


South Yorkshire Local Heritage List

Working for Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham & Sheffield

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Barnsley Mining and Technical College

Status

Candidate (work in progress)

A newly recorded asset requiring checking and enhancement before adjudication

Location/Address

Barnsley College Church Street Campus,
Church Street,
Barnsley
S70 2AN

Type

Building

Roofed and walled permanent structures.

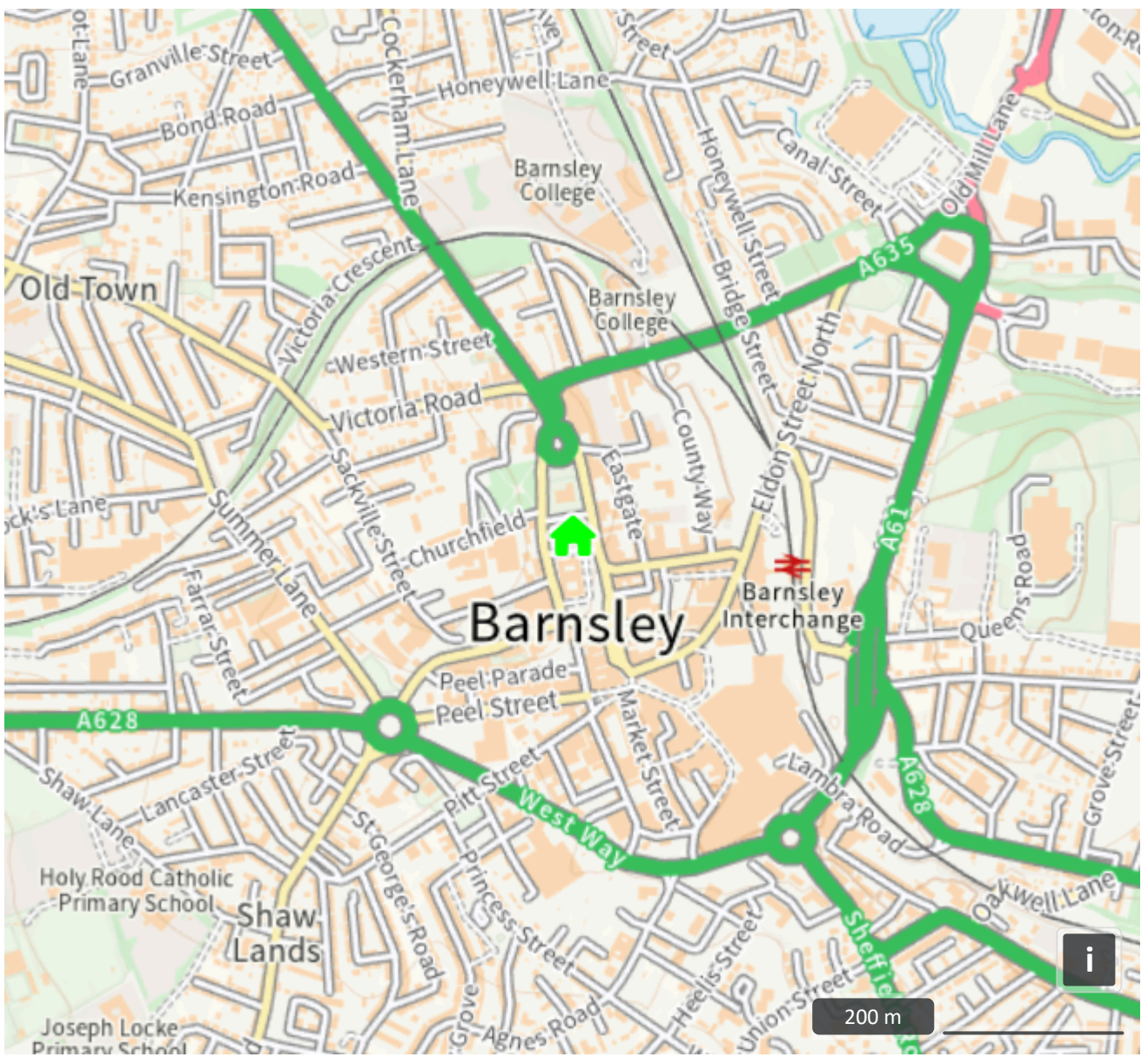
Description

Three storey building, with basement, forming a quadrangle, described by Pevsner as of a Classical Re-revival style. The basement level is lit by a continuous light well around the building, bounded by an ornamental iron railing. The building was designed by Briggs and Thornley who were also the architects of the adjacent Town Hall and are well known for the design of the Palace of Stormont in Northern Ireland. The college is predominantly constructed of red brick with large areas of

Portland stone forming grand Corinthian-style pilasters supporting a decorative entablature. There are three impressive elevations with gauged brick arches over the windows and finely detailed Portland stone scroll consoles.

The building originally opened in 1932 as the Barnsley Mining and Technical College, latterly Barnsley Technical College and part of Huddersfield University, and now part of Barnsley College, which provides tertiary education in education and commercial sectors. Its construction derives from the Government Inspection Act 1850, which identified the "urgent need to foster and establish mining institutes" to find a "solution to the unique problems arising from the mining of coal"; in 1911 the Coal Mines Regulation Act stated that all miners should have the opportunity to gain relevant qualifications. In response, the first mining and technical school in Barnsley was formed under the School Board with classes held in the Harvey Institute (Barnsley Civic) on Eldon Street and various other buildings across town. This provision was evidently deemed insufficient, and a new purpose built college was in the offing by 1924 when the Miner's Welfare Fund offered a grant of £15000, although construction was delayed until 1929 due to the depression and higher than expected construction costs. Two commemorative foundation stones were laid on 31st July 1930; one by Alderman Herbert Smith JP, President of the Yorkshire Mineworkers Association, and another by Alderman Lieutenant Colonel William Easley Daley OBE, JP, MA, Chairman of the Barnsley Education Committee since 1902. The building was completed in 1932, eventually costing £79,660, with furniture and equipment costing £26,000. As the mining industry became more regulated and professional the College trained and equipped Barnsley's miners with the skills needed.

Map



Statement of Significance

Asset type

Building

Age

Constructed 1929-1932.

Rarity

Rare, and well preserved, example of a mining technical college for the local area.

Architectural and Artistic Interest

Large and impressive building by prestigious architects Briggs and Thornley. It has a distinctive Classical Re-revival style, with Georgian and Beaux Arts influences, expressed across its three fronts.

Group Value

The college building forms part of a group of well designed civic buildings in the heart of Barnsley, including the Town Hall, which was also designed by architects

Briggs and Thornley. The road to the south of the collage, Sadler Gate, was named after the family of Sir Michael Sadler, a famous educationalist and art collector who spoke at the college opening event.

A wider group value recognises the development of Mining and Technical Colleges in other nearby coalfield towns around the same time, including Dinnington's Chelmsford Mining and Technical Institute in 1928 and Castleford's Whitwood Mining and Technical College in 1930 (the latter since demolished).

Historic Interest

The building derives historical interest from its origins as a mining college, reflecting the importance of this industry for the region; its social history in respect of its long service in education; and its role in establishing a new civic identify within the centre of Barnsley.

Landmark Status

The Mining and Technical College is a prominent and well-known landmark in Barnsley, reflecting the historical importance and value of mining for surrounding communities.

Images and Documents

  Photo



Sadler Gate elevation

  Photo



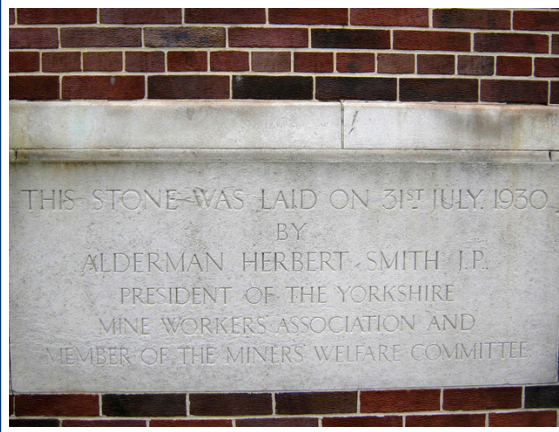
Church Street main entrance

  Photo

  Photo



Corner of Church Street and Sadler Gate



The foundation stone laid by Alderman Herbert Smith JP President of Yorkshire Mineworkers Association and member of the Miners Welfare Committee

Added

03 Jan 2024, 12:42

Last updated

23 Apr 2024, 22:18

Recorded on behalf of

Barnsley Civic Trust

External/HER references

Record Id	Comment	Use as API link?		
DSY4642	Updated via the HER API.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Comments and Feedback

Do you have any questions or more information about this record?