

5013

Brooksby's Walk, E9

TQ 3583 20/700

Old Library Building

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1912-13 by Edwin Cooper, a gift of Andrew Carnegie. Portland Stone. Imposing and large scale classical front consisting mainly of a full height roman Doric pedimented portico with a triglyph frieze havinf discs in metopes, mutuled cornices and two tall columns in antis. There are narrow side bays of two storeys with angle pilasters; the frieze motifs are continued above these bays in a simplified form and are echoed in the window surrounds. Bronze geometrical glazing. A tall parapet crowns all and is broken forward in the centre with inscription: HOMERTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Interior has two small halls, one behind the other, the front one always of two storeys, the rear one recently ceiled. These have barrelled roofs supported by curved cast iron braces, pierced in the centre to reduce weight and riveted to plates inserted in brick side walls and resting on brick internal pilasters. From these braces are suspended the plaster ceilings. Inset in the ceilings are large oblong curved lights with leaded glazing and bayleaf patterned raised borders. There are oval ventilating grilles in similar borders along the side walls. The back room has a wood railed first floor gallery. Roman style decoration is consistent throughout and of good quality; and the roof construction is interesting structurally.