

Appendix I - Statutory List Description

Official list entry

Heritage Category: **Listed Building**

Grade: **I**

List Entry Number: **1217800**

Date first listed: **25-Jan-1952**

Date of most recent amendment: **06-Jun-1994**

Statutory Address 1: **JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY AND ATTACHED RAILINGS, GATES AND LAMP STANDARDS`, DEANSGATE**

This List entry helps identify the building designated at this address for its special architectural or historic interest.

Unless the List entry states otherwise, it includes both the structure itself and any object or structure fixed to it (whether inside or outside) as well as any object or structure within the curtilage of the building.

For these purposes, to be included within the curtilage of the building, the object or structure must have formed part of the land since before 1st July 1948.

Understanding list entries (<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/understanding-list-entries/>)

Corrections and minor amendments (<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/minor-amendments/>)

Location

Statutory Address: **JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY AND ATTACHED RAILINGS, GATES AND LAMP STANDARDS`, DEANSGATE**

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

District: **Manchester (Metropolitan Authority)**

Parish: **Non Civil Parish**

National Grid Reference: **SJ 83568 98213**

Details

MANCHESTER

SJ8398SE DEANS_GATE 698-1/27/118 (West side) 25/01/52 John Rylands Library and attached railings, gates and lamp standards (Formerly Listed as: DEANS_GATE Rylands Library)

GV I

Library. 1890-99, by Basil Champneys, for Enriqueta Augustina Rylands in memory of her husband; with back extension 1912, also by Champneys. Red sandstone (roof not visible). Rectangular plan at right-angles to street, plus back extensions. Decorated Gothic style with Arts and Crafts accent. Two unequal storeys with the appearance of 3 storeys, designed like a church raised on a crypt, the facade composed of a 2-storey 3-bay centre (like the gatehouse of a monastery) flanked by square 2-storey 2-bay wings, with an embattled parapet to the whole and large octagonal lanterns over the wings; and, set back behind these, the east window of the reading hall flanked by square towers. The centre has very elaborate Gothic decoration throughout, including a 2-centred arched portal containing coupled doorways with a trumeau, a tall 2-light window each side, 2 small canted oriels above the portal, lacy blind tracery on all surfaces enriched with finely-detailed carving, and open-work arcading in the battlements; and the set-back 3-light east window of the hall has delicate reticulated tracery and shafts carried up to a similar open-work parapet. The walls of the wings and the towers, by contrast, are plain except for string courses enriched with grotesques: the wing to the left has tall transomed staircase windows at 1st floor with staggered sills, and low segmental-headed windows below these, that to the right has tall windows at ground floor and short ones above, and both have octagonal corner turrets with flying buttresses thrown back to the octagonal lanterns. The lanterns have transomed 2-light windows, blind tracery and open-work battlements like those of the centre, and the towers behind them have slender octagonal corner turrets and small 2-light windows above the level of the octagons. Return sides in similar style. Fine bronze forecourt railings with central double gates flanked by lamp standards, all in Art Nouveau style. Interior: very fine vaulted entrance hall and winding vaulted staircase; church-like reading hall with much elaborate decoration, including traceried arcades, rib-vaulted ceiling, panelled reading alcoves with oriel windows, statues of John Rylands and Mrs Rylands, etc. History: built to house the theological library of John Rylands (leading textile manufacturer and philanthropist), subsequently augmented by purchase of other collections, and now one of the finest in the country.

Listing NGR: SJ8356898213

Legacy

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System number: **388101**

Legacy System: **LBS**

Legal

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.



Map

This map is for quick reference purposes only and may not be to scale. This copy shows the entry on 09-Sep-2022 at 11:46:39.

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(<https://historicengland.org.uk/terms/website-terms-conditions/>).

End of official list entry