

PROTECTED SITE APPLICATION

Case Number: LPS 17-02

PART C, SECTION VII ZONING RULES AND REGULATIONS

Syracuse Landmark Preservation Board 201 E. Washington Street City Hall Commons, Room 500 Syracuse, NY 13202 315-448-8108

Sy	racuse, NY 13202 5-448-8108		
1.	PPLICANT Applicant Name: John Wilkins Address: 1516 Olmstead Place Zip Code: 45406	City: Dayton	State: OH
3.	Phone: (937) 275-2944 (Home) (937) 789-3696 (Cell)	Contact Person:	Donna Koster Kuzio 5083 Reinman Road Syracuse, NY 13215 (315) 478-4052 dkuzio@twcny.rr.com
Ap	oplicant Signature:	I	Date:
4. 5. 6. 7.	Structure/Site Name: Central Technic Address: 701 S. Warren and E. Adams Assessor's Atlas Section No.: 095 Current Deed for property at Book: 47 Ownership: Public Private	cal High School and Linco s Streets Block No.: 09 Lot N 23 of Deeds Pa	Ward No.: 9-5 o.: 09.1
9.	Present Owner: City of Syracuse Address: 233 E Washington St, Syracuse Phone: (315) 448-8005	use, NY 13202	
10	. Is this application for designation of the Interior only Interior and Ext		No No

This designation applies to the 1903 original school building, the Lincoln Auditorium and the 1931 south addition only. It excludes the 1959, 2-story building located on the same parcel to the east of the original high school building. The exterior designation applies to all exterior materials, features and finishes of the 1903 building and the 1931 addition. The interior designation applies to the Lincoln Auditorium, including but not limited to the overall auditorium design and layout, entrance

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doorways, seating arrangement, cantilevered balcony, proscenium arch, and stage. It also applies to all historic finishes and fixtures in the auditorium, including but not limited to the raised plaster paneled ceiling, decorative wall finishes, and historic light fixtures.

	Photographs attached	Maps
	RUCTURE/SITE IDENTII Exterior Building Material: clapboard stone stone masonry block other	ick cobblestone curtain wall
13.	Structural System: wood frame with light mem wood frame with heavy timb masonry load bearing walls	steel frame
14.	Condition: excellent ☐ good ☒	ir deteriorated
15.	Integrity: original site ⊠ moved □	if so, when?
16.	exterior only interior only both List all known alterations and give dates: 1931 — Construction of south annex and enlargement and modernization of Lincol Auditorium by New York State Architect Albert Brockway 1959 — Two-story addition to the east elevation to building	
17.	Related outbuildings: carriage house none greenhouse privy other	shop gardens gardens

18. Interrelationship of structure/site and surroundings:

Central Technical High School stands on the southern edge of Syracuse's central business district, on a flat lot located at the intersection of South Warren and East Adams Streets. The principal (west) elevation of the school faces Billings Park, a one-block-long triangular green space containing commemorative statues, shade trees, and benches. (Harwood, NR)

STRUCTURE / SITE HISTORY

19. Date(s) of initial construction: 1899-1900; Opened 1903

20. Architect(s): Archimedes Russell (original construction); Albert Brockway (south annex and Lincoln Auditorium)

21. Builder(s):

22. Original Owner(s): Syracuse City School District

23. Original Use: High School

24. Present Use: Vacant

STRUCTURE / SITE SIGNIFICANCE

25. Exterior building features:

[The following information is excerpted from the National Register nomination, by John Harwood]

The school was designed by Archimedes Russell in 1899-1900 and opened for classes in 1903. Nearly square in shape, it measures approximately 240 feet along the east and west elevations, and 260 feet along the north and south elevations. These dimensions include an addition at the south side of the building designed by New York State Architect Albert [Brockway]¹ and completed in 1931. There is also an addition built in 1959 on the east (rear) facade of the building. Except for these additions and minor landscaping changes, Central High School remains unchanged from its 1903 appearance. (Harwood, NR)

The three-story structure is symmetrical, designed in a Neoclassical and Beaux-Arts style, and exhibits considerable variation in vertical planes. It sits on an elevated foundation and sill and is executed in running course of light brown brick with trim, foundation, and embellishments of Indiana limestone. It has a steel beam frame with heavy timber joists for the roof augmented by steel trusses above the enormous Lincoln Auditorium. The brick of the ground story is also rusticated and is surmounted by a limestone string course delineating the second floor. (Harwood, NR)

The west elevation is fourteen bays wide and is arranged symmetrically with four bays in projecting elements at the ends of the façade, depressed narrow bays flanking the portico, and four bays in the portico at the center of the elevation. Twin arched entrances appear in the seventh and eighth bays of the ground floor with granite steps leading to them. These entrances have recessed doors, carved limestone lintels and consoles. Above the portals is a limestone balustrade and the portico itself supported by five pairs of two-story Ionic columns on bases. The entablature supports a pediment with modillions; round lights with decorative wreaths, festoons, and pilasters embellish the tympanum, and a band of acanthus motifs frame the sides of the pediment. The pediment's base is a continuation of the cornice with modillions that circumscribes the entire building. An unelaborated panel in brick with limestone balusters over the second to the fourth and the eleventh to thirteenth bays appears on the roof. First-story windows are segmentally arched; second-story windows are rectangular and are paired in the second, third, twelfth, and thirteenth bays; third-story windows are arranged as on the second story but have round arches in the second, third, twelfth, and thirteenth bays. (Harwood, NR)

¹ The National Register nomination misidentified the architect of the south addition and auditorium as Albert *Brisbane*.

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The second elaborated façade (north elevation) varies from the west elevation in the treatment of the pediment and the placement of the doors. Pairs of doors with carved stone portals, wreaths, modillions, triglyphs, cornices, and a balustrade appear at the fifth and sixth and at the seventeenth and eighteenth bays. The portico at the central bay has five Ionic engaged columns on bases with a balustrade between them. It is surmounted by an entablature, cornice, and modillions, and one round light flanked by wreaths appears in the tympanum. Acanthus motifs surround the pediment. (Harwood, NR)

The 1931 addition is connected to the south end of the building by a narrow ell with a door and stairs descending to the basement. A rusticated limestone foundation rises 12 feet and on it rests the ground story and upper floors in running courses of very light tan bricks. Quoins and surrounds for the two-story window bays are of light stone, perhaps sandstone. The addition is three bays wide with double-hung sash windows symmetrically punctuating the foundation and all three floors. Terra-cotta panels adorn the space between the first and second floor windows, and a heavy string course delineates the third story. Crosses in sandstone flank the windows on the third floor. The roof is embellished with a paneled copper balustrade. (Harwood, NR)

In 1959, a new addition was completed and attached to the east elevation of the old school. It is two stories high, built of light brick, and has banks of aluminum windows on both stories. It is connected to Central High by a two-story glass passage. (Harwood, NR)

26. Interior building features:

Interior spaces were designed to expedite a free flow of high school students (grades 9 to 12) and to provide central, easily accessible services. Classrooms, laboratories and offices were placed around the exterior perimeter of the north, south, and west elevations. Very broad halls separate these spaces from the enormous Lincoln Auditorium with a combined stage and gymnasium that extends to the east elevation. Mechanical systems are located around the north, south, and west perimeters of the auditorium. Locker rooms, workshops, and storage rooms were located in the basement while the cafeteria was located on the third floor. (Harwood, NR)

The interior exhibits broad halls with oak wainscoting and wood floors over concrete subflooring. Stairways are of worked iron with oak banisters. In several classrooms, original telephones are extant as well as several of the centrally controlled "program" clocks. (Harwood, NR)

There are two significant interior spaces. One is Lincoln Auditorium, a three-story, 2,000-seat theater with a combined gymnasium and stage. It replaced the original small auditorium in 1930. Albert [Brockway] combined acoustical efficiency with beauty by using entirely hard surfaces and acoustical plaster. The vaulted ceiling is embellished with raised panels of acoustical plaster; the seats and flooring are of wood. A balcony rises from the second to the third floors and is cantilevered about 30 feet over the first floor seats. Art Deco panels embellish the walls and the balcony facing, and all lamps and chandeliers are of the Art Deco style. The classical proscenium arch is adorned with a huge gilded American Eagle at its center. Round-arched doorways into the auditorium appear at each side and at the flanks of the balcony. (Harwood, NR)

The second important space is the west foyer with Neo-Baroque ceiling panels in plaster, marble 512 City Hall Commons, 201 E. Washington St., Syracuse, New York 13202/(315) 448-8108/SLPB@syrgov.net

Ionic pilasters and wainscoting, and marble flooring. Originally, a statue of the Winged Victory stood on a pedestal flanking twin portals ascending to the first floor. Its present location is not known. (Harwood, NR)

27. Historic and architectural significance:

In 1900, Archimedes Russell submitted plans for a new high school to replace the old one on West Genesee Street (1869: Horatio Nelson White), which had become a health hazard. The separation of study and recitation rooms seemed then to be the latest trend in school construction, and the architect was quick to embody this in his plans for Central Technical High School. The building was originally U-shaped in plan, assuring the classrooms had plenty of light. A large assembly hall on the first floor was the core of the building, and study, class, and recitation rooms were arranged around it. The Beaux-Arts building consisting of "hyphenated" blocks with a pedimented central section and rich exterior ornamentation seems like a smaller, simpler version of the fourth Onondaga County Courthouse, which Russell was to design within another year. The three-story brick building could accommodate 1,500 students. It was of slow-burning rather than fireproof construction; metal and concrete were placed under the (100) wood floor system supported by iron columns, and iron stairways were used, with wrought iron and wooden balustrades. (101) The entrance for teachers and visitors on Billings Park was placed in the central section that was ornamented with paired Ionic columns and a richly decorated pediment. Students had to use the less ornate side entrance on Adams Street. In 1928, Albert L. [Brockway] enlarged the assembly room and created Lincoln Auditorium, a multipurpose hall with fine acoustics, where for many years music lovers enjoyed concerts. The Syracuse Symphony performed there until the construction of the Civic Center. The building functioned as a school until 1975 and is now, in part, adaptively reused. (101). (Hardin)

The Central Technical High School is an outstanding example of the Neoclassical style incorporated in an education structure. Designed by Archimedes Russell in 1900, the school reflected the newest principles in educational building design. In 1930, New York State Architect Albert [Brockway] was asked to design an addition on the south side of the building. The result was a very compatible wing which reflects the scale and fenestration of the original building. The school complex reflects an attitude of education that was prevalent in the early twentieth century and which stressed a healthy and modern environment for learning. (Harwood, NR)

Education in Syracuse followed patterns established by the settlement and growth of the city. Throughout the first three decades of the nineteenth century, settlement in Syracuse developed in four separate areas—the village of Salina (now Syracuse's north side), the village of Syracuse (the present central business district), the village of Lodi (the near northeast), and Onondaga Hollow (the far south side). The merger of Syracuse and Salina in 1846-7 provided the requisite population for incorporation as a city in 1848. Throughout this period small, wooden school-rooms served the community's needs, and some continued as elementary schools throughout the nineteenth century. High school instruction was provided at Prescott School by the mid-1960's. In 1967, the city's Board of Education hired Horatio Nelson White, Syracuse's most prolific architect, to design the first central high school at Wallace and West Genesee Streets near the present Niagara Mohawk building and one block north of the Erie Canal. (Harwood, NR)

By 1880, the school had become cramped, and the now odiferous water of the Erie Canal made studies difficult and affected students' health. Throughout the decade, the high school commission debated whether to rehabilitate and enlarge the old school, build a new structure on the same site, or change locations entirely. Finally, in 1899, the commission chose a large lot on the city's south side that was accessible from all parts of the city and that had a low purchase price. The Salina School had once occupied the site, but it had burned by 1875. The city bought nine acres and sold several houses and barns standing on the lots that were subsequently moved to new locations. The commission selected Archimedes Russell as the architect for the new Central High School. He was then designing, with Melvin King, the present Onondaga County Court House, and had completed Crouse Hall at Syracuse University and the Third National Bank at the intersection of James and Salina Streets. All three are now on the National Register. (Harwood, NR)

The commission specifically requested Russell to design a school that was fire resistant and sanitary. The new state code for school buildings would not be completed until 1904, one year after the completion of Central High, but bad experiences with the first school prompted great concern. The commission may also have been aware of the disastrous fire at the State Normal School in Fredonia in 1899 that claimed nine lives. (Harwood, NR)

Russell was personally interested in designing a very modern school in accord with the new educational principles, inspired by German educators that stressed central services, a pleasing environment, and an emphasis on vocational and scientific studies for boys and girls. Russell visited new schools in Providence, Boston, Buffalo, Pittsburgh, and Springfield, Massachusetts, to see how these principles had been applied elsewhere. Accordingly, he designed a structure that was aesthetically pleasing, well ventilated and sunlit, and that provided for the separation of recitation and study areas, well-equipped laboratories and technical workshops, and a large number of classrooms that would accommodate smaller sized classes. (Harwood, NR)

The site for the new school was cleared in 1900. Within a year, the construction had been completed up to the second floor, and on January 31, 1903, the city formally presented the completed building to the school board. That evening a lavish soiree took place in the school at which the school board, State Superintendent Charles R. Skinner, the mayor, and other notables lavished praise on the structure. (Harwood, NR)

The total cost for building the school, including the purchase of property was \$333,428.75, far below the amount of the bonding. The board spent the surplus money to provide the most modern furnishings—an internal telephone system, a central "program" clock that controlled clocks in each room, a sophisticated, steam, forced air heating system, scientific laboratory equipment, and vocational and home economics workshops. (Harwood, NR)

It was intended that Central High School would meet the city's educational needs for many years. However, within two years, it was already so crowded that evening classes were required. By 1908, a second high school, North High School, was constructed to alleviate the crowding. Within twenty years, the system if city-wide public elementary and high schools was well founded. (Harwood, NR)

In 1930, the school board hired New York State Architect Albert [Brockway] to design an addition to the south side. He also undertook the enlargement and modernization of the auditorium. The

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original auditorium was spacious and reached up to the third floor. It had small classical proscenium and stage and was painted in pink and white with salmon wainscoting. [Brockway] decided to remove this auditorium entirely, and he took steps to ensure the acoustical efficiency of the new auditorium. He sent his drawings to Professor Vern O. Knudsen of Los Angeles, one of the few acoustical engineers in the country, who commented on the plans and recommended finish materials. [Brockway] consequently designed a vaulted ceiling with Neo-Baroque panels in acoustical plaster, a seating space with cantilevered balcony that sweeps away from the stage, hard metal and wood seats, and hardwood flooring. The enormous arch was called the "third largest in the Eastern United States" surpassed only by the arches in the Atlantic City and Cleveland theaters. The first guest lecturer in the new Lincoln Auditorium was Admiral Richard E. Byrd. (Harwood, NR)

In the 1950's, plans were proposed for a new addition to Central High School to provide space for technical instruction. Again, a controversy developed over whether to add to Central High School or build a new structure elsewhere. The first alternative was selected, and in 1959, the new addition was completed at a cost of \$2.1 million. (Harwood, NR)

The building was used until the 1960's when the new Fowler High School was constructed on the site of the old Franklin Automobile and Carrier plants on South Geddes Street. Many of Syracuse's political, industrial, and civic leaders graduated from Central High, and for many years before the new Civic Center was built, it hosted the concerts of the Syracuse Symphony. Now nearly surrounded by parking lots, the park, and structures of much smaller scale and less sophisticated design, it is truly the visual anchor for the south end of downtown. (Harwood, NR)

Time Line:

1899: SU Architecture Professor Archimedes Russell submitted building plans for "C"-shaped 1500 student school with a southern-exposure courtyard in center of "C". Russell had designed more than 850 structures in New York State, many of which are still in use today.

1900: Plans accepted. Land taken by condemnation (eminent domain) from the Roger Billings family farm and carriage shop. Westernmost tip of their land reserved as Billings Park.

1901-1903: Land cleared and "The Syracuse High School" constructed at 701-745 S Warren St, Syracuse.

1904-1906: Students from North High School share Central; building is briefly named Syracuse High School, Central and North. No North High students graduate during that time, but a lone Central girl became the school's first graduate in 1906 (NFI).

1903-1907

December 1905 edition of the *Recorder* reports – "S.H.S. is to be congratulated on the changes recently made to Lincoln Hall. Early last summer experiments were made which showed that the acoustic properties could be greatly improved. Thereupon, an appropriation was sought from the city government. Through the friendliness and wise liberality of Mayor Forbes, an appropriation was made - not sufficient to defray all expense, but enough to make a good start. As a result, the floors have been deadened by matting- and the lower side walls covered with extremely neat and

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thick burlaps, greatly aiding in beautifying the hall, and favoring also, the absorption of sound waves. Thenceforth, there will be no good reason for not using the hall for any proper purpose, whenever it is desirable to assemble an audience of several hundred people. With the thorough cleaning and rejuvenation of the hall, it is now in readiness for the Great Conference of Holiday week. "

Sept. 6, 1906: *Syracuse Herald* reports that the school board has appropriated \$250 to bring "W. O. Sabine of Boston, an expert in acoustics," to study how to improve the poor acoustics of what is now call "Lincoln Hall." This is Wallace C. Sabine (1868-1919), a physics professor of Harvard University, generally acknowledged today as one of the first scientific experts in the field of acoustics. Sabine had recently completed the acoustical the design for Boston's Symphony Hall, still considered today to be one of the top performance spaces for acoustics in the world today. (Dennis Connors, Curator of History OHA memo to Nick Nett, 2010)

1907: First graduating class leaves Central.

June 14, 1907: The *Post Standard* reports that Sabine has submitted a letter reporting his findings. Sabine indicates that the architectural design of the hall has left little room for the ability to improve acoustics. He recommends adding a 1- inch piece of felt to the walls. The problem is referred to a special committee of the school board. (Dennis Connors, Curator of History OHA memo to Nick Nett, 2010)

October 1907 addition of the *Recorder* carries an article about new principal Harper and quotes his speech: "This speech marked the reopening of Lincoln Hall this term and it proved to us that the acoustic properties of the hall have improved by recent alterations." It goes onto say that the afternoon meeting in Lincoln Hall was attended by Commissioners J. R. Street, G. W. Schilly, and Superintendent A. B. Blodgett and "a satisfactory test of the hall was made by them."

May 1, 1928: The *Syracuse Herald* carries a story that a program for remodeling Lincoln Hall at Central High School will be accommodated with the construction of an addition to the building. It clearly states that the proposed changes to the hall are intended to "improve acoustics". It is not known if Sabine's suggestion of felt was ever tried, but clearly, the acoustics still remained a problem in 1928. The article continues to note that the remodeling of the hall will be complete including relocation of the stage to the south side of the building. (Originally it was on the east side of the building with the seating oriented west to east. This is somewhat confirmed y the configuration of the auditorium roof (Google Earth) which is oriented west to east. The new stage will open directly into the gymnasium, which will be integrated into the new wing to be attached to the south side of the building, and a balcony will be added. This is how the auditorium physical exists today." ((Dennis Connors, Curator of History OHA memo to Nick Nett, 2010)

1928: Syracuse University Architecture Professor Albert Brockway designs an addition to southern end of building, creating science classes, cafeteria and huge gymnasium for 1800 students;

May 2, 1929 *Syracuse Herald* reports that a contract for the Central Project has been let for \$800,000. The architect for both the addition and auditorium will be Albert L. Brockway used an acoustical expert, but that person was not named.

August 3, 1930. A municipal auditorium will not be built for the city, since the new auditorium could seat 3500, with use of portable seats and gymnasium space. Lincoln Hall is changed to Lincoln Auditorium.

1959: Technical school addition built onto school's east side.

1960: Name changed to Syracuse Central Technical High School, as it is known for its remaining 15 years of service.

1975: School closed, sold for commercial development. In 72 years of continuous service during WWI, the Great Depression, WWII, and the Korean and Vietnam wars, Central graduated 19,680 students and taught thousands more.

1981: Building Listed on National Register of Historic Places.

1984-86: Property bought by Greystone Construction (Syracuse) and renovation begun by Gregory Ferentino Associates and Modern Times Interiors (Syracuse).

1986: Following major internal reconstruction, commercial venture failed and school returned to Syracuse School District property;

Date unknown: Leaking roof allows rain to damage Lincoln Auditorium amplification arch over stage and surrounding acoustical plaster. Auditorium main ceiling chandelier dropped and damaged (stored in basement);

Date unknown: Auditorium mothballed and closed to public.

28. Bibliography

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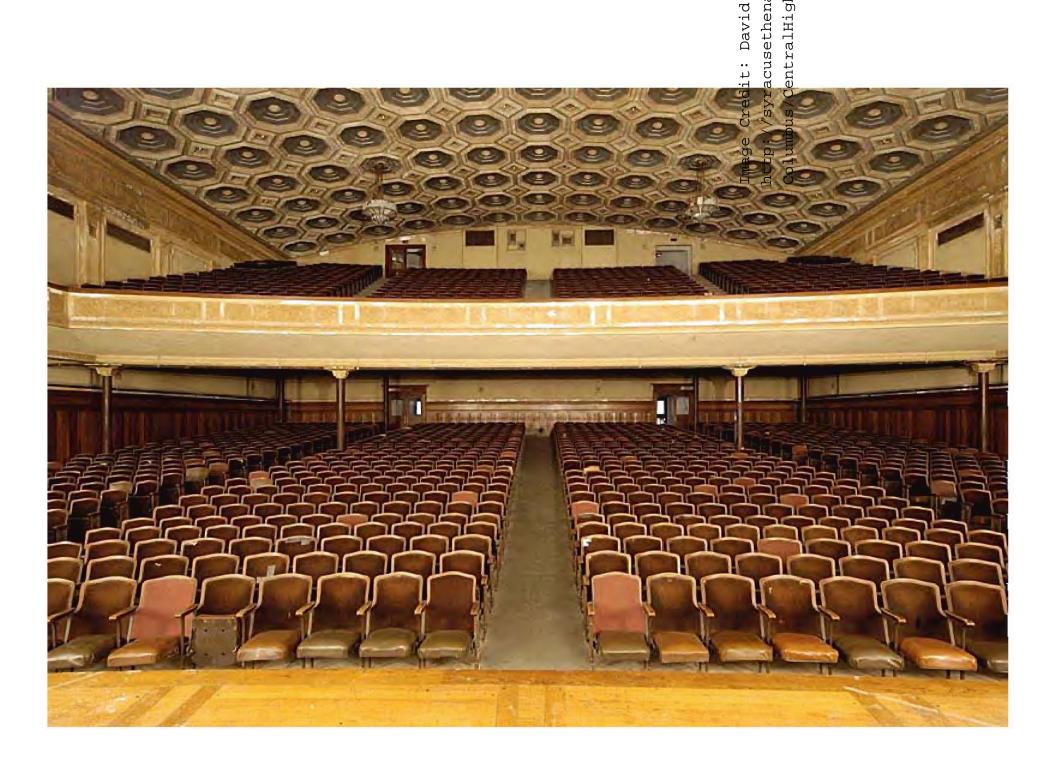


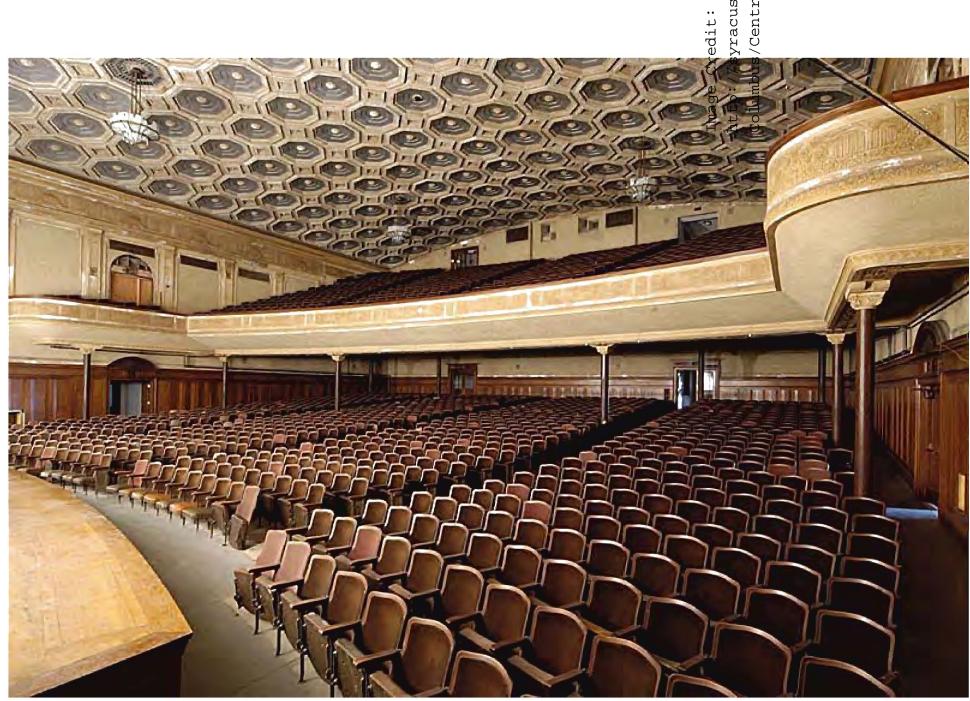






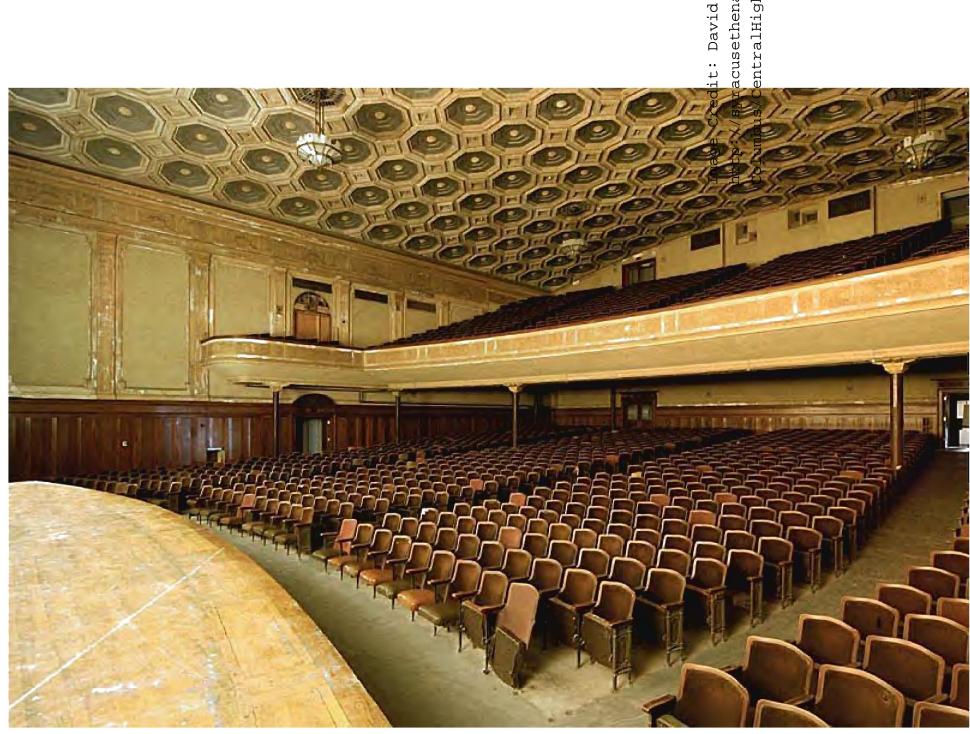




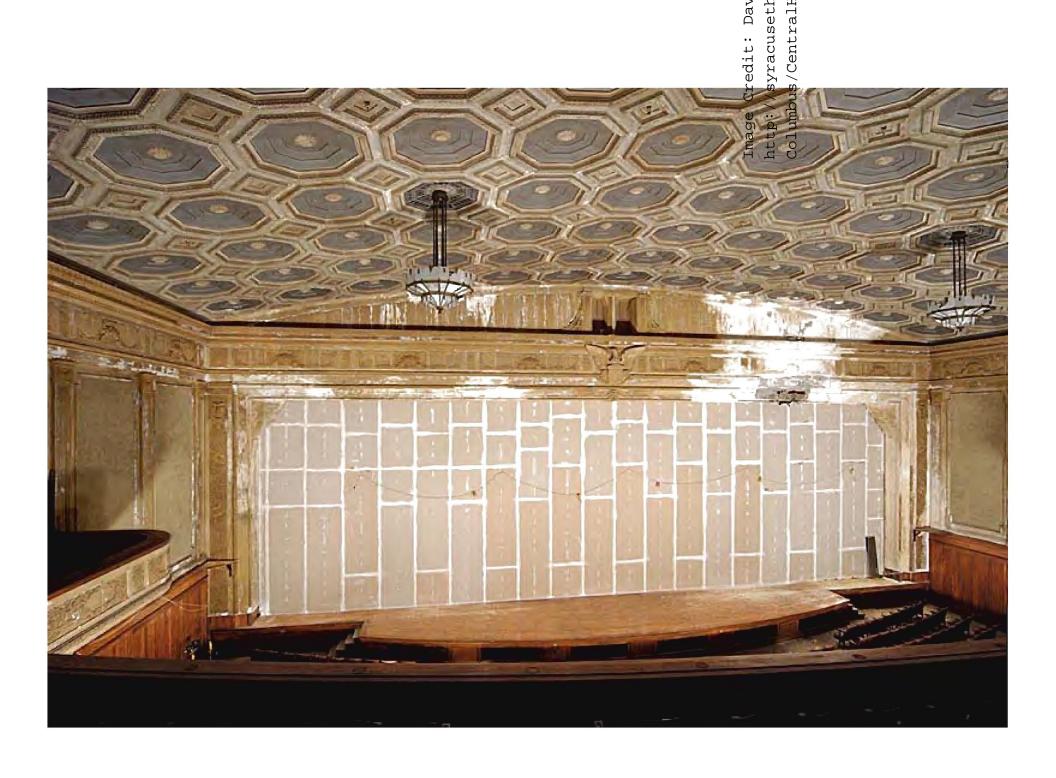


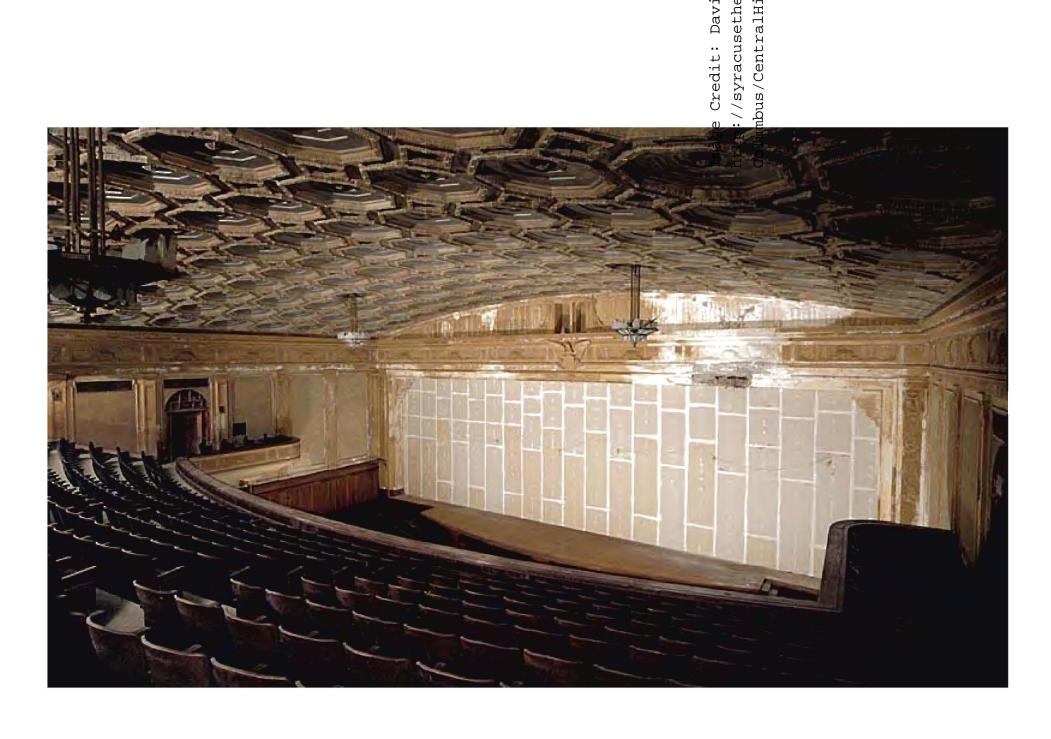
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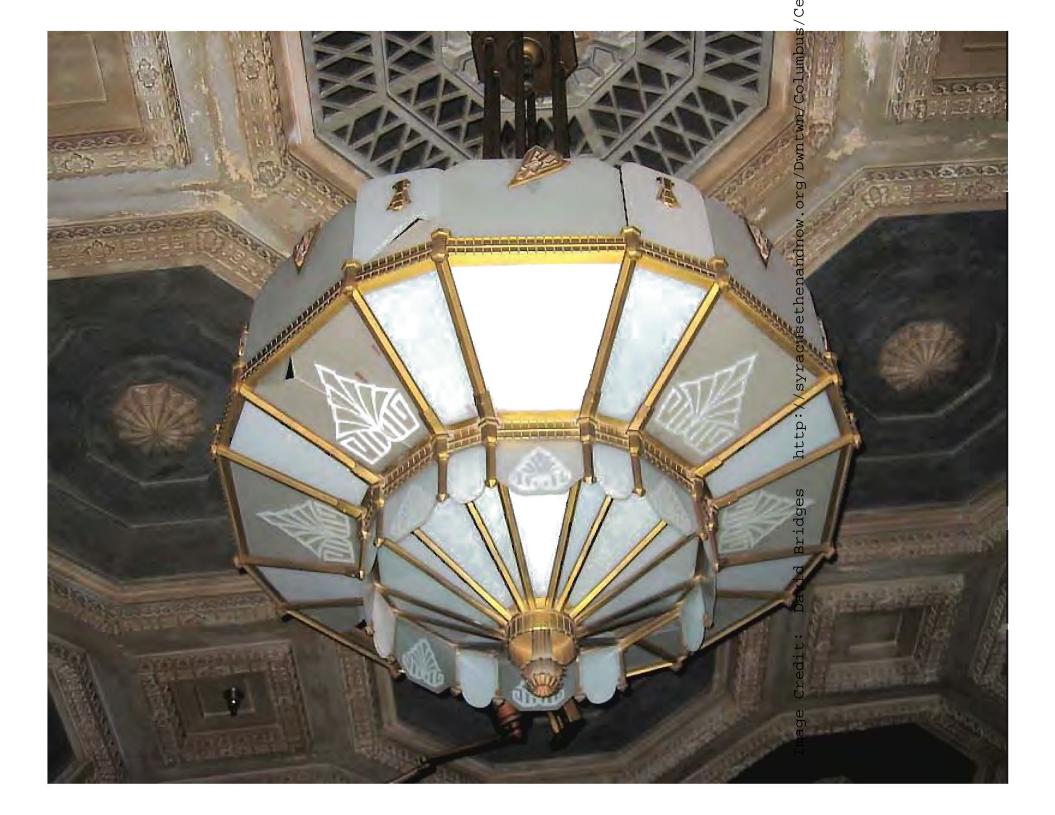
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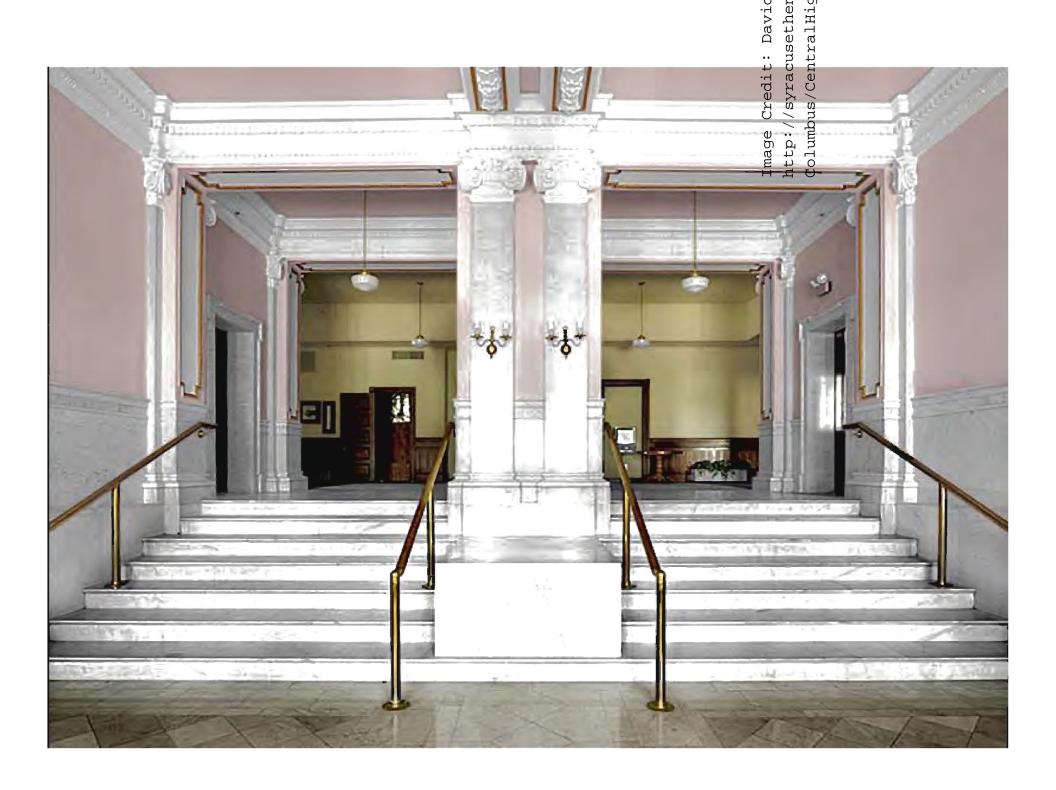












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