

Heritage Citation



Earl's Court Picture Show (former)

Key details

Also known as	Rivoli Theatre
Addresses	At 572 Brunswick Street, New Farm, Queensland 4005
Type of place	Cinema
Period	Federation 1890-1914, Interwar 1919-1939
Style	Art Deco
Lot plan	L5_SP188317
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 30 October 2000 Date of Citation — March 2011
Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Masonry

'Earls Court', New Farm's first open-air picture theatre and one of the earliest in Brisbane, opened in August 1911. It was promoted as Stephens & Ogilvie's 'latest and greatest enterprise, fitted up with all the modern conveniences of a theatre, but possessing the attractions of Glorious Fresh Air wafted from the River reaches of New Farm', with a program of 'New Pictures, Illustrated Songs, Refined Vaudeville and a Full Brass Band'. In c1919 the building was remodelled and renamed the Rivoli Theatre, becoming one of Brisbane's leading film theatres. The theatre struggled during the Depression years, reflected in its change of uses. It was listed as a skating rink from 1931-1933; a cabaret and dance palais in 1934; Earls Court Picture Theatre from 1935-1937; then a dry cleaners in 1938-1939. The Art Deco facade, featuring the words 'Rivoli Theatre' on two sides of the building, has been retained as part of the 2008 shopping centre development.

Statement of significance

Relevant assessment criteria

This is a place of local heritage significance and meets one or more of the local heritage criteria under the Heritage planning scheme policy of the *Brisbane City Plan 2014*. It is significant because:

Historical

CRITERION A

The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the city's or local area's history

as the first of three picture theatres established in 1911 along New Farm's principal street to cater for the area's population growth which later included the 1920s Colosseum Picture Theatre and Merthyr Picture Palace (remodelled as Astor Theatre, then Village Twin Cinema).

Copyright Brisbane City Council

Note: This citation has been prepared on the basis of evidence available at the time including an external examination of the building. The statement of significance is a summary of the most culturally important aspects of the property based on the available evidence, and may be re-assessed if further information becomes available. The purpose of this citation is to provide an informed evaluation for heritage registration and information. This does not negate the necessity for a thorough conservation study by a qualified practitioner, before any action is taken which may affect its heritage significance.

Citation prepared by — Brisbane City Council (page revised June 2022)



Dedicated to a better Brisbane