

BETTER HERITAGE INFORMATION SUMMARY OF STATE HERITAGE PLACE

COMMENTARY ON THE LISTING

Description and notes with respect to a place entered in the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with either the *South Australian Heritage Act 1978* or the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

The information contained in this document is provided in accordance with s14 and/ or s21 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

REGISTERED NAME: Capri Theatre (former New Goodwood Star Theatre) **PLACE NO.:** 10670

KNOWN AS: Capri Theatre (former New Goodwood Star Theatre)

ADDRESS: Karna Country
141 Goodwood Road
Goodwood 5034
CT 5437/653 F11430 A44
Hundred of Adelaide

CONFIRMED IN THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE REGISTER:

27 September 1990

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Capri Theatre (former New Goodwood Star Theatre) demonstrates the evolution of motion pictures as a new form of mass entertainment in the twentieth century. Built in 1941, it was the last purpose-built picture theatre constructed during the interwar period in South Australia, and along with the Piccadilly Theatre, North Adelaide (SHP 13496), represents the pinnacle of development of interwar picture theatres.

The Capri Theatre (former New Goodwood Star Theatre) is an outstanding example of interwar streamlined architecture, articulating many of the key attributes of the style

such as clean, parallel lines, circle motif, and horizontal emphasis with vertical relief. The Capri Theatre (former New Goodwood Star Theatre) demonstrates the ultimate evolution of the style in South Australia.

The Capri Theatre (former New Goodwood Star Theatre) is also associated with D. Clifford Theatres Limited, an innovative and influential family-owned exhibition company which was responsible for establishing high standards for film exhibition and introduced numerous innovations in architectural expression, technology and comfort. A leader in the film industry in South Australia, D Clifford Theatres Limited grew to be one of the largest picture theatre operators in South Australia during the first half of the twentieth century.

RELEVANT/INDICATIVE CRITERIA (under section 16 of the Heritage Places Act 1993)

(a) it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history

The Capri Theatre (former New Goodwood Star Theatre) demonstrates historic themes associated with developing social and cultural life, in particular the participation of South Australians in leisure and recreation.

In South Australia, cinema emerged as a form of mass entertainment from around 1907. In the 1920s, cinema-going boomed and by the end of the decade most communities in South Australia possessed a venue for screening motion pictures, ranging from large, purpose-built picture theatres or town halls in urbanised centres to small rural halls retrofitted with projection facilities. As well as being a popular leisure activity, 'Going to the pictures' was a regular social occasion and played an important role in community building, especially in regional areas.

Commonwealth building controls introduced during the Second World War brought an end to the construction of purpose-built picture theatres in South Australia, marking the end of the technological and architectural development of them. Built in 1941, the Capri Theatre (former New Goodwood Star Theatre) is the last purpose-built interwar picture theatre constructed in South Australia. Along with the Piccadilly Theatre, North Adelaide (SHP 13496), built the previous year, the Capri Theatre (former New Goodwood Star Theatre) represents the pinnacle of development in South Australian interwar picture theatres.

(e) it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics

The Capri Theatre (former New Goodwood Star Theatre) is an outstanding example of interwar streamlined architecture, demonstrating a high degree of aesthetic, creative and technical accomplishment. Interwar streamlined architecture emerged in South Australia during the mid-1930s. The development of the style peaked during the early 1940s before being curtailed by the introduction of Commonwealth building controls during the Second World War. Built in 1941, Capri Theatre (former New Goodwood Star Theatre) was one of the last major buildings of any kind constructed in the style in South Australia, and along with the Piccadilly Theatre, North Adelaide (SHP 13496), built the previous year, demonstrates the ultimate evolution of the style in South Australia.

Capri Theatre (former New Goodwood Star Theatre) finely articulates many of the key attributes of interwar streamlined architecture, namely,

- bold massing of simple geometric shapes,
- clean lines, rounded corners and minimal decoration,
- plain surfaces and light-toned cement (originally painted),
- horizontal emphasis, achieved through features such as splayed rendered bands on façade creating shadow effects, with integrated window openings,
- contrasting vertical relief, expressed through facade fin features and transition from horizontal to vertical banding,
- parallel line motif, notably in façade and auditorium side walls and ticket box grilles,
- circle motif, notably in porthole auditorium window openings, curved auditorium wall bands, ticket box grilles, built-in furniture and mirrors,
- wrap-around bands and rounded corners,
- long cantilevered awning element (without the clutter of supporting brackets or stays),
- steel casement window frames,
- roofs concealed by parapets,
- architecturally integrated lighting, notably extensive use of troughed indirect lighting in lounges and auditorium.

Capri Theatre (former New Goodwood Star Theatre) demonstrates a high degree of technical accomplishment and attention to detail in construction, including high quality rendering, fibrous plaster work, joinery, metalwork, and tiling. It also

demonstrates an early use of concrete block construction, in the form of 'Syncrete' cavity building blocks, comprised of sand, cement and graded clinkers.

(g) it has special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance

The Capri Theatre (former Goodwood Star Theatre) is associated with D. Clifford Theatres Limited, a family-owned South Australian company which grew to become one of two dominant film exhibitors in interwar and early post-war South Australia. D. Clifford Theatres Limited shared an effective duopoly in the Adelaide suburbs and large regional centres with rival exhibitor, Ozone Theatres Limited, which prevented dominant interstate exhibitors from establishing meaningful footholds in South Australia. D. Clifford Theatres Limited shaped public experiences and expectations of cinema-going during the interwar period, establishing high standards for film exhibition and introducing numerous innovations in architectural expression, technology and comfort, especially during the silent film era prior to 1929.

D. Clifford Theatres Limited was responsible for building and/or adapting many picture theatres in city, suburban and regional South Australia. Nine picture theatre buildings purpose-built by D. Clifford Theatres Limited remain in South Australia. Five demonstrate a high level of intactness and integrity, namely the Woodville Town Hall (1927, LHP), Thebarton Theatre (former Thebarton Town Hall) (1928, SHP 10645), the Vogue Theatre, Unley (1939, LHP), the Piccadilly Theatre, North Adelaide (1940, SHP 13496) and the Capri Theatre (former New Star Theatre), Goodwood (1941).

The Capri Theatre (former Goodwood Star Theatre) was the last theatre the company purpose-designed and built before the introduction of building restrictions in 1941 due to the Second World War. Along with the Piccadilly Theatre, North Adelaide (SHP 13496), opened in 1940, the Capri Theatre (former New Goodwood Star Theatre) represents the pinnacle of motion picture theatre development by the company during the interwar period in South Australia.

For these reasons the Capri Theatre (former New Goodwood Star Theatre) is considered to have a special association with D. Clifford Theatres Limited and the vital role the company played in providing recreational opportunities in the city and suburban and regional South Australia through the medium of moving pictures.

SITE PLAN

Capri Theatre (former New Star Theatre)

PLACE NO.: 10340



141 Goodwood Road, Goodwood 5034



Capri Theatre (former New Goodwood Star Theatre) (CT 5437/653 F11430 A44 Hundred of Adelaide).

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LEGEND

-  Outline of Elements of Significance for State Heritage Place
-  Parcel boundaries (Indicates extent of Listing)

Physical Description

The Capri Theatre (former New Goodwood Star Theatre) is a three-storey blockwork, steel and reinforced concrete interwar picture theatre with a dominant corner facing Goodwood Road and Gilbert Street, Goodwood. The structure is comprised of reinforced concrete piers and perimeter beams with structural brick infill. The building has a corrugated steel roof covering the main auditorium, with box gutters and parapets to the front and both sides, and a blockwork stage house with corrugated skillion roof to the rear.

Additional external features include:

- rendered façade, featuring curved, splayed bands on western elevation which wrap around part of the northern elevation,
- vertical fin features on western façade, surmounted by neon star sign,
- Capri Theatre sign mounted on vertical fin feature (not original fabric),
- large porthole openings in auditorium side walls (7 each side),
- street awning with pressed metal soffit and fascia, with bayonet light fittings arrayed along perimeter and along sweeps at intervals,
- five sets of paired, glazed double entry doors arrayed around corner under awning,
- transom windows over entry doors, glazed with reeded and chevron-patterned glass,
- mosaic tiles to doorsteps,
- shopfront at southern end with stainless steel window trim,
- yellow vitrolite with green vitrolite banding cladding entry piers and shopfront,
- cantilevered reinforced concrete hoods over auditorium side doors,
- two-storey lean-to blockwork stage house at rear,
- unpainted southern elevation wall.

The main internal spaces of the theatre include a stalls lounge and circle lounge (downstairs and upstairs foyers, respectively), a main auditorium with a cantilevered dress circle (gallery), upstairs and downstairs male and female toilets and powder rooms, a snack bar adjacent to the stalls lounge, a biograph room and a backstage space. A bifurcated flight of stairs connects the stalls lounge to the circle lounge, while two distinct flights of stairs connect the circle lounge to the dress circle.

Additional internal features include:

- fibrous plaster ceilings and indirect lighting troughs in stalls and circle lounges (original), with reeded glass lighting strip (recreation),
- wall sconce light fittings (original) in stalls and circle foyers with backing mirrors (recreation),

- two ticket boxes downstairs and one upstairs; downstairs with semicircular glass brick fronts (original) and chromed welded steel grilles (recreation),
- semicircular glass brick flower stand in stalls foyer,
- chromed welded steel rails on stairs between lounges (original),
- mirror feature on stair landing wall (recreation),
- mural above stair landing (not original fabric),
- circular seats in upstairs and downstairs foyers, built-in around columns, with mirror tiles above (recreation),
- fibrous plaster fireplace and mirror with koala motif in circle lounge (recreation),
- mirror with koala motif mounted on southern wall of upstairs ticket box (original),
- carpets in stalls and circle lounges (recreation),
- 'Plasco' wall texture in lounges,
- fibrous plaster indirect lighting coves and troughs in auditorium
- fibrous plaster decoration to auditorium ceiling side walls, including roundel features on porthole covers and central spine feature,
- horizontal banding on auditorium side walls integrated with curved bands offset from and/or complementing portholes,
- dress circle balustrades panelled in French-polished silver ash,
- window winder hatches in auditorium side walls,
- five chandeliers (from Norwood Star Theatre of 1923) suspended from auditorium ceiling.

Elements of Significance:

Elements of heritage significance include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- Original exterior and interior materials and material finishes including fibrous plaster, vitrolite, tiles, terrazzo, glass bricks and chrome,
- Original fittings, including light fittings, joinery, doors and door fittings, stair rails and mirrors,
- Remains of original proscenium (concealed behind later additions),
- Original seating in gallery,
- Star sign surmounting façade.

Elements not considered to contribute to significance of place include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- 'Capri Theatre' sign,
- Recreated features and fittings,
- Organ and all structures associated with organ installation, including organ chambers, pit and lift, and apron stage,
- Air-conditioning system,
- Candy bar fitout,

- Digital projection equipment, speakers, projection screens, masking and curtains,
- Internal and external murals.

History of the Place

Interwar picture theatres

During the interwar period (1914 – 1945), cinemas were usually described as theatres or picture houses. The term 'cinema' was not commonly used before the 1960s. Motion pictures were first screened in South Australia from 1897 but cinema did not emerge as a dominant form of mass entertainment in South Australia until after 1907. Cinema-going boomed during the 1920s and by the end of the decade most communities in South Australia possessed a venue for screening motion pictures, ranging from large, purpose-built picture theatres in urbanised centres to small rural halls retrofitted with projection facilities.¹

'Going to the pictures' was a popular weekly outing for many South Australian families, and in 1938 alone, the equivalent of 'every man, woman and child' attended the pictures fifteen times.² As a regular social occasion, the subject of films shown was 'immaterial' and many families had permanent bookings in preferred seats.³ The manager of the theatre typically appeared to greet patrons downstairs 'in a dinner jacket,' in some cases disappearing upstairs at showtime to start the projectors rolling.

A typical theatre programme always began with 'God Save the King' followed by a newsreel, a serial or cartoon and a feature. Intermission offered an opportunity to socialise in a foyer or lounge, visit the soda fountain or dash across the street to a confectioner (with police on duty outside suburban theatres to prevent this practice). Many suburban theatres were built near public transport routes,⁴ and the length of the programme was often timed to end shortly before the departure of the last train or tram.

By 1930 two local family-owned companies had grown to dominate South Australian film exhibition, namely Ozone Theatres Limited and D. Clifford Theatres Limited (see below), the latter operating theatres under the Star banner. The Ozone and Clifford companies followed similar trajectories over the course of their respective histories. Both were founded by newsagents; both expanded rapidly through the 1920s, absorbing competing interests; both expanded into regional South Australia by the end of the decade; and both obtained large, lucrative city venues by 1940.⁵

The strength of the Ozone Theatres/Clifford duopoly meant that dominant interstate exhibitors Hoyts and Greater Union Theatres⁶ did not gain any significant foothold in

suburban or country South Australia until the post-war period, when both firms were absorbed, Ozone Theatres by Hoyts and Clifford by Greater Union.

Prior to 1929 motion pictures screened in South Australia did not typically have a synchronised soundtrack, however, most were accompanied by live music, and it was not unusual for suburban theatres to employ their own small orchestras. 'Talkies,' motion pictures with a synchronised soundtrack, arrived in early 1929 and rapidly displaced silent cinema. The expense of wiring for sound combined with the Depression⁷ meant that no new, purpose-built theatres for screening talkies were built in South Australia prior to economic recovery in the mid-1930s.

The arrival of drive-in theatres in South Australia from 1954, eroded attendance at traditional picture theatres.⁸ Later, following the introduction of television in South Australia in September 1959, attendance at suburban and country picture theatres dwindled and many had closed by the early 1960s. A few suburban theatres survived the decline in conventional cinemagoing into the 1980s by screening foreign-language and R-rated films.

D. Clifford Theatres Limited

With financial assistance from his mother Delia (b. c.1863 – d. 1921),⁹ Adelaide newsagent Daniel (Dan) Clifford (b. 1887 – d. 1942) acquired a small film exhibition business called Star Pictures and subsequently acquired freehold the Star Theatre on Henley Beach Road at Torrensville.¹⁰ He soon rebuilt the theatre at a cost of £7,000,¹¹ followed by the Hindmarsh Town Hall at a cost of £4,000, the latter in an arrangement with the Corporation of the Town of Hindmarsh which included a long-term lease.¹²

Clifford rapidly acquired numerous other picture theatres and in mid-1922 he gave up his newsagency business to focus on film exhibition.¹³ Star Pictures Limited was registered in November that year under the *Companies Act 1892*¹⁴ with a nominal capital of £70,000.¹⁵ The company's inaugural directors were Dan Clifford, his sisters Mary Gordon (nee Clifford) and Ellen Walkley (nee Clifford), his brother James and hotel keeper John Pierce.¹⁶ The company name was changed to D. Clifford Theatres Limited on 11 April 1923.¹⁷ In May 1923, Clifford opened his first purpose-built theatre, the Norwood Star Theatre at a cost of over £20,000.¹⁸ Further purpose-built theatres followed during the mid- to late-1920s.

Clifford also negotiated agreements to build and lease large new picture theatres associated with the municipal buildings at Woodville (1927) and Thebarton (1928). By 1931, D. Clifford Theatres Limited was the largest South Australian suburban exhibitor operating twelve theatres.¹⁹

In 1928, Clifford attributed the success of his business to 'giving the public ... the best films offering with due comfort,' which he believed led them to patronise local

theatres.²⁰ D. Clifford Theatres Limited lead in the introduction of numerous architectural and technological innovations, such as polychrome and indirect interior lighting effects, provision of extensive internal circulation space, stadium-style auditorium seating, double 'love seats'²¹ and side boxes.

The expense of wiring theatres for sound for the 'talkies' combined with the onset of the Depression, and D. Clifford Theatres' 'aggressive' building campaign during the 1920s resulted in the company experiencing financial difficulties.²² It was 1936 before business recovered and Clifford entered into an agreement with the Corporation of the Town of Hindmarsh to build and lease a new picture theatre as part of an upgraded civic building. Over the next few years D. Clifford Theatres Limited purchased and/or renovated and/or leased several picture theatres (see chronology). From 1939, D. Clifford Theatres built three new purpose-built picture theatres, namely the Vogue Theatre, Kingswood (1939), the Piccadilly Theatre, North Adelaide (1940) and the New Goodwood Star Theatre (1941).

Dan Clifford died on 10 December 1942 aged 54.²³ At the time of Clifford's death, D. Clifford Theatres Limited operated 20 city, suburban and country picture theatres. In October 1946, D. Clifford Theatres Limited was acquired by Sydney-based Greater Union Theatres Limited for around £300,000, considered 'the biggest theatre deal in the history of South Australia' at the time.²⁴ Afterwards Greater Union Theatres traded in South Australia as the Clifford Theatre Circuit and its venues were gradually rebadged as Odeon theatres from the early 1950s.²⁵

New Star Theatre, Goodwood

The New Star Theatre was built to replace D. Clifford Theatres Limited's existing Star Theatre formerly the Goodwood Wondergraph Theatre (1920),²⁶ located a short distance south at 147-149 Goodwood Road (now converted to offices). The new theatre was designed in 1940 by architect Chris A. Smith, engineering was undertaken by consulting engineers Hurren, Langman and James and it was built by Norwood-based builder R. J. Nurse. In surviving drawings supplied to Hurren, Langman and James, the proposed theatre is named the Savoy Theatre.²⁷ This name was later changed, most likely to avoid confusion with the Savoy News-Luxe Theatre in Rundle Street, Adelaide, a newsreel theatre which opened in February 1941.²⁸

Smith's design for the New Star marked a departure from his previous work and borrowed numerous features from Clifford's most recent purpose-built venue, the Piccadilly Theatre at North Adelaide. The Piccadilly Theatre was designed by Adelaide architects Evans, Bruer & Hall in association with Guy Crick and Bruce W. Furse, Sydney-based theatre specialists. Features included at the New Goodwood Star Theatre that were borrowed from the Piccadilly included a steel roof structure; roof-mounted natural-draught 'Syphonator' ventilation units; a streamlined BHI Summary of State Heritage Place: 10670

auditorium ceiling; extensive use of coved neon lighting in the foyers and auditorium, with faders enabling various colour effects and transitions;²⁹ a saucer-shaped auditorium floor; porthole auditorium window openings with pivoting covers facilitating additional ventilation; gas radiator heating; and upstairs and downstairs powder bars;³⁰ and a 'Plasco' textured wall finish in the foyers. R. J. Nurse built both theatres.³¹

In the auditorium, Smith reused moulded fibrous plaster decoration which he originally designed for the Hindmarsh Town Hall in the ceiling spine and window roundel features. The firm Pitt Limited was subcontracted to complete the fibrous plaster work, the staff working overtime to complete the job as they were already fully committed on defence contracts at the Salisbury Explosives Factory (SHP 26027-31).³²

Syncrete cavity building blocks were adopted to build the walls due to a shortage of conventional bricks as a consequence of the Second World War. Syncrete blocks comprised a mixture of sand, cement and graded clinkers (semi-vitrified bricks typically discarded as waste)³³ and were advertised as possessing superior sound absorption and insulation properties when compared with ordinary bricks.

The New Goodwood Star Theatre opened on 8 October 1941 and could seat 1472.³⁴ After the opening of the new theatre, the old Star Theatre was operated by Ozone Theatres Limited until 1955, when it was leased by Greater Union Theatres Limited³⁵ and renamed Cinema Curzon.³⁶

The introduction of the Commonwealth *National Security Act 1939* and its building control regulations meant the New Star Theatre, Goodwood was the last new, purpose-built theatre opened in South Australia until well after building control regulations ended in 1953.³⁷

Along with D. Clifford Theatres Limited's other venues, New Star Theatre was acquired by Greater Union Theatres Limited in 1947³⁸ and from the early 1950s became known as the Goodwood Odeon Theatre.³⁹ From February 1964, after the Cinema Curzon at 147-149 Goodwood Road closed, the Goodwood Odeon Theatre was renamed the New Cinema Curzon and specialised in screening 'continental and classic films.'

Later in 1967 the theatre was renovated and redecorated, resulting in the loss of many original features and fittings, and reopened as Cinema Capri, advertised as 'the International Cinema.' Around this time five Czechoslovakian crystal chandeliers from the Norwood Star Theatre were installed in the main auditorium. During the late 1970s, amid dwindling cinema audiences, the Cinema Capri screened R-rated films before closing in 1978.⁴⁰

In December 1978 the Cinema Capri was purchased by the Theatre Organ Society of Australia (SA Division) (TOSA), for the primary purpose of housing one of TOSA's two

Wurlitzer theatre organs. The venue reopened as the Capri Theatre on 26 December 1978.⁴¹ To accommodate the large organ, various changes were made to the auditorium, including removal of parts of the original proscenium and stage and the construction of a glass-fronted organ chamber, an apron stage, and a console pit and lift. The organ was unveiled on 2 April 1983.⁴² In 1986, the 'hugely successful' Australian film *Crocodile Dundee* played at the Capri Theatre for just over one year, helping TOSA pay off their loan and to own the property outright.⁴³ Since 1978 TOSA has made numerous changes to the Capri Theatre, some of which have included repair, restoration or recreation of features lost in the 1967 renovations.

Chronology

Year Event

- 1897 First motion pictures are screened in South Australia.
- 1907 Cinema emerges as a dominant form of entertainment in South Australia.
- 1913 The Government of South Australia passes the *Places of Public Entertainment Act 1913*.
- 1917 July, Daniel (Dan) Clifford acquires the Torrensville Star Theatre.
- 1921 Dan Clifford acquires the Greater Wondergraph Company Limited's suburban picture theatres at Goodwood, Unley and Semaphore.
- 1922 Dan Clifford gives up his newsagency business to focus on film exhibition.
November, Star Pictures Limited is registered under the *Companies Act 1892*.
April, Dan Clifford opens rebuilt Port Adelaide Star Theatre.
- 1923 11 April, the name Star Pictures Limited is changed to D. Clifford Theatres Limited.
May, Dan Clifford opens his first purpose-built picture theatre, the Norwood Star Theatre.
August, Dan Clifford leases the Ideal Theatre, Kadina, his first country venue.
November, D. Clifford Theatres Limited opens the Parkside Star Theatre.
- 1925 D. Clifford Theatres Limited opens the Capitol Theatre, St Peters.
- 1928 D. Clifford Theatres Limited opens the New Star Theatre, Unley and the Capitol Theatre, Mount Gambier.
- 1929 Films with a synchronised soundtrack, known as 'talkies,' are first screened in South Australia.
- 1931 D. Clifford Theatres Limited is the largest South Australian suburban exhibitor, operating twelve theatres.

- 1936 New Hindmarsh Town Hall opens, including a picture theatre built for D. Clifford Theatres Limited.
- 1938 South Australians accrue 9 million theatre attendances from a population of 598,000.
- April, D. Clifford Theatres Limited acquires its first city theatre, the former Central Theatre in Wakefield Street, reopened as the New Star Theatre.
- 1940 3 October, sketch drawing for proposed theatre at Goodwood, for D. Clifford Theatres Limited, is submitted to Inspector of Places of Public Entertainment, seeking provisional approval.**
- 23 October, the Piccadilly Theatre, North Adelaide, opens.
- 23 November, final drawings of the proposed Savoy Theatre submitted to Inspector of Places of Public Entertainment (renamed the New Goodwood Star Theatre before construction begins).**
- 1941 8 October, New Goodwood Star Theatre opens, seating 1472.**
- 1942 D. Clifford Theatres Limited operates 20 city, suburban and country picture theatres.**
- 10 December, Dan Clifford dies aged 54.**
- 1946 October, D. Clifford Theatres Limited is acquired by Sydney-based Greater Union Theatres Limited for around £300,000.
- 1947 Ownership of the New Goodwood Star Theatre is formally transferred to Greater Union Theatres Limited.**
- 1950s The New Goodwood Star Theatre becomes known as the Goodwood Odeon Theatre.
- 1954 South Australia's first drive-in theatre opens.
- 1964 The Goodwood Odeon Theatre, formerly known as the New Goodwood Star Theatre, is renamed the New Cinema Curzon, specialising in European and classic films.
- 1967 The New Cinema Curzon, formerly known as the New Goodwood Star Theatre, is renovated and reopens as the Cinema Capri.
- Five Czechoslovakian crystal chandeliers from the former Norwood Star Theatre are installed in the Cinema Capri main auditorium.
- 1970s Cinema Capri screens R-rated films in an attempt to boost dwindling cinema audiences.
- 1978 Cinema Capri closes.**
- December, Cinema Capri is purchased by the Theatre Organ Society of Australia (SA Division) (TOSA).**

- 28 December, Cinema Capri reopens as the Capri Theatre.**
- 1983 2 April, Capri Theatre organ complete and unveiled.**
- 1990 27 September, Capri Theatre (former New Goodwood Star Theatre entered in the South Australian Heritage Register.**
- 1991 Re-roofing and removal of roof-mounted Syphonator natural draught ventilators (DA 090/658/90).
Removal of auditorium side wall curtains and repainting; installation of front of house perch lighting and creation of vertical pelmets; ceiling repainting; showcase refurbishment; recreation of ticket box grilles (DA 090/430/91).
- 1994 External repainting (DA 090/00111/94/DH).
- 2002 Fire safety upgrade including smoke detection and alarm system, exit and emergency lighting, portable fire extinguishers, door latch alterations, air conditioning shutdown and exit door signage, and sprinkler system installation (DA 090/00938/01/DA).
Replacement mirror to upstairs fireplace; repairs to upstairs window frames and installation of recreated Venetian blinds; repair and reinstatement of upstairs powder room mirrors and bases (DA not recorded).
- 2009 New air conditioning installed (DA 090/761/2009/C1).
- 2010 Façade lighting installed (DA 090/1022/2010/C1).
- 2017 External repainting (DA 090/75/17/C1).
- 2018 New mural painted on northern elevation (DA 090/497/2017/02).
Internal upgrade to toilets and new access toilet (DA 090/61/2018/C2).
- 2019 Internal repainting (090/531/2019/C1).
Installation of external LED lighting associated with new mural (DA 090/33/2019/C2).
- 2020 Installation of LED lighting in auditorium (DA 090/492/19/C2).

References

Books and Chapters

Alison Painter, "Entertainment: the changing scene" in Bernard O'Neil, Judith Raftery and Kerrie Round (eds), *Playford's South Australia: Essays on the history of South Australia, 1933-1968* (1996) Adelaide SA: Association of Professional Historians Inc.

John Thiele and Ross Lange, *Thanks for the Memory: 1991 TOSA (S.A.) Celebrates Capri Theatre 50th Birthday, TOSA (S.A.) 25th Birthday, Wyatt Hall Wurlitzer 21st Birthday* (1991) Goodwood SA: Theatre Organ Society of Australia, South Australian Division Incorporated

Reports and Theses

Dylan Walker, *Almost an Institution: Sustaining Rural Exhibition in South Australia (1897-1935)* (August 2017)

Heritage Matters Pty Ltd, "Jaffas Down the Aisles: A Survey of Cinemas in Country Victoria" (June 2008)

Newspapers

"Wondergraph Enterprise." in *Register* 13 January 1920 p. 4

"Mr. Dan Clifford, Energetic Entertainer, Controller of Picture Theatres." in *Daily Herald* 25 August 1922 p. 4

"Companies and Societies." in *Register* 30 November 1922 p. 1

"Companies Registered ... South Australia ... Change of Name" in *Daily Commercial News and Shipping List* (Sydney NSW) 2 May 1923 p. 5

"The Capitol Theatre. Opening Ceremony at St. Peters." in *Advertiser* 5 February 1925 p. 13

"Star Theatre Enterprise. Norwood's Picture Palace." in *Mail* 19 May 1923 p. 9

"Rise of Dan Clifford, News Vendor to Theatre Owner, Twelve Years' Progress" in *News* 6 January 1928 p. 8

"New Mount Gambier Theatre. Capitol Nearing Completion, A Magnificent Building." in *Border Watch* 24 March 1928 p. 1

"Latest Link in Chain of 20 Theatres" in *News* 22 October 1940 p. 7

"Adelaide's Newest Theatre, £26,000 Theatre for North Adelaide" in *Advertiser* 23 October 1940 p. 3

"Drastic Building Control, Limit Placed on Money to be Spent" in *News* 12 June 1941 p. 7

"New Goodwood 'Star' Theatre Opened" in *Builder* 16 October 1941

"New Star Theatre at Goodwood" in *South Australian Homes and Gardens* 1 December 1941

"Clifford Theatres Ltd. Sold for About £300,000" in *Narracoorte Herald* 7 October 1946 p. 3

Advertising in *Advertiser* 28 January 1950 p. 12

"First Drive-In Theatre To Open Tomorrow" in *Advertiser* 27 December 1954 p. 9

Websites

History of the Capri <https://capri.org.au/about/history-of-the-capri/>

BHI Summary of State Heritage Place: 10670

Confirmed in the South Australian Heritage Register on 27 September 1990

The South Australian Heritage Council endorsed this BHI - SSHP on 7 December 2023

Genealogy SA Database <https://www.genealogysa.org.au/>

Archival

CT 427/158 SAILIS

CT 1940/98 SAILIS

GRG67/33/File 105 of 1940 SRSA

Chris Burns, *Chris A. Smith: Register of Architectural Works in South Australia* (March 2015)
Unpublished, Architecture Museum Collection

"The New Goodwood Star Theatre" opening programme, Capri Theatre Collection.

SITE DETAILS

Capri Theatre (former New Star Theatre)

PLACE NO.: 10340

141 Goodwood Road, Goodwood

FORMER NAME:	New Goodwood Star Theatre; New Curzon Theatre		
DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:	Three-storey picture theatre		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1940-1941		
REGISTER STATUS:	Nominated 6 July 1978 Provisionally entered 15 February 1990 Confirmed 27 September 1990		
CURRENT USE:	Picture theatre/cinema 1941-Present		
ARCHITECT:	Chris A. Smith 1940-1941		
BUILDER:	R. J. Nurse 1940-1941		
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:	City of Unley		
LOCATION:	Street No.:	141	
	Street Name:	Goodwood Road	
	Town/Suburb:	Goodwood	
	Post Code:	5034	
LAND DESCRIPTION:	Title	CT 5437/653	
	Reference:		
	Lot No.:	A44	
	Plan No.:	F11430	
	Hundred:	Adelaide	

PHOTOS

Capri Theatre (former New Star Theatre)

PLACE NO.: 10340

141 Goodwood Road, Goodwood



Capri Theatre (former New Goodwood Star Theatre) c.1941

Source: D. Darian Smith/Capri Theatre



Capri Theatre (former New Goodwood Star Theatre) c.2018

Source: John Thiele/Capri Theatre

PHOTOS

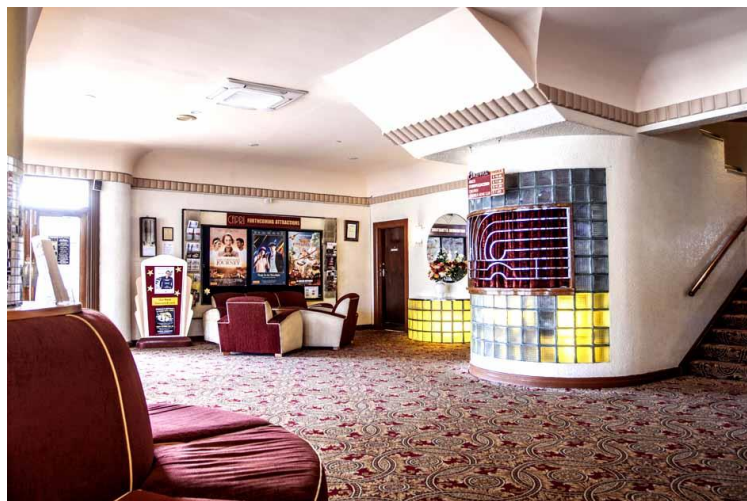
Capri Theatre (former New Star Theatre)
141 Goodwood Road, Goodwood

PLACE NO.: 10340



Stalls lounge c.1941

Source: Capri Theatre



Stalls lounge c.2020

Source: Capri Theatre

PHOTOS

Capri Theatre (former New Star Theatre)

PLACE NO.: 10340

141 Goodwood Road, Goodwood



Circle lounge looking north c.1941

Source: D. Darian Smith/Capri Theatre



Circle lounge looking south c.2020

Source: Source: Capri Theatre

PHOTOS

Capri Theatre (former New Star Theatre)
141 Goodwood Road, Goodwood

PLACE NO.: 10340



Circle lounge looking south c.1941

Source: D. Darian Smith/Capri Theatre



Circle lounge looking south c.2020

Source: Capri Theatre

PHOTOS

Capri Theatre (former New Star Theatre)

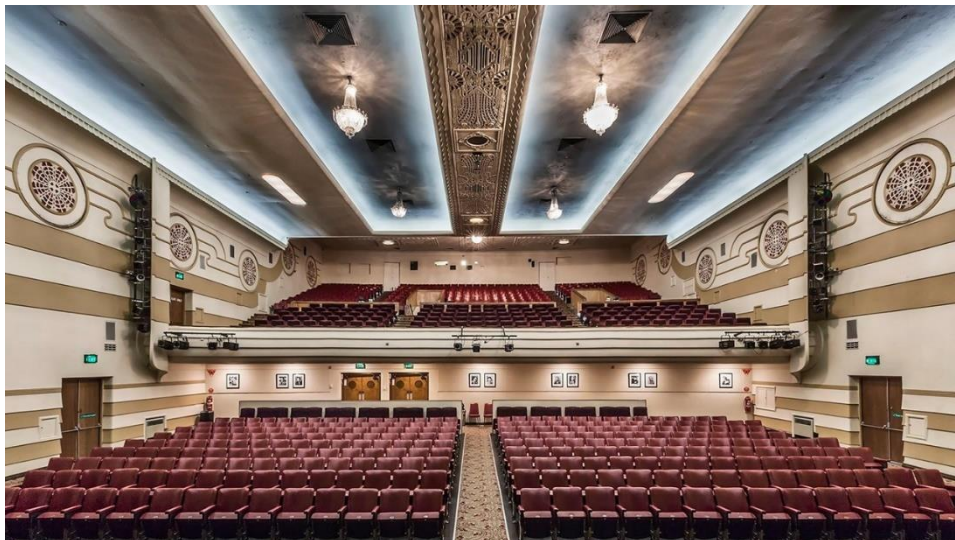
PLACE NO.: 10340

141 Goodwood Road, Goodwood



Auditorium showing dress circle c.1941

Source: D. Darian Smith/Capri Theatre



Auditorium showing dress circle c.2022

Source: Capri Theatre

PHOTOS

Capri Theatre (former New Star Theatre)

PLACE NO.: 10340

141 Goodwood Road, Goodwood



Auditorium showing proscenium and stage c.1941

Source: D. Darian Smith/Capri Theatre



Auditorium showing stage and organ chambers c.2020

Source: D. Darian Smith/Capri Theatre

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- ¹ Dylan Walker, *Almost an Institution: Sustaining Rural Exhibition in South Australia (1897-1935)* (August 2017) pp. 3, 21; Heritage Matters Pty Ltd, "Jaffas Down the Aisles: A Survey of Cinemas in Country Victoria" (June 2008) p. 9
- ² Alison Painter, "Entertainment: the changing scene" in Bernard O'Neil, Judith Rafferty and Kerrie Round (eds), *Playford's South Australia: Essays on the history of South Australia, 1933-1968* (1996) Adelaide SA: Association of Professional Historians Inc. p. 298
- ³ Alison Painter, "Entertainment" p. 298
- ⁴ Dylan Walker, *Almost an Institution* p. 64
- ⁵ "Rise of Dan Clifford, News Vendor to Theatre Owner, Twelve Years' Progress" in *News* 6 January 1928 p. 8; see also John Thiele and Ross Lange, *Thanks for the Memory...* (1991) Goodwood SA: Theatre Organ Society of Australia, South Australian Division Incorporated
- ⁶ Heritage Matters Pty Ltd, "Jaffas Down the Aisles" p. 13
- ⁷ Dylan Walker, *Almost an Institution* pp. 81-85
- ⁸ "First Drive-In Theatre To Open Tomorrow" in *Advertiser* 27 December 1954 p. 9; Alison Painter, "Entertainment" p. 299
- ⁹ CT427/158
- ¹⁰ "Rise of Dan Clifford" in *News* 6 January 1928 p. 8
- ¹¹ "Rise of Dan Clifford" in *News* 6 January 1928 p. 8
- ¹² John Thiele and Ross Lange, *Thanks for the Memory* p. 52
- ¹³ "Mr. Dan Clifford, Energetic Entertainer, Controller of Picture Theatres." in *Daily Herald* 25 August 1922 p. 4
- ¹⁴ "Companies and Societies." in *Register* 30 November 1922 p. 1
- ¹⁵ John Thiele and Ross Lange, *Thanks for the Memory* p. 52
- ¹⁶ John Thiele and Ross Lange, *Thanks for the Memory* p. 53
- ¹⁷ "Companies Registered ... South Australia ... Change of Name" in *Daily Commercial News and Shipping List* (Sydney NSW) 2 May 1923 p. 5
- ¹⁸ "Star Theatre Enterprise. Norwood's Picture Palace." in *Mail* 19 May 1923 p. 9
- ¹⁹ Dylan Walker, *Almost an Institution* p. 15
- ²⁰ "Rise of Dan Clifford" in *News* 6 January 1928 p. 8
- ²¹ John Thiele and Ross Lange, *Thanks for the Memory* p. 56
- ²² Dylan Walker, *Almost an Institution* pp. 86-87
- ²³ Genealogy SA Database <https://www.genealogysa.org.au/>
- ²⁴ "Clifford Theatres Ltd. Sold for About £300,000" in *Narracoorte Herald* 7 October 1946 p. 3
- ²⁵ John Thiele and Ross Lange, *Thanks for the Memory* p. 68
- ²⁶ "Wondergraph Enterprise." in *Register* 13 January 1920 p. 4
- ²⁷ S251/39 AM Collection
- ²⁸ The Savoy News-Luxe Theatre was also designed by Chris A. Smith.
- ²⁹ "New Star Theatre at Goodwood" in *South Australian Homes and Gardens* 1 December 1941 p. 44
- ³⁰ "New Star Theatre at Goodwood" p. 44
- ³¹ "Adelaide's Newest Theatre, £26,000 Theatre for North Adelaide" in *Advertiser* 23 October 1940 p. 3
- ³² "New Goodwood 'Star' Theatre Opened" in *Builder* 16 October 1941
- ³³ "New Star Theatre at Goodwood" p. 44
- ³⁴ "New Star Theatre at Goodwood" p. 44; John Thiele and Ross Lange, *Thanks for the Memory* p. 79
- ³⁵ CT 1940/98
- ³⁶ John Thiele and Ross Lange, *Thanks for the Memory* p. 86
- ³⁷ "Drastic Building Control, Limit Placed on Money to be Spent" in *News* 12 June 1941 p. 7
- ³⁸ CT 1069/149
- ³⁹ Advertising in *Advertiser* 28 January 1950 p. 12
- ⁴⁰ John Thiele and Ross Lange, *Thanks for the Memory* pp. 86-88
- ⁴¹ John Thiele and Ross Lange, *Thanks for the Memory* p. 78
- ⁴² John Thiele and Ross Lange, *Thanks for the Memory* p. 129
- ⁴³ History of the Capri <https://capri.org.au/about/history-of-the-capri/>