

## **Hamilton Theater**

Individual Landmark

3560-3568 Broadway

Designation Date: February 8, 2000



(Former) Hamilton Theater, 3560-3568 Broadway, Manhattan, c. 1928.  
From *Billy Rose Theater Collection*, New York Public Library of the Performing Arts.

Constructed in 1912-1913 as a vaudeville house during one of New York's theater building booms, the Hamilton Theater is in the Hamilton Heights area of Manhattan. Designed by the great theater architect, Thomas W. Lamb, the building is one of his significant pre-World War I theaters in New York City. Lamb also designed the Regent and Hollywood Theaters, both designated New York City landmarks.

The Hamilton's developers, B.S. Moss, and Solomon Brill were major builders and operators of vaudeville houses and movie theaters in the New York City area. At the time, vaudeville was the most popular form of theater in the United States. The Hamilton's two neo-Renaissance style facades, facing Broadway and West 146th Street, are dominated by large, round-arched windows with centered oculi. The upper stories feature cast-iron and terra cotta details including caryatids, brackets, and Corinthian engaged columns.

In the 1920s, movies eclipsed vaudeville in popularity, and in 1928, the Hamilton was sold to the newly created Radio-Keith-Orpheum (RKO) Radio Pictures Inc., which converted it to one of the first movie theaters to show "talking pictures" in New York City. The theater's final screening took place in 1958. Afterwards, it was used as a sports arena, a discotheque, and a church. The Hamilton Theater's imposing terra cotta facade is a reminder of the prominent place held by vaudeville houses and movie theaters in New York City's diverse, early 20th century neighborhoods, and is a tribute to its talented architect, Thomas W. Lamb.

[Read the full NYC LPC designation report here.](#)