

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

LISTED BUILDING	Former Carlton Cinema and Restaurant, (including Nos. 18B and 18C Oxford Street)
Grade:-	II
Date of Notification:-	20.03.81 amended 30.03.87
National Grid Reference:-	6534592945
O.S. 1:10,000 Sheet No.:-	69 SE
CADW Reference No.:-	11602
C & C of S Reference No.:-	LB:067

Notes:-

Very large frontage in range of lower buildings.

1913-14. Designed by C T Ruthen, architect of Swansea, for Swansea Electric Cinema Co. Ltd., Henry Billings of Swansea, contractors (£15,000). Cinema closed 29th October 1977. Structure of reinforced concrete, steel and brick with façade of Doulton's White Carraraware. Bronzeware to capitals and base of columns.

Four storey three bay symmetrical front (painted ground floor) with end towers. Ribbed domes, swags and volutes to drums, scrolled pediments to columned aedicules over wreathed bull's-eye windows. Balustraded and solid parapet over deep dentil and egg-and-dart cornice. Ionic columns in antis to centre bay with semi-dome to giant arched bay window lighting ironwork balconies inside, foliage spandrels.

Three levels of tripartite windows to rusticated sides with squat Doric/Ionic/Corinthian columns, moulded and sculptured decorative panels with dancing putti. Outer ground floor bays have large arched openings (blocked) with panelled pilasters, foliage spandrels and grotesque keyblocks. Recessed modern shop front to centre.

Ground floor interior retains part of columned treatment to ovoid open staircase at rear of shop (formerly foyer). Rest of interior formerly had plasterwork to gallery front and to the barrel vault at rear of auditorium etc.

Reference:-

Façade drawing in city archives dated 27.10.13.

Building News, April 2nd, 1915, pages 380-1.

D. Atwell: "Cathedrals of the Movies", (1980), page 29.

"Swansea Cinemas", exhibition at the Guildhall, Autumn 1985.