Overview of the Collection

Collection Title: Valley Music Theatre Photograph Collection

Bulk Dates: 2006

Identification: URB/VMT

Creator: Underhill, Larry

Physical Description: 0.21 linear feet

Language of Materials: English

Repository: Urban Archives

Abstract: Photographer Larry Underhill was hired by the Los Angeles Conservancy to take photographs of the Valley Music Theatre immediately prior to its demolition in 2006. The collection consists of forty-six silver gelatin photographs taken by Underhill, as well as documentation of the theater designed by Hawkins and Lindsey, Architects.

Biographical Information:

In 2006, Larry Underhill was hired by the Los Angeles Conservancy to take the last pictures of the building before it was demolished by the wrecking ball in the fall of 2006, too late for the Conservancy to place the Valley Music Theatre before the landmarks commission.

The Valley Music Theatre opened on July 6, 1964. The Theatre was located at 20600 Ventura Boulevard in Woodland Hills between the Ventura Freeway exits at Winnetka and Canoga Avenues. Designed by the firm Hawkins and Lindsey, the theatre was the project of local developers and businessmen Nick Mayo, Randolph Hale, and Cy Warner, who intended it to be the first professional performing arts center in the San Fernando Valley.

In 1980, the theatre was sold to and became a Jehovah’s Witness Kingdom Hall. When the Jehovah’s Witnesses’ membership outgrew the size of the building in 2004, they sold the property to a local developer who planned on demolishing the theatre to build housing and retail stores on the property.

Genre/Form of Material:

Paper records
Photographic material

Processing Information:


Conditions Governing Use:

Copyright for unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection has not been transferred to California State University, Northridge. Copyright status for other materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Conditions Governing Access:

The collection is open to research use.

Preferred Citation:

For information about citing items in this collection consult the appropriate style manual, or see the Citing Archival Materials guide.

Nick and Faye Mayo Valley Music Theatre, Inc. Collection

Scope and Contents

Photographer Larry Underhill was hired by the Los Angeles Conservancy to take photographs of the Valley Music Theatre immediately prior to its demolition in 2006. The collection consists of forty-six silver gelatin photographs taken by Underhill, as well as documentation of the theater designed by Hawkins and Lindsey, Architects.

Box 1

Folder 1  Index of photographs
Folder 2  Exterior elevation plan and site map
Folder 3  East elevation looking southwest
Folder 4  North elevation looking south
Folder 5  North elevation with light pole, looking south
Folder 6  East elevation lobby view, looking west

Guide to the Valley Music Theatre Photograph Collection, 2006
Folder 7  East elevation lobby view, closer, looking west
Folder 8  East elevation lobby view with steps, horizontal
Folder 9  East elevation lobby view with steps, vertical
Folder 10 East elevation lobby view with steps, vertical, closer
Folder 11 East elevation lobby view with steps, horizontal, closer
Folder 12 East elevation lobby shell, afternoon, looking west
Folder 13 East elevation lobby shell, late afternoon, looking west
Folder 14 North elevation lobby shell, looking south
Folder 15 East elevation lobby shell, looking south
Folder 16 West elevation lobby view with steps, looking east
Folder 17 West elevation lobby shell, looking east
Folder 18 Inside lobby shell, looking northwest
Folder 19 Inside lobby shell, looking east
Folder 20 Inside lobby shell with concession area, looking east
Folder 21 Inside lobby, main entrance doors, looking south
Folder 22 Inside theatre shell toward main entrance doors, looking north
Folder 23 Inside theatre looking through control room window, north
Folder 24 Inside theatre looking through sound booth window, north
Folder 25 Inside theatre, detail of stage and lighting drop, looking north
Folder 26 Inside, long view, looking east
Folder 27 Inside, long view, looking south toward sound booth
Folder 28 Inside, long view, looking south, with ceiling lights
Folder 29 Inside, long view, looking west
Folder 30 Detail of women's restroom entrance, looking west
Folder 31 Exterior exit #7, detail, looking east
Folder 32 West elevation with exit #7 (left view), looking east
Folder 33 West elevation with exit #7 (right view), looking east
Folder 34 West elevation detail with exit #7, looking south
Folder 35 South elevation from parking lot, looking north
Folder 36 South elevation from parking lot, looking north (left view)
Folder 37 South elevation from parking lot, looking north (right view)
Folder 38 Shell detail, service feed, looking north
Folder 39 Light pole from parking lot, looking north
Folder 40 South elevation with satellite building roof, looking north with more sky
Folder 41 South elevation with satellite building room, looking north
Folder 42 Theatre shell and satellite building detail, looking east
Folder 43 Inside satellite building, looking through windows, west
Folder 44 Inside satellite building hallway, looking east
Folder 45 Satellite building and shell, exit #4, detail, looking south
Folder 46 East elevation with exit #3
Folder 47 Masonry detail, exit #2, looking west
Folder 48 Masonry detail, side view exit #2, looking southeast