

EAST END HERITAGE CELEBRATED

Travelling along the streets that will link central London to the site of the Olympic Park, whether on foot, by taxi or on a bus, it is easy to overlook the historic buildings that line the route and so encapsulate the evocative history of London's East End. This area's special and unique heritage has now been formally recognised, with the following sites being listed at grade II:

- Former Poplar Town Hall (now Bow House), Bow Road
- Police Station and Stables, 111 Bow Road
- Tredegar House, 97 and 99 Bow Road
- The former New People's Palace (now part of Queen Mary and Westfield College), Mile End Road
- Albert Stern House (formerly Beth Holim, 253 Mile End Road
- 27a Mile End Road (former Engineer's Residence to Albion Brewery)
- Tomb of Joseph Dixon, St Mary's Church, Bow Road, Bromley by Bow
- Gents WCs outside St Mary's Church, Bow Road, Bromley by Bow
- Six Cast-Iron Bollards, Kit Kat Terrace



Eric Gill panels

Hannah Parham, a Heritage Protection Advisor in English Heritage's London team said of the listings: "These buildings in London's East End are redolent of a rich social history but are often little known, or even overlooked, by Londoners and tourists. Yet, as well as representing the fascinating changes in the area prior to the Second World War, they capture the wider progress of twentieth century Britain. We are delighted that the special architectural and historic interest of the area has been formally recognised in time for



Poplar Town Hall

visitors to the 2012 Olympics to explore East London's unique heritage. We hope that the new investment promised by the Games will also be targeted towards those buildings that make the East End so distinctive and special. Such buildings not only showcase the diversity and complexity of London and Londoners, but have already proved to be a lasting legacy to the capital. The city's outstanding heritage was critical in securing the bid and it should continue to play a major role in the delivery of the Olympic and Paralympics Games. Listings like these confirm what few



Bow Road Police Station

would counter - that London's heritage is one of its greatest assets."

The former New People's Palace was an entertainment and recreation hall designed to alleviate poverty and boredom in the borough, was opened by George VI and Queen Elizabeth as part of their first public drive through London as king and queen, following the abdication of Edward V111. Sylvia Pankhurst was held at Bow Police station after breaking windows in Bow Road in 1913. Poplar Town Hall was commissioned by the councillors who in 1921 had famously been imprisoned for spending rates on a generous welfare programme in the borough, rather than contributing to the central London money pot. The building is also significant in the development of the Labour Party; it boasts unusual sculpted panels depicting workers during the construction of the building, and is an expression of the borough's Socialist idealism during the inter-war period. Beth Holim was built by and for the Sephardi Jewish community and overlooks their notable 17th century graveyard which is already listed Grade II.

£1 BILLION VICTORIA TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE REGENERATION SCHEME

Although Victoria Station is not the easiest of places to get into a taxi at the present time due to the railings which have been erected where the queue gets into taxis, the whole area could see more passengers wanting taxis once the £1 billion development of the area begins. Westminster City Council has been granted permission to create more than 200 flats, offices and shops; this could see as many as 8,500 jobs created. The first phase of project is set to begin in autumn next year.

Developer Land Securities is also set to work with Transport for London to help upgrade Victoria Station. A proposal for the development, extending from Buckingham Palace Road to Bressenden Place and Victoria Street, has been revised because of concerns that the height of one of the buildings would destroy the city's skyline. Councillor Alastair Moss, chairman of the planning and city development committee, said: "This revised scheme will see the much needed regeneration of Victoria. The council has been a long standing advocate of the need to carry out significant changes at Victoria which, with more than 250,000 daily commuters, often feels dreadfully cramped and congested.