

THEATRE: *Workington Opera House*

Listed not listed

Address: Pow Street, Workington CA14

Local Authority: Allerdale Borough Council

Allerdale House, Workington, Cumbria CA14 3YJ

Tel: 01900 702702 Email: planning@allerdale.gov.uk Web: www.allerdale.gov.uk

Current Freehold Owner: Graves (Cumberland) Limited

Current Leasehold Owner:

Current Operator/Manager:

Local Contact: Keith Beatie, Save Workington Theatre Email: info@workingtonoperahouse.co.uk

[Facebook campaign](#)

The Theatres Trust Contact: Suzanne McDougall. Tel 020 7836 8591

Email: Suzanne.mcdougall@theatrust.org.uk

Original theatre architect (s): 1888: T L Banks & Townsend.

Building Description

Opened in 1888 as the Queen's Jubilee Hall & Opera House, a small theatre with two balconies, but gutted by fire in 1927. Rebuilt as a cine-theatre with wide auditorium with a single balcony, the ceiling is decorated with ornamental sunburst and mask. Good sightlines and a large stage. Externally, the façade was rebuilt in aluminium and glass.

Theatre Use

The *Opera House* closed as bingo in 2004 and has remained vacant.

Building Location

Good town centre location, the theatre also has three adjoining retail units that could be purchased as a package.

Risks

Following failure to attract sufficient interest in purchasing the building, *Workington Opera House* is currently at risk of demolition. A planning application was submitted in March 2010 to demolish the Opera House and three adjoining retail units by Graves (Cumberland) Limited. The adjoining retail units remain empty to date and consequently the potential for the reinstatement of the original theatre entrance exists. Save Workington Opera House campaign group want to see the theatre restored and brought back into theatre and community use. They have been given three months by Allerdale Borough Council to come up with a rescue plan for the vacant building.