

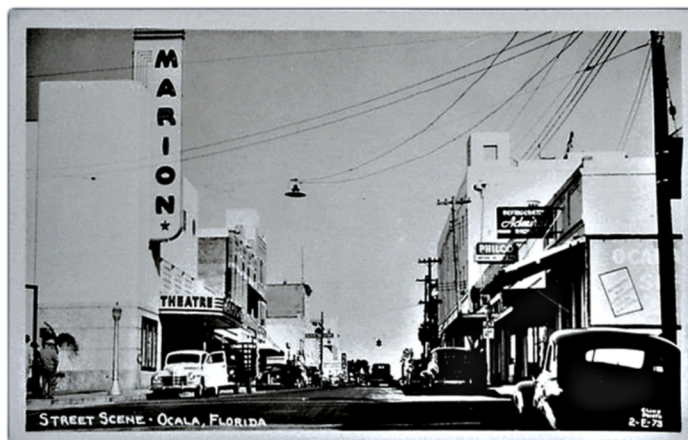
DOWNTOWN OCALA HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

MARION THEATRE

50 S MAGNOLIA AVE, OCALA, FL 34471

The Marion Theatre was originally constructed in 1941. The lot on which the theater was constructed was purchased in 1940 from the Ocala National Bank. Construction of the theater was commissioned by Florida State Theaters, who also owned the Ritz and the Dixie, two other historic theaters in Ocala. The Marion Theater was designed to be a modern, air-conditioned motion picture theater. It was designed by Roy A. Benjamin of Jacksonville, FL and the son of prominent Ocala merchant, Simon Benjamin.

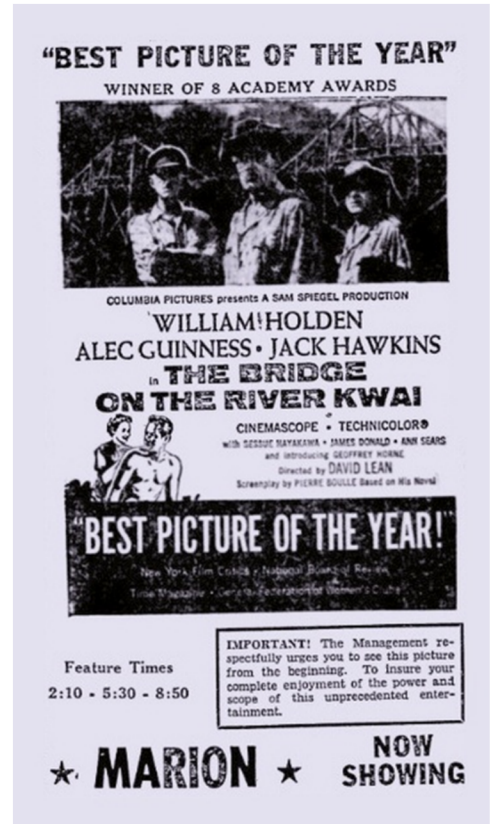
The theater was the first air-conditioned building in Marion County. Its first showing was Dorothy Lamour and Jon Hall in "Aloma of the South Seas." Tickets were 39 cents for evening shows and 33 cents for matinees.



Street View of the Marion Theatre



Marion Theatre the Day it Opened in 1941



Historic Flyer
for a Movie at
the Marion
Theatre

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A BIG THANK YOU TO THE CITY OF OCALA FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND THE HISTORIC OCALA PRESERVATION SOCIETY FOR HELPING COLLECT ALL THE INFORMATION!