Former Majestic Cinema

Local Heritage Asset Register

Mapperley

HA645



Status:	Recommendation to add
Age:	Early to Mid-20th Century
Conservation Area:	No
Date added to the list:	
Condition:	Fair

Assessment against Local Criteria

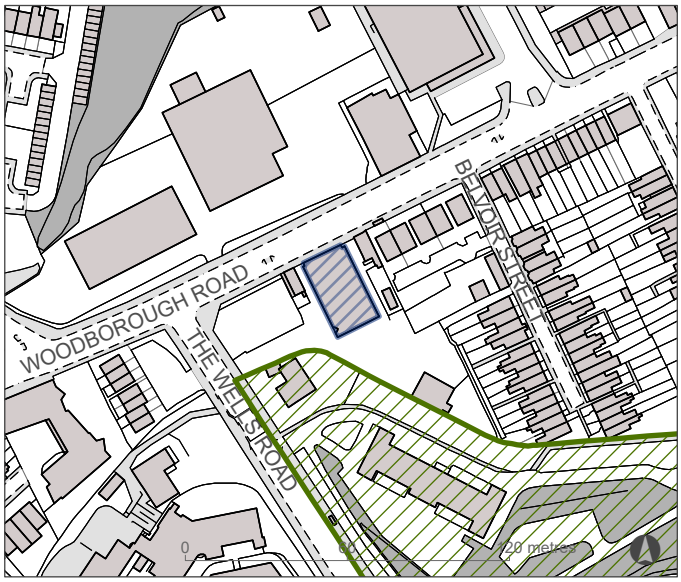
1. High Aesthetic Value by an important regional cinema architect
2. Good Survival of Fabric and locally rare 'Spanish Style'
3. Might contain remains of the only cinema nationally where the auditorium was accessed from the balcony
4. High Communal Value
5. Historic Association with Mapperley Hospital

Reason for Designation

Good example of an interwar suburban cinema by an important regional cinema architect. Of high aesthetic value in a 'Spanish Style' externally and Baroque internally. Of high communal value with associations with Mapperley Hospital.

Local List Proposal

Conservation Areas



Description

Opened in June 1929 by Architect Alfred J. Thraves (important regional cinema architect). Closed Nov/Dec 1957. Described as 'the Elite of the Suburbs' after the grade II* former Elite Cinema in the city centre. The 721 seat auditorium was entered at near balcony level thanks to the steeply sloping site which created a natural auditorium. This made it one of only a hand full of cinemas through out the country to have this design - of which all examples are now altered. Locally rare example of 'Spanish style', with deep over-hanging eaves and a fine pantile roof. This reflected the wider interest in exotic styles for cinemas in the late 1920's. By contrast, the interior is a fine essay in theatrical Baroque, with decorated segmental ceiling beams very similar to those seen at Retford. Altered by Marsh Growcowski 1987 including the vertical division of the building. Much of the original architectural detail survives.

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Additional Description:

Located in the Mapperley district north Nottingham. The Majestic Cinema was opened 10th June 1929 with H.B. Warner in “Sorrell and Son”. It was designed by architect A.J. Thraves, and the circle was at street level, due to the lay of the land, with the stalls accessed downstairs. It had a 27 feet wide proscenium. Initially an Electrochord sound system was installed, later a Marshall sound system, and in the mid-1930’s a Western Electric(WE) sound system.

The Majestic Cinema was closed on 7th September 1957 with David Tomlinson in “Carry on Admiral” and Pat O'Brien in “Kill Me Tomorrow”. The building was a furniture store for many years, but by 2012 was empty and unused. By 2018 it houses a tea room in the former circle and a museum in the former stalls.

Heritage category:	Building
Asset type:	Cultural & Entertainment
Original use:	Cultural or Entertainment
Current use:	Cultural or Entertainment
Currently occupied:	Occupied
Architect, style / material:	Alfred J. Thraves 1929
Condition:	Fair

Part of a group of heritage assets:

Associated with historical events or people:

Is it associated with any buried remains or archaeology? If so please describe:

How is it of importance to the local community? :

High Communal Value

Selection Panel Date:	Date added to the list:
06/05/2019	

Nottingham City Council