

Pickwick Theatre

At the southeast corner of Northwest Highway and South Prospect Avenue, the Pickwick Theatre at 5 S. Prospect with its distinctive tower is the best known place in town. Located in Uptown, the highest point in Park Ridge, the Pickwick Theatre, and the Pickwick Building which surrounds it with offices and stores, have been a visual landmark since they opened in 1928.

Architects R. Harold Zook and William McCaughey designed the building for visionary developer and former Park Ridge Mayor William Malone, but many of the iconic elements inside and out were the creation of Alfonso Iannelli and his Iannelli Studios team. These include the Art Deco detail work, the dramatic fire curtain and matching ceiling mural in the main theatre, the tower stained glass, the metal heating grills, and the statue at the south end of the lobby.

The main theatre, one of the few 1920s movie palaces still operating in the Chicago area, has a restored theatre organ, and a full stage originally designed for vaudeville and dramatic performance. A second wing in the back has three smaller theatres showing additional films. The Pickwick Theatre is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is also a designated Park Ridge city landmark.

The distinctive marquee was featured in one of the first Chicago movie review shows, *At the Movies*, hosted by the late Gene Siskel and Roger Ebert. Check out the bargain rates to see current films at an affordable price.