

RED JACKET THEATER AND TOWN HALL
(Calumet Theater and Town Hall
)
Elm & 6th Sts.
Calumet
Houghton County
Michigan

HABS No. MI-415

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240

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Red Jacket Theater and Town Hall (Calumet Theater and Town Hall)

HABS No. MI-415

- Location: Southeast corner 6th and Elm Streets, Calumet Village, Houghton County, Michigan, 49913
- Present owner: The Village of Calumet, Michigan.
- Present use: As a theater and town hall, including fire and police departments.
- Significance: The Red Jacket town hall remodeling and theater addition was designed by Charles K. Shand and built in 1899-1900. The building exterior is pretentious, but not distinguished (fig. 1). The theater interior is a glory of plaster rococo in gilt, cream, and red. The stage is first rate and the acoustics are excellent. In the first ten years of its existence the theater engaged Sarah Bernhardt, Helena Modjeska, Eugene Debs, and many other famous people. The town hall has served the village well. The theater has recently been restored to its original magnificence. Technically it was one of the earliest of municipal theaters.
- Historian: Kevin Harrington, 1975.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Dates of erection: The first town hall, and fire hall, were built in 1886, as per the specifications and contract, but the earliest known date for the plans of this structure was September of 1897. Most of the construction work was done in 1899 and the theater opened in March of 1900.
2. Architect: The first town hall was designed by J.B. Sweatt, however, it was Charles K. Shand who was responsible for the theater and remodeling of the town hall in the 1890s. (drawings, specifications, contracts/ Village council records). Also of note, Charlton, Gilbert and Demar provided plans, which were paid for in 1897, but these have since been lost. Since these plans are no longer extant, there is no way to know if they were the basis for the theater as built or whether they were simply a proposal that was refused.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The building has always been owned by the Village of Red Jacket, which was renamed Calumet in 1929. The site was not purchased by the village until 1910; it consists of lots 18, 19, and 20 of block 20 in the plat of the village. As do the other lots in the block, each of these three lots measures 58' x 98'. The chain of title for lots 18, 19, and 20 of block 20 is as follows:

1885, 1st September: L 2, p. 426, of Miscellaneous Records
Calumet & Helca Mining Company

The Common Council of Red Jacket
for \$1.00 per year
Lots 19 & 20, block 20, Village of Red' Jacket, for the purpose of erecting a
structure or structures for use as Fire Engine House, Council Room, and
Jail House on the lower floor, and Town Hall upon upper story, and for no
other purpose whatsoever.

1910, 9th September: L 88, p. 140, of Deeds
Calumet & Hecla Mining Company

WARRANTY DEED - to -
The Village of Red Jacket
for \$4000.00
the parcel in question

4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: The 1886 Town Hall was contracted to be built for \$14,272.00. Unfortunately the name of the contractor cannot be determined. The vendors for the 1900 Town Hall are as follows:

Contract	Contractor (location)	Price
Plans	Charlton, Gilbert and Demar Marquette, Michigan	\$50.00
Architect & Superintendence	Charles K. Shand Calumet, Michigan	\$3470.00
General Contractor	Paul P. Roehm Calumet, Michigan	\$23,252.57
Electricians	Keelyn & Smith Milwaukee, Wisconsin	\$4529.35
?	Heywood Brothers & Wakefield	\$3734.08
Steam Heating Apparatus	Coogan & Strothenke Milwaukee, Wisconsin	\$3480.00
Plumbing, Heating	F.B. Lynn	\$3122.50
Plumbing	Jno. F.D. Smith	\$1626.53
Interior Decoration	Wm Eckart Company Chicago, Illinois	\$3289.30

Scenery Artists	Howard & Tuttle	\$2600.00
Carpets	O.W. Richardson & Co. Chicago, Illinois	\$656.60
Carpets	J.R. Clancy New York	\$66.00
Stage Carpets	Ed. Ryan Calumet, Michigan	\$58.09
Chair Covering & Desk	Ed. Ryan Calumet, Michigan	\$130.38
Vault Fixtures	Art Metal Co. Jamestown, New York	\$488.68
Office Furniture	A.A. Andrews & Co.	\$469.60
Curtain Pulleys	Sasman & Landis	\$126.16
Town Hall Chairs	Wiggins Gately & Co. Calumet, Michigan	\$99.75
Opera House Furniture	Wertin Bros. Calumet, Michigan	\$51.90
Jail Work	Jas McHardy	\$28.40

The total cost of this work was just over \$70,000.00.

5. Original plans and construction: In 1886, the village built its first town hall. In 1899, the town hall was remodeled and a theater added along the south wall of the original building.

1886 Town Hall

According to the specifications for the first town hall, the architect was J.B. Sweatt of Marquette, Michigan. The contract date was 04/02/1886 and the building was to be completed by 11/01/1886. The building contained village offices, the fire engine house, and an "Opera House" occupying the entire second floor. Although they cannot be found today, Sweatt produced drawings for a cellar plan, the first floor plan, the second floor plan, a transverse section, a plan of the truss, the details of the cornice, the iron work for the tower, the interior wood finish, the iron dormer windows, and "any other parts that need drawings."

The stone used around doors and windows was to be "Marquette Variegated Sandstone." Sweatt specifically rejected the pure grey variety of that stone. The mortar for the stonework was

to be small brown joint, and iron anchors were to be used. The brick was to be a hard, well-burned, common brick with a white lime mortar. There is mention of a wood and iron truss. Iron was to be used for long or heavy spans. The roof was to be sheathed with fourteen-ounce copper roof shingles.

The bell tower was to be of cast iron. Its bell was to be a two thousand pound firemen's bell, with the Meneely or Troy foundries cited as examples. The chimney tops were to be terracotta in a neat and ornamental design. Door and window transoms were to be glazed "with stained glass of a neat and tasty design."

The opera house, the present second floor town hall, wainscoting was to be "beaded and reeded, every alternate board being reeded." This is the present wainscoting, and thus one of the very few original elements of the building not replaced in the remodeling of 1899 to 1900. The stage for the opera house is also described. The colors specified were to be a medium Tuscan red, a very dark olive green, a rubbed coach black, and gold on the enrichments. Obviously, this was to be a building of some distinction. A photograph of the building shows it to have been a rather subdued aspect, especially considering the complications favored at that time. Thus even though gold was anticipated on the interior, it seems probable that it too was not especially encrusted.

1899-1900 Remodeling and addition of theater

The original town hall was extended approximately one bay westward, bringing the Sixth Street facade to the line of the sidewalk. The foundations were to be good, common Portage Entry stone, laid in rubble. The stone for the Elm and Sixth Street fronts was to be Portage Entry #1, with no streaks, either rock or smooth faced depending on the plans. The south wall was to be Portage Entry #1 variegated sandstone, while the east wall was to be the #2 variegated. Examination of the fabric discloses no difference between the stone used on the south and east walls. The stone used in the top ten feet of each wall has weathered more severely than on the rest of the wall. This may have been where the #2 variegated was used. This is the only distinction between #1 and #2 variegated that has been found.

The brickwork specified by Shand was also of several varieties. Since the front of the 1886 town hall was to be taken down that brick was reused as backing brick for the new building facade. The front was faced with buff-colored pressed brick from the Menominee River Pressed Brick Company, Menominee, Wisconsin. It was backed with Green Bay brick. It was to be laid in English bond every fifth course, with the joints to be 3/16". There was much work in rebuilding many openings, opening some, closing others. On the north wall, "there is marked three new openings on first floor. At present, two of these are doors, which have to be remodeled to the size of window openings, and the third will have to be taken out of the solid wall." (Arch's specs) The 1886 vault was to be taken down and rebuilt in its new location.

Flooring for the first floor of the town hall was to be C.J.L. Myer's narrow I x L Maple flooring.

It is noteworthy that the carpenter's specifications included the instructions for the iron and steel work of the building. The design called for steel I beams and cast iron columns. The wood to be used was to be white pine or yellow poplar, graded #1 framing lumber. The roof deck of the town hall was to be covered with I C Taylor old style tin in 14" x 20" sheets. This material was

also specified for flashings and joints. The roof of the Opera House was to be covered with asphalt roofing manufactured by the Louis Roofing Company of Rockland, Illinois.

The front of the town hall roof was removed to allow the new roof for the town hall to be built. It is still possible to see this work in the attic. Shand noted that there would be plenty of slates left over from the south side of the building where the new theater was added to replace any slates broken in moving the roof.

For the new clock tower, Shand specified steel I beams for the structure. There was to be a flag pole with weather vane and ball at the top. The roofing and all cornices were to be of twelve-ounce copper.

The vestibule of the theater, the Gent's toilet and the town hall vestibule were to have mosaic tile floors.

The theatre entrance doors were to be of red oak and swing out. Bonner double acting spring hinges were to be used on the vestibule doors.

Windows were to use Eastlake sash cord, and Ive's #434 sash locks.

The vestibule doors were to be veneered, with red oak facing the vestibule and pine facing the audience chamber. The town hall doors were also to be made of red oak. Most other doors were to be five paneled, and made out of pine. For the second floor of the town hall, Shand had the existing stage gallery, floors, and all partitions torn out.

The stairs to the balcony and down to the Gent's toilet were to have treads and risers of Tennessee marble. The balcony stairs were also to be wainscoted with the same material. The ticket office was to be furnished with a marble stool.

For painting and staining Shand recommended Calman's Interior and Elastic Exterior Finishes, and "Wheeler's Pat. Filler."

Shand provides more information on the decoration of the theater in his specification for that work. "In panels shown in proscenium Arch. the decorator will furnish same with figures representing the 'Arts'. The fabrics on the railings and for the curtains behind the boxes was to be Roanoke Tapestry. The chairs were to be upholstered in Spanish moss. Many chairs with this type of upholstery are still in the balcony.

In the contract and specifications presented by Wm Eckart Company Interior Decorators, Office and Studio 335 Wabash Ave. Chicago, the walls were to be painted in Turkish red, while the ceilings were to be cream-ish highlighted in gold. One section reads, "Proscenium figure painting, the proscenium arch being the important feature of the house, will be elaborately and artistically arranged with oil paintings representing the arts 'Arts.'" Eckart's bid was for \$2680.00, and the contract was awarded 12/05/1899, and recorded in the Council Minute Book 4 at page 35.

In the specifications and contract awarded to Keelyn and Smith, electricians, Milwaukee, a firm made up of P.F. Keelyn and Albert Smith, it is noted that the newel posts in the stair hall for the second floor town hall had lights on them. The holes in the posts are still there, although the lamps are not. The bid was for \$2497.00, and included a slate switch board for the stage lighting. This switchboard is now stored in one of the basement dressing rooms.

The Morgan Company, Mfrs of Sash, Doors, Blinds, Moldings, Fine Interior Finish, etc., of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, was the supplier for all interior wood used in the project. They sold through the Calumet firm of Bajari and Ulseth. Their order numbers were #2704, 9405, 9348, 9137, 94, and 96.

6. Alterations and additions:

Bids were received from John Tachell (\$170) and J. Shanahan (\$130) for painting the main entrance hall of the town hall, lowering the town hall ceiling 18"-20", and applying stenciling at the new top of the wall in that space on 12/07/1907. The contract was awarded to Shanahan on 01/07/1908.

In February 1908 bids were received from Bastian And Company for \$135 or \$195, depending on materials, and from Fred Roehm for \$110 or \$185 to replaster the recently lowered ceiling in the town hall. The contract was awarded to Roehm on 02/07/1908.

On 03/04/1908 J. Shanahan, Painting, Decorating, Paperhanging, Cor 7 and Scott Streets, Calumet, was given a contract to do redecorating work in the Dining Room, Marshal's Office, Janitor's Room, and Lobbies.

In 1910 a major redecoration of the theater was undertaken. Why this was done is not clear. Possibly the paint surfaces had become soiled and were not easily cleaned. Possibly some other sort of damage had occurred. In any case, five firms bid for the contract. The first firm was the Wm Eckart Decorating Company of Chicago with a bid for \$2500. Next was the Chicago Decorating Company, Frank Pentzold, Prop, Artistic Interior Decorating, Shops 127 Hecla Street, Laurium, Michigan, with a bid for \$900, but Pentzold also included an apology for his inability to show his sketches, since he had accidentally spilled a brush of paint over his designs. Third was Bodine and Bateski, Associate Decorative Artists, of 856 N. State Street, Chicago, and of Hubbell, Michigan. Their prices were \$1120 for water colors in red and cream; \$1575 for water colors in green and cream; and \$1980 for oil paint in any colors. Next was the Gimbel Brothers of Grand Avenue and W. Water Street, Milwaukee. Their offer was \$1780 for water color, \$2300 for oil, and an additional \$238 for the woodwork. Finally, there was the bid of Pantan & White Co., of Duluth, Minnesota, with a New York office at 31 Union Square West. For water color they bid \$1290, for oil \$1690 and for the woodwork \$100. They proposed a complete new color scheme using greens and browns, with the relief to be left in ivory and gold. Their bid for water color at \$1290 was accepted by the Red Jacket Village Council on 06/10/1910 and the contract awarded and recorded in Minute Book 5, at page 181.

In 1918 a three alarm fire severely damaged the stage of the theater. Although the asbestos curtain was down, the heat was so intense the the copper chandelier in the audience chamber melted. The extent of the damage to the stage machinery is not fully known, but an indication of its severity is that the timber truss which carries the stage mechanisms was severely

charred. It has since been boxed by 1 boards but in a few places the charred timbers may be observed.

In 1927 W.F. Milford, Contractor and Builder did work on the stage roof for \$280, on the theater roof for \$129.35, and repaired the balcony and floor, for \$137.52.

It has not been learned when the projection booth, at the back of the balcony, was installed.

In the 1930s, as part of a local WPA project, the theater interior was redone. A Calumet native, Howard Messner, who had studied at the Art Institute of Chicago, had the paintings of the arts removed, and introduced, mostly with paint, an thoroughgoing Art Deco interior. This included Norse profiled gods and goddesses and aluminum paint job for the marquise. Productions similar to those of Orson Welles's Mercury Theatre (Macbeth in modern dress) were also introduced to enhance the introduction of the new taste to the declining Copper Country.

A documented event of the 1930s is the new roof placed in May 1937. This and other new roofs were indicated on the framing of the attic hatchway which gives access to the roof by the workmen who accomplished the jobs. Other roofs so recorded were in September 1953 and August 1961.

The 1930s decorations were removed in the late 1940s, and the plaster decorations of the original theater painted yet again.

In the early 1970s efforts to restore the theater were begun. In March 1973 the project was begun and was not completed as of June 1975. The stage still needs a great deal of work, as do the dressing rooms. Other areas which have yet to be restored include the upper vestibule of the town hall and the town hall itself. It is proposed to use the town hall as a ballroom, since it was frequently used for that purpose in the past, and is still a handsome space.

The fire company was installed in the former dining room in 1964, vacating the old Fire Station.

B. Historical events and personages associated with the theater:

Especially during its first ten years the theater had featured a wide variety of the most interesting and important entertainers and speakers in America. Helena Modjeska, Sarah Bernhardt, Reginald De Koven's company, Walker Whiteside, Maude Gonne, Otis Skinner, and many others. Eugene Debs and Jane Addams were among the many lyceum-type speakers who spoke at the theater. When Elbert Hubbard toured the copper country during the 1913 strike he spoke in Calumet, presumably at the theater.

The theater is today the premier showcase of the region. It is also a theater which would distinguish any city.

The village government has never appeared to function in a manner in which the town hall would be used for public meetings on the model of New England. Since the 1913 strike Calumet has been a village and region which has been in steady decline, in terms of population and tax base. For many, the

costs of maintaining a theater of this scale seems beyond their capabilities. In addition, the years of decline have yielded an attitude on the part of the leaders of limited horizons and lowered expectations leading to a lack of imagination.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: Designed in 1899 by Charles K. Shand, a local architect, the building, which is a remodeling of an earlier town hall, coupled with the addition of a theater, is an undistinguished exterior, a serviceable town hall, and a theater and stage of stunning elegance. The red sandstone and buff brick exterior attempts to resolve several conflicting design demands with the use of a variety of design elements from sixteenth-, seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Italy, France and England. The plan of the town hall, largely a re-tread of the existing building, provides spaces for the various functions of a small village. The theater is elaborately and expansively decorated in a conflation of gilt plaster ornament.

2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Description of exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The structure stands two stories tall, with a full attic over the theater and stage areas. Overall it measure 125' x 100'; however, the theater portion is 75' x 100' and the town hall portion another 50 x 100'. There are seven bays along the Elm Street façade, and a total of eight along the Sixth Street façade. Along Sixth Street, three bays characterize the town hall and the remaining five, the theater. The building's footprint is essentially that of a rectangle.

2. Foundations: Red sandstone, poor rock and brick.

3. Walls: The walls of the basement, up to water table, are smoothly dressed red sandstone in a single wide (20") course up to the simple half round molding of the water table. The first story walls are made of red sandstone in alternate courses of wide rock faced (12") and narrow (4") smooth dressed stone, terminating in a simple cornice. The upper story walls are predominantly made of a buff brick, laid in English bond with red sandstone used for quoining around some windows, in round medallions and as a string course at the window sill level and at the cornice. The theater attic wall has a triangular pediment in the center, with blind arcades to either side in buff brick with sandstone details and frieze. The clock tower is built of buff brick with a sandstone frieze. The second story, attic, clock tower, and marquis cornices all have copper cornices over the sandstone friezes. The corner bays of the theater step slightly forward of the wall line, as does the central bay of the Sixth Street town hall entrance. The central bays of the Elm Street facade terminate in a triangular brick pediment with sandstone frieze and copper cornice. Sandstone, urn-shaped finials are placed regularly along the roofline.

4. Structural system, framing: A combination of load bearing masonry walls, wood and brick piers, iron columns, and trusses are used. Metal I beams are also used. The brick proscenium wall separating the stage from the audience chamber features a large semicircular arch of at least four rows of rowlocked brick. Since the stage mechanisms are carried by a single large truss, tied to the

exterior walls, this proscenium wall is probably only a large partition and fire wall and so not an integral structural member.

5. Porches, stoops, bulkheads: A red sandstone marquise protects the theater entrance. There are three grey granite steps leading from grade up to each entryway.

6. Chimneys: There is a chimney at the northeast, northwest, and southwest corners of the stage.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors:

THEATER ENTRY: There are two pairs of wood doors, with simple panels below and six small bevelled glass panes above. One pair is to either side of a centered program box. The lintel is cast metal. The sills are gray granite and the sides are red sandstone. A small wooden door with simple panels leads from under the balcony out onto the roof of the marquise. It has brick side and a low brick arch over.

TOWN HALL: The Elm and Sixth Street entrances are identical. Doorways are smooth dressed red sandstone with low elliptical arches over the doors. There are Doric pilasters at the sides and simple entablatures and triangular pediments above. The doors are double, wood, paneled below with glass (clear) above. There are sidelights and fan overlights. All this glass is clear and bevelled, except the panels in the doors on the Sixth Street side which are not beveled. There are engaged wood colonettes between the doors and their sidelights. All other wood moldings are simple. On the Elm Street facade there are also two overhead doors for the fire engines. They have sandstone frames, a metal lintel, and concrete sills at grade. The police department door on the east wall, near Elm Street, is a five paneled wood door with a clear glass transom over. The frames are red brick, while the lintel and sill are red sandstone. There is a door to the fire department meeting room, also on the east wall. The framing is the same as for the police department door. The door itself is a board and bead storm door with a two-light, fixed sash window over. The double height stage door opening in the east wall has a double, galvanized metal fire door below with a double, wood paneled door above. There are two no longer functional sliding board and bead storm doors fixed in their up position. Over the door is a rowlocked brick arch. The sides and sill are made of red sandstone. The south wall doors are three, single metal fire escape doors from the orchestra balcony and gallery. The sides are sandstone, lintels are wood, and sills are concrete.

b. Windows and shutters: There are no shutters; nor are there any windows in the south elevation.

EAST WALL, THEATER: At the basement level, there are two window frames, now filled with stone, and there are two windows only boarded up. The sides and sills are red sandstone; there are low arches of rowlocked brick over. At the first and second floors, there are two window openings on each floor, now boarded up. The frames are the same as in the basement.

WEST WALL, THEATER: Located in the first floor corner piers is a window, one in each pier. These two windows are identical to those on the first floor of the north wall. To either side of the

central doorway element is a single, small, round headed, stained glass window. The framing is an effective continuation (or termination) of the wall surface. The windows are identical and feature urns and swags in yellow, blue-green, dun-green, and brown. There are also faceted roundels of red and clear glass. At the bottom of the second-story corner piers are paired round headed windows that are double-hung with one light per sash, with a red sandstone string course sill, brick sides and arches with sandstone impost blocks and drip caps. Over these windows, just under the entablature (the frieze of which serves as the lintels for these windows) are a pair of square-shaped, fixed windows that are glazed with a single light, that have brick sides, and that have sandstone sills. To either side of the central bays of the second-story are single round headed windows identical to those in the same relative position on the north wall with the only exception being that these are about one foot shorter. In the central bay there is a three-window unit, in which all are uniform in height, round headed, and double-hung, with a single light per sash. The framing for these window openings is identical to the triple window on the north wall.

EAST WALL, TOWN HALL: At the basement level, there are five windows. All of these have sandstone sills with brick around the rest of the frames. Only one window is still glazed. Of the others, one is boarded up, one is wooden and was used for a coal shute, and two are bricked up. The tops of the frames are rowlocked brick arranged in low arches. At the first floor there are four windows. Each is double-hung, with a single large pane in each sash. The sills and lintels are made of red sandstone and the sides of brick. At the second floor are the only remaining windows of the 1886 town hall. There are two of them. The windows are rectangular and have three sashes. Each sash has a single large pane of glass. The top sash is fixed while the bottom two are double-hung. The sills and lintels are fashioned out of a gray, variegated sandstone. The sills are plain and smooth dressed. The lintel elements are a combination of square, rusticated impost blocks carrying a smooth lintel with the top side of the outside corners rounded. Just above the center of the lintel is a triangular rusticated block.

NORTH WALL, TOWN HALL: At the first floor, there are five rectangular, double-hung windows glazed with a single light in each sash. The frames are rock faced, red sandstone on the sides and smooth on the sills, lintels, and reveals. At the second floor, the side bays have windows like those seen on the second-story of the east wall. The frames are made of red sandstone, molded as part of the string course for the sill, quioned on the sides, and set in a flat arch with emphasized keystone for the top. All of the stone is smooth dressed. The center bays/two side bays have single, round headed, double-hung windows with a single light in each sash. The sills are a molded red sandstone string course. The sides are quioned. The arches over are brick with a red sandstone keystone and drip cap. The second-floor center bay contains a three window grouping. All windows are round headed, the center one being slightly taller. The sides of the group are coigned sandstone, while the piers between the windows are buff brick with red sandstone impost blocks above. The sills and tops of these windows are the same as the two side bays of the center bay grouping.

WEST WALL, TOWN HALL: At the first floor, there are two round windows set high in the wall to either side of the door. The windows consist of many round glass lights (but not bullseye glass) set in a wood matrix. There is a wrought iron grille in front of each window. The reveal is quite deep. The round, smooth dressed red sandstone frame has a simple molding. There are elaborate keystone-like elements at the four cardinal compass points (north, south, east, and west). At the second floor, the two windows in the side bays are identical to those in the side bays in the

second floor of the north wall. In the center bay, there is a three window grouping very similar to that in the center of the north wall. It differs in that it is slightly smaller; has a keystone only over the center window; and has plain brick on the outside frames, not sandstone quoins.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: The roof over the town hall is hipped and covered with green asphalt/sand rolled roofing, whereas the roof over the theater and stage is flat and that over the audience chamber is a low gable. The flat and gabled portions of the roof are covered with gravelled tar.

b. Cornice, eaves: There is a sandstone frieze and copper cornice entablature with a closed brick balustrade along the north and west walls. The south and east walls are simply terminated.

c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: Above the attic at the northwest corner of the theater section is a square, single clock tower made of buff brick with a round frosted glass clock face in each side. The corners are emphasized as overlapping piers. There is a red sandstone and copper entablature with a blind brick balustrade above. There are urn finials at each corner of the balustrade.

C. Description of the interior:

THEATER:

1. Floor plans (figs. 2-3):

Basement: Along the west wall is the men's toilet, a storage room, and the space where a women's toilet used to be. Underneath the theater is a forest of brick, iron, and wooden piers that carry the seating above. The space slants to the east in response to the slope of the seating. Underneath the stage, along the east wall, are several dressing and storage rooms. There are two more toilets as well.

Theater: Through the entry doors on the west side of the theater is a lobby. To the left is a box office. To the right are two stairs. The one on the right leads up to the balcony and gallery; the one on the left leads down to the "Gent's" toilet. A pair of double doors, in line with the entry doors, leads to an aisle at the back of the orchestra seats. The seats are in three sections: right, left, and center, with aisles on each side. An orchestra pit is at the front of the seats. To each side of the pit are two round boxes. The stage is about four feet above the orchestra pit. There is a slight convex arc at the front. The stage is approximately 30' deep and 40' wide with an additional 12' in the flies to each side. Above the orchestra seats are two additional tiers, a balcony and a gallery. Four cast iron columns placed in the orchestra help carry the balcony. Six somewhat smaller columns in the balcony help to carry the gallery. There is a film projection booth in the center, at the rear of the balcony. A corridor runs under the gallery along the west wall. Sight lines are uniformly good. Stars' dressing rooms are located over the boxes.

2. Stairways: In the lobby there are two flights and of stairs with marble treads and risers. One leads down to the men's toilet. The walls are covered with brick patterned tin and there are brass railings. The other stair leads up to the balcony. The wainscoting of this stair is marble. The railings are brass. In the theater itself, behind the boxes on each side, there is a short flight of stairs up to the fly areas of the stage. On the north and south walls of the stage there are four

staircases, each of wood, roughly built. There are two on each side, one leading up to the stars' dressing rooms over the boxes and the other down to the cast's dressing rooms. About one-third of the way up each of the stairs to the stars' dressing rooms, ladders, attached to the walls, rise to, first, a platform giving access to a room over theater dressing room, which in turn gives access to the frame of the wide splayed arch which projects from the proscenium into the theater. The second level reached by the ladder is one of catwalks around the drops. This is also the same height as the base of the timber truss which carries the stage machinery. Another very steep stair leads from this catwalk level up to the top of the drops where stage machinery sandbags, pullies, and ropes, may be serviced. In the balcony, at the northwest and southwest corners, there are wooden staircases which lead to the gallery. One has been stripped and refinished. It is red oak, as are the interior wood doors in the public parts of the rest of the theater. The other is painted red and retains applied, pressed wood decorations. On the south wall there is a metal fire escape, leading from the balcony to grade.

3. Flooring: There are tile floors in the lobby and wood floors in the theater, balcony, gallery, stage, boxes, and basement. The aisles in the theater, however, have been carpeted.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The public areas have painted plaster walls and ceilings with elaborate applied decoration, while the stage and dressing rooms consist of painted brick, stone or frame partition walls. Many ceilings in the dressing rooms are covered with pressed tin in a variety of patterns.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: With the exception of the metal fire doors, other doors in the theater are wood in wood frames. Those in the stage and dressing room areas are indifferently painted and treated. Those in the public areas are either painted red and black (those facing the audience space) or are red oak with a clear finish. All these doors have five horizontal panels.

6. Decorative features and trim: The theater space is encrusted with a variety of applied plaster ornamentation. The predominant color is a cream white (ivory), with crimson red used for columns, pilasters, flat raised surfaces, and rope moldings around the proscenium arches. Swirling over these surfaces are gold painted rococo moldings. Floral, shell, and net motifs predominate. Gold is also used for the classically derived details such as pilaster capitals, ceiling modillions, and freely disposed egg and dart moldings, among others. Because of the rather small size of the space and the depth of the proscenium arch, the effect is rather like being inside a Faberge Easter egg. Elegance, opulence, if not decadence, are brought to mind.

7. Hardware: The hardware is generally handsome, but is not exceptional.

8. Mechanical equipment:

a. Lighting: Paired light bulbs line the intrados of the great theater arch, while single bulbs highlight the central circular motif of the ceiling. There are several hanging fixtures with ceiling plates in a trefoil pattern. Suspended from these plates are white, frosted glass globes in several etched patterns including Greek key and quatrefoil-trefoil motifs.

b. Other fixtures: The stage is very well equipped with about thirty (30) drops, as well as three trap doors. The projection booth has two Simplex carbon arc 35mm projectors.

TOWN HALL (dimensions: 93'10" x 49' 1 ½"):

1. Floor plans (figs. 4-6):

Basement: The east end of the building, only, is excavated. There is a furnace room in the southeast corner, with a coal bin next to it. Along the rest of the east wall, in the northeast corner, is another storage room with concrete flooring. To the west of these rooms is a partly excavated basement. Beyond that is inaccessible space, over half the area of the building.

First floor: There are five entryways. One on the east wall is a narrow door leading to the police office and village jail. On the Elm Street facade, east of center, are two overhead doors to the fire engine bays. At the back of this space, to either side, are an office (to the east) and the smoke eaters den, and an L-shaped space with lavatory within the ell. The center door on Elm Street is the formal entrance to the village offices, which are located on that floor. Directly behind the entry hall is the police chief's office. Off the hall to the right is the village council chamber. Along the north wall, to the west of the council chamber, are the clerk's office and vault. A lavatory is off the the southwest corner of the council room. The door in the west wall, on Sixth Street, is primarily for access to the town hall on the second floor. However, it also leads to the clerk's office and council chambers by separate doors. A large closet, hallway, and lavatory are also accessible from this entry space.

Second floor: The town hall, reached only by a staircase in the southwest corner, takes up the entire second floor, except for the staircase and landing space. That part of the west wall not taken up by the staircase and landing is given over to a small balcony, reached by a narrow stair along the wall separating it from the stair hall. In the center along the east wall of the space is a raised platform. There are no interior columns.

Attic: The attic is reached by a ladder in the town hall stair hall. It contains the trusses that allow the hall below to be a clear span. There is also a ladder here which provides access to the roof.

2. Stairways: The second floor of the town hall is reached by a single wooden staircase in the southwest corner of the building. The wood is golden oak, paneled along the wainscoting, with simple turned balusters and inset panels on the newel posts. Carved oak leaves are at each of the four corners of the tops of the newel posts. The only other stairway in the town hall part of the building is a crude wooden stair leading from the office in the southeast corner of the building down to the basement.

3. Flooring: There is tile with Greek key borders in the entry halls; linoleum floor covering in the police office, southeast corner office, smoke eaters' den, police chief's office, clerk's office, council chambers, and lavatories; concrete floors in the jail, fire engine room, and basement; and hardwood floors on the second floor.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The vault has painted concrete floors and ceiling. In the Elm Street entry and west in the building there are stained paneled oak wainscoting, painted plaster walls,

and elaborate painted plaster ceilings above the picture rail. The fire engine room and east has stained board and bead wainscoting and painted plaster walls and ceilings. Finally, in the town hall, there are very dark stained board and bead wainscoting with stencilled and painted plaster walls and painted plaster ceilings.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: Oak doors with five horizontal panels, with simple side frames and entablatures over. Some doors have clear or frosted glass in the top half. Tall, clear glass transoms are over some of the principle doorways. Gold lettering on the principle doors identifies the use of the rooms beyond.

6. Decorative features and trim: In the principle rooms downstairs, there are elaborate plaster ceilings with raised decorations of classical derivation. The raised floral outline elements of the recessed ceiling panels are painted gold. Floral swags as well as egg and dart and dentil moldings cover the surfaces of the false ceiling beams. A circular raised gold molding is in the ceiling of the Elm Street entry hall, while an oval raised gold molding and elaborate rectangular border, also in gold, highlight the clerk's ceiling. The Sixth Street entry hall has not been treated as yet with gold, though the decorations on both the first and second floor ceilings are similar. The ceiling in the upper hall is coved with floral swags and wreaths along the surface of the coving. The wall stencils in the ballroom include a zig-zag pattern in red, white, and a medium blue (the effect is not patriotic, however) at the top of the wall surface. Other stencilling is simple panel outlining.

7. Hardware: The hardware is simple, handsome, and serviceable.

8. Mechanical equipment: The jail contains two cast and wrought iron cells. The vault in the clerk's office is straightforward and without elaborate detail.

D. Site:

The building is on the southeast corner of Elm and Sixth Streets in Calumet Village. The village offices and fire engine bays face Elm Street (north). The entries for the town hall and theater are on the Sixth Street side, facing west. A small park lies to the south of the theater, running from Sixth Street back to the alley.

a. Historic landscape design: The general setting of the building has remained as it was since its completion in 1900. The building occupies an important corner of the overall business district of Calumet.

b. Outbuildings: In July 1975 the Seth Thomas bell from the clock tower, which had been taken down in 1961, was rehung in the theater park.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural drawings (stored in Village Office vault)

1. Detailed sections of balcony aisles. Blueprint, 2 copies, scale 1" = 2', no date, unsigned.
2. Three sheets, attached, on heavy buff paper (there are two sets of this series):
 - First floor, revised plan. (village offices) no date, unsigned.
 - Second floor, revised plan, C.K. Shand, Architect, (Town Hall) no date.
 - Elm Street elevation, no date, unsigned. On the other side of this sheet : "Plans Red Jacket Town Hall".
3. Outline Elevation of North Side of Town Hall. Three blueprints, no date, unsigned.
4. Red Jacket Theater. 08-20-31, unsigned. (This is a plan of theater heaters and dampers, including the sheet wood cold air returne).
2. Plan of Calumet Theater Showing Carpeted Sections. 1 Drawing on linen, 3 prints, no date, unsigned.
6. Outline Elevation of Town Hall and Opera House. 3 copies.
 - On one copy, the words "900 lights on this building including 200 inside" was written in crayon; on the reverse of the same copy, "Design of McClure and Riley to Wire Bldgs Apl 8 -09 - Not Accepted."

Another print of the same drawing is marked "Hosking R1 Co." on the front, with "Electric Wiring Design" on which bids were received. See Min. Book 5, page 140.

There is a third blueprint of this elevation with no added markings.

A. Primary and unpublished sources:

All bids, contracts, specifications, drawings, and other records that have been discovered are in the custody of the Village Clerk, Margaret Stukel. They are stored in the village vault. In addition, there are several views of the theater in the photograph collection being developed at Coppertown USA, 101 Red Jacket Road, Calumet, Michigan, 49913. Moreover, Ida Blum and Bertha Jacka, both retired school teachers of the Calumet district, have clear and detailed memories of the theater in all its stages.

B. Secondary and published sources:

Arthur W. Thurner. Calumet Copper and People. Hancock, MI: The Book Concern, 1974.

D. Likely sources not yet investigated:

None of the following are available in Calumet.

1. The National Register Nomination form
2. The Michigan Historic Site forms.
3. Any of the restoration (1973-5) records; however, the project chief was James Boggio of Marquette, Michigan.

No plans of the theater itself have been found; however, plans are available for the town hall section of the structure.

E. Supplemental information

1. LEASE AGREEMENTS

The following are all leases found in the vault of the Calumet Village Clerk. All leases are for the theater only and in all cases the Lessor is the Village of Red Jacket or, after 1929, Calumet.

LEASE PERIOD	LEASEE	RATE
03/01/1900-03/01/03	John D. Cuddihy	A varying rate from \$40/day to \$150/week Performances to be exempt from village tax
03/01/03-03/01/06	ditto	ditto
03/01/06-03/01/11	ditto	\$3000/year
03/01/11-03/01/12	ditto	\$2000/year
03/01/13-03/01/14	ditto	ditto
03/01/16-03/01/18	ditto	\$2500/year
03/01/18-03/01/21	ditto	\$9000 for 3 years, option to renew until 1926 at no more than \$3500/year
03/01/21-03/01/26	ditto	\$3500/year
03/01/26-03/01/36	ditto	\$3600/year
05/15/31	John D. Cuddihy had died, and the lease was assigned to John Gerald Cuddihy and Edward F. Cuddihy, Jr.	
07/25/31-03/01/41 (lease extension)	John Gerald Cuddihy & Edward F. Cuddihy, Jr.	\$3600/yr
08/01/45-08/01/50	Ernest C. Hoffman	not specified
08/01/47	Lease assigned to Thomas Theatres	
11/01/52-11/01/57	Thomas Theatres	\$4800/year
12/01/56	Thomas Theatres assigns lease to Copper Theatres of Calumet	
05/01/57-05/01/62	Copper Theatres of Calumet	\$3600/year

01/01/58	Lease assigned to Copper Theatres of Hancock	
10/01/61-10/01/62	Arthur J. & Walter J. Hamel	\$2520/year
10/01/62 10/01/63	ditto	\$2500/year
06/08/64-09/08/64	Keweenaw Playhouse Guild, Inc.	\$200/month
08/28/65-09/01/65	ditto	ditto
06/27/66-08/29/66	ditto	ditto

2. CALUMET THEATER RESTORATION

Statement of revenues and expenditures of the total project, March 1973 through June 1975.

a. Revenues:

First National Theater Account	\$ 411.27
Loan from Merchants & Miners Bank	\$16,000.00
Federal Funds - Department of Natural Resources	\$39,000.00
State Funds - Department of Natural Resources	\$60,000.00
Rental - Copper Country Intermediate School District	\$2,910.00
Reimbursement from Calumet Village	\$157.62
 Total Revenues	 \$118,478.89

b. Expenditures:

Construction:

Exterior		\$2,748.78
carpentry	\$1,549.31	
materials	\$821.71	
misc.	\$377.76	
Lobby		\$11,850.68
remove concession & replace walls	\$1,444.56	
equipment	\$267.87	
ticket booth	\$1,438.72	
repair drain leak	\$642.96	
replace doors	\$1,728.88	
ceiling & lighting	\$781.00	
walls	\$1,129.52	
floors	\$1,592.46	
fixtures/trim	\$1,294.38	
misc.	\$1,530.33	
Auditorium		\$14,190.32

Overhead painting & labor	\$11,298.92	
paint, supplies, & rest of painting	\$1,298.93	
plaster, &c, for ceiling under balcony	\$1,592.47	
Boxes		\$1,754.95
chairs	\$1,009.10	
general repairs	\$525.43	
misc.	\$220.42	
Seating		\$12,849.01
floor work	\$2,215.50	
upholstery	\$7,431.16	
painting of seats	\$3,202.35	
Carpeting		\$5,457.04
remove/install	\$1,000.00	
new carpet installed	\$4,457.04	
Building Function:		
Structure		\$2,207.22
banding basement		
beams	\$617.93	
balcony support	\$370.93	
stage	\$127.60	
stairs	\$106.29	
misc.	\$984.47	
Fire Safety		\$1,879.75
Restrooms		\$7,058.48
plumbing fixtures, &c	\$2,513.54	
installation labor	\$3,252.81	
misc.	\$1,292.13	
Plumbing		\$4,981.32
check/repair existing	\$1,851.17	
new equipment & materials	\$2,000.65	
misc.	\$1,129.50	
Electrical		\$3,563.99
update existing	\$1,509.02	
new wiring	\$2,054.97	
Sound & Communications		\$959.94
Operational Function:		
Stage		\$913.01
lumber	\$0.00	
other materials	\$260.57	
labor	\$226.00	
misc.	\$426.44	

Curtains		\$5,705.78
Back Drops		\$6,915.22
M.S.U.	\$6450.46	
misc.	\$464.76	
Stage Lighting		\$906.01
M.S.U.	\$712.87	
misc.	\$193.14	

Professional Services:		\$8,886.90
Supervision & Staff:		\$1,316.33
Contingency: (includes furnace)		\$5,978.68
Marker:		\$375.00
Special Account: (repay note to M&M, interest, &c.)		\$17,822.86
Village Expenses, paid by Theater: (see revenues)		\$157.62

Total Expenditures \$118,478.89

Total Revenues	\$118,478.89
Total Expenditures	\$118,478.89 I
Balance	\$0.00

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

Documentation was done in the summer of 1975 by Kevin Harrington and Wendy Nicholas for the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), a division of the National Park Service.

fig. 1 Perspective view of the exterior. Photo by author, ca. 1975.

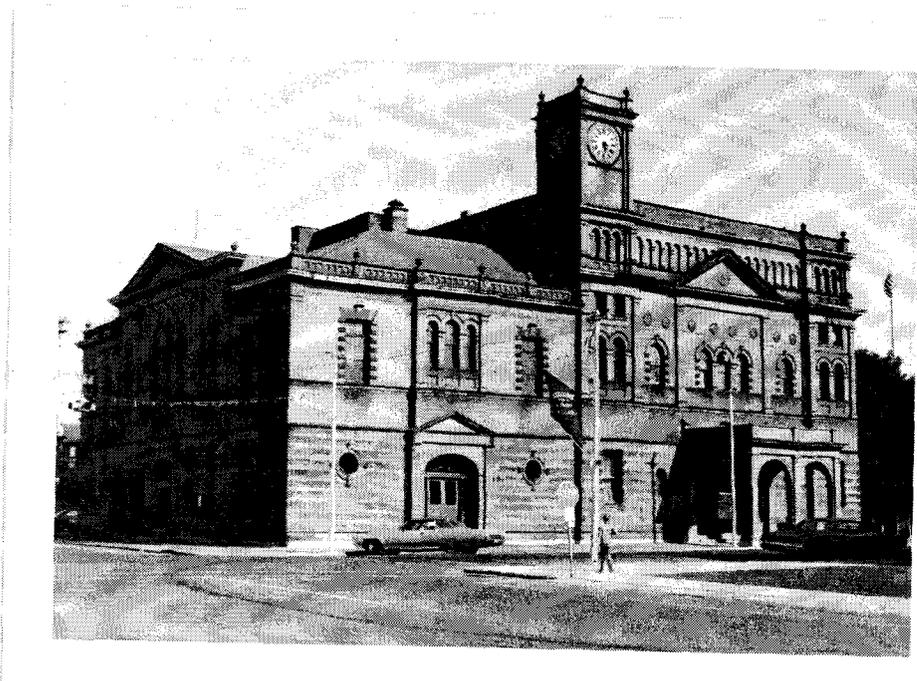
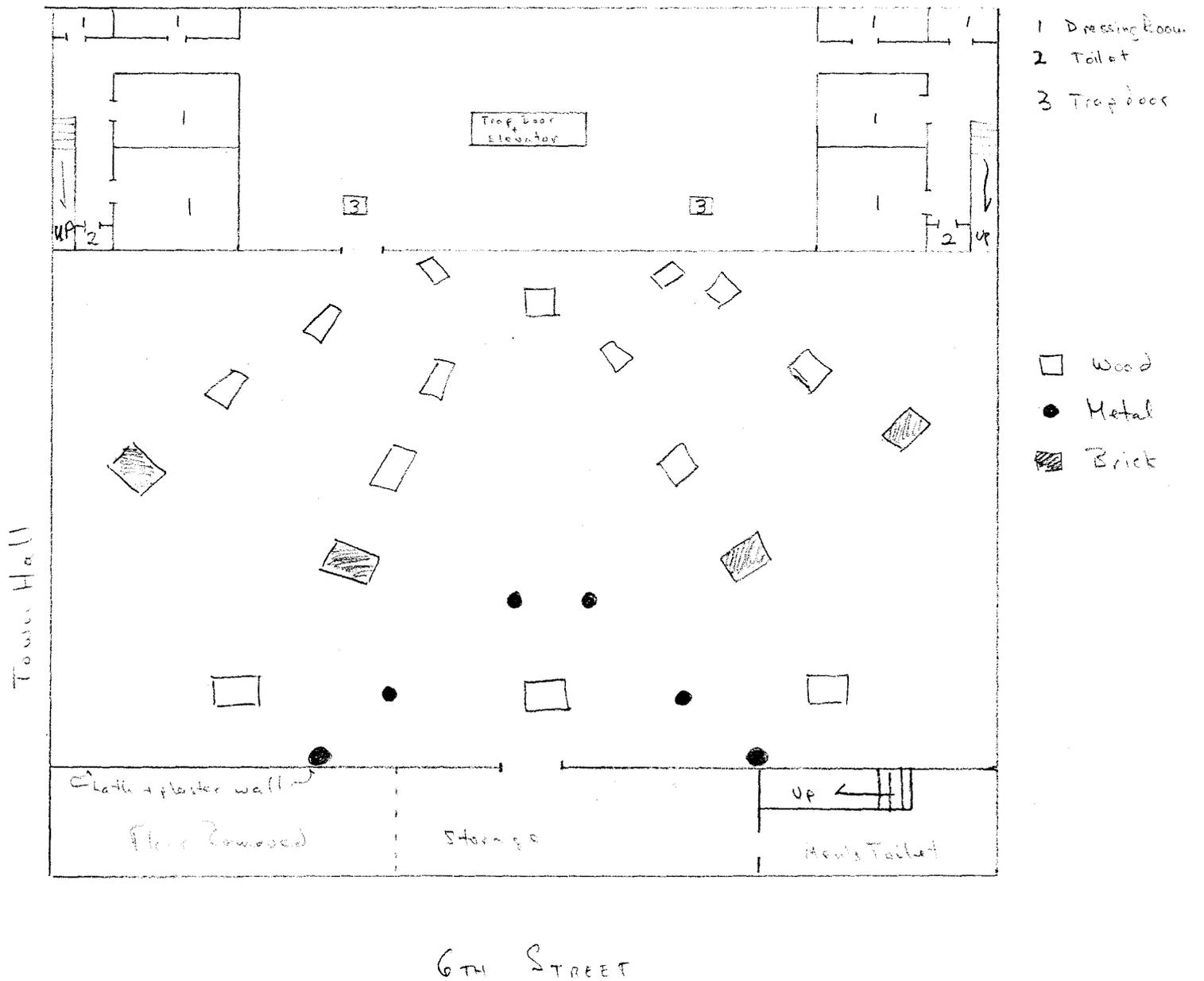
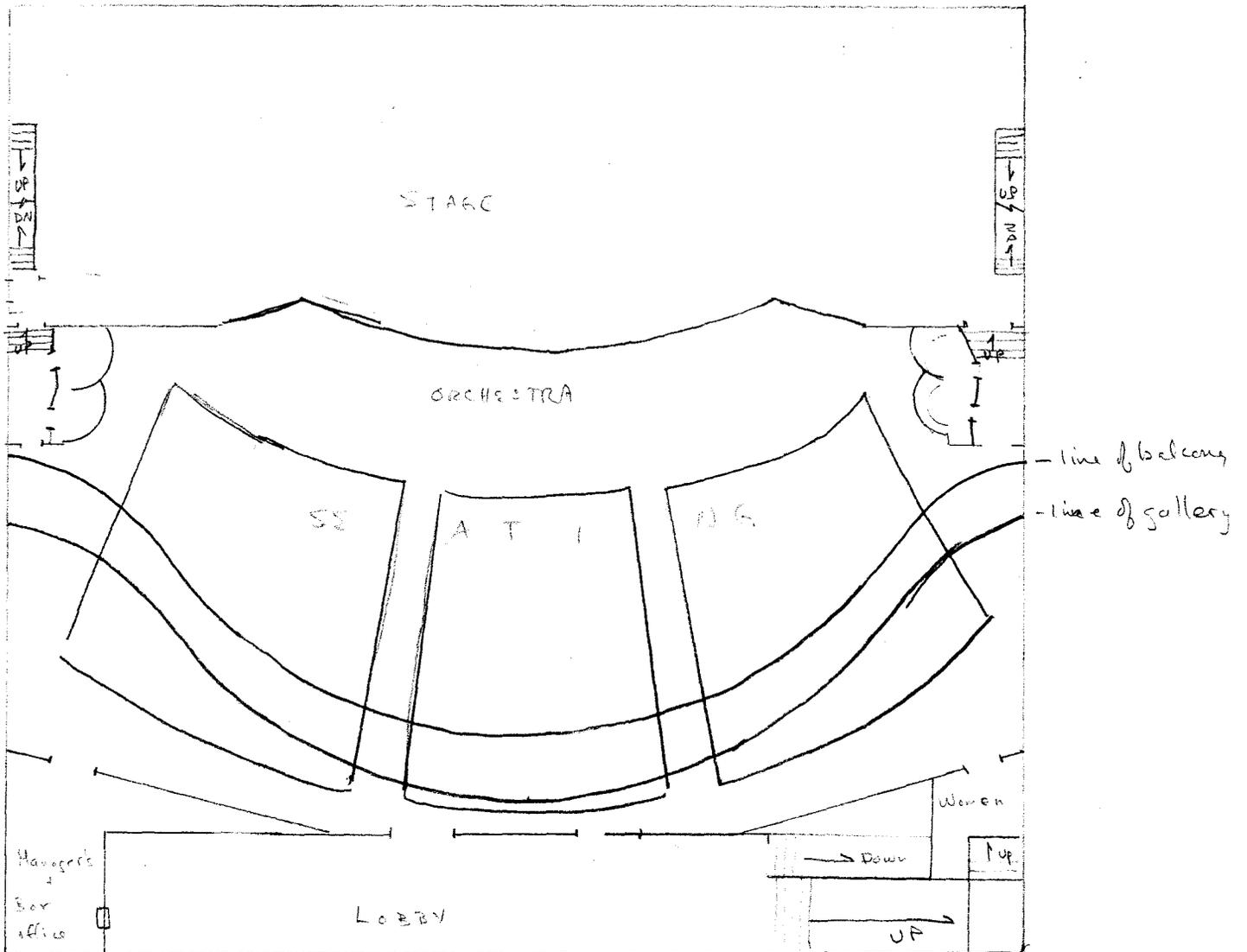


fig. 2 Sketch of theater basement floor plan, ca. 1975.



ig. 3 Sketch of theater-level floor plan, ca. 1975.



ig. 4 Sketch of town hall basement floor plan, ca. 1975.

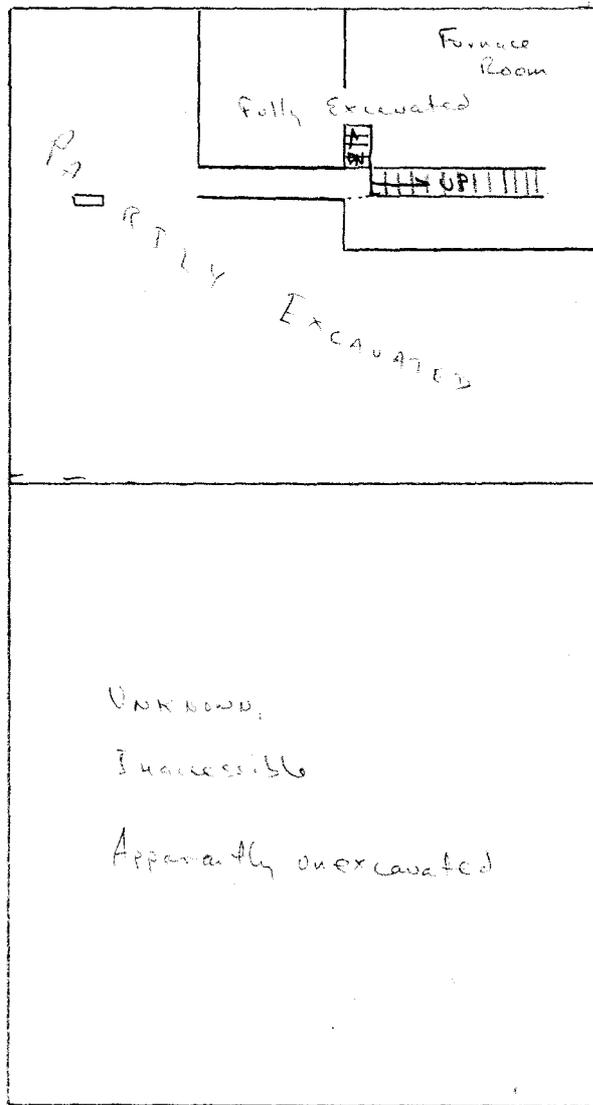


Fig. 5 Sketch of town hall first floor plan, ca. 1975.

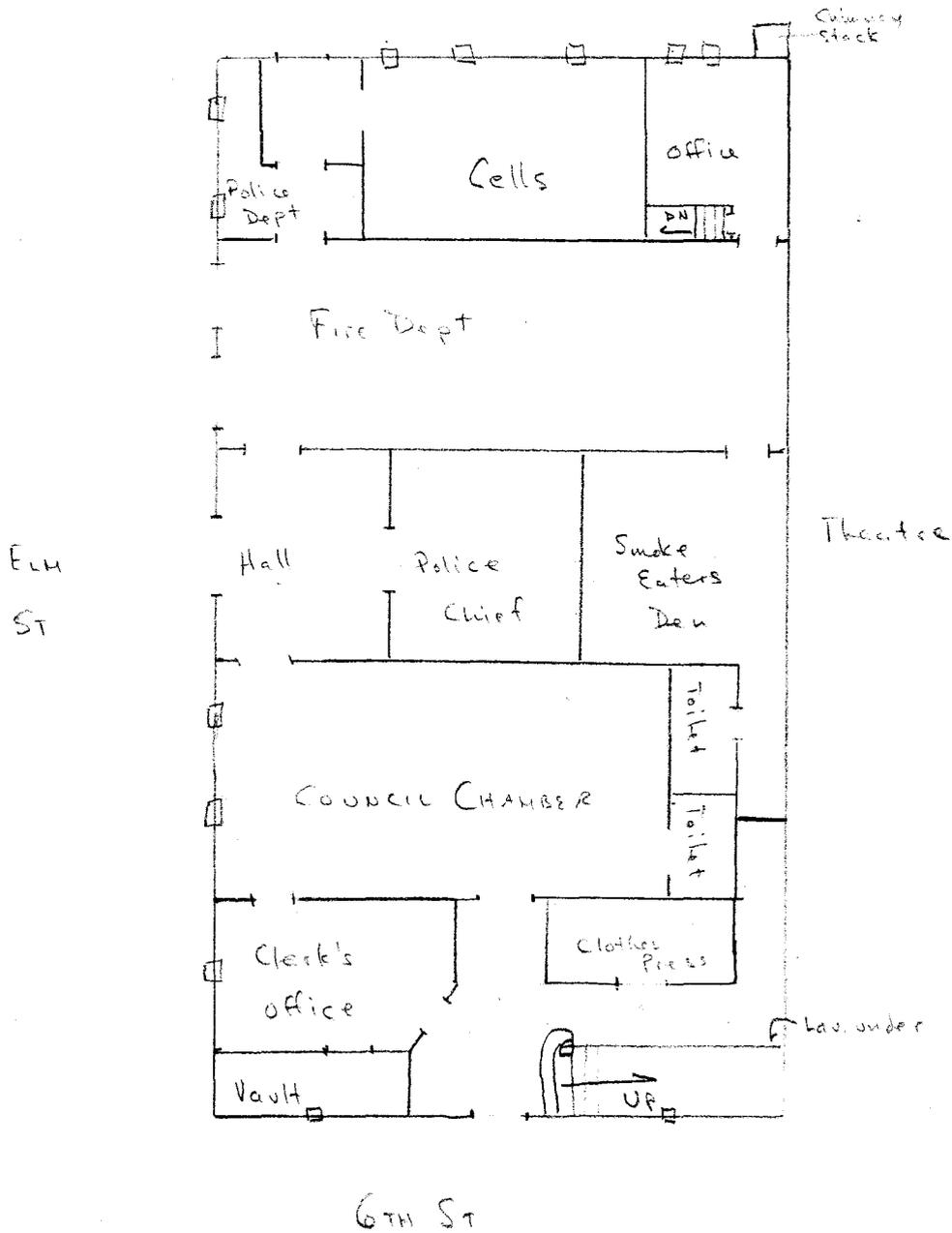
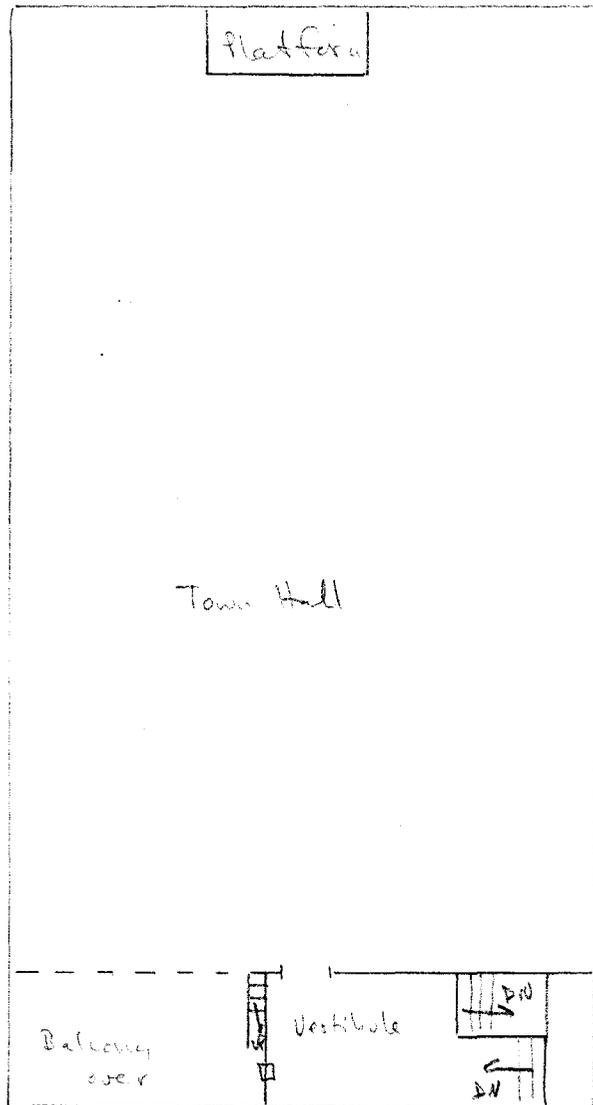
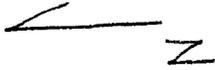


Fig. 6 Sketch of town hall second floor plan, ca. 1975.



Theatre