



Everybody's Theatre, Tasman Street

c.1912/1914

Use	Picture Theatre and retail	Historic Value	2 out of 5
Materials		Architectural Value	1 out of 4
		Technical Value	1 out of 2
NZHPT Registered	Not registered	Symbolic Value	1 out of 3
Valuation No	11970-300-00	Rarity	1 out of 2
Legal Description	Blk XXXII Town of Opunake	Townscape Value	1 out of 2
		Group Value	- out of 2
		Overall Cultural Heritage Value	7 out of 20
Reference	T3		

Description

Everybody's Theatre is a large two storey picture theatre with a shop flanking each side of the main entrance. The building is of timber construction, and has a bull nosed verandah supported on cast iron posts.

History

This building was built circa 1912/1914 following the disasterous fires that destroyed much of Tasman Street. It was originally Thorpe and Callahans which was a general store.

The building was then purchased by the O'Rorkes near the end of or after World War I, and converted into a picture theatre circa 1920. An art deco façade was constructed at this time, but was removed in 1999.

Around 1936

the Whitings took over the premises. Further upgrading to the shops (and possibly the foyer) was completed during the 1950s. The theatre was also lined in Pinex at about this time.

The theatre closed in 1980 after operating for 50 years. However, a public meeting of 600 local residents unanimously agreed to purchase the theatre as a community asset and pledged \$20,000.00 towards this. Within three weeks an additional \$35,000.00 was offered on interest free loan. The first film after the theatre became community owned was shown on 15 May 1980. Volunteer staff continue to operate the theatre.

Architect

Not known.

Builder

Not known.

Sources

Opunake Centennial Book
Dave Shegedin, Theatre Secretary

Date

January 2000