

# Oregon Historic Site Form

Hill Theater  
137 3rd St  
Hillsboro, Washington County

## LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME

|  |   |
|--|---|
| address: <u>137 NE 3rd St</u> <input type="checkbox"/> apprx. addr<br>137-137<br><br><u>Hillsboro</u> <input type="checkbox"/> vcnt <u>Washington County</u><br><br>Optional Information<br>assoc addresses:<br>(former addresses, intersections, etc.)<br><br>location descr:<br>(remote sites) | historic name: <u>Hill Theater</u><br><br>current/<br>other names:<br><br>block nbr: _____ lot nbr: _____ tax lot nbr: _____<br>township: <u>1N</u> range: <u>2 W</u> section: <u>31</u> 1/4: _____<br>zip: _____ |
|--|---|

## PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS

|   |   |
|---|---|
| resource type: <u>building</u> height (# stories): <u>1</u><br>elig. evaluation: <u>eligible/contributing</u><br>primary constr date: <u>1937</u> (c.) <input type="checkbox"/> secondary date: <u>1937</u> (c.) <input type="checkbox"/><br>(optional--use for major addns)<br><br>primary orig use: <u>Theater</u><br>secondary orig use: _____<br><br>primary style: <u>Art Deco</u><br>secondary style: _____<br><br>primary siding: <u>Stucco</u><br>secondary siding: <u>Concrete: Other/Undefined</u><br>plan type: _____<br><br>comments/notes: | total # eligible resources: <u>1</u> total # ineligible resources: <input type="checkbox"/><br>NR status: _____<br>NR date listed: _____ (indiv listed only; see Grouping for hist dist)<br><br>orig use comments: _____<br><br>prim style comments: _____<br>sec style comments: _____<br><br>siding comments: _____<br><br>architect: _____<br>builder: _____ |
|---|---|

## GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS

|   |  |
|---|--|
| survey project name or other grouping name: <u>Hillsboro Local Inventory Update 2008 2008</u> | <u>Survey &amp; Inventory Project</u>                            |
| farmstead/cluster name:   | external site #: <u>20</u><br>(ID# used in city/agency database) |

## SHPO INFO FOR THIS PROPERTY

NR date listed: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ILS survey date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 RLS survey date: 7/1/2008  
 Gen File date: \_\_\_\_\_  
**106 Project(s)**



East façade and entry

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## ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

(Include expanded description of the building/property, setting, significant landscape features, outbuildings, and alterations)

### Architectural Description:

The Hill Theater exhibits the Art Deco style of architecture. It is a horizontally-massed building, with a stepped parapet, and is surfaced with stucco. The surface exhibits vertically-incised lines emphasizing the parapet. A three-sided marquee projects from the center of the building, and a neon sign on the parapet spells 'Hill'. Striped awnings shelter the store fronts.

Four shops occupy the space that was originally used for a theater. Their entries are recessed, and the store fronts are surfaced with glassy maroon tiles. The windows are large, metal sashed store front windows.

The interior has two stairways with Art Deco railings.

This is the only example of Art Deco architecture in Hillsboro.

### Contextual Description:

The Hill theater is located on the west side of Third Street, north of Main.

## HISTORY

(Chronological, descriptive history of the property from its construction through at least the historic period [preferably to the present])

### Historical Significance:

Orange Phelps had this theater built in 1937. Phelps was a well-known theater operator and businessman in Hillsboro. His first theater, the Arcade, was built in 1908. In 1911, John Shute offered Phelps the bank building (Resource #24) at a fair price, and Orange purchased it and converted it into the Library Theater. Orange also built the Majestic Theater in 1916, and with Harry Hill as his partner, opened the Venetian in 1925, and the Hill in 1937.

Orange Phelps was well liked in the community, and was probably the most civically active person in Hillsboro from the early 1900's to the early 1960's. He helped oversee the construction of Shute Park Pavillion in 1921, and that same year, was asked to run for City Council. He was elected, and was re-elected four years later. In 1928 he was Rotary Club President, and an active member in the Chamber of Commerce. Orange ran for mayor in 1929, was successful, and was re-elected twice, serving until 1935. He also served on the City Planning Commission until 1969.

Orange was a catcher for a semi-pro baseball team, and organized spectacular Fourth of July celebrations.

This building is significant due to its associations with Orange Phelps, one of Hillsboro's most prominent citizens for sixty years.

## RESEARCH INFORMATION

(Check all of the basic sources consulted and cite specific important sources)

- |  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Title Records    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Census Records | <input type="checkbox"/> Property Tax Records | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Histories      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sanborn Maps                | <input type="checkbox"/> Biographical Sources      | <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Files           | <input type="checkbox"/> Interviews           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Obituaries                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspapers     | <input type="checkbox"/> State Archives       | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Photographs |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Directories | <input type="checkbox"/> Building Permits          | <input type="checkbox"/> State Library        |   |

Local Library: \_\_\_\_\_ University Library: \_\_\_\_\_

Historical Society: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

### Bibliography: Sources Consulted:

The Argus Bicentennial Edition, Oct. 19, 1976.

1910 Census, Thirteenth Census of the United States, Department of Commerce and Labor.

Polks Oregon and Washington Gazetteer.

Polks Washington County Directory, 1912-1913.

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Ticor Title Company

Recorded by: McLaughlin, Emde□□Date: 1980  
□□O'Brien, Cole□□□ 1985