



THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI RESEARCH CENTER-KANSAS CITY

K0065

Boller Brothers Architectural Records

1910-1979

9 cubic foot, oversized items

Architectural drawings and other supporting documents for the Boller Brothers firm who specialized in theater design.

BIOGRAPHY:

Based out of Kansas City, the Boller Brother architectural firm specialized in theater design and were the architects of movie houses through the Midwest during the first half of the twentieth century.

Carl Heinrich Boller (1868-1946) began his architectural practice about 1902 in St. Joseph, Missouri, designing theaters for vaudeville circuits. In 1905, he opened an office in Kansas City, Missouri, and within a year brought his younger brother, Robert Otto (1887-1962) into the business as a draftsman.

During World War I, Robert was inducted into the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Carl, now fifty years old, kept the business going from their office in Kansas City's Gayety Theater Building. When the war ended, Robert rejoined his brother at the firm as a full partner and the firm's name changed to Boller Brothers.

With the boom in building movie theaters throughout the country, the brothers' work expanded to the point that by 1920 they established an office in Oklahoma to handle business in that state. In the next year, Carl moved to Los Angeles, California, with Robert remaining in Kansas City. Most of the Boller Brothers theaters in the Midwest after 1920 can be attributed as Robert Boller's creations.

The firm was responsible for or consulted on numerous important theaters in the Midwest including the Landers Theater in Springfield, Missouri (1909), the Midland Theatre in Kansas City, Missouri (1927), the Missouri Theater in St. Joseph, Missouri (1927), and the Missouri Theatre Center for the Arts in

Columbia, Missouri (1928). While many theaters have been razed or heavily modified, others have been listed as historic buildings and restored to their original grandeur.

Carl Boller died in California on October 31, 1946, and his brother, Robert, died in Dallas, Texas, on November 24, 1962.

PROVENANCE:

The records were donated to the University of Missouri by Ivan L. McElwee on June 26, 1981 (Accession No. KA0094). Additions were made on July 24, 2009 by Mrs. John Hall (Accession No. KA1728) and on June 1, 2011 by Dorothy Boller (Accession No. KA1947).

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RELATED COLLECTIONS:

Noelle Louise Soren (1944-) Papers (K0525)

DESCRIPTION:

The records contain architectural drawings of theaters and commercial buildings designed or remodeled by Carl Boller, Robert Boller or their firm. Each of the buildings is listed in the Architectural Records Collection Database under the title of the building, the architect(s) name, and the location of the building. Also included are correspondence files and photographs.

PREFERRED CITATION:

Specific item; folder number; *Boller Brothers Architectural Records (K0065)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

CONTACT:

*The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City
302 Newcomb Hall, University of Missouri-Kansas City
5123 Holmes Street, Kansas City, MO 64110-2499
(816) 235-1543 kansascity@shsmo.org
<http://shsmo.org/about/kansascity/>*

INVENTORY:

BOX 001 (1728kc) (not full)*MISCELLANEOUS/CORRESPONDENCE*

- Folder 1. Boller Brothers architects, brochure "Theatre Designs", 1927
- Folder 2. Architect's sketches – misc.
- Folder 3. Cooper Theatre: Oklahoma City, hand colored rendering
- Folder 4. Correspondence: Sept. 1910
- Folder 5. Correspondence: 1914
- Folder 6. Correspondence: 1915
- Folder 7. Correspondence: January 1916
- Folder 8. Correspondence: February 1916
- Folder 9. Correspondence: March 1916
- Folder 10. Correspondence: April 1916
- Folder 11. Correspondence: May 1916
- Folder 12. Correspondence: June 1916
- Folder 13. Correspondence: July 1916
- Folder 14. Correspondence: August 1916
- Folder 15. Correspondence: September 1916
- Folder 16. Correspondence: October 1916
- Folder 17. Correspondence: November 1916
- Folder 18. Correspondence: December 1916
- Folder 19. Correspondence: January 1917
- Folder 20. Correspondence: February 1917
- Folder 21. Correspondence: March 1917
- Folder 22. Correspondence: April 1917
- Folder 23. Correspondence: May 1917
- Folder 24. Correspondence: June 1917
- Folder 25. Correspondence: July 1917
- Folder 26. Correspondence: August 1917
- Folder 27. Correspondence: September 1917
- Folder 28. Correspondence: October 1917

- Folder 29. Correspondence: November 1917
- Folder 30. Correspondence: December 1917
- Folder 31. Correspondence: January 18 – March 28, 1918
- Folder 32. Correspondence: 1919
- Folder 33. Correspondence: 1921
- Folder 34. Correspondence: Zimmerman: 1974
- Folder 35. Preservation News, May 1979
- Folder 36. Advertisements: miscellaneous
- Folder 37. Newspaper/ Magazine clippings
- Folder 38. Miscellaneous Notes
- Folder 39. Research materials: Billings Theatre in Enid, Oklahoma, provided by Ron Willfong, manager of Gaslight Theatre 2006
(KA1947)
- Folder 40. Military appointments: Robert O. Boller, National Army of the United States- Private to Corporal, June 24, 1918; Corporal to Sergeant, July 17, 1918; Master Engineer, Senior Grade, October 9, 1918.
- Folder 41. Correspondence: Robert O. Boller to sister, Marie Boller Clark, Decemer 6, 1918. Publication: “Contemplated Addition to Memorial Christian Church, 7203 Paseo, 1946. Publication: “Boller Brothers Architects, a few recent theatre designs, ca. 1928. Clipping: *Kansas City Star*, May 29, 1969, “Forty Years Ago”.
- Folder 42. Manuscript: “Turning the Blues into Bluebirds” by Dorothy D. Boller, ca. 1932. Correspondence concerning manuscript.
- Folder 43. Photographs: Boller home, Hermitage, Missouri ca. 1930s
- Folder 44. Publication: Motion Picture News, section two, June 22, 1929, “work of Boller Brothers Architects”

FLATBOX

- Item 1. Photograph: Architectural group, Missouri River Division U.S. Engineers, Fort Peck Construction Camp, 1934
- Item 2. Photograph: Builders Association 58th Anniversary Annual Banquet, April 3, 1945, Kansas City, MO.

PANORAMIC PHOTOGRAPHS

- Item 1. Photograph: The Zone, Camp Funston, Kansas

- Item 2. Photograph: Company A, Fourth Training Regiment of Engineers, Camp A Humphries, VA, September 1918
- Item 3. Photograph: Company A, Fourth Training Regiment of Engineers, Camp A. Humphries, VA, September 1918

OVERSIZE ITEMS - rolled

- Item 1. St. Marks Church, sketches (4)
- Item 2. Building at Henryetta, Oklahoma
- Item 3. Garage Building at Seneca, Kansas: sketch (2)
- Item 4. City of Hannibal: street map: 1912
- Item 5. Public Square, Springfield, MO
- Item 6. City of Clovis, New Mexico: street map (1)
- Item 7. Miscellaneous sketch- balcony plan (1)

OVERSIZE ITEMS- flat- map case

- Item 1, Garden Theatre, hand colored rendering
- Item 2. Garrick Theatre, hand colored rendering

Rolled items in database

APCARD	TITLE	STATE	CITY	ARCHITECT	YEAR
036.006	Peak Theater owned by Westland Theaters, Inc. c/o Larry Starsmore	CO	Colorado Springs	Boller, Robert O.; Lusk Jr., Dietz	1949
036.009	Rialto Theater owned by J.B. Cooper Enterprises	CO	Colorado Springs	Boller, Robert O.	1935
036.017	Main Theater owned by J.B. Cooper Enterprises, Denver, Colorado	CO	Pueblo	Boller, Robert O.	1934
036.011	Rialto Theater owned by Chief Investment Co., Denver, Colorado	CO	Pueblo	Boller, Robert O.	1938
035.021	Vista Theater for George R. Norman	IA	Cherokee	Boller, Robert O.	1939
035.009	E.W. Krugel, theater for	IA	Mapleton	Boller, Robert O.	1948
035.020	Electric Theater	KS	Kansas City	Boller Brothers	1922
036.021	State Theater owned by D.E. Burnett and H.L. Reed	KS	Larned	Boller, Robert O.	1947-1949
036.018	Varsity Theater owned by Glen W. Dickinson Enterprises	KS	Lawrence	Boller Brothers	1926
036.004	Hollywood Theater owned by Dubinsky Brothers	KS	Leavenworth	Boller, Robert O.	1937-1938
035.010	Marshall Theater	KS	Manhattan	Boller, Carl	nd

APCARD	TITLE	STATE	CITY	ARCHITECT	YEAR
035.007	State Theater Building (reconstruction of shops)	KS	Manhattan	Boller, Robert O.; Lusk Jr., Dietz	1950- 1951
036.002	Dream Theater owned by E.B. & Dale Danielson	KS	Russell	Boller, Robert O.; Lusk Jr., Dietz	nd
035.019	E.M. Block, theater for	KS	Sabetha	Boller, Robert O.	1947- 1948
035.016	Crest Theater	KS	Wichita	Boller, Robert O.; Lusk Jr., Dietz	1949
036.020	Palace Theater owned by Southwestern Amusement Co.	KS	Wichita	Boller Brothers	1928
036.010	Palace Theater owned by Southwestern Amusement Co.	KS	Wichita	Carl Boller and Brothers	1915
035.018	Princess Theater	MO	Audora	Boller, Robert O.	1943
035.005	Drake Theater/Ritz Theater	MO	Bolivar	Boller, Robert O.	1945- 1948
035.015	Jim Owen, theater for	MO	Branson	Boller, Robert O.	1935
035.022	Hall Theater owned by Glen Hall	MO	Cassville	Boller, Robert O.	1945- 1946
036.005	Ben Bolt Theater owned by Theater Enterprises, Inc. c/o Frank Plumee	MO	Chillicothe	Boller, Robert O.; Lusk Jr., Dietz	1948
035.012	Uptown Theater and Penthouse Addition	MO	Clinton	Boller, Robert O.	1946- 1947
036.022	Capitol Theater owned by Dubinsky Brothers	MO	Jefferson City	Boller, Robert O.	1935
122.047	Christian Television Mission, proposed building for	MO	Joplin	Manning, C. Bates (Joplin, Missouri)	1958
122.046	LaFayette School, addition	MO	Joplin	Allgeier, Martin and Associates	1963
121.017	Frank Scott residence	MO	Joplin	Manning, C. Bates (Joplin, Missouri)	1959
035.001	Mary Lou Theater for George and Leo Halob	MO	Marshall	Boller, Robert O.	1948- 1949
035.011	Missouri Theater for J.R. Cook	MO	Maryville	Boller Brothers	1926
035.004	Missouri Theater	MO	Maryville	Boller, Robert O.	1944
035.002	Missouri Theater for J.R. Cook (reconstruction)	MO	Maryville	Boller Brothers	1944
065.034	C.E. Cook, theater and shop building owned by	MO	Maryville	Boller, Robert O. and Jones, Trevor C., Associates	1939
035.024	Orpheum Theater owned by Hugh Gardner Estate	MO	Neosho	Boller, Robert O.	1952- 1953
036.008	Electric Theater Company, theater owned by the	MO	Perryville	Boller, Robert O.	1934
035.014	Esquire Theater (Sam	MO	Richmond	Boller, Robert O.	1938-

APCARD	TITLE	STATE	CITY	ARCHITECT	YEAR
	Shuhart)		Heights		1939
035.017	Gasconade Theater Corporation	MO	Rolla	Boller, Robert O.	1941
035.023	Dickinson Theater owned by Dickinson, Inc.	MO	Saint Joseph	Boller, Robert O.; Lusk Jr., Dietz	1950
036.007	Orpheum Theater owned by Nate Block	MO	Saint Joseph	Boller, Robert O.	1933
035.013	Regal Theater	MO	Saint Joseph	Boller, Robert O.	1941
035.008	Electric Theater	MO	Saint Joseph	Boller Brothers; McDonald, L.D., Hettelsater, D.R. (engineers)	1926; 1946-1947
036.019	Orpheum Theater owned by Durwood Dubinsky Brothers Theaters, Kansas City, Missouri	MO	Saint Joseph	Boller, Robert O.	1946-1947
065.020	Leko Theater stepped rows	MO	Saint Louis	Boller, Robert O.	1926 or 1936
036.003	Leko Realty Company c/o Sam Levin, attorney-owner, theater for	MO	Saint Louis	Boller, Robert O.	1936-1937
036.027	Uptown Theater owned by J.T. Ghosen	MO	Sedalia	Boller, Robert O.	1935-1936
122.025	Eugene Field School additions	MO	Webb City	Manning, C. Bates (Joplin, Missouri)	1957-1959
064.004	Webster School (school district #92)	MO	Webb City	Gentry, Voskamp and Neville; Cassell, William L. (mechanical engineer)	1937
122.049	West Side School, proposed addition to	MO	Webb City	Manning, C. Bates (Joplin, Missouri)	1957
065.035	Liberty Theater owned by Nebraska Theaters, Inc.	NE	Lincoln	Boller, Robert O.	nd
036.028	Varsity Theater owned by Nebraska Theaters, Inc.	NE	Lincoln	Boller, Robert O.	1946
036.016	Orpheum Theater owned by Lincoln Theater Company	NE	Lincoln	Boller, Robert O.	1938-1939
036.013	Orpheum Theater	NE	Lincoln	Carl Boller and Brothers	1915-1917
036.024	State Theater owned by State Building Corporation	NE	Lincoln	Boller, Robert O.	1941; 1946
036.023	Pioneer Theater owned by Theater Enterprises and Stanley McSwain c/o Frank Plumlee	NE	Nebraska City	Boller, Robert O.; Lusk Jr., Dietz	1948
036.026	Greer Loan Company and C.J. Roberts, commercial building and theater for	NM	Santa Fe	Boller Brothers; Williamson, George M. (Albuquerque, NM)	1930
036.029	Coleman Theater c/o John Giffin	OK	Miami	Boller, Robert O.; Lusk Jr., Dietz	1946-1949

APCARD	TITLE	STATE	CITY	ARCHITECT	YEAR
036.025	Coleman Theater and Store owned by George L. Coleman	OK	Miami	Boller Brothers	1927-1929
036.014	Cooper Theater	OK	Oklahoma City	Carl Boller and Brothers	1919-1920
036.015	Center Theater owned by State Theaters, Inc. c/o T.B. Noble, Jr.	OK	Oklahoma City	Boller, Robert O.	1946-1947
036.012	Criterion Theater	OK	Oklahoma City	Boller, Robert O.; McDonald, L.D. (mechanical engineer)	1924; 1930
035.003	Ponca Theater	OK	Ponca City	Boller Brothers; McDonald, L.D. (engineer)	1926-1927
035.006	E.A. Armistead, theater for	SC	Easley	Boller, Robert O.; W.E. Freeman Jr. and Associates (supervising architects)	1945
036.001	New Aileen Theater for Lloyd Kerby (Frontier)	WY	Worland	Boller, Robert O.; Lusk Jr., Dietz	1952-1953
	City of Hannibal Official Stree Map	MO	Hannibal	B. F. Smiley	1912
	Map of the City of Clovis	NM	Clovis	Hitchcock and Son	n.d.
	Fox Theater	KS	Hutchinson	Boller Brothers Architects	1930
	Colony Theater- rendering			Boller, Robert O.	n.d.
	Theater Building-Granada	KS	Emporia	Boller Brothers Architects	1928
	Balcony plan, unidentified			Boller, Carl and Bro Architects	1918
	Building for Chase Blaine, second floor plan	OK	Henryetta	Boller Brothers Architects	n.d.
	Garage building for Mr. G. W. Williams	KS	Seneca	Boller, Carl and Bro Architects	n.d.
	St. Marks Church, alterations to			Boller, Carl and Bro Architects	n.d.
	The Public Square	MO	Springfield		n.d.
	Electric Theater	KS	Kansas City	Boller Brothers Architects	1922