

To DC

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Miners Institute Building

and or common Miners Theater

2. Location

street & number 204 West Main _____ not for publication

city, town Collinsville _____ vicinity of congressional district 21

state Illinois code 012 county Madison code 119

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Bloomers Amusement Company

street & number 100 South Charles

city, town Belleville _____ vicinity of _____ state Illinois

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office - Madison County Court House

street & number 155 North Main

city, town Edwardsville _____ state Illinois

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Illinois Historical Structural has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes no

date 1975 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records DOC

city, town Springfield _____ state Illinois

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Miner's Institute and Theater building is a three-story rectangular masonry building, approximately 65 feet wide by 148 feet long, located at 204 West Main Street in Collinsville, Illinois.

The building has a partial basement, consisting of storage area and restroom facilities at the north (front) end. The south end basement area consist of storage area and boiler room.

The first floor of the building consists of grade level entrances to the theater lobby and to two rental spaces - one flanking either side of the theater lobby, and stair lobby to the second and third floors. All of these entrances occur at the north (front) elevation of the building. The rental space at the east side of the theater lobby is approximately 24 feet by 36 feet. The rental space to the west of the theater lobby is approximately 13 feet by 28 feet. The stair lobby is approximately 9 feet by 20 feet. Directly to the south of the stair lobby and west rental space is a women's restroom facility, serving the theater. The stage and dressing rooms occupy the south end of the building, approximately 65 feet by 26 feet. The theater seating area occupies a space approximately 65 feet by 78 feet including elevated box seats flanking either side of the stage. An orchestra pit is located directly at front-center of the elevated stage. There are two double door exits at the east elevation of the theater, two double door exits at the west elevation of the theater and one single and one double door exit at the south elevation from the stage area. The theater lobby is approximately 15 feet by 31 feet with a concession stand on the west side and two stairs to the balcony.

The second floor of the building consists of a center meeting room approximately 27 feet by 36 feet at the north end of the building, three smaller rooms at the north north east side - two rooms approximately 22 feet by 13 feet each and one room approximately 17 feet by 9 feet. A closet 23 feet by 5 feet is located at the south end of the meeting room. The west side of the meeting room is flanked by a stair well 10 feet by 22 feet and a men's restroom 12 feet by 14 feet. Access to an office approximately 7 feet by 12 feet, located below the balcony floor, and storage area below the balcony floor is gained by two stairs from the first floor theater lobby.

The Third floor of the building consists of a large meeting room at the north end approximately 49 feet by 36 feet. A stair well 10 feet by 22 feet and a kitchen 12 feet by 13 feet are located on the west side of the meeting room. A women's restroom 9 feet by 5 feet, a men's restroom 16 feet by 5 feet and a closet 23 feet by 5 feet are located at the south side of the meeting room. A balcony seating area 62 feet by 47 feet is located over the north section of the first floor theater seating area. The projection booth is located at the north end of the balcony and contains restroom facilities.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

The interior of the theater is with ornamental plaster work, some which is in need of repair. Air conditioning duct work has been installed along the east and west walls, obscuring some of the ornamental plaster work. The interior of the building has not been structurally altered, although some minor modification have taken place. These include such items as painting of marble in theater lobby, relocation of concession stand in lobby, installation of acoustical tile at certain wall panel areas and removal of interior lobby doors.

The exterior of the building front is representative of the Renaissance Revival style. It is a combination of brick and terracotta panels, pilaster, cornices and surrounds, with wrought iron balcony railings and a statue of two coal miners seated upon a curved canopy. The marquee at the entrance to the theater lobby was removed several years ago. The limestone cornerstone, located at the entrance to the stairwell, reads, "Erected by Local Miner's Union's No. 685-264-848 U.M.W. of America. Laid by President Frank Farrington, October 12, 1917 Robert c. Kirsch, Architect. Black structural glass has been used to face the first story elevation at the front of the building along with aluminum and glass store fronts. This modification took place in the 1950's and 1960's.

Several of the window openings along the east and west elevations of the building were enclosed with brickwork approximately 25 years ago. Steel fire escapes have also been partially removed from the east and west building elevations.

The building, in general, appears to be in good structural condition and represents that era of architecture very well. General cleaning, minor repairs, and painting will work wonders for the building.

The Miner's Institute Building is one contributing structure.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Dec. 28, 1918 **Builder/Architect** H.W. Eberhardt/R.G. Kirsh

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Miner's Institute is associated with the city's first most important industry mining. The first coal mine was sunk here in 1857. The town grew with the industry and by 1886 a man could walk underground through connecting tunnels between the mines from one edge of the city limits to the other. Mining and Collinsville were almost synonymous terms. In 1916, a representative of the United Mine Workers of America Local 264, convinced fellow miners that a union hall and public theater should be built. The structure was multi-purposed. The theater brought entertainment to the city of a class not usually seen in cities of this size. The second and third floors gave a permanent home for the union offices and provided a central meeting place for the mining locals. These floors were also used by the various community groups for social activities and housed a small library which was the beginning of the present day Collinsville Memorial Public Library. The cost of the building was shared by a loan from the state U.M.W.A and the Collinsville union locals. The locals voted a one percent assessment on each member to provide the sum required for their part. On December 28, 1918, at a cost of \$138,993.26, the building was open to the public. The opening ceremonies and parade were well attended not only by the miners locals, but by hundreds of other residents.

The Miner's Theater continued to prosper but the mines did not. By 1930 the coal mines had slowly started to close. Restlessness led Collinsville union locals become members of the Progressive Mine Workers. Since the loans to the U.M.W.A. had long been paid off, the Collinsville Miners owned the building and thus title was transferred to the PMW. In 1969 it was sold to Bloomer Amusement Co. The three story structure currently houses a retail business, projection house, and an aerobic dance studio.

Even though mining has died out in Collinsville the influence of this industry and its people are felt strongly today. The miners left a lasting monument of their building to remind us and the city logo used today on official vehicles includes the head of a miner.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

The following names and dates were found on a wooden door in the dressing at the Miners Theater.

1. Collinsville Township High School "Players" 1922 thru 1927
2. Jack "Rube" Dyer with the Zeb Zarray Troupe
3. Southland Four "Harmony Kings" Atlanta Ga. Aug. 25, 1923
Members:
 - Royce Burke
 - G. Sellers
 - L. Anderson
 - C. McCherry
4. Virge Blake with KFVE Jan 10, 1927
5. Jean Brittain-straight man with the Melody Garlin Gail Co. Dec. 24, 1927
6. Bamboo McCaner May 20, 1928
7. Mort Silver "Al Jolson Double" Dec. 22, 1928
8. Van Horns Band April 3, 1927
9. Royal ~~Ball~~ Hawaiians Feb. 6 and 7, 1930
Members:
 - Dave Trash
 - Dick Richard
 - Dan Smith
 - Harry Cam

9. Major Bibliographical References

Minutes from the Miner's Union Meetings - Collinsville Public Library
Miners's Theater Survived Death of Coal - Collinsville Herald, Feb. 18, 1971
Miner's in Court - Collinsville Herald, Sept. 17, 1973
History Takes Center Stage at Miner's Theater - Metro-East Journal, Sept. 22, 197

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Collinsville

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

116	240080	22840000
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

Zone	Easting	Northing

C

--	--	--

D

--	--	--

E

--	--	--

F

--	--	--

G

--	--	--

H

--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 5 of Block 4 of the original Plat of the Town of Collinsville as recorded in the Records of Madison County.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Alan Bruce Dye - Project chairman

organization Collinsville Jaycees

date April 29, 1985

street & number P.O. Box 268

telephone 344-7631

city or town Collinsville

state Illinois

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Deputy William G Farner

date 6/19/85

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

9

Page

2

- "Projecting a Labor Temple" The Advertiser, May 20, 1916
- "State Commission to Consider Site for Labor Temple" The Advertiser, June 3, 1916
- "Miners Institute" The Advertiser, August 11, 1917
- "Home Man Gets Contract" The Advertiser, August, 25, 1917
- " Corner Stone Laid" The Advertiser, Oct. 13, 1917
- "Miners Will Dedicate Building Today" The Advertiser, Dec. 28, 1918
- "Miners Dedicate Handsome New Building" The Advertiser, Jan. 4, 1919

CONNECTICUT, Hartford County, Hartford, Prospect Avenue Historic District, Roughly bounded by Albany Ave., N. Branch Park River, Elizabeth & Fern Sts., Prospect & Asylum Aves. & Sycamore Rd. (08/29/85)

CONNECTICUT, Litchfield County, Washington, New Preston Hill Historic District, New Preston Hill, Findley and Gunn Hill Rds. (08/26/85)

CONNECTICUT, Middlesex County, Middletown, Connecticut General Hospital for the Insane, Silver St. E. of Eastern Dr. (08/29/85)

CONNECTICUT, New Haven County, Northford, Fourth District School, Old Post Rd. (08/29/85)

CONNECTICUT, Windham County, Central Village, Plainfield Woolen Company Mill, Main St. (08/29/85)

CONNECTICUT, Windham County, Danielson, Quinebaug Mill-Quebec Square Historic District, Roughly bounded by Quinebaug River, Quebec Square, Elm & S. Main Sts. (08/29/85)

GEORGIA, Banks County (also in Hall County), Gillsville, Gillsville Historic District, GA 52 (08/30/85)

GEORGIA, Hall County, Flowery Branch, Flowery Branch Commercial Historic District, Main St. & Railroad Ave. (08/30/85)

GEORGIA, Randolph County, Shellman, Shellman Historic District, Roughly bounded by Dean, Church, Mary Lou, Ward, Pecan and Pine Sts. (08/29/85)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Municipal Courts Building, 116 S. Michigan Ave. (08/29/85)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Evanston, Perkins, Dwight, House, 2319 Lincoln St. (08/29/85)

ILLINOIS, LaSalle County, LaSalle, LaSalle City Building, 745 Second St. (08/29/85)

ILLINOIS, Madison County, Collinsville, Miners Institute Building, 204 W. Main (08/29/85)

ILLINOIS, McDonough County, Adair vicinity, Welling-Everly Horse Barn, Off US 136 (08/29/85)

ILLINOIS, Rock Island County, Rock Island, Lincoln School, 7th Ave. and 22nd St. (08/29/85)

KENTUCKY, Muhlenberg County, Greenville, Greenville City Hall (Greenville Kentucky MRA), Court St. (08/26/85)

MINNESOTA, Carlton County, Carlton, Carlton County Courthouse, 3rd St. and Walnut Ave. (08/29/85)

MINNESOTA, Carlton County, Cloquet, Cloquet-Northern Office Building, Avenue C Arch St (08/29/85)

MINNESOTA, Carlton County, Cloquet, Park Place Historic District, 1, 512, 520, and 528 Park Pl. (08/29/85)

MINNESOTA, Carlton County, Cloquet, Shaw Memorial Library, 406 Cloquet Ave. (08/29/85)

MINNESOTA, Douglas County, Brandon, Brandon Auditorium and Fire Hall, Holmes Ave. (08/29/85)

MINNESOTA, Mille Lacs County, Princeton, Dunn, Robert C., House, 708 S. 4th St. (08/29/85)

MINNESOTA, Mille Lacs County, Princeton, Gile, Ephriam C., House, 311 8th Ave S. (08/29/85)

MINNESOTA, Mille Lacs County, Wahkon, ELLEN RUTH (launch), Main St. between Lake Shore Blvd. and Fifth St. (08/29/85)

MISSISSIPPI, Adams County, Natchez vicinity, Glen Aubin, Off US 61 (08/29/85)

MISSISSIPPI, Noxubee County, Macon, Maudwin, 101 Washington St. (08/29/85)

MISSISSIPPI, Simpson County, Mendenhall, Simpson County Courthouse, Courthouse Square (08/29/85)

NEW YORK, Nassau County, Flower Hill, Denton, George W., House, West Shore Rd. (08/29/85)

NEW YORK, Onondaga County, Jamesville, Ives, Dr. John, House, 6575 E. Seneca Turnpike (08/29/85)

NEW YORK, Westchester County, Yonkers, Bell Place-Locust Hill Avenue Historic District, Roughly bounded by Cromwell Pl., Locust Hill Ave., Baldwin Pl. & N. Broadway (08/29/85)