

Heritage Statement to include design and access.

Heywood Central Library



Heywood Library Front Elevation

Overview

Heritage Category: Listed Building

Grade: II

List Entry Number: 1084289

Date first listed: 12-Feb-1985

Statutory Address: HEYWOOD AREA CENTRAL LIBRARY, CHURCH STREET

Location

Statutory Address: HEYWOOD AREA CENTRAL LIBRARY, CHURCH STREET

The building or site itself may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

District: Rochdale

Parish: Non Civil Parish

National Grid Reference: SD 85654 10680

Details

SD 81 SE HEYWOOD CHURCH STREET (south side) 6/12 Heywood Area
Central Library

G.V.

II

Library. 1905-6. S.V. North and C. Callas. Ashlar and brick with Westmorland slate roof. The central entrance and hall give access to reading rooms on either side and to two parallel wings which run at right angles to the facade. There is a small 1973 extension to the right. Edwardian Free Style, with Baroque and Elizabethan elements. Symmetrical 3-bay, 1-storey facade with an attic storey in the large gable over the central bay. Coupled Ionic semi-columns support an open entablature and semi-circular hood with reclining figures to either side, egg and dart enrichment, triple keystone to semi-circular door head with date plaque and elaborate cartouche. The hood breaks into a 6-light bolection moulded mullioned window to the attic storey which is in a steeply pitched coped gable with classical enrichment. The bay windows rise above and break the entablature which continues round the side elevations where the detailing of the gable and window is almost as rich and varied. The rear wings are more plain.

The Library was designed by North Robin Wilsdon which were an architects company from 1900 until 1940. The works were commissioned by the industrialist Andrew Carnegie who donated £6300 to fund construction.

Listing NGR: SD8565410680

Proposed Works

The proposed works are to install structural ties to the side and rear elevations on the 1st floor.

Remove plastic glazing to the ceiling in the main Library ground floor and 1st floor main office and replace with class 1 fire rated Georgian Wired Rough cast glazing sheets.

Replace cleaner's door and frame with new to match existing, also make repairs to existing architrave.

There has been an independent structural survey carried out by Blackett-Ord Conservation Engineering stating that the gable walls should be stabilised using CINTEC anchors and tie bars. This would limit the possible movement to the building and allow the foundations to continue to move without major piling works.

The structural works would be at high level with external Anchors and ties being covered by the cored out stonework. The tie bars would be above the ornate plasterwork in the 1st floor office at high level.

If the structural works were not completed the long term stability of the library could not be guaranteed as future movement could leave the building in a dangerous condition. The front right hand elevation at the ridge has moved approximately 80mm which has opened up the roof protection which has been repaired on a temporary basis. There are also numerous structural cracks evident on the internal walls of the library and other areas of the building that are being closely monitored.

Change of Materials on ceiling glazing frames

The existing glazing to the ceiling areas is thin plastic sheeting with a stipple affect. This glazing would cause a severe hazard if there were to be a fire in the library as it would not be able to withstand any heat and could also add a source of combustion.

The proposed Georgian wired rough cast glazing is class 1 fire rated that also gives 30 minutes of fire rated protection. The glazing would also assist in protection of and falling materials from the roof space.

Why the works are required.

Structural repairs – The building still used as a public library but following the structural report there are concerns with the long term stability to the external front and side elevation walls. If the structural works were not carried out it could affect the safe use of the building and possible closure.

Ceiling Glazing – The current ceiling frames have been installed using a modern plastic sheet that currently do not meet modern building regulations with regards to Fire risk. They are also obviously not in keeping with the original installation.

Store Cupboard Door and Frame – The store cupboard door and frame under the main staircase is in very poor condition and was also highlighted as an issue in the fire risk assessment. The door and frame are beyond repair and we would like to replace them but using the original architrave.

Access Statement

It has been agreed with the client that the library would have to be closed to carry out the works for approximately 18 weeks as it is also going to be undertaken alongside of major roof replacement scheme that has already been granted listed planning permission.