

**Eye Witness Works
Ceylon Works**

**Milton Street
SHEFFIELD**

Historic Building Assessment

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July 2007*

1. INTRODUCTION

This report describes the fabric of the Eye Witness Works, Milton Street, Sheffield, and also of the neighbouring Ceylon Works, Thomas Street, Sheffield, which are in the same ownership. Until recently both cutlery works appeared as separate items at Grade II on the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. Following a thematic survey of cutlers' workshops by English Heritage the Eye Witness works was upgraded, with only partial internal inspection, to Grade II*; it is said to be one of the last surviving examples of its kind. The purpose of this report is to investigate the basis of the re-assessment of its listing, and to inform any proposals for redevelopment: up to and including partial demolition of the buildings. The Ceylon Works was also investigated: it remains at Grade II.

The site was visited on two occasions in June 2007. On both visits all parts of both buildings were available for inspection subject to the needs of the work being carried on within them: the Eye Witness Works is still used for the production of knives, in particular, and other metal goods. The Ceylon Works is used for storage. Only some cellars and roof spaces were not examined. No original documentary research was carried out although a certain amount of material was passed across by the Director, Alistair Fisher; the memories of long-term employees of the business regarding building works carried out were also of great assistance in reconstructing the very large number of C20 changes that have been made to the buildings.

The Eye Witness Works is no stranger to change. Block A, on Milton Street, is a range of thirty bays, three storeys high, with some basements. But this simple statement disguises the fact that in the front elevation alone eight different building phases can be distinguished; that the building has lost parts of its rear wall; and that behind it seven other blocks have been constructed at various dates between 1850 and 1950, all of which have undergone significant alteration. The intactness of the C19 buildings will be returned to at a later point in the report but for now it is sufficient to draw attention to the complexity of the development of the site.

For this reason the standard archaeological reporting method – of identifying dated phases in the work, and describing them in chronological order – has not been used here: instead a referencing system by individual blocks, first employed in the draft report (November 2005) by Eastwood and Partners Consulting Engineers, has been adopted. Hence each of the individual buildings has been given a letter, A-K, as shown on the Key Plan at the end of this report, and each has been described below, in order. This has three advantages: it makes the description manageable; it allows direct comparison with the conclusions of the structural engineers; and it permits an assessment of intactness by block. It is unfortunate that the Eye Witness Works was re-assessed for listing as a single item: since it actually comprises a great many buildings not all of which are of equal quality, or equally intact. As will be seen some of them barely exist at all.

In the account which follows the Key Plan should be used as a guide. It will be noted there are a number of structures which are not referenced: these are all minor, largely modern, additions to older buildings, and where necessary will be noted in their place. At high level there also some bridges between adjoining workshops, not separately described: all of these have been added, in the last forty years or so, by breaking through the walls and extending in timber, steel, and profiled sheeting.

2. DESCRIPTION

The Eye Witness Works occupies a rectangular block defined by Milton Street, Thomas Street, Headford Street, and by a private lane, sometimes known as Egerton Lane, at the rear. The principal front, on Milton Street, faces south-east.

The Ceylon Works lies on the opposite side of the private lane – that is, to the north-west of the Eye Witness Works – with its front doors opening onto Thomas Street.

Both buildings are now surrounded by rough car parking and modern structures but in the early C20, as shown on the 1903 25" OS, the area was one of works and workers' housing. Another cutlery works, the Beehive Works, survives at the south-west end of Milton Street.

In general the older buildings are constructed of red brick under slate roofs: red brick of ordinary quality is used for the earlier buildings, and a harder, darker, engineering brick for the later C19 structures. Concrete lintels are used in the C20 alterations and buildings. There is little attempt at fireproof construction although one or two filler-joint floors and the ground floor of Building D are noted below. The ranges are narrow (to gain benefit from natural lighting) and construction methods are cheap and simple: as befitting an industry not noted for large profit margins.

Comparison of the Key Plan with the 1903 25" OS shows that by that date the buildings had reached more or less their present footprint. The broad divisions shown on the map between blocks encourage this view: although the north-west range was to be totally reconstructed in 1950, and the courtyards have not been infilled. In addition there is a free-standing building in the centre of the south-west courtyard, while the irregular outline of the north-east courtyard suggests that before the 1950 reconstruction this end of the works comprised a number of smaller buildings of different sizes and dates. The evidence of the fabric, described below, suggests that the elevations of most of the buildings – and in particular of the Milton Street front of Building A) had reached their fullest extent by 1905.

Building A

As briefly noted above Building A is the product of eight major phases of construction: it has also undergone a certain amount of alteration to the rear walls and to the interior.

Phase I comprises the ground and first floors of the south-westernmost nine bays, in the south corner of the works; the block is said to have been constructed in c.1854, a date supported by its detailing. This section of Building A is constructed in a plain red brick in Flemish bond with stone dressings; the original roofing material is not known but it was probably slate. The elevation to Milton Street has rusticated stone quoins, with similar pilasters flanking a wagon entrance; 16-pane sashes to the ground floor; and similar windows with radial glazing confined to the first floor to the left of the wagon entrance, and plain sashes to the right. There is a Venetian window over the wagon entrance itself. The three ground floor bays to the north-east of the wagon entrance appear to have been disrupted by the insertion of a pedestrian access. The windows accurately reflect the hierarchy of the rooms within: the sashes with radial glazing light the principal company offices, while the plain sashes light lesser offices at ground and first floor level. Beneath this building there is a simple contemporary basement built of coursed rubble; to the rear there is a broad ground floor passage of vaulted brick.

In Phase II this structure was extended to the north-east by a plainer five-bay two-storey block in very similar materials – brick in Flemish bond – and style, but with different floor levels. This change in levels from one building to another is a continuing and awkward feature of the interconnecting buildings on the site – which is to say, nearly all of them – and is a broad response to the gradual rise in the level of the land to the north-east. The Phase II block lacks the quoins and pilasters of Phase I but possesses a well-built wagon entrance of a different pattern to that of Phase I, adjoining. It is lit by 16-pane sashes to the ground floor, and by more expensive four-pane sashes to the first floor, and as before this fenestration is an accurate indication of the hierarchy of the rooms inside: constructed and fitted out as offices.

In Phase III a seven-bay, two-storey, block was built at the north-east end of Milton Street, defining the

east corner of the works. It is in a similar style to the preceding two phases of work but was designed from the start as a production area: the brickwork is laid in a cheaper, irregular, stretcher bond, and there are large hatches in the first floor structure to allow materials to be hoisted to the upper floor. The ground floor is lit by 16-pane sashes, and the first floor by 4-pane windows with pivoting top and bottom lights. This seems to be an original arrangement – there are no fittings for sash cords – and one which is associated elsewhere in the works with production areas, not office accommodation. In the front wall there are occasional iron hopper ventilators, and in the rear wall there are iron casement windows.

The interiors are generally plain, with domestic-quality plaster ceiling cornices to the better rooms (in Phases I & II), some plain boarded panelling and four-panelled doors, and a good bolection-moulded fireplace in the first floor room at the south-west end of Phase I; this, in fact, is the most elegant room in the works. One other room has an early C20 register-plate fireplace with Art Nouveau decoration; all the other fireplaces have been removed. There is evidence for light C19 subdivision to form smaller offices and a connecting passage with a glazed partition running the full length of Phases I & II: this partition retains some C19 obscured glass patterned with lozenges. A strong-room with an iron door and some early C20 fitted cupboards relate to the office use of the Phase I & II blocks. The upper floor of the Phase I block is reached by a later concrete stair retaining a late C19 turned newel and tapering balusters; further inserted stairs lead to the upper floors of the later phases. Floor structures are of traditional timber construction.

In Phase IV the Phase I block was raised by another floor, in a darker, harder, red engineering brick. The Pevsner Guide to Sheffield dates this work, on unknown authority, to c.1875. At about the same the raising (Phase V) of Phase III took place. A single second-floor bay was added to the south-west end of the Phase II block (Phase VI) followed by the construction of an entirely new block of nine bays and three storeys, in engineering brick in English garden wall bond 5+1, in Phase VII. Finally the four remaining bays of the second floor of the Phase II block were built in Phase VIII; marking the completion of the thirty-bay three-storey range on Milton Street. It follows from this that the roof structures of this range are all of c.1875 or later: generally they are bolted king-post trusses with side purlins and ceilings although there is some variation – the roof over Phase V, for example, though double-pitched (with an additional timber tie to keep the walls together), is asymmetrical, while those to either side are not. The rise in the ground level has been faithfully followed by the joiners, with the result that there are steps or ramps between the floors of each block, and floor to ceiling heights vary with them. The builders have omitted nothing that could possibly lead to awkwardness in maintenance or use.

The later phases of work are plain internally; indeed, the walls of Phase VII are unplastered in the production areas. Simple four-panel doors survive; the wagon entrances are fitted with heavy boarded doors with wicket doors where necessary. In Phase VII the inner end of the wagon entrance passage is supported on a RSJ with a sliding door. The rear wall of Building A, in general, is occasionally hard to trace as parts of it have been removed at ground level, or masked by C20 work.

Building B

Building B is of three storeys and is constructed of red brick under a slate roof; it is L-shaped, defining the south-west end of the site, and the south-west elevation has been rendered: presumably to disguise the weathered brickwork on this side. It has replacement C20 metal-framed casement windows throughout. There are concrete stairs, also probably replacements, at either end of the south-west block: these have simple timber handrails. The floors are of traditional timber construction, and the roof is of bolted timber king-post trusses. Much of building B has been disused for some time although it retains no internal fixtures or fittings of historic interest: large areas of it have been modernised for toilets and stores. On the ground floor is a die store.

This building probably dates from the same general period as Building A, Phase I: however the rendered walls finishes have effectively disguised the junction between the two.

Building C

Building C is in fact an open yard, infilled under a C20 glazed roof carried on steel trusses, with ventilators. As part of the work the former external elevations of the surrounding buildings have been rendered and

colour-washed at ground floor level. The yard area now contains a number of stamping machines.

Building D

Building D is of six and a half bays and four storeys under a slate roof. The half bay is at the north-west end, where it incorporates the earlier stack. The traditional timber floors are carried on riveted iron joists apart from the ground floor, which is of fireproof construction: brick jack-arches on iron beams are supported, in the north-west compartment, on a cast-iron column with a shaped cap. Internally the rooms are finished in plain brick, whitewashed. A stone stair rises in the centre of the block, effectively dividing it into two compartments.

At first floor level the south-west compartment retains a disused belt-driven grinding wheel with timber seat and water bath: the marks of others, once forming a row, can be seen in the concrete floor covering. The second floor, reached by a timber stair, is modernised and subdivided. The third floor has wide areas of glazing on the north-east side to form a loft, perhaps for delicate work or for checking, as in the contemporary buildings of some textile trades. It was heated by a fireplace at the west end of the south-west wall. The roof is of bolted timber king-post trusses.

At ground floor level the stack is surrounded by C20 electrical equipment in a compartment given over to a sub-station. Above that level the straight joints made against it by buildings B and D are visible externally and, to some extent, internally. At third floor level the stack reduces by broaches from a square cross-section to an octagonal cross-section, and then rises above the buildings as a tapering octagon bound with iron. The relationship of the stack with Building B in particular implies that the former belongs to the earliest phase of the works although the associated boiler house and engine house have been lost, probably as a precursor to the construction of Building E.

Building E

Building E, of three storeys and five bays, is built of red brick in English garden wall bond 3+1 under a slate roof, hipped at the south-west end. There are stacks at each end serving blocked fireplaces. Internally there are shallow pilasters supporting rolled and riveted iron beams carrying filler-joist floors. At the south-west end of the block there is a simple timber stair with square stick balusters and newels: the lowermost of the newels retains an acorn-shaped finial.

The building was originally lit by large timber casement windows under segmental heads to the lower two floors and smaller six-pane casements to the second floor: on the ground floor the windows have been obliterated or filled in but they survive on the upper two floors of the north-west elevation, with C20 replacement windows to the south-east elevation. The roof structure, alone among the buildings of the works, is of wrought-iron rods in cast iron fittings.

Adjoining Building E to the south-east are two annexes E1 and E2. These are similarly constructed and are broadly contemporary. E1 is a plain room retaining a belt pulley and some line shafting, carried through from E2. E2 retains the raised bed, in the west corner, for a large electric motor which served the factory until well into the C20: the associated line shafting and belt pulleys survive in the roof structure. The annexe also houses two large stamps made c1917 by The Billings and Spencer Co of Hartford, Connecticut, USA; tall openings in the south-east wall, now blocked with concrete, may indicate how they were brought in. These electrically-driven machines probably mark the point at which the motor was installed in the same room. The upper floors of both E1 and E2 have been subdivided in the C20 to form store-rooms and a cubby-hole of an office.

Building F

Building F is now only a roofed yard although the existence in the north-west wall (along the private lane) of blocked windows suggests that it may once have formed part of a building, presumably demolished to allow the construction of Building E. The north-west wall of Building E forms the back of the roofed yard and contains the remains of windows, formerly lit from the open yard. The roof of the yard is of profiled sheeting on C20 steel trusses.

Building G

Building G, of five bays and three storeys, is built of red brick in stretcher bond, with some header courses, under a slate roof. Bay four from the west has been completely rebuilt in red engineering brick, front and back, and the timber bolted king post roof truss replaced with a angled steel truss. At the same time all the windows in the block were replaced with steel-framed casements, those in the repaired bay under concrete lintels. This work looks like a response to fire damage or collapse, and apparently dates from the early C20, or later.

The ground floor south-east wall has been completely removed and replaced with a RSJ on steel stanchions: these stanchions also support inserted steelwork (from Skinningrove) designed to beef up the first and second floors, otherwise of traditional timber construction with bracing between joists, and now supporting a concrete skin as well. Tension braces give additional support to some of the principal joists of the second floor. Presumably this reinforcement was carried out in anticipation of the installation of heavier machinery. In the roof bolted timber king-post trusses with trenched side purlins survive to all bays other than bay 4; inserted C20 replacement timber windows light the gables. There is a stack for a hearth on the south-east wall.

Following the removal of the ground floor wall the building was extended to the south-east in timber and glass: brick piers were left to carry the RSJ, one showing the scars of the removal of the original timber window. The ground floor windows to the private lane have been infilled with concrete blocks: only the hopper lights survive, painted over. The upper windows on the private lane elevation are of the same C20 pattern as those on the south-east elevation.

Building H

In 1903 this was a two-storey free-standing structure in the middle of the north-east yard: its setting has since been compromised by the removal of some sections of the ground floor walls and extension to the enclosing buildings. The building is divided by an internal wall into two unequal areas, to the north-east and the south-west.

Building H is of red brick under a pair of hipped slate roofs; there is an offset of two courses of chamfered brick at first floor level, which is of filler-joist construction on narrow RSJs. The roof structure is of bolted king posts with side purlins, as elsewhere: it shows clear signs of fire damage, and has had to be reset on C20 inserted steel wall-plates. All the windows are C20 replacements, some in altered openings. At ground floor level a modern wide opening under a RSJ has been inserted into the internal dividing wall; a doorway under a steel lintel has been inserted into the north-east wall.

The upper floor of this building is connected by bridges to Buildings A & G; openings have been made in the external walls of all three structures to accommodate them.

Building I

Building I was constructed in 1950. It is of traditional brick construction under a flat roof with concrete floors carried on steel beams. The floors are reached by concrete stairs with steel handrails.

Building J

Building J is the Ceylon Works. It was formerly a separate property, and is now only part of the present study by purchase. It is said to have been constructed as a horn and bone workshop but of this there is no surviving evidence in the fabric.

The Ceylon works takes the form of an L-shaped block with a range onto Thomas Street, of domestic scale and detailing, and a range of more overtly industrial character onto the private lane between the Ceylon Works and the Eye Witness Works. In the re-entrant angle between the two lies a roofed storage area: evidence for blocked and truncated windows in the north-west wall of this area indicates that it was formerly a two-storey building, partly demolished and covered in the early C20 by a shallow monopitch roof on bolted timber king-post trusses. Large early C20 openings into the older buildings are carried on RSJs from

the Leeds Steel Works supported on cast iron columns.

The Thomas Street frontage is constructed of engineering brick with stone dressings under a slate roof; there is a pair of panelled doors set in round-headed openings with moulded imposts and keyblocks. The elevation is fenestrated throughout with four-pane sashes under flat concrete lintels.

The elevation onto the private lane is rather different: it appears to be the product of a later build; maybe two. The ground floor is of red engineering brick with replacement windows with glazing bars under concrete lintels, but the first and second floors are built of white glazed brick which is clearly intended to throw as much light as possible back into the Eye Witness Works. The windows are timber casements.

The interior of the Ceylon Works is very plain: the Thomas Street range has some domestic details such as register plate fireplaces and boarded doors but the unplastered, colour-washed, brickwork of the internal walls marks it out as an industrial building from the first. The rear range is also plain, and is now used as storage space, although the size and number of the windows indicate that it began life as a series of workshops. There is a central concrete stair which is probably an insertion. The floors are all of traditional timber construction with wide boards to the Thomas Street range and narrower ones to the rear range, suggesting a later construction date for the latter. Both ranges date from the latter end of the C19.

Building K

This three-storey building is built of red engineering brick in stretcher bond, with occasional headers, under a slate roof: it appears to be in bond with the rear wall of Phase VII of Building A and may be of the same period, although it is not in English garden wall bond. The ground floor to the north-east elevation is masked by later extensions but has a number of replacement openings; the first floor is lit by tripartite timber windows, much modified, under segmental heads; the second floor by similar, smaller, windows under square heads. On the north-east side wall there are three stacks for hearths, now apparently lost. The floors are carried on RSJs supplied by the Leeds Steel Works which places the date of the building towards the end of the C19, at the earliest, when steel joists became commonly used. At ground floor level a large room has been created by the removal of an internal wall: here some line shafting remains, carried in bearing boxes, and driven from the electric motor in E2. A ceiling hatch allowed a belt drive to power equipment on the floor above. Nothing of historic interest survives on the upper floors. The roof is carried on bolted timber king-post trusses.

3. INTACTNESS

It may be helpful to review the degree of intactness exhibited by each of the blocks since this is a significant factor in assessing the listing of any building, and particular one which appears on the Statutory List at Grade II*.

The Eye Witness Works

In general the Eye Witness Works – cheaply built, and plain from choice and necessity – has suffered from a war of attrition brought about by the constant need to adapt old buildings to new uses. Examples of the kind of work carried out include the removal of large areas of the ground floor elevations, replacement of windows including some adjustment to original openings, the stripping-out of all internal evidence for function, the insertion of high-level bridges, and the removal of some internal walls. Generally it retains roof and floor structures and the internal detailing of the office accommodation. The production areas have always been plain and remain so; they have suffered more than the offices from continuous minor damage and stripping-out of original features such as fireplaces, windows, and doors.

The earliest buildings on site appear to be parts of Building A; Building B; Building D; and Building K; in that order.

It will be noted that although the works retains a stack there is no evidence for a boiler house or an engine house. These were probably contained in the building partly represented by yard F, and which was demolished to make way, significantly, for Building E: which, in its annexe E1, contained a very large electric motor and the line shafting associated with it.

Building A

Retains:

- External envelope including decorative detail to Milton Street elevation, and windows and doors
- Applied lettering to Milton Street elevation
- Roofs and floors
- Detailing to offices including plaster cornices and moulded joinery
- Two fireplaces
- Some stair detailing
- Unusual graffito on south-west quoin

Compromised by:

- Some alteration to openings of Milton Street elevation
- Loss of some of rear wall at ground floor level
- Removal of fireplaces
- Replacement concrete stairs
- Rendering of areas of building within former yard C
- Insertion of doors, stairs, and ramps to allow continuous access along full length of range

Building B

Retains:

- Most of its external envelope
- Roofs and floors
- Some stair detail

Compromised by:

- Rendering of external wall of Headford Street range
- Replacement of windows throughout
- Rendering of ground floor facing yard C
- Blocked and altered openings to ground floor on private lane
- C20 refurbishment of ground floor of Headford Street range
- Removal of hand forges
- Infilling of fireplaces

Building C

As noted above this is a former external yard, roofed in the late C20. As part of the work the surrounding ground floor elevations have been altered, rendered, and colour-washed.

Building D

Retains:

- External envelope
- Fireproof construction to ground floor, with iron beams, brick jack-arches, and one cast iron column
- Floors and roofs
- The stack, of older build
- One original grinding stone
- Evidence for other grinding stones
- Some windows, including third floor loft

Compromised by:

- Replacement windows

Building E, with E1 and E2

Retains:

- External envelope
- Floors and roofs
- Some original windows
- Timber stairs
- Line-shafting (in E1 and E2)

Compromised by:

- Large-scale insertion of replacement windows
- Extensive subdivision
- Removal and infilling with concrete blocks of ground floor windows

Building F

As noted above Building F is a yard created by the demolition of an earlier building: presumably to allow the construction of Building E. The earlier windows onto the private lane have all been blocked. The remainder retains nothing of historic interest.

Building G

Retains:

- Some original fabric including traditional timber floor structures and some bolted timber trusses

Compromised by:

- Removal of whole of ground floor of south-east elevation
- C20 rebuilding of Bay 4 through full height of building, including roof truss
- Insertion of C20 bridge to Building H
- Wholesale replacement of windows
- Stripping-out of evidence for earlier functions
- Strengthening of timber floors with inserted C20 steelwork

Building H

Retains:

- Areas of external envelope
- Brick first floor band
- Filler-joist floor

Compromised by:

- Loss of interior ground floor walls
- Replacement doors and windows
- Inserted doors and windows
- Insertion of C20 bridges to Buildings A & G
- Fire damage to, and subsequent rebuilding of, timber roof on inserted steel wall-plates

Building I

Building I was constructed in 1950. Although somewhat characterless it survives relatively intact.

Building K

Retains:

- External walls
- Floors and roofs
- Some line shafting (carried through from E2)
- Ceiling hatch for belting to upper floor

Compromised by:

- Replacement of all windows
- Removal of internal ground floor walls
- Subdivision of upper floors
- Additions to north-east elevation
- Insertion of C20 bridge to Building G

Ceylon Works (Building J)

Retains:

- External elevation to Thomas Street (all floors)
- External elevation to private lane (upper floors)
- Floors and roofs
- Fireplaces to Thomas Street range

Compromised by:

- Replacement windows to ground floor of rear range
- Removal of ground floor of rear range to covered yard
- Alterations to rear elevations

4. ASSESSMENT OF THE LISTING OF THE EYE WITNESS WORKS

The Eye Witness Works was originally listed, without internal inspection, on 13th June 1988 and subsequently appeared as an item at Grade II on the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. The key word here is *special*. There can be no doubt that the Works fulfilled the criteria for listing at Grade II.

In February 2007 the buildings were re-assessed and on the advice of English Heritage the DCMS upgraded the Eye Witness Works to Grade II*. The reasons given in the advisor's report are complex and a little diffuse but they may be summarised as follows:

- A thematic survey of the buildings of the metal trades in Sheffield has confirmed the importance of the Works;
- It represents a rare and complete example of a large fully integrated cutlery factory;
- It retains a single-storey boiler house;
- It retains evidence for mechanised, appropriately designed, and fireproof grinding hulls with blank walls for line shafting;
- Needham, Veall, and Tyzack, absorbed by Harrison Fisher and Co Ltd in 1975, is still based at Eye Witness Works, manufacturing knives.

A summary of the thematic survey has been published (*One Great Workshop: The Buildings of the Sheffield Metal Trades* Wray, Hawkins, and Giles: English Heritage 2001). Interestingly the authors of the published account refer to both the Eye Witness Works and the Beehive Works in rather different terms to those employed by the author of the revised listed building description: each factory is in fact noted as being '*a loose grouping of workshops around a yard... 'c9 [offering] accommodation for a single company or for a multitude of small manufacturers each renting a room or rooms... 'c9*'. This is not quite the same thing as a large and fully integrated cutlery factory. The mere mention of a thematic survey sounds sufficient justification for the upgrading of almost any example that may be chosen: but it all depends on how the results of the survey, necessarily somewhat superficial in the case of any one site, are interpreted.

The claims that the Eye Witness Works retains a single storey boiler house and evidence for mechanised fireproof grinding hulls with blank walls for line-shafting may be discounted. The former simply does not exist. Fireproof rooms do exist (in the ground floor of Building D) but they are windowless. Grinding wheels also formerly existed – on the upper floor of Building D – but not in a fireproof room; and the method of power transmission is now unclear. It is certain, absolutely certain, that grinding on the large scale must have taken place here: but the evidence for it is now very scanty.

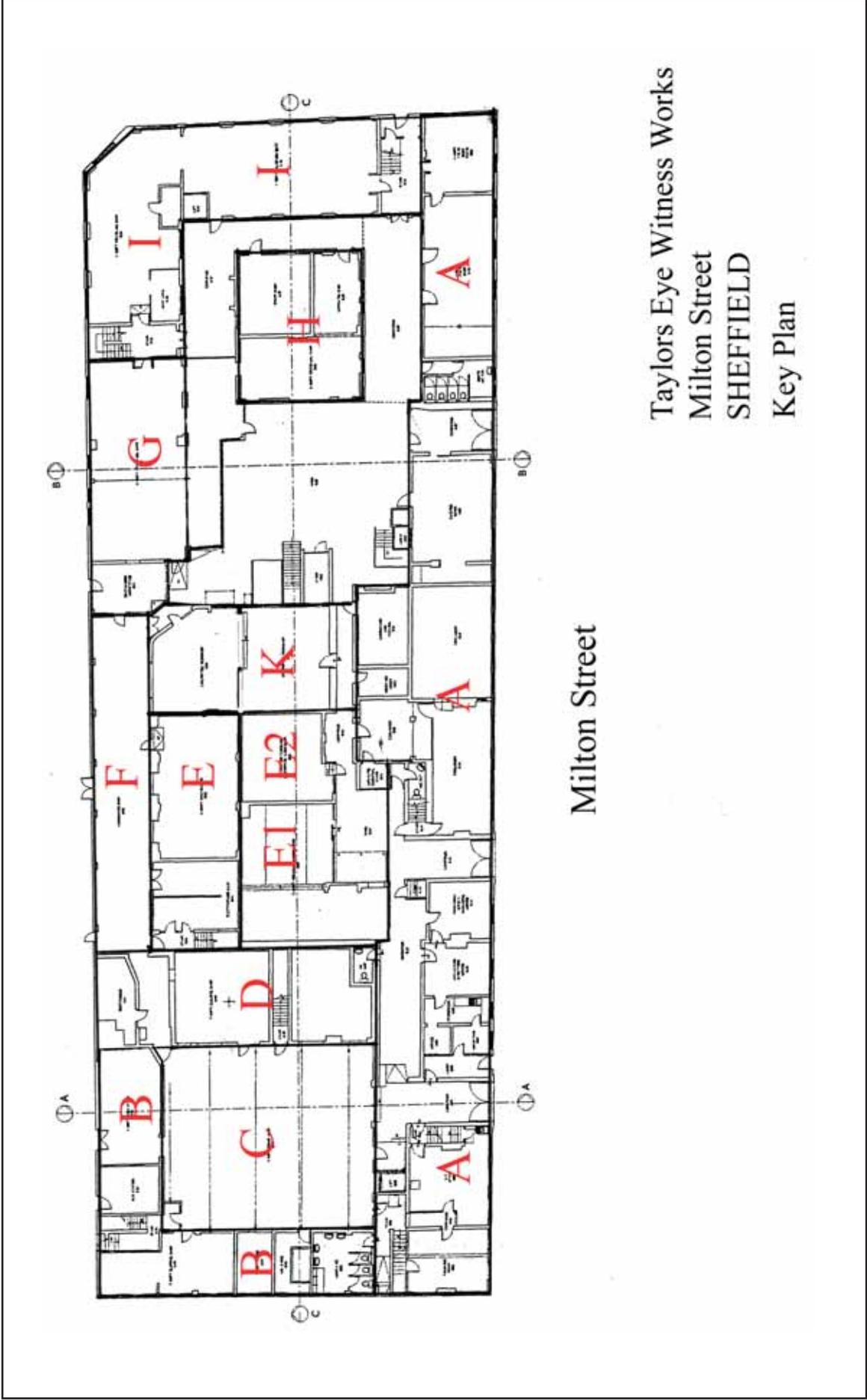
It is notable that cutlery has been manufactured on the site since c.1854, and that it is still manufactured there today. However the decision to continue to use the works in this way is a business decision, and not a matter to be taken into account when re-assessing the listed status of the buildings.

Finally the intactness of the buildings must be evaluated. Items under consideration for listing at Grade II* are generally regarded as requiring a considerable degree of intactness; but as the summary in Section 3 has shown the Eye Witness Works has suffered a great deal of partial demolition, alteration to openings, and, above all, removal of evidence for industrial function in the form of hearths, grinding hulls, and power sources. Only the office accommodation survives in anything like its original form. When the confusion concerning the layout and content of the works is taken into account – the inevitable result of an internal inspection that was less than thorough – the decision to upgrade appears hasty and ill-informed.



Taylor's Eye Witness Works
Milton Street
SHEFFIELD

South-east elevation with phasing



Milton Street

Taylors Eye Witness Works
Milton Street
SHEFFIELD
Key Plan