

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICEPH0699764  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

MAR 5 1979

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

MAY 7 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Dalton Theatre Building (Preferred)

AND/OR COMMON

Dalton Theatre

**2 LOCATION**STREET & NUMBER On Washington Avenue, N.E.; S side of Peak Creek; .3 mile S of the  
intersection of Washington Avenue with U.S. Route 11. NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Pulaski

VICINITY OF

Ninth (William C. Wampler)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

Pulaski

CODE

155

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☒ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED - Block☒ UNOCCUPIED - Theatre☐ WORK IN PROGRESS☒ ACCESSIBLE☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☒ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ OTHER: Theatre - empty**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Dalton Building Partnership c/o: Mr. Archa Vaughn, Jr.

Mr. H. W. Huff, Jr.

Mr. Henry A. Farris

STREET &amp; NUMBER

P.O. Box 621

CITY, TOWN

Pulaski

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 24301

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Pulaski County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Pulaski

STATE

Virginia 24301

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE

1977

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT      ☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ GOOD            ☐ RUINS  
☒ FAIR             ☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The 1921 Dalton Theatre Building is a large brick building situated on Washington Avenue in Pulaski adjacent to Peak Creek. It is a three-story structure divided by slightly projecting pilasters into five bays of three openings each. On the ground story the central entrance, which lacks its original marquee, is marked by a low elliptical arch and is flanked by a pair of storefronts. These have been altered with modern glass storefronts; a simple, classical bank facade on the north has been removed. At the right (south) end of the facade is a fan-light-crowned doorway leading to offices and apartments on the second and third floors. The upper stories of the facade are pierced with plain 1/1-sash windows. Architectural treatment is confined to lozenge-shaped patterned brickwork in the spandrels between the floors and to a one-story square tower placed over the narrow central bay. Sheet metal dentil cornices have been removed from the facade of the main block and the tower, which are faced with cream-colored brick. At the rear of the building is the gable-roofed auditorium and a plain five-story equipment tower serving the stage.

The plan of the Dalton building is not elaborate. An entry passage between the two street-front shops leads back to a small lobby which provides access to the main floor and the stairs to the balcony. The square auditorium faces a deep stage with attendant service and dressing rooms.

The auditorium of the Dalton Theatre is noteworthy for its elaborate Beaux-Arts decoration. The walls are divided into panels by enriched Doric pilasters bearing cartouches with the initial "D" on their capitals. A full entablature is carried around the room. Crucial structural intersections are marked by brackets bearing grotesque masks painted gold; these are in contrast to the gold-painted wall lighting fixtures, which are fashioned in the likeness of women's heads. The undulating balcony is supported on three Scamozzi Ionic columns; its facade is divided into rectangular panels with enriched moldings. A large central plaster wreath with festoons fills each panel. The 34-foot stage is framed by a large proscenium arch with a central cartouche and hung with the original curtain. From the elaborately paneled and molded ceiling hang the original auditorium lights.

At the balcony level is the projection room, which still contains its original equipment, and the main theatre office, lit from a skylighted court between the office block and the theatre block.

DU

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

---

SPECIFIC DATES	1921	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	James C. Lombard & Co.
----------------	------	-------------------	------------------------

---

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dalton Theatre Building on Washington Avenue in Pulaski, built in 1921 and designed by James C. Lombard & Company of Washington, D.C. for the firm of Dalton Brothers and Richardson, is a fine specimen of the Beaux-Arts-style entertainment palaces of the early 20th century. Its handsome interior decoration would be noteworthy anywhere; in Southwest Virginia it is the only known surviving example of such a theatre.

Opened in July 1921 as a vaudeville and movie theatre, the building shows the influence of Adler and Sullivan's renowned 1889 Auditorium Building in Chicago in its use of an elaborate auditorium coupled with a Commercial Style business block to generate income. The connection with the older building is made explicit by the use of a squat square tower similar to the one on the Auditorium. The original tenants of the storefronts were a bank and a drugstore; offices and apartments for visiting performers occupied the upper two floors.

The advent of talking movies and the decline of vaudeville meant that the Dalton's heyday, stimulated by its having the largest stage along the rail line from Richmond to Tennessee, had ended by 1930, although it continued to serve as a movie theatre until the mid-1960s. It is now unused, but plans are underway for its renovation and reuse as a community-owned facility.

DU, VDS

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Directory of the City of Pulaski. Pulaski, Virginia, 1925.  
Futrell, Vicki B. Letter to V.D. Scarlett, May 23, 1977.  
Munroe, Becky. "Theatre Group Formed." Southwest Times. Pulaski, Virginia,  
January 27, 1976.  
New River Planning District Commission. The Dalton Theatre: Feasibility Study.  
Pulaski, Virginia, 1977.  
Pulaski County Land Books 1918-1923, 1936-1939.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 519580 4099870  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
C         

B           
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
D         

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Dalton Theatre Building is located on the E side of Washington Avenue in the 100 block and is bounded on the N by Peak Creek and on the S by First Street, N.

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

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

November 1977

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

221 Governor Street

(804) 786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Richmond

Virginia 23219

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE X

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 Tucker Hill, Executive Director  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE NOV 15 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: Bill Branch  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

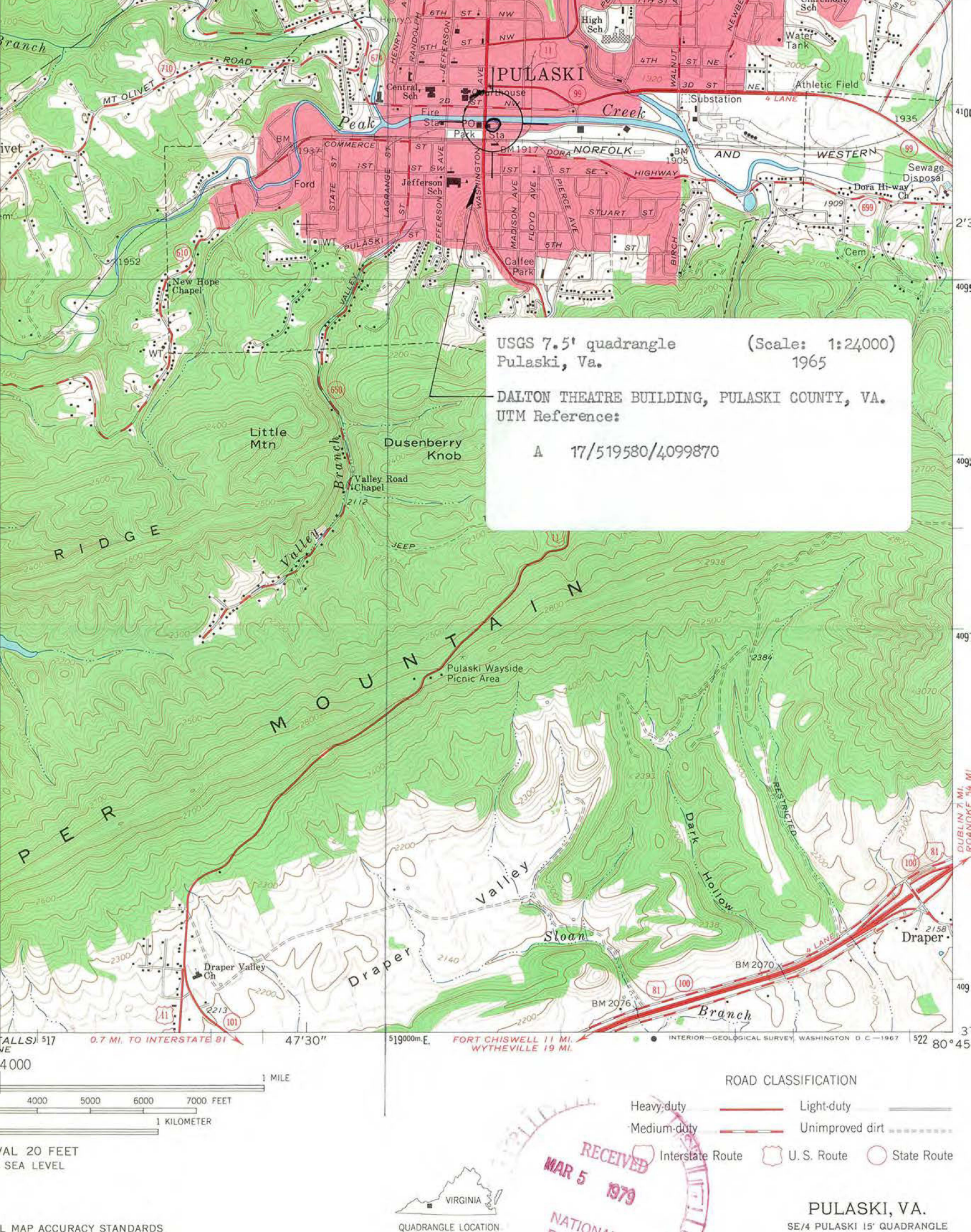
DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

May 2, 1978





USGS 7.5' quadrangle (Scale: 1:24000)  
Pulaski, Va. 1965

DALTON THEATRE BUILDING, PULASKI COUNTY, VA.  
UTM Reference:

A 17/519580/4099870

0.7 MI. TO INTERSTATE 81  
47'30"  
519000m.E  
4000  
1 MILE  
4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET  
1 KILOMETER  
VAL 20 FEET  
SEA LEVEL



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———  
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

PULASKI, VA.  
SE/4 PULASKI 15' QUADRANGLE