



Congressman *Allegretti* District

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

STATE: _____
 COUNTY: _____
 FOR NPS USE ONLY
 ENTRY NUMBER: _____ DATE: _____

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME
 COMMON: Plays and Players
 AND/OR HISTORIC: Prior to 1922 - The Playhouse

2. LOCATION
 STREET AND NUMBER: 1714 Delancey Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Philadelphia
 STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42 COUNTY: Philadelphia CODE: 101

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered Social	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
 OWNER'S NAME: Plays and Players
 STREET AND NUMBER: 1714 Delancey Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Philadelphia STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: City Hall
 STREET AND NUMBER: Broad and Market Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Philadelphia STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
 TITLE OF SURVEY: Phila. Historical Commission : Historical Com. Bldgs. Survey
 DATE OF SURVEY: _____ Federal State County Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Philadelphia Historical Commission
 STREET AND NUMBER: 1313 City Hall Annex
 CITY OR TOWN: Philadelphia STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: _____
 COUNTY: _____
 ENTRY NUMBER: _____
 DATE: _____
 FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original properties 1712-14-16 Delancey St. were sold to Mrs Beulah E. Jay (directress of the Metropolitan Dramatic School). The three lots have a combined frontage of 48 feet, extending in depth 92 feet to Panama St.

Ground was broken for a four story brick building at Nos. 1712-14-16 Dalancay St. to be occupied as a dramatic school.

ARCHITECT: Amos W. Barnes

CONTRACTOR: Frederick A. Havens & Co.

The brick building has a frontage of 47 ft. 10 in., and a depth of 92 ft. 3 ½ in. The building contains a small stage and auditorium with a balcony. Total seating capacity is 324.

It is a 3 story steel, brick, and granite building - fireproof. The front has a simple and dignified facing of rough brown tapestry brick, the ornamentation being limited to a single band of figures across the front in bas relief brightened by colored tile.

The architect who designed Philadelphia's Forrest theater provided a stage adequate for which it was intended. The classical interior done in subdued tones has seats so arranged that one is practically as good as another, and all command a good "close Range" view of the stage. There are two small boxes which omit the traditional dust catching canopies. The orchestra is so situated that it is in a pit unobtrusive to the eye, but retains full tonal value.

The wall decorations in the auditorium were done by a prominent artist, Edith Emerson, who lists among her accomplishments the murals of the U.S. Library of Congress (full description on accompanying sheet)

The cornerstone (as described by actor Edward Everett Horton) is the keystone of the proscenium arch and is filled with theater memorabilia of the day.

The entrance lobby is of brick and ornamental tile with a box office on either side.

The third floor is used for rehearsals, theater-in-the-round, receptions, dinners, club meetings, etc.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1911-12

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Playhouse was short lived as a dramatic school and was soon used as a pre-Broadway try-out theater for plays with such prominent actors as John Drew, the Barrymores, Maude Adams, Otis Skinner, and other greats.

The Plays and Players, an amateur theater group founded in 1911, purchased the theater in 1922, and is still its owner. "Plays and Players" claims to be the oldest little theater group in continuous existence in the country, and have continued thruout the years to uphold the best in little theater tradition. The founding president was Mrs. Otis Skinner.

When Plays and Players building is not in use with their current productions (three week-ends each month at a minimum) it is leased to the Gilbert and Sullivan Opera, Co., The Philadelphia Art Alliance Dance Committee, etc. for their productions.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Plays and Players 50th Anniversary Year Book- 1960-61
Philadelphia newspaper clippings dating 1911-1912

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39°	56'	49"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		75°	10'	14"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	FCODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Joseph P. Barker, Jr, vice-president

ORGANIZATION: Plays and Players DATE: 12.19.72

STREET AND NUMBER: 1714 Delancey St.

CITY OR TOWN: Philadelphia STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Walter D. Lewis
State Liaison Officer

Title Executive Director, Pa. Hist. and Museum Commission

Date 2/16/73

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST: _____

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS