

DOE 7/131 Pleasure pier.

1865 for the Bognor Promenade Company Ltd; shore end enlarged and large pavilions housing theatre, arcade with shops and picture house added 1912 for Bognor Pier Company, architect GC Smith; alterations mid-and late C20. A former small pavillion at the seaward end collapsed into the sea 1965; former wooden stage tower dismantled 1972. Pier built of iron posts with wooden decking and cast iron railings/ Roughcast paviliions at shore end with roofs of slate, roofing felt, and felt tiles. Arcade facing promenade is of two storeys with hipped roof. Central round headed pediment with round headed window flanked by ornate pilasters with swags. On either side, two further 3 light mullioned and transomed casements and central one light windows with good Art Nouveau style stained glass. Ground floor is supported on 5 piers with triglyph frieze above and modern shop fronts and doors below. Side elevations have blank round headed pediments, pilasters, friezes and cornices. To the rear is the former theatre. This has two square towers on the landward side with flagpoles; keyed round headed arches with bracketed hoodmoulds and former oculi replaced by door (left tower) and window (right tower); modillioned cornices. At centre, between towers, former entrance is masked by flat roofed addition, and has keyed oculus in open segmental pediment on brackets. Side elevations have pedimented gables with oculi in bracketed architraves above mullioned and transomed windows. Former open fronted arcade below 1st floor balcony now walled, but with original columns. Interior: theatre; two stairs, one with original handrail, the other with wall panelling and ceiling cornice; late-C20 suspended floor inserted in former auditorium at circlce balcony height, but decorative balcony front survives, with plaster cherubs, swags and cartouches. Decorative plasterwork to auditorium walls, vaulted ceiling, dome and proscenium arch. Original 1st floor part glazed double doors in architraves. Projection box. Former picture house/ concert hall retains vaulted ceiling with some star shaped light fittings, disc decoration to supporting column, curtain pelmet, and projection box. Source: Eds Mackintosh & M Sell Curtains!!! or a new life for old theatres, 1982 p94 P Wells and Endacott, Glimpses of Bognor Regis Pier 1982 (Pier Heritage). G Young History of Bognor Regis 1983 p187.