

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
 21 STATE CIRCLE
 SHAW HOUSE
 ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET
 Individual Structure Survey Form

SURVEY NUMBER: <u>AA 1595</u>
NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:
UTM REFERENCES: Zone/Easting/Northing
U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:
PRESENT FORMAL NAME:
ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME:
PRESENT USE: Theatre
ORIGINAL USE: Theatre
ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:
BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:
PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE: Excellent () Good (X) Fair () Poor: ()
THEME:
STYLE: Beaux Art
DATE BUILT: c.1920

COUNTY: <u>Anne Arundel</u>
TOWN: <u>Annapolis</u>
LOCATION: <u>46-48 State Circle</u>
COMMON NAME: <u>Circle Theatre</u>
FUNCTIONAL TYPE: <u>Comm Map Par</u>
OWNER: <u>Durkee Frank H 3rd</u> ADDRESS: <u>Rt 2 Box 175</u> <u>Monkton, MD 21111</u>
ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Yes (✓) No () Restricted ()
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local (✓) State () National () <input checked="" type="radio"/>

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Structural System

- Foundation: Stone () Brick (X) Concrete () Concrete Block ()
- Wall Structure
 - Wood Frame: Post and Beam () Balloon ()
 - Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick () Stone () Concrete () Concrete Block ()
 - Iron () D. Steel () E. Other: Structural Tile
- Wall Covering: Clapboard () Board and Batten () Wood Shingle () Shiplap () Novelty () Stucco (X) Sheet Metal () Aluminum () Asphalt Shingle () Brick Veneer (X) Stone Veneer () Asbestos Shingle () Bonding Pattern: Common Other:
- Roof Structure
 - Truss: Wood () Iron () Steel (X) Concrete ()
 - Other:
- Roof Covering: Slate () Wood Shingle () Asphalt Shingle () Sheet Metal () Built Up (X) Rolled () Tile () Other:
- Engineering Structure:
- Other:

Appendages: Porches () Towers () Cupolas () Dormers () Chimneys () Sheds () Ells () Wings () Other: Marquee

Roof Style: Gable () Hip (X) Shed () Flat () Mansard () Gambrel () Jerkinhead () Saw Tooth () With Monitor () With Bellcast () With Parapet (X) With False Front () Other:

Number of Stories: 2 = 3

Number of Bays: 5

Approximate Dimensions: _____

Entrance Location: Centered

THREAT TO STRUCTURE: No Threat (X) Zoning () Roads () Development () Deterioration () Alteration () Other:	LOCAL ATTITUDES: Positive () Negative () Mixed () Other:
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ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Massive theatre building, with Neo-Classic front facade retaining some of its period detailing, but marred by later inappropriate marquee.

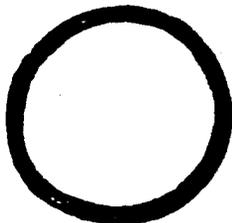
RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Of minor architectural interest, but important to streetscape as it fills entire frontage between Cornhill and East Streets, and is in scale with contiguous structures.

REFERENCES:

MAP: (Indicate North In Circle)



SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

- Open Lane()Woodland()Scattered Buildings()
- Moderately Built Up()Densely-Built Up(✓)
- Residential()Commercial()
- Agricultural()Industrial()
- Roadside Strip Development()
- Other:

RECORDED BY:

Russell Wright

ORGANIZATION:

Historic Annapolis, Inc

DATE RECORDED:

Aug 1983

Excerpts from the Evening Capital relating to Circle Playhouse:

9/25/1919

construction site being cleared
James J. Stehle, contractor; Samuel Byerley, president; and H. P. Hopkins, architectt visited Washington yesterday to examine the stage plans of several Washington theatres.

10/11/1919

detailed pen drawing of the exterior facade of the Circle Playhouse

10/30/1919

descriptive leaflets being distributed
theatre colonial in design, of brick and tile
will feature a Moller 2-manual pipe organ, costing about \$4,000
seats, manufactured by American Seating Co., will be upholstered in blue moroccaline leatherette
the theatre color scheme will be blue and gray
the balcony will include mezzanine boxes with wicker chairs

11/20/1919

steel framework material now on the job and being set in place

12/5/1919

contract for the stage let to New York Studio, and will include 12 complete shifts of scenery
main curtain to be of blue velvet velour
asbestos fire curtain as well
stage 24' x 40', able to accommodate any show that might be desired

12/19/1919

plan and drawings of the architect on display at Central Drug Store, J. Newton Gilbert (treasurer of Circle Playhouse, Inc.), proprietor
incorporators of theatre: S. Byerley
James Stehle
Dr. J. Oliver Purvis
James A. Welch
J. Newton Gilbert
Charles F. Lee

1/15/1920

fixtures ordered from Victor Butler, N. Charles St., Baltimore
including candlesticks for foyer and dome for ladies restroom and boxes
blue velvet carpet runners ordered from Minch & Eisenbrey, Baltimore
bentwood upholstered plush chairs to match from American Seating Co.

9/24/1920

418 seats on first floor, 502 in balcony
350 lights: 54 large domes, 38 on first floor and 90 in marquee above entrance
2 old lamp posts of Washington's time installed at corners of State Circle and Cornhill & East Streets

designed in all details by Annapolis architect **Henry Powell Hopkins**
son of Col. Harry Hopkins, president of Farmers National Bank
St. John's man, with courses at Columbia and other universities
electrical equipment supplied by Simpson Electrical Co., Annapolis
plumbing installed by Charles A. Howard, local plumber
entire construction, including plaster molding, work of Annapolis
artisans
no pillars; cantilever suspension used with 76 tons of steel holding
the suspension of the arches under the balcony

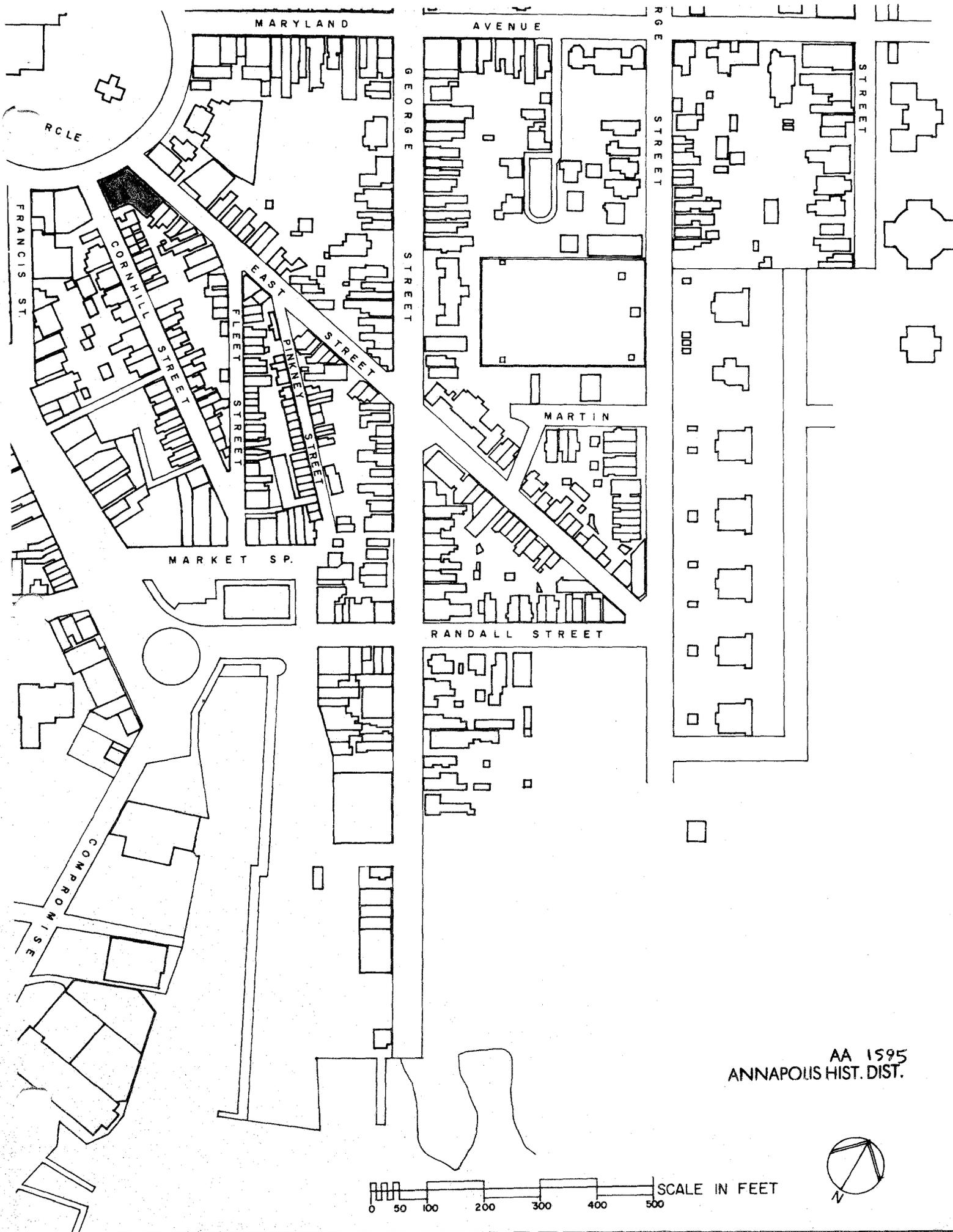
9/25/1920

cost over \$131,000

Morris Meade, construction foreman

9/27/1920

Governor Ritchie attended the opening on 9/25/1920; shareholders
attended on 9/24/1920



RCLE

MARYLAND

AVENUE

GEORGE STREET

GEORGE STREET

STREET

FRANCIS ST.

CORNHILL STREET

FLEET STREET

PINKNEY STREET

EAST STREET

MARKET SP.

MARTIN

RANDALL STREET

COMPTON

AA 1595
ANNAPOLIS HIST. DIST.

SCALE IN FEET
0 50 100 200 300 400 500





46-48 State Circle

AA 1595

Annapolis, Anne Arundel County

Russell Wright July, 1982

Maryland Historical Trust,

Annapolis, Maryland

NE Elevation/camera facing SW