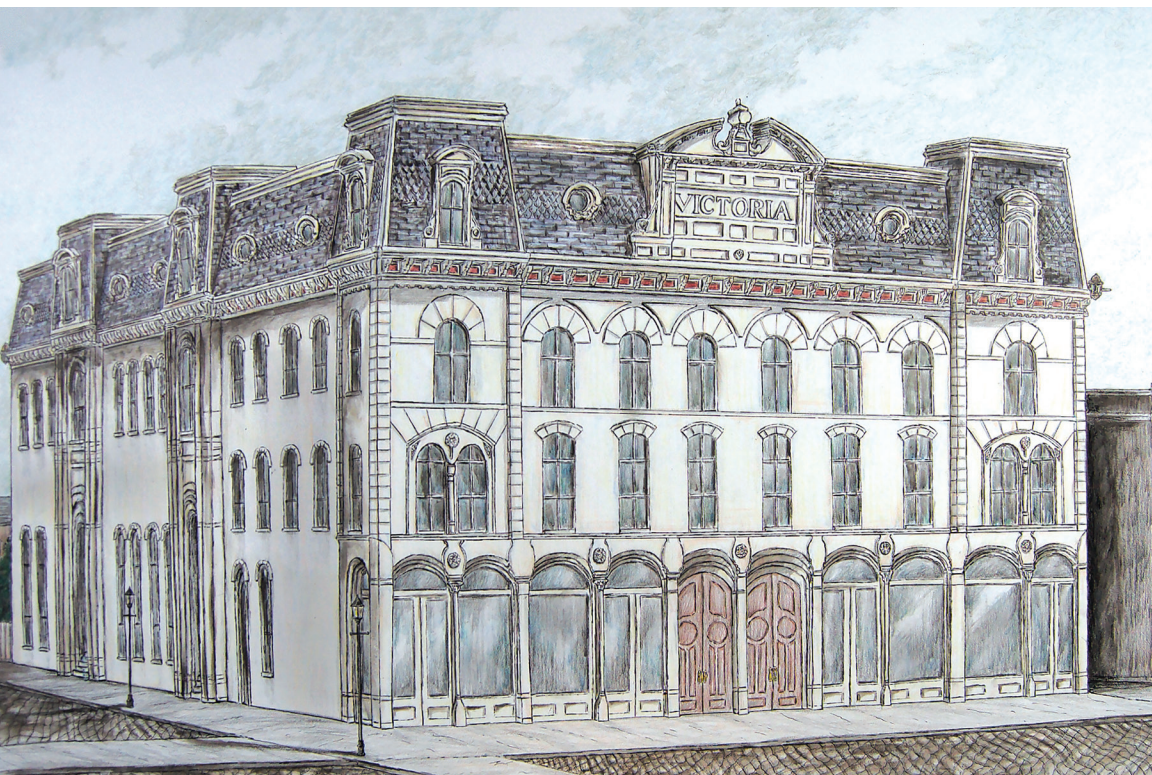


Designed & written by Jeremy Rosen

TO

PLACE
STAMP
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A Visual Community Narrative

THE VICTORIA THEATRE

Dayton's Victoria Theatre has a weathered history that belies its stately appearance. Perhaps the community's first grand structure to culture and the arts, it began life in 1866 as the six-story Turner Opera House. Sadly, just four years later, all but the exterior walls burned to the ground. Reopened in 1871 in its present, three-story form and called simply the "Music Hall," it would be devastated by the Great Flood of 1913 and then haplessly burn again in 1916. After the First World War, it was triumphantly re-christened the Victory, a name it held after becoming a cinema in the ensuing decades. In 1975, proposals to raze the Victory met with local backlash, and students, arts patrons, and other supporters rallied together to form the "Save the Victory"

campaign and spare the building. The theatre was eventually restored inside and out and renamed the Victoria in 1988. It had previously held this name at the turn of the century in honor of Queen Victoria, until 1919. It is this period of the theatre's history depicted in romanticized form on the face of this postcard. "Save the Victory" soon evolved into today's Victoria Theatre Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to enriching the community with education, artistic engagement, and economic growth. Today, the Victoria thrives as one of the nation's oldest theatres in continuous operation and remains the community's earliest landmark to local arts and culture.