

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

LISTED BUILDING	Castle Cinema, Worcester Place
Grade:-	II
Date of Notification:-	08.02.84 amended 30.03.87
National Grid Reference:-	6572093113
O.S. 1:10,000 Sheet No.:-	69 SE
CADW Reference No.:-	11673
C & C of S Reference No.:-	LB:068

Notes:-

Adjoining Swansea Castle on the edge of the slope above The Strand where there is a second façade.

Built 1912-14. Designed by C S Thomas Meager and Jones, architects of Swansea, for the Andrews family of Cardiff. Damaged by fire 1927 and partly bomb damaged in 1944, interior refitted 1962.

Worcester Place front set in slope, classical with Beaux Arts influence. Two storeys, three bays, ashlar with giant Doric order treatment, triglyph frieze, heavy cornice, open work parapet with enriched supports and latticework panels. Brick gable end behind parapet. Elaborately carved cartouche with festoons and wreath to panel over central entrance, side windows with lattice glazings and festoons. Chanelled pilasters to ground floor with recessed swing doors and fanlights.

Tall Strand Street façade of three storeys, brick with freestone dressing to main cornice over first floor, chanelled quoins, cill bands, keystone, etc. Frieze to second floor with gilt 'Castle Cinema' inscription, seven openings to first floor with blind arched heads over, large centre doorway and lesser flanking doors to ground floor.

Interior retains original longitudinal foyer within Worcester Place façade, classical detailing to architraves, cornices and triple entrances to auditorium (centre one blocked by later paybox), and detailing continues under gallery (now partitioned from main auditorium) mostly original three panel doors.

Plain rectangular auditorium with segmental vault (now up holstered) coved cornice, pilasters behind 1960's wall covering. Original sinous gallery front with safety bars at circle level, stage end remodelled for wide screen about 1962. Subsidiary rooms below screen end.

Reference:-

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

Swansea Cinemas, exhibition at the Guildhall, Autumn 1985, Information from ACES (Swansea)