

**ADDRESS**

Pontefract Dispensary, FRIARWOOD HOUSE, PONTEFRACT

Parish PONTEFRACT  
District WAKEFIELD  
County WEST YORKSHIRE

Case UID: 159555

Date First Listed:

Formerly Listed As:

**RECOMMENDATION**

Outcome: No, do not list

Recommended Grade: NL

31-OCT-2005

**BACKGROUND:**

After examining all the papers on this file and other relevant information and having carefully considered the architectural and historic interest of this case, the criteria for listing are not fulfilled.

**CONTEXT**

This building was proposed for consideration in advance of a perceived threat from redevelopment of the hospital in which it stands. A Grade I listed Hermitage of the fourteenth century stands below the building and is accessed through it. The list description for the Hermitage mentions three nineteenth century Tudor-arched brick doorways at the front: these are within the dispensary at cellar level. The dispensary was inspected in c.1995 and not regarded as listable.

**HISTORY & DESCRIPTION**

The oldest part of the building was erected in 1881 to replace an earlier Dispensary of 1812, with money raised by public subscription. It consisted of a three-bay Gothic revival style building in brick with stone dressings, with a steeply-pitched roof, tall chimneys, two facing gables and pointed-arch windows. It was extended to the west by a further three bays, having wider pointed-arch windows to the ground floor with rectangular above, and battlemented parapet. In 1923 a single storey extension added a pointed-arch doorway and two matching windows. Later in the twentieth century, further extensions to the rear and east enveloped the original buildings fronting onto the street. These are largely flat-roofed and not in keeping with the original. The main entrance in the 1881 block appears to have been remodelled. The interior is very plain, with no trace of original features apart from the staircase. All the ceilings have been lowered, though the originals may survive above.

**ASSESSMENT**

The earliest part of the Dispensary is a moderately attractive building, and apart from the remodelled entrance appears relatively unaltered from the exterior. The extensions to the west make some attempt to maintain the style, but are only partially successful, with the 1923 section rather better than the middle part. The later additions to the rear altogether swamp the original, and more than double the size of the building. This, and the lack of any interior, means that the building is some distance from qualifying for listing. Late Victorian public buildings survive in great numbers, and only the best, those that are intact both internally and externally, can be selected for listing. The frontage of the Dispensary contributes positively to the local street scene, but the building is not of listable quality.

**CONCLUSION**

This building does not qualify for listing as it is too altered both externally and internally.

**ASSESSMENT:****REASONS FOR DESIGNATION DECISION:**

This late nineteenth century Dispensary has been extensively added to over the years, so that twentieth century piecemeal extensions totally swamp the original modest building. This and the lack of any interior features of note make the building unlistable.

**VISITS**

28-OCT-2005      Ground floor inspection

**COUNTERSIGNING**

Countersigning Comments: Agreed. This building, dating from 1881 has undergone significant alteration and extension, and is not of sufficient special interest in a national context to justify a listing recommendation. 01-11-2005.

Second Countersigning Comments:

HP Director Comments: