

St Hedda, Egton Bridge

Egton Bridge, North Yorkshire



Part 1: Core data

1.1 Listed grade: *II*

1.2 Conservation area: *Egton Bridge Conservation Area*

1.3 Architect: *M. E. Hadfield & Son*

1.4 Date(s): *1866-7*

1.5 Date of visit: *9 October 2007*

1.6 Name of report author: *Nicholas Antram*

1.7 Name of parish priest and/or contact(s) made on site: *Rev Peter Ryan*

1.8 Associated buildings: *School and former presbytery*

1.9 Bibliographic references:

Middlesbrough Diocesan Yearbook 2007

Carson, Robert: *The First 100 Years – A History of the Diocese of Middlesbrough 1878-1978*

Pevsner, N.: *The Buildings of England, Yorkshire: The North Riding*, Penguin Books 1966

Part 2: Analysis

2.1 Statement of Importance

A good Victorian church by a noted Sheffield firm of architects who designed much for Catholic clients. On a site with a long tradition of Catholic worship (the original church of 1790 survives adjoining).

2.2 Historical background

The Catholic mission in Egton has its origins in penal times. The martyr Father Nicholas Postgate, executed in 1679, was born at Kirkdale House in 1597. In 1743 a chapel existed beside Bridge House, occupied by the recusant Smith family, and adjacent to the present church and school. In 1780 there were 415 Catholics in the district. The first church was built here in 1790, immediately after the passing of the Second Relief Act. It was converted to a school in 1867 when the present church was built. An outbuilding to the rear of the school, now part of the 19th century presbytery, was the original presbytery.

2.3 Setting

Egton Bridge is a hamlet one mile south of Egton, set in the steep sided valley of the River Esk. It is well wooded and a lane climbs the hill from the bridge. St Hedda's church is surprisingly well hidden just south of the railway embankment (1865). The church is grouped with the school (the converted church of 1790) immediately to the north and the former presbytery to the west. The church is set back from the lane behind wall and railings, with a churchyard to the south and just a narrow curtilage to the north against which the old church, now school, is attached. There is a large car park to the north.

2.4 Description of the building and its principal fittings and furnishings

See list description, below.

This is a substantial church of tall nave with aisles under one steeply pitched roof, the aisles not readily discernable externally. Apsed sanctuary. Faced in dressed sandstone with ashlar dressings under a Welsh slate roof. The aisles have single lancet windows, lancet windows also to the apse, set high up. North entrance with a pointed arch and a trefoiled tympanum with a statue of the Virgin and Child set in a mandorla. The entrance front has a vertiginous gable with projecting buttresses embracing a tall and blind pointed arch. Within this the pointed arched doorway (the main entrance to the church) and a septfoil window above. The buttresses above the arch disappear into the thickness of the wall which rises to a gabled bellcote. Tall projecting gabled bay to the south with a two-light window with plate tracery. Mandorla above enclosing a statue (probably St Hedda). Set into the south side of the church are Stations of the Cross and at the western end is a pieta under a gabled timber canopy, work of 1900.

The interior appears larger than the exterior owing to the great height of the undivided nave and sanctuary and the absence of a clerestory, which also makes the church rather dark. The aisles are narrow and tall and divided from the nave by arcades with single stepped and chamfered arches on alternately octagonal and cylindrical piers. Barrel vaulted roof with timber ribs and stencil decoration. The walls of the nave are unadorned but the sanctuary walls are richly decorated with painted scenes set in groups of four elongated quatrefoils. Single figures of saints between the lancets above, and plain panelling below. Richly painted and gilded altar and reredos, 'showy' as described by Pevsner, of circa 1867 and made in Munich. Lady Chapel with painted and gilded ceiling and a wooden altar with carved front. Carved Gothic timber pulpit. Organ gallery over the entrance accessed by way of a distinctive enclosed timber spiral stair. Pretty circular stone font, small and probably of circa 1790 and from the previous church. Unusual Stations of the Cross carved in relief, with painted backgrounds and recessed into the wall with a sense of diminishing perspective. Open-backed pine pews. 19th century stained glass principally in the sanctuary and Lady Chapel.

2.5 List description:

Building Name: ST HEDDAS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish: EGTON

District: SCARBOROUGH

County: NORTH YORKSHIRE

LBS Number: 471130

Grade: II

Date Listed: 19/10/1998

Date of Last Amendment: 27/02/2003

NGR: NZ8042905299

Listing Text:

NZ 8005 EGTON EGTON BRIDGE

1320/16/10000 St Hedda's R C Church

GV II

Roman catholic parish church. 1866-67, with minor C20 alterations. Designed by Hadfield & Sons of Sheffield. Nave, side aisles, chancel and eastern apse under a single roof. Dressed stone with ashlar dressings and Welsh slate roofs and terracotta ridge tiles. Chamfered plinth, sill band and chamfered eaves band. West front has large pointed archway with setoffs, rising to a small gabled bell-cote with cross finial. Central pointed arch doorway with single columns, moulded arch and hood mould. Above a circular window with cusped plate tracery. North front has single doorway with flat head in pointed arch door surround. Beyond to east 5 tall lancet windows. East end curved with 5 lancets set high up, curved roof topped with iron cross finial. South front has small slightly projecting gabled chapel with buttresses and a single 2-light pointed arched window with plate tracery quatrefoil. Beyond 5 single lancets. Lower projecting chapel to east with chamfered end.

INTERIOR has 5 bay nave arcades and narrow passage aisles, these chamfered arches have alternating octagonal and circular piers plus circular responds. West organ gallery. Wooden barrel vaulted roof with stencilled decoration. Original wooden pews, carved octagonal pulpit. Ashlar circular font. Chancel apse has later wooden dado panelling and above painted murals. Elaborate German reredos.

Listing NGR: NZ8042905299