

Education buildings since c.1810

Discussion document

Disclaimer

Please note that the inclusion of any building in this discussion document does not mean that the building or its grounds are open to the public. Many of these buildings are private homes or businesses, so please respect the occupiers' privacy.

Historic England has published a listing selection guide for education buildings (2017). The Council has adopted *criteria for identifying local heritage assets* (2016). This discussion document examines the selection guide in a local context and offers initial recommendations for local listing.

The statutory list appears to disregard the contribution made by early school buildings. This discussion document identifies thirteen school buildings erected between c.1810 and 1869 that appear suitable for inclusion on the local list.

Extent and limitations

This discussion document will consider school buildings erected in the district between c.1810 and the present day. The document will consider teachers' houses where they are adjacent or attached to the relevant school. The document will not consider nonconformist schoolrooms where they are adjacent or attached to the relevant chapel. These schoolrooms will be considered as part of a separate discussion document regarding places of worship.

Sources

Ordnance Survey maps and trade directories may be used to identify the location and date of historic school buildings. The Leicestershire Record Office holds drawings relating to education buildings (MA/E/BG), including drawings relating to schools at Hugglescote, Kegworth, Swannington, Thringstone and Whitwick.

Historical background

From c.1810 "the rate of school building increased dramatically", because of "competition between the dissenting and Anglican churches" (Historic England, 2017). In 1808 the nonconformist British and Foreign School Society was established. In 1811 the Church of England established the National Society for Promoting Religious Education. From that date 'British Schools' and 'National Schools' were erected with grant assistance from the voluntary societies.

Historic England describe 1870 as a "seminal date for assessing schools", because of "the introduction of school boards and substantial state funding following in the wake of the 1870 Education Act". After 1870 "the voluntary societies redoubled their efforts to provide schools to thwart the need for a [school] board". A nonconformist school opened in Castle Donington in 1874, following meetings in 1871 to consider "a non-denominational board school" (Fisher, 2016). In the district only one board school was erected, at Hemington (1878).

North West Leicestershire District Council

List of Local Heritage Assets

Leicestershire County Council assumed responsibility for school building after the 1902 Education Act. A 'Council School' was erected at Ibstock in 1906; others followed. Pevsner (1984) describes "the many schools begun by the County Architect after 1948 in what seemed then to be a refreshing style". Each school is "brightened up with at least one sculpture, or with faience murals, or with stained glass".

Schools between c.1810 and 1839

Historic England recommend that "schools from before 1840 that survive in their original form will normally already be protected, sometimes at high grades". Schools erected during this period may be included on the local list provided that they satisfy our field assessment criteria.

In NW Leicestershire eight school buildings survive from this period; none are included on the statutory list. The eight schools were all National Schools. They are at Ibstock (1818), Measham (1829), Packington (1833), Breedon on the Hill (1834), Hugglescote (1835), Ashby de la Zouch (1836), Osgathorpe (1838) and Kegworth (1839).

The schools at Measham, Packington, Ashby de la Zouch and Osgathorpe appear well preserved. The schools at Ibstock, Breedon on the Hill and Hugglescote have been altered. The school at Kegworth was partly demolished at some time between 1969 and 1983.

Schools between 1840 and 1869

Historic England recommend that schools built between 1840 and 1869 "have to be well preserved and of good architectural quality to be listed". Schools erected during this period may be included on the local list provided that they satisfy our field assessment criteria. In NW Leicestershire fifteen school buildings survive from this period; two are included on the statutory list.

National Schools

Eleven National Schools survive from this period. They are at Belton (1843), Blackfordby (1843), Appleby Magna (1844), Thringstone (1844), Heather (1845), Normanton le Heath (1846), Long Whatton (1847), Whitwick (1858), Ravenstone (1859), Swannington (1862) and Hugglescote (1862). The school at Whitwick is grade II listed. It was designed by Millican & Smith¹ and appears to have special architectural interest.

Generally these schools appear well preserved. The school at Thringstone was extended in 1872, but the extension appears to have architectural interest; it was designed by Millican & Smith. The school at Ravenstone has been altered.

Other schools

Four other schools survive from this period. They are at Whitwick (1843), Charley (1851), Cavendish Bridge (1859) and Coleorton (1867). The school at Coleorton is grade II listed; it was built for George Howland Beaumont of Coleorton Hall. The remaining schools have been altered.

¹ Millican & Smith designed National Schools at Birstall (1860) and Enderby (1860). They are grade II listed.

North West Leicestershire District Council

List of Local Heritage Assets

Schools between 1870 and 1901

Historic England note that “large numbers” of post-1870 schools survive and that this “demands care in their assessment”. “External architectural quality” is considered to be “a fundamental criterion for listing”; “preservation and degree of survival” is also a key criterion.

Schools erected during this period may be included on the local list provided that they have architectural or historic interest and provided that they satisfy our field assessment criteria. In NW Leicestershire ten schools survive from this period; three are included on the statutory list.

National Schools

Four National Schools survive from this period. They are at Newbold (1872), Blackfordby (1889), Packington (1893) and Coalville (1895). The school at Blackfordby is grade II listed; it “forms a landmark on the crest of the hill beside the church”. The other schools do not appear to have architectural or historic interest.

At Coalville a National School was erected in 1836 and extended in 1889. The school has been demolished but the extension survives; it does not appear to have architectural or historic interest.

Other schools

Five other schools survive from this period. They are at Castle Donington (1874), Breedon on the Hill (1874), Chilcote (1876), Hemington (1878) and Ashby de la Zouch (1880). The school at Breedon is grade II listed; the list entry says that it has “definite quality and character”. The school at Ashby is also grade II listed; it was designed by Nicholas Joyce of Stafford. The remaining schools do not appear to have architectural or historic interest.

Schools between 1902 and 1944

Leicestershire County Council assumed responsibility for school building after the 1902 Education Act. A ‘Council School’ was erected at Ibstock in 1906; others followed. Generally these schools do not appear to have architectural or historic interest.

Grammar schools were erected at Ashby de la Zouch (1902) and Coalville (1908). The schools were designed by Barrowcliff & Allcock² and they appear to have architectural interest.

Schools since 1945

Pevsner (1984) describes “the many schools begun by the County Architect after 1948”, each one “brightened up with at least one sculpture, or with faience murals, or with stained glass”. Generally these schools do not appear to have architectural or historic interest.

At Coalville a training college was erected in 1962 with a sculptural wall by Antony Hollaway³. A design centre was erected in 1969. A contemporary account judged that the training college showed “the rueful effect of putting too much faith in fair-face concrete” (Architect’s Journal, 1971). Since that date it has been altered and partly demolished.

The sculptural wall is well preserved and appears to have architectural interest. The design centre is well preserved and appears to have historic interest. A contemporary account judged that it represented “perhaps the most go-ahead venture in schooling in this country”.

² Barrowcliff & Allcock designed the Humphrey Perkins School at Barrow upon Soar (1901), among other buildings. The school is grade II listed.

³ Hollaway’s sculptural wall on London Road, Manchester (1968) is grade II listed.

North West Leicestershire District Council
List of Local Heritage Assets

Table 1

This table contains a comprehensive list of schools that survive from the period c.1811 to 1901. The entries highlighted in orange are proposed for inclusion on the list of local heritage assets.

Our ref	Settlement	Street	National School?	Date	Still a school?	Listed?
1192	Ibstock	High Street		1818		
1172	Measham	Queen's Street		1829		
1846	Packington	Measham Road		1833		
1741	Breedon on the Hill	Hollow Road		1834		
1518	Hugglescote	Dennis Street		1835		
1701	Ashby de la Zouch	North Street		1836		
1793	Osgathorpe	Main Street		1838		
1700	Kegworth	Dragwell		1839		
1732	Belton	School Lane		1843		
1847	Blackfordby	Main Street		1843		
1620	Appleby Magna	Church Street		1844		
1665	Thringstone	Main Street		1844		
1346	Heather	Main Street		1845	Yes	
1849	Normanton le Heath	School Lane		1846		
1777	Long Whatton	The Green		1847	Yes	
1114	Whitwick	Car Hill Road	No	1843		
1524	Charley	Oaks Road	No	1851		
977	Whitwick	Market Place		1858		Yes
1774	Castle Donington	Cavendish Bridge	No	1859		
1351	Ravenstone	Church Lane		1859		
1699	Swannington	Main Street		1862	Yes	
1339	Hugglescote	Station Road		1862		
1004	Coleorton	Ashby Road	No	1867	Yes	Yes
1812	Newbold	School Lane		1872	Yes	
1758	Castle Donington	Clapgun Street	No	1874		
932	Breedon on the Hill	Main Street	No	1874		Yes
1842	Chilcote	Church Lane	No	1876		
1747	Hemington	Main Street	No	1878	Yes	
1375	Ashby de la Zouch	Leicester Road	No	1880	Yes	Yes
917	Blackfordby	Main Street		1889	Yes	Yes
997	Coalville	London Road		1889		
1848	Packington	Mill Street		1893	Yes	
1498	Coalville	Ashby Road		1895	Yes	

North West Leicestershire District Council
List of Local Heritage Assets

Property	Village Hall & Brookfield House
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Number	
Street	Queen's Street
Township	
Parish	Measham

Easting	433401
Northing	312257
Our reference	LL/1172
LCC reference	

Thesaurus type	
Broad	Education
Narrow	National school

Date of erection	
Date range begins	1829
Date range ends	1829

Description

A national school, dated 1829. Extended c.1833-37 and subsequently. A village hall since 1982. The school is built of red brick beneath gabled roofs covered in plain tile (front) and slate (rear). The front elevation has three tall window openings with stone sills. The outer openings have chamfered jambs and chamfered pointed heads; the central opening is taller and appears to have been altered. Above, an inscribed tablet; above again, a circular vent with a cast iron grille.

A teacher's house, erected c.1866. The house is two storeys tall. It is faced in painted brick beneath gabled plain tile roofs.

Buildings that predate the reign of Queen Victoria are considered to have qualities of age that justify their inclusion on the Local List.

Photograph



North West Leicestershire District Council
List of Local Heritage Assets

Property	School House
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Number	4
Street	Measham Road
Township	
Parish	Packington

Easting	435908
Northing	314449
Our reference	LL/1846
LCC reference	

Thesaurus type	
Broad	Education
Narrow	National school

Date of erection	
Date range begins	1833
Date range ends	1833

Description

A national school. Erected in 1833 for Sir Charles Abney Hastings. Superseded in 1893; now a house. The building is faced in smooth render with cogg'd eaves beneath plain tile roofs. The central range is one and a half storeys tall and has a half hipped roof. It contains three square window openings with segmental heads. To either side there are single storey wings with gabled roofs.

Buildings that predate the reign of Queen Victoria are considered to have qualities of age that justify their inclusion on the Local List.

Photograph



North West Leicestershire District Council
List of Local Heritage Assets

Property	Ashby Library
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Number	
Street	North Street
Township	
Parish	Ashby de la Zouch

Easting	435823
Northing	316920
Our reference	LL/1701
LCC reference	

Thesaurus type	
Broad	Education
Narrow	National school

Date of erection	
Date range begins	1836
Date range ends	1836

Description

A national school. Designed by Robert Chaplin of Ashby and erected in 1836. Extended in 1912. Converted to a library c.1988.
 The school is a large single storey building. It is faced in red brick with cogged eaves beneath a gabled slate roof. There are tall window openings with altered heads. There is a lower projecting wing to the front. The rear range has a row of five gabled roofs.

Buildings that predate the reign of Queen Victoria are considered to have qualities of age that justify their inclusion on the Local List. Furthermore, Chaplin is considered to be a locally important architect. His works are generally considered to have special architectural interest.

Photograph



North West Leicestershire District Council
List of Local Heritage Assets

Property	31 Main Street
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Number	
Street	Main Street
Township	
Parish	Osgathorpe

Easting	442738
Northing	319363
Our reference	LL/1793
LCC reference	

Thesaurus type	
Broad	Education
Narrow	National school

Date of erection	
Date range begins	1836
Date range ends	1838

Description

A national school, built c.1836-38. Extended to form a dwelling c.1955. The school is a single storey building faced in smooth render. There is a gabled plain tile roof with oversailing eaves. There is a central gabled porch flanked by three-light windows. To the right there is a small extension; to the rear there is a larger extension. There is a rendered boundary wall with a castellated coping.

Buildings that predate the reign of Queen Victoria are considered to have qualities of age that justify their inclusion on the Local List.

Photograph



North West Leicestershire District Council
List of Local Heritage Assets

Property	Old School Room
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Number	
Street	Main Street
Township	
Parish	Blackfordby

Easting	432988
Northing	318018
Our reference	LL/1847
LCC reference	

Thesaurus type	
Broad	Education
Narrow	National school

Date of erection	
Date range begins	1843
Date range ends	1843

Description

A national school, erected in 1843. Superseded in 1889; now a youth club. A small building faced in red brick with buff brick dressings beneath a gabled concrete tile roof. There is a central entrance door with a pointed head. To either side there is a three-light window with a stone lintel and sill. Each side elevation contains a similar window with a slit breather above.

Schools built in the period c.1840-1870 are generally considered suitable for listing, provided that they are well preserved and of good architectural quality.

Photograph



North West Leicestershire District Council
List of Local Heritage Assets

Property	Old School
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Number	22
Street	School Lane
Township	
Parish	Belton

Easting	444805
Northing	320704
Our reference	LL/1732
LCC reference	

Thesaurus type	
Broad	Education
Narrow	National school

Date of erection	
Date range begins	1843
Date range ends	1843

Description

A national school, dated 1843. Converted to a dwelling c.1976. The former school is one-and-a-half storeys tall. The front elevation is faced in red brick, laid in Flemish bond. There is a slate roof with gable parapets. The former school is five bays wide. The central bay projects forward and features a pediment and datestone. There are modern windows in painted stucco surrounds. The boundary wall is faced in granite rubble.

Schools built in the period c.1840-1870 are generally considered suitable for listing, provided that they are well preserved and of good architectural quality.

Photograph



North West Leicestershire District Council
List of Local Heritage Assets

Property	Old School House
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Number	31
Street	Main Street
Township	Thringstone
Parish	Coalville

Easting	442605
Northing	317340
Our reference	LL/1665
LCC reference	

Thesaurus type	
Broad	Education
Narrow	National School

Date of erection	
Date range begins	1844
Date range ends	1844

Description

A national school, dated 1844. Extension of c.1872 designed by Millican & Smith of Leicester. Extended forward in the late nineteenth century. Superseded in 1967; now a care home. The school is faced in smooth render beneath gabled concrete tile roofs. The original porch is faced in granite rubble. It contains a door opening with a four-centred head beneath a brick hood mould.

Schools built in the period c.1840-1870 are generally considered suitable for listing, provided that they are well preserved and of good architectural quality. Millican & Smith were responsible for several listed buildings including national schools at Birstall, Enderby and Whitwick.

Photograph



North West Leicestershire District Council
List of Local Heritage Assets

Property	Church Hall
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Number	
Street	Church Street
Township	
Parish	Appleby Magna

Easting	431455
Northing	309852
Our reference	LL/1620
LCC reference	

Thesaurus type	
Broad	Education
Narrow	National school

Date of erection	
Date range begins	1844
Date range ends	1844

Description

A national school, erected in 1844. Now a church hall. The school is 'T' shaped on plan. It is faced in red brick with ashlar quoins. There are plain tile roofs with gable parapets. The elevation to the cemetery has a projecting central bay containing a three-light mullioned window and an illegible datestone. To either side there are two-light mullioned windows. The school yard is bounded by a stone wall.

Schools built in the period c.1840-1870 are generally considered suitable for listing, provided that they are well preserved and of good architectural quality.

Photograph



North West Leicestershire District Council
List of Local Heritage Assets

Property	Heather Primary School
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Number	
Street	Main Street
Township	
Parish	Heather

Easting	439058
Northing	310881
Our reference	LL/1346
LCC reference	

Thesaurus type	
Broad	Education
Narrow	National school

Date of erection	
Date range begins	1845
Date range ends	1845

Description

A national school. Datestone 1845. Extended c.1884-90 in facsimile. Extended c.1966-73 and again in facsimile in 2008-09. The single storey building is faced in red brick, in Flemish bond, beneath a gabled concrete pantile roof. The original building is three bays wide; the centre bay projects and has a gable feature above. The building has tall windows in canted brick surrounds. To the left, there is a facsimile bay of c.1884-90.

Schools built in the period c.1840-1870 are generally considered suitable for listing, provided that they are well preserved and of good architectural quality.

Photograph



North West Leicestershire District Council
List of Local Heritage Assets

Property	School House
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Number	
Street	School Lane
Township	
Parish	Normanton le Heath

Easting	437862
Northing	312944
Our reference	LL/1849
LCC reference	

Thesaurus type	
Broad	Education
Narrow	National school

Date of erection	
Date range begins	1845
Date range ends	1846

Description

A national school, dated 1846. Erected for Lord Belper. Now a house. The school is one and a half storeys tall. It is faced in red brick beneath gabled slate roofs. The lower range to the right features a projecting gabled porch with a datestone. The higher range to the left contains a tall window opening with a stone lintel and, above, a gabled dormer.

Schools built in the period c.1840-1870 are generally considered suitable for listing, provided that they are well preserved and of good architectural quality.

Photograph



North West Leicestershire District Council
List of Local Heritage Assets

Property	Long Whatton Primary School
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Number	
Street	The Green
Township	
Parish	Long Whatton

Easting	448196
Northing	323286
Our reference	LL/1777
LCC reference	

Thesaurus type	
Broad	Education
Narrow	National school

Date of erection	
Date range begins	1847
Date range ends	1847

Description

A national school and teacher's house, built in 1847 for Edward Dawson. The school is one-and-a-half storeys tall. It is faced in red brick laid in Flemish bond, beneath a plain tile roof with gable parapets. There are five two-light windows in stone surrounds. To the left, a facsimile extension, probably built in the mid twentieth century, with smaller windows. The teacher's house is to the rear of the school.

Schools built in the period c.1840-1870 are generally considered suitable for listing, provided that they are well preserved and of good architectural quality.

Photograph



North West Leicestershire District Council
List of Local Heritage Assets

Property	Hugglescote Community Centre
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Number	96
Street	Station Road
Township	
Parish	Hugglescote

Easting	442584
Northing	312805
Our reference	LL/1339
LCC reference	

Thesaurus type	
Broad	Education
Narrow	National school

Date of erection	
Date range begins	1862
Date range ends	1862

Description

A national school and teacher's house. Designed by Dain & Smith of Leicester. Built in 1862. Extended eastward in 1883 to provide an infant school. Now a community centre. The school is faced in red brick in English bond, beneath gabled roofs covered in fibre cement slate. Window openings generally have stone surrounds with mullions and transoms. The teacher's house has simple window openings with segmental heads. Windows have been replaced in uPVC.

Schools built in the period c.1840-1870 are generally considered suitable for listing, provided that they are well preserved and of good architectural quality. Generally this building meets those criteria.

Photograph



North West Leicestershire District Council
List of Local Heritage Assets

Property	National School
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Number	
Street	Main Street
Township	
Parish	Swannington

Easting	441474
Northing	316174
Our reference	LL/1699
LCC reference	

Thesaurus type	
Broad	Education
Narrow	National school

Date of erection	
Date range begins	1856
Date range ends	1862

Description

A national school. Designed in 1856 by Mr Miller of Leicester, in the Elizabethan style. Built in 1862. The school is faced in red brick beneath a gabled slate roof. The school is 'T' shaped on plan and comprises a single storey schoolroom range and a two-storey teacher's house. To the left, a 'school-chapel' was built in 1894. It is faced in red brick beneath a gabled slate roof and features window openings with pointed heads.

Schools built in the period c.1840-1870 are generally considered suitable for listing, provided that they are well preserved and of good architectural quality.

Photograph



North West Leicestershire District Council
List of Local Heritage Assets

Property	Girls Grammar School
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Number	
Street	Nottingham Road
Township	
Parish	Ashby de la Zouch

Easting	436427
Northing	316956
Our reference	LL/1702
LCC reference	

Thesaurus type	
Broad	Education
Narrow	Grammar school

Date of erection	
Date range begins	1901
Date range ends	1902

Description

A grammar school, designed by Barrowcliff & Allcock of Loughborough. Foundation stone laid in June 1901; opened in September 1902. The school was designed in the Renaissance Revival style; it is three storeys tall. It is faced in red brick with ashlar dressings. There are gabled plain tile roofs with modillion cornices. To the right of centre, an entrance bay with ornate pediment. To the left of centre, a six bay range beneath a mansard roof. There are gabled ranges to either side.

The school is considered to possess special architectural interest. Barrowcliff & Allcock were responsible for several listed buildings including the grammar school at Barrow upon Soar (1901) and the Carnegie Library at Loughborough (1905).

Photograph



North West Leicestershire District Council
List of Local Heritage Assets

Property	Newbridge High School
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Number	
Street	Forest Road
Township	
Parish	Coalville

Easting	442914
Northing	313472
Our reference	LL/1500
LCC reference	

Thesaurus type	
Broad	Education
Narrow	Grammar school

Date of erection	
Date range begins	1908
Date range ends	1909

Description

A grammar school, opened in October 1909. Designed by Barrowcliff & Allcock and built by William Corah & Son. Restored following a fire in 1984. The school is in the English Renaissance style; it is two storeys tall and 'H' shaped on plan. It is faced in red brick with Derbyshire grit stone dressings beneath gabled roofs. There are large mullion and transom windows.

The school is considered to possess special architectural interest. Barrowcliff & Allcock were responsible for several listed buildings including the grammar school at Barrow upon Soar (1901) and the Carnegie Library at Loughborough (1905).

Photograph



North West Leicestershire District Council
List of Local Heritage Assets

Property	Sculptural wall
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Number	
Street	Warren Hills Road
Township	
Parish	Coalville

Easting	445549
Northing	314984
Our reference	LL/1669
LCC reference	

Thesaurus type	
Broad	Gardens & Parks
Narrow	Garden Wall

Date of erection	
Date range begins	1961
Date range ends	1962

Description

A sculptural wall at King Edward VII College, on the raised walkway connecting the main hall to the science block. Built c.1961-62 to provide "protection from the wind channelled between the two buildings". Designed by Antony Hollaway for Leicestershire county council, it is 30' long and 7'4" high. It is built of reinforced concrete and faced with ceramic tiles and glass.

The sculptural wall appears in Pevsner's Buildings of England. It is considered to possess special architectural interest due to its inclusion in a key architectural gazetteer. Holloway's sculptural wall on London Road, Manchester (1968) is grade II listed.

Photograph



North West Leicestershire District Council
List of Local Heritage Assets

Property	Design Centre
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Number	
Street	Warren Hills Road
Township	
Parish	Coalville

Easting	445464
Northing	315015
Our reference	LL/1537
LCC reference	

Thesaurus type	
Broad	Education
Narrow	Training college

Date of erection	
Date range begins	1967
Date range ends	1969

Description

A design centre at King Edward VII College. It was designed 1967-68 by Thomas Locke (County Architect) for Leicestershire county council. It was built in 1969 by Spooners (Hull) Ltd.

The design centre is a single storey building laid out on three levels. It is a SCOLA prefabricated structure, clad in Charnwood granite rubble. It has a flat roof; note the concrete fascias with exposed granite aggregate. The building has steel windows.

The design centre appears in Pevsner's Buildings of England. It is considered to possess special architectural interest due to its inclusion in a key architectural gazetteer.

Photograph

