
Sun Theatre



VHR 679 Ballarat St

Location

6-12 Ballarat Road YARRAVILLE, Maribyrnong City

Municipality

MARIBYRNONG CITY

Level of significance

Incl in HO area indiv sig

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0679

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO23

Heritage Listing

Maribyrnong City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Statement of Significance - Note: this SOS is an extract from the Footscray Conservation Study, 1989. Substantial restoration has been undertaken on the site and the SOS is now outdated.

By elimination, the Sun Theatre remains (albeit on a small scale and partly destroyed) as the most successful fully articulated (internally and externally) privately owned Victorian example of the streamlined Modern style. This style (known also. as 'Art Deco') is closely associated with the public's concept of cinema architecture. By comparison, the free-standing United Kingdom Hotel, Clifton Hill, is a superior example of the style but in a use which does not encourage full expression of the fluid Curves, inside and out. The Sun also forms part of a valuable civic-commercial precinct, distinguished by its layout and individually notable buildings. Historically, among the few cinema buildings of the West, this is perhaps the most remembered and is identified with a socially active local family (Yeomans).

Heritage Study/Consultant	Maribyrnong - City of Footscray Urban Conservation Study, Graeme Butler, 1989;
Architect/Designer	Cowper Murphy & Appleford,
Other Names	Listed as number 8 in the Footscray Urban Conservation Study,
Hermes Number	28117
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

Comprising a two-level cream brick and cement facade onto Ballarat Street, propped against a more austere auditorium carcass, the cinema as is most contemporaries purely a facade with (former) interior delights. The canopy is plain, with a geometric patterned metal soffit and below it is austere manganese brickwork, separating the 12 glazed entry doors and two glazed shopfronts. Above the canopy is the building's character. A 'vertical feature' (with ribs) balances a strong horizontal thrust carried out in cement render. Interspersed are lesser fins, punctuated with small rectangular windows and counterpoised with a large round one. The words 'Sun Theatre' and 'Sun' are in bas-relief, and the sun itself is fabricated from metal with neon tubes following its rays inside.

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Integrity

External Integrity: The cinema is, and has been, sadly neglected with little attention to basic maintenance. Worse the interior has been left unsecured and has been burnt out at least twice; the roof has been left open. Despite all of this the internal moulded plaster walls survive as does the parabolic floor, albeit in a poor state. Externally the paintwork canopy and glazing need repair.

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Physical Description 2

Streetscape

Relates to the adjacent buildings on the south in siting and use of cement and face-brick but is more importantly one of the major elements in the notable Ballarat Street civic-commercial precinct.

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>