

Heritage Statement

for

Nicholson Institute

Stockwell Street

Leek

Staffs

Heritage Statement for Listed Building Application for 'Blue Plaque' Scheme at Nicholson Institute, Stockwell Street, Leek, Staffordshire.

Introduction

The Nicholson Institute is situated within the Leek Central Conservation Area and is classified as a Grade II* Listed Building – a copy of the listing is attached within this statement. It sits recessed from the main road, having a cobbled access leading to impressive front steps.

The property was built in the latter part of the 19th Century at the bequest of Joshua Nicholson and comprised of a library, picture galleries, a museum and premises for a School of Art.

Appendix 1 gives further details concerning Joshua Nicholson, his family and his reasons for building the Nicholson Institute.

Appendix 2 is a copy of the official listings page concerning the building itself.

Leek and District Civic Society have assessed this building as being an important part of Leek's built heritage and history and wish to acknowledge the fact that Joshua Nicholson 'gave' the building to the town in 1884.

Discussions have taken place with the Staffordshire Libraries and Arts Service (Fiona Fowler), SMDC Senior Conservation Officer (Gill Bayliss) and Chair of SMDC (Sybil Ralphs).

Proposal

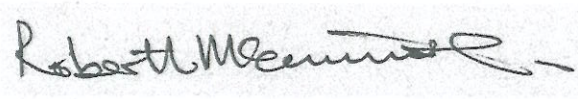
The proposal is to fix a 400mm diameter, 12mm thick resin plaque using a maximum of 2 screw fixings placed within the bed joints between the bricks – its position is shown on Appendix 3, using a photograph of the buildings frontage with the plaque superimposed on it. Also attached as Appendix 4 is a hand drawn elevation of part of the frontage using a photograph taken recently using an overlay sheet.

Appendix 5 shows the plaque to a larger scale with the suggested wording upon it.

The wording of the plaque will be: **'JOSHUA NICHOLSON 1812-1885 Silk Manufacturer gave the Nicholson Institute to the town in 1884'**. This is the agreed wording with Leek and District Civic Society.

Design Issues

The position of the plaque has been assessed given the existing openings and notices on the front elevation - It is felt that the fixing of the plaque in this location will not affect the significance of this listed building.



Robert L McGuinness MRICS

RLM Associates - Chartered Surveyor

7th April 2017

APPENDIX 1.

TITLE: Joshua Nicholosn
PLACING: Nicholson Institute
ADDRESS: Stockwell Street

OWNERSHIP: SCC

STATUS: Listed Grade II, Leek C.A.

REASONS FOR CHOICE

Important building associated with Joshua Nicholson and the Nicholson family

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BACKGROUND

Joshua Nicholson (1812-1885)

Joshua was born in Luddenden Foot in Yorkshire and baptised in the Congregational Chapel at Warley. The Nicholson family moved to Bradford and Joshua was apprenticed to a draper and silk mercer in the city before moving to Huddersfield. As a young man Joshua was interested in politics and passionately supported progressive movements. He married in Huddersfield shortly before coming to Leek in 1837 to work as a representative for J and J Brough, silk manufacturers. Joshua eventually became a partner in the business. While in Leek he was influential in the opening of the Mechanics institute in Russell Street. Throughout his life he was an ardent liberal and a staunch Congregationalist interested in young people and a keen supporter of education for all. Joshua was a great admirer of Richard Cobden, the liberal reformer, who advocated a policy of free trade and an improved education programme. Originally Joshua's philanthropic plans for Leek involved the creation of a Cobden Club but later expanded, leading to the building of the Nicholson Institute, a monument to Cobden, which provided a library, picture galleries, a museum and premises for a School of Art.

SOURCES (original, printed with details of publication date and author)

Census returns
Various newspaper reports
Articles in the Leek Times in 1884
Victoria County History Vol. VII *Leek and the Moorlands.*

SUGGESTED WORDING (maximum 30 words)

JOSHUA NICHOLSON
1812-1885
Silk Manufacturer
gave the Nicholson Institute to the town in 1884

AGREED WORDING

APPENDIX 2

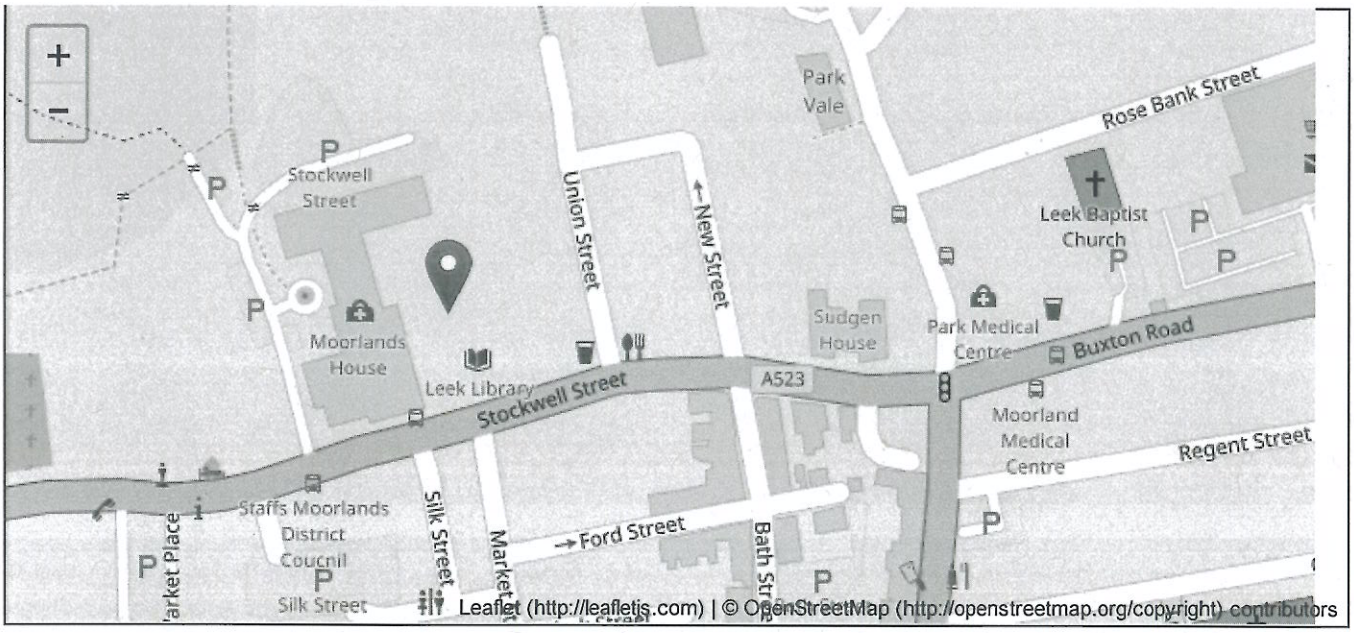
British Listed Buildings (/)

History in Structure

Visiting for the first time since the site upgrade? Read what's new! (/site/what's-new)

Nicholson Institute and Leek College of Further Education

A Grade II* Listed Building in Leek, Staffordshire

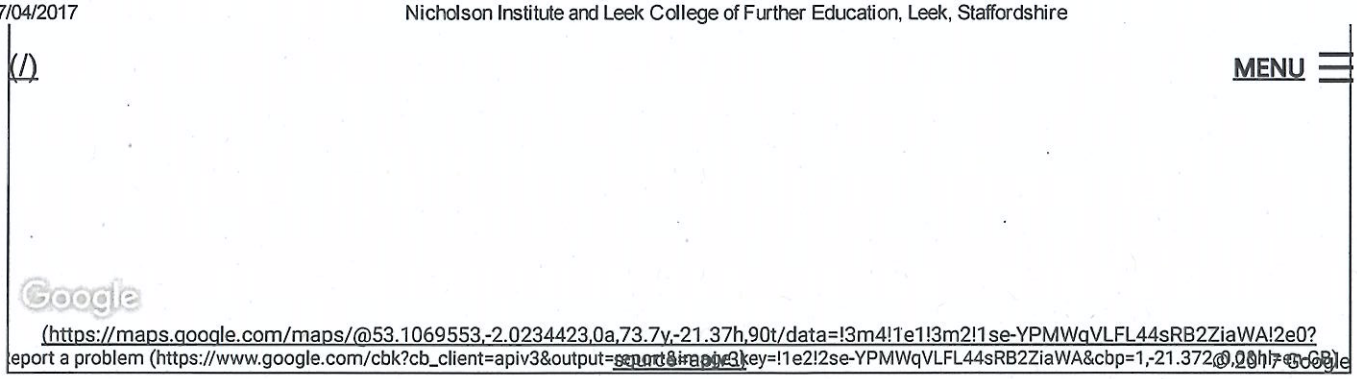


Large Map » (101268544-nicholson-institute-and-leek-college-of-further-education-leek/maps)

22 Stockwell St
Leek, England

Street View (https://www.google.com/maps/@53.10695534956491,-2.0234422882500667,13z?hl=en-GB&gl=US)

View on Google Maps (https://www.google.com/maps/@53.1069553,-2.0234423,0a,73.7y,-21.37h,90t/data=!3m4!1e1!3m2!1se-YPMWqVLFL44sRB2ZiaWA!2e0?source=apiv3)



Contributor Photos » (101268544-nicholson-institute-and-leek-college-of-further-education-leek/photos)

Street View is the best available vantage point looking, if possible, towards the location of the building. In some locations, Street View may not give a view of the actual building, or may not be available at all. Where it is not available, the satellite view is shown instead.

Coordinates

Latitude: 53.1073 / 53°6'26"N
Longitude: -2.0237 / 2°1'25"W
OS Eastings: 398512
OS Northings: 356678
OS Grid: SJ985566
Mapcode National: GBR 24P.C5H
Mapcode Global: WHBCH.W5J6

Entry Name: Nicholson Institute and Leek College of Further Education
Location: Staffordshire Moorlands, Staffordshire, ST13
County: Staffordshire
District: Staffordshire Moorlands
Parish: Leek
Traditional County: Staffordshire
Lieutenancy Area (Ceremonial County): Staffordshire
Listing Date: 7 June 1972
Last Amended: 14 October 1996
Grade: II*
Source: Historic England
English Heritage Legacy ID: 461707
Source ID: 1268544

Listing Text

SJ 9856 NE LEEK STOCKWELL STREET

(/) 611-1/5/133 Nicholson Institute and Leek College of Further Education

07.06.1972

II*

Institute and library. 1882-4. By William Larner Sugden; extended 1899-1900 by W.L. Sugden by addition of the Silk and General Technical School'. Brick (rusticated to ground floor) with stone dressings. Main roof not visible, but copper dome to tower. Renaissance style. EXTERIOR: 2-storeyed with basement, 3-bay front, comprising Dutch gable to left, massive central mullioned and transomed window, and advanced entrance and stair-tower to right. Dutch gable has bow window with stone mullions to ground floor, flanked by square turret-towers built against the gable wall and 2-storeyed in height, surmounted by stone domed roofs. Gable rises above these, with pedimented head. Central 3-tier mullioned and transomed window with low-relief busts in entablature, and inscription plate above with enriched scroll-work and broken pediment below balustrading surmounted by urns. Advanced tower to right, the entrance raised up steps with cast and wrought-iron lamp standards and rail. Renaissance entrance, with round-arched doorway in pedimented case, with fluted composite shafts carrying angled entablature. Tablet at apex of pediment inscribed 'Nicholson Institute'. Pediment cuts into 4-tier mullioned and transomed window with broken pediment over. Stone pilasters in upper stage of tower and central lunette. Copper domed roof and lantern Return elevation has two 3-tier mullioned and transomed windows, and oriel window with Ipswich-style glazing at first floor. Rear wing beyond with 3 full-height round arched recessed with tiered mullioned and transomed windows. Fluted brick chimneys. Adjoining the Institute to rear right, the former Technical College (now Leek College of Further Education). Brick with plain-tiled roof. 2 storeys, 3-window range with central gable. Large mullioned and transomed windows, in round-arched recesses to first floor, segmentally-arched to lower storey. Low-relief plasterwork in tympana. Plain brick pilasters between the windows. Entrance (remodelled) in left-hand bay. INTERIOR of Institute retains many of the original features, including the entrance hall, the main staircase, and the museum and picture gallery in the attic, and studios on the ground floor with north lights; much of the original joinery and plasterwork remains intact. The technical school extension retains main staircase, moulded plaster tympanum with clock over doorway, and moulded brass memorial.

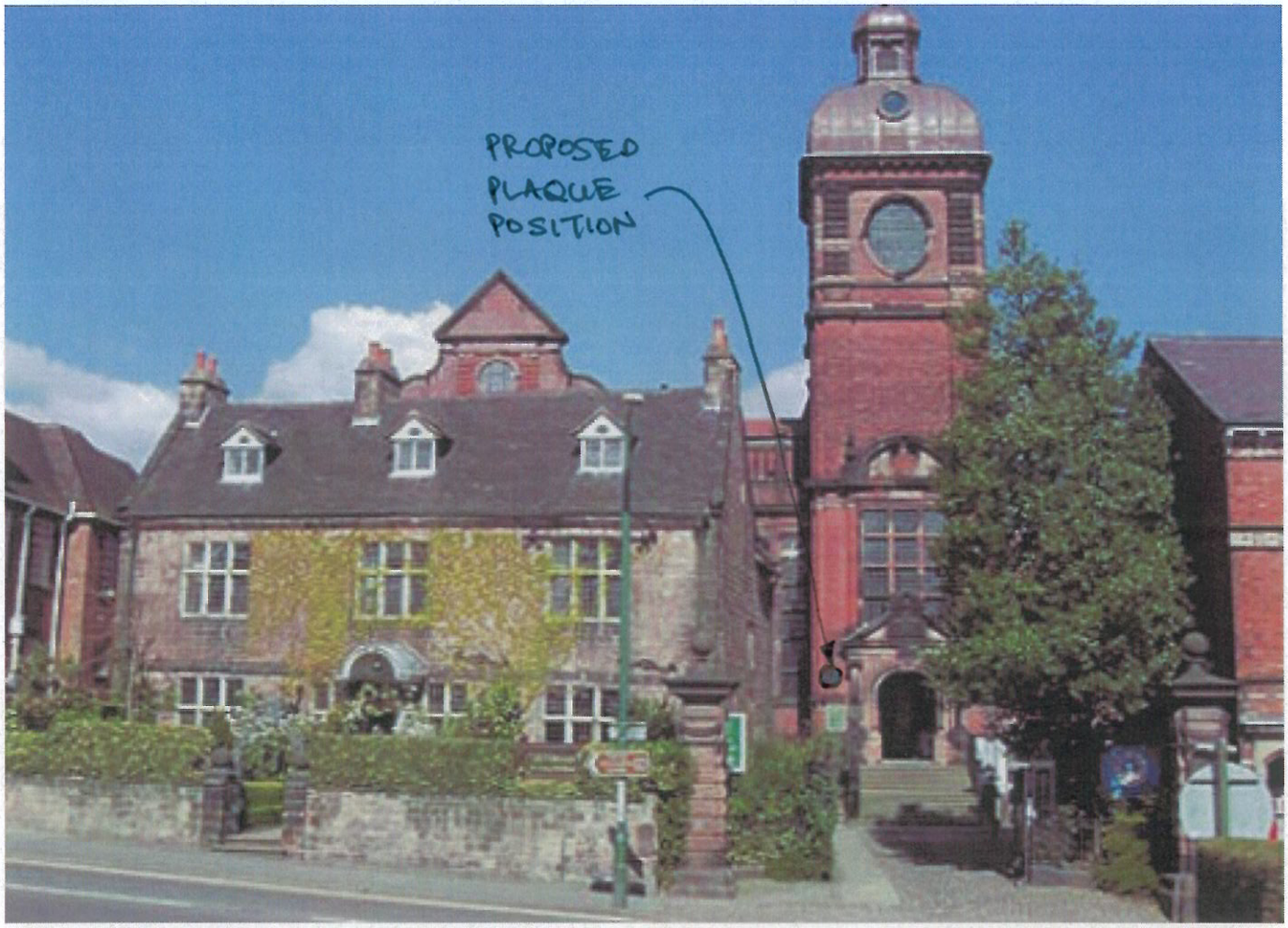
SOURCES: [1] Buildings of England., p.170. [2] Girouard, M., Sweetness and Light, pp.88 and 89.

Listing NGR: SJ9851256678

This text is from the original listing, and may not necessarily reflect the current setting of the building.

Selected Sources

APPENDIX 3



BLUE PLAQUE SCHEME FOR THE NICHOLSON INSTITUTE

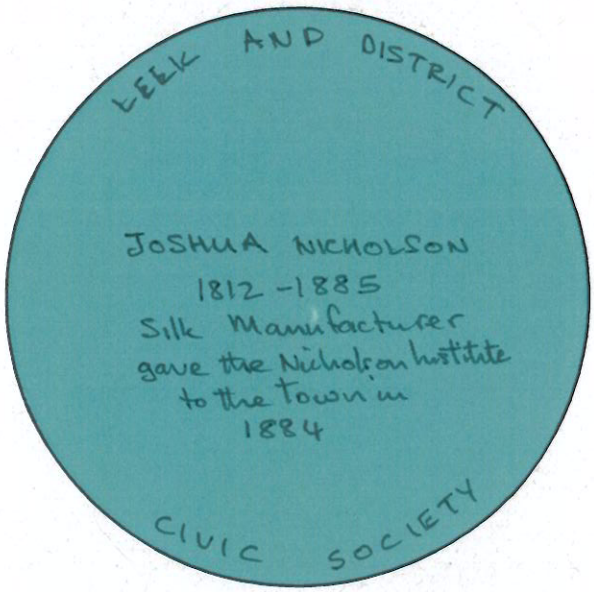
INDICATIVE PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING PLAQUE POSITION.

APPENDIX 4.



NICHOLSON INSTITUTE - PLAQUE LOCATION

APPENDIX 5.



The plaque is 400mm in diameter and made of resin, being 12mm thick - there will be a small stainless steel cable fixing hung from the existing hooks.

Wording around the side shall read 'Leek and District Civic Society' as shown. The main text will read 'JOSHUA NICHOLSON 1812-1885 Silk Manufacturer gave the Nicholson Insitute to the town in 1884' as shown.

Font style to be Blue Plaque K-Type.

DETAILS OF PLAQUE IN CONNECTION WITH NICHOLSON INSTITUTE, LEEK.