

Austral Theatre, later Austral Picture Theatre, 200-202 Johnston Street, Collingwood

Heritage overlay: HO324

City of Yarra Property Number: 121035

What is significant?

The Austral Theatre, later Austral Picture Theatre at 200-202 Johnston Street, Collingwood was created in 1921 for Winifred Kenny and has other historical associations with persons such as Robert McLeish, C. Hore and John and Maria Lyris. The place has a fair integrity to its creation date (ground level changed; part interior existing).

Fabric from the creation date at the Austral Theatre, later Austral Picture Theatre is locally significant within the City of Yarra, compared to other similar places from a similar era.

How is it significant?

The Austral Theatre, later Austral Picture Theatre at 200-202 Johnston Street, Collingwood is historically and architecturally significant to the locality of Collingwood and the City of Yarra.

Why is it significant?

The Austral Theatre, later Austral Picture Theatre is significant as a Greek revival style, rendered theatre façade with a stepped parapet, Victory wreaths on flanking pylon forms. The first owner, McLeish, was linked with the Rivoli and other significant cinemas. It has local social and historic significance as a former long-term public building.

References:

Municipal rate books:

VPRS 377/P/000

City of Collingwood / DarlingWard

Rate year/Rate no./Occupier/Owner/Description /NAV

1944/45; 5140; Lyris John, Confectioner; McLeish Robert, and Hore Mrs C, 243 Collins St, C1; 202a Johnston St, Brick Shop; 80

; 5141; Blank; McLeish Robert, and Hore Mrs C, 243 Collins St, C1; 200-200a Johnston St, Austral Theatre; 600

1940-41; 5224; Lyris John, Confectioner; McLeish Robert, and Hore Mrs C, 224 Swanston St Melb.; 202c Johnston St, Brick Shop; 80

; 5225; Blank; McLeish Robert, and Hore Mrs C, 224 Swanston St Melb.; 200-200a Johnston St, Austral Theatre; 600

1935-36; 5252; Lyris Maria, Confectioner; McLeish Robert, and Hore Mrs C, 224 Swanston St Melb.; 202c Johnston St, Brick Shop; 72

; 5253; Blank; McLeish Robert, and Hore Mrs C, 224 Swanston St Melb.; 200-200a Johnston St, Austral Theatre; 600

1930-31; 5281; Lyris Maria, Confectioner; McLeish Robert, and Hore Mrs C, 224 Swanston St Melb.; 202c Johnston St, Brick Shop; 120

; 5282; Blank; McLeish Robert, and Hore Mrs C, 224 Swanston St Melb.; 202b Johnston St, Austral Theatre; 550

; 5283; Not being let; McLeish Robert, and Hore Mrs C, 224 Swanston St Melb.; 200a Johnston St, Brick Shop; 80

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1925-26; 5278; Nicol Peter Confectioner crossed out; Kenny Winifred and others McCracken Ave Northcote; 202c Johnston St, Brick Shop; 150
; 5279; McLeish Robert Picture Ptr.; Kenny Winifred and others McCracken Ave Northcote; 202b Johnston St, Austral Theatre; 1100
; 5280; Commercial Banking Coy; Kenny Winifred and others McCracken Ave Northcote; 200a Johnston St, Brick Bank; 70
1924-25; 5271; Nichol Peter; Kenny Winifred and others McCracken Ave Northcote; 202 Johnston St, Brick Shop; 150
; 5272; McLeish Robert
Picture Proprietor; Kenny Winifred and others McCracken Ave Northcote; 202a Johnston St, Austral Theatre ; 1100
; 5273; Commercial Bank of Aust.; Kenny Winifred and others McCracken Ave Northcote; Brick Bank; 70
1923-24; 5302; Nichol Peter; Kenny Winifred and others McCracken Ave Northcote; 202 Johnston St, Brick Shop; 150
; 5303; McLeish Robert
Picture Proprietor; Kenny Winifred and others McCracken Ave Northcote; 202a Johnston St, Austral Theatre ; 1100
; 5304; Hughes Stewart to Commercial Baking Coy; Kenny Winifred and others McCracken Ave Northcote; 200 Johnston St, Brick Shop; 70
1922-23; 5285; Nichol Peter; Kenny Winifred and others 6 McCracken Ave Northcote; 202 Johnston St, Brick Shop; 150
; 5286; McLeish Robert, Picture Proprietor; Kenny Winifred and others 6 McCracken Ave Northcote; 202a Johnston St, Austral Theatre ; 1100
; 5287; Whiteford Minnie to Hughes Stewart M ; Kenny Winifred and others 6 McCracken Ave Northcote; 200 Johnston St, Brick Shop; 70
1921-22; 5279; Nichol Peter; Kenny Winifred and others 6 McCracken Ave Northcote; 204 Johnston St, Brick Shop; 150
; 5280; McLeish Robert, Picture Proprietor; Kenny Winifred and others 6 McCracken Ave Northcote; 204a Johnston St, Austral Theatre; 1100
; 5281; Leeman A and James A changed to Whiteford Miss Minnie, Milliner; Kenny Winifred and others 6 McCracken Ave Northcote; 202 Johnston St, Brick Shop; 70
1920-21; 5297; Blank; Kenny Winifred, 6 McCracken Ave Northcote ; Land 72'8"; 55
1919-20; 5315; Fisher Emily; Kenny Winifred, McCracken Ave Northcote ; 204a Johnston St, London Hotel
Population 7; 140
; 5316; Hutton Alfred, Boot dealer; Kenny Winifred, McCracken Ave Northcote; 202 Johnston St, Brick Shop Population 2; 50
; 5317; Heugle Richard crossed out to read Camm Edward W, Upholster; Kenny Winifred, McCracken Ave Northcote; 200 Johnston St, Brick Shop, population 5; 50

Melbourne or Victorian directories:

North side
1944-45; Aust Pict theatre
1940; Aust Pict theatre
202 Lyris Jon confr
1935; Aust Pict theatre
202 Lyris Jon confr
1930; 202 Comm Bk of Australia
202 Aust Pict theatre
202 Lyris Jon confr
1925; 200-202 Hughes, S M Hr
202 Comm Bk of Australia
202 Aust Pict theatre
202 Nichol, Peter, confr
1920; 200 Heugle R., upholster and furn Mfr
202 Hutton Alfd, bt shop
202a London Hotel – Fisher Miss Emily

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Other references:

Proclaim: as 200-202;

Catrice 1991: closed 1959, open 15/9/1921;

Wight 2001: 'This large and striking Art Deco style (or Moderne style) building (which may have originally been a theatre) is somewhat at odds with the commercial building stock found in this Precinct, which predominantly dates from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The painted render upper level facade is substantially intact, though the lower level shopfronts are modern. Modern signage is somewhat intrusive.'

MMBW Detail Plan shows property as London Hotel 186-188;