

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

LISTED BUILDING	Palace Theatre, High Street
Grade:-	II
Date of Notification:-	11.03.80 amended 30.03.87
National Grid Reference:-	6572593860
O.S. 1:10,000 Sheet No.:-	69 SE
CADW Reference No.:-	11585
C & C of S Reference No.:-	LB:065

Notes:-

Occupying a triangular site bounded by High Street, Bethesda Street and Prince of Wales Road.

1888. By Bucknall and Jennings, architects of Swansea. Opened as Swansea Pavillion and later the Empire Music Hall. Converted to cinema 1980 (Peoples Bioscope Palace).

Tall three-storey Baroque block, red brick with Bath stone dressings, slate roofs, four-storey circular tower at apex (stage end) now with-out dome, square towers with curved pavilion roofs to five storey Bethesda front. Circled south angle has top storey with attached Ionic columns to aedicules, linked entablatures and pedestals supported by triglyph cornice, banded facings. Linked first and second floor corner windows under open pediment with carved surround to oculus, volute brackets and keyblock to main stringcourse over keyblocked and rusticated arched window and door openings.

Nine bay elevation to Prince of Wales Road has similar detailing, but with tower bay splayed back above openwork parapet and urn.

Brick Bethesda Street front has twin pavilions, Ionic pilasters, pediments and ornamental French platform roofs.

First floor auditorium known to retain two steeply raked balconies curving round close to proscenium without stage boxes. Balcony fronts in form of open ironwork balustrades, small wedge-shaped stage and small proscenium.

Reference:-

"Curtains!", edited by Iain Mackintosh and Michael Sell (1982) Page 185.

"Swansea Cinemas", exhibition at Guildhall, autumn 1985.