# **Section 1: Theater Info**

Name: The Los Angeles Theatre

**Address:** 615 South Broadway

Los Angeles, CA 90014

Phone Number: 213-629-2939 manager

213-482-8000 corporate office

Web Site: www.losangelestheatre.com

**E-mail:** manager@losangelestheatre.com

Primary Contact: Frank Schultz

Opening Date: January 30, 1931



Architect:	S. Charles Lee			
Original Owner(s):	H. L. Gumbiner, William Fox			
Seating:	Original –	Main Floor	1,301	
		Mezzanine	300	
		Balcony	<u>348</u>	
		TOTAL	1,949	
	Current-	Main Floor	1,344	
		Mezzanine	276	
		Balcony	<u>358</u>	
		TOTAL	1,978	

Section 2:	<b>Historical Information</b>
City Landmark Status:	#225, declared August 15, 1979
Restrictions:	Protects all character-defining features of the interior and exterior.  Requires CRA review before any city building permit will be issued.
Advantages:	Eligible for Mills Act property tax reduction.
State Landmark Status:	None
National Register Status:	Contributing structure to the Broadway Theater and Commercial District, listed May 9, 1979.
Restrictions:	Environmental Impact Report may be required for changes.
Advantages:	Eligible for rehabilitation tax credits.
Brief History:	

The Los Angeles Theatre was the last great movie palace built downtown on Broadway. It opened on January 30, 1931 as an independent movie house, operated by H. L. Gumbiner, who also operated the nearby Tower and Cameo theaters. Gumbiner had leased the land for the Los Angeles Theatre from movie mogul William Fox who had originally intended to build one of his 5,000 seat Fox theaters on the site. After Fox acquired the West Coast Theaters chain he no longer had a need for such a large new theater. Gumbiner felt that he could make a success of his new theater if he made it as lavish and innovative as possible, even though he did not have access to films from any of the major studios.

The new theater was built at the height of the Depression and Gumbiner had difficulty completed the new building on time and on budget. His architect, S. Charles Lee, used the project to showcase many innovations in theater design. Besides a working fountain in the lobby, there was a children's playroom, a full restaurant, an ballroom, two crying rooms for mothers to keep their children quietly separated from the rest of the audience, a radio broadcast studio, equipment for wide screen films, electric seat indicators for the ushers, and a periscope system to relay the film image down to the basement lounges. It is no wonder that by the time the theater opened Gumbiner was behind on his payments to contractors. It is rumored that Charlie Chaplin loaned Gumbiner money to finish the theater so that his new film, "City Lights", could premiere on schedule.

Although the opening night was a tremendous success, neither Chaplin's silent film or the lavish theater could keep drawing in crowds in the depths of the Depression. Gumbiner soon lost the theater and it wound up back in William Fox's hands. It operated as a second run theater through the 1930's until it was leased by MGM. In the 1940's it became the home for long-runs of MGM's hit films and operated almost twenty hours a day during the war years.

After the war the theater fell into a pattern of showing action and science fiction films as the downtown audience changed. The theater remained successful throughout the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's with double and triple features. The 1980's began a slow decline for the theater as audiences moved away and video began to lessen the demand for repeat screenings of older films. William Fox's family sold the theater in the 1980's to the Delajani family along with the adjacent William Fox Building on Hill Street. The Delajanis tried to keep the theater open but business finally fell of seriously in the 1990's. The theater closed for daily film business and embarked on a new career as a location for filming movies, TV shows, music videos and commercials. Because of its lavish architecture and vast spaces it became a favorite for Hollywood location scouts.

With the revival of downtown Los Angeles, the theater is finally seeing renewed interest as a site for film screenings, parties and live shows. Plans are being prepared for the renovation of this classic landmark.

Premieres:	"City Lights" 1931, "On the Threshold of Space" 1956, "Chaplin" 1992
Famous Stars:	Charlie Chaplin, Paulette Goddard, Albert Einstein, Robert Wagner, Robert Downey, Jr., Richard Attenborough, Tony Bennett
Location Use:	"Funny Lady", "New York, New York", "Batman", "The Prestige", "Dreamgirls"

Section	on 3:	Stage
KEY: SL – Stage Left SR – Stage Right USL – Up Stage Left USR- Up Stage Right DSL- Down Stage Left	Size:	25'0" deep from smoke pocket to back wall. 20'0" extension from smoke pocket to center edge of curved thrust stage. 32'0" height of proscenium. 68'0" height of gridiron.
DSR Down Stage Right	Layout:	See diagram below.
	Load-in:	Loading door up stage right (17' h x 7'6" w); ramp up to 7 <sup>th</sup> Street alley. No loading dock.
	Wing Space:	19 ft. offstage x 25 ft. upstage, SL and SR
Co	Gridiron:	Full grid above first 15 ft. downstage. At a distance of 15 ft. from the smoke pocket the gridiron ends and the ceiling changes from a height of 75 ft. to 32 ft., then gradually slopes down to 28 ft. at the back wall of the stage over a distance of 10 ft. There are beams with original sheaves attached in this lower ceiling which were intended for hemp sets.  Single purchase counterweight, operates at stage level, SR.
	Orchestra Pit:	Covered semi-permanently by thrust stage.
	Traps:	One USL 2' x 8'
	Curtains: Storage:	Main decorative curtain operates as manual counterweight on SR locking rail. Screen curtain operates on electric motor DSR. Rooms understage at -19' -3" level reached by stairs DSR and
	Storage.	USL.
	Rehearsal Space:	Two rooms available on mid-basement level of lobby.
	Wardrobe:	Use green room area under stage.
	Green Room:	Open area under stage outside dressing rooms.
	Dressing Rooms:	Eight under the stage at -11' – 3" level reached by stairs DSR and USL.
Lighting Polymer Polym	49'-6"  25'-0"  +32'-0" Height of	Smoke Pocket Original Stage Front Edge of Thrust

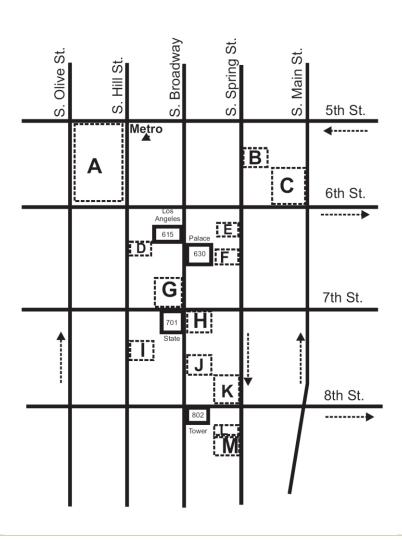
	Section 4	•	Rigging		
	Stage Rigging:				
Line #	Distance from Smoke Pocket	Arbor Capacity	Notes		
1	0' - 0"	2000 lb.	Permanently used for Fire safety Curtain; 5-line set		
2	0' - 10"	2000 lb.	Permanently use for decorative curtain; 5-line set		
3	1' - 7"	800 lb.	Permanently used for Austrian puff teaser		
4	2' - 3"	500 lb.	Normally used for black border		
5	2' – 11"	600 lb.	Permanently used for traveler track – screen curtain		
6	3' – 11"	2500 lb.	Permanently used for film screen; 5-line set		
7	5' – 9"	2000 lb.	Permanently used for decorative teaser in front of		
	3 – 9		proscenium; 5-line set		
8		500 lb.	No cables or batten		
9	7' – 2"	500 lb.	No cables or batten		
10	7' – 8"	500 lb.	No cables or batten		
11	8' – 2"	500 lb.	No cables or batten		
12	8' - 8"	500 lb.	No cables or batten		
13	9' – 3"	500 lb.	No cables or batten		
14	9' - 8"	500 lb.	No cables or batten		
15	10' – 2"	500 lb.	No cables or batten		
16	10' - 8"	500 lb.	No cables or batten		
17	11' - 3"	500 lb.	No cables or batten		
18	11' - 8"	500 lb.	No cables or batten		
19	12' – 2"	500 lb.	No cables or batten		
20	12' - 9"	500 lb.	No cables or batten		
21	13' – 4"	500 lb.	Used for midstage drape		
	House Rigging:				

Ceiling Trusses:Original ceiling beams can be used for temporary rigging. Some holes exist in ceiling to rig. Weight capacity unknown.

Section 5:	Electrical and Lighting
Electrical Feeds:	Single Phase 120/240 – 800 amps located under stage right.  Three Phase 240 Delta – 1600 amps located in north basement behind ballroom.
Lobby Lights:	Main panels in storage closet in north lobby promenade .
Stage Lights:	None
House Lights:	Controls in projection booth and back stage right.
Connection Points:	Lug on to bus bar in north basement behind ballroom. Requires a qualified electrician and a city connection permit.
Balcony Rail:	Front of both balconies hard wired to original dimmers – lower balcony has 6 original PC spots and 2 PAR64 short fixtures. Upper balcony has 8 PAR64 short fixtures.
Box Booms:	None
Section 6:	Audio
P A System:	
Wiring:	None
Speakers:	None
Amps:	None
Mixer:	None
Film Sound System:	
Wiring:	Speaker wire for stereo sound from booth to stage.
Speakers:	(3) Voice of the Theater 2-way speakers
Amps:	(2) TOA 900
Mixer:	None
Processor:	Dolby CP55
Section 7:	Projection
Booth Location:	Rear of auditorium above rear of second balcony.
Size:	35′ x 15′
Ports:	4 projectors, 2 follow spots, 1 Brenograph
Projectors:	<ul><li>(3) Simplex XL with Super Simplex bases</li><li>(2) with LP Assoc. Xenon lamphouse 4,500 watts</li><li>(1) with Ashcraft arc lamphouse (incomplete)</li></ul>
Screen:	27 ft. H x 55 ft. W
Masking:	Top and side masking attached to screen frame.
Distance:	136 ft. from booth to screen.

Section 8:	Plumbing
Restrooms:	
Men's:	One in basement – eight toilets, 22 urinals and six sinks.
Women's:	One in basement – sixteen toilets, eight sinks.
Handicapped:	One adjacent to the main lobby.
Backstage:	Three under the stage in dressing room area.
Hose Bibs:	Unknown
Janitor Sinks:	Unknown
Ice Machine:	None
Sewer Ejector:	One in lower basement east electrical room.
Sump Pumps:	One in lower basement east electrical room.
Section 9:	Permits
Los Angeles Police Department:	P519 Café Entertainment/Shows; required for presenting live shows P581 Motion Picture Shows; required for film screenings P527 Dancing Club, P529 Dance Hall, P530 Dance-Teenage Public, P531 Dance-One Night may be required for dancing in lobbies
Los Angeles Fire Department:	<b>F480</b> Theater Permit – required for live theater <b>F452</b> Motion Picture Theater – required for film screenings
LAFD Reg. 4:	<b>Reg 4</b> testing and certification required – some items every year, some every five years.
AQMD:	No permits required. Reporting annually on Freon use in HVAC.
Los Angeles County Health Department:	Public Health License 5000 – Theater/Drive-In required annually. For food and beverage sales, Restaurant 0- 60 seats permit and annual inspections required.
City of Los Angeles Business License:	Annual business license required with valid Business Tax Registration Certificate.
City of Los Angeles Special Events Permit:	Issues by L A City Department of Building and Safety. Will be required for each public event until the theater has a valid Certificate of Occupancy.
State of California Alcoholic Beverage Control:	Liquor license required for on-premisies sale of alcoholic beverages.
Film LA:	Permit required for all location filming.

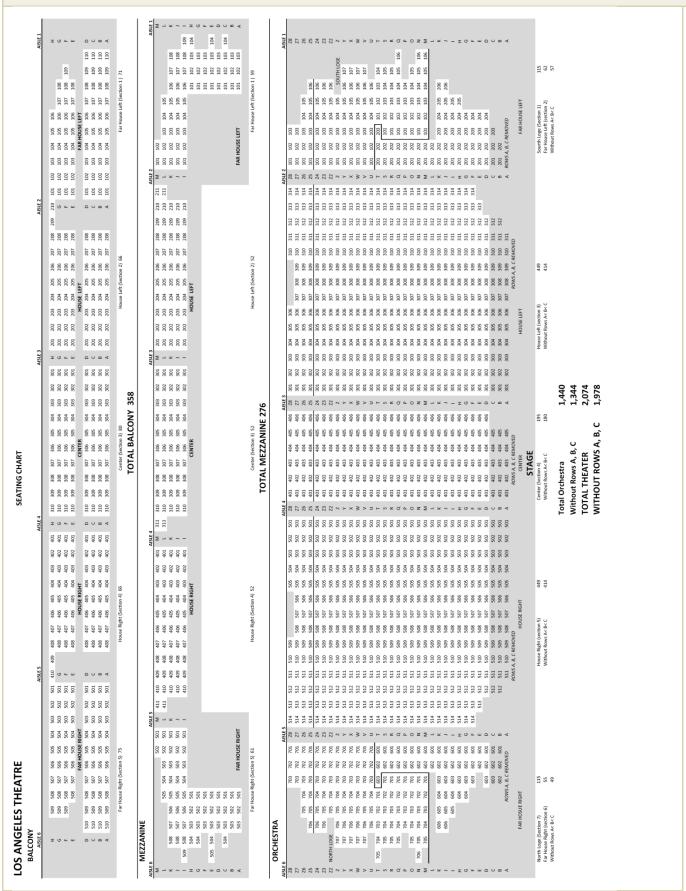
	Section 10:		Parking Map	
	NAME	ADDRESS	CONTACT	PARKING SPACES
Α	Pershing Square Garage	530 S. Olive St.	213-847-3187	1,746
В	Joe's Auto Parks	530 S. Spring St.	213-629-3263	270
С	Los Angeles Garage Associates	545 S. Main St.	213-688-4947	250
D	Paragon Parking	630 S Hill St.	213-689-4818	
Е	Grant Parking	619 S. Spring St.	323-463-2739	35
F	Joe's Auto Parks	633 S. Spring St	213-629-3263	35
G	St. Vincent's Jewelry Center	659 S. Broadway	213-629-2124	250
Н	7 <sup>th</sup> Broadway	214 W. 7 <sup>th</sup> St.	213-623-2480	280
I	Joe's Auto Parks	734 S. Hill St.	213-629-3263	76
J	Standard Parking	730 S. Broadway	213-531-2700	
K	Joe's Auto Parks	753 S. Spring St.	213-629-3263	75
L	Unified Parking	809 S. Spring St.	800-727-5148	35
M	Joe's Auto Parks	817 S. Spring St.	213-629-3263	102



### **Section 11:**

# **Seating Chart**

#### **All Levels**



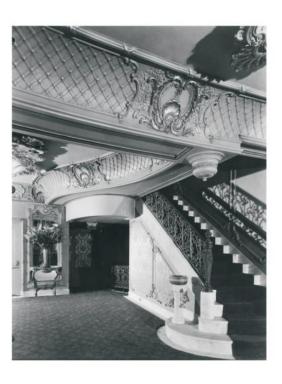
# **Section 12:**

# **Photos**

#### Historical



Two lobby views

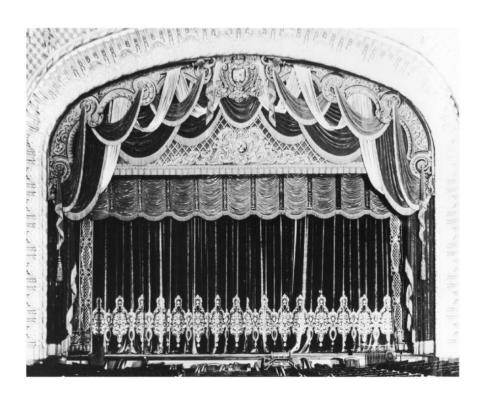




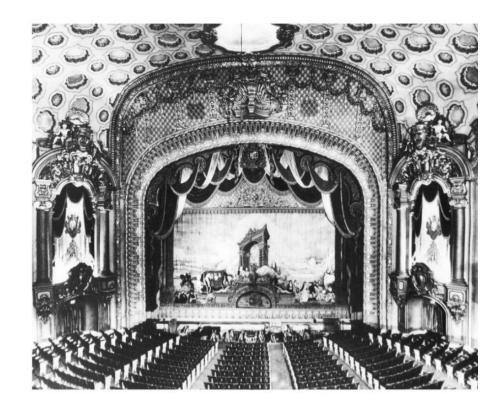
Ballroom and Restaurant



#### Historical



Two
auditorium
views on
opening
day

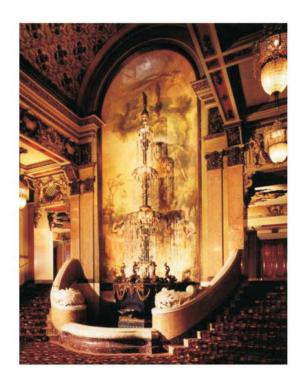


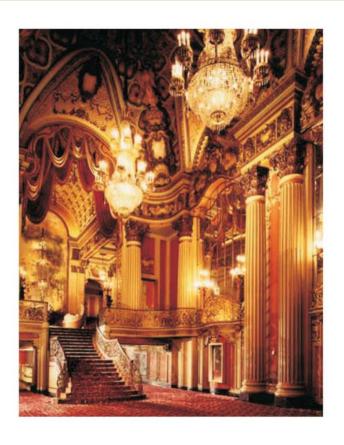
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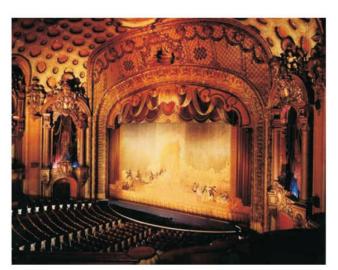
#### Current

# Main Lobby and Fountain

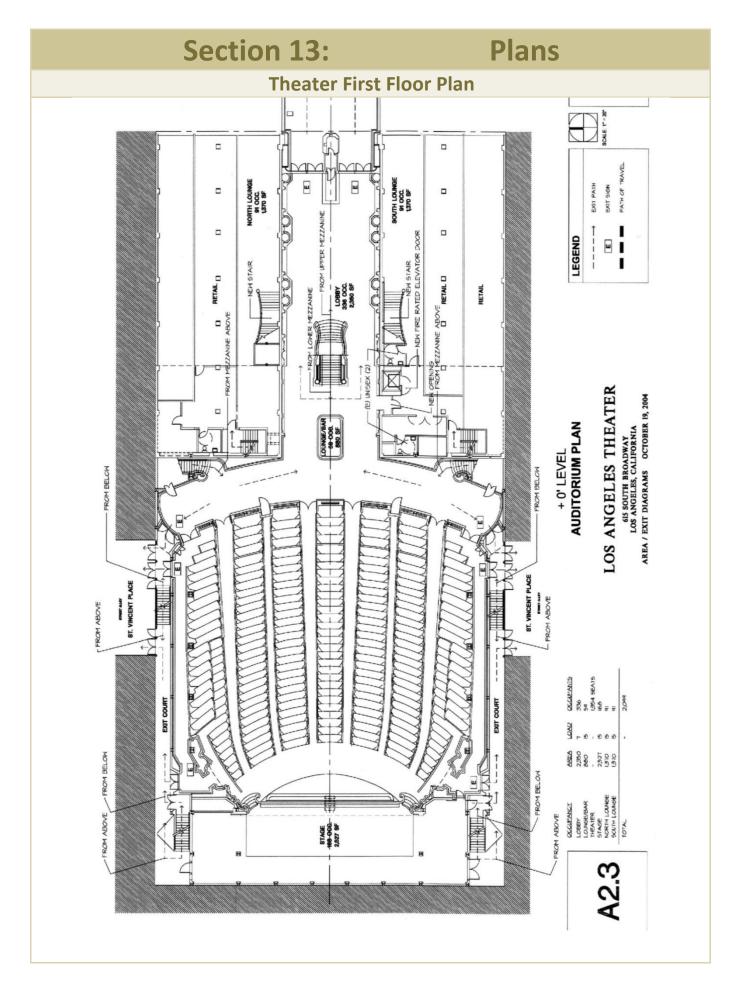








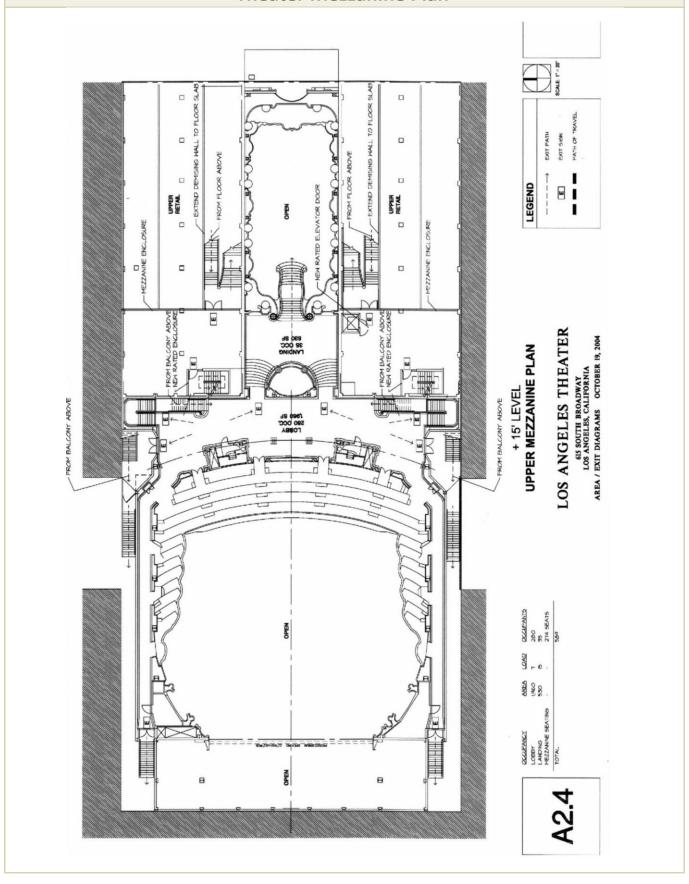
Two views of the auditorium

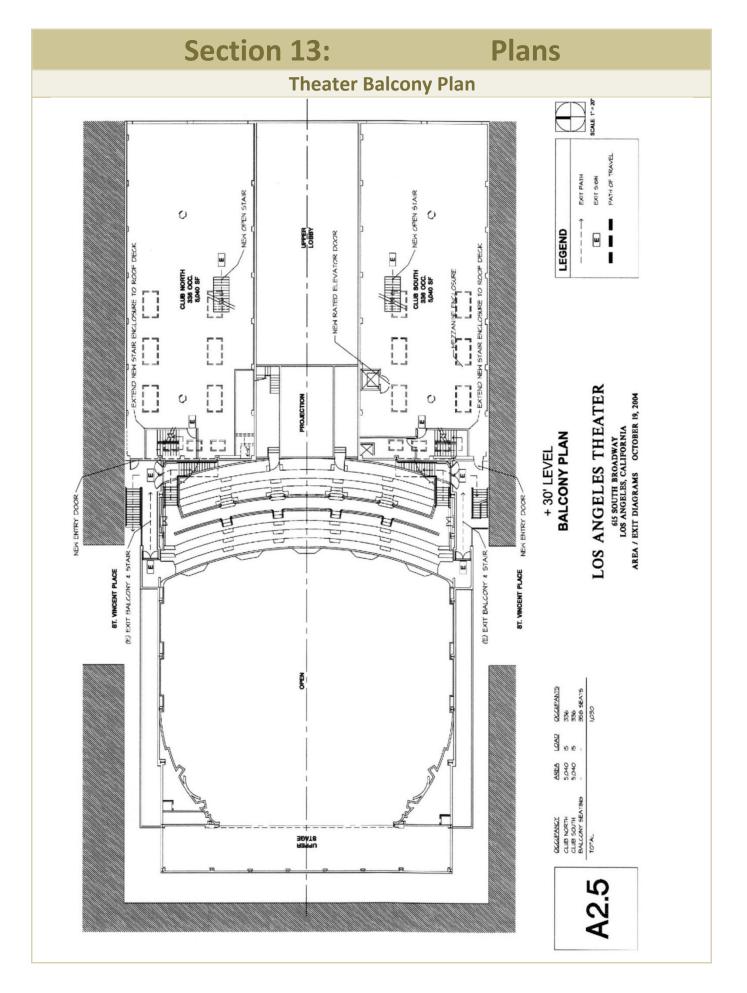


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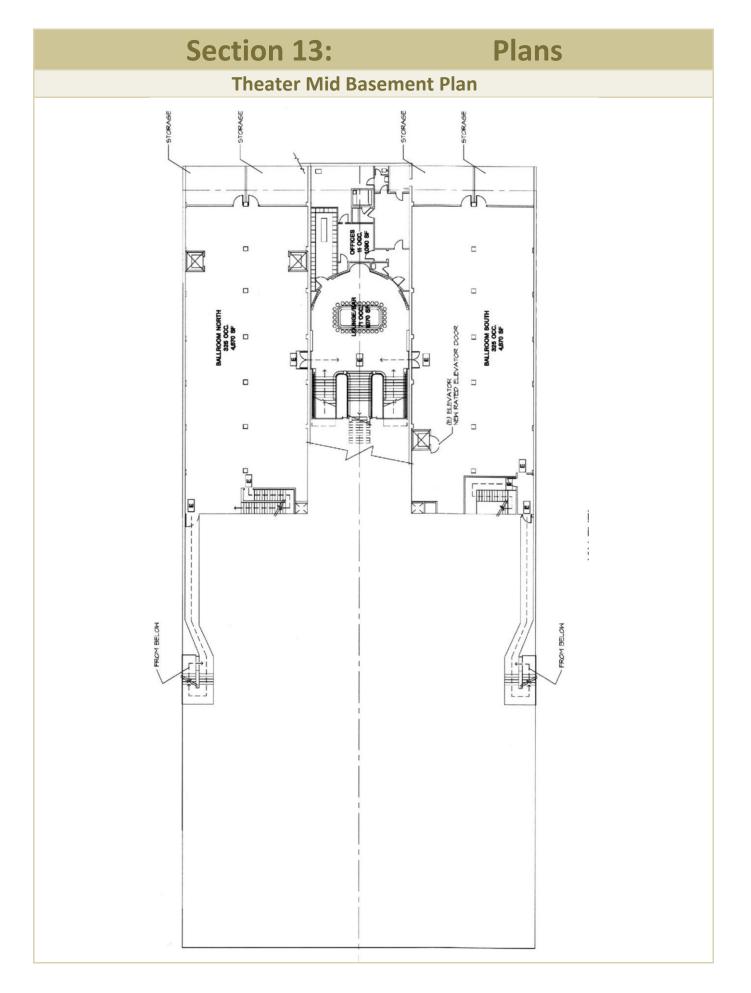
# **Plans**

#### **Theater Mezzanine Plan**





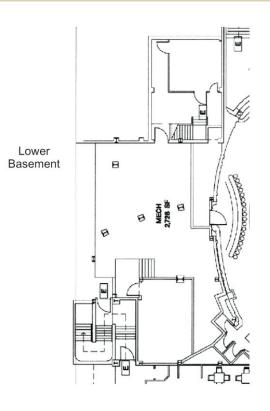
# **Section 13: Plans Theater Basement Plan** EXIT SIGN LEGEND ш LOS ANGELES THEATER 615 SOUTH BROADWAY LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA AREA / EXIT DIAGRAMS OCTOBER 19, 2004 - 25' LEVEL BASEMENT PLAN 6 OCC. 820 SF



# **Section 13:**

# **Plans**

#### **Theater Utility Plan**



#### **Basement Utility** Locations

E1 - Theater 3 phase E2 - Theater 1 phase E3 - Stores 1 phase E4 - Stores 3 phase

T - Telephone MPOE

W - Water Main

G - Gas Main

SP - Sprinkler Main

