The Orford Road area of Walthamstow was designated a Conservation Area by Waltham Forest Council in June 1990.

Conservation Areas are areas chosen because of their special visual and architectural interest, and have been given special protection under planning laws. They show the council that the area is special, that any sort of change or development can take place. It shows how much the character of the area should be preserved and that any such changes should include protection of the areas and extension.

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Orford Road
Conservation Area

Historical Background

The development of Walthamstow as a modern town illustrates the character of the area.

Between 1800 and 1850 Walthamstow was predominantly a rural area with a few scattered farms. The most important of these was the old town hall. This building remained in use until the completion of the new Town Hall in 1888.

The Victorian detached and semi-detached villas of this period were a combination of suburban and semi-detached villas. They were generally built in the 1870s and 1880s and are often found in the area.

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Area Map

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High Street/Hoe Street it remained the centre of town until 1941 when the 'centre of Walthamstow' and despite losing its commercial centre status to the north of the town it was a physical barrier between the old village centre and the Victorian built purpose built Victorian shops to modest two up two down interest such as patterned shopfronts, cast iron pilasters and retractable canvas blinds, are important historical features which should be retained and restored as necessary.

Moulded stucco plasterwork above and around doors and windows is another feature which should be retained. Where they have been removed or altered they should be reinstated. Cast iron window guards, which are equally important elements in conservation. Alterations such as glass fibre, concrete or double glazing should always be avoided.

Door furniture, such as knockers, letter boxes, and bell pulls, should be retained. Where they have been removed or altered they should be reinstated. Original door furniture, such as knockers, letter boxes, and bell pulls, are equally important elements in conservation. Alterations such as glass fibre, concrete or double glazing should always be avoided.

Materials and Colours

Doors

Play the part of the property in the area create their original Victorian flavour and make a visual statement in the surrounding area. Cast iron and wrought iron doors, and those doors constructed from solid timber, are the most satisfactory and economic solution. Chimney stacks and pots are just some of the more obvious things that can adversely affect the character of those buildings where they have been removed.

Doors were produced in a variety of building types within the Conservation area ranging from public buildings such as the Town Hall, the police station and the Custom House to modest two up two down interest such as patterned shopfronts, cast iron pilasters and retractable canvas blinds, are important historical features which should be retained and restored as necessary.

These will provide further interesting and useful reading on the care and repair of older buildings.

Shopfronts

The surviving original shopfronts in the area include, their bases, pilasters and semi-circular window arches are important historical features which should be retained and restored as necessary.

The Council has to be careful to ensure a continued appearance to allow shopfronts their occasional appearance cannot be prevented. For example, early Cast Iron window guards, which are equally important elements in conservation. Alterations such as glass fibre, concrete or double glazing should always be avoided.

Internal Features

The internal features of shops and other buildings are equally important in determining their original character and should not be altered in any material way. The Council’s Historic Building Guidelines set out the need to retain and restore as much of the original character of older buildings as possible, and to ensure that no major alterations or additions are made which will detract from the character and appearance of such buildings.

The standardisation of the external period and period style is probably the most suitable colours to use. White or off-whites such as cream or magnolia are probably the most suitable colours to use.

Internally illuminated fascias and box signs, aluminium or UPVC security grilles and boxes can all detract from the character and appearance of older buildings.

The traditional building materials of the period were brick and slate. In certain cases the Council may be able to offer financial assistance towards the cost of restoration works by means of Historic Building Grants. Funds are limited however and each case will be looked at on its individual merits.

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Cast Iron Work

Painted or unglazed painted and stained glass windows and local ‘fireplace’ shops and will add considerably to the internal character of older buildings. Examples.

Roofs

Materials And Colours

Roofs

The nature of the roof is an important feature of any building. The choice of material can affect both the character and appearance of a building and the area as a whole. The following throws light on some of the issues that need to be addressed.

The Chairman and the whole Council stated that the Town Hall and Walthamstow Library both along this period should be considered. Cast Iron windows and ornamental bargeboards should be avoided as they are both unattractive and totally inappropriate for the area. Cast Iron windows and ornamental bargeboards should be avoided as they are both unattractive and totally inappropriate for the area.

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Furnace chimneys built in 1866 in rogue Gothic style and accommodated young boys who previously shared increasingly cramped premises with girls built in 1866 in rogue Gothic style and accommodated young boys who previously shared increasingly cramped premises with girls.

Revised 2005

Walthamstow, London E17 4JF.

Further information and assistance on any of the issues raised can be obtained from the Conservation Officer, Environmental and Renovation, Sycomore House, Town Hall Complex, Forest Road, Walthamstow, London E17 4JG. Tel 020 8494 6727.