

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

LISTED BUILDING	Capel Tabernacle, Woodfield Street, Morrison, Swansea
Grade:-	I
Date of Notification:-	30.09.93
National Grid Reference:-	SS 6695597820
O.S. 1:10000 Sheet No:-	SS 69 NE
CADW Reference No:-	11744
C & C of S Reference No:-	LB:226

Notes:-

On north east corner of Woodfield Street and Crown Street, on prominent sloping site, visible from large area to east of community. Set in yard with low stone wall with iron railings and gates.

Grand Chapel of 1870-72. Known as the 'Cathedral of Welsh Nonconformity'. By John Humphreys, architect, of Morrison, builder Daniel Edwards, builder and tinplate manufacturer, of Morrison. Originally known as New Libanus Chapel.

Exterior:-

Brown rock-faced stone, pale freestone dressings and string courses, slate roofs. Eclectic style with references to Classical, and Northern Italian mediaeval styles. Slightly advanced pedimented temple front has three bays with giant order of 4 pairs of unfluted Corinthian columns, wider central base has elliptical arch, round arches to outer bays, medallions in spandrels. Heavily dentilled pediment has freestone band, and pierced rounded in tympanum and is surmounted by tabernacle as pinnacle. Central arch of front encloses two 2-light upper floor windows with arcading below; round arch of main entrance encloses 2 round-headed doorways and has round window in head. Outer arches of front each have single round arched window to upper floor, and round arched doorway with arcade of windows above. To left of temple front is tall round-headed window to projecting staircase tower. To right of front is engaged stair tower with octagonal steeple, round headed 2-light windows to upper stage, clocks, aedicules with Italianate 2-light round-headed windows with louvers, lowest (stair tower) stage has stall round-headed window to front, and paired tall round-headed windows to side, also to side, entrance doorway with stone surround.

This entrance doorway links to forecourt by ramped staircase with pierced balustrade, archway to storage/service area beneath. Similar arrangement at north staircase tower.

Side elevations have pierced parapets and four tall shadow arches each enclosing, at upper floor level, two 2-light round-headed windows (pierced rounded above), at ground floor level, triple round-headed window, at basement level, segmental arches with paired segmentally-headed small-pane sash windows. End bays to east are narrower with single upper floor window below which is shallow entrance doorway with stone steps (pierced balustrade) down to ground level. Rear of building has 2 pairs of small window in gable,

central shallow projection with monopitch roof, two 2-light windows to each side at upper floor level, round-headed windows to ground floor level.

Interior:-

Magnificent interior includes shallow elliptical ceiling with ribs on polygonal corbels and elaborate panelling. Intruded corners to staircase (front). Continuous gallery with balustrade supported on iron columns with crocketed capitals, stencilled decoration to coving, boarded front surrounded by filigree work, gallery sweeps down behind pulpit, organ console to front of chair benches, organ to rear with Gothic case, further detached banks of organ pipes to corners of chapel, entrances to staircase beside. Stained glass to windows to sides of organ. Large convex pulpit with pierced arcading and balustraded stair to each side, convex balustrade to set fawr enclosure. Pitch pine benches, those to front arranged round pulpit concentrically. To rear of pulpit doors to service rooms. Basement schoolroom.

Graded I as perhaps most ambitious grand chapel in Wales with striking exterior, and virtually unaltered and fittings.

Reference:-

T L Evans Y Cathedral Anghydfurfiol Cymraeg 1972.