

**THEATRE: *Liverpool Neptune*****Listed** Grade II**Address:** 85 Hanover Street, Liverpool, Merseyside L1 3DY**Local Authority:**

Liverpool City Council

Municipal Buildings

Dale St

Liverpool L2 2DH

Tel: 0151 233 3000

[www.liverpool.gov.uk](http://www.liverpool.gov.uk)**Current Freehold Owner:** Hanover Estates**Current Leasehold Owner:** Vacant**Current Operator/Manager:** Vacant**Local Contact:** The Save the Neptune Group - [Facebook campaign](#)**The Theatres Trust Contact:** Suzanne McDougall. Tel 020 7836 8591Email: [Suzanne.mcdougall@theatrust.org.uk](mailto:Suzanne.mcdougall@theatrust.org.uk)

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**Original theatre architect (s):** 1913: (architect unknown) as a concert hall and theatre.**Building Description**

The Crane Building was built for the Crane Brothers to accommodate their music shop and offices in 1913. The Concert Hall is above the music shop and the fly tower is within a mansard roof. The hall was conceived as a showcase for instrumental recitals but took the form of a theatre and used as such. The auditorium is reached from a corner entrance by a wide curving staircase. The interior, almost square, has a flat panelled ceiling with centre cluster of lights, walls with fluted Ionic pilasters, modillioned cornices and busts of famous composers in wreaths. There is a small balcony with panelled front and the lower parts of the walls are panelled with polished mahogany with a Greek frieze; the plasterwork is decorated ivory on a deep green. It is no longer associated with the Crane Brothers and the theatre was saved by the Corporation taking a lease in 1968. It was renamed after Neptune who figures in the City Coat of Arms. It is an unusual and intimate house, suitable for plays and chamber music.

**Theatre Use**

Closed in 2005 and has remained vacant.

**Building Location**

Good town centre location.

**Risks**

In 2005 £800,000 was allocated to renovate the theatre by Liverpool City Council. The restoration work of the Grade II listed building, including redecoration, rewiring and asbestos removal, was supposed to be completed for the theatre's reopening in time for Capital of Culture in 2008. But after a disagreement over rent between Liverpool City Council and theatre owners Hanover Estates, work ceased and remains unfinished. The Neptune therefore remains vacant and is under threat from possible change of use.