

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Rose Theatre (1927) is a two story Arts and Crafts style brick building located in downtown Bastrop. Despite some alterations on both the interior and exterior, the building is still recognizable as a historic theatre.

The theatre features a central entrance which leads to a square vestibule with a metal paneled ceiling. This opens through a pair of doorways to a large lobby. Each side of the building has a staircase, both of which are accessible from the outside. They lead to an upper gallery area which at one time provided separate seating for blacks. The auditorium space itself is largely modern, with a lowered ceiling and a new stage which is almost twice as large as the original. Parts of the original proscenium can still be seen, and the orchestra pit is still extant, but it has been covered over.

The theatre's identity as a historic structure rests primarily upon its exterior appearance. The rear and sides of the building are solid walls of common bonded red brick. The front originally featured a textured buff brick two-tone treatment accented with cast cement details, a pressed metal cornice, and a tile roof. In April 1987 the original brickwork on the facade was painted over in a cream color, with details accented in off-white. Each of the side bays is surmounted by a massive articulated keystone, and the center bay is surmounted by a pair of oversized lozenge panels. The facade bays are separated by pilaster strips, each of which is surmounted by a large bracket. The present "Rose" signage is a repainting of the original letters (done in April 1987).

Originally there was a flat fixed awning over the theatre entrance. This had been lost for many years and was replaced in April 1987 with a canvas awning with a half vaulted shape. In addition, the present etched glass windows were installed in April 1987. (The original windows featured a stained glass treatment, but they were almost all gone.) Finally, as previously mentioned, the facade has been painted in a cream color with off-white details. (The side and rear elevations were not painted.)

Assessment of Integrity:

Although the Rose Theatre has undergone many alterations, the essential facade elements are still extant. Thus it is probable that someone from Bastrop in the 1920s would still recognize the Rose today, at least on the exterior.

Specific dates	1927-1937 (Theatre opened 1927)
Builder/Architect	Mr. & Mrs. C. J. Goodwin

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)  
Criterion A

The Rose is locally significant in the area of theatre because of its role as a "temple of amusement" in Morehouse Parish. Of course, for purposes of the National Register one can only consider the period from 1927 (when the Rose opened) to 1937. But today the Rose is still the parish's only theatre.

The April 5, 1927 grand opening of the Rose was heralded by the Morehouse Enterprise in a front page story complete with a photograph. The newspaper noted that "the event that the people of Bastrop and Morehouse have been eagerly awaiting will take place tonight, when this beautiful

Temple of Amusement built at a cost of more than \$75,000 will be officially dedicated to the people of this city and parish."

During its historic period the Rose was an entertainment mecca for the area, attracting patrons from as far as twenty miles. And it should be noted that this was during the era of gravel roads. The Rose presented feature films as well as vaudeville and specialty acts. An example of a specialty act was Professor Ali-Din, a "psychic" who would answer questions on love, marriage, money, etc. Patrons were invited to submit questions using a question box published in the local paper. Ali-Din's engagement at the Rose lasted for a week during the summer of 1931 and culminated in a "spook party" on the night of July 4th, including a demonstration of "spirit slate writing."

By all accounts the Rose was well attended. Lines a block long at the ticket office were not at all out of the ordinary. One older resident of the area has remarked that to the young people of 1928, Friday night and the Rose was almost inseparable. Another has noted that his frequent twenty mile trips to the Rose gave him and his friends "something to talk about for the whole week." Testimonials and stories about the Rose abound. Suffice it to say that before most local people had radios and before television was known, the Rose was Morehouse Parish's only non-printed purveyor of entertainment. Thus it occupied an important niche in the life of the local area.

The Rose was donated August 2, 1985 to the Cotton Country Players, Inc. by the Goodwin family, the original owners. The theatre had been named for Mrs. Rose Goodwin. After a major renovation project, the Cotton Country Players had a grand reopening of the Rose in April 1987.

#### Major Bibliographical References

April 5, 1927 issue of Morehouse Enterprise (with photo of Rose). Written statements made by some of Morehouse Parish's older residents regarding the Rose.

Morehouse Enterprise, 1929-1937.