Name: Palace Theatre
Address: 209 South El Paso
Owner: Juan F. M. Terrazas et al
c/o Kemp and Solis
347 Myrtle Avenue
El Paso, Texas, 79901

Architect/Builder: Trost and Trost
Date: 1914
Original Use: Theater/Playhouse
Present Use: Movie Theater

Physical Description
Fronting on El Paso Street in the center of the block, the Palace Theatre represents the Spanish Colonial Revival style popularized during the early 20th century. Though simple in plan, the main facade of the three story, rectangular structure is a bold statement of the style. Dominating this simple brick facade is a projecting bay, vertically divided into four units by columns and pilasters. The ground floor has been altered although a majority of the original fabric appears to be concealed beneath the modern materials. A broad string course visible above the contemporary awning separates the first and second floors. On this string course rest columns, which in turn support pilasters and cross members in a post and lintel configuration. Resting on the lintels is a deep cornice composed of a series of Moorish arches springing from pilasters. Atop the cornice is a decorative flagpole mount. Multi-paned, arched windows span the columns and pilasters. The wall surfaces of the projecting bay are decorated with a delicate tracery of interlocking geometric and foliate motifs executed in plaster, which create an Eastern aura.

Statement of Significance
Trost's familiarity and skill with the various architectural developments of his day is displayed in downtown El Paso where a concentration of his works exist. Perhaps one of his most extraordinary examples of stylistic expression is seen in the Palace Theatre, formerly the Alhambra, the facade of which displays a delicate overall tracery of arabesques and Islamic script. This is thought to be Trost's only design in the Spanish Colonial style with Moorish influences.

The theatre was designed for use as either a playhouse for live theater or a movie house and was opened August 1, 1914 at a cost of $150,000. A large organ was included in the interior furnishings to accompany the screening of "silent" movies. The Moorish theme was carried to the interior where the lobby displays the column-supported arches of the facade. The auditorium of the theatre features a balcony and opera boxes and seats believed to be original are still in use. Throughout most of its history, the theatre has served the film industry and is currently in operation as a movie house. Trost's choice of a Spanish Colonial format with Moorish influence preceeded the 1920's vogue for that style.

Geographical Data
Verbal Boundary Description: Mills Survey, Block 15, Lot 82, Beginning 51' from NE corner of block, 64' on South El Paso x 134'
Acreage: Less than one
UTM Reference: 13/3514280/359010
Basically a well-done nomination. In the most part the buildings are nicely executed examples of various architectural styles, designed by the city's leading architect during the early decades of the 20th C. I have questions on

All but 3 of the buildings are individually eligible. #4112

Do not appear to meet all criteria considering the other Better Chicago School examples. I think #508 has lost too much integrity to be listed individually.

For specific. Call about these 6 buildings - the

Review

Accept: 1, 3, 5, 11, 14, 17.
Project: 4, 12, 13

United States Department of the Interior - Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Commercial Structures of El Paso by Henry C. Trost
Palace Theater
209 S. El Paso Street
El Paso, El Paso County, Texas
Photo: Texas Historical Commission, 6/79
    Negative on File
East elevation, camera facing west
Photo # 7 of 36
Commercial Structures of El Paso by Henry C. Trost
Palace Theater/ Hotel Paso del Norte
209 S. El Paso Street/ 115 S. El Paso Street
El Paso, El Paso County, Texas

Historic Photo: Courtesy Southwest Collection, 3/80
El Paso Public Library
Negative on File at Library

Southeast view of S. El Paso Street, Camera facing northwest
Photo # 23 of 36
Commercial Structures of El Paso by Henry C. Trost
Palace Theater
209 S. El Paso Street
El Paso, El Paso County, Texas
Historic Photo: Courtesy Southwest Collection, 3/80
El Paso Public Library
Negative on File at Library
East Elevation, Camera facing west
Photo # 28 of 36
Please refer to the map in the Multiple Property Cover Sheet for this property.

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000837