

Repair / Reinstall 19th C. Oak Panelling and Install New UV-Protection
Roller Blinds – Chetham's Library, Manchester



Design and Access Statement
including a Heritage Impact Assessment

December 2019

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Design and Access Statement, including a Heritage Impact Assessment, has been prepared by Kepczyk Pearce Sanderson on behalf of Chetham's Library, Manchester, of Chetham's Foundation. This document supports the Listed Building Consent application for timber repairs to be carried out to the window soffit panelling and new UV-protection roller blinds to be installed to the windows within the library. This document should be read in conjunction with Kepczyk Pearce Sanderson's drawings: 1987 LBC 01 – 1987 LBC 05. This Design and Access Statement, include a Heritage Impact Assessment, has been prepared and submitted in support of the proposed works, in accordance with good practice guidance and considers the issues relevant to the proposed works.

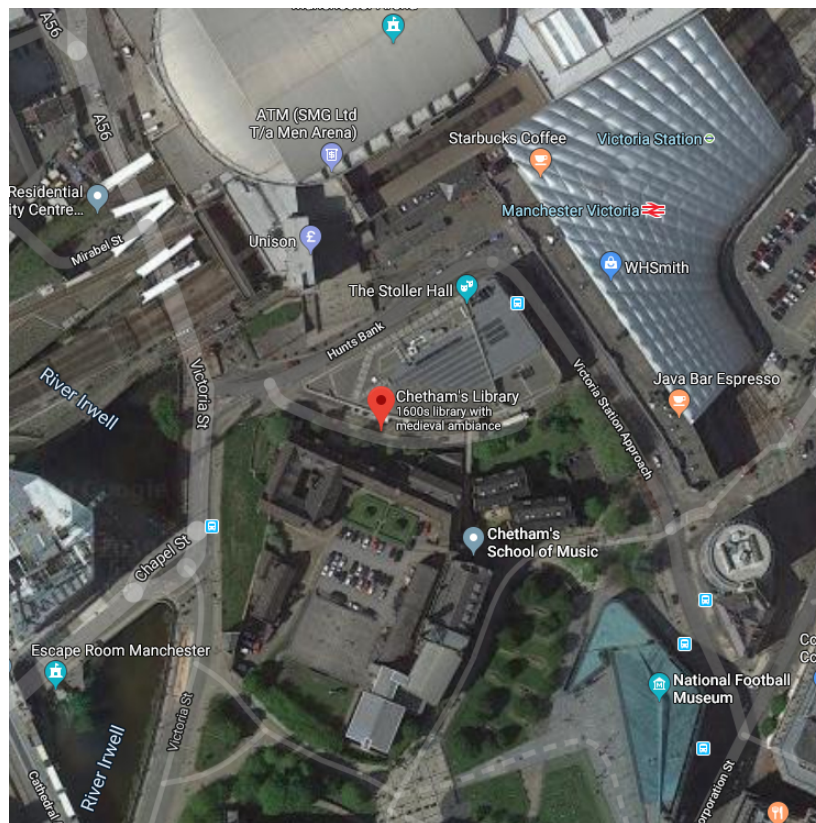


Figure 1: Location of Chetham's Library as shown on Google Earth

1.01 NATIONAL HERITAGE LIST FOR ENGLAND ENTRY

Chetham's Library is part of the Chetham's Hospital entry. It is Grade I Listed and the Listing Description is as follows:

CHETHAMS HOSPITAL AND ATTACHED WALL, LONG MILLGATE

MANCHESTER

SJ8398NE LONG MILLGATE 698-1/26/225 (West side) 25/02/52 Chetham's Hospital and attached wall (Formerly Listed as: FENNEL STREET)

GV I

College of the Collegiate Parish Church of Manchester, now music school. Established 1422 by Thomas de la Warre; converted after Dissolution in 1547 for use as town house by Earl of Derby; sequestrated during Commonwealth, purchased in 1654 by Humphrey Chetham's executors for adaptation as charity school ("hospital") and library; restored and enlarged 1883-95 by Oliver Heywood and Charles James Heywood. Coursed squared red sandstone, with some dressings of grey gritstone (probably C19), and stone slate roofs. Small cloistered quadrangle with former Fellows' sets in north, south and west ranges, Great Hall and former Warden's rooms in east range, long east wing continued from north range containing former kitchen, hospitium, bakehouse (etc.) with short returned end linked to gatehouse; C19 parallel addition to rear of this wing. Perpendicular style, with 4-centred arched openings and foiled lights to the windows. Two storeys but with Great Hall and kitchen open to full height, basement under north range. The GREAT HALL has three large cross-windows at a high level, with cinquefoil cusping to the lights, a low 2-light "dole" window to the left (the dais end), and an added 2-storey porch at the north end in the angle with the east wing, covering the doorways to the screens passage and to the kitchen, with a doorway in each side, 2-light windows on both floors and a small cusped niche in the gable with crocketed canopy on mask corbels. The SOLAR END of the hall range (former Warden's rooms, now Audit Room with Reading Room over), 2 storeys and 3 bays, has a projecting and gabled centre with a drip-band between floors and a crocketed niche in the apex, 2-light windows at ground floor, and 2- 3- and 2-light windows at 1st floor. The roof of this range has a small octagonal chimney at the junction of hall and solar, and a gable chimney. The south gable has 4-centred arched 2-light windows forward of the chimney, and square-headed mullioned windows to the rear. The SOUTH RANGE projects, has a moulded 4-centred arched doorway offset left, small square-headed mullioned windows of 2, 1 and 2 cusped lights at ground floor, and 6 large later C17 3-light mullioned windows at 1st floor.

Attached to the south-west corner of this range is part of the original BOUNDARY WALL of the site, approx. 2m high on the inner side, with pitched coping. Inside the QUADRANGLE, the 2-storey 6-bay west cloister has buttresses, 3-light windows at ground floor (the 2nd with an inserted doorway) and 2-light windows in alternate bays at 1st floor; the 3-bay north and south cloisters are similar except that a C17 stair-turret in the north-east corner replaces the 3rd bay of the north cloister; and the west side of the hall has a rebuilt skewed polygonal inglenook, and an oriel window and staircase contiguous with this to the right. The long EAST WING (to the right of the porch) has double drip-bands between floors, windows coupled at ground floor of the kitchen and tripled above, all of 2 cusped lights except that to the left at 1st floor where the porch covers the first light (visible internally), and those at ground floor with hoodmoulds; the continuation to the right has six 2-light windows at 1st floor, with trefoil lights, and windows (w) and doorways (d) at ground floor arranged w-d-d-w-w-d-w-w-d, all with hoodmoulds, the first of these doorways opening onto a passage which runs through to a platform at the rear. (These openings do not match those shown on the plan in the VCH; and the grey gritstone surrounds differ from those of some unaltered windows at the rear, suggesting that they are mostly restored, and some probably altered as well: e.g. the first window to the right of the kitchen has the rebate of a former doorway on the inside). The roof has a small bellcote and 2 octagonal chimneys. The 2-bay return at the east end, canted back slightly, has a moulded drip-band (at a lower level than the bands of the main range), two 3-light windows at ground floor and one above, and an external stone staircase dog-legged round the south corner and mounting the gable wall to a doorway at 1st floor of the gatehouse. The GATEHOUSE is 2-storeyed, steeply gabled, and has a moulded 4-centred archway through the ground floor, a small inserted or altered window above and a 4-centred arched doorway to the left of this; and its outer face, an early C19 rebuild, has an oriel window at 1st floor. The rear of the east wing has (inter alia) a massive external chimney stack to the kitchen (with inscription "Rebuilt 1902"), a corbelled garderobe, and a stone platform to the rear of the through-passage. INTERIOR: cavetto-moulded beams, and collar-rafter roofs with arch-braced principals and super-imposed collar purlins, throughout; hall has very large dais canopy at south end with brattished cornice, massive inglenook fireplace in west wall (altered), and tripartite oak screens at north end with moulded rails and brattished tops; screens passage has coupled 2-centred arched service doorways; cloisters have similar doorways to former Fellows' sets, some coupled;

stair-turret off north cloister has splat-baluster staircase; Audit Room has muntin-and-rail panelling, moulded plaster floriated frieze, and beams with carved bosses; Reading Room has similar panelling, cavetto moulded wall-plate with portcullis and eagle's claw emblems of Derby family, and very large elaborate tympanum including carved cartouche with helm and mantling, cockerell, etc.; and segmental-vaulted ceiling (inserted before 1654). Kitchen (now Music Library) has fireplace approx. 7m wide with horizontal lintel of joggled blocks under segmental arch approx. 4m high, and in east wall a smaller opening with similar joggled lintel under 2-centred arch (probably also a fireplace); rooms to east of passage have low 2-centred arches in transverse walls.

Listing NGR: SJ8391298905.

1.02 HISTORICAL NOTE AND DESCRIPTION

Chetham's School and Library is a remarkable institution occupying an equally remarkable building. It originated in the early fifteenth century as a college of priests – the home of the priests and choristers who officiated at the Parish Church (now Manchester Cathedral) and lived together under a warden. It was known as 'the College' or the 'College House' well into the nineteenth century, hundreds of years after the priests had left the building after the Reformation. Few establishments of this type survive, and this is the best and most complete example of its date in the country – of national importance both architecturally and historically.

Although the building lies in the centre of Manchester it is surprisingly easy to overlook. Taller nineteenth and twentieth century buildings hide it from view, so only the north side, near Victoria Station, can easily be seen from street level, and even that is partially obscured by trees and classroom blocks. The area had become a slum by the nineteenth century, when Friedrich Engels described the area between the Irk and Long Millgate as containing 'unqualifiedly the most horrible dwellings which I have yet beheld'. Even after clearances it remained a backwater area until development at the end of the twentieth century, when a

new park was laid out opposite the building's entrance and the area was reintegrated into the city centre.

After the Reformation, when the college of priests had dissolved, the building was sold to Edward, third Earl of Derby, and member of one of the most powerful old Lancashire families. One of the most famous residents was John Dee, the Elizabethan astrologer and mathematician, noted for his interest in the occult – who lived there at the end of the sixteenth century. During the Civil War the building was a centre of operations in the Parliamentary defence against Royalist forces, part of it was used as a gunpowder factory and other parts as a prison. The building was sequestered from the Earl of Derby with the rest of his estates by Parliament, and for the first time ever it faced a serious threat to its survival. Part of the complex was converted to form one of the first Baptist meeting rooms in the region, and the Baptist leader, a notorious radical, went on to acquire the whole building. Its future was not secured until it was bought by the executors of Humphrey Chetham's will in 1665.

The educational charity founded through Chetham's bequest created a school and library, reusing the fifteenth century building. Although many changes have taken place, both continue to honour the intentions of the founder and are testimony to the diligence of generations of feoffees – or governors – who have governed them. The school, then called a hospital, originally educated and cared for forty poor boys, and the library has been, in the words used by Chetham in his will, open to 'schollars and others well affected . . . as a publick librarie' without charge ever since. It had acquired a reputation by 1670 when the Master of Jesus College, Cambridge, described it as 'a fair library of books . . . better than any college library in Cambridge'. Distinguished visitors, of whom the best-known are probably Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, included Celia Fiennes, Daniel Defoe, Robert Southey and John Dalton. It is an important and early example of a town library with an

exceptional collection of books and manuscripts, made the more memorable by the marvellous original furnishings.

For 350 years a combination of good stewardship, parsimony and respect for the ancient building has brought it into the twenty-first century with little change from the time of its erection.

2.0 OBJECTIVE OF THE PROPOSED WORKS

The objective of the proposed works is to enable Chetham's Library, Manchester, of Chetham's Foundation, to continue preserving their fine collection of precious literature. The entire collection at Chetham's Library has even been designated as one of national and international importance. Since the demolition of the Palatine building it has become apparent that the installation of UV-protection is essential.

In total, seventeen UV-protection roller blinds are proposed to be installed to the south and west facing windows within the library. These heavy-duty traditional cap and rack roller blinds are to be supplied and fitted by Sun-X (UK) Ltd. In order to fix the blind to the window, two brass brackets are to be attached to the timber frame at the head of the window. In order to fix the two brass brackets, two wedge-shaped timber fillets are to be attached to the timber frame at the head of the window, to ensure that the blind drops true and straight.

The proposed blind covers are to be manufactured in Roe UV-protection sunscreen material (colour reference: Kensington Palace SV10 – 3006), which is a semi-transparent, dark-coloured material so as not to draw any unnecessary attention to itself. As it's semi-transparent, it will still allow light into the library and will retain the visibility of the original stone mullions behind it.

The proposed works also allow for the removal of the hardboard that covers much of the window soffit panelling to the head of the windows. All of this panelling appears to date from the nineteenth century, as it reports in *The History and Architecture of Chetham's School and Library* that following the adaptations made to the building during the 1650s "the minute books give no indication of substantial alterations and repairs to the building until the nineteenth century" (Hartwell, 2004, p. 91). It is therefore assumed that the window

openings and fenestration were remodelled during the nineteenth century restoration works (Hartwell, 2004, p. 105), though no exact date can be determined. The panelling that surrounds these windows must therefore date from this period at its earliest.

The existing nineteenth century oak soffit panelling is to be repaired using a traditional like-for-like approach using a spliced repair in order to retain as much of the original panelling as possible. Where new oak panelling is to be reinstated it is to match the existing, both in terms of detail and finish.

2.01 CONSULTATIONS

As part of the development phase for the proposed works, a pre-application consultation exercise was carried out with Manchester City Council. Mr Paul Mason (Group Manager of the Urban Design and Conservation Department) of Manchester City Council attended a meeting on Friday 30th August with representatives from Chetham's Library and Kepczyk Pearce Sanderson. The full scope of the proposed works was discussed.

3.0 ACCESS STATEMENT

Chetham's Library, Manchester, is currently visited and used by academics, readers, musicians, both the local and wider community, as well as tourists from all over the world. The proposed works will not affect the physical access to the building but will enhance the quality and usability of the library.

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