

Heywood Library Heritage Statement

Entry Name: Heywood Area Central Library
Listing Date: 12 February 1985
Grade: II
Source: Historic England
Source ID: 1084289
English Heritage Legacy ID: 358841 (1)

The Heywood Carnegie Library’s notable architectural merit distinguishes it as an essential landmark in the town. Pevsner Architectural Guides (2) describes it as an excellent building designed by the architects S.V. North and C. Collas Robin in 1905-6. There is a small 1973 extension on the west elevation.

The library is a single-storey rectangular structure divided into 3-bays that run perpendicular to the gabled frontage from its shorter northern edge. The brick and stone side elevations undulate due to subsidence. The central bay features an attic storey and a large gable roof in Westmoreland slate.

The front façade faces north onto Church Street in creamy ashlar stone decorated in the Edwardian Free Style with Baroque and Elizabethan elements, with two large mullioned-and-transomed bays rising above and breaking the entablature framing a couped Ionic semi-column doorcase with open entablature and with a hood. Allegorical figures recline in bookend fashion on each side of the hood. The entrance is decorated with egg and dart enrichment, triple keystone to semi-circular door head with date plaque and elaborate cartouche. Above the hood is a 6-light bolection moulded mullioned window to the attic storey, which is in a steeply pitched coped gable with classical enrichment.

The stonework wraps around to address the first bay of the side elevations, where the detailing of the gable roof is almost as rich and varied. The rear wings are more plain and predominantly clay brickwork. The rear elevation was altered to accommodate a link building to the Phoenix Centre built in 2008. The entrance has an octagonal lobby with stairs to one side, giving access to both reading rooms.

Proposed Signage

Our proposals for new signage at Heywood Civic Centre respond thoughtfully to the civic and architectural character of the surrounding context. The design has been carefully considered to complement, through contrast, the historic fabric of the library while subtly enhancing the northern edge of Peine Square.

The proposed signage on the north and east facades of the Civic Centre, are face fixed with a soft, bronze toned finish that references the material richness of the surrounding civic context. Its clean geometry and modest scale ensure it sits comfortably within the public realm without dominating the square or competing with the historic library façade. A bold white 'C' motif, paired with the clear typography of 'Heywood Civic', is recessed and backlit within the panel. This subtle illumination ensures visibility while maintaining a calm presence after dark, avoiding unnecessary light spill that might detract from the ambience of the square or the architectural qualities of the library. Instead, it adds to the presence of the building as a civic gathering space.

It is important to note that the planning application submitted for the proposed extension on Heywood Civic Centre (Ref: PP-12585274) illustrated proposed signage which was accepted as part of the design. The revised signage proposal is modest and reflective of the local character and assets. The signage adopts a quiet modernity that frames and reinforces its presence. This approach allows the heritage asset to remain visually prominent while ensuring the Civic Centre plays a more active and legible role within the public realm of Peine Square.

References

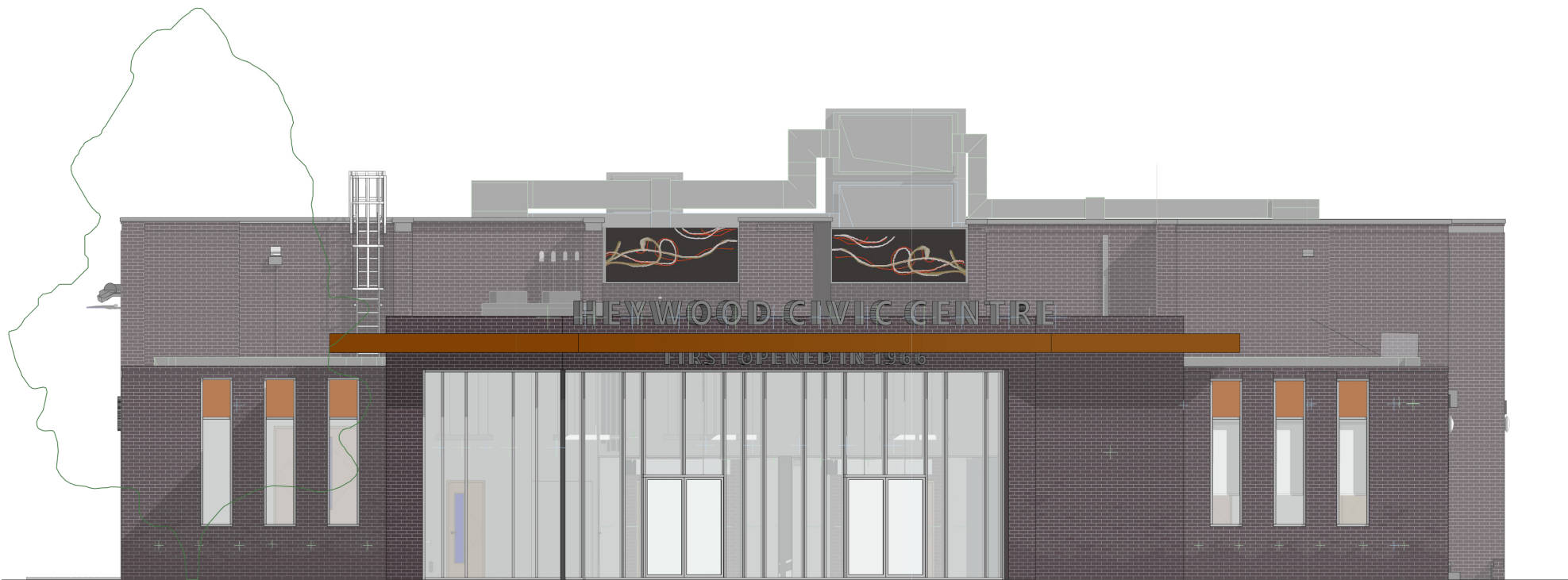
- 1 Historic England National Heritage List for England (NHLE) may be accessed online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1084289?section=official-list-entry>
- 2 Pevsner Architectural Guides, The Buildings of England: Lancashire: Manchester and the South-East- Hartwell, Hyde and Pevsner, Yale University press, 2004 Edition



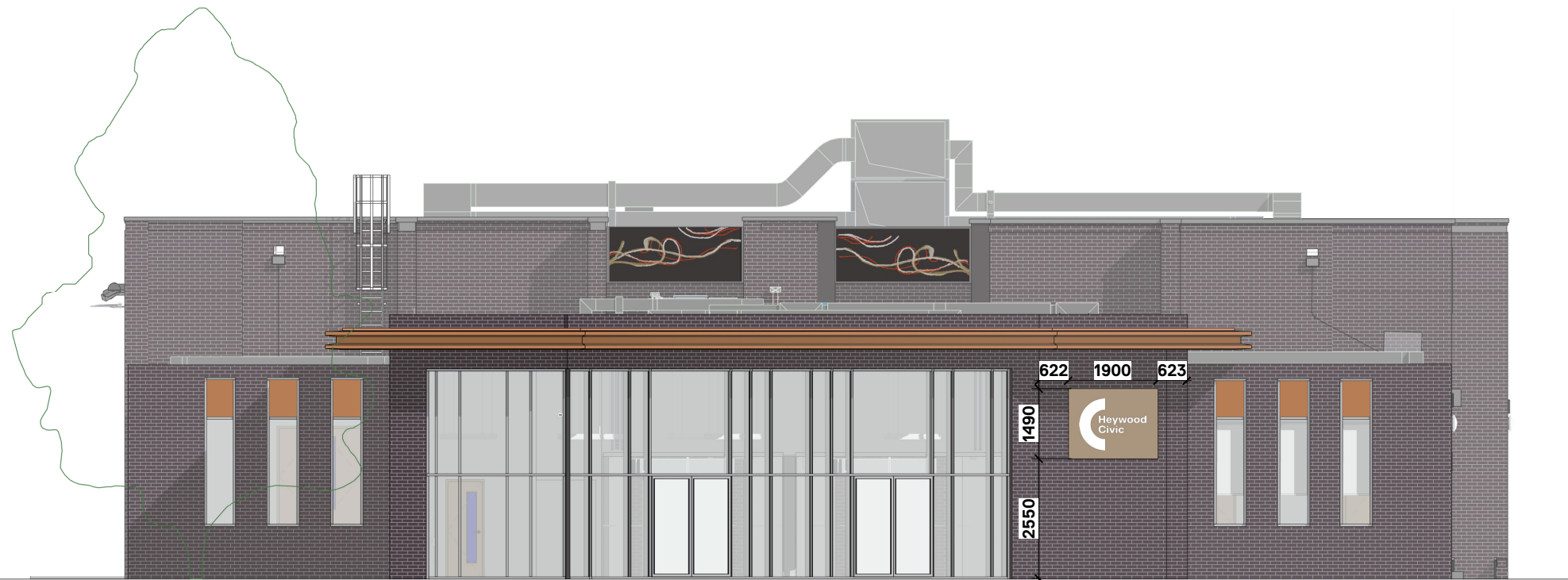
Heywood Library viewed from Peine Square

As previously noted, the approved planning application for the proposed extension to Heywood Civic Centre (Ref: PP-12585274) included a signage design that was accepted as part of the overall design.

For clarity and comparison, the images to the right illustrate both the previously approved signage and the revised design for which advertisement consent is now being sought.



Proposed Signage - North Elevation



Previous signage design - North Elevation