street) frontage of approx. 47 feet.

The State possesses a cut stone Beaux Arts facade which is partially masked by a large overhanging marquee. Below the marquee, the walls are covered with panels of pink cararea glass, several of which have been removed on the Western border of the building. The area below the marquee is dominated by a large octagonal ticket booth which is highly ornamented with wood carving and a pyramid roof. Flanking the ticket booth are two small store fronts with large glass windows. Passing through the exterior doors, which have large beaded glass panels, one enters a large lobby with a 30 feet high ceiling and cut stone walls. Many of the original features such as the huge highly ornamented mirrors are in-tact. On the left of this room near the entrance to the auditorium a wide stairway ascends to a large ballroom and rehearsal studio, which is now utilized as a dance school.

The auditorium of the State is an enormous room with a seating capacity of approximately 1400. The auditorium is highly ornamented with plaster sculpture and tile freizes. The overall effect must be termed "motion picture atmospheric" with some of the motifs being derived from the monumental Paris Opera House and several Italo-Spanish palaces.

Almost all original auditorium features, including orchestra pit, Wurlitzer organ, painted back-drop, electrical prompter, and crystal chandeliers are still in-tact.

In summary, the State Theater is in good condition and is a rare surviving, unaltered axample of a Beaux Arts combination Vaudeville and Motion Picture facility.

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/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates 1910, 1925 **Builder/Architect** W. H. Lee - Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The State Theater is the most important remaining Beaux Arts structure in the city of Easton and the only remaining intact vaudeville theatre-movie house in the Lehigh Valley. For almost 70 years this structure has been an integral part of the cultural and commercial life of the "Downtown Area".

The State Theater occupies the original site of the Northampton National Bank (now part of the First National Bank of Allentown). It is likely that the present upper story of the existing facade was a part of this structure. In 1910 the structure began to assume its present form, when it was enlarged and converted into Neumeyers Vaudeville House. It functioned under this name until 1914 when it was renamed the Northampton Street Theater, and in 1916 it became the Colonial.

Many important silent films had their area premieres in this structure; among which were "Home Sweet Home", "Birth of a Nation", and "Intolerance" which were all created by D. W. Griffith. The theater also continued to present vaudeville and orchestral performances.

In 1926 the structure was extensively modified. The auditorium was tripled in size and reached a seating capacity of approx. 1800. The present balcony was also added, along with the lush decorations. Among the most prominent of these new features were two beautiful crafted boxes that were placed in front of the balcony and several monumental crystal chandeliers. The auditorium was also highly embellished with plaster and gilded cartouches, pilasters, and crests. The entire structure was designed to convey an atmosphere of elegance and Old World majesty, hence the new name "The State".

During the 1920's the State continued to present a series of mixed stage and screen programs. Bing Crosby was among the performers who sang before the 1926 painted backdrop, which still hangs in the auditorium. However, by the 1950's stage shows were no longer presented on a regular basis.

Today the State is the only remaining active large capacity theatrical auditorium in the Lehigh Valley. All of the large Eastern movie houses have long since been demolished or converted into other uses.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Easton Express, May 2, 1980, pp E 1, 10-11.

File Folder on State Theater, Archives of Northampton County Historical Society, Easton, Pa. (1914-1962).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .55

Quadrangle name Easton, Pa.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

18	18	204	0	45	04	30	0
Zone	Easting			Northing			

C

Zone	Easting			Northing			

E

Zone	Easting			Northing			

G

Zone	Easting			Northing			

B

Zone	Easting			Northing			

D

Zone	Easting			Northing			

F

Zone	Easting			Northing			

H

Zone	Easting			Northing			

Verbal boundary description and justification Starting on Northampton Street moving east 47.17', then North 53.25'; then east 31.25'; then North 10'; then East 25.55' then North 166.25' to street, then West 108.25'; then south 221.5' to starting point.

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lance E. Metz

organization Canal Museum date 6-10-80

street & number 200 S. Delaware Dr., Box 877 telephone 215-258-7155

city or town Easton state Pennsylvania 18042

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 

title Larry E. Tise, Executive Director date 1/15/82
Pa. Historical & Museum Comm.

For HCRS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

State Theatre
Northampton County N4504300
Zone 12 E482040



BETHLEHEM 10 MI.
FARMERSVILLE 3.3 MI.
5965 III NE (NAZARETH)