

# **CONSERVATION AREAS IN THE COUNTY OF BRIDGEND**

## **MAESTEG TOWN CENTRE**

Designated: 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2001

### **Special Architectural and Historic Interest**

The Conservation Area of Maesteg is made up of the Commercial Core of the town centre, consisting of Talbot Street, Commercial Street, Bethania Street along with the triangular 'square' at the junction of Talbot Street and Castle Street in front of the Town Hall.

Talbot Street is the busiest street within Maesteg's commercial core where the majority of development commenced at the beginning of the twentieth century. The buildings facing the square and those along the south side of Talbot Street towards the Town Hall are all free standing with formal elevations facing the street, the square itself being a very important focal point. There are a wide range of styles including the neo-Georgian, Mannerism and Colonial Baroque. Remaining buildings along Talbot Street include terraced rows of shops with residential accommodation above on two or three storeys. Each of the visually interesting nineteenth century buildings, although in variable condition, are mostly all in use.

Along Commercial Street and Bethania Street, towards the outskirts of the town, the scale of buildings are reduced to small residential terraces. Amongst these low rise buildings, erupts a series of large chapels, including Bethania Chapel, Tabor chapel, Carmel Chapel and Bethlehem Church, all of which were constructed in the first decade of the twentieth century. Many of these chapels are underused and are in poor condition. These chapels all create an important visual impact on the area, yet Tabor Chapel is the only one situated in the Conservation Area. Although this residential area with its chapels does not form part of the town's commercially active core, their relationship to it is important to consider in developing a conservation strategy.

The architecture along the very wide Commercial Street varies greatly, from late nineteenth early twentieth century ostentatious inns and public houses such as the Star, the Maltsters Arms and The Prince of Wales, to the classicism of the New Theatre and the modest row of shops consisting of nos. 125-128 Commercial Street. The commercial core consists of a variety of vernacular, classical and other architectural styles in addition to an array of detailing creating visual interest.

Llynfi Road which runs from the junction of Commercial Street and Talbot Street is an important component in the effective functioning of the town centre. Llynfi Lodge is one of the few pre-nineteenth century buildings in the town.

## **Character and Appearance**

The appearance of Maesteg typifies a bustling town centre in character. The use of materials varies from coursed rubble and ashlar to the modest use of brick with stone dressings. The variety of materials, scale and style of the buildings help create a visually lively streetscape and, although differ quite significantly, nevertheless are oddly united by the manner in which their elevations boldly address the street.

## **Listed Buildings**

Tabor Eglwys Presbyteriadd Cymru	Grade II
The Star Public House	Grade II
North Company Offices	Grade II
Cenotaph	Grade II
Church of St. David and surrounding churchyard rail wall	Grade II
Post Office	Grade II
Colonel North Memorial Hall	Grade II
William Hopkin Thomas Memorial Lamp and Fountain	Grade II
Neuadd y Dref (Town Hall)	Grade II
Maesteg Council Offices with Flanking Wall Piers	Grade II*
Church of St. Michael and all Angels, including enclosing graveyard walls	Grade II

## **Scheduled Ancient Monuments**

Nil

## **Buildings of Local Importance**

Hartshorn House (Bowrington Arcade), Llynfi Road  
Bethel Chapel (Welsh), Church Street  
The Prince of Wales, Commercial Street  
The Victoria Hotel, Commercial Street  
Malsters Arms, Commercial Street  
Sawyers Arms, Commercial Street  
Police Station, Commercial Street  
New Theatre, Commercial Street  
Apollo III, Commercial Street  
No. 121 Commercial Street