

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

LISTED BUILDING	Top Rank Club, Craddock Street, (formerly Albert Hall Cinema)
Grade:-	II
Date of Notification:-	30.03.87
National Grid Reference:-	6530593190
O.S. 1:10,000 Sheet No.:-	69 SE
CADW Reference No.:-	11573
C & C of S Reference No.:-	LB:099

Notes:-

Prominently sited on the corner with De La Beeche Street.

Originally opened 1875 as public assembly and concert hall to designs by Richard Richards of Swansea. Converted to cinema 1922-22, possibly to designs by C T Ruthen. Principle alterations 1935 when new foyer extension, façade and new canopy added. Bingo Hall 1977.

Wide asymmetrical three storey painted frontage with open pedimented bay to right. Cornice and blocking course, twin columns with acanthus bands, Ionic pilasters to upper tripartite windows (top floor blocked), anthemion bands, fluted pilasters to outer bays. Similar treatment continues to five bay left hand section; heavy cill band over banded pilasters to ground floor. Pivot windows and modernised entrance with canopy.

Long flank to De La Beeche Street (3+3+3+2 bays). Detail cornice, exposed rubble, keyblocked openings, arched openings to first floor (all blocked), cill band above arched ground floor treatment with recessed inner openings and impost bands. Twin square headed, larger openings to rear. Modern metal clad roof with ventilators.

Interior of auditorium retains ornamented ceiling with long guilloche panels, covering with central ventilator grilles, swagged frieze, segmental arched ceiling over rear balcony. Cantilevered and bowed gallery fronts with frond and wreath decoration; pilastered treatment under. Main landing has Art Deco frieze etc, good tube handrails to stairs etc.

Dame Adelina Patti appeared at the concert hall here.

Reference:-

Shown as Music Hall on 1878 OS Map

“Swansea Cinemas” exhibition in Guildhall, Autumn 1985

First Built 1864, Kelly’s Directory 1914, page 874