

A KENTUCKY HISTORY MOMENT



The Gem Opera House was on Main Street. Now the site is a bank parking lot. This postcard dates from the early 20th century. Kentucky Historical Society, Ronald Morgan Kentucky Postcard Collection, Graphic5_Box16_151.

PULASKI COUNTY:

GEM OPERA HOUSE BRINGS MAGIC TO THE PEOPLE

The Gem Opera House in Somerset was a venue for live performance—complete with trap door that “magically” brought actors to the stage or whisked them away. Opera houses flourished in small U.S. towns in the late 19th century. They provided space for large groups of people to gather as well as entertainment venues. As entertainment changed, many, including the Gem, became “picture shows.”



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