

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.ukwww.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**Local Contact:** Derby Hippodrome Restoration FundEmail: action@derbyhippodrome.co.uk**The Theatres Trust Contact:** Suzanne McDougall. Tel 020 7836 8591Email: 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 is red brick with terracotta dressings. It has 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 building was partially demolished and the owner submitted an application for partial demolition and reconstruction as a multi-storey car park with the main entrance converted to residential units. He subsequently pleaded guilty to demolishing part of the Grade II listed building. Derby would lose its only listed Edwardian theatre. The Derby Hippodrome Restoration Fund is trying to find means to restore the building to theatre use.