

Bermondsey Street Conservation Area

The Character and Appearance of the Area

horizontal roof parapet. The upper storey of No. 78 is distinctively jettied and weather-boarded with a projecting bay window at first floor level: these features are prominent in views along the street and are very evocative of its pre-industrial character. The frontage curves back to a carriage arch at Carmarthen Place to give a slightly wider pavement. This set-back is a small but important subtlety in the character of the street.



Figure 14 (left) 18th century houses at 68-78 Bermondsey Street were converted to shops at an early date. Subtle changes in building line and the oriel window and eccentric weather-boarded upper storey of no. 78 are important elements of the group's character, and

Figure 15 (right) early 19th century house surviving at no. 59

3.2.3. On the eastern side of the street, buildings are 19th century and more typically commercial/warehouse in character. Rising to four storeys, they strongly reinforce the historic building line. Key architectural characteristics are a bigger vertical scale, ordered elevations with regularly arrayed windows and high ground floor sills. Surviving between the later warehouse buildings is No. 59, an early 19th century three-storey red brick house that still retains entrance steps and railings. This building is listed Grade II, as are the contemporary warehouse buildings at 61 and 63, with a recessed arched section bridging the access to the rear yard.

3.2.4. Some of the more modern buildings in the street express their functionality in very plain forms with sections of blank wall and shutters that jar with the textures of the older buildings. Inventiveness of detail within a strong structural discipline is key to the quality of the earlier warehouses, and examples like the 1903 group on the corner of Crucifix Lane (nos. 35 to 37 Bermondsey Street) provide visual interest, while adapting well to new retail uses. An excellent example of recent design fitting into the particular street scene of the Conservation Area is at no 60 by architects Weston Williamson, which won a Civic Trust Commendation in 2002. Its simple rectilinear composition, restrained verticality and street level interest reflect the key characteristics of successful parts of Bermondsey Street.

Tyers Gate

- 3.2.6. The tight street character of Bermondsey Street extends into Tyers Gate and Leathermarket Street as far as Leathermarket Gardens. The dominating height of the four storey commercial façade on the north side (nos. 2-6) contrasts with the varied scale of the south side, especially the simple two-storey house at No. 1. Westwards, the narrow street width is extended visually beyond the end of the buildings by the railings of Leathermarket Gardens and by the line of the street surfaces, kerbs and bollards; the green of the gardens suggests the opening up of space further on. Eastwards, the Zandra Rhodes building closes the vista with a strong splash of colour.



Figure 19 Tyers Gate: one of the few east-west streets connecting into Bermondsey Street, also showing narrow plot frontages in a mix of later uses.

Morocco Street

- 3.2.7. Morocco Street forms a very particular townscape with its angled alignment to Leathermarket Street, which creates the distinctive wedge-shaped end of the Morocco Stores at No. 1 Leathermarket Street. The buildings surrounding the triangular space of the junction derive a consistency of character and scale from their three and four storey warehouse façades. No. 2 Morocco Street and nos. 2 and 4 Leathermarket Street are listed Grade II. Elements of detail, such as the painted Morocco Store sign and window boxes on no. 2 are important to the character of the building group.



Figure 20 Morocco Street: triangular corner sites and distinctive warehouse details contribute to a distinctive townscape.