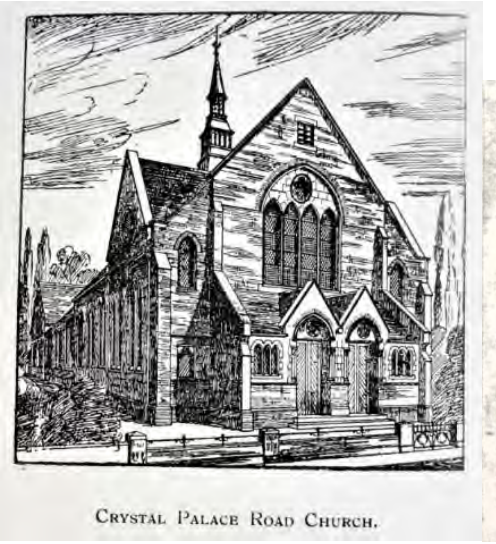
Primitive Methodist Church

Demolished
Primitive Methodist
143-155 Crystal Palace Road, SE22 9EP



Historical summary
In 1888 the Primitive Methodists began a mission in Dulwich Hall, Hindmans Road. It was rented by W. Tarver for £36 for the year with use of the hall on Saturday evening and all day Sunday with attendance, lighting and heating included. Within a year they had bought a site between Crystal Palace Road and Darrell Road and erected an iron church, Sunday school (average attendance of 150 children) and a Band of Hope.

In 1895 the freehold of the wider site was purchased, on part of which the iron church was standing, which had been occupied by a timber and saw mills. The site had a frontage of about 65 feet on Crystal Palace Road and a chapel and school were built at an estimated cost of £3,127. The architect was T. Wounacott and the church was built of red brick, with an enclosed porch and a pipe organ. It was intended to seat 300 though by 1940 it only seated 174 so it is unclear if this number was attained.

The church was formally opened in 1898 by minister W. E. Crombie with a sermon by Revd Newman Hall and a speech by Sir Evan Spicer. In 1904 Revd W. E. Farndale began his career here; he later became President of the Methodist Conference. In 1944, when Revd Leonard J. Barmby was minister, the church was destroyed by a V1 flying bomb, leaving just the wall behind the pulpit standing. After the war the church was not rebuilt and the site is now Dulwich Medical Centre.

Historical background
Duke University in the US has a souvenir album of this church 1888-1907 by W.E. Farndale published in 1907 for the Primitive Methodist Centenary. The OCLC number is 39390582.

Sources: Southwark Local Studies.