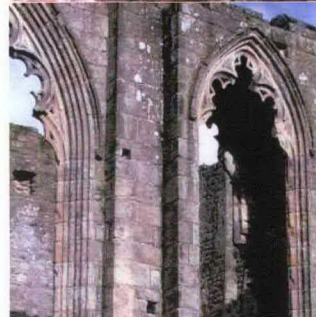
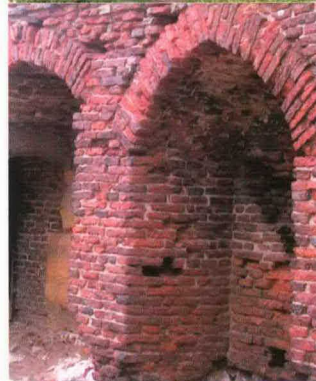
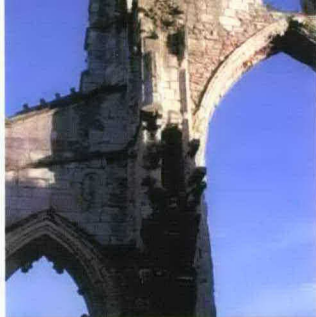


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# HEWORTH CROFT

YORK

## HISTORIC BUILDINGS ASSESSMENT

REPORT

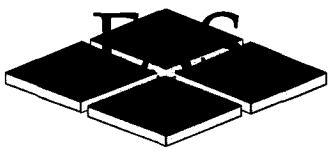
REVISED FEBRUARY 2004



**HISTORIC BUILDINGS ASSESSMENT**  
**HEWORTH CROFT**  
**YORK**

SITE CODE: YHC01  
NGR: SE 6102 5261

**REPORT**  
Revised February 2004



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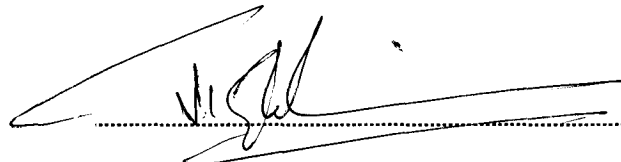
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## Summary

An historic buildings assessment of Heworth Croft in York (NGR SE 6102 5261) was undertaken by the Historic Buildings Section of Field Archaeologist Specialists Ltd, on behalf of Mike Griffiths and Associates for Bellway Homes. The site contained the main building of Heworth Croft and associated outbuildings, including the Coach House and Stables, and the wider garden landscape with formal walled garden and summerhouse. A combination of photographic recording and written description was carried out on 3rd April 2003 in order to highlight any features of architectural or historical importance.

The assessment revealed that Heworth Croft represents two phases of development. Significant evidence for an earlier late Georgian structure has been retained within the service wing and external Coach House. This original structure was largely replaced in the 1840s to reflect similar regeneration elsewhere in Heworth Green, and the present building is an important example of early Victorian Italiante architecture, with much of the original layout and internal fixtures still visible. However, the building was also subject to late Victorian intervention, particularly with the gradual formalisation of the gardens within its extensive grounds.

## Acknowledgements

Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd would like to thank the students and staff of York St Johns College for their assistance and cooperation during this project.



## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document reports on an historic buildings assessment of Heworth Croft, York, carried out by the Historic Buildings Section of Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd on behalf of Mike Griffiths and Associates for Bellway Homes. The fieldwork was carried out on the 3rd April 2003.

### 1.1 LOCATION AND LAND USE

The site (NGR SE 6102 5261) is located along Heworth Green, to the northeast of York and outside the historic city walls (Figure 1). The site is defined by Heworth Green to the south and the River Foss to the north, while the east and west extremes are bounded by modern developments. The main house, coach house and stable building are located to the south of the site, with the formal gardens and summerhouse to the north. The main building and neighbouring coach house are currently listed together at Grade II. The summerhouse is listed separately and is also Grade II. In addition, the property is located between two Areas of Archaeological Importance, with the city to the southwest and a small area adjoining the site to the northeast. It is also situated within a Conservation Area.

Heworth Croft currently forms part of the Heworth Croft Campus of York St Johns College and is presently occupied by the Department of Physical Education and Science.

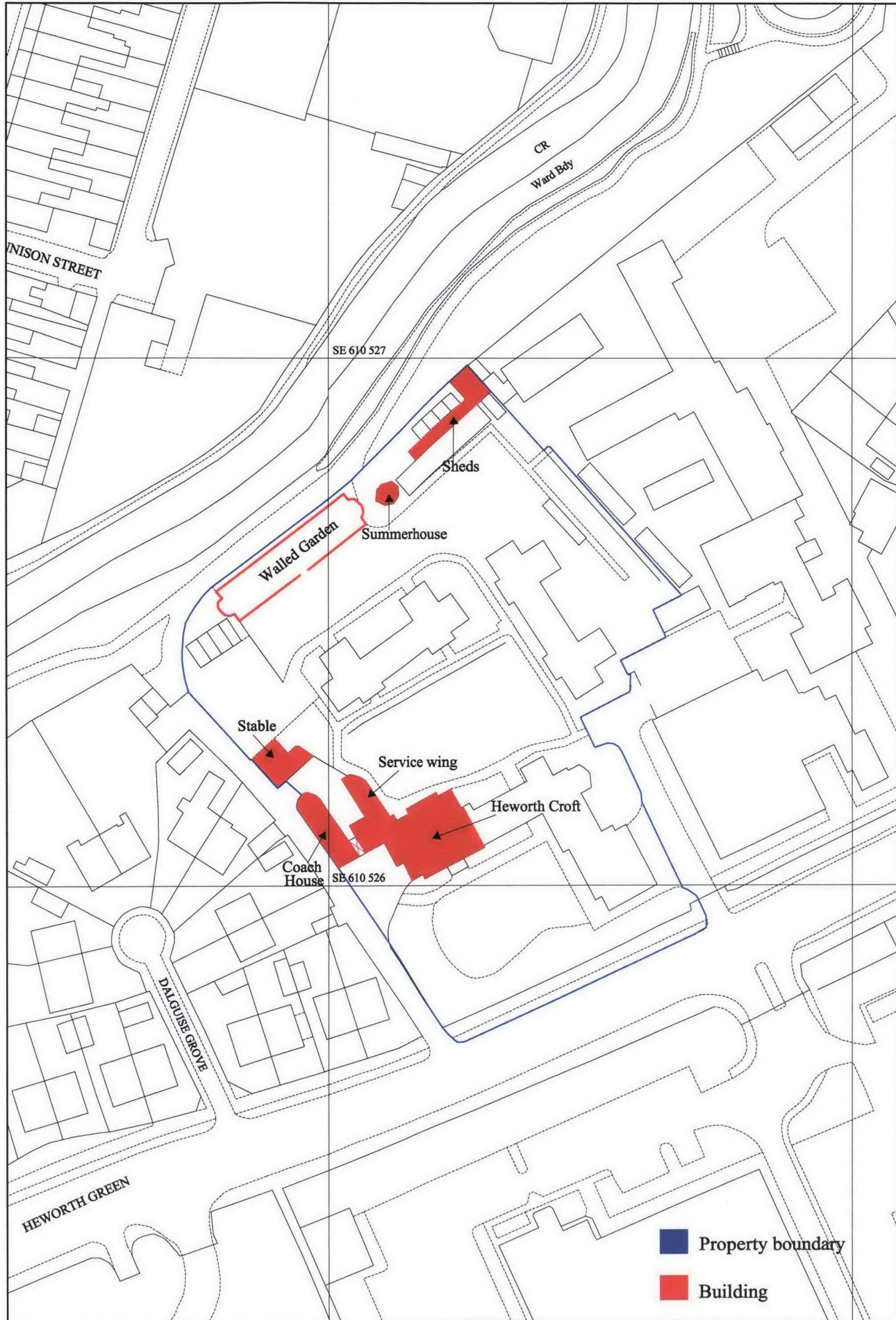
### 1.2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The buildings appraisal was carried out in conjunction with an archaeological evaluation of the campus site. The aim of the assessment was to identify any significant architectural features which reflect the original form and function of the building, and to trace the subsequent historical development of the site; assess the significance of the buildings and garden and make recommendations regarding any future development.

### 1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The name 'Heworth' originates in the Anglo-Saxon period meaning 'high enclosure'. The first documentary reference is found in the Domesday book when the settlement was held by Orm, descendent of the Earls of Northumberland (Webster-Appleton 1999, 1). During the Roman period, Heworth was largely uninhabited, becoming bisected by the main road which extended northeast from the fortress gateway at Monkbar (RCHME 1972, 1). In line with Roman tradition, the area became a cemetery, cremations being found on the site as early as 1878 (*ibid*, 70). This activity continued into the 5th and 6th centuries.

Throughout the medieval period, Heworth remained a rural enclave outside the city walls, taking the name 'Heworth Moor'. The area was used for little more than pasture, holding occasional assemblies or military parades, and thus it remained until the Enclosure Act of 1822 (Webster-Appleton 1999, 2). However, there is some evidence to suggest that building was taking place before this date. Henry Batty, for example, sold his newly-built dwelling, with a stable, to Solomen Wilkinson in 1779 (*ibid*, 11). Of particular note was the Dawson family who owned a large amount of property in the area from the early 18th century (*ibid*, 10).



■ Property boundary  
 ■ Building

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Location map

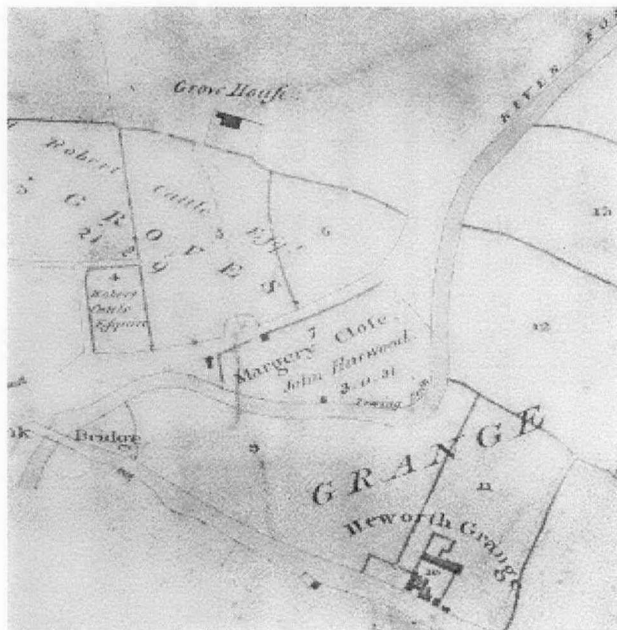
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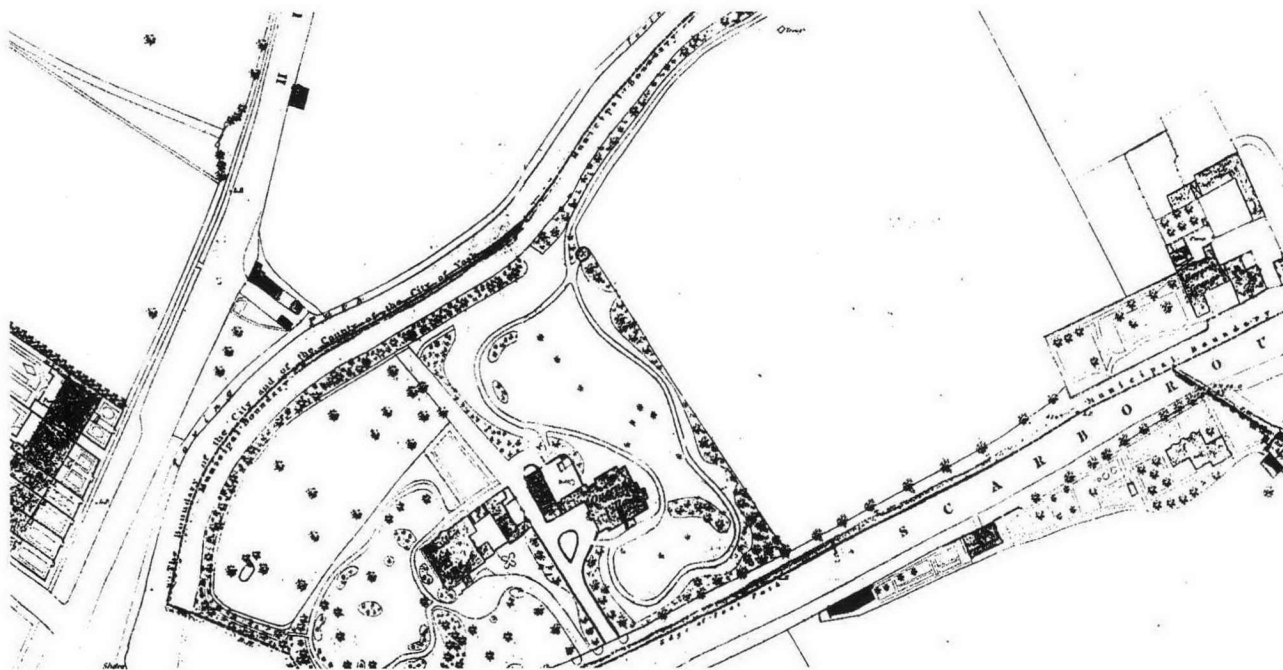
Figure 1



The 1822 map associated with the Enclosure Act shows no building on the site at this time; however the act itself details the number of inhabitants who were occupying land within the newly enclosed area, and it is evident that a few notable families were already constructing large comfortable accommodation at Heworth (Plate 1). Many of the large villas which dominated the area in 1852 were constructed after the Enclosure Act was passed in 1822 (Plate 2). By the mid-19th century, Heworth Green alone included not only Heworth Croft, but also Crown Cottage and Heworth Grange along its boundaries. Development in the area continued to escalate throughout the century, with 'New Villa' appearing in the area in 1891. Lower-status housing was also undergoing a transformation, with both Park Place and Grove Terrace being demolished during the intervening years, to be replaced by uniform Victorian terraces.



**Plate 1** 1822 Enclosure map



**Plate 2** 1852 OS map

The present building of Heworth Croft can also be associated with this period of new development. Although labelled 'Queen's Villa' on the 1852 OS map and 'Heworth Croft' on the 1891 version, it is apparent from the plan that they represent the same building. A directory for 1843 also refers to 'Queen's Villa', but this may relate to an earlier house known to have existed on the same site (RCHME 1975, 77). Robert Cooper's map of 1832 depicts a large building at Heworth Croft. The absence of such a structure on the 1822 map suggests that it post-dates the Enclosure; however, the physical evidence shows that the present structure is a later replacement. This is reinforced by the documentary evidence; an advertisement in the Yorkshire Gazette for 1854 states that John Acaster, Vicar of St Helen's, Stonegate, built a house on the site after leasing the land from the Crown in 1842 (*ibid*, 77; Webster-Appleton 1999, 16).

The house he built appears to have changed little since its construction in the 1840s. In 1852, it is described as having 'dining rooms, drawing rooms and a kitchen', with 'five best lodging rooms, dressing rooms and servants accommodation' above (Webster-Appleton 1999, 16). Also of note is the description of stables, coach house and piggeries, beyond which were pleasure grounds, garden and a plantation (*ibid*, 17). From the map evidence, it is clear that the coach house already formed part of this complex, marking the western boundary of an enclosed yard (Plate 2). The stables were probably located within the coach house itself, while the subsidiary buildings located in the yard's northern corner on the 1852 map can be identified with the suggested piggeries. The summerhouse, to the far north of the grounds, was already a formal feature of the pleasure gardens.

By 1891, the house had assumed the name Heworth Croft. It had also acquired a number of new outbuildings to the north. The OS map shows that the enclosed yard had been opened up to make room for extensions to the service wing (the present laundry) (Plate 3). The gateway had also been moved with the addition of a separate stable block which encroached upon the gardens to the north. While the encompassing pleasure grounds had changed little within view of the house, the summerhouse now formed a boundary between the apparent wilderness of the gardens and the functional formality of the plantations. New sheds were built to the northeast, concealed by a high brick wall. To the south, formal beds were planted and a small greenhouse constructed, reflecting Victorian advances in glass technology.

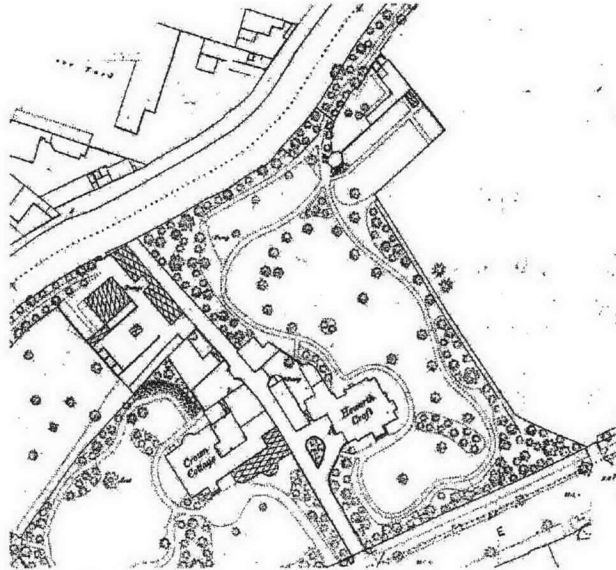


Plate 3 1891 OS map

By 1909, the surge of Victorian building appears to have eased (Plate 4). However, the early 20th century did have an impact on the gardens at Heworth Croft. Between 1909 and 1931 the gardens were formalised, removing much of the openness of the earlier landscape (Plate 5). Part of this scheme is still visible on the

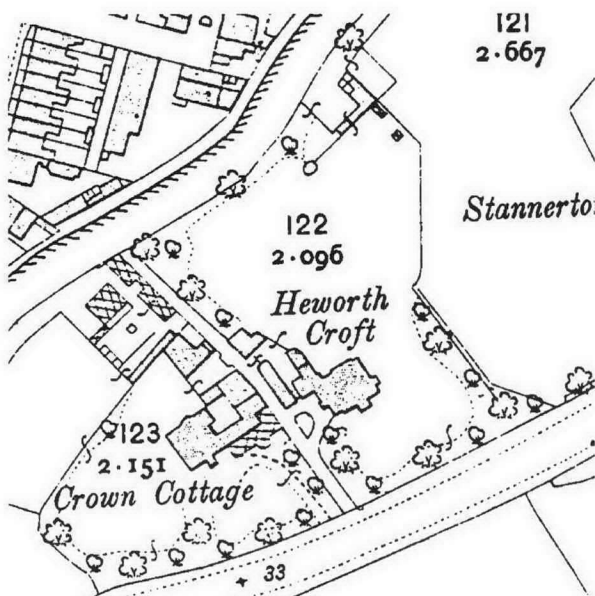


Plate 4 1909 OS map



Plate 5 1931 OS map

present site, including the walled garden located along its northern boundary.

Subsequent development of the site is associated with the acquisition of the building by York St Johns College in the 1930s. The house was converted into a hostel for College residents, and remained in use until the 1950s when it assumed its current role as the Department of Physical Education and Science. Both the extension to the east and the ancillary building to the north represent late 20th century additions.

## 2.0 FIELDWORK PROCEDURE

A visit to the site was undertaken on the 3rd April 2003 in order to make observations and carry out internal and external photographic recording. Due to the continued use of the building by the College, some areas were inaccessible during the site visit. Written notes were made where possible, forming a descriptive and interpretative record of the building. Digital photography was also employed to illustrate any significant architectural features and dateable fixtures and fittings for the purpose of this report.

## 3.0 FIELDWORK DESCRIPTION

### 3.1 HEWORTH CROFT

#### 3.1.1 External description

Originally known as 'Queen's Villa', Heworth Croft belongs in the main to the 1840s and is depicted on the Ordnance Survey map for 1852. However, Robert Cooper's map of 1832 suggests that an earlier structure existed on the site, evidence of which may be revealed within the present structure. As already described, an advertisement in the Yorkshire Gazette dating to 1854 states that John Acaster, then Vicar of St Helen's, Stonegate, built a house upon land leased from the Crown in 1842 (RCHME 1975, 77). However, the architectural evidence suggests that work did not start on the house immediately, being stylistically dateable to the later 1840s. This concurs with suggestion that an earlier building existed on the site.

The main building is of two storeys, with additional attic space and basement. The fabric is of pale yellow brick in Flemish bond with a Welsh slate roof (Plate 6). Two chimneys flank the centre of the building, with a third at the rear to the west. A low brick plinth encircles the building, while at eaves level is a decorative timber modillioned cornice. This ornament is repeated on the gable pediments, which also reveal evidence for a domestic attic storey. Each elevation is further defined by flanking corner pilasters of brick, with stone bases and capitals which support a projecting floor band at attic level.



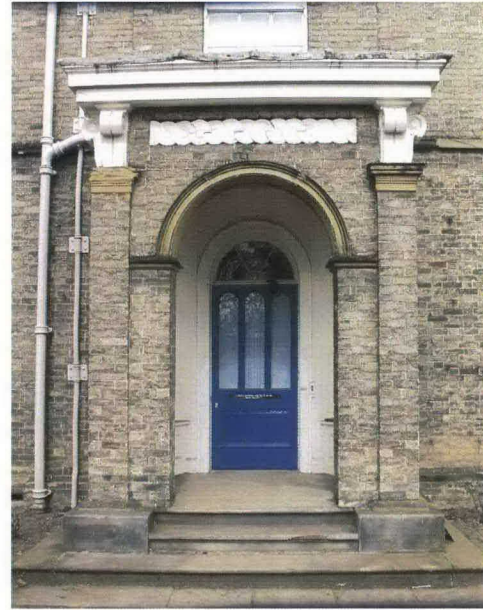
**Plate 6** South facade

The approach to the house is located along Heworth Green to the south, leading to the ornamented south facade.

The facade displays the fashionable Italiante architecture of the early Victorian period, and is symmetrically divided into three equal bays with flanking corner pilasters. The elevation has an additional horizontal division, with the brick plinth and attic floor band being supplemented by a simple stone band at first-floor level. Above this are two stone panels (below the first-floor windows) which emphasise the piano nobile; a Classical convention denoting the main floor of the house. The flanking bays each contain a single 6-over-6 (12 pane) hung sash window at ground-floor level, which is repeated on the first floor. Each window is framed by a rubbed and gauged flat brick arch.

The central bay projects forward slightly and also contains a single hung sash at first-floor level. Below this is an ornate entrance porch with flanking brick pilasters, whose moulded stone tops are surmounted by timber scroll-carved capitals, upon which sits a plain timber cornice. A moulded stucco band below is framed between the cornice and a large central arch with stone impost; the arch mirrors the door itself, which is housed within the original arched architrave with a divided fanlight (Plate 7). To the east and west, the porch is pierced by elliptical hung sashes under brick arches.

The west elevation is less regimented in its classical emphasis, which may reflect the piecemeal replacement of an earlier building (Plate 8). The main elevation is of two bays and is divided horizontally into three distinct areas. The attic is defined by a modillioned pediment and contains a large triple hung sash under a segmental arch. Below this, the area is symmetrically divided by two openings under flat brick arches; while that to the north presents a 6-over-6 hung sash, the opening to the south is blind. The ground floor represents a single-storey extension with a 3-over-6 pane hung sash under a flat brick arch. Situated to the north is the west entrance porch, which is a copy of that on the front facade. However, it is apparent that this represents a secondary entrance with no decorative frieze. The porch retains its original fittings including a letter box and night bell.



**Plate 7** South porch



**Plate 8** West elevation

To the north of the elevation is an additional stair turret which provides access to the service quarters. This continues the decorative scheme, enhanced by corner pilasters and a timber modillioned cornice, but is also embellished with a dentilated brick floor band at attic level. Below this, the west elevation is lit by a single hung sash window under a round brick arch lintel.

The service wing projects to the west of this elevation and continues north, beyond the main house. The south facade contains a single large opening at first-floor level, with a flat brick arch lintel. The window represents an early 20th century replacement. At ground-floor level are three blind recesses. Located to the west of this elevation is a first-floor walkway which leads into the Coach House. This takes the form of an arched brick

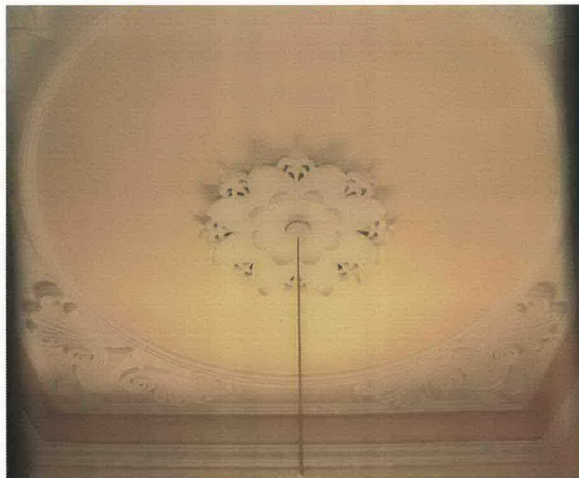
alleyway decorated by a triple arched opening above. This provides a physical link between two distinct phases of construction. The alleyway itself is defined by Georgian brickwork on both sides, distinguished by precise red bricks laid in English Garden Wall bond. This brickwork continues onto the north elevation, but has been replaced at first-floor level by the later yellow brickwork of the Victorian building. The continuation of the wing to the north represents a later addition which appears on the 1891 map (Plate 3).

Any evidence of a similar wing to the east of the house has been destroyed by the modern 20th century extension. However, the map evidence suggests that this area originally formed open ground.

### 3.1.2 Internal description

The internal analysis of Heworth Croft was carried out where possible, with access to some rooms being denied due to the building's continued use as a college. However, it is apparent that many of the original 1840s features have survived.

The main south entry leads through an original front door which retains its early Victorian double-leaf shutters. The small entrance lobby is highly decorative with original skirting and cornice, complimented by the ornate moulded plaster ceiling and central rose, stylistically contemporary with the construction of the house (Plate 9). This decorative emphasis is continued into the large arch which leads into the house proper. This has a moulded plaster ceiling of panel design, and includes an alcove to the west, embellished with scallop decoration. It is probable that this originally contained a porter's bench.



**Plate 9** Entrance lobby

The first space to be encountered upon entering the house is a large central stairwell which provides access to the rest of the house. As such, it was highly decorated; the room retains its original high skirting and deeply moulded ceiling cornice with two ornate plaster ceiling roses. Also surviving from the early Victorian period is the open tread staircase with elaborate cast iron balusters (Plate 10). The stair is lit at half-landing by a single arched hung sash with original furniture.



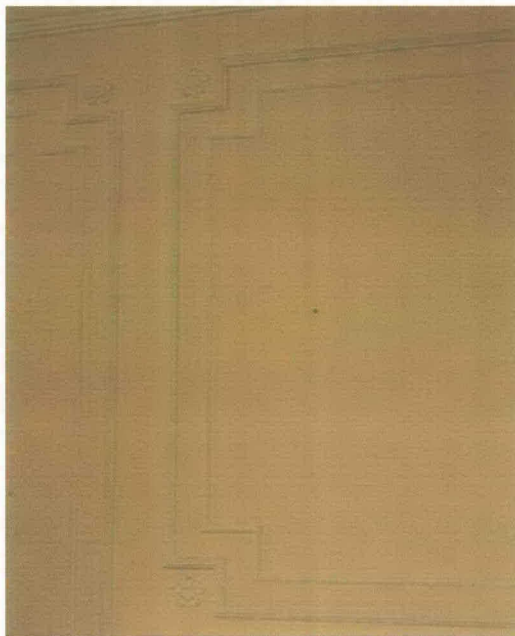
**Plate 10** Cast iron balusters

In addition to the west entrance lobby, discussed below, two large rooms are accessed directly from this central hall.

That to the east is the most ornate within the house, and probably represents the main drawing room. This room is lit by a single hung sash to the south which retains its 1840s panelled embrasure, descending to the floor. The room itself has decorative plaster wall mouldings which take the form of large panels with rosette detailing

(Plate 11). This moulded decoration continues onto the ceiling cornice. Also of note in this room is the large 3-centred arch in the east wall, which currently leads into the 20th century extension. It is apparent from the skirting that this has been enlarged to the north, but is yet an original feature of the building. The map evidence refutes the existence of further structures in this area and it is probable, therefore, that this arch represents the remains of a large bay window.

The second room radiating from the central hall is located to the west of the entrance lobby. This room retains its original four-panel door and surrounding architrave. It is lit by a single hung sash window to the south which retains an 1840s panelled embrasure with carved detailing. Also of note is the early Victorian cornice, dado rail and skirting, which respect the



**Plate 11** Moulded plaster wall decoration

arched recess in the west wall. While this mirrors the situation in the east room, the single-storey extension to the west refutes the possibility of a bay window in this position. This is further reinforced by the map evidence, which shows the extension existing from as early as 1852.

Access to the extension itself was limited to the entrance lobby and stairwell. The original panelled doors and architrave survive, although breaks in the skirting reveals that the door in the north wall has been moved.

The rooms to the north are accessed via a four centred-archway, located opposite the entrance lobby. Access to the west was denied, but it is apparent that this partition represents a later division. To the east is the dining room, which is lit by two 6-over-6 hung sashes in the north wall, both retaining their panelled embrasures. The fireplace to the west has been lost, and an 1840s dado rail and skirting pieced in. Its function as a dining room is indicated by the arched buffet recess located in the east wall (Plate 12). This retains its 1840s moulded plaster decoration and would originally have contained a serving board.



**Plate 12** Dining room with buffet recess

A further room located at ground-floor level is the kitchen. Presently, this room can be entered only from an external door to the rear of the property. The kitchen contains a significant amount of evidence from the earlier, late Georgian, building on the site. Two chamfered beams running east-west transect the ceiling, with stops at each end denoting the room's original size. Within the west elevation is a centrally-placed cast iron range typical of the early Victorian period and made locally in York (Plate 13). However, this is contained within an earlier late Georgian fireplace. Also from the earlier phase is the panelled cupboard located next to the fireplace and the 8-over-8 hung sash window in the northern elevation. However, the doors and architraves are contemporary with the 1840s alteration.

The first floor is accessed from the central stair, the service wing being provided with its own staircase to the west. The first-floor hallway mirrors the arrangement below, with two large rooms and a lobby accessed directly, while a large arch to the north leads to another large room to the rear. However, it lacks the ornate decoration maintained on the ground floor, retaining only its original cornice.

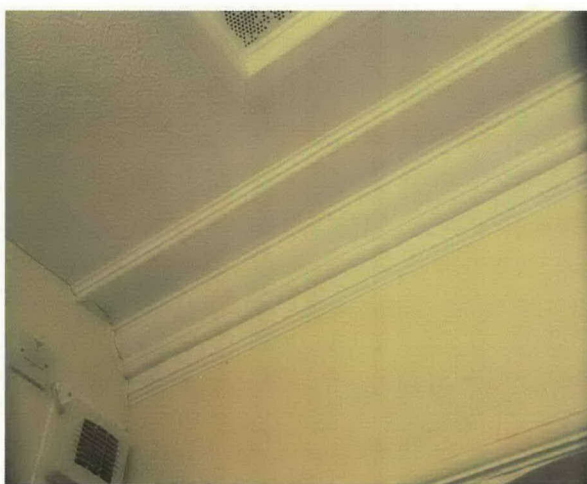
The room to the east has been heavily subdivided, its original size being denoted by the 1840s ceiling cornice. Its cast iron fireplace in the west wall is a late Victorian insertion. It is likely that this room was a principle bedchamber, with access to a large dressing room to the west. This adjoining room has also been subdivided, but retains its original ceiling cornice throughout. The late Victorian addition of skirting and a picture rail, with embossed wallpaper above, suggests that the subdivision of this room occurred at a contemporary date (Plate 14). The original room had a corner cupboard, still present, within the chimney breast to provide heated storage. It was also lit by a large 6-over-9 pane hung sash in the south wall.

To the west is a less substantial bedchamber. This room was also heavily altered in the late Victorian period, when the present skirting, dado rail and cornice were introduced. Also of this late date is the cast iron fireplace with tiled surround (Plate 15). Of the original 1840s fixtures only the window, with panelled embrasures, and four panel door and architrave remain.

Access to the north was confined to the east end. This area is divided into one large room with a smaller room to the east. The larger of the two retains its 1840s entry, including the door and architrave, ceiling cornice and picture rail. Also of this date are the two 6-over-6 pane hung sashes with panelled architraves. The skirting and fireplace are late Victorian interventions. The skirting has been broken through along the east wall to provide access to the northern room. Originally, this room was entered from the corridor through a door situated in the southern wall, as indicted by the break in the 1840s skirting, but this has since been blocked and the architrave moved to the west elevation. Also of note is the Edwardian stained glass housed within the lower panes of the hung sash.



**Plate 13** Early Victorian range



**Plate 14** Late Victorian cornice and embossed wallpaper



**Plate 15** Late Victorian fireplace

The first floor of the Georgian service wing is only accessible from its ground floor. It is divided into an 'L'-shaped corridor, housed within the external turret, and two large reception rooms. That to the west has been subdivided to provide a late 20th century bathroom, but the late Georgian plaster cornice defines its original dimensions. A blocked doorway in the west wall relates to the first-floor walkway into the coach house, visible in the external elevation.



**Plate 16** Late Georgian cornice

The late Georgian evidence continues into the corridor, which displays a plaster ceiling cornice similar to that found in the main rooms (Plate 16). The eastern room also displays remains of a late Georgian skirting with a contemporary fireplace in the east wall (Plate 17). These rooms, in conjunction with the kitchen below, represent the surviving remains of the earlier 'Queen's Villa' building.



**Plate 17** Late Georgian fireplace

The staircase up to second-floor level is a replacement of the 1920s, as demonstrated by an offset in the west wall intended to support joists for the attic floor. The probable position of the original stair was to the east, in place of the present cupboard. There are three rooms located at second-floor level. Each retains its original 1840s door and architrave, but all have been heavily remodelled in the late Victorian period. To the south, the bathroom contains ornate 1920s fittings, but is otherwise modern. No other features of interest remain.

## 3.2 THE COACH HOUSE

### 3.2.1 External description

Adjoining the main house to the west is a two-storey building aligned north-south. It is predominantly of fine red brick construction in English garden wall bond, with a slate roof. However, the south facade was been replaced in the 1840s in order to unite the building with the main house (Plate 18). This elevation employs the contrasting yellow brick, laid in Flemish bond. The gable pediment is decorated with a timber modillioned cornice and is pierced by a single brick oculus, thus uniting it with the wider Italiante architectural scheme.



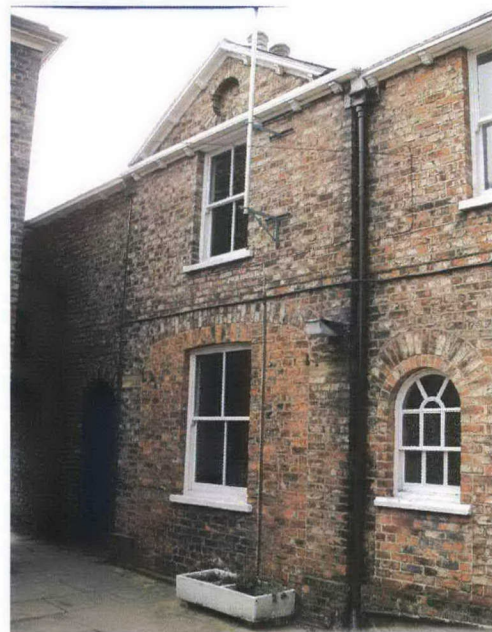
**Plate 18** Refacing on Coach House

The facade is further defined by flanking corner pilasters with stone bases and capitals, in imitation of the main house. The large window at first-floor level is a later replacement, while the garage doors below have extended the original arched doorway.

The west elevation is of red brick construction, with a brick plinth. The ground floor contains a single door to the north, and a further three openings to the west. The first has since been blocked, whilst the other two contain early 20th century fenestration with stone lintels. Above these are three openings, only one of which remains open. All openings are framed under segmental brick arches.

The north elevation is curved with red brick below and timber above. A single stone gate post has been built into the brick construction. The 1852 map shows only a curved wall in this position, therefore, the timber superstructure represents an extension to the building and is probably dated to the mid-20th century.

The east elevation contains the main diagnostic features of the Coach House (Plate 19). The elevation is of three bays, with the central bay projecting westward slightly. Although it is of late Georgian red brick construction, it repeats the classical emphasis with a modillioned eaves cornice, continued into the pediment of the central bay. This bay contains a single window at first-floor level which is repeated below, but contained within an earlier four-centred brick arch with stone imposts. Flanking this bay are two doorways under round brick arches. Only that to the south retains its original function, that to the north having been converted into a window. There is no opening to the south at first-floor level due to the proximity of the main house. However, to the north is a single pane hung sash typical of the late 19th to early 20th century.



**Plate 19** West elevation of Coach House

The 1852 description of Heworth Croft makes reference to the existence of stables, piggeries, a cow house and coach house (Webster-Appleton 1999, 17). The blocked archway described above, confirms the use of the building as a coach house, as detailed in the listing description. Before the extension of the service wing to the north, there was adequate room for the movement of vehicles within the courtyard. This also provided a convenient means for making deliveries to the house. The 1852 map evidence supports this conclusion, showing a walled yard to the east with access from the north.

### 3.2.2 Internal description

Much of the original internal evidence has been lost due to the building's conversion into domestic space. This probably occurred in the late Victorian period, as highlighted by the single pane hung sashes in the east elevation. Internally, this is also seen in the ground-floor living room, which contains a Victorian fireplace with flanking wall cupboards. The rest of the building has been heavily modernised during the late 20th century.

### 3.3 THE STABLE

#### 3.3.1 External description

The Stable is a two-storey structure located to the north of the Coach House. Although it continues the red brick construction of the late Georgian service wing and outbuildings, the map evidence suggests that it is a later addition dating to between 1852 and 1891. Thus the stables referred to in the 1852 description were probably located within the Coach House itself.

The architectural simplicity of this two-storey structure reflects its role as a utilitarian building. The south elevation provides access to the main stable block and office to the east, via simple boarded doors under brick arches. Between them is a small window with 20th century fenestration. A further window opening is located at first-floor level, providing light to the main stable block. Also of note in this elevation is the stone gatepost which is embedded in the brickwork. This corresponds to a similar feature on the Coach House, suggesting that the gateway is contemporary with the Stable building.

The west elevation is pierced by two openings, both located at first-floor level. Below these are a series of joist holes which suggest a further extension to the west; this, however, is not confirmed by the map evidence. To the north of the building is a single opening located at ground-floor level. This opening represents an original feature and is typical of livestock housing, with vertical wooden slats providing ventilation. These are often referred to as 'hit and miss' windows and become obsolete in the late 19th century (Winder 1908, 67).

#### 3.3.2 Internal description

Internally, the building is divided into two rooms at ground-floor level. To the east is a small office which, although heavily modernised, contains an late Georgian cast iron fireplace (Plate 20). As this pre-dates the building itself, it is possible that it was retained when the earlier house was destroyed. There is no direct access from this office into the Stable proper.

The Stable itself retains much of its original fittings and fixtures, which are consistent with a late 19th century date (Plate 21). Three stalls remain with timber slat divisions and moulded segmental heads. The floor also retains its original late 19th century tiles. In the southeast corner is a simple wooden stair providing access to the first floor. This room is open to the roof and lit by low



**Plate 20** Reused late Georgian fireplace in stable office



**Plate 21** Internal fittings in stable

windows, as described above. Of particular note is the original collar and rafter roof structure, with additional iron supports. More recently, the roof has been replaced with modern rafters over the original trusses.

### 3.4 THE FORMAL GARDEN AND SUMMERHOUSE

To the north of the main house lie the remains of the formal gardens and outbuildings. The map evidence suggests that the earliest of these features is the octagonal summerhouse situated to the north of the main house. This first appears on the 1852 map, representing the only architectural feature within the garden landscape, and it appears to have changed little since this date.

Despite being badly damaged and largely concealed by unregulated vegetation, the building still stands to its full height. The summerhouse is octagonal in plan, with a pilaster strip at each corner, echoing the classical detailing on the main house. The structure is predominantly of red brick construction, laid in English Garden Wall bond. However, contrasting yellow brick detailing has been employed on the arched openings and surrounding frieze (Plate 22). These openings take the form of simple single-light windows under 2-centred arches. The door, situated in the west elevation, has a round-headed arch lintel also defined by yellow brickwork.



**Plate 22** Yellow brick detailing on summerhouse

The architectural unity of the summerhouse and main residence suggest that it is of a contemporary date (c.1840s). This is reinforced by the use of yellow brick detailing which, despite its listing description, is not a later alteration ([www.imagesofengland.org.uk](http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk), accessed 4/04/03).

Running east from the rear of the summerhouse is a high brick wall lined with brick outbuildings. These reveal little of architectural interest, but can be dated to between 1852 and 1891. A boiler, situated to the rear of the summerhouse, was probably associated with a row of greenhouses which appear on the 1931 OS map (Plate 5).

Prior to 1909, Heworth Croft was encompassed by open ground and irregular winding paths. By 1931 much of this informality had been lost, and the present walled garden had been added at the northern extreme. This feature is defined by a low red brick wall with symmetrical curved ends (Plate 23). The random bond and concrete capping reinforces its late date.



**Plate 23** Formal walled garden

Also of particular note is the large quantity of medieval architectural fragments which litter the site, particularly within the walled garden and beside the summerhouse.

## 4.0 ASSESSMENT

The Heworth Croft buildings represents an important example of the changing architectural fashions of the early Victorian period. It is apparent that a large villa already stood on the site when it was acquired by John Acaster in 1842 (RCHME 1975, 77). From the standing remains found in the service wing and Coach House, it appears that this earlier structure was a substantial building which reflected the architectural emphasis of the late Georgian period. The fine red brick construction and pilaster detailing of the Coach House are consistent with the classical revival of this period. There is also a transition internally with the move to simplified plaster cornicing and utilitarian, hob-grate fireplaces (Plates 16 & 17). While initial investigation suggested that many of these features were of a late 18th century date, this does not conform with the map evidence which suggests a time scale of only *c.*20 years between the construction of each. There are two possible reasons for this conflict; the late Georgian features represent re-use of materials from elsewhere, or the map evidence is misleading. The former suggestion is unlikely due to the abundance of early features with some too fragile to have been re-used.

However, the earlier building was evidently not to the taste of the new owner who had the structure demolished and the present villa erected in its place in the 1840s. While parts of the service wing and Coach House were retained, he had the latter refaced to preserve a unified front facade. Much of the original layout of the 1840s structure can still be seen in the present building. The emphasis on comfortable living and ornate embellishment of the early Victorian period, is demonstrated by the large rooms on the ground floor. Of particular note is the ceiling roses of the grand central stair and plaster wall mouldings of the drawing room. Comfortable living is also reflected in the abundance of dwellings above, with large bedchambers on the first floor and spacious domestic accommodation in the attic.

While the house itself adequately reflected the status of its changing owners, the expansion of outbuildings during the late 19th century suggests a greater emphasis on the service area. The construction of the new Stable was probably contemporary with the conversion of the Coach House into residential space to accommodate an expanding workforce. At the same time the service wing was extended, removing the walled enclosure. Taking into account the extensive redecoration of much of the house, this expansion may have also coincided with new ownership and late Victorian ideals.

The surrounding garden underwent a more gradual transformation. The open pleasure grounds of the mid-19th century experienced a piecemeal transition towards the formality of the Edwardians. The summerhouse came to mark the transition between recreation and function with the introduction of greenhouses and kitchen gardens to the east, while a formal walled garden appeared to the north. Much of the garden has been lost in the latest transformation of the site as part of the present College, this is in contrast to the house itself, which has retained much of its historical significance.

The building of Heworth Croft has local significance as a surviving example of the early Victorian period of Heworth Green. This is enhanced by the surviving elements of an earlier building on site, in both the service area and Coach House, and are associated with an important period in the development of the local area. The Stable and Summerhouse add significance to the site as part of its group value, preserving the wider landscape of the 19th century. While the walled garden is a later feature of the inter-war period, it represents an interesting transition from the informality of the Victorian landscape.



## 5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Much of the original 1840s building has survived, particularly in the form of internal decoration and fittings and fixtures throughout the main house and the Stables. Allowances should be made for the preservation of these fabrics and any late Georgian remains outlined in this report in any future development of the site. The significance of the site will be enhanced by the retention of the buildings, including Heworth Croft (Grade II), the Coach House and the Stables, as well as their wider landscape with formal walled garden and Summerhouse (Grade II) which add group value to the site. In addition, the site would be greatly enhanced by the removal of later extensions to the building, particularly to the east gable end. Should such a scheme be carried out, any original features affected by their initial construction, such as blocked windows or doorways, should be reinstated.



## **References**

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**APPENDIX A: LISTING DESCRIPTION FOR HEWORTH CROFT**

(www.imagesofengland.org.uk, accessed 01/05/03)

Location : HEWORTH GREEN, YORK, NORTH YORKSHIRE, SE6152NW

Date listed : 24 JUN 1983

Date of last amendment : 24 JUN 1983

No.19 Heworth Croft and attached coach house (College of Ripon and York St John)

Grade II

House, now part of college. c1842, altered and extended C20. White brick with some stone dressings. Slate roof.

STYLE: Italianate.

EXTERIOR: symmetrical, of 2 storeys and 3 bays, with corner pilasters of brick with stone caps and bases, a central bay which projects slightly, a moulded stone storey band, and projecting timber modillioned eaves. The windows are glazing bar sashes with rubbed brick flat arches. The 1st floor windows have stone panels below their sills. The single-storey porch has corner pilasters, and corner brackets below a painted stone or stucco cornice. The outer doorway has a round arch with moulded impost, and the inner doorway has a round head with fanlight and a door with 3 round-headed glazed panels. 2 chimneys near centre of ridge. The eaves project at the gables to form modillioned timber pediments. At the right (east) there are C20 additions. Towards the rear at the left the main block is connected to a north-west wing by a low tower with a pyramidal roof. Adjoining to the west is a 2-storey former coach-house. On the ground floor it has a C20 garage door, on the 1st floor a wide casement window, and within the modillioned gable pediment a bull's-eye window.

INTERIOR: not inspected.



**APPENDIX B: LISTING DESCRIPTION FOR SUMMERHOUSE**

([www.imagesofengland.org.uk](http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk), accessed 01/05/03)

Location : HEWORTH GREEN, YORK, NORTH YORKSHIRE, SE6152NW

Date listed : 14 MAR 1997

Date of last amendment : 14 MAR 1997

Summerhouse approximately 60 metres north of No.19 Heworth Croft  
Grade II

Summerhouse, now used as boiler-house. Early C19, remodelled c1842 when Heworth Croft was built. Orange brick in English garden-wall bond with slate roof and external brick stack.

**EXTERIOR:** 1 storey, octagonal on plan, with pilaster strip at each angle. Entrance through glazed and panelled double doors with traceried heads in 2-centred arch of white brick. In each flanking bay there is a window of 2 trefoiled lights with stone sill in 2-centred opening with arch of white brick. In the next bay there is a round-arched radial glazed sash window in plain brick arch. At rear, on each side of added stack, are single pointed lights with traceried heads. Building encircled by white brick band beneath embattled parapet to octagonal roof.

**INTERIOR:** timber ceiling supported on timber post. Fireplace may survive behind later stove.

