

Metro Detroit Theatres and Their Pipe Organs The Census

Legend:

THEATRE NAME	Opening and closing dates
Street address	Architect
City	Number of seats
Comments (Organbuilder, year of installation, other pertinent or interesting data)	

ACADEMIE	(1921 - 1928)
9000 Oakland	
Detroit	342
2/4 Marr & Colton (1924)	
Went to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Detroit. Has since gone to parts. Roger Mumbrue acquired the console and relay. No combination action; not at all unusual for Marr & Colton organs of this size.	

ADAMS	(1917 - 1988)
44 West Adams	C. Howard Crane
(Grand Circus Park)	1,770
Detroit	
3/28 Hilgreen-Lane (1918)	
Arthur Ravette was organist here. Organist and organbuilder Ed Gress purchased this organ and set up ten ranks of it in his home.	

ADDISON	(1914 - 1980)
(aka FINE ARTS)	
2954 Woodward (at Watson)	C. Howard Crane
Detroit	582
2/? Robert Morton (1919)	
2/5 Robert Morton (1927) Style 17 [Opus 2316]	

ALHAMBRA	(1915 - 1975)
9428 Woodward (across from Boston Blvd)	C. Howard Crane
Detroit	1,475
2/11 Hilgreen-Lane (1914)	
Converted to a recording studio.	

AMBASSADOR	(1924 - 1970s?)
(aka TEMPLE, aka ART)	
17730 John R (North of McNichols)	
Highland Park	810
2/3 Wurlitzer (1924) Style 109 [Opus 914]	
Herb Head got the pipes from this instrument.	
Last name change to the Art Theatre was in 1961, providing adult films in 1970s. By the end, the building was largely destroyed, with the roof gone and no doors.	

ANNEX	(1927 - 1949)
(aka RIVIERA ANNEX, GRAND RIVIERA ANNEX)	
8990 Grand River	John Eberson
Detroit	1,824
3/13 Robert Morton (1927)	
Moved to Powderhorn Park Baptist Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Extant, but now removed from the church.	

ARCADE	(1913 - 1949)
2416 Hastings St.	B. C. Wetzell

Detroit 464
 2/?? Moller (1913) [Opus 1773]
 Two manuals, seventeen registers.

ARCADIA DANCE PALACE (1912 - 1929)
 (aka ARCADIA ROLLER RINK)
 3527 Woodward
 Detroit
 2/8 Moller (1914)
 Tubular pneumatic instrument.
 The "Arc" opened as one of the country's largest ballrooms in 1912, premiered as a concert hall and theatre in 1915, and was home to the Detroit Symphony Orchestra for a brief period. The acoustics were reportedly bad enough to bring about the construction of Orchestra Hall just a few years later. The building reverted to a ballroom in 1929, and was converted to a roller skating rink in 1941, periodically hosting boxing matches. It was demolished in 1972 to make way for a high-rise apartment building for the elderly. The Capitol Theatre's 4/20 Wurlitzer was installed here for about a decade, beginning in the mid-1950s. See CAPITOL listing.

ARENA GARDENS ROLLER RINK (1935 - ????)
 5787-5791 Woodward
 Detroit
 2/11 Wurlitzer (1935) Rebuilt Style 13 [Opus 103]
 Originally in Orpheum Theatre, Jersey City, NJ (1916) as a 2/8, then to Hamilton Theatre, Yonkers, NY (1916), then to Arena Gardens (1935), where Steve Bodman connected the organ in such a way so as to be playable from a button accordion. Rink owner Adam Weismuller was a concert accordionist. Bodman installed the organ in 1935 and increased the number of ranks from eight to eleven, reportedly all for \$148. Russell Bice, local rink organist and Adam Weismuller were the organists. Later sold to Ben Van Houten, Grand Rapids, MI; later sold to Robert MacNeur (late 1970s). Parts.

AVALON (1928 - 1967)
 13303 Linwood (at Davison) Graven & Mayger
 Detroit 1,972
 3/10 Wangerin-Barton [519 Organ] (1928)
 Included piano.
 Metal scrappers got to this instrument just before being removed by Henry Przybylski and Phil Robertson in January and February, 1971. Parts.

BALDWIN (1922 - 1936)
 (aka WASHINGTON [1936 - 1984], aka STAGECRAFTERS BALDWIN [1985 - present])
 422 S. Washington Frederick D. Madison
 (Entrance now 415 S. Lafayette)
 Royal Oak 1,128
 2/7 Barton (1922)
 Donated to original First Presbyterian Church (Royal Oak) in 1941 by Mabel Baldwin. Gone by 1955 when the church moved to their new building. Status unknown.
 2/9 Wurlitzer-hybrid (1980s). Core of organ from EAST SIDE, Detroit. Additions from RAMONA, Detroit and WSMK Radio, Dayton, OH.

BIJOU (1905 - ????)
 87 N. Gratiot
 Mt. Clemens 800
 2/6 Wurlitzer (1919) Style 160 [Opus 0204]

BIRMINGHAM (1927 - present)
 215 S. Woodward C. W. Rapp & George Rapp
 Birmingham 1,401

3/10 Barton [259 Organ] (1927)

The organ was heavily draped, had a very muffled sound and suffered some water damage while still in the theatre. Removed by George Orbits, sold to Don Jenks (installed and playing in his first Brighton home), later sold to Gary Montgomery. Served as core of the instrument in Theatre Organ Pizza & Pipes, Pontiac, opening in October, 1979, and built up to 21 ranks. Restaurant closed in 1986. Currently being professionally restored and installed in a private residence in Tennessee as a 3/14 "Barton concept organ," minus a few original components and all additions made in Pontiac. One of the additions to the bass in the latest incarnation is the metal Diaphone that was originally in the Olympia Stadium Barton.

BROADWAY

(aka BROADWAY - STRAND) (1915 - 1929)
1337 Broadway Arland W. Johnson
Detroit 1,600

3/15 Wurlitzer (1915) Style 35 [Opus 64]

Very few of this apparently experimental model were produced. The lower two keyboards (Accompaniment and Great) were standard 61-note, while the top (Solo) keyboard was only the center 37 notes. The limited-compass "color" stops, like Tibia, (brass) Trumpet, Kinura, Orchestral Oboe, Oboe Horn and Quintadena were only available on the Solo keyboard at 8' pitch and were available on the Great only via couplers from the Solo. Same story for the Chimes and Sleigh Bells. Limited number of tabs, all in a single row. Sold to Ed Lansing, who cut the console down dramatically and removed the top keyboard for his home instrument. Later sold to James Van Eck (1973), acquired by the Music House, Acme, MI in 1992. Parts.

CALVIN (1927 - 1980)
22168 Michigan Ave. Ted Rogvov
West Dearborn 1,200
2/7 Marr & Colton

Much of the organ was smashed by vandals in this one-chamber installation. The remains of organ were removed by Jeff Slabaugh and his father in early 1970s. Some chests and pipes later found a home in the Dearborn residence organ of David Brewer. Parts.

CAMPEAU

??? Joseph Campeau
Detroit? Hamtramck?
Reproduco (photoplayer)

CAPITOL (1922 - 1985)
(aka BROADWAY-CAPITOL, aka PARAMOUNT, aka GRAND CIRCUS)
DETROIT OPERA THEATRE (1990s - present)
1526 Broadway (Grand Circus Park) C. Howard Crane
Detroit 3,485

3/38 Hilgreen-Lane (1921) [Opus 630]

4/20 Wurlitzer (1925) Publix #1 [Opus 1123]

This was Detroit's first "super-palace," and the fifth largest theatre in the U.S. at the time of its opening. The Hilgreen-Lane organ reportedly cost \$8,000. Only four years after the H-L was installed, it was replaced by Wurlitzer's first Publix #1, ultimately a popular economy model with the smaller Style 285 four-manual shell (the same used for the Fox slave consoles). Purchase price was reportedly \$46,475. Under specific direction from organist Jesse Crawford, the specification was sans English Post Horn; "to protect the audience from the organist." Prior to his days at the Fisher Theatre, Don Miller was the chief organist. Bob Clark also played here. Lew Betterly and many of the old-time organists felt this was Detroit's finest sounding organ, speaking out well with great acoustics, coupled with huge openings into the auditorium. Miller said he played the piano during the Summer while the Hilgreen-Lane was being removed and the Wurlitzer installed. The console arrived sans ornamentation, and sat in the lobby during that period. A publicity photo of Marguerite Werner at the undecorated console was taken during that time. Later, the organ was broadcast on radio in the afternoon, even while the theatre was open, showing movies. Opus 1123 was sold to organist William Holleman and installed on stage of the Arcadia Rink in the mid 1950s. Holleman sold the brass Saxophone and had two Posthorns in the organ; a Moller and a Marr &

Colton. Beginning in 1969, it was sold to a rapid succession of owners on roughly an annual basis before being acquired by the Oakland (California) Symphony Association in 1972, and now serves as the basis for the Wurlitzer organ in the Oakland Paramount Theatre, Oakland, California.

When the theatre was restored to become the "Detroit Opera House," the plaster was analyzed by Environmental Testing Associates in order to faithfully recreate the original mix in an attempt to retain the fine acoustics.

CARDINAL RICHELIEU'S TEA ROOM STUDIO (1930 - 1934)

12832 Woodward

Highland Park

2/5 Wurlitzer (1926) Style B Special [Opus 1532]

This instrument began its public life at the Van Croix Theatre in Eau Gallie (later merged with Melbourne), Florida, and was shipped from the factory on 12/10/26. Due to the financial hardship placed on the surrounding area by the Great Depression, the theatre closed permanently in 1930. The organ was apparently resold and installed in Cardinal Richelieu's Tea Room, approximately 12/16/30. It was then sold to radio station WWVA in Wheeling, West Virginia, approximately 7/08/34. The station's staff organist was Vivian Miller. Current information as to the organ's whereabouts or existence unknown.

The basic four ranks of the Style B were Trumpet, Vox Humana, Flute and Salicional. The fifth rank was a Tibia Clausa, making this stock model a "special." This instrument would have been similar to the Wurlitzer organ in the Punch & Judy Theatre in Grosse Pointe. It is believed that the organ was installed by Wurlitzer-trained technicians at all three locations.

CASINO (1930 - 1949)

4858 East Davison

Mildner & Eisen

Detroit

650

2/3 Wurlitzer (1930) Style 109 [Opus 638]

First installed in Penniman-Allen Theatre, Plymouth (1923)

Repossessed and sold to the Wadlow Bros., Detroit (1926), (possibly Wadlaw or Wadlosos Theatre in Plymouth)

Repossessed and installed in Casino Theatre, Detroit (1929)

CENT ODEON (1906 - 1970s)

(aka BIJOU, aka NEW GAYETY, aka CINE X)

62 Monroe

Mildner & Eisen

Detroit

314

Reproduco (photoplayer)

The popular Reproduco line was produced by the Operators Piano Company of Chicago, and according to one of their vintage advertisements, there were about twenty-three of them in the Detroit area. It is believed that over 1,000 of them were built and saw service in theatres nationwide. They consisted of two keyboards; one piano and one organ, and were equipped to play either manually or from an inbuilt roll player. Their basic model controlled three ranks of pipes that were stuffed behind the knee panel; those being a Diapason, Quintadena (stopped metal flute), and an open Flute, whose wooden bass pipes were strapped to the back of the case's exterior. Deluxe models had an additional cabinet that stood alongside, containing other pipes and effects, and sported a short compass pedalboard. The company also produced a similar line that was successful in mortuary use.

By the time this theatre closed in the mid-70s, it was considered to be the oldest continuously operating movie theatre in the country.

CHALMERS (1928 - 1950)

(aka CHANDLER)

1403 Harper

Detroit

450

2/3 Wurlitzer (1928) Style 109 [Opus 1965]

Installed only weeks after the Fisher Theatre Wurlitzer, this was the last theatre organ installation in the city of Detroit. Repossessed and reinstalled in the Four Square Gospel Church, New Baltimore, MI (1933).

CINDERELLA (1924 - 1975)
 13305-9 East Jefferson (at Copeland) Christian W. Brandt
 Detroit 1,897
 2/6 Wurlitzer (1923) Style D (Moved to Roosevelt Theatre, Detroit, 1924) [Opus 526]
 3/10 Wurlitzer (1924) Style H Special [Opus 881]
 The Roosevelt organ was purchased and removed by Herb Head and used as the core of his Roseville home instrument, which is now in storage awaiting reinstallation in a theatre in Waco, Texas. Dudley Harwood was organist at the Cinderella before moving over to the Oriole. He would often have an usher climb up to the chamber and open the top of the upright piano to increase its volume. The three-manual Cinderella organ was purchased and removed by Glenn Rank (1969) and sold to the Music House Museum, Acme, Michigan (1985), where it now serves as the core of the instrument there. See ROOSEVELT listing.

CIRCLE (1912 - 1936)
 (aka YIDDISH, aka DUNBAR)
 2814 Hastings
 Detroit 658
 Reproduco (photoplayer)

COLONIAL (1917 - mid 1975)
 2615 Woodward (at Adelaide) C. Howard Crane
 Detroit 1,566
 2/22 Hilgreen-Lane (1917)

COLUMBIA (1911 - 1956)
 50 Monroe C. Howard Crane
 Detroit 1,006
 2/18 Hilgreen-Lane (1911)
 2/3 Wurlitzer (1927) Style 100 Special [Opus 1701]
 The Hilgreen-Lane was Detroit's first pipe organ installation into a movie theatre (located near Campus Martius), and that company's first theatre organ installation anywhere.

CONANT (1929 - 1954)
 12027 Conant
 Hamtramck 940
 2/? Robert Morton (1929)

CRESCENT
 —
 Pontiac
 2/3 Wurlitzer, Style 105
 No information. Theatre possibly demolished early, changed names prior to installation, or never built.

COURTESY (1915 - 1951)
 6041 W. Vernor Hwy (at Military) Williams Brothers
 Detroit 816
 Reproduco (photoplayer)

COZY (1915 - 1934)
 1042 Michigan Avenue
 Detroit 389
 Reproduco (photoplayer)

CRYSTAL (1916 - 1938)
 4845 Michigan Avenue
 Detroit 589
 ?? Karn-Morris (1916)

Karn-Morris Piano & Organ Company of Woodstock, Ontario built two instruments for theatres in Detroit near the end of that brief partnership; for the Crystal Theatre, and the Duplex Theatre. The action is presumed to have been tubular pneumatic (sometimes referred to as "tubercular rheumatic"). Karn later partnered with Russell Warren (formerly of Clough & Warren) in Detroit. The firm became Warren and Sons, and later Woodstock Pipe Organ Builders. Karn-Morris built about seven organs for theatres in total.
2/3 Robert Morton (1923) Style 49
Unspecified revisions or replacement by Morton (1926)

DELTHE (1916 - 1963)
(aka DEL)
8935 Mack Ave. Christian W. Brandt
Detroit 1,076
2/7 Wurlitzer (1915), Style 3 [Opus 61]
Moved at an unknown time to the Delthe from unknown location in Chicago.

DELUXE (1918 - 1958)
9355 Kercheval B. C. Wetzell
Detroit 1,486
?? Seeburg-Smith
This Adam styled East English Village theatre housed the only Seeburg-Smith installation in the Detroit area. Demolished April, 1963.

DEQUINDRE
??? Dequindre
Detroit
Reproduco (photoplayer)

DETROIT CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC
5035 Woodward Avenue
Detroit
2/3 Kimball (1928) [KPO 7043]
This instrument was installed with a 16' – 2' Concert Flute, 8' – 4' Tibia Clausa, 8' – 2' Viole, along with a full battery of traps and xylophone. Second touch on Accompaniment and Pedal. Used initially for teaching students in the art of playing the theatre organ in a classroom setting, taught by Armin "Jack" Franz, who was the head of the organ department there. Sold to the late Tom Wilson (c. 1960), who installed it first in his Dearborn residence, later moving it to his home in Bloomfield Hills (Gilbert Lake area) in 1966. Xylophone swapped out for a 37n Page metal bar harp by Wilson. Intact.

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS (1917 - present)
5200 Woodward Avenue Paul Phillipe Cret
Detroit 1,200
4/79 Casavant (1927)
Not a "true" theatre organ, but a fine old instrument voiced in the orchestral Romantic style, and used to accompany films even today. Extant, unaltered, awaiting a full restoration. Stacked, cantilevered chambers, making for great difficulty to restore.

DEXTER (1926 - 1964)
11618 Dexter (at Burlingame)
Detroit 1,228
2/5 Marr & Colton (1926)
Removed 1970s. Spent some time playing in a restaurant in an unknown location, then reinstalled in home of Taylor Trimby, Joliet, Illinois. Resold to an unknown party and now parts.

DRURY LANE (1916 - 1922)
1534 Woodward Ave.
Detroit

2/8 Wurlitzer (1916) Style V Special [Opus 91]

This model contained the following ranks: 16' Tuba Horn, 16' Open Diapason, 16' Concert Flute, 8' Viol d'Orchestre, 8' Viol Celeste, 8' Dulciana, 8' Oboe Horn, 8' Vox Humana. With no traps and only Cathedral Chimes for a percussion, this model also sold to churches and lodge halls. The instrument was controlled by a piano console, and had a mandolin attachment.

DUPLEX (1915 - 1922)

(aka GRAND BOULEVARD)

(aka ORIOLE TERRACE DANCE HALL, aka GRAND TERRACE, aka LATIN QUARTER, aka GRAND QUARTERS)

3075 E. Grand Boulevard (near Woodward) Fuller Claflin

Detroit 1,500 (twin adjoining 750 seat theatres)

?? Karn-Morris (1915)

?? Kelly (1922)

In the July - September, 1914 issue of *The Moving Picture World*, a feature entitled *Detroit To Have Duplex Theater* said:

"...the orchestra may be playing in one auditorium and the pipe organ in the other, without interference with each other; and orchestra and pipe organ can be played alternately in each auditorium to suit the nature of the picture which is viewed from each, respectively. Only one orchestra and one pipe organ are necessary in a duplex theater, the orchestra passing readily from one orchestra pit to the other as the pictures change correspondingly, while soundproof shutters open and close openings from the organ loft to either auditorium at the will of the organist." The initial drawing of the building's interior showed the organ installed high atop the centrally located proscenium arch, playing into a divided dome that was shared by both theatres. See CRYSTAL listing for general information on Karn-Morris. Thomas Kelly was a Detroit organbuilder and technician whose only known theatre instrument was in this structure when it was the Oriole Terrace Dance Hall, installed in 1922. In an advertisement in *The Diapason* magazine, Kelly's address was listed as 401 E. Palmer St., near what is now the Wayne State University campus. What is not known is if this was an all-new instrument, a rebuild, possible electrification or just moving within the building of the Karn-Morris.

This building opened as a two-screen theatre in 1915, and was one of the first duplex theatres in the U.S. Initially promoted as the Grand Boulevard, the theatre opened as the Duplex. Following a fire in 1922, the remnants of the structure were transformed into a ballroom by C. Howard Crane. Legendary band leader Jean Goldkette ran it during the 20s as a jazz hall, when it was one of the biggest nightclubs in Detroit. Surviving yet another fire in 1940, it also hosted dance schools, recitals and other local performances through the 1970s, and remained a venue for live music performance until becoming abandoned around 1996. Demolished December, 2011.

EAGLE (1927? - ????)

13-15 S. Saginaw

Pontiac 150

Photoplayer of unknown make.

Formerly the Arlington Hotel, this was Pontiac's first theatre. Building still extant.

EAST END (1926 - 1955)

11510 East Jefferson P. R. Periera

Detroit 1,050

3/9 Marr & Colton (1926)

EAST SIDE

(aka GREAT LAKES EAST SIDE) (1910 - 1955)

2717 Gratiot (at Grandy) George V. Pottle

Detroit 650

2/3 Wurlitzer (1925) Style 109 [Opus 1139], repossessed and reinstalled in Sylvia Theatre, Bellevue, KY (1928)

2/6 Wurlitzer (1927) Style D [Opus 1815]. Sold to St. Stephen's A.M.E. Church (on McGraw) in 1935, later to George Buck, see WASHINGTON, Royal Oak.

ECHO	(1926 - 1954)
8962 Oakland Ave.	Richard H. Marr
Detroit	689
2/7 Marr & Colton (1926)	
Organ went to unknown location in Amherst, New York.	
Building erected 1919.	
ECORSE	(1920 -1951?)
4050 W. Jefferson	
Ecorse	400
2/3 Wurlitzer (1926) Style 105 Special [Opus 1453]	
Repossessed and sold to Reverend Welsh, Detroit (1935).	
EMBASSY	(1927 - 1930)
1480 Woodward	
Detroit	
Reproduco (photoplayer)	
EMPIRE	(1910 - 1923)
1251 Woodward	C. Howard Crane
Detroit	
2/8 Hilgreen-Lane (1913)	
FAMILY	(1909 - 1973)
(aka FOLLIES)	
1 Cadillac Square at Monroe	Fuller Clafin
Detroit	934
2/6 Wurlitzer (1924) Style D Special [Opus 853]	
Organ sold to St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church, later sold to Bill Ptolemy (1970). Unknown.	
When this theatre changed it's entertainment policy to that of adult films, nearby residents complained, and so the name was changed to the Follies. At 10:14 p.m., on the evening of July 26, 1973, the theatre caught fire and burned slowly enough that most of the fifty or so patrons in attendance waited patiently in line to accept a full refund on the \$5 admission charge. The remains of the theatre were demolished about a month later.	
FARNUM	(1917 - 1967)
9048 Joseph Campau	C. Howard Crane
Hamtramck	900
2/4 Wurlitzer (1923) Style B [Opus 0735]	
FERNDALE	(1921 - 1928)
7913 Ferndale	
Detroit	
Reproduco (photoplayer)	
FERNDALE	(1921 - ????)
(aka THE MAGIC BAG)	
22920 Woodward (one block N. of 9 Mile)	
Ferndale	425
Bartola Model 3-1/2 (1920)	
Theatre now called "The Magic Bag," running rock shows.	
FERRY FIELD	(1916 - 1935)
(aka BEACON)	(1936 - 1937)
6541 Grand River (at Grand Blvd.)	C. Howard Crane

Detroit	1,325
2/6 Marr & Colton (1926)	
Sold to Tom Hadfield.	
FISHER	(1928 - 1960; legit playhouse 1961 through present)
3011 West Grand Blvd.	Graven & Mayger
(at Second; Fisher Bldg)	
Detroit	2,975
4/34 Wurlitzer (1928) 4-manual Special [Opus 1953]	
One-of-a-kind, modified Publix #4 specification; one of the last two original theatre organ installations in the city of Detroit. Theatre opened in November, 1928. Purchase price reportedly \$67,050. This instrument is unique on several levels, most notably with a stop layout arranged first by chamber and then by pitch. The console is one of a very few "big box" consoles (ala Fox with 345 stop tabs) slightly reduced in depth to accommodate a mere 281 stop tabs. One of a handful of Wurlitzer theatre organs installed anywhere with a grand piano attached. Installed by Wurlitzer's Chicago installer; a rare exception in the city that did not include Detroit area organbuilder Steve Bodman, who was a Wurlitzer employee. Promoted as the "Fisher Cathedral-Cinema Organ" in opening night newspaper advertisement. Early on, Ole Foerch moved over from the old Fox-Washington to play here. After a stint in the late 20s/early 30s, Don Miller returned to play on Friday nights from 1951-1955. Bill Holleman played during the late 50s. Roy Steinert maintained the organ and replaced many magnets while still in the theatre. Organ was available for practice at fifty cents an hour in the 1950s. Purchased by George Orbits in 1960, and moved to Iris Theatre and installed in 1961 as the focal point of the Detroit Theatre Organ Society (then Club). Moved to Senate Theatre and installed 1963-1964. Extant, basically unaltered.	
FLAMINGO	(1925 - 1952)
14270 E. 7 Mile (near Gratiot)	
Detroit	997
2/5 Marr & Colton (1925)	
Organ removed at the time of conversion to a church. Location unknown. Building currently in use as a church.	
FLEUR DE LYS	(1922 - 1926)
10775 W. Jefferson Ave.	
Detroit (Waterworks Park)	1,000
Bartola Model Deluxe (1919)	
2/7 Barton (1927?)	
FORD GRAND	
—	
Springwells (Dearborn)	
2/3 Wurlitzer (1926) Style 105 [Opus 1274]	
FORDSON	
10149 Dix Rd.	
Fordson (Dearborn)	
?? Marr & Colton	
2/3 Wurlitzer (1926) Style 105 [Opus 1441]	
Parts	
FOX	(1928 - present)
2211 Woodward	C. Howard Crane
Detroit	5,041
3/12 Moller; lobby (1928) [Opus 5287]	
Residence organ with roll player attachment. Sixty-eight registers, twelve ranks. Cost \$10,000.	
4/36 Wurlitzer; auditorium (1928) [Opus 1894]	
Detroit's largest and grandest theatre organ. Utilized a slave and a stage console. Modeled on an identical	

instrument in the New York (City) Paramount (1926), this was one of only five built of this model, known as the "Fox Special."

Both extant, intact. Armin "Jack" Franz, Arthur Ravette and Ole Foerch played here.

FRONTENAC (1912 - 1951)

(aka ACE)

7206 Harper (at Frontenac)

Detroit 834

Bartola Model 5 (1919)

FUN (1912 - 1931)

1052 Michigan Avenue

Detroit 339

Reproduco (photoplayer)

GARDEN (1912 - 1949)

3929 Woodward (at Alexandrine) C. Howard Crane

Detroit 903

2/11 Hilgreen-Lane (1914)

Reopened in 1960s as an adult cinema called Peek-A-Rama; later renamed The Sassy Cat. After decades in ruin, the theatre underwent a multi-million dollar renovation and reopened in October, 2013. Today, the Garden is a performance art, event and rental space in Midtown with a seating capacity of 1,200.

GLADWIN PARK (1914 - 1962)

(aka GLADWIN, aka ALADDIN, aka BOOTH)

9636 East Jefferson (at Parkview) E. H. Rogers

Detroit 894

2/7 Wurlitzer (1918) Style 2 Special [Opus 165]

Case organ installed on stage. Included Clarinet.

3/8 Marr & Colton (1925)

GLOBE (1912 - 1955?)

3520 Grand River (at Trumbell) Harley & Atcheson

Detroit 650

2/13 Hilgreen-Lane (1915)

GRANADA (1927 - 1970)

5549 West Warren (at Junction)

Detroit 1,750

2/7 Wurlitzer (1927) Style E [Opus 1625]

Now installed in Village Chapel in Fowlerville, MI. Extant, some alterations.

GRAND RIVIERA (1925 - mid 70s)

9222 Grand River (at Joy Rd.) John Eberson

Detroit 2,766

3/10 Robert Morton (1925)

Installed in two chambers on auditorium right side of theatre; Brass and Woodwind. Impact of the organ was reportedly rather weak in the room, but always playable. Console sat at auditorium left on the floor of the pit, with no lift. Purchased and removed by Lee Hohner in 1969. Reinstalled three times since purchase, and remains intact and playing in Lee's residence in Three Rivers, Michigan.

GRAND VICTORY (1921 - 1958)

(aka CHARGOT, aka VICTORY)

8225 Grand River Ave. Maurice H. Finkel

Detroit 919

2/4 Wurlitzer (1920) Style 135A [Opus 317]

Vandalized, later to parts.

GRANDE (1909 - 1956)
8024 West Jefferson Kohner & Seeler
Detroit 1,837
2/6 Wurlitzer (1921) Style 160 [Opus 459]
Sold to Charles Bartells, later sold again to unknown party.
2/5 Marr & Colton (1929)
Sold to former DTOS board director Ed Kantarian.

GRATIOT (1910 - 1930)
2306-12 Gratiot Mildner & Eisen
Detroit
2/4 Wurlitzer (1925) Style B Special [Opus 1124]
Parts

GREAT LAKES (1927 - 1972)
(aka VEST POCKET)
14832 Grand River George D. Mason
Detroit 1,795
3/9 Marr & Colton (1927)
Some evidence exists that organist Don Miller did some teaching here. Organ removed mid-50s by Russ Vogt, and connected to Reg Webb 3-manual Marr & Colton console, which was highly unified with lots of couplers. Later sold to the late Harold Dingel in Goodrich. Restored, but never set up again. Sold at public auction after his passing in recent years. Location unknown.
The building operated as a church for several years after closing as a theatre in 1972. Demolished 1999.

GROSSE POINTE PARK (1923 - 1955)
(aka ALOMA)
15003 Charlevoix
Grosse Pointe Park
?? Marr & Colton (1924)

HARMONY (1921 - late 70s)
(aka ADMIRAL)
11205 Mack (at St. Jean)
Detroit 1,322
?? Marr & Colton (1921)

HARPER (1922 - 1930)
7723 Harper
Detroit
?? Marr & Colton (1922)
2/3 Wurlitzer (1925) Style 109 [Opus 1035]
Repossessed and moved in 1933 to Advent Lutheran Church, Dearborn.

HARRIS

—
Detroit
2/6 Wurlitzer (1915) Style L [Opus 52]
Detroit's first theatre Wurlitzer.

HAZEL PARK
22840 John R
Detroit (Hazel Park)
2/3 Wurlitzer (1925) Style 105 [Opus 1171]

Possibly relocated to a church.

HOLLYWOOD (1927 - 1958)
4809 West Fort (at Ferdinand) Charles N. Agree; Graven & Mayger, associates
Detroit 3,436

4/21 Barton (1927) [234 Organ]

This was a deluxe theatre in a sketchy neighborhood that never developed as anticipated. Bob Clarke was the organist here. Maintained by Ed Lansing through the 50s. Organ spoke out well (swell area 12' w. X 18' h. on both sides) and enjoyed good acoustics. Some think this was Detroit's second-best sounding theatre organ in it's time. Organ purchased and removed by Henry Przybylski in 1962 and stored, but never reinstalled. Sold to Steven Ball in 2003 and stored, but never reinstalled. Donated in 2020, and in the process of a professional restoration by Carlton Smith, to be installed in an existing auditorium on the campus of the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York exactly as it was in the theatre. Intact.

Hollywood Theatre demolished in 1963. Now a parking lot for school busses.

IRIS (1916 - 1954)
2314 East Grand Blvd. Mildner & Eisen
Detroit 881

2/8 Wurlitzer (1917) Style 3 Special [Opus 127]

Included 49-note Kinura. Organ sold to Frank Ski.

Rink-style theatre. Building was first home for Detroit Theatre Organ Club (1961 - 1963).

IRVING (1927 - 1997)
21220 Fenkell Kohner & Payne
Detroit 1,025

2/6 Robert Morton

Purchased and removed by William Kaltrider (Owosso) during the riots in 1967. Parts.

After serving in it's late years as a porn theatre, then a church and later suffering a fire, the building was demolished in 2007.

JEWEL (1910 - 1934)
(aka BLACKSTONE)
116 Michigan Avenue 300
Detroit

Reproduco (photoplayer)

KNICKERBOCKER (1916 - 1957)
(aka WHITTIER)
7237 East Jefferson 973
Detroit

2/6 Wurlitzer (1915) Style L [Opus 57]

The Style L was the legendary instrument that Clare Dunham transported to his home in St. Clair one piece at a time in the sidecar of his motorcycle, after being displaced by Opus 1921 in 1928. Dunham purchased a brand new Tibia from Wurlitzer for \$99. Organ later sold to John Steele and installed in his Pontiac home with alterations; later sold to Walter Bressler and installed in his Midland home; later sold to Joel Gary of Grand Rapids. Parts.

2/8 Wurlitzer (1928) Style 175 Special [Opus 1921]. Included 49-note Kinura. Repossessed and reinstalled in Coolidge Corner Theatre, Brookline, MA (1933). Kinura replaced with Clarinet in Massachusetts installation. Unknown.

KRAMER (1920 - 1970)
5741 Michigan Avenue (near Livernois) C. Howard Crane
Detroit 1,732

2/18 Hilgreen-Lane (1920)

LA VEEDA (1922 - 1949)
 (aka DE SOTO, aka OAKLAND)
 11759 Oakland
 Highland Park 520
 2/4 Marr & Colton (1926)
 Spent some time in unknown church. Last known Detroit area owner was the late Charles Baas of Clawson, who installed it in his home and later augmented it with other parts. Organ sold and removed 2016 following Mr. Baas death. Current owner and location unknown.

LAKEWOOD (1915 - 1958)
 14243-49 East Jefferson
 Detroit 1,270
 2/12 Moller (1915), [Opus 1985]
 Two manuals, twenty-five registers.

LA SALLE GARDEN (1920 - 1954)
 (aka CENTURY)
 6511 14th St. (at West Grand Blvd.) Christian W. Brandt
 Detroit 1,990
 2/26 Hilgreen-Lane (1920)
 2/?? Robert Morton (1928)
 Gutted and converted to carwash in 1950s, stating CAR WASH on the attractions board of the original marquee. Demolished.

LANCASTER (1912 - 1970)
 (aka AMUSE U)
 10533 West Jefferson
 Detroit (River Rouge) 1,200
 3/6 Wurlitzer (1925) Style D, 3 manual [Opus 1193]
 Some believe this is the most reinstated theatre organ that remained intact, maybe ever, having been (partially to completely) reinstated a total of seven verifiable times after leaving the theatre. Purchased and removed by George Orbits, later sold to Henry Przybylski, later sold to Dave Voydanoff (three locations), later sold to Jim Walgreen (Chicago) and installed in the residence of Fred Kruse (Chicago) and still later reacquired by Dave Voydanoff. Intact, some additions.

LASKY (1926 - 1949)
 13320 Joseph Campau
 Detroit 998
 3/9 Marr & Colton (1926)
 Ed Kantarian had at least the console from this theatre to control his home instrument, later sold to Dave Voydanoff, and later to Bob Warsham. Now in Covenant Lutheran Church.

LEE PALACE
 (aka PALACE)
 6010 14th St.
 Detroit 324
 ??/?? Marr & Colton (1923)

LIBERTY (1913 -1926)
 1020 Farmer St. (at Woodward) C. Howard Crane
 Detroit
 2/10 Hilgreen-Lane (1913)
 ??/?? Hilgreen-Lane (1916) New blower? Revisions?
 This was the former Central United Methodist Church, modified into a theatre by C. Howard Crane.

LINCOLN PARK (1925 - 2006)

1583 Fort Charles N. Agree
 (two blocks North of Southfield Rd) 2,000
 Lincoln Park
 2/7 Hilgreen-Lane (1925)
 Switched to adult films in the 1970s, closed in 2006. Now converted to affordable apartment housing, retaining the theatre's facade and marquee, renamed Lincoln Park Lofts in 2018.

LINCOLN SQUARE (1918 - 1971)
 6034-36 West Fort (at Livernois) Fred F. Swirsky
 Detroit 1,850
 2/10 Wurlitzer (1918) Style 4 Special [Opus 176]. Included Orchestral Oboe, Tibia Clausa and Marimba. Parts.

LINWOOD-LASALLE (1920 - 1964)
 (aka LINWOOD)
 8229 Linwood (at Virginia Park) George V. Pottle
 Detroit 1,400
 2/6 Wurlitzer (1920) Style 160 [Opus 305]
 2/8 Barton (1928)
 Barton owned by Chuck Lalone at one time.

LONIFF
 ???
 Detroit
 Reproduco (photoplayer)

LOOP (1928 - 1956)
 418 Michigan Ave. H. D. Ilgenfritz
 Detroit 550
 2/5 Kimball (1928) [KPO 7011]

LYRIC (1913 - 1929)
 17 N. Gratiot
 Mt. Clemens
 Bartola Model 3-1/2 (1920)

MACK-UPTOWN (1926 - 1963)
 (aka UPTOWN)
 14407 Mack Ave. (at Chalmers) Kohner & Payne
 Detroit 1,550
 2/4 Wurlitzer (Style B)
 Purchased by Paul Ritzman. Lived in Detroit and later Chicago.

MACOMB (1921 - ????)
 31 N. Walnut St. C. Howard Crane
 Mt. Clemens
 2/26 Hilgreen-Lane (1921)
 In the 1970s, Bill Nelem and friends installed a 3/9 Kilgen (from the Palace Theatre, Gary, Indiana) in these chambers. Now removed and in storage in Wisconsin.

MADISON (1917 - 1984)
 22 Witherell (at Grand Circus Park) C. Howard Crane
 Detroit 1,806
 3/48 Hilgreen-Lane (1916)
 Largest H-L theatre organ ever built. Parted out over several phases. Remainder abandoned and came down with theatre interior. Building owned by Detroit Opera Theatre, now gutted.

MAJESTIC (1915 - 1951)
4126-4140 Woodward (at Willis) C. Howard Crane
Detroit 1,651

2/16 Hilgreen-Lane (1915)

2/6 Wurlitzer (1920) Style 160 [Opus 336]

The Wurlitzer was first installed in the Wurlitzer Cincinnati store before coming to the Majestic.

At the time of its opening, the Majestic claimed to be the largest theatre in the world built for the purpose of showing movies. The original facade was designed in an arcaded Italian style. In 1934, the front 35 feet of the theatre was removed when Woodward Avenue was widened to its present size. The theatre closed in 1951, used as a church for a time, a photographic studio and later, a trophy store. It stood vacant for ten years until being purchased by the present owner in 1984. Since that time, this sprawling complex has housed live musical acts, a bar and contains the country's oldest bowling center. In the May 22, 2018 issue of the *Detroit Free Press*, it was announced that Detroit's signature independent concert house was about to undergo a \$1-million, six month long renovation. The current facade will be replaced by one intended to recreate one installed there earlier, made of limestone and black granite, including a curb-facing box office. The 25-year-old Majestic Cafe has been closed in favor of an expanded lobby containing a fifty-foot long bar. Seating capacity will be increased from the current 1,000 seats to 1,300, along with restoration of the ceiling and an acoustical treatment added. Restrooms will be expanded, backstage dressing rooms constructed, and a new VIP seating area is to be incorporated. The theatre was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2008.

MAJESTIC (1916 - 195?)
3161-63 Biddle Christian Brandt
Wyandotte 976

Bartola Model 3-1/2 (1915)

Bartola Model 5 (1919)

2/? Barton (??)

2/7 Marr & Colton (1928)

The M&C moved to Berkely Community Church by Steve Bodman.

MARTHA WASHINGTON (1924 - 1970s)

(aka CAMPAU)

10315-31 Joseph Campau Peter R. Rossello
Hamtramck 1,000

2/8 Marr & Colton (1923)

3/14 Marr & Colton (1924), enlargement

Reg Webb, organist. Six ranks were straight, sold to St. Ladislaus (gymnasium), Hamtramck, then to Dennis Unks around 1970.

MAXINE (1915 - 1952)
7641 Mack Ave. McFarlane, Maul & Lenz
Detroit 960

2/9 Hilgreen-Lane (1915)

MICHIGAN (1926 - 1976)
238 Bagley C. W. Rapp & George Rapp
Detroit 4,038

5/28 Wurlitzer (1926) [Opus 1351]

The first and largest five-manual Wurlitzer. Cost \$61,125. Famed organist Arthur Gutow presided here, later Merle Clark. Purchased in 1955 and reinstalled by Fred Hermes in his Racine, Wisconsin home with some additions. Intact.

Theatre converted to a parking garage in 1976.

MILES (1910 - 1927)
1220-22 Griswold Keys & Colburn

Detroit 2,000
2/29 Hilgreen Lane (1921)

MILES-MAJESTIC (never built)
Corner of Grand River & Roosevelt
Detroit 4,800

2/11 Hilgreen-Lane (1919)
Announced with great fanfare, this mammoth structure was never built, nor apparently was the organ, which seems to be very undersized for a space this large. The theatre builder was to have been Charles Miles, who also owned the Majestic, Regent and Orpheum theatres.

MOORFIELD

???

Detroit
Reproduco (photoplayer)

NETTIE B (1916 - 1958)
(aka TILLMAN, aka DALE, aka WOLVERINE, aka MODEL, aka MEXICO)
3301 - 3307 Michigan Avenue
Detroit 504
Reproduco (photoplayer)

(NEW) ASTOR (1923 - 1960s)
8652 12th St.
Detroit 723
?? Marr & Colton (1923)

NEW HAROLD

—
Pontiac
2/4 Wurlitzer (1919) Style 135 Special [Opus 0200]
Allegedly included a set of "Unifon" Bells.

(NEW) PLAZA (1913 - 1954)
11641 E. Jefferson
Detroit 750
?? Kimball (1922)

NEW ROWLAND

—
Pontiac
2/5 Wurlitzer (1919) Style 135 Special

NORWOOD (1915 - 1949)
6533 Woodward William S. Joy & Co.
Detroit 574
Reproduco (photoplayer)

OAKDALE

8 Mile Rd. & Stephenson Hwy.
Hazel Park 750
2/5 Marr & Colton
Moved to Immanuel N. Baptist; later First Latin American Baptist Church, (6205 W. Fort St., Detroit). Heavily water damaged. Organ and church building demolished in 2018 to make way for new Gordie Howe International Bridge.

OAKLAND

41 S. Saginaw
Pontiac

3/12 Barton (1925)

A Butterfield Special (3/11) plus 30-note Bartolina (metal Tibia) and a second Vox Humana (37 notes), which were installed on the floor in the left chamber. It was still playing right up the end, when the organ was donated to a Mormon church in the area and completely burned in a fire (along with the theatre) in late October, 1960, just weeks before it was scheduled to leave the building. Cliff Weegan was the longtime organist here.

Amphitheatre style (stadium) seating with no official balcony.

OAKMAN

12728-40 Woodrow Wilson (at Glendale) C. Howard Crane
Detroit 1,213

2/3 Barton (1921)

3/? Marr & Colton (1927)

OLYMPIA STADIUM

5920 Grand River C. Howard Crane
Detroit 11,563 (later increased to 15,000)

3/14 Barton (1934)

This late instrument was a composite factory-built organ controlled by a repossessed Butterfield Special console from a theatre in Wisconsin. Much of the remainder was originally installed in the studios of WBBM (Chicago). The instrument was outfitted with English Post Horn (Dennison, 16'), Trumpet and Saxophone (Gottfried, both on 15" wind pressure), all purpose-built for the stadium installation, along with a metal Diaphone from National Organ Supply. The specification was clearly designed for brute force to battle against the live acoustic of the mammoth stadium, and differed somewhat from the standard theatre organ. In addition to the previously mentioned custom reeds, its tonal makeup consisted of (standard) Tuba, Tuba Mirabilis, (second) English Post Horn (marked as French Trumpet on the tabs), Open Diapason, Concert Flute, two Tibia Clausa and four string ranks. That meant no Vox Humana, Clarinet, Oboe Horn, Orchestral Oboe or Kinura, as one would expect to find in a "standard" Barton organ in a 1920s movie theatre. Despite being increased in size, the combination action only operated the original number of tabs. This was a single chamber installation along one side of the stadium that opened up fully with large openings on three sides. The console was on one end of the building, with Bob Clarke as organist. Wichlac began the installation, and Steve Bodman finished and serviced it. Removed by Roger Mumbrue in 1964, sold to Robert Goldstine (via Robert Nickerson) and later to Byron Fogt; all three of Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Fogt modified and added to the basic organ while installed in his home. Later given to Mark Herman (then of Ft. Wayne) following Fogt's passing. Parts.

Olympia Stadium demolished 1987.

ORCHESTRA HALL

(1919 - 1939)
Renamed PARADISE (1941 - 1951)
Renamed ORCHESTRA HALL (1987 - present)
3711 Woodward C. Howard Crane
Detroit 2,286

4/96 Casavant, removed and installed in Calvary Presbyterian Church, ca. 1942, sans Tuba Organ division and 32' Open Diapason (wood). Donated to the Music House Museum in 1992, who removed the organ from the church and stored it for several years while in Acme, Michigan. Now once again in the hands of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, with hopes of reinstalling all or part of it in Orchestra Hall; possibly marrying it to all or part of the Aeolian-Skinner organ from the now-demolished Ford Auditorium. Like the DIA Casavant, not a true theatre organ, but a fine old instrument voiced in the orchestral Romantic style with numerous orchestral voices. Films have been shown here from time to time. Information sketchy whether or not organ accompanied those films.

Due to financial difficulties, the DSO moved out of the building in 1939, and relocated to the Masonic Temple Theatre. From 1941 until 1951, the building served as Detroit's home for concert hall jazz, featuring the finest performers of that type, until abandoning the building, which stood vacant for nearly

twenty years. Ultimately, interested parties joined forces, faithfully restored the building and the DSO moved back into the building in 1989, fifty years after moving out.

ORIENT (1927 - 1960s)
(aka ORIOLE)
8450 Linwood (at Philadelphia) George D. Mason
Detroit 2,078
3/17 Marr & Colton (1927)
Purchased and removed by Nat Brown and Roger Mumbrue. Console, Quintadena and Gamba ranks were installed in Roger's Bloomfield Hills home. Remainder sold. Altered and enlarged to 38 ranks. Removed and currently owned by Melissa Ambrose-Eidson, with plans to install in a private studio at a future date. Dudley Harwood was organist. Mrs. Marr recalled the Orient M&C as one of their premier instruments, right alongside the 4/18 Buffalo (N.Y.) Roosevelt Theatre and 5/24 Rochester (N.Y.) Rochester Theatre. Beginning in 1953, this was the home of Prophet Jones, leader of the Universal Triumph the Dominion of God for several years, later moving to a space above the Fine Arts Theatre, before finding a permanent home of worship at 1651 Ferry Park. The organ at the Oriole was restored by Steve Bodman and used by Prophet Jones.

ORIENTAL (1927 - 1950)
(aka RKO DOWNTOWN)
120 West Adams Percival R. Periera
Detroit 2,950
3/15 Kimball (KPO 6954), (1927)
Dudley Boomhower was organist here, and was highly regarded by the other Detroit area organists. Purchased and removed in 1961 by organbuilder Julian Bully of Toledo and set up in his shop, but never playing. Later owned by onetime DTOS president, the late Charles Edwards. Sold in 2018 to Jim Hassberger. Intact, in storage in Oxford, MI.

ORPHEUM (1914 - 1964)
(aka LAFAYETTE, aka SHUBERT)
153 W. Lafayette Ave. Smith, Hinchman & Grylls
Detroit 1,489
2/23 Hilgreen-Lane (1917)

ORPHEUM (1927 - ????)
65-67 S. Saginaw
Pontiac
2/6 Barton (1925)
Purchased by one-time DTOS member Ray Eby around 1960, and was playing in his home. One chamber, on auditorium left.

PALACE (1914 - 1928)
130-32 Monroe C. Howard Crane
Detroit 1,349
2/19 Hilgreen-Lane (1920)

PARK (1921 - 1949)
2626 East Davison Harry T. Smith
Detroit 676
2/3 Wurlitzer (1923) Style 109 [Opus 740]
Parts.

PARK
???
Highland Park
Reproduco (photoplayer)

PASADENA (1914 - 1949)
9232 Mack Ave. Greenwich Co., designers-builders
Detroit 386
?/? Page (1925)

PASTIME (1909 - 1922)
(aka OUR)
8767 Kercheval
Detroit
Reproduco (photoplayer)

PENNIMAN-ALLEN (1925 - ????)
(aka P&A)
133-5 East Main
Northville 600
2/6 Wurlitzer (1925) Style D Special [Opus 1205]
Had a 16' Diaphone. Sold to Nat Brown, console and relay sold to Roger Mumbroe. Modified console later controlled Dave Brewer's residence organ. Parts.

PENNIMAN-ALLEN (1918 - 1968)
(aka P&A)
855 Penniman
Plymouth 600
2/3 Wurlitzer (1923) Model 109
Repossessed (See CASINO listing)
2/6 Wurlitzer (1925) Style D Special [Opus 1221]
No 16' Diaphone. Sold to Nat Brown, later sold to Jack Dommer, later sold to Stan Albertson, later sold to Larry Gleason. Now installed in Larry's home in Florida.

PICCADILLY (1925 - 1951)
4014 Livernois (at Fenkell)
Detroit 825
Reproduco (photoplayer)
2/4 Wurlitzer (1925) Style B [Opus 1018]
Doubtful this theatre had both instruments simultaneously. It is possible the theatre ordered the Reproduco and then cancelled in favor of the Wurlitzer, or that it temporarily filled in until the Wurlitzer arrived. The information for Reproduco comes from one of their advertisements, and the Wurlitzer data from the "unofficial" Meakin Jones list.

PUNCH & JUDY (1930 - 1977)
21 Kercheval Robert O. Derrick
Grosse Pointe Farms 714
2/5 Wurlitzer (1928) Style 150 Special [Opus 1880]
This instrument was installed and playing in the Wurlitzer store in downtown Detroit (1928), moved once within the store, and reinstalled in the P&J at the time of the theatre's opening (1930). Steve Bodman installed the organ all three times. With all of the plush interior and 96 luxury armchairs in the balcony, it was once described as "Detroit's largest living room." Later moved to the Sterling Heights home of Jerry Elliott, playing there until 2015, when the organ was purchased and removed by organist Justin LaVoie, awaiting restoration and reinstallation.

RAMONA (1927 - 1977)
13705 Gratiot (at McNichols) Kohner & Payne
Detroit 2,020
2/4 Wurlitzer (1927) Style B Special [Opus 1692]
Roy Steinert installed a Gottfried French Horn on a Page chest at some point. Later became mostly junk.

Some parts salvaged. See BALDWIN, Royal Oak.

REDFORD (1928 - present)
17354 Lahser (just North of Grand River) Verner, Wilhelm, Molby, Shrieve & Associates
Detroit (Redford Township) 2,051
3/10 Barton (1928) [258 Organ]
The longtime home of the Motor City Theatre Organ Society. Organ intact, some alterations.

REGENT (1916 - 1974)
(aka CENTER)
7314 Woodward Stratton & Von Schneider
Detroit 3,600
4/27 Kimball (1916)
Cramped under-stage chambers with small openings made this instrument rather underwhelming. This was largely a straight instrument, and included an Echo division.

REGINALD WEBB STUDIO
3001 E. Grand Blvd. (near Woodward)
Detroit
3/10 Marr & Colton (1928)
2/4 Marr & Colton (1928) Practice organ
The three-manual Marr & Colton was regularly broadcast over radio station WJR by organists Reg Webb and Jack Thomas. Webb was the Marr & Colton representative for the Detroit and surrounding area, and sold a remarkable total of sixty of their instruments; a fact verified by Mrs. Marr. His legendary sales numbers were probably due in no small part to the fact that he performed extensively on the radio during the Golden Era, plus the M&C instruments tended to be significantly cheaper than the competition, in every sense of the word. According to his widow, David Marr said, "if you've had the organ for ten years, you ought to think about buying a new organ." At some point, the instrument was broken up, with the Post Horn going to a church in Bay City, and the console eventually going to Harold Dingel in Goodrich, Michigan. Following Mr. Dingel's passing, the console and organ were sold in recent years. Current location unknown.
The smaller two-manual M&C was considered a practice organ, and later went to pipe organ service technician Bill Hays.

REPUBLIC (1924 - 1934)
1313 Broadway C. Howard Crane
Detroit 400
Reproduco (photoplayer)

RIALTO (1917 - 1968)
6345-47 Gratiot C. Howard Crane
(between Mt. Elliot and Meldrum)
Detroit 1,334
2/22 Hilgreen-Lane (1916)

RIVOLA (1922 - 1957)
4703 Cadillac (at East Forest) Christian W. Brandt and H.D. Ilgenfritz
Detroit 1,010
2/6 Wurlitzer (1921) Style 160 [Opus 467]

RKO UPTOWN (1927 - late 80s)
(aka SIX MILE UPTOWN, aka SIX MILE)
16501 Woodward (at McNichols) Percival R. Periera; Graven & Mayger, associates
Highland Park 3,200 / later reduced to 1,500 to sidestep union demands
3/11 Wurlitzer (1926) Style 235 [Opus 1547]
This instrument had not played since 1942, when it was reawakened by Mert and Chuck Harris and

recorded by John Muri in 1970 just prior to its removal in 1971. With the seats out of the balcony, the organ had a remarkable acoustic in which to play. "John Muri, Volume 1" is a "must have" for anyone who enjoys Muri's music, or a modern recording of an unaltered Wurlitzer organ in its original home. Intact in private home in Royal Oak, Michigan; unplayable.

ROOSEVELT (1925 - 1954)
(aka IMPERIAL)
9515 Gratiot - Harper Christian W. Brandt and H. D. Ilgenfritz
Detroit 1,771
2/6 Wurlitzer (1922), Style D [Opus 526]
Initially installed in downtown Detroit Wurlitzer store (1922). Later installed in Cinderella Theatre (1923), and removed in 1924 to make way for larger Style H Wurlitzer. Reinstalled in Roosevelt Theatre (1924). Sold to Herb Head, Roseville, MI (1954?), acquired by Jim Pitts, Waco, TX (2010). In storage awaiting reinstallation. See CINDERELLA listing.

ROSEDALE (1915 - 1954)
11520 Woodward William B. Stratton
Detroit 965
2/12 Kimball (1915)
Parts

ROYAL OAK (1928 - present)
(aka ROYAL OAK MUSIC THEATRE)
318 West 4th St. C. W. Rapp & George Rapp
Royal Oak 2,000
3/10 Barton (1928)
Used for many years by the Motor City Theatre Organ Society in the theatre, altered and removed to storage by members. Later sold to Scott Herpick of Brighton, and later sold to Robert Maes, organ broker from Kansas City, Missouri. Parts.

RUSSELL (1917 - 1949)
5335 Russell (between Kirby & Frederick) C. Howard Crane
Detroit 1,406
Bartola Model 5 (1917)

SENATE (1926 - 1958)
6424 Michigan Avenue Christian W. Brandt
Detroit 1,200
2/7 Robert Morton (1926)
Played by Marguerite Werner, who later went on to play the bigger downtown houses, particularly the United Artists Theatre. Instrument moved to WXYZ Studios on W. Jefferson Avenue in 1931. See WXYZ STUDIOS listing.
Home of the Detroit Theatre Organ Society since 1963.

STATE (1925 - present)
(aka PALMS-STATE, aka PALMS)
2121 Woodward C. Howard Crane
Detroit 2,967
4/20 Wurlitzer (1925) Publix #1 [Opus 1148]
This was the second of this popular four-manual series to be built, and was installed only one month after the first Publix #1 in Detroit's Capitol Theatre, just blocks away. Total cost of organ and installation was \$46,475. Not considered a very successful installation, with very high chambers. Don Miller and Lew Betterly played here. The organ was water soaked, with six ranks missing by the time it was removed in 1972 by organ broker Roy Davis. Later went to Oral Roberts University. At some point, the console and relay were sold to control the Wurlitzer organ in the Castro Theatre in San Francisco, California for many years until recently, when the pipe organ was removed in lieu of a large custom digital organ. The

remainder of the State organ ultimately went to the Aztec Theatre in San Antonio, Texas amidst much initial ballyhoo, but unfortunately has been mothballed already after a very short public life there, as the theatre's new business plan does not include the organ.

STATE (1927 - 1956)

38-40 S. Saginaw St.

Pontiac 1,300

2/8 Barton (1926)

Moved to Romeo First Church of Christ, Scientist with some alterations, including a Dulciana and Trumpet from the Kimball organ in the Crosswell Opera House, Adrian, Michigan. Later purchased and removed by Jerry Muethel. Now owned by Dwayne Kursynski of Sandusky, Michigan.

STRAND (1915 - 1958)

4730 Grand River (at 14th) C. Howard Crane

Detroit 1,384

3/13 Hilgreen-Lane (1915)

STRAND (1921 - 1981)

12-14 N. Saginaw St. Leo John Hennan

Pontiac 895

2/8 Barton (1920)

Removed by Steve Bodman, gone to parts. Theatre building still extant, now the Flagstar Strand Theatre for the Performing Arts, following a \$20-million renovation. The Strand is the last survivor of the eight movie houses that once graced downtown Pontiac.

STRATFORD (1916 - 1985)

4651 West Vernor Joseph P. Jogerst

Detroit 1,137

2/7 Wurlitzer (1916) Style 3 [Opus 86]

Moved in the 1930s to Our Lady of Help Christian Church, and later sold to John Rinn of St. Clair, who installed it in his home there. Lacking a Tibia in the original plan, Rinn acquired one from Roger Mumbrue and added it to the organ. Removed and donated to Soo Theatre project in Sault St. Marie. In storage.

TEMPLE

17 Monroe

Detroit

2/7 Wurlitzer (1927) Style E [Opus 1566]

TIVOLI (1926 - 1927)

16330 Woodward

Detroit (Highland Park)

2/4 Wurlitzer (1924?) Style B [Opus 962]

In the only such incident to ever occur in the Detroit metro area, this theatre was destroyed by a bomb blast in the late Fall of 1927.

TUXEDO (1921 - 1958, razed 1967)

11738 Hamilton (at Tuxedo) Maurice H. Finkel

Detroit 1,800

2/? Robert Morton (1921)

3/13 Robert Morton (1926)

The later organ had the rare V'Olean, a stringed stop played from the keys of the organ. Reportedly weak and always out of tune. A good deal of the organ was on 15" (considered higher pressure), but closed down dramatically at the toes. Like the Grand Riviera Morton, this instrument had no console lift. Purchased and removed by Nat Brown and Roger Mumbrue in late 50s. Became core of a large hybrid theatre organ in Bloomfield Hills, which is now in storage, slated for reinstallation in private studio in Gaylord, Michigan. Some of it parted out.

UNITED ARTISTS (1928 - 1971)
140 Bagley C. Howard Crane
Detroit 2,012
3/17 Wurlitzer (1927) Style 260 Special [Opus 1824]
Marguerite Werner, wife of orchestra conductor Edward Werner was the organist here. Purchased and removed from theatre ca. 1974. Reinstalled briefly in Pied Piper Pizza Peddler at Universal Mall in Warren (1980), majority of organ and console now installed in Long Center, Lafayette, IN. Remainder to parts.

UNIVERSAL (1915 - 1930)
831 Michigan Avenue
Detroit
Reproduco (photoplayer)

VENDOME (1911 - 1958)
(aka SUN, aka SEVILLE)
4481 Grand River Ave.
Detroit 891
Bartola Model 5 (1917)

VIRGINIA (1914 - 1949)
(aka VIRGINIA PARK)
8237 Hamilton Ave. Harry S. Angell
Detroit 485
2/3 Wurlitzer (1923) Style 108 [Opus 621]
Sold to Evangelical Lutheran Church, Detroit (1970?).

WADLOW BROS

Plymouth(?)
2/3 Wurlitzer (1923) Style 108 [Opus 638]
Repossessed. See entry for CASINO theatre.

WASHINGTON (1913 - 1928)
(aka FOX WASHINGTON)
1505-1513 Washington Blvd. Frederick T. Barcroft
Detroit 1,862
2/11 Hilgreen-Lane (1914)
3/7 Moller (1919) [Opus 2739]
Three manuals, fifty-eight registers.
??? Moller (1928)

The 1928 Moller was built, but before the organ could be installed, the theatre was replaced by the "new" Fox on Woodward Avenue, and demolished only months after closing. Pipework allegedly used by Moller in Opus 5374, installed at the Church of the Nativity, Detroit (1931). Organist Ole Foersch started here in 1921, later moving to the Fisher when the Fox-Washington closed, and later to the current Fox Theatre on Woodward in 1928.

WEST END (1926 - 1954)
6864 West Warren Ave.
Detroit 800
3/10 Barton (1926)

Possibly repossessed. Some question the size of the organ as recorded in the Barton list. The blower size in the Spencer list would suggest an instrument of about six ranks, verified by the number of seats. Theatre demolished in recent years.

WHITE STAR (1915 - ????)

9237 Joseph Campeau
Hamtramck 360
Reproduco (photoplayer)

WILLIS (1913 - 1949)
4190 Hastings French & Fleischer
Detroit 399
Reproduco (photoplayer)

WOODWARD (1914 - 1927)
(aka WOODWARD NO. 1)
1018 Woodward
Detroit
Reproduco (photoplayer)

WOODWARD (1918 - 1970s)
(aka WOODWARD NO. 2, aka MIDWEST, aka BLACKSTONE NO. 2, aka STONE)
2511 Woodward
Detroit
Reproduco (photoplayer)

WOODWARD GRAND (1924 - 1958)
(aka HUMBER, aka UPTOWN GRAND, aka GRAND)
15 West Grand
Highland Park 940
2/4 Marr & Colton (1924)

WWJ RADIO

Lafayette & 2nd Avenues (Detroit Evening News Building)
Detroit

2/3 Estey (1930) [Opus 2909]

This was one of those curious little models known as the "Grand Minuette;" with two manuals and a pedalboard mated to a cabinet that was shaped like a grand piano. All of the organ's pipes and mechanics were precisely engineered to fit neatly into this very crammed cabinet. A vintage photo known well by area organ buffs has been seen from time to time with organist Ole Foerch playing this instrument.

WWJ RADIO

600 W. Lafayette Avenue
Detroit

3/15 Aeolian-Skinner (1936) [Opus 942]

3/26 Aeolian-Skinner (later additions - unknown date)

The nation's second oldest radio station moved its operations into new studios on West Lafayette at the same time as the organ's installation in 1936. This striking Moderne building was designed by famed Detroit architect Albert Kahn, who also designed the transmitter building in similar style at the same time, which still stands on 8 Mile and Meyer Rds. Kahn had also designed the Detroit Evening News Building, from which WWJ broadcasted for its first several years; established as an extension of the newspaper. The later Lafayette studio building is now occupied by the AFL-CIO. The 1936 Aeolian-Skinner was delivered with two, three-manual drawknob consoles controlling fifteen ranks. One console was upstairs in a studio where the organ was heard directly, while the other was in a large studio downstairs. It had a unified Tibia Clausa with second-touch on the Choir manual of both consoles. Given the specifications, it would appear to be a near-identical twin of one installed in NBC Studio 3B in New York City just two years earlier. (During his stint at the New York Paramount in the late 1940s, famed organist George Wright jokingly claimed to have kept the NYC cab companies in business, constantly running him between the theatre and the studio, where he also played for broadcasts.) The original contract with the Evening News Association stated a total cost of \$18,700. In 1955, the WWJ organ was donated and moved to First Presbyterian Church in Royal Oak, where it was reinstalled with additions by Casavant Freres, and later enlarged and

console replaced by a succession of commercial builders including Schantz and Moller on a regular basis of about every ten years. The instrument was most recently rebuilt in 2013 by Reuter, retaining an unknown amount of the previous or the original organ, now three manuals controlling fifty-four ranks. WWJ has since moved to another studio on American Drive in Southfield, and has mothballed the transmitter.

WXYZ RADIO

8415 E. Jefferson Ave.

Detroit

2/7 Robert-Morton

Moved from Senate Theatre and installed into the studio by Steve Bodman in 1931 in what had previously been the carriage house for the Mendelssohn mansion, located at the foot of Indian Village. Armin "Jack" Franz and Lew Betterly could be heard regularly on this instrument. Moved to Our Lady of Fatima Roman Catholic Church in Oak Park in 1955, later burned. See SENATE listing.

UNKNOWN

Detroit

?? Wurlitzer (1915) Rebuilt Model J [Opus 077]

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