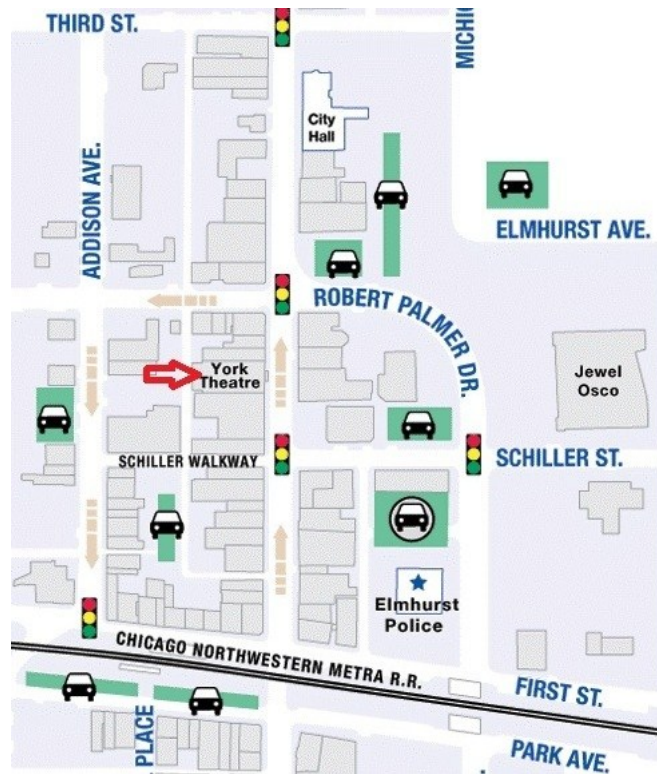


About THS

Theatre Historical Society of America (THS) is a national non-profit organization founded in 1969 which is interested in the history of theatre buildings. It exists to encourage and ensure the acquisition, preservation and publication of historic photographs, documents, artifacts and other information and material related to American theatre architecture and history, and to encourage the preservation and use of historic American theatres.

THS maintains the **American Theatre Architecture Archives**, the **American Movie Palace Museum**, and publishes the quarterly journal *Marquee*®, a special *Annual* publication on a specific theatre or topic, and a quarterly *Newsletter* with current THS and theatre news.

THS also has an annual **Conclave/Theatre Tour** which brings together THS members from around the world to visit a different city every year to tour theatre buildings. During the Conclave THS tours theatres from “basement to booth”, enjoys a banquet, silent auction, and the company of like-minded individuals.



THS is located on the 2nd Floor of the historic York Theatre building, 152 N. York Street, Elmhurst, IL. The entrance to THS is to the immediate right if facing the theatre entrance. There are free 3 hour limit street parking or daily fee parking spots.

From downtown East/West: Take I-290 (Eisenhower Expressway); exit at York Street, turn right and go south about 1 mile.

From North/South: Take I-294 (Tri-State Tollway) to North Avenue. Exit North Avenue west-bound, proceed about 1 mile to York Street; turn left and go south on York Street about 0.3 mile.

By Train: Take the METRA Union Pacific/West Line train to Elmhurst. The York Theatre is about one and a half blocks to the north, on the left/west side of street.



American Theatre Architecture Archives



York Theatre Building
152 N. York St, 2nd Floor
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Phone: 630-782-1800
Fax: 630-782-1802

Web: www.historictheatres.org
www.facebook.com/TheatreHistoricalSociety

American Theatre Architecture Archives

THS's American Theatre Architecture Archives is dedicated to preserving the architectural, cultural and social history of America's theatres. It contains information on more than 15,000 theatres, primarily in the United States. Every period and style of theatre architecture is represented: 19th century opera houses, nickelodeons, vaudeville houses, small town and neighborhood theatres, open-air theatres, drive-ins, and movie palaces.

The Archives' holdings consist of photographs, negatives, slides, postcards, artists renderings, scrapbooks, books, periodicals, business records, blueprints and architectural drawings, supplier and trade catalogues,



Archives room in the American Theatre Architecture Archives.

architectural artifacts, theatre furnishings, ushers' uniforms, and numerous other items relating to theatre buildings and their history.

Major Collections

Theatre Files are approximately 450 linear feet containing paper-borne materials. This includes advertising, newspaper clippings, magazines, corporate documents, and representative samples of stagebills and playbills. These are organized geographically by state-city-theatre. In addition, there are materials in the **Subject Files**, including theatre architects, scenery, seating, theatre chains and other allied topics. THS also keeps a **Reference Library** which contains more than 800 books.

THS Negative Collection and Slide Collection includes more than 6,000 negatives and 10,000 slides. The negatives are primarily 4"x5" and 35mm, but contain some odd size and oversize negatives. The slides are primarily 35mm, but contain some other sizes.

Chicago Architectural Photographing Co. Collection

includes photographic images taken by the firm for architects and builders. The collection includes approximately 1,400 negatives of 250 theatres mainly in the Midwest. The negatives are 8x10 glass plate negatives, 8x10 film negatives, and 4x5 copy negatives.



CAPC Neg # S 9871
Avon Theatre, Chicago, IL

THS Blueprint Collection (architectural drawings) includes more than 500 theatre buildings. Drawings may be construction or renovation plans.

Michael Miller Collection includes 35mm slides, 3.5x5" photographs, 35mm negatives, and a card catalog index of New York City theatres. The slides and photographs cover the United States, but are primarily New York City and the surrounding area.



Michael Miller Collection slide PA-MM-19-01-03
Academy of Music, Philadelphia, PA

Terry Helgesen Collection consists of 26 scrapbooks (some with 600 pages) with over 2,000 photographic images of theatres across the country, mostly 1920s and 1930s era, with his index and notes. Terry Helgesen amassed his collection while traveling on the vaudeville circuit as a pianist.

Research can be done on-site or by THS staff. A Preliminary Search has a small fee for each theatre or topic requested. Further research is at an hourly rate. On-site research is by **prior appointment only**. Other costs may apply for photo prints, scanning, licenses to use, display, or publish images (including web posting), etc. *If you wish to conduct research, please contact the Archive Director, Kathy McLeister at (630) 782-1800 or archiveths@aol.com.*