
Former Beach Theatre



B6226 Beach Theatre

Location

110 Beaconsfield Parade,, ALBERT PARK VIC 3206 - Property No B6226

Municipality

PORT PHILLIP CITY

Level of significance

National

Heritage Listing

National Trust

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - September 26, 2005

The former Beach Theatre, 110 Beaconsfield Parade Albert Park is of National historical and architectural significance, for its representation of the primitive phases and rapid growth of the cinema industry, for its rarity as an early open air cinema structure, for its representation of the prominent role of the seaside in Metropolitan popular entertainment in the first two decades of the twentieth century, and for its associations with mainstream entertainers and the early Australian film industry.

Opened in 1909, it was improved in 1915 in an effort to adapt to the rapid development of the early cinema industry. The present building would appear to date substantially from this period. The Dutch gable corrugated iron roof was built at this time as weather protection, for back stalls and gallery. It was probably at this time that the facade was remodelled in the Edwardian Freestyle manner. The major portion of the structure comprising the facade, entrance, shop areas, gallery and roof would appear to represent the principal elements of an early open air picture theatre, with the exception of the stage/screen and seats.

The Beach Theatre is one of only three pre 1920 open air cinemas known to survive in Australia. It incorporates

portions of the oldest open air cinema remaining in Australia and one of the earliest purpose built cinemas in Melbourne. It is the sole survivor of nineteen known open air vaudeville and cinema facilities which were established in Melbourne beach areas in the first two decades of the twentieth century.

Classified: 12/06/1991

File Note: Facade retained, remainder demolished prior 2000.

Hermes Number 66414

Property Number

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/>