

Plaza, Port Talbot – Summary Text of a ‘Historic Asset’ for the HER

Site Name:

Plaza, Port Talbot

Summary (Welsh):

Adeilad sinema sylweddol gyfan ar Ffordd Talbot, Port Talbot a adeiladwyd yn 1930 mewn steil Modernaidd/Art Deco a gaeodd yn 1999 ac sydd heb ei ddefnyddio ers hynny. Mae chwarter blaen yr adeilad (y cyntedd a'r ystafelloedd taflunydd) o ffram concrit wedi'u atgyfnerthu a waliau gwaith maen, mewn steil Art Deco, o gynllun trapesoid, dros dri llawr ac wedi ei gladio gyda teils faience hufen ynghyd ag ffenestri ffram dur steil Crittall a chanopi crwm yn gor-hwyllo y llawr gwaelod; tra bod tri chwarter cefn yr adeilad (yr awditiwm) o uchder llawn, siap petryal gyda gweddun rendr bras. Tô fflat asffalt sydd i ran blaen yr adeilad, tra bod gan prif gorff yr adeilad tô ar oledd dur talcennog gyda gorchudd dalen asbestos. Mae'r llawr Terrazzo a'r drysau ffrâm pren caled gwydrog yng nghyntedd yr adeilad mewn cyflwr da, tra bod gweddill y gorffeniadau a gosodiadau mewn cyflwr gwael.

Summary (English):

A substantially intact Cinema building on Talbot Road, Port Talbot built in 1939 in the Modernist / Art Deco style, closed in 1999, and unused since. With a reinforced concrete frame and masonry walls, the front quarter of the building (the foyer and projection rooms), in Art Deco style, is trapezoidal in plan, of three storeys and clad in cream faience tiling with Crittall-style steel-framed windows and a curved canopy over-sailing the ground floor; whilst the rear three quarters (the auditorium) is full height and rectangular in plan with roughcast rendered elevations. The front section is flat roofed in asphalt, whilst the main body has a hipped steel truss pitched roof with asbestos sheet covering. Terrazzo flooring and hardwood-framed glazed doors to the foyer remain in good condition, whilst most other finishes and fixtures are in poor condition.

Description:

The Plaza Cinema on Talbot Road in Port Talbot is grade II listed “as a very rare example in Wales of a building type which expresses the distinctive architectural vocabulary of 1930s cinema architecture”. Built in 1939, however, not finished until 1950, due to the Second World War, the building was built of a reinforced concrete frame and floors with masonry infill walls. The front quarter is three storeyed and trapezoidal in plan form with a curved-fronted turret either side of the entrance, all clad in cream faience tiling (with an eau de nil course at the top) with Crittall-style steel-framed windows and a curved canopy topped with a flat asphalt roof over-sailing the ground floor and two curved glass fronted retail units; whilst the rear three quarters is a tall single storey interior, rectangular in plan form, with roughcast rendered walls and a hipped steel truss pitched roof with asbestos sheet covering. Internally, the foyer ground floor is of terrazzo (grey with black and white checkerplate nosed steps to the outer foyer and yellow and green squares to the inner foyer) with hardwood-framed glazed doors and plastered walls and ceiling, with a chevron zig-zag geometric decoration to the coving. The auditorium, originally a single screen cinema, was divided into three cinemas in 1989 – one large and two smaller. Due to years of rainwater ingress through holes in the roof, the upper two storeys of the front and the entire auditorium has been very badly damaged. A Historic Building Recording was produced in January 2020 by GWP Architecture.

NGR:

The OS Eastings are 276856.

The OS Northings are 189606.

The OS Grid reference is SS768896.

Type: Recreational

Period: Modern

Record compiled by: Ashley Davies on behalf of GWP Architecture

Record compiled on: January 2020

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