

**THEATRE: *Derby Hippodrome*****Listed:** Grade II**Address:** Green Lane, Derby, Derbyshire DE1 1ES**Local Authority:**

Derby City Council

Development and Cultural Services

Roman House

Friar Gate

Derby DE1 1XB

Tel: 013 3225 5985

Email: [debbie.maltby@derby.gov.uk](mailto:debbie.maltby@derby.gov.uk)[www.derby.gov.uk](http://www.derby.gov.uk)**Current Freehold Owner:** Mr Christopher Anthony**Current Leasehold Owner:** Vacant**Current Operator/Manager:** None**Local Contact:** Debbie Maltby, Conservation OfficerEmail: [debbie.maltby@derby.gov.uk](mailto:debbie.maltby@derby.gov.uk)**The Theatres Trust Contact:** Suzanne McDougall. Tel 020 7836 8591Email: [Suzanne.mcdougall@theatrestrust.org.uk](mailto:Suzanne.mcdougall@theatrestrust.org.uk)

---

**Original theatre architect(s):** 1914: Marshall & Tweedy**Building Description**

*Derby Hippodrome* was built in 1914 as a large variety theatre originally seating around 1,800. Today it could seat around 1,000. It had two slightly-curved balconies, a rectangular proscenium surmounted by a big segment-headed panel framing a garland with a flat ceiling and concentric circular moulded panels in a rectangular frame. It had rich Baroque plasterwork on the balcony fronts, the proscenium and to the ceiling. It was constructed with large ancillary and foyer areas. Externally the building was built in red brick with terracotta dressings. It had a corner entrance and slated hipped roofs.

**Theatre Use**

The *Hippodrome* was last used as a live theatre in 1939. It was then used as a cinema until the 1959 when it was converted to a bingo hall, although live theatre was continued in the form of pantomimes each year. In January 2007 the bingo operation closed and the building was sold to a property developer when the building was in a fair condition. The *Hippodrome* quickly fell into disrepair and in February 2008 was the subject of a small fire.

**Occupancy:** Partially demolished and vacant.**Building Location:**

The *Hippodrome* is in a prominent site close to the town centre.

**Risks**

Urgent Works Notices were issued by Derby City Council and in March 2008, under the pretext of carrying out these essential repairs, contractors removed structural beams supporting the roof. Because the wrong type of machinery was on site and it was not properly scaffolded, an unnecessary amount of historic fabric was advised to be removed in order to make the building safe to the public. The Council applied to the High Court for an injunction to prevent further unauthorised works by the owner or his contractors, which was granted in April 2008. The building is partially demolished and the owner has submitted an application for partial demolition and reconstruction as a multi-storey car park with the main entrance converted to residential. Derby may lose its only listed Edwardian theatre. A local group want to see the theatre brought back into theatre use. The Theatres Trust has been liaising with Derby City Council around a potential Compulsory Purchase Order and the long-term strategy for conservation and future use.