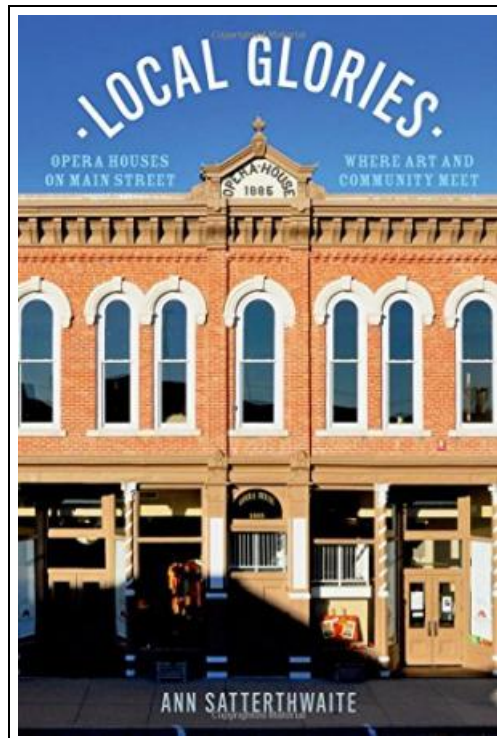


Local Glories: Opera Houses on Main Street, Where Art and Community Meet (Hardback)



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Reviews

*A must buy book if you need to adding benefit. It is actually rally fascinating throgh studying time. Your way of life span will likely be transform as soon as you complete looking over this publication.
(Ms. Bernice Rolfson)*

LOCAL GLORIES: OPERA HOUSES ON MAIN STREET, WHERE ART AND COMMUNITY MEET (HARDBACK)

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Oxford University Press, United Kingdom, 2016. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Opera houses were everywhere. Many towns had at least one opera house on Main Street by 1900. Hundreds of theater troupes, opera companies, individual performers, and many sundry entertainers then tread the boards of these halls as new rail lines could bring these troupers to previously isolated hamlets in new and old sections of the country. Five hundred troupes called Tommers performed only Uncle Tom s Cabin. Sarah Bernhardt, Mark Twain, and John Philip Sousa entertained thousands of townspeople as did innumerable minor league magicians, circuses, lecturers, and theater companies. At that time, more people saw live entertainment than at any other period making this the Golden Age for this distinctly American rural institution and the beginning of an era of mass entertainment These halls, called opera houses to lend a touch of urban sophistication, were often the only large place for public assembly in a town. Aside from cultural events, they served as a public hall for local activities like school graduations, recitations, sports and town meetings, elections, and political rallies and even social dances and roller skating parties. Some were housed in town or city halls, but most were built by local entrepreneurs or committees interested in promoting the town as well as attracting performers. Considered local landmarks, often in distinctive architect-designed buildings, they aroused considerable pride and reinforced town identity. These once-proud halls, however, succumbed in the early twentieth century as radio, movies, and later television and changing tastes made them seem obsolete. Some were demolished, but those that were abandoned to pigeons languished for decades until discovered in the last three decades by stalwart revivers in small towns across the county. The phoenix has indeed arisen. The resuscitation of these opera...



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