

# Last of the Originals

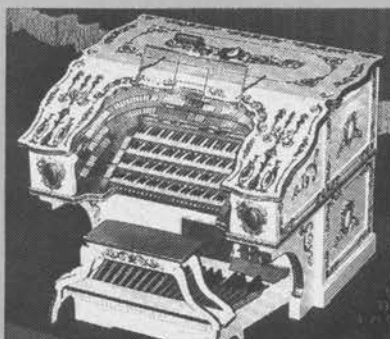
by Tom DeLay

For roughly the last 80 years pipe organs have found their way into theatres. Of the several thousand installed between 1919 and 1932, we now know of a grand total of 95 original installations left *in theatres*. These are installations ONLY in theatres and do not take into account the many other locations of "orchestral unit organs still remaining in stadiums, homes, schools, hotels, lodges, temples and churches.

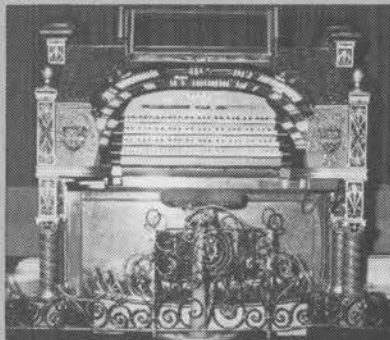
This list is not intended to be the be-all-end-all. Some instruments may have gone to the wayside without our knowledge. Equally, we may well find a few units here and there not widely known. It would be greatly appreciated if those with facts can subtract from or, we hope, add to the list. Frankly, we were fairly well surprised to find so many instruments still intact across North America.

We have not made any attempt to include the many examples of straight/concert organs still installed in theatrical environs. If these were included, the list would be slightly longer. However, in its strictest form a theatre organ is a "unit orchestral organ" with few, if any, of the older, pre-1920, straight examples of theatre instruments still in movie palaces; thus, our limitation to unit organs in theatres.

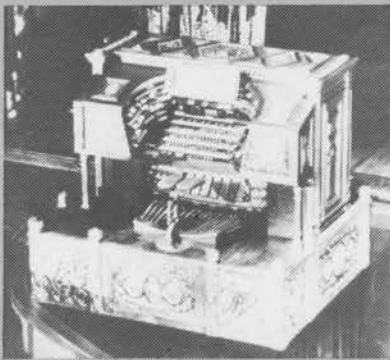
It will be noticed in many locations, some installations are shown as "augmented." This can include just about anything from slight unification changes



Rialto Square Theatre's 4/21 Grand Barton



Alabama Theatre Wurlitzer



Atlanta FOX Moller

to major rebuilds. Some instruments that may appear as "original" have in fact had changes. What might be considered as near original and massively changed must be considered individually. Also, recall a statement some issues back by Dave Junchen, "... original? As bad as that?" No judgement is to be made here in this list except on very broad terms as they apply to our remaining theatres with original instruments. Justifiably, the term *original* need not be literal.

These remaining few installations from the first era of the theatre organ must, as many as possible, continue to remain as examples of what once was. This should serve as a temporary guide to those few remaining organs installed during the great silent film/solo organ period.

## BREAKDOWN OF REMAINING THEATRE INSTALLATIONS:

Wurlitzer .....	46
Barton .....	15
Robert-Morton .....	15
Moller .....	5
Kilgen .....	3
Kimball .....	3
Page .....	3
Marr & Colton .....	2
Midmer-Losh .....	1
Geneva .....	2
Wicks .....	1
<i>(rebuild of an earlier Moller)</i>	
Total .....	96

(SEE LIST NEXT PAGE)

## List of original *Theatre* organ installations intact as of July 1990:

STATE	CITY	THEATRE	MAKE	SIZE
ALABAMA	Birmingham	Alabama	Wurlitzer	4/21*
CALIFORNIA	San Francisco	Marina/Cinema 21	Morton	2/6
	Fresno	Pantages/Warnors	Morton	4/14
	Los Angeles	Orpheum	Wurlitzer	3/13
	Avalon	Casino	Page	4/16
	San Bernardino	California	Wurlitzer	2/10*
COLORADO	Denver	Paramount	Wurlitzer (two consoles)	4/20*
FLORIDA	Miami	Olympia/Guzman	Wurlitzer	3/15
	Tampa	Tampa	Wurlitzer (2/8)	3/12**
GEORGIA	Atlanta	FOX	Moller	4/42
HAWAII	Hilo	Palace	Morton (3/7)	2/7**
IDAHO	Boise	Egyptian	Morton	2/8
ILLINOIS	Chicago	Chicago	Wurlitzer	4/29
	Chicago	Patio	Barton	3/17
	Joliet	Rialto	Barton	4/21
	Rockford	Coronado	Barton	4/16
	Saint Charles	Arcada	Geneva	3/13***
	Waukegan	Genessee	Barton	3/10
INDIANA	Anderson	Paramount	Page (unplayable)	3/7
	Elkhart	Lerner/Elco	Kimball	2/11
	Fort Wayne	Emboyd/Embassy	Page	4/15
IOWA	Cedar Rapids	Iowa	Barton	3/14
	Cedar Rapids	Paramount	Wurlitzer	3/11
	Davenport	Capitol	Wicks/Moller	3/10
LOUISIANA	New Orleans	Saenger	Morton	4/26
	Shreveport	Strand	Morton	2/8
MAINE	Portland	State	Wurlitzer	2/8
MARYLAND	Frederick	Tivoli/Weinberg	Wurlitzer	2/8
MASSACHUSETTS	Greenfield	Garden	Marr & Colton	3/9
	Springfield	Paramount	Wurlitzer	3/11
MICHIGAN	Albion	Boehm	Barton	3/8
	Detroit	FOX	Wurlitzer	4/36
	Detroit	FOX	Moller	3/12
	Detroit/Redford	Redford	Barton	3/10
	Ann Arbor	Michigan	Barton	3/14
	Ironwood	Ironwood	Barton	2/7
	Kalamazoo	State	Barton	3/13*
	Muskegon	Michigan	Barton	3/8
	Royal Oak	Royal Oak	Barton	3/13
	Saginaw	Temple	Barton	3/11
	Sturgis	Strand	Wurlitzer (intact?)	2/4
MINNESOTA	Luverne	Palace	Geneva	2/5
	Red Wing	Sheldon	Kilgen	2/8*
MISSISSIPPI	Hattiesburg	Saenger	Morton (2/8)	3/8**
	Meridian	Temple	Morton	3/8
MISSOURI	Saint Louis	FOX	Wurlitzer	4/36
MONTANA	Bozeman	Ellen	Wurlitzer	2/7
	Missoula	Wilma	Morton (original?)	3/10

## List of original *Theatre* organ installations (cont.)

STATE	CITY	THEATRE	MAKE	SIZE
NEBRASKA	Omaha	Orpheum	Wurlitzer	3/13
NEW JERSEY	Asbury Park	Convention Hall	Kilgen	3/9
	Bound Brook	Brook	Wurlitzer	2/4
	Newark	Casa Italiana/Stamley	Wurlitzer	3/11
	Pitman	Broadway	Kimball	3/8
	Rahway	Rahway	Wurlitzer	2/7
	Westwood	Pascack (house altered)	Wurlitzer	2/8*
NEW YORK	Brooklyn	Paramount/LIU	Wurlitzer	4/26
	Buffalo	Shea's	Wurlitzer	4/28
	Elmira	Elmira/Clemens	Marr & Colton	4/22*
	New York City	Beacon	Wurlitzer	4/19
	New York City	Loew's 175th/Rev. Ike	Morton	4/23
	New York City	Radio City	Wurlitzer (two consoles)	4/58
	North Tonawanda	Riviera	Wurlitzer (3/11)	3/19*
	Rome	Capitol	Moller	3/7
	Westbury	Westbury	Midmer-Losh	2/6
NORTH CAROLINA	Greensboro	Carolina	Morton	2/6
NORTH DAKOTA	Fargo	Fargo	Wurlitzer (2/7)	3/15*
OHIO	Akron	Civic	Wurlitzer	3/13
	Canton	Palace	Kilgen	3/19
	Columbus	Ohio	Morton	4/20
	Lorain	Palace	Wurlitzer	3/11
	Springfield	State	Wurlitzer	3/7*
OREGON	Coos Bay (rebuild of a 3/10 by adding 4th manual and a 2/8 from Hood River)	Egyptian	Wurlitzer	4/18
PENNSYLVANIA	Allentown	19th Street	Moller	3/7
	Chambersburg	Capitol	Moller	3/14
	Indiana	Manos	Morton	3/8
RHODE ISLAND	Providence	Columbus	Wurlitzer	2/6
	Woonsocket	Stadium	Wurlitzer	2/10
SOUTH DAKOTA	Lead	Homestake	Wurlitzer (pit organ)	2/5
TENNESSEE	Chattanooga	Tivoli	Wurlitzer	3/11
	Knoxville	Tennessee	Wurlitzer	3/14
	Memphis	Orpheum	Wurlitzer	3/13
TEXAS	Beaumont	Jefferson	Morton	3/8
	San Antonio	Majestic	Morton (intact?)	3/11
UTAH	Salt Lake City	Capitol	Wurlitzer (2/10)	2/11*
VIRGINIA	Richmond	Byrd	Wurlitzer	4/17
	Richmond	Loew's/Carpenter	Wurlitzer	3/13**
	Richmond	Mosque	Wurlitzer	3/17
WASHINGTON	Bellingham	Mt. Baker	Wurlitzer	2/10
	Mount Vernon	Lincoln	Wurlitzer	2/7
	Seattle	Paramount	Wurlitzer	4/20
	Tacoma	Temple	Kimball	2/9
WISCONSIN	Baraboo	Ringling	Barton	3/9
	Madison	Oscar Meyer	Barton	3/14
	Milwaukee	Riverside	Wurlitzer (3/13)	3/14*
	Milwaukee/Bayview	Avalon	Wurlitzer (3/8)	3/23*
BRITISH COLUMBIA	Vancouver	Orpheum	Wurlitzer	3/13

\*altered but intact

\*\*reinstalled in original theatre

\*\*\*rebuild of an earlier Marr & Colton