

Hunslet Mill and Victoria Works Complex



Goodman Street, Hunslet, LS10

Why is it important?

Hunslet Mill is a Grade II* listed building built in 1838 and 1842 by William Fairbairn for John Wilkinson, with later alterations by John Clark. William Fairbairn was the leading engineer and designer of mill buildings in the first half of the C19 and was responsible for Armley Mills and Saltaire Mill. In 1842 John Clark was employed as architect, probably for the refronting of the Goodman Street facade when the range was raised from 2 to 3 storeys. By 1847 Wilkinson employed 1500 female flax reelers in the largest single-build mill in Leeds. The last and individually the largest of the great flax-spinning mills built in Leeds throughout the 1820s and 30s, the first having been established by John Marshall, Marshall Mills. The west range was demolished in 1986. **Victoria Works** is a Grade II listed building built between 1835-38 for WB Holdsworth. Holdsworth had a mill at Lands Court before moving to the open fields, probably owned by George Goodman, c1835; there were buildings on this site by 1840.

Building Description

Hunslet Mill is a 7-storey red brick mill building with stone details, slate single and double-gable roof. The L-shaped plan consists of 25 bays on river edge and 3 bays to Goodman Street facade. It has regular fenestration with stone string courses and cornice, and 2 brick pilaster strips to the corners. Internally the offices have remains of fine Greek/Egyptian-style plasterwork to ceilings and shutters to windows. **Victoria Works** is constructed in red brick with a slate roof and stone gable copings with turned-back kneelers. The rectangular range at right angle to the street is 14 bays long and 3 bays wide with slightly projecting stair and toilet block at street gable and a low engine house projection and chimney at rear end. The internals were not inspected but it is reputed to contain a cast-iron frame with cylindrical columns supporting inverted T-beams and fireproof floor construction.

Current State

Hunslet Mill is in poor condition, the ground floor windows have been blocked in but the higher floors have only got some black sheeting, which in some areas has come loose and will be allowing water ingress. Some demolition is taking place at present and a new housing development has been built adjacent to the mill so hopefully this will encourage works to progress. **Victoria Works** is also in poor condition with evidence of leaking guttering and boarded up windows. The brick extension and stone entrance to the right hand side is collapsing.

Current Owner

The buildings are currently owned by Evans and Caddick.

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/1444801@N25/pool/tags/hunsletmill-victoriaworks>

