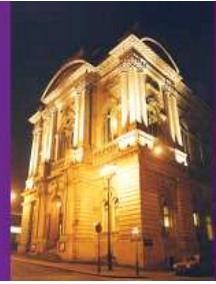


huddersfield town hall

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History of Huddersfield Town Hall

The building was designed by John H Abbey and was built in two stages between 1875 and 1881.

The Municipal Offices

The first section of the building was opened on the 26th June 1878 by the Mayor of Huddersfield, Alderman Joseph Woodhead. To emphasise the status of the offices, the coat of arms of the Borough of Huddersfield was carved above the portico; two ornamental vases decorated with floral wreath and rams heads were carved at each side.

The basement floor provided accommodation for the Borough Analyst, the Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Weights and Measures a Caretakers apartment plus various Strong rooms storing documents and other valuables.

The Ground Floor contained offices for the Medical Officer of Health, the Town Clerk and his Deputy, the Borough Surveyor and the Rate Office.

The second floor contained Mayor's Parlour, Committee Rooms, Council Chamber and a large Reception Room. The Mayor's Parlour was lavishly furnished with a handsome 5 light chandelier and the bathroom was fitted with a mahogany encased marble bath.

Huddersfield Town Hall

On the day of the official opening of the Municipal Offices in Ramsden Street, the corner stone of the Town Hall was laid. A procession walked from Ramsden Street, along Buxton Road to Princess Street, to the site of the Town Hall.

In a cavity under the corner stone was placed a tin box which contained:-

- A small portrait of Jos. Woodhead Esq, Mayor of Huddersfield
- A copy of the Huddersfield Examiner, Chronicle & Weekly News dated 22nd June 1878
- Plus a Shilling, a Sixpence and a Penny.



Princess Street Entrance c1900

The Town Hall was officially opened in October 1881 by the Mayor, Alderman Denham.

The style of the building was classical, of the Corinthian order. All the stone was quarried locally at Crosland Moor and the work was carried out by many local contractors. The carving was executed by Thomas Stocks of Berry Brow.

In addition to the large concert hall, the new building was to include a suite of offices for the use of the School Board and also the Borough Magistrates Court and its offices.

The Town Hall Organ

The organ was the work of Messrs Henry Willis and Sons of London and was originally made for the Albert Hall Company in Newport, Wales. The work of removing the organ from Newport and rebuilding it in the new Town Hall was undertaken by Messrs James Conacher and sons, organ builders, of Huddersfield who were responsible for certain improvements.



The Concert Hall c1910



Left: The Town Hall protected with sandbags in 1940