Totton and Eling Heritage Assets

Brief Contextual History:

Although parts of Eling were in the Domesday Book, Totton existed for many centuries as a collection of rural homes and large stately houses. In the early decades of the 1900's these houses were bought up by developers as they fell into disrepair, as many did across the country, and Totton and Eling turned from two hamlets into one large 'village'. Eling was initially the greater part of this and Rumbridge street was considered the main centre, so many of the buildings on this list of potential Heritage Assets are from Rumbridge Street.

The town began to stretch north and west as more housing was built between the wars. Hounsdown was first built of 'prefabs', to house those bombed out of Southampton during the second World War. Several areas of housing developments, such as Testwood, Rushington, Salisbury Road and Ringwood Road, had been started in earnest between the wars and finished after the second world war so buildings in the 1930's and 40's being considered as Heritage Assets were in the wider village.

As Totton and Eling have trebled in size within less than a hundred years (only becoming a town in the 1970's), the buildings with a historical background have become very important although in comparison to older towns e.g. Romsey, they may not seem so historical. Some have been a constant in times of fast change, known and used by the community. Others maintain the landmarks and features which mark the towns history.

Heritage Asset Types

A – Architectural

B – Historic

C – Attractive building

D – Significant local venue historically

E – Street scene

Building address & reason for inclusion in the Heritage Asset List	Heritage Asset Type
Rumbridge Street area	
Batts Corner, Rumbridge Street	**A, D, E**

History:

Batts Corner was a former bank erected in 1902 for the Wilts and Dorset bank (amalgamated with Lloyds 1914). It continued until 1987, when Lloyds relocated to Commercial Road.

Mr Charles Frederick Batt came to Totton with his wife Eliza in 1887 and established a business as a draper and outfitter. It traded as the Universal Supply Stores. Mr Batt died in 1901, but his widow continued the business with their children.

It eventually became a sports shop in the 1940's. Architectural features on the building, as well as the signage, make the building a landmark locally. The name Batts Corner has become synonymous with the whole junction, not just the building itself.

Architectural Features:

Architectural features on the building include the retention of the traditional shopfronts with large glazed windows sitting above low stallrisers, with central recessed entrances. The property retains the original fascia and cornice, above which sits decorative columns about the Batts corner sign. Columns also detail the corners of the building and frame the access to the first floor, extending through the building.

1-3 High Street (opposite the Batts corner building)	**A, B, C, D, E**

History:

The building on the High Street side of what is now known as the Batts Corner junction, was previously a bank, then a well-remembered dance studio and community hall. Like the Batts Corner building it has become a landmark feature for Totton.

Architectural Features:

Features include the gabled frontage with deep eaves sitting over the main entrance providing a focal point to the property within the street.

Character to the building is also derived from the contrasting materiality with the ground floor in particular articulated by the painted window lintels, sidings and cils set against red brickwork. Windows are evenly positioned and to the northeast elevation frame the door which is articulated by painted brick and stone pilasters supporting the curved pediment above.

RA Jones, Chartered Accountant, 38 Rumbridge Street	A, D, E

History:

First known occupier was Charles Shone, grocer between 1902 and 1932. Other commercial uses include J.R. Tutte and Son, leather merchants and the Co-op Furnishing Store. This building is an example of the unusual architectural features which gives Rumbridge Street its character within the Totton and Eling area.

Architectural features:

Its prominence attributed to its separation from the adjacent buildings either physically or through the design and projecting forward of the building line to the southwest. The building has been remodelled over time, extending upwards to rise above the eaves and ridge heights of its neighbours, with double first floor bay windows sitting under forward gables. At street level the property retains the historic shopfront.

Sweet Thoughts, 9A Eling Lane	A, B, C, D, E

History:

Previously a local forge in the 1800's and first part of the 20th century, this shed-style building has been a fondly remembered sweet shop and frequented by several generations. It is an unusual wooden and brick building which is reminiscent of the black wooden buildings known throughout the New Forest area.

Architectural features:

The property retains evidence of its historic origin through the wooden fenestration to the side elevation with the later shopwindow altering its functional orientation.

Henry Powell Funeral Directors, 11-13 Eling Lane	A, B, C, E

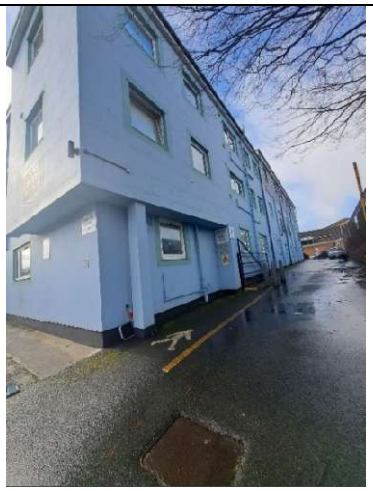
History:

This is one of the older buildings in Eling Land and is included on maps from the early1800's, although the architecture suggests it is one of the rare surviving Georgian buildings in the area.

Architectural features:

The Georgian architecture identifiable by the flat fronted façade, symmetrical design, multipaned windows with double hung sashes. The building sits proud within its plot with event spacing about the built form to its boundaries.

Savoy Cinema, Junction Road	A, D



History:

Opened in January 1935, having been built by local builders Truckell and Barter, but closed in 1961. It showed films throughout the Second World War but declined in popularity following the rise of television as a form of domestic entertainment. A much-used community facility as the Savoy Cinema with infamous Saturday Matinee sessions attended by the majority of Totton's younger population during the 1950's.

Architectural features:

The building retains its simple rectangular massing sitting under a flat roof with articulation to the front elevation derived from the forward projectsion forming bookends around the recessed fenestration to provide balconies. The signage to the front confirms the heritage of the building.

St Mary's Hall, Junction Road	A, B, C, D, E

History:

St Mary's Hall was a much-used community hall in the days before the community centres were built across the town. The hall housed the towns free Library once a month, local concerts and a youth club which took young people on trips to the seaside etc in the 1940's and 50's.

Architectural features:

Despite being extended later, the building retains its historic rectangular form with a pair of projecting porches to the front elevation. The building has a brick plinth above which the brick elevations contain regularly spaced painted horizontal brick courses together with vertical brick columns rising up to sit under a pitched slate roof with exposed rafter feet and decorative ridge tiles. Windows to the original building retain brick arched headers and tile cills.

Maydays, 11, Rumbridge Street	A, B, C, E

History:

Built in 1909 (date on cornice of building). Occupied by George Moore, outfitter and ironmonger until the 1930's and later by John Teedon, draper and outfitter. Between 1953 and 1968 it was Totton's Woolworth's store, until Woolworths moved their premised to the new shopping precinct in

Commercial Road. Later occupiers included Typerite Stationers Ltd and Roberta's Relics, an antiques centre.

Architectural features:

The building has a strong double fronted façade across the elevations, sitting round a traditional shopfront which retains the original stall riser, transom windows, recessed door and narrow fascia. Brick pilasters frame the shopfront and separate this from the entrance to the first floor above which are interrupted by decorative capitals. Above the fascia sits a projecting cornice with the first floor having a more domestic appearance with simple glazing either side of a mounded sign. The front elevation is finished with a parapet wall with the building having prominence due to its height in relation to the adjoining property.

Riverside Studios, 32 Winsor Road off Rumbridge Street	**A,C,D, E**

History:

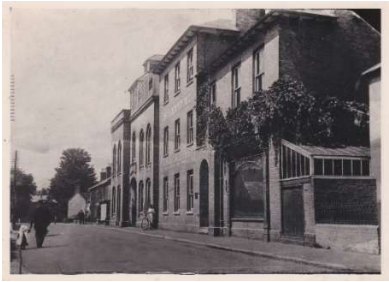
Built in 1903 as the Oddfellows Hall, there is a plaque on the frontage of the building. It began to show silent films, operating under the title Totton Picture Palace, but in 1914 it was re-launched as the Totton Picture Theatre. By 1925 it had been renamed as the Regent Cinema and continued to operate until the 1930's. Used as a factory making rain wear in the 1940's and a Community Hall for dances, showing films etc.

Architectural features:

An Edwardian building dating from 1903 of brick elevations sitting under a pitched slate roof. Typical of the era it has large side facing windows sitting under contrasting stone lintels and cills and has a simply designed canopy to the front elevation overhanging tiled steps coloured to match the brickwork.

62, Rumbridge Street	B, E

Current day



Ashby's Brewery – early 1920's

Ashby's Brewery – late 1920/30's

History:

A three-storey building in yellow brick linked with Ashby's Brewery, which ceased business in 1921. Once used as domestic accommodation by the Ashby family and then as brewery offices. Between 1931 and 1986, Mr Arthur Legg traded there as a greengrocer.

Architectural features:

Prominent 2 and 3 storey building with buff colour brick at the upper floors contrasting to the predominant red brick in the street. The building sits under a pitched tiled roof with over deep eaves and exposed rafter feet. The property retains the historic shopfront to the three storey element with the transom windows and a recessed doorway with the two storey element comprising a single glazed window absence of any glazing bars. Originally the building may have had sash windows at the upper floors although brick detailing above remains.

Corals Betting Shop, 17-19 Rumbridge Street	A, E

Current day

R D Mackrell, 17 Rumbridge St (late 1920's)

Williams Shop, 18 Rumbridge St

Williams Shop, 18 Rumbridge St (2009)

History:

There are a number of buildings in Rumbridge Street with similar architectural features to this shop and this is a good example.

Architectural features:

Double fronted property exhibiting symmetry in its build form at ground and first floor levels with the positioning of the fenestration. The shop fronts are demarcated by three brick pilasters with decorative capitals above with the fasias between. The shop fronts retain brickwork stallrisers at the ground level above which sit modern infill panels and glazing. The first floor would originally have had sash windows, although the stone cills and lintels remain in place.

Other landmark and community buildings:	**A, B, C, D, E**

Calmore Village Hall, Pauletts Lane, Calmore

History:

Although once common, this kind of community hall is now rare in our area. Before Calmore Community Centre was built, Calmore Village Hall served what was a more rural community for dances, family parties etc. The original lease of the site dates from 1913.

Architectural features:

A distinctive building by virtue of its construction from corrugated green metal walls and brown corrugated roof with white trimmed windows has a simple functional form and appearance accessed by a simple canopy porch to its front elevation

Older parade of shops in Commercial Road - 1930's (Numbers 48-65)	A, E

1937 and current day

Southampton Sotonians and friends - Then and Now - Commercial Road Totton

History:

A parade of shops on the north and south side of Commercial Road was completed during the 1930's on the site of a former timber yard.

Architectural features:

Whilst the form of properties have altered over time, the street scene retains a strong ground floor frontage of commercial units defined by the retention of large, glazed shop windows sitting upon stall risers with fascias above. To the south, properties have a strong rhythm of detached units with gable ends fronting the highway with most having a single central window above. To the north, properties are arranged as a terrace with larger units at ground floor with the first floor punctuated by a combination of flat and bay windows corresponding with the unit below.

Telephone Exchange – Junction Road	A, B, D, E

History:

The original 1930's automatic telephone exchange (ATE) at Totton was housed in a single storey red brick pitched roof building at the right-hand end of the present site. In 1959 the exchange was extended with a straw-coloured brick extension with a tile covered upper storey. The new extension contained the MDF and Strowger equipment racks, while the old building housed the power plant, offices and welfare accommodation.

In the late 1970's and early 1980's most medium and large Strowger exchanges were given substantial building extensions to house TXE4 replacements. As Totton ATE was on a compact site, there was no room to build a large extension and so it was decided to demolish the old 1930's building and replace it with the TXE4 extension building. This left the exchange without a power plant and welfare accommodation. To get around this problem the domestic dwelling next to the left-hand end of the exchange was purchased and a small corridor built, connecting it to the exchange building. The former garden was used to provide a new driveway into the exchange and the house used for welfare accommodation and offices. The power plant was replaced by temporary units in mobile caravans while the extension was being built.

Architectural features:

The building is located on a prominent corner plot (Junction Road and Treeside Avenue) in central Totton. A red brick building with a flat roof. At the time that the current building was erected there was concern about the 'Cold War' and being invaded by the Soviet Union, so BT took the decision to give all new exchange buildings an anonymous, nondescript appearance so that they could not readily be identified as telephone exchanges.