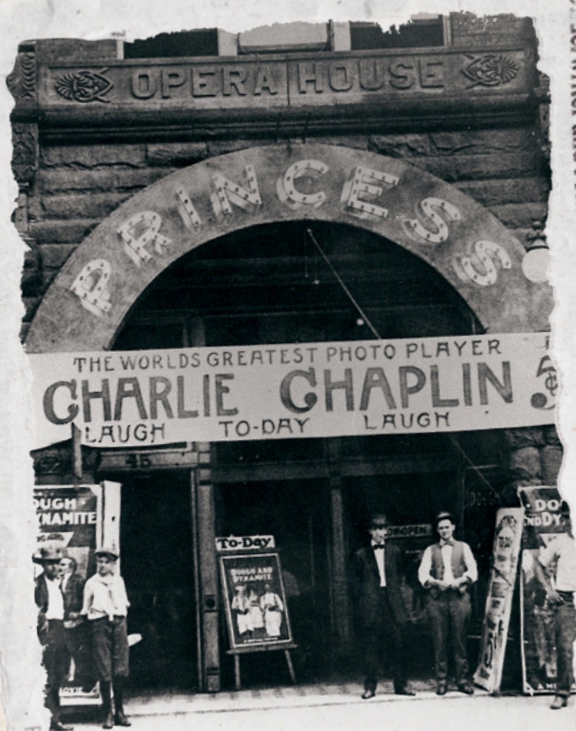


# WALKING HISTORY TOUR

## Opera House

In 1891 a three-story Opera House seating 950 was built at a cost of \$60,000. Legitimate theater was staged here. Two years later the theater was gutted by fire. The Opera House was rebuilt, and it showed silent movies accompanied by piano music at the turn of the century. By the mid 1900's talking motion pictures and organ music were popular here.



Sourced by Rick Klinedinst, Edward Lewis Jr., Mike Walters, Tony Rolando, Ron Weber, and Kevin Stephenson



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# WALKING HISTORY TOUR

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## Capital Theater

In 1922 a new movie house was purchased by Charles Kuchan, Sr. and renamed it the Capital Theater. In 1947, the theater was sold to Kerasotes Theaters of Springfield. The theater featured a single screen and seating for roughly 1,100 patrons. In the 1980s, after which the lobby was repurposed as retail space and the auditorium became storage. In 2000, the structure underwent renovation: the marquee was removed, ground-floor awnings added, and the building became the "Opera House Professional Center," hosting various offices. A 2016 gas explosion caused severe damage, leading to condemnation of the building. Ultimately, the building was demolished in October 2017, leaving an empty lot behind. In 2024, the city announced plans to renovate the space into an open-air plaza with a stage for various events.



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*Sourced by Rick Klinedinst, Edward Lewis Jr.,  
Mike Walters, Tony Rolando, Ron Weber, and  
Kevin Stephenson*