



Virginia Theatre

CHAMPAIGN, IL

The Virginia Theatre is a Spanish and Italian Renaissance revival theatre located in Champaign, Illinois. It was founded by local resident and owner of the local Rialto Theatre Charles "C.C." Pyle. The theatre was designed by two architects at the Crane Company, an architecture firm in Detroit, Michigan: owner Charles Howard Crane and Kenneth Franzheim. The Crane Company was prolific in the creation of movie theatres across the US, designing more than 250 including the Earle Theatre (aka the Warner Theatre) in Washington DC (1922) and the Detroit Fox Theatre in Detroit (1928). Construction of the theatre began in 1921 under the direction of local contractor and project partner A.W. Stoolman, who named it after his daughter, Elizabeth Virginia Stoolman. The theater opened on December 28 of that year, offering both Broadway and vaudeville productions, as well as movies.

The theatre was leased by the RKO Company from 1930 to 1967. RKO remodeled the theatre twice during that time. In 1939 new seats were added, the back wall of the auditorium's main hall, originally open to the lobby, was closed off, and a new Art Deco style marquee was installed on the façade. In 1955 the theatre's foyer, front doors, and box office were remodeled. In 1968 the Kerasotes Theater Company purchased the Virginia, adding it to their successful national chain; they operated the theatre until 1992. In 1995 the theatre was purchased by the non-profit The Virginia Theatre Group, who was formed to oversee restoration and management of the theatre using a loan from the city. Ownership was taken over by the Park District in 2001 and the Friends of Virginia Theatre was formed to raise funds for the restoration. To aid in their efforts, the building was added to the national register of historic places in 2003...

MORE INFORMATION:

<https://evergreene.com/projects/virginia-theatre/>

SERVICES PERFORMED

- Conservation Treatments
- Decorative Painting & Finishes
- Faux Finishes
- Gilding
- Historic Finishes Investigation
- Investigation, Testing & Analysis
- Microscopy & Material ID
- Plasterwork
- Surveys & Condition Assessments

PROJECT DETAILS

Contractor

Johnston Contractors

