



Moreland City Council

## Victorian Heritage Database Report **Lyric Theatre (former)**

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**Location:**

199-201 Sydney Road, Brunswick VIC 3056 - Property No 38911

**Heritage Status / Level of Significance:**

Included in Heritage Overlay

**Heritage Overlay Number:** HO151

**Listing Authority:** Merri-bek City

**Statement of Significance:**

The Lyric Theatre is of historical and architectural significance. It is the one of the oldest surviving purpose-built cinemas in Melbourne, predating Northcote (1912). Programmatically, its significance is in the incorporation of a ballroom, shops and billiard room into the cinema complex. It has played an important role in the social history of Brunswick, being associated with significant events and organisations, including the Unemployed Workers Movement during the 1930s depression. Despite the alterations to the ground floor, the first floor remains a reasonably intact example of an Edwardian commercial facade.

**Description**

The former Lyric Theatre is a two storey brick Edwardian building, Edwardian in style. The Sydney Road facade is symmetrical about an arched central entrance. The second storey facade has a series of paired elongated windows (which have fixed opaque upper panels), between piers decorated with sinuous Art Nouveau motifs, and surmounted by a curved parapet. A rendered string course marks the heads of the opening sashes.

The Sydney Road verandah, with its arched central entry, has been removed, and the parapet brickwork painted. The ground floor facade has been altered significantly; there is little original fabric left at this level.

Key Architectural Elements: interestingly detailed Edwardian facade  
rendered Arts and Crafts style mouldings to first floor  
unpainted rendered parapet on south facade

Conservation Guidelines: reinstate original window and door openings to ground floor  
remove entrance canopy  
remove paint from ground floor brickwork

Principal Historic Themes: association with provision of entertainment and recreation facilities

Heritage Study / Consultant	Moreland - City of Moreland Heritage Review, Allen Lovell and Associates, 1999; Moreland - Keeping Brunswick's heritage: A Report on the Review of the Brunswick Conservation Study, Context Pty Ltd , 1990
Construction Date Range	- 1911
Architect / Designer	
Municipality	MERRI-BEK CITY
Other names	
Hermes number	59094
Property number	38911

*This place/object may also be State heritage listed. Check the Victorian Heritage Database. For further details, contact the local Council or go to Planning Schemes Online*