

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**

(State use only) Ser 11/510750/628400 Site          Mo.          Yr.           
 UTM          Q          NR 4 SHL           
 Lat          Lon          Era          Sig           
 Adm          T2          T3          Cat          HABS          HAER          Fed           
HP 171 (revised) District A-19

**IDENTIFICATION**

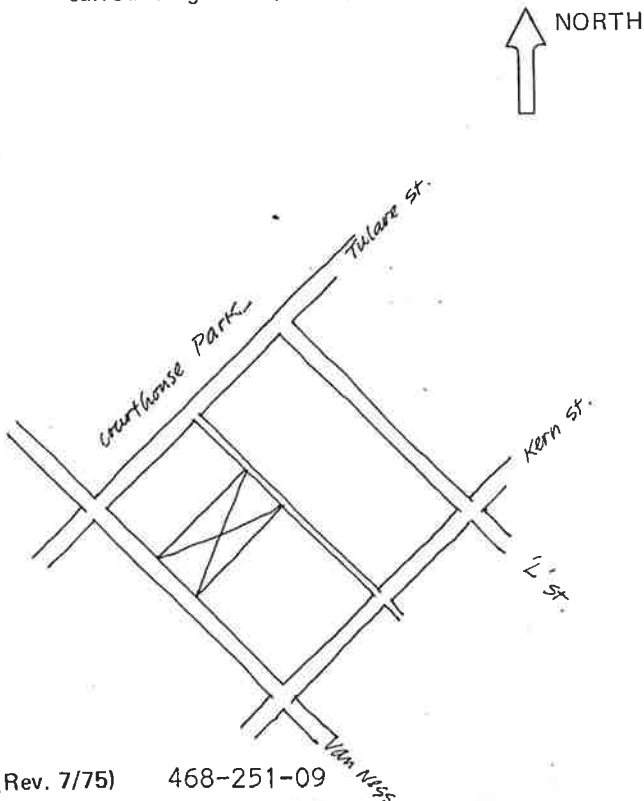
1. Common name: Hardy's Theatre
2. Historic name, if known: Liberty Theatre
3. Street or rural address 944 Van Ness  
 City: Fresno ZIP: 93721 County: Fresno
- \* 4. Present owner, if known: Gerald & Vera Hardy Address: 230 Hyde Street  
 City: San Francisco ZIP: 94102 Ownership is: Public  Private
5. Present Use: Movie Theatre Original Use: Same and vaudeville  
 Other past uses: None
- \* per emis 4/3/80 Leo P & Teresa Valdivia, 2241 Benjamin Holt Dr., Stockton, CA 95207

**DESCRIPTION**

6. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

Excepting the marquee and the vertical sign at the center, the exterior of this building is very original. The lobby has been "modernized" and the second floor windows have been changed from wood to aluminum sash. Currently being renovated but not changed. Brick and terra cotta work on the facade cover a reinforced concrete building. Composite order pilasters are the main decorative elements of the facade. An adaptation of the "Second Renaissance Revival" style. Strongly detailed on the Van Ness Street facade, the building presents a very ordinary structural appearance to the south side and rear.

7. Locational sketch map (draw and label site and surrounding streets, roads, and prominent landmarks):



8. Approximate property size:

Lot size (in feet) Frontage 75  
 Depth 150  
 or approx. acreage 0.26

9. Condition: (check one)

a. Excellent  b. Good  c. Fair   
 d. Deteriorated  e. No longer in existence

10. Is the feature a. Altered?  b. Unaltered?

11. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary)

a. Open land  b. Scattered buildings   
 c. Densely built-up  d. Residential   
 e. Commercial  f. Industrial   
 g. Other

12. Threats to site:

a. None known  b. Private development   
 c. Zoning  d. Public Works project   
 e. Vandalism  f. Other

13. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s): 1978

NOTE: The following (Items 14-19) are for structures only.

14. Primary exterior building material: a. Stone  b. Brick  c. Stucco  d. Adobe  e. Wood   
f. Other  \_\_\_\_\_
15. Is the structure: a. On its original site?  b. Moved?  c. Unknown?
16. Year of initial construction 1917 This date is: a. Factual  b. Estimated
17. Architect (if known): Coates and Traver
18. Builder (if known): Unknown
19. Related features: a. Barn  b. Carriage house  c. Outhouse  d. Shed(s)  e. Formal garden(s)   
f. Windmill  g. Watertower/tankhouse  h. Other  \_\_\_\_\_ i. None

SIGNIFICANCE

20. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site when known):

At the time of its construction, the Liberty Theatre was the third largest in the State with a seating capacity of 2,000. Currently the oldest movie theatre in Fresno. This building dates from the period of the first movies. This building figures prominently in the writings of William Saroyan, as the locale of many of his stories. Included as one of the historical structures in the County's local registry.

21. Main theme of the historic resource: (Check only one): a. Architecture  b. Arts & Leisure   
c. Economic/Industrial  d. Exploration/Settlement  e. Government  f. Military   
g. Religion  h. Social/Education

22. Sources: List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews, and their dates:

Vintage Fresno, Eaton, 1965  
The Fresno Bee, May 7, 1978  
Assessor's office

23. Date form prepared: 6/29/78 By (name): William E. Patnaude  
Address: 1050 "S" Street City Fresno, California ZIP: 93721  
Phone: (209) 486-8150 Organization: Allon Y. Low & William E. Patnaude, Inc.

(State Use Only)