

**THEATRE: *Theatre Royal*****Listed:** Grade II**Address:** Corporation Street, Hyde SK14 1AB**Local Authority:**

Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council

Council Offices

Wellington Road

Ashton Under Lyne OL6 6DL

Tel: 0161 342 8355

Email: [planning@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:planning@tameside.gov.uk)[www.tameside.gov.uk](http://www.tameside.gov.uk)**Current Freehold Owner:** Aurora Hyde Limited**Current Leasehold Owner:** Vacant**Current Operator/Manager:** None**Local Contact:** Ms Pat Jackson, Secretary Theatre Royal Onward, 8 Coppice Close, Woodley, Stockport, Cheshire SK6 1JH. Tel: 0161430 8621Email: [patricia@freenet.co.uk](mailto:patricia@freenet.co.uk) [office@theatreroyalhyde.org.uk](mailto:office@theatreroyalhyde.org.uk)**The Theatres Trust Contact:** Suzanne McDougall. Tel 020 7836 8591Email: [Suzanne.mcdougall@theatrestrust.org.uk](mailto:Suzanne.mcdougall@theatrestrust.org.uk)

---

**Original theatre architect(s):** 1902: Campbell & Horsley (Manchester)**Building Description**

The *Theatre Royal* was built in 1902 and had an intimate auditorium originally seating around 1,200. Today it would seat around 1,000 (excluding the Gallery) with two balconies curving round to meet a decorative proscenium. The auditorium was richly decorated with plasterwork swags and bolection mouldings. There were dressing rooms at the side of the auditorium and mahogany bars. The façade to Corporation Street is a richly decorated composition in red brick and terracotta, three storeys high.

**Theatre Use**

In 1914 the theatre was leased for cinema use but was also used regularly for pantomimes, variety and local shows until the 1960s when it was used largely as a cinema. The last show was staged in October 1972 and the stage area was then converted into a second cinema. It finally closed as a cinema in 1993. Consent for demolition was given in 1999 for a redevelopment scheme but the theatre was spot-listed in April 2000. It has been closed ever since but is in fair condition.

**Occupancy:** Vacant**Building Location**

The *Theatre Royal* stands in a prominent central site opposite the town hall in the town centre.

**Risks**

The *Theatre Royal* was sold in September 2006 to Aurora Hyde Limited with the intention for redevelopment, which could only be achieved with a change of use and possible loss of the auditorium. Listed Building Consent was granted in June 2008 for repairs and the insertion of a flat floor to allow temporary uses but no work to date has been undertaken. The future of the *Theatre Royal* is therefore at risk as the building is slowly deteriorating and water is penetrating. Hyde may lose its only listed Victorian theatre. The local theatre support group, Theatre Royal Onward, want to see the theatre brought back into theatre use and are raising funds to buy the building. They are also talking to the Local Authority about using it for a mix of amateur and professional productions, removing the cinema from the stage and making the building more accessible to the local community as a cultural and entertainment centre for the whole of the area. The Theatres Trust has been encouraging the Council to work with Theatre Royal Onward to obtain the building and develop a sustainable business plan.