

Former Independent Labour Party Club ¹⁸ Milton Street, Middleton, Greater Manchester 1911-12 by Edgar Wood Listed Grade II



The Independent Labour Party was founded in 1893 as a working-class, socialist, political cause. In the early C20 it was to become a key component in the formation of the early Labour Party.

The Club was built for the Middleton branch of the ILP, the membership of which was drawn largely from textile workers. It is accordingly very modest in form, being a single-storey, rectangular, building with porch in a stripped, sparse idiom, containing just two main rooms: a club room and a hall. It was, however, designed by the avant-garde architect Edgar Wood whose designs were at the cutting edge of European

architecture; he gained a considerable national and international reputation during his lifetime, notably in Germany. He was sympathetic to the ideals of the ILP and additionally was a Middleton man. This building demonstrates the idiosyncratic characteristics of his work, notably the stepped gable parapets, a motif that suggests C17 Holland or the inter-war Art Deco period rather than an early C20 date.

As is now usual for parts of buildings which lack special interest, we excluded unremarkable 1930s and 1960s extensions from the listing.



8-10 High Street ¹⁹ Leicester 1896 by Henry Langton Goddard Listed Grade II

This is a particularly good example of an exuberant late Victorian shop ornamented with finely worked terracotta. It was built in 1896 for the Paget Trustees and was originally occupied by Hoggett's, a gentlemen's outfitters. The architect was at this time a junior partner in Goddard, Paget and Goddard, a prolific and successful family practice based in Leicester. His design makes the most of the triangular site, with multiple tiers of decoration sweeping around the curved frontage and becoming more elaborate as they increase in height, terminating in an eye-catching conical roof. It is the creation of an accomplished and confident architect whose eclectic mix of free Renaissance and Baroque has here considerably enlivened the streetscene.