



Colonial Theatre, Laconia Restoration

LACONIA, NH

The Colonial Theatre complex is the largest of several mixed-use blocks that were built in downtown Laconia, New Hampshire in the early twentieth century. The complex includes three sections: the Piscopo Block, Canal Street Annex, and the Colonial Theatre. The Colonial Theatre was opened in 1914 by Benjamin Piscopo. George L. Griffin, a local architect, was chosen to design the building in the Neocolonial style. Piscopo commissioned three murals by artist P. Holdensen to adorn the plaster around the stage. Originally from Venice, Piscopo also commissioned the creation of a hand painted fire curtain with a Venetian scene depicting the city as seen from the water.

When the 1,400-seat theatre opened, it showed a mixture of stage shows, photoplays, and vaudeville. With the decline of vaudeville in the late 1920s/early 1930s, the theater transitioned to primarily showing motion pictures. It acted as a single screen theatre until 1983, when the balcony and orchestra sections were divided into four separate screens with a fifth screen in the former stage area. The theatre finally closed in August 2002 and sat vacant for over ten years. In June 2015, the city of Laconia announced a partnership with Belknap Economic Development Council to purchase and renovate buildings in downtown Laconia with the intention of revitalization; the Colonial Theatre was one of many buildings included in the scope. The theatre was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2020 as a contributing structure in the Colonial Theatre Complex District...

MORE INFORMATION:

<https://evergreene.com/projects/colonial-theatre-laconia-restoration/>

SERVICES PERFORMED

Conservation Treatments
Decorative Painting & Finishes
Design
Murals & Mosaics
Plasterwork
Surveys & Condition Assessments

PROJECT DETAILS

Client

City of Laconia

Contractor

Bonnette, Page & Stone Corp.

