



Front - Title/Description

City Opera House

In 1891 three brothers-in-law--Anthony Bartak, Charles Wilhelm, and Frank Votruba--built this twelve hundred-seat Victorian opera house. Designed by E. R. Prall of Pontiac, the opera house was the first facility in Traverse City to use electric lights. It has a forty-three-foot ceiling, hardwood maple floors, and excellent acoustics. Built as a meeting hall and auditorium, the opera house hosted concerts, traveling plays, vaudeville shows, high school graduations, dinners, and balls.

Back - Title/Description

City Opera House

In 1920 a motion picture firm leased the opera house and closed it to avoid competition with its own film theaters. The building was used briefly during the depression for a WPA project creating miniature city buildings. In 1971 it was listed on the national and state historic registers. In 1978 the City Opera House Heritage Committee began raising money to restore the structure. In 1980 the opera house was given to Traverse City by the descendants of one of the original owners, Frank Votruba.

Significant Date:

Industry and Invention (1875-1915)

Registry Year: 1971 **Erected Date:** 1985

Marker Location

Address: 106-112 Front St.

City: Traverse City

State: MI **ZipCode:**

County: Grand Traverse

Township: Garfield

Lat: 44.76401400 / **Long:** -85.62355300

Web URL: