

## Mike's Carpets (former Branch Road Methodist Chapel)



Stanningley Road, Armley, LS13

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

Mike's Carpets is a former Methodist Chapel and is a Grade II listed building built in 1905 and converted in the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century architect Charles Barker Howdill. He became a partner in his father's firm in 1893 and from 1889 was assistant architect to the Leeds School Board. He taught building construction at Leeds and Dewsbury Technical Schools 1886-1903 and at Batley and Huddersfield until his death in 1941. He also taught at Leeds School of Art and is thought to have been the first to use colour photography as an aid to a lecture on architecture.

### **Building Description**

The building is built using red brick and terracotta with a T-plan with chapel entrance on corner and Sunday school range to rear. It is 2 storey's and the entrance front has single-storey flat-roofed porch with fluted columns in antis, moulded surround, paneled double doors, flanking windows in architraves with cornice, eaves cornice and blocking course. The main gable behind has an elaborate Venetian window with fluted columns, radiating mullions, moulded architrave; flanking pilasters terminate in domed ventilation louvres, ramped walling, gable coping and at the apex an elaborate date panel with scrollwork, open segmental arch, obelisk finial. The side walls have similar style windows, some original glazing, ornate dated rainwater heads; recessed on left a round-arched doorway with key block, similar detailing to windows, shaped gable above. Internally the main hall has side aisles, cast iron columns with Ionic style capitals and dentilled ceiling cornices.

### **Current State**

The building continues to be in daily use as a carpet saleroom. There is evidence of damp to areas of brickwork and failed guttering. Several windows are broken and others boarded up. Vegetation sprouts from guttering and other areas. Interior not inspected.

### **Current Owner**

The buildings are currently owned by Mike's Carpets.

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