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**Ramsdell Theatre**

Thomas Jefferson Ramsdell—pioneer lawyer, state legislator, and civic leader—built this theater between 1902 and 1903. Many traveling companies played here and praised the features that made it unique among the playhouses of the era. Theatrical artist Walter Burridge painted the main curtain utilizing the theme “A Grove Near Athens.” The dome and lobby murals were the work of Thomas Ramsdell’s son Frederick. Public spirited citizens saved the landmark from demolition in the early 1920s. It was acquired by the city of Manistee in 1943. The Manistee Civic Players have helped to preserve its architecture and interior decor. The Ramsdell Theatre was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972.

**Significant Date:**

Industry and Invention (1875-1915)

**Registry Year:** 1971    **Erected Date:** 1980

**Marker Location**

**Address:** 101 Maple

**City:** Manistee

**State:** MI    **ZipCode:**

**County:** Manistee

**Township:** Filer

**Lat:** 44.24581200 / **Long:** -86.32379500

**Web URL:**

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