
Former Westgarth Theatre



B6619 Westgarth Cinema

Location

89 High Street,, NORTHCOTE VIC 3070 - Property No B6619

Municipality

DAREBIN CITY

Level of significance

Local

Heritage Listing

National Trust

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 9, 2008

The former Westgarth Theatre, erected in 1921 for the Westgarth Theatre Pty. Ltd., is of local significance as an early and essentially intact example of a cinema building constructed in a decade of unprecedented growth in the motion picture industry. The oldest operating purpose-built cinema in Melbourne, the former Westgarth Theatre is historically significant for its association with a major form of popular entertainment in the twentieth century. As a Greek-language cinema (1966-?) and later, as an "art house" cinema (1987-), the theatre has contributed to the major developments in post-war film exhibition practice in Australia. Architecturally, the former Westgarth Theatre is a significant, but not influential, example of the cinema buildings of the 1920s. The use of classical motifs had been established in the previous decade at the Hoyts De-Luxe, Bourke Street, Melbourne (demolished) and on a smaller scale at the Northcote Theatre and the Barkly and Grand Theatres in Footscray. The Westgarth is notable however for its interior decoration, in particular the geometric detail of the entrance vestibule and stairs to the mezzanine section.

Classified: 01/08/1994

Other Names Former Name Valhalla, Now Palace Theatre,

Hermes Number 65463

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/>