

Flockton Walk 1:

Glossop Road to City Centre



William Flockton was the son of a carpenter and builder who established himself as an architect in Sheffield in 1833. He formed a number of companies including Flockton, Lee & Flockton and Flockton & Son. Taking over the company, his son went on to form Flockton & Abbott and Flockton & Gibbs amongst others. A family tree and company timeline is shown below. Some of the buildings were designed primarily by Edward Gibbs, and are included within the Flockton oeuvre.

Between these practices they designed many important buildings in Sheffield including those in Weston Park, multiple churches and the complex of buildings on Mappin Street and Portobello Road for the University of Sheffield.

SSA purchased the Flockton Archive in 2015, a collection of drawings and documents showing the breadth of the architect's work - both in Sheffield and as far afield as Madrid. Whilst some of the buildings have remained in their original use, some of the drawings show buildings that have long been demolished or those which were never actually built. The drawings span a varied range of clients, from single clients who wanted a new house to larger businesses and countywide companies. There are a lot more Flockton buildings than you would think, spread out across Sheffield.

Using the drawings, information from Pevsner's guides and detailed research, an interactive map has been created which can be viewed on the website. It will be updated organically with more information as we go along.

Many of the buildings designed and built by Flockton and his companies are still standing, though many of them have now found different uses than those originally intended. To help publicise the history of these buildings to a wider audience, the SSA have developed some walking tours to allow people to find out more about how these buildings sit in the context of Sheffield and a bit more about their history. This walk focusses on the route from Glossop to the centre of Sheffield.

Family tree

Thomas Flockton (carpenter and builder)
|
William Flockton (1804-1864) (architect from 1833)
|
Thomas James Flockton (1823-1899)
|
Charles Burrows Flockton (1867-1945)

Companies

<i>1833 - 1845</i>	William Flockton	William Flockton
<i>1845 – 1849</i>	Flockton, Lee & Flockton	W. Flockton, W. Lee, T.J. Flockton
<i>1849 – 1864</i>	Flockton & Son	W. Flockton, T.J. Flockton
<i>1862 - 1877</i>	Flockton & Abbott	T.J. Flockton, G. Abbott
<i>1877 – 1895</i>	Flockton & Gibbs	T.J. Flockton, E.M. Gibbs
<i>1895 - 1902</i>	Flockton, Gibbs & Flockton	T.J. Flockton, E.M. Gibbs, C.B. Flockton
<i>1902 - 1908</i>	Gibbs & Flockton	E.M. Gibbs, C.B. Flockton
<i>1908 - 1921</i>	Gibbs, Flockton & Teather	E.M. Gibbs, C.B. Flockton, J.C.A Teather

The notes below provide a little information about each building or collection of buildings noted on the walks; feel free to contact us if you have additional information!

Details correct as of September 2017.

1 Wesley College¹ - Now King Edward VII School

William Flockton 1838

Flockton, Gibbs & Flockton 1899

Gibbs & Flockton 1905

Wesley College was designed by William Flockton as Wesleyan Proprietary Grammar School for the founder Rev. Waddy – pretty impressive as he had only become an architect 5 years before! The principle behind the school was to “supply a generally superior and classical education, combined with religious training in the principles of Methodism”, and it provided direct competition for the local Anglican school (Sheffield Royal Grammar School).

The building was part of a city masterplan that included The Mount (also Flockton) and the General Cemetery which would have been viewable from the main entrance². William Flockton is also buried in the cemetery and has a number of buildings there.

The school opened with 90 boarders, boys only which is surprising for the size of the building. The fees were originally £19 a year (about £1000), so the school would have only been available for the very wealthy.

In 1844, the school became Wesley College, as a college to the University of London.

In 1905 Wesley College combined with the Sheffield Royal Grammar School (SRGS) to become King Edward VII school. The practice worked on alterations to the school in 1899 and a new Methodist church style assembly hall in 1905.

There was originally an open air swimming pool which must have been fun in Sheffield! The new pool was built 1936.

During WWII they built air raid shelters under the close to the front of the school, which they are hoping to refurbish at some point. 2 incendiary bombs actually hit the school, but they were able to be put out. Unfortunately over the 2 wars 200 old students died, and a war memorial commemorates them to the front right of the building.

King Edwards is currently a mixed school with over 1700 students, but girls were only allowed to attend in 1969. The first female teachers were permitted during the First World War due to the lack of male teachers.

The most recent extension to the school was part of Building Schools for the Future in 2010-12 for a new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) building by Sheffield practice HLM. There was nearly a new building along the front of the close along the main road but this was refused by the planning authority as it would block the view of the building. The idea behind the build extensions was to make sure that the front façade would look exactly as it did in 1840 and reverse the damage done by previous extensions in the 1970's. The inverted pilasters of the corners of the front facade are reflected in the proportions of the glazed parts of the building. Some of the stone from demolished parts was used elsewhere and other stone was brought in from the same Hathersage quarry as the original!³ Interestingly the new additions took 2 years to build, which is how long it took to build the original building back in 1838!

¹ <http://kes.sheffield.sch.uk/the-school/history/>

² Harman, R & Minnis, J. (2004) *Pevsner Architectural Guides: Sheffield*. Yale University Press p.251

³ See 'A School for the Future' download at <http://kes.sheffield.sch.uk/the-school/history/>



Mappin Art Gallery – Now part of Weston Park Museum

Flockton & Gibbs 1887

Whilst the building we are looking at is the art gallery, the story of this building actually starts earlier in 1875 when E.M.Gibbs was involved in the conversion of Weston House on this site into Weston Park Museum, to house collections from the Sheffield Literary and Philosophical Society – Historical artefacts and antiquities⁴.

In 1886 Rotherham brewer John Newton Mappin gave a collection of 153 pictures to the city in his will, on the condition that an art gallery was to be provided to display them.

Flockton & Gibbs designed the Mappin Art Gallery, which was constructed at a cost of £15,000 (£900,000 in today's money).

It was thought by Pevsner as an innovative design for the time, a Neo-classical Grecian-Ionic style. The friezes along the top depict the 'Shrine of Knowledge' and the Sheffield trades. It was a cruciform design with the aforementioned paintings in the central gallery so that they were the first things that you saw⁵. It was linked to the other Weston Park Museum buildings.

Between 1934 and 1937 J G Graves funded the demolition and rebuilding of the Weston Park Museum part of the building. Whilst this new annex survived the war, all but the façade and two front galleries to the Mappin were destroyed by a bombing in 1940 and were made safe but left until the 1960's.

A new gallery was built behind the facade in 1961 by Lewis Womersley (who also did Park Hill), but was demolished and re-built when the Museum was redone in 2005. You can see the difference in stone colour behind the front portion of the building⁶.

The whole complex of buildings was renamed Weston Park Museum in 2005 and has about 300,000 visitors a year.

⁴ Harman, R & Minnis, J. (2004) *Pevsner Architectural Guides: Sheffield*. Yale University Press p.286

⁵ Harman, R & Minnis, J. (2004) *Pevsner Architectural Guides: Sheffield*. Yale University Press p.286-287

⁶ www.museums-sheffield.org.uk/museums/weston-park/planning-a-visit/museum-history



Weston Park Gate

E.M.Gibbs 1875

These gates were designed and built as part of the conversion of Weston House.

The ironwork and general layout of the gate was designed by E.M.Gibbs and the panels to the posts were meant to be designed by artist Godfrey Sykes⁷. Sykes trained at the Sheffield School of Art and was a teacher there. His use of terracotta in arcades in the horticultural gardens in London reminiscent of the designs of Raphael + Michelangelo led to the popularity of the material. However Sykes died before it was carried so the panels are terracotta copies of those flanking the windows in the main quadrangle of the South Kensington Museum (now V&A) and were done by an assistant. Sykes is commemorated in another column also in the park⁸.

The gates were stolen in 1994 (each weigh a ton so quite an undertaking!) but were found in 2011 outside a house in Eckington by the blacksmith who had designed replacement ones! The gates had been bought as a job lot of scrap metal by a farmer, who then sold them on to someone building a new house. In order to authenticate the gates, they brought in some craftsmen who had restored the gates in the 1970's and were now over 75 years old. The only reason they were identified was that they spotted some of the shoddy work they had done due to a tiny budget!⁹

⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Godfrey_Sykes

⁸ Harman, R & Minnis, J. (2004) *Pevsner Architectural Guides: Sheffield*. Yale University Press p.287

⁹ www.thestar.co.uk/news/stolen-gates-back-in-park-1-3389505



Firth Court

E.M.Gibbs 1903-05

Prior to the building of Firth Court, Firth College was founded by Mark Firth in 1879, a Sheffield steel manufacturer. It was part of the Cambridge University Extension Movement which aimed to bring university teaching to cities that didn't have a university¹⁰. The original Firth College building is on Leopold Street and the majority of it was also designed by Flockton, and features on another of our walks. They also then funded a new Sheffield Technical School (also on Leopold Street), the second building built for this which we will see later.

The University College of Sheffield was then created in 1897 by amalgamating the three different institutions, Firth College, The Technical School and the Sheffield School of Medicine into one institution¹¹.

Needing a new building to house, they were going to build another site on St George's Square but the site was changed to Western Bank with technical and applied science subjects remaining at St George's Square (number 7 on the tour). Firth Court was then built in a Neo-Tudor style by E.M.Gibbs¹². It's often noted that it has a similar feel to many of the American Ivy League Universities, and E.M.Gibbs did indeed visit these prior to designing Firth Court.

It was opened in the same year the University got its Royal Charter in 1905 and there were 114 full time students. The building housed the arts, sciences and medicine departments as well as a library and administration. The building is 10 floors in total though it's generally seen as only 5 floors as many are below ground¹³.

We quite often think that using old parts of buildings is quite a new thing, however the stair hallway was taken from a house that was on the site and the plaster ceilings in some rooms are 17th Century gifted by the Duke of Norfolk.

The library was added later by Gibbs in 1909 and was a gift from Steelmaker William Edgar Allen. There were a lot of arguments about the design however Gibbs managed to get his way without many alterations which is perhaps a different way of designing than today! There are carved heads of various Sheffield University supporters designed into the ceilings and Gibbs also managed to get his head there too!

Flockton & Gibbs were retained architects of the University until about 1935 which is why there are many of their buildings around this area¹⁴.

Other buildings have been added to the building to join it to modern buildings adjacent. The building next to it Gollins, Melvin, Ward and Partners built in the 60's originally had a black glass façade but it was covered with brick and had a pediment added in the 1990's to make it blend in more to Firth Court.

¹⁰ Harman, R & Minnis, J. (2004) *Pevsner Architectural Guides: Sheffield*. Yale University Press p.78

¹¹ www.sheffield.ac.uk/about/history

¹² Harman, R & Minnis, J. (2004) *Pevsner Architectural Guides: Sheffield*. Yale University Press p.28

¹³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Firth_Court

¹⁴ Harman, R & Minnis, J. (2004) *Pevsner Architectural Guides: Sheffield*. Yale University Press p.78



St Paul's Vicarage – Now University Arms

Flockton & Abbot 1868

St George's Vicarage – Now Learning and Teaching Services

Flockton & Abbot 1874¹⁵

These two vicarages were built for St Paul's Church (which sat on the site that the Peace Gardens is on now and was taken down brick and brick and rebuilt elsewhere) and for St George's Church which is now a lecture theatre and student accommodation. They are both a similar style.

St Paul's Vicarage has only been a pub since 2007, it was previously a private members club for University Staff.

CAMRA attempted to get the building listed in 2016 as it is noted to be demolished on a potential University development masterplan but it was unsuccessful¹⁶, but it has now been noted as an Asset of Community Value which means that it cannot be demolished without planning permission¹⁷.

St George's is currently used as Learning and Teaching Services.

Unfortunately don't know much about these buildings.

¹⁵ Harman, R & Minnis, J. (2004) *Pevsner Architectural Guides: Sheffield*. Yale University Press p.85

¹⁶ www.thestar.co.uk/news/council-rejects-campaigners-plan-to-protect-pub-on-university-of-sheffield-campus-1-8153901

¹⁷ <https://hhbs.org.uk/2017/06/24/reprieve-for-university-arms-aka-club-197/>



Glossop Road Baths – Now Stone & Taps / Hui Wei / Spa 1877

E.M.Gibbs 1877

Gibbs & Flockton 1906

There are two buildings adjacent to each other here, the Glossop Road Baths to the right and a Bank to the left.

The original Glossop Road baths were built in 1936 in the aftermath of the cholera epidemic of 1832 in which over 400 people died after bathing in the polluted River Don. The monument to this can be found behind the station¹⁸.

The Sheffield Bath Company bought the baths in 1875 when bathing was changing from medical to recreational and re-built most of the building to E.M.Gibbs's design including a Turkish baths described as 'the finest in the kingdom', with marble benches and detailed mosaics.

There were a number of pools and changing facilities for 1st and 2nd class in addition to the Turkish baths. The 1st class bath was covered in the winter and turned into a ballroom.

Some of the main façade was re-built by Arthur Nunweek with details by E.M.Gibbs in 1910 in Baroque Wrennaissance Style when they altered one of the pools¹⁹. The Victoria street entrance has one of the first known carved versions of the city coat of arms as it had only recently been decreed a city.

The Baths were closed in the 1990's and there were protests in the council chambers with people wearing towels and blowing bubbles. Most of the building was altered to a pub with accommodation over which can be seen above the pediment.

The Turkish baths portion of the building was refurbished in 2003 as Spa 1877. By this point it was in disrepair so they had to replace 15,000 of the glazed bricks and replicate the mosaic from photos²⁰. Unfortunately there was still Gibbs' copyright on the mosaic pattern so they had to alter it slightly.

This is probably the only building on the tour you can walk into and experience something close to the interior without an arranged event.

The second building down the road was built later for Birmingham District & Counties Banking Co by Gibbs and Flockton in a free classical style²¹. There was a bank to the left and three shops to the right – only hint of the previous use is a cash point. Unfortunately the repetition in the shop units has been broken up, but you can still see the division between the two parts.

¹⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossop_Road_Baths

¹⁹ Harman, R & Minnis, J. (2004) *Pevsner Architectural Guides: Sheffield*. Yale University Press p.129

²⁰ www.spa1877.com/about-us/history

²¹ Harman, R & Minnis, J. (2004) *Pevsner Architectural Guides: Sheffield*. Yale University Press p.129



Sir Frederick Mappin Building / Technical School / Amy Johnson Building / Mining Department²²

This group of buildings is currently being refurbished as a new 'heartspace'²³ area is being constructed between the Mappin Building and the Technical School Building.

Technical School – Now Central Building

Flockton & Gibbs 1885-6

The Sheffield Technical School (1885-6) was the product of local concern about the need for better technical training of the men responsible for running the great industries of Sheffield, particularly steelmaking, so that Sheffield could keep up with the industrial revolution.

The school was originally housed in the Leopold Street buildings, moved to the old grammar school building on the site and then that was demolished to make this purpose built building - the oldest purpose built university building still in use. The building is still used for similar subjects, including engineering. The building is a Neo-Georgian style, with elements reflected in the other buildings in varied degrees of finesse.

There were varied courses including cow-keeping, railway economics, mining and razor-grinding.

Mappin Building

Flockton & Gibbs 1902-13

This building is named after Sir Frederick Mappin who was the youngest ever Master Cutler, business man, champion of both the technical school and the university, and its first pro-chancellor.

The Sheffield Grammar School was originally on this location on Mappin Street but was demolished when it was combined with Wesley College providing space for the Mappin Building to be built.

It's built in Renaissance style²⁴ – similar to the technical building but more elaborate. You can see lion's heads with festoons in their mouths at the top of the pilasters on the front facade.

Pevsner noted that the red brick influences a lot of the newer architecture around the buildings, in varying degrees of success.

Mining Department Building

E.M.Gibbs 1926

This is a similar style to the technical school but with less detail. Note the 'bridge of sighs' style bridge that connects it to the rest of the complex. The building was extended between 1951-7 by others.

²² Harman, R & Minnis, J. (2004) *Pevsner Architectural Guides: Sheffield*. Yale University Press p.86-87

²³ www.sheffield.ac.uk/efm/estatesdevelopment/projects/heartspace

²⁴ Harman, R & Minnis, J. (2004) *Pevsner Architectural Guides: Sheffield*. Yale University Press p.28

Amy Johnson Building

E.M.Gibbs 1928

This building is named after the aviator Amy Johnson, and a sculpture of her Tiger Moth plane sits in the lobby.

Again this building is a similar style to the technical school. You can see the same style air vents in all of the E.M.Gibbs / Flockton university buildings.



Mt. Zion Congregational Church – Now Guinness Northern Counties

William Flockton 1834

This building is the wildcard of the route, as it's slightly dubious as to whether it's by William Flockton or not but Pevsner believes it is²⁵. The original façade in a classical revival style is the only part that now survives.

The church was closed in 1922 and sold to Sheffield Royal Hospital, which surrounded the site and became the out-patient department for many years.

The hospital buildings and rear of the building was demolished in 1981 with a new building added behind in 1985²⁶.



The Sheffield Waterworks Company – Now Lloyds

Flockton & Abbott 1867

This building was built as offices for Sheffield Waterworks Company (est. 1830) and is now a Weatherspoon's (Lloyds) Public House.

It is designed in the Palazzo style which is very rare in Sheffield²⁷. Each arch has a carved keystone of a water god – see it you can identify them all!

The corporation took over the water company in 1888 and it moved to Castle Market. The building was then used by Sheffield Transport Department, the National Union of Mineworkers and the Graves Mail Order Company.

Interesting aside, Barkers Pool is so named as it was an artificial reservoir in the 1600's that washed water along drains on the streets every few months to clean the area²⁸.

²⁵ Harman, R & Minnis, J. (2004) *Pevsner Architectural Guides: Sheffield*. Yale University Press p.127

²⁶ <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/0ec12db8-3cf5-4ad8-832e-03fa7113e4d9>

²⁷ Harman, R & Minnis, J. (2004) *Pevsner Architectural Guides: Sheffield*. Yale University Press p.123

²⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barker%27s_Pool

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Cambridge Hotel – Now demolished

Flockton & Son 1936

This is the only building on this tour that doesn't exist anymore.

Standing on the City Hall side of Barker's Pool; look ahead at John Lewis. The hotel would have sat where the right hand side of John Lewis is, next to the Albert Hall (also by E.M.Gibbs or Flockton and Abbott and used as the Gaumont Cinema) that was gutted by fire 1937. If you stand under the overhang of the John Lewis building on the Cambridge St you would be standing in the bar area.

The pub was originally called The Yellow Lion but was renamed when the street was renamed to Cambridge Street.

The pub and the remains of the Albert Hall were demolished in the 1960's as an intended location for the new Sheffield Law Courts but the plan was scrapped and the Cole Brother's (John Lewis) building was built in 1963 instead.

11

Laycock House

Flockton & Gibbs 1896

Make sure you approach the building from the back to see the full effect.

It was developed as 5 'better class dwellings' of 3 storeys on top of 2 storeys of shops. Flockton & Gibbs designed it but E.M.Gibbs was one of the site's owners alongside Mr Laycock²⁹.

Externally the rear of the building has not changed that much, however 1970's developments of the shops have changed them – something that La Biblioteka (one of the proprietors) is trying to restore.

Thankfully it's looking like at the moment this building will not be demolished as part of the developments of the new retail quarter.

²⁹ Harman, R & Minnis, J. (2004) *Pevsner Architectural Guides: Sheffield*. Yale University Press p.97

12 Palatine Chambers

Flockton & Gibbs 1895

This building was designed to match but maintain a distinct identity from the building to the left which was built earlier by different architects³⁰. It is related to Laycock House in that Mr Laycock and Gibbs were both owners.

Whilst Palatine Chambers was built at the same time of Laycock House, it has been badly damaged by internal and external alterations and new shopfronts in the 1970's. If you look round the back of the building you can see the insensitive alterations.

The rear of the building held the stabling facilities for the Stagecoach Tram Company and you can still see the ramped coach access and horse stables.

It's likely that the Sheffield Retail Quarter developments will retain the façade of this building but demolish the bits behind.

13 Channing Hall

Flockton & Gibbs 1881-2

Channing Hall was paid for by the congregation of the Unitarian Chapel (next tour stop) and cost £7,000 (£330,000 in today's money). It was named after Unitarian minister Dr William Ellery Channing who served at the chapel in 1875³¹ and is connected to the chapel at the rear with an ornate spiral staircase.

The exterior and interior are Italianate palazzo in style and the walls lined with glazed bricks like the Turkish Spa completed around the same time.

14 Upper Chapel Interior

Alterations by E.M.Gibbs 1882 – 1907

This chapel is Sheffield's oldest Nonconformist chapel and originally it had a congregation of 1000, which was approximately 1/6th of the population of Sheffield!

The original chapel was opened in 1700 and then remodelled in 1847 to change its orientation, raise the roof and change the interior. You can still see some of the original side walls of the chapel in the current building³².

E.M.Gibbs did the new pews, vestry, organ console and an elevated pulpit between 1882-1907³³.

The chapel is open on Wednesdays for people to look around.

³⁰ Harman, R & Minnis, J. (2004) *Pevsner Architectural Guides: Sheffield*. Yale University Press p.97

³¹ Harman, R & Minnis, J. (2004) *Pevsner Architectural Guides: Sheffield*. Yale University Press p.107

³² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upper_Chapel

³³ Harman, R & Minnis, J. (2004) *Pevsner Architectural Guides: Sheffield*. Yale University Press p.105

Sheffield and Hallamshire Savings Bank – Now The Head of Steam

Flockton & Son 1858

Pevsner described this building this as one of the most accomplished pieces of mid-C19 classical revival in Sheffield³⁴. It was noted at the time as ‘one of the first buildings in the town centre with any pretension of elegance’. Flockton and Son won the design by competition.

Despite the grand feel of the building, the idea of the bank was to provide savings for working people whose savings were too small to be accepted by other banks³⁵. It started off as mainly steelworkers, but by 1850 there were also artisans and female servants opening accounts. At the time most banks trustees were from the aristocracy but this one had trustees from professionals and merchants. The Duke of Norfolk was a patron³⁶.

The bank started in Cutlers Hall as a philanthropic venture in 1819 but grew larger and needed a new premises which was built here. The building was extended to the rear in 1973 by Mansell Jenkinson & Partners and only the façade remains intact.

The bank itself merged with TSB in 1976.

The practice later built another branch for the bank on the Wicker, which is now a church.

We hope you’ve enjoyed your tour, we’ve ended at this building (which is now The Head of Steam Public House) so you can have a well-earned drink!

³⁴ Harman, R & Minnis, J. (2004) *Pevsner Architectural Guides: Sheffield*. Yale University Press p.104

³⁵ Harman, R & Minnis, J. (2004) *Pevsner Architectural Guides: Sheffield*. Yale University Press p.105

³⁶ www.lloydsbankinggroup.com/Our-Group/our-heritage/our-history/tsb/sheffield-savings-bank/