

## High Royds Hospital



Bradford Road, Menston, LS19

### **Why is it important?**

The former High Royds Hospital is a Grade II listed building built in 1884-88 with C20 alterations. The building was built by Vickers Edwards and the contractors Whitaker Bros. (Horsforth), for The West Riding County Asylum Board. High Royds Hospital was one of the four West Riding County Asylums of the period. It is important in the pioneering use of the echelon plan, for it was only the second lunatic asylum in England to be built to this design. The use of the echelon plan meant that all wards could have south-facing views and that the different types of patients would be entirely separated. At High Royds one side of the hospital catered for men, the other for women, wards for the sick and infirm were in the centre for ease of nursing, epileptics were to the sides where 'they could be least disruptive', and incurable patients were at the rear. The hospital was completely isolated when it was built, and it functions as a virtually self-sufficient community.

### **Building Description**

The building is constructed using rock-faced stone with ashlar dressings and Westmorland slate roofs. It is 2 and 3 storeys with single-storey linking corridors. The Echelon plan, having long corridors projecting at an obtuse angle to either side of the central administration block upon which wards range outwards. The central administration block is fronted by the entrance range; behind this is the former ballroom; and beyond that the service blocks. The wards face the front and are progressively stepped outwards (so they all receive maximum light). Internally the good quality contemporary decor survives. The Administration block has panelled board room with egg and dart dentilled cornice compartmented ceiling. The stone Tudor-arched fireplace remains with coloured glass windows with painted bird roundels and decorative cornices. The main corridor has decorative terrazzo floor with floral motifs and borders and Burmantoft tiles to walls and to elliptical arches with decorative-tiles piers and surrounds.

### **Current State**

The hospital site is being developed as part of a housing estate and the building that have been completed to date appear to be done to a high standard from the outside. I was unable to get close to the building as it was all cordoned off to prevent access.

### **Current Owner**

The building is currently owned by Gladedale.

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/1444801@N25/pool/tags/highroyds>

