

GRANADA THEATER INFORMATION

SOURCE: ED KELSEY FROM METROPOLITAN THEATRE'S

THE THEATRE WAS BUILT IN 1926 BY C.W. POST OF THE POST CEREAL FAMILY. THE ORIGINAL DECOR WAS SPANISH STYLE. THE 1926 PROSCENIUM (OPENING OR ARCH BETWEEN THE STAGE AND THE AUDITORIUM) IS STILL INTACT. LOOK ABOVE THE COLUMNS OF THE PROSCENIUM TO SEE THE LETTER "P" FOR POST IN THE PLASTER. POST FINANCED THE THEATRE.

THE THEATRE OPENED AS PART OF THE WEST COAST CHAIN. ONE YEAR LATER, IN 1927, FOX PURCHASED WEST COAST AND CHANGED THIS THEATRE'S NAME TO THE FOX GRANADA. FOX OPERATED THE THEATRE THRU THE 1960'S. METROPOLITAN THEATRES OPERATED IT UNTIL ONE YEAR AGO WHEN IT BECAME INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN NEW SPANISH LANGUAGE FILMS.

LOOK ABOVE THE EXITS TO SEE THE ORIGINAL GAS JETS WHICH WERE INSTALLED AS EMERGENCY LIGHTING IN CASE OF POWER FAILURE. THE THEATRE WAS BUILT WITH AN ORGAN CHAMBER AND ONCE HAD A PIPE ORGAN USED FOR VAUDEVILLE SHOWS ON ITS STAGE. THE SMALL DRESSING ROOMS ARE STILL IN PLACE. THE ORCHESTRA PIT IS NOW COVERED BY STAIRS TO THE STAGE.

IN 1937 FOX REMODELED MUCH OF THE INTERIOR TO THE FASHIONABLE ART DECO STYLE. THE PANELS ON THE SIDE WALLS AND THE LIGHT FIXTURES WITH THE 1930'S FLORAL DESIGN ARE FROM THIS REDECORATING PROJECT.

THE STAGE COULD BE USED AGAIN IF NEW RIGGINGS WERE INSTALLED. THE SCREEN WAS REPAIRED RECENTLY TO ONCE AGAIN ALLOW IT TO GO UP IN THE AIR TO ALLOW FOR STAGE PRODUCTIONS WHICH WERE STILL HELD OCCASIONALLY IN THE 1980'S. THE SMALL BALCONY SEATS ABOUT 200 PERSONS AND THE OVERALL CAPACITY IS ROUGHLY 1,100.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE GRANADA IS THE ORIGINAL ADVERTISING CURTAIN. IT'S IN BEAUTIFUL CONDITION AND HAS THE OLD ADVERTISEMENTS WITH THEIR LOCAL PHONE NUMBERS CONTAINING ONLY TWO DIGITS.

MR. KELSEY AGREED THE GRANADA IS A TREASURE THAT MUST BE PRESERVED. HE GAVE ME INFORMATION ON HOLDING FUNDRAISERS AT THEATRE'S LIKE THE GRANADA. WE ARE TRULY FORTUNATE TO HAVE THE GRANADA STILL STANDING IN WILMINGTON.