

Recreational buildings

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 *Culture and entertainment buildings* (2017). It has published guidance on *Gentlemen's clubs and masonic lodges* as part of its selection guide for *Commerce and exchange buildings* (2017). The Council has adopted *Criteria for identifying local heritage assets* (2016). This discussion document examines the selection guides in a local context and offers recommendations for local listing.

Cinemas

According to Historic England, cinemas “emerged almost overnight” following the 1909 Cinematograph Act. In the late 1920s there was “major change” led by “the emergence of the large cinema chains”. Historic England advises that cinemas erected before 1914 are generally considered suitable for listing, subject to “a surviving exterior” and “particularly good decoration”. For later cinemas, “architectural quality and extent of alteration will be key considerations”.

At Ibstock the ‘Palace’ was designed by Goddard & Wain and opened in December 1912. It is the only cinema in the district erected before 1914 and for this reason it is considered suitable for addition to the local list.

At Ashby the former Wagon & Horses PH was altered in 1912 to form the ‘Lyric’; it closed in 1927 (Jones, 2012). The building is grade II listed. At Measham the ‘Empire’ was erected in 1932 on the site of an earlier cinema (Elliott, 1992); it does not exhibit “architectural quality” and it is not considered suitable for addition to the local list.

Charles Deeming and Coalville's cinemas

In 1910 Coalville's Public Hall became the ‘Electric Theatre’. In 1919 James Johnson employed Goddard & Wain to prepare plans for rebuilding the theatre. Johnson “died before work could be completed” (English Heritage, 2014) and Charles Deeming purchased the property. The ‘Grand’ opened in 1920; it incorporates scant remains of the earlier building. It has been a music and dance venue since 1954. It does not exhibit “architectural quality” and it is not considered suitable for addition to the local list.

In 1910 the newly erected Olympia skating rink became the ‘Olympia Theatre’. In 1933 Deeming employed Archibald Hurley Robinson to prepare plans for rebuilding the theatre. The ‘Regal’ opened in November 1933; it incorporates scant remains of the earlier building. It has been a bingo hall since 1963. In 1936 Deeming employed Robinson to prepare plans for the ‘Rex’ cinema. The cinema was built by Walter Moss & Son and opened in February 1938. The cinema was ‘twinned’ (i.e. subdivided) in 1973; it has been a shop since 1986.

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The 'Regal' and the 'Rex' exhibit "architectural quality" and they are considered suitable for addition to the local list. Archibald Hurley Robinson was a fellow of the RIBA; his 'Regal' cinema at Evesham, Worcestershire (1932) is a grade II listed building. The 'Regal' at Coalville appears in Pevsner's *Buildings of England* (1984).

Museums, public libraries and theatres

The district contains no purpose-built museums. The museums at Castle Donington, Diseworth and Moira are grade II listed. Ashby Museum is in a mid-twentieth century extension to the town's former National School, which is included on our list of local heritage assets.

The museums at Measham and Whitwick are in former railway stations while Kegworth Museum is in a former agricultural building. These buildings would be considered as part of a thematic assessment of *transport structures* and *agricultural buildings*.

The district contains no purpose-built libraries erected before 1948. Libraries were erected at Castle Donington in 1969 and at Coalville and Kegworth in 1971. A library was erected at Measham in 2004. These buildings are not considered suitable for addition to the local list. In Ashby the former National School was converted to a library in 1988; it is included on our list of local heritage assets.

In Ashby a former parish room was extended in 1981 to form the Venture Theatre. This building would be considered as part of a thematic assessment of *civic buildings*.

Century Theatre

A mobile theatre was manufactured in Hinckley c.1947-52. In 1995 elements of the theatre were erected at the Snibston Discovery Park in Coalville. The theatre has been extended since that date. The theatre is neither *in situ* nor intact and for that reason the theatre is not considered suitable for addition to the local list.

The theatre was assessed by Historic England in 2016. They noted that "the theatre structure was designed as – and remains – a mobile facility". They noted that "the theatre trailers were accompanied originally by a fleet of vehicles that provided accommodation for the whole theatre company, together with a kitchen and dining car and trailers that formed the entrance [foyer]". These elements do not survive.

Assembly rooms

Historic England notes that "assembly rooms enjoy a long history", having "reached their zenith in the Georgian and Regency periods". Late Victorian examples "tend to be part of multi-functional complexes or overlap with the music halls that emerged from the 1850s".

Historic England says that the main criteria for listing assembly rooms "will be architectural quality, decoration, functional planning, intactness and date". Simple assembly rooms "built onto the back or side of a public house ... may be modest, but [they] are important in social history terms".

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At Ashby the market hall (1856-57) incorporates a large assembly room about 21m long and 11m wide. It is grade II listed. At Coalville the Public Hall (1876) incorporated a small assembly room about 8m square. The hall has been demolished but the assembly room survives as part of the Engineers Arms PH. Because of its close association with the public house, it should be considered as part of an assessment of *licenced premises*.

Clubs

Historic England notes that the gentlemen's club "developed as an exclusive version of the coffee house [or] political club". The working men's club was a parallel development, "either paid for by subscription or provided as an act of philanthropy". Working men's clubs were "usually housed in modest adapted premises" and "very few have survived with sufficient special interest to merit designation".

Historic England offers no "specific considerations" relating to the listing of clubs. The primary consideration for any commercial building is "selectivity" – "because they survive in such large number and were subject to a high degree of standardisation, selection for designation needs to be very discriminating".

Gentlemen's clubs

In 1896-97 constitutional and liberal clubs were erected at Coalville. The Liberal Club was designed by Keites & Fosbrooke and built by Griffin Brothers; the foundation stones were laid in July 1896. The Constitutional Club was designed by Willie Thomas Hampton and built by Beckworth & Son; the foundation stones were laid in January 1897. It incorporates an early Victorian building that had been "used as an institute" (Coalville Times, 1897).

The former Liberal Club is a modest building and its front elevation has been altered; it is not considered suitable for addition to the local list. The Constitutional Club has an elaborate front elevation that survives intact; it contributes positively to the setting of the former Railway Hotel opposite, which is a grade II listed building. For these reasons the club is considered suitable for addition to the local list.

In Whitwick a house erected in 1888 was purchased 1896 for use as a constitutional club. The front elevation has been much altered and the building does not appear suitable for addition to the local list.

Working men's clubs

In 1888 a working men's club was erected on North Street, Whitwick. The 1929 Ordnance Survey map indicates a working men's club at Bardon Road, Coalville; it incorporates the neighbouring house. These clubs have no architectural interest and they are not considered suitable for addition to the local list.

In 1901 Charles Booth purchased a farmhouse in Thringstone for use as a club or institute. In 1911 he employed his cousin Harry Fletcher to prepare plans for a large two-storey rear extension. 'Thringstone House' is considered suitable for addition to the local list because of its association with Charles Booth, "the notable researcher and writer whose statistical analysis of the state of the London poor provided the basis for the welfare state".

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The 1929 Ordnance Survey map indicates a working men's club at Margaret Street, Coalville. The principal part was designed by Coussmaker & Armstrong of Burton and erected c.1924. It has been much altered. The club has no architectural interest and does not appear suitable for addition to the local list.

Masonic halls

According to Historic England, masonic halls "were built in considerable numbers in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; their architectural character is deliberately ancient and symbolic [but] the masons also sometimes challenged architectural convention".

Historic England offers no "specific considerations" relating to the listing of masonic halls. The primary consideration for any commercial building is "selectivity" – "because they survive in such large number and were subject to a high degree of standardisation, selection for designation needs to be very discriminating".

At Coalville the Grace Dieu Lodge was granted a warrant in 1892 to meet at "a lodge room ... specially built next to the Railway Hotel" (Newman, 2010). The 'lodge room' was recently demolished. In 1927 Goddard & Wain prepared plans for a new masonic hall on Park Road; the hall was dedicated in February 1928.

The masonic hall at Coalville is a twentieth century building; its architectural character is neither architecturally unconventional nor "ancient and symbolic". Considering Historic England's advice on selectivity, the masonic hall is not considered suitable for addition to the local list.

At Ashby the Ferrers & Ivanhoe Lodge was granted a warrant in 1859 to meet at the recently erected Town Hall (1856-57). In 1981 the lodge purchased the former Blue & Green Coat School; the new hall was dedicated in November 1981 (Newman, 2010). The Town Hall and the former school are grade II listed.

Bibliography

Carswell J (1991) *Cinema in Coalville*
Elliott K (1992) *Measham in focus*
Jones R (2012) *An illustrated history of inns, pubs and ale houses in Ashby*
Matchett C (2011) *Ale houses of Whitwick*
Newman A (2010) *A history of the Masonic Province of Leicestershire*
Pevsner N (1984) *The buildings of England: Leicestershire and Rutland*

Coalville Urban District Council building plans

Plan 32 of 1896. *Liberal Club, Jackson Street, for the Coalville Liberal Association.*
Plan 49 of 1896. *Constitutional Club, High Street, for the Constitutional Club Ltd.*
Plan 8 of 1919. *Alterations to the Electric Theatre, Belvoir Road, for JA Johnson.*
Plan 63 of 1924. *Margaret Street working men's club; alterations and additions.*
Plan 40 of 1927. *Masonic Hall, London Road [sic].*
Plan 88 of 1936. *Cinema, Jackson Street, for CK Deeming.*

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Contemporary news reports

Coalville Times (8 January 1897) *New constitutional club at Coalville*

Coalville Times (3 January 1913) *Ibstock picture palace*

Designation decisions

English Heritage (2014) *Designation decision record: Rex Cinema (1419671)*

Historic England (2016) *Designation decision record: Century Theatre (1438431)*

North West Leicestershire District Council
List of Local Heritage Assets

Property	Palace
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Number	15
Street	High Street
Township	
Parish	Ibstock

Easting	440870
Northing	310196
Our reference	LL/1267
LCC reference	

Thesaurus type	
Broad	Recreational
Narrow	Cinema

Date	
Date range begins	1912
Date range ends	1912

Description

A cinema, designed by Goddard & Wain and opened in December 1912. The cinema has been used as a community centre since 2006. It is faced in red brick beneath a gabled slate roof (the front elevation is painted). It is two storeys tall. There is a large off-centre porch; this features paired entrance doors flanked by tall window openings, beneath a segmental parapet. There is a plainer entrance door to the far left.

Cinemas built before 1914 are generally considered suitable for listing, subject to 'a surviving exterior' and 'particularly good decoration' (Historic England, 2017). Generally this building meets those criteria.

Photograph



North West Leicestershire District Council
List of Local Heritage Assets

Property	Rex Cinema
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Number	
Street	Jackson Street
Township	
Parish	Coalville

Easting	442295
Northing	314204
Our reference	LL/979
LCC reference	

Thesaurus type	
Broad	Recreational
Narrow	Cinema

Date	
Date range begins	1936
Date range ends	1938

Description

A cinema. Designed by Archibald Hurley Robinson and built by Walter Moss & Son for Charles Knight Deeming. Opened in February 1938. Closed in May 1984; altered to form a shop c.1986.

The cinema was designed in the Art Deco 'moderne' style; it is the equivalent of four storeys tall. The front facade is faced in buff brick on a black faience plinth; the plinth has been painted. The large central recess contains a glass block window with transoms; above, there is a projecting canopy clad in lead sheet.

This building is similar in quality to the Regal Cinema (qv), which appears in Pevsner's Buildings of England. For this reason it is considered to possess special architectural interest.

Photograph



North West Leicestershire District Council
List of Local Heritage Assets

Property	Flutters Bingo Hall
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Number	
Street	Jackson Street
Township	
Parish	Coalville

Easting	442266
Northing	314171
Our reference	LL/980
LCC reference	

Thesaurus type	
Broad	Recreational
Narrow	Cinema

Date	
Date range begins	1933
Date range ends	1933

Description

The former Regal Cinema. Designed by Archibald Hurley Robinson of Birmingham for Charles Knight Deeming. Opened in November 1933. Used as a bingo hall since April 1963.

The cinema was designed in the Art Deco style; it is four storeys tall. The taller corner element is faced in red brick and stone beneath a stone parapet; the parapet features a 'winged sun disc' in the Egyptian Revival style. The elevation to Jackson Street is faced in render; the elevation to the side access is faced in white brick.

The cinema 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



North West Leicestershire District Council
List of Local Heritage Assets

Property	Constitutional Club
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Number	
Street	High Street
Township	
Parish	Coalville

Easting	442586
Northing	314255
Our reference	LL/988
LCC reference	

Thesaurus type	
Broad	Recreational
Narrow	Club

Date	
Date range begins	1896
Date range ends	1897

Description

A constitutional club, designed by Willie Thomas Hampton and built by Beckworth & Son. Foundation stones laid January 1897. The club is two storeys tall. It is faced in Ellistown red brick with stone dressings beneath a gabled, graduated slate roof. The club has a central entrance door. To the right, a full height projecting element beneath a shaped gable. To the left, paired sash windows with brick mullions and squared lintel heads. To the rear, the club incorporates an early Victorian building that had been used as an institute.

The club is an architecturally elaborate building that survives intact and contributes positively to the setting of the former Railway Hotel opposite. It has a degree of architectural interest that would justify its inclusion on the local list.

Photograph



North West Leicestershire District Council
List of Local Heritage Assets

Property	Thringstone House
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Number	13
Street	The Green
Township	Thringstone
Parish	Coalville

Easting	442721
Northing	317141
Our reference	LL/1668
LCC reference	

Thesaurus type	
Broad	Recreational
Narrow	Club

Date	
Date range begins	1911
Date range ends	1911

Description

A club or institute, designed by Harry Fletcher and built in 1911 for Charles Booth of Grace Dieu Manor. To the front, the club incorporates an eighteenth century farmhouse that had been used as a club from 1901. The club is a tall two storey building. It is faced in render with red brick buttresses beneath a gabled plain tile roof. It has cross casement windows. The former farmhouse is faced in smooth render beneath a gabled plain tile roof. There is a central entrance door flanked by three-light windows with hood moulds.

The former farmhouse has qualities of age and rarity that would justify its inclusion on the local list. The club has a degree of historic interest due to its close historic association with Charles Booth, a ship owner and philanthropist.

Photograph

