

# Rialto Theatre

**219 N. Harbor Boulevard**

**1917; remodeled in 1930**

**Zigzag Moderne**

**Status: Significant Property**



The buildings at the southwest corner of Harbor Boulevard and Wilshire Avenue were financed and constructed by the Fullerton Improvement Company, one of the most important building companies in the city's early history, whose board of directors were the most prominent men in the city, including Charles Chapman, the founder of the company. The buildings, constructed in 1917, were designed to include space for stores, a market, club quarters for the Fullerton Club, and Fullerton's first real silent movie house: the Rialto Theatre. The Rialto Theatre was the height of luxury when it opened in October, 1917; with its Photoplay organ and reserved loge seating, it was an immediate hit with the town's residents.

When the more extravagant Alician Court Theatre was constructed in 1924, attendance declined at the Rialto, and the former theater was converted into a bank building using the original walls. In 1930, the Fullerton First National Trust and Savings Bank hired the notable Los Angeles firm of Walker and Eisen to redo the exterior in an art deco design with the use of bold linear forms and recessed openings for relief. This building's façade has remained unaltered since then.