



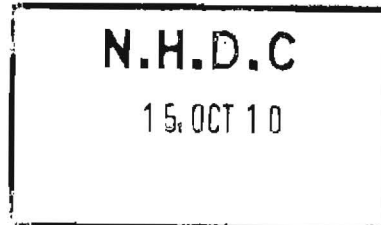
## ENGLISH HERITAGE

EAST OF ENGLAND REGION

Estates Manager  
North Hertfordshire District Council  
Council Offices  
Gernon Road  
Letchworth Garden City  
Hertfordshire  
SG6 3JF

Our Ref: 169415

Direct Line: 01223 582725



14 October 2010

Dear Sir or Madam

### PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990 BUILDINGS OF SPECIAL ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORIC INTEREST

Town Hall, BRAND STREET, HITCHIN, NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE, HERTFORDSHIRE

I refer to the application to add the above building to the list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest.

The Secretary of State has consulted us in our role as the Government's statutory adviser on the historic environment with responsibility for listing. We have considered all representations made, and completed the assessment of the above building. Having considered our recommendation the Minister with responsibility in this matter, the Minister for Tourism and Heritage, has decided to list the building at Grade II.

I enclose a copy of the new list entry, which gives the principal reasons for designation. I also enclose a copy of our advice report, prepared for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

The relevant local authority will be preparing the statutory notices required under the Act.

Please be aware that the listing of the building has already taken effect.

If you consider that this decision has been wrongly made you may contact the DCMS within 28 days of the date of this letter to request that the Secretary of State review the decision. An example of a decision made wrongly would be where there was a factual error or an irregularity in the process which affected the outcome. You may also ask the Secretary of State to review the decision if you have any significant evidence relating to the special architectural or historic interest of the building which was not previously considered. Further details of the review criteria and process and how to request a review are contained in the annex to this letter.



BROOKLANDS 24 BROOKLANDS AVENUE CAMBRIDGE CB2 8BU

Telephone 01223 582700 Facsimile 01223 582701

[www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

*The National Monuments Record is the public archive of English Heritage*

Yours sincerely



Donna Martin  
Heritage Protection Co-ordinator, East  
donna.martin@english-heritage.org.uk

Data Protection Act 1998

The information you provide, including personal details, and any information obtained from other sources will be retained by English Heritage, in hard copy form and/or on computer for administrative purposes and future consideration, where applicable. English Heritage will not release personal information to a third party if its disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles in the Data Protection Act 1998

### **Annex: Review Criteria and Process**

A review will only be carried out in the following circumstances:

(1) there is evidence that the original decision has been made wrongly. Examples would include:

- where there was a factual error, eg. the wrong building was listed; or
- where there has been some irregularity in the process which has affected the outcome, eg. relevant considerations were not taken into account or irrelevant considerations were taken into account.

(2) there is significant evidence which was not previously considered, relating to the special architectural or historic interest of the building, as set out in the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. An example would be where new evidence relating to the date of a building has been discovered which might make a material difference to the architectural or historic interest of the building.

Having conducted a review, the Secretary of State will either affirm or overturn the original decision. It is important to understand that the original decision will stand until the Secretary of State has made a decision on whether the original decision should be affirmed or overturned. If the original decision is overturned, this will not have retrospective effect.

### **How to request a review of a listing decision**

Reviews are carried out by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and review requests should be made on the Department's 'Listing Review Request Form'. The Form is accompanied by Guidance to assist you in making a review request. Both the Form and the Guidance can be downloaded from the 'Reviews of Listing Decisions' page of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's website at:  
[www.culture.gov.uk/what\\_we\\_do/historic\\_environment/6294.aspx](http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/historic_environment/6294.aspx)

If you are unable to access the website please contact:

The Listing Review Officer  
Heritage Protection Branch  
Culture Team  
Department for Culture Media and Sport  
2-4 Cockspur Street  
London  
SW1Y 5DH.

Review requests should normally be made within 28 days of the date of this letter. Requests made beyond this period may be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Town Hall, BRAND STREET (N), HITCHIN

Parish HITCHIN  
District NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE  
County HERTFORDSHIRE

Case UID: 169415

Date First Listed:

Formerly Listed As:

**RECOMMENDATION**

Outcome: Yes, list

Recommended Grade: II

16-AUG-2010

**BACKGROUND:**

After examining all the papers on this file and other relevant information and having carefully considered the architectural and historic interest of this case, the criteria for listing are fulfilled.

**CONTEXT**

English Heritage has been asked to assess Hitchin Town Hall for listing. The building has a community use and there are proposals under discussion for alterations to the building which may affect its historic fabric and form. A planning application is not expected until Autumn 2010, although a number of schemes are currently being drawn up. The building is locally listed and lies within the Hitchin Conservation Area. A number of listed buildings lie to the south and east, including the mid-C19 Old Town Hall diagonally opposite.

**HISTORY**

Hitchin Town Hall was constructed for Hitchin Urban District Council in 1900-1901 as a replacement for the Old Town Hall of 1840, also on Brand Street. Built on land donated in 1897 by local dignitaries Frederic Seebohm and William and Alfred Ransom, the Town Hall was designed by Edward Mountford and T Geoffry Lucas. It was constructed at a cost of £7,300 and combined council offices and a hall. A small extension at the rear of the hall was built on land donated by Dr Oswald Foster and appears to have been either constructed or remodelled during the interwar years. In the 1960s the hall was extended to the south-east, linking it to the Workmen's Hall and Gymnasium of 1841. As a result, there has been exterior and interior remodelling to the original side entrance and corridor to the east of the front range and additional openings inserted in the internal east wall of the hall.

**DESCRIPTION**

Town Hall, built 1900-1901, extended to the east in the later C20. Designed by Edward Mountford and T Geoffry Lucas for Hitchin Urban District Council, it comprises a front office range in Neo-Georgian style and a rear hall in the Arts and Crafts style. The office range is constructed in red brick laid in English bond with stone capping to the brick plinth and quoins to the corners. The hipped tile-covered roof has a central cupola, an end stack at the east elevation and a stair turret beneath a gablet at the west elevation. A slightly projecting central panel of one bay framed by pilasters is clad in stone. At ground floor, a central moulded arched entrance with enlarged keystone has recessed later C20 glazed and timber doors with small-paned leaded lights above. Iron lantern brackets and suspended lanterns are above either side of the arch. Carved at the top of the pilasters are the letters HU (to the left) and DC (to the right) with AD and MCM (the date in Roman numerals) beneath. At first floor, a pair of lancet windows with small-paned leaded lights



and a moulded stone lintel lie beneath a pediment with central carved coat of arms and foliate motifs. The pediment and eaves rest on modillions. On either side of the central bay are three windows each to the ground and first floors. At ground floor, four are original mullion windows with small-paned leaded lights; two to the left of centre have inserted transoms. All first-floor windows are mullion and transom windows with leaded lights.

The hall to the rear has a tiled gable roof and is constructed in red brick with rough-cast render at the upper levels. It is five bays long, has a rectangular plan and lies at a right-angle to the front range. Each bay is defined by half-buttresses and has a semi-circular window with two mullions beneath the eaves. There are two tile-hung dormers to each pitch with timber casement windows. The west elevation has a central opening at ground floor with stone quoins, part glazed doors and a canted, pent roof. To the rear is a remodelled brick extension with hipped roofs, partly constructed in the same style as the hall, which accommodates the stage and back rooms internally.

The later C20, flat-roofed single and two-storey extensions to the east obscure the east elevation of the hall and have no historic interest. The linked, two-storey gymnasium has a half-hipped roof covered in slate with dentil cornice, some contrasting brickwork and replacement windows.

Internally, the office range has a central ground-floor foyer with contemporary quarry tiles, plain dado rail and cornices and a wooden plaque commemorating honours won by Hitchin men in World War I. A simple, enclosed staircase leads to the first floor. The rooms off the staircase are plain in decoration, served by corridors with arched openings, plain dado rails and cornices. The Lucas room on the first floor has two entrance doors with a moulded architrave. A fireplace at the east end has a deeply coloured tile and carved wood surround. There is a plaster cartouche, thought to represent the Lucas family crest, surrounded by foliate and shell motifs above. There are deep cornices, some with egg and dart motifs.

To the rear of the foyer double doors lead to the multi-functional hall. The hall has an adjustable sprung wooden floor, contemporary with its construction, and a barrel-vaulted ceiling with prominent concrete beams rising from columns and elaborate consoles to the cornice. The details on the consoles represent a rose and lavender, crops grown locally for the horticultural and pharmaceutical industries. Contemporary brass light fittings remain. To the north, the stage has a simply moulded proscenium arch and remodelled rooms beneath. To the south a first-floor gallery is supported on three slender columns; a separate access to the seated gallery is at the first floor. On the east side, an inserted double opening leads to a remodelled corridor partly integrated into the later C20 extensions which incorporate a new entrance into the complex and link the hall with the former Workmen's Hall and Gymnasium. The latter now serves as a late C20 sports facility and the former hall has been subdivided; neither have fixtures and fittings of interest.

#### ASSESSMENT:

##### CONSULTATION

Following notification, the owners of the building provided information about the current proposals and the Local Planning Authority clarified the current planning status. The applicants provided additional information for which English Heritage is grateful. All of the information has been carefully considered, but only that germane to the assessment has been included in the advice. Following the Initial Report consultation, comments about the report including suggested rewording have been noted and where appropriate acted on. Concerns were raised about the lack of detail and recommendation in the report, but the intention at this stage is to describe the building sufficiently to enable an assessment to take place rather than to provide an in-depth descriptive survey. Further correspondence from English Heritage reiterated that the significance of the architects would be addressed in the assessment. The owners and local planning authority had no

further comments to make.

## ASSESSMENT

The English Heritage Law and Government Building Selection Guide (March 2007) states that for those town halls which date to after 1840 greater selectivity is required when considering designation because of the greater number of survivors. Factors to take into account include architectural and decorative treatment, as quality and finesse of architectural style assists with the projection of a confident municipal image. A well-executed façade is significant when assessing the claim to special interest. The planning of town halls was a challenge, thus how these buildings function is a further factor for consideration.

The design of Hitchin Town Hall reflects the growing, complex requirements of municipal buildings in the later C19 and early C20. Its primary purpose appears to have been that of a public hall, with limited municipal functions in the front range, complimenting the facilities in the old Town Hall (Grade II, 1840, by Bellamy) diagonally opposite rather than replacing them. The provision of a public hall as a separate element or secondary phase in a civic complex's development became increasingly common in the late C19. Built either by the local authority, or local businessmen, the provision of a public hall within a municipal context was partly philanthropic, partly for income generation from its hire. At Hitchin, general purpose, municipal office space was also incorporated into the design; for example, the office for the Town Surveyor was located in the new Town Hall (The Builder, 1901) and it is likely that the pleasantly detailed Lucas Room had a flexible use.

The interest of Hitchin Town Hall lies principally in its exterior treatment and the significance of the architects who designed it. The design of the whole is an eclectic combination of the Neo-Georgian front range, with 'Wrenaissance' influence, and the Arts and Crafts inspired rear hall. The front range appears restrained beneath the conventional pediment and hipped roof, but close examination reveals a subtle, deliberate approach to its design, which displays both domestic qualities and civic pride. The article in The Builder offers some explanation:

'In the design the main object was to bring the building into line with such fine houses as the old Brewery House in Sun-street, or the smaller houses of like character in Bridge-street, as well as others about the town... it was hoped to bring out a note of harmony between the old and the new, suiting the building to its surroundings'.

The building satisfies this design brief. The dignified central bay is distinguished by the masonry detail of the arched entrance, centrally placed slender four-light window above and Edwardian free-style carved initials on the pilasters. This architectural expression of civil dignity is balanced by the domestic quality of the flanking bays, enlivened by the C17 revival windows, and exterior treatment of the hall to the rear. The change in idiom between the front range and the hall clearly articulates their relative hierarchy in function and status.

The architects were Edward William Mountford (1855-1908) and Geoffry Lucas (1872-1947), but it seems likely that the greater responsibility for the design lies with the latter. When the pair won the competition in 1900 Lucas, who came from a brewing family in Hitchin, had only been in practice in the town for five years. Mountford was both more eminent and well established; he also won the competition to design the New Sessions House at the Old Bailey in 1900 (Grade II\*). His role for the Hitchin building has been described as that of 'consulting architect' and presumably his greater professional knowledge and high standing would have been reassuring for the competition assessors and council members. Certainly, by the time of the competition, Mountford had an established reputation as the successful architect of town halls, municipal buildings, technical



colleges and schools throughout the country, many of them won in competitions. His first major success was Sheffield Town Hall (Grade I, 1890-4) in Early French Renaissance style, quickly followed by Battersea Polytechnic in 1891 and Battersea Town Hall in 1892 amongst others. Although less well known than Mountford, Lucas went onto a career of some significance. Some of his domestic buildings at Letchworth built between 1904-6 are listed and he received awards for his designs for the Cheap Cottages Exhibition of 1905. He later worked at Hampstead Garden Suburb, where a square is named after him and some of his houses of 1909-10, are listed at Grade II. He later formed a partnership with H V Lanchester and T A Lodge who were responsible for a number of inter-war town halls.

The interior of Hitchin Town Hall has some pleasing features. The Lucas Room has good decorative plasterwork and the hall is generously equipped and appropriately decorated. The contemporary adjustable sprung wooden dance floor is claimed to be unique, but as such technology originated in the late C19, this would seem unlikely and cannot be substantiated. Overall, however, the internal fixtures and fittings of the Town Hall are modest and standard for the period and do not possess particular interest.

Hitchin Town Hall is a variant of the traditional municipal building, where the emphasis is placed primarily on the provision of community space. When considering the benchmark for designation, its significance is appropriately judged against listed early C20 town halls in smaller market towns such as that at Helmsley, North Yorkshire (1901, Temple Moore, Grade II) and Orford, Suffolk (early C20, Grade II). Although of different styles, both these designated examples combine a hall with civic offices. Useful comparison may also be made with more substantial public halls such as St Saviours Parish Hall in Brixton (early C20 by Beresford Pite, Grade II) and Whiteley Village Hall, Elmbridge (1912, by Sir Aston Webb, Grade II) both of which have carefully composed, prominent facades to functional halls at the rear.

Hitchin Town Hall is comparable in architectural quality to these designated examples and furthermore, has a strong presence on Brand Street. Its physical proximity and functional association with the old Town Hall confers considerable group value on the 1901 building and the contrasting architecture of the two buildings demonstrates the evolution of the building type from the mid-C19 onwards. Its current inclusion on North Hertfordshire District Council's Register of Buildings of Local Interest attests to its architectural and visual importance in Hitchin. Given its association with Mountford and Lucas, the quality of its exterior treatment and group value with the old Town Hall, it is considered to have special architectural and historic interest from a national perspective and should be added to the statutory List.

#### SOURCES

NHDC. Proposed Register of Buildings of Local Interest in Hitchin. (July 2009).

Richard Field, Hitchin: A Pictorial History (1991)

A Stuart Gray, Edwardian Architecture: A Biographical Dictionary (1985), 237, 267-9

N Pevsner and B Cherry, The Buildings of England: Hertfordshire, 2nd Edition (1977), 204-205

The Builder (30 March 1901), 320

#### CONCLUSION

Hitchin Town Hall of 1900-01 has special architectural and historic interest and is recommended for designation at Grade II.

#### REASONS FOR DESIGNATION DECISION:

Hitchin Town Hall of 1900-1901, Brand Street, Hitchin is recommended for designation at Grade II for the following principal reasons:

- \* Architectural Interest: the front range of the building has carefully considered detailing expressing civil dignity balanced by the domestic quality of the flanking bays and rear hall. The building is designed by EW Mountford and Geoffry Lucas, renowned architects in the design of municipal and domestic buildings with many listed buildings to their names.
- \* Intactness: both the exterior and interior of the building are largely intact.
- \* Interior: the Lucas Room is distinguished for its decorative plasterwork.
- \* Group Value: Hitchin Town Hall has group value with the designated old Town Hall, the contrasting architecture of the two buildings demonstrating the evolution of the building type from the mid-C19 onwards.

#### VISITS

17-DEC-2009      Full inspection

#### COUNTERSIGNING

Countersigning Comments: I have considered the assessment and recommendation and agree that the building meets the criteria for listing because of the stated reasons for designation, ie its fine front range, intactness, interior features and group value. Agreed. 19/8/10

Second Countersigning Comments:

HP Director Comments:

Proposed List Entry

BRAND STREET



(North side)  
Town Hall

GV

II

Case UID: 169415

Proposed LBS UID: 507832

Town Hall, built 1900-1901, extended to the east in the later C20. Designed by Edward Mountford and T Geoffry Lucas for Hitchin Urban District Council.

#### MATERIALS

The building is constructed in red brick, laid in English bond, with rendered details and stone dressings.

#### PLAN

Approximately rectangular with a slightly projecting front office range, and late C20 extensions linking with the former Workmen's Hall and gymnasium to the east.

#### EXTERIOR

The building comprises a Neo-Georgian front range, with 'Wrenaissance' influence, and a rear hall in the Arts and Crafts style. The office range has stone capping to the brick plinth and quoins to the corners. The hipped tile-covered roof has a central cupola, an end stack at the east elevation and a stair turret beneath a gablet at the west elevation. A slightly projecting central panel of one bay framed by pilasters is clad in stone. At ground floor, a central moulded arched entrance with enlarged keystone has recessed later C20 glazed and timber doors with small-paned leaded lights above. Iron lantern brackets and suspended lanterns are above either side of the arch. Carved at the top of the pilasters are the letters HU (to the left) and DC (to the right) with AD and MCM (the date in Roman numerals) beneath. At first floor, a pair of lancet windows with small-paned leaded lights and a moulded stone lintel lie beneath a pediment with central carved coat of arms and foliate motifs. The pediment and eaves rest on modillions. On either side of the central bay are three windows each to the ground and first floors. At ground floor, four are original mullion windows with small-paned leaded lights; two to the left of centre have inserted transoms. All first-floor windows are mullion and transom windows with leaded lights.

The hall to the rear has a tiled gable roof and rough-cast render at the upper levels. It is five bays long, has a rectangular plan and lies at a right angle to the front range. Each bay is defined by half-buttresses and has a semi-circular or Diocletian window with two mullions beneath the eaves. There are two tile-hung dormers to each pitch with timber casement windows. The west elevation has a central opening at ground floor with stone quoins, part glazed doors and a canted, pent roof. To the rear is a remodelled brick extension with hipped roofs, partly constructed in the same style as the hall, which accommodates the stage and back rooms internally.

The later C20, flat-roofed single and two-storey extensions to the east obscure the east elevation of the hall and have no historic interest. The linked, much altered, two-storey gymnasium has a half-hipped roof covered in slate with dentil cornice, some contrasting brickwork and replacement windows.

#### INTERIOR

In the office range, a central ground-floor foyer has contemporary quarry tiles, plain dado rail and cornices and a wooden plaque commemorating honours won by Hitchin men in World War I. A simple, enclosed staircase leads to the first floor. The rooms off the staircase are plain in decoration, served by corridors with arched openings, plain dado rails and cornices. The Lucas room on the first floor has two

entrance doors with a moulded architrave. A fireplace at the east end has a deeply coloured tile and carved wood surround. There is a plaster cartouche, thought to represent the Lucas family crest, surrounded by foliate and shell motifs above. There are deep cornices, some with egg and dart motifs.

To the rear of the foyer double doors lead to the multi-functional hall. The hall has an adjustable sprung wooden floor, contemporary with its construction, and a barrel-vaulted ceiling with prominent concrete beams rising from columns and elaborate consoles to the cornice. The details on the consoles represent a rose and lavender, crops grown locally for the horticultural and pharmaceutical industries. Contemporary brass light fittings remain. To the north, the stage has a simply moulded proscenium arch and remodelled rooms beneath. To the south, a first-floor gallery is supported on three slender columns; a separate access to the seated gallery is at the first floor. On the east side, an inserted double opening leads to a remodelled corridor partly integrated into the later C20 extensions which incorporate a new entrance into the complex and link the hall with the former Workmen's Hall and Gymnasium. The latter now serves as a late C20 sports facility and the former hall has been subdivided; neither have fixtures and fittings of interest.

#### HISTORY

Hitchin Town Hall was constructed for Hitchin Urban District Council in 1900-1901 as a replacement for the Old Town Hall of 1840, also on Brand Street. Built on land donated in 1897 by local dignitaries Frederic Seebohm and William and Alfred Ransom, the competition to design the Town Hall was won by Edward Mountford and T Geoffrey Lucas. It was constructed at a cost of £7,300 and combined council offices and a hall. A small extension at the rear of the hall was built on land donated by Dr Oswald Foster and appears to have been either constructed or remodelled during the interwar years. In the 1960s the hall was extended to the south-east, linking it to the Workmen's Hall and Gymnasium of 1841, resulting in some exterior and interior remodelling.

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Pevsner, N and Cherry, B. The Buildings of England: Hertfordshire: 2nd Edition (1977) pp 204-205.

The Builder 30 March 1901, p.320

#### REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

Hitchin Town Hall of 1900-1901, Brand Street, Hitchin is designated at Grade II for the following principal reasons:

- \* Architectural Interest; the front range of the building has carefully considered detailing expressing civil dignity balanced by the domestic quality of the flanking bays and elevations of the rear hall. The building was designed by E W Mountford and T Geoffrey Lucas, renowned architects in the design of municipal and domestic buildings with many listed buildings to their names
- \* Intactness; both the exterior and interior of the building are largely intact
- \* Interior; the Lucas Room is distinguished for its decorative plasterwork
- \* Group Value; Hitchin Town Hall has group value with the designated old Town Hall, the contrasting architecture of the two buildings demonstrating the evolution of the building type from the mid-C19 onwards.

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

AMENDMENT TO THE LIST OF BUILDINGS OF SPECIAL

ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORIC INTEREST

WHEREAS:

1. Section 1 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 ("the Act") requires the Secretary of State, for the purposes of the Act and with a view to the guidance of local planning authorities in the performance of their functions under the Act and the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 in relation to buildings of special architectural or historic interest, to compile or approve a list of such buildings, and he may amend the list so compiled or approved.
2. The Secretary of State, having consulted with English Heritage and such other persons or bodies of persons who appear to him appropriate as having special knowledge of, and interest in, such buildings, considers that the said list (English Heritage Volume 834, the District of North Hertfordshire, covering the Parish of Hitchin) should be amended in the manner set out in the Schedule hereto.

NOW THEREFORE the Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by Section 1 of the Act, hereby amends the list in the manner set out in the Schedule hereto.





ENGLISH HERITAGE

## SCHEDULE

The following entry has been added to the list:-

**507832**

**TL1834229280**

**BRAND STREET**

**Town Hall**

**Grade II**

Town Hall, built 1900-1901, extended to the east in the later C20. Designed by Edward Mountford and T Geoffry Lucas for Hitchin Urban District Council.

### MATERIALS

The building is constructed in red brick, laid in English bond, with rendered details and stone dressings.

### PLAN

Approximately rectangular with a slightly projecting front office range, and late C20 extensions linking with the former Workmen's Hall and gymnasium to the east.

### EXTERIOR

The building comprises a Neo-Georgian front range, with 'Wrenaissance' influence, and a rear hall in the Arts and Crafts style. The office range has stone capping to the brick plinth and quoins to the corners. The hipped tile-covered roof has a central cupola, an end stack at the east elevation and a stair turret beneath a gablet at the west elevation. A slightly projecting central panel of one bay framed by pilasters is clad in stone. At ground floor, a central moulded arched entrance with enlarged keystone has recessed later C20 glazed and timber doors with small-paned leaded lights above. Iron lantern brackets and suspended lanterns are above either side of the arch. Carved at the top of the pilasters are the letters HU (to the left) and DC (to the right) with AD and MCM (the date in Roman numerals) beneath. At first floor, a pair of lancet windows with small-paned leaded lights and a moulded stone lintel lie beneath a pediment with central carved coat of arms and foliate motifs. The pediment and eaves rest on modillions. On either side of the central bay are three windows each to the ground and

first floors. At ground floor, four are original mullion windows with small-paned leaded lights; two to the left of centre have inserted transoms. All first-floor windows are mullion and transom windows with leaded lights.

The hall to the rear has a tiled gable roof and rough-cast render at the upper levels. It is five bays long, has a rectangular plan and lies at a right angle to the front range. Each bay is defined by half-buttresses and has a semi-circular or Diocletian window with two mullions beneath the eaves. There are two tile-hung dormers to each pitch with timber casement windows. The west elevation has a central opening at ground floor with stone quoins, part glazed doors and a canted, pent roof. To the rear is a remodelled brick extension with hipped roofs, partly constructed in the same style as the hall, which accommodates the stage and back rooms internally.

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- \* Group Value; Hitchin Town Hall has group value with the designated old Town Hall, the contrasting architecture of the two buildings demonstrating the evolution of the building type from the mid-C19 onwards.

Dated:- 14. oct 2010

Signed by authority of  
the Secretary of State for  
Culture, Media and Sport



**ANTHONY CALLADINE**  
English Heritage