

## ADDRESS

War Memorial Cherry Lane Cemetery, SHEPISTON LANE, HAYES

Parish HAYES  
District HILLINGDON  
County GREATER LONDON

Case UID: 167944

Date First Listed: 23-FEB-2010

Formerly Listed As:

## RECOMMENDATION

Outcome: Yes, list

Recommended Grade: II

24-JUL-2009

## BACKGROUND:

After examining all the papers on this file and other relevant information and having carefully considered the architectural and historic interest of this case, the criteria for listing are fulfilled.

## CONTEXT

We have been asked to consider the EMI memorial for listing on architectural and historical grounds. The application has also been prompted by concerns that the future of the cemetery is under threat because of plans for the expansion of Heathrow Airport and proposals to build a third runway. Although the third runway will be located to the south of the M4 there are proposals to upgrade the surrounding road network, which the applicant believes may affect this site.

Although known as Cherry Lane Cemetery, Cherry Lane was renamed Shepiston Lane in the early 1960s as the construction of the M4 led to modifications to local roads.

The headstone has just been restored (May-July 2009) by Hooper Stonemasons.

## HISTORY

Cherry Lane Cemetery is a municipal cemetery run by the London Borough of Hillingdon. It was initially laid out in the mid 1930s to provide a new burial ground as the churchyard at St Mary's Hayes had run out of space. This must have taken place post-1935 as the cemetery is not shown on the Ordnance Survey map of this date. The cemetery later took burials from SS Peter & Paul, Harlington, when it too ran out of space in its own graveyard. The cemetery is located to the north of Shepiston Lane.

The memorial under assessment was erected in remembrance of the 37 employees of the HMV Gramophone Factory, Blyth Road, Hayes, who were killed when a V1 flying bomb or 'doodle-bug' hit a factory surface air-raid shelter on 7 July 1944. Secondary sources differ in their records of the event but the original bomb census form, now held in the National Archives, confirms that it was a flying bomb which landed at 1459 hours, killing 24 and seriously injuring 21 (some of the seriously injured clearly died later). Hayes on Record (1992, 142-3) states that the V1 came down at the main entrance to one shelter such that the concrete roof collapsed and although some of the badly injured were able to be rescued from the emergency exit to the rear, others were trapped for some hours. Twelve of the victims are understood to be buried in a mass grave in the Cherry Lane cemetery. The Imperial War Graves Commission registers indicate that while some of the victims were from Hayes, others were from more distant parts of London and so may have been buried closer to home.

The HMV Gramophone Factory was then the largest employer in Hayes. Originally known as 'The Gramophone Company' it gradually became known as HMV from its trademark 'His Master's Voice'. The company merged with the Columbia Gramophone Company in 1932, becoming Electrical and Musical Industries (EMI) although still retaining the HMV brand name. The Hayes factory had a history of war work, as it manufactured munitions during the First World War and during the Second World War was involved with radar and communications equipment. While it may, therefore, have been an enemy target, the V1 flying bomb was notoriously inaccurate and it is therefore very unfortunate that this particular bomb hit an air raid shelter with such devastating effect. While V1s could be fired on a particular alignment and at a target, they were subject to the effects of weather conditions and could be blown off course or could have a shorter range if they encountered a head wind. The destruction of the HMV shelter, and the considerable death toll there, is understood to have been the most serious incident in Hayes during the Second World War.

The date of the memorial's erection is unknown, but it is assumed to have been within a few years of 1944. It was restored in 1994, and also in May-July 2009.

#### DESCRIPTION

The earliest part of Cherry Lane Cemetery is to the immediate north of Shepiston Lane and comprises a semi-circular area, delineated by a curving drive and with a narrow north-south axial path extending to the north. Further cross paths and drives, some with roundels on the central axis, divide the cemetery into a grid pattern. The grave markers are modern and typically take the form of either slab headstones or headstones with enclosures. Most are oriented facing east. The landscape is largely grassed with specimen trees (yews and deciduous trees) along the driveways and paths and some shrubs between the lines of graves to the north of the semi-circle. Much of the cemetery in the northern part of the site remains empty.

The EMI memorial is located in a prominent position to the immediate west of the main axial north-south path through the cemetery. It is situated approximately 9m north of the northern edge of the west-east path at its junction with the axial north-south path. The memorial is considerably larger than its neighbours and is therefore visible for some distance; it is the dominant stone in this southern part of the cemetery. It is located in an area of the cemetery where there are other wartime burials. To the immediate south is the grave of Emily Howarth Sumner, who was killed in the same raid and whose name is also on the main memorial.

The memorial takes the form of a large but simple 'head' stone set to the west of a stone flagged rectangular enclosure, approximately 2.25m square. This has a raised stone surround with chamfered edges and corners with stops at the eastern entrance; also a central octagonal stone vase. The memorial stone has a gently curved top and stands on a chamfered plinth. It is approximately 1m wide by 1.75m tall. At the top of the stone, in the centre, is a carved wreath of flames with ribbons to either side above the long inscription which fills the remainder of the stone. The lettering is laid out using capital letters and a serif font, and is incised and blackened. Comparison between photographs provided by the applicant, dated 1994, and the present indicates that there has been some re-cutting of the inscription. Most noticeably, there was originally a gap separating the last two lines, now closed, which were originally in a smaller font. Also, there has been some re-working and also blackening of the wreath. The legend is bi-partite and reads: 'IN MEMORY OF/ [12 names]/ WAR WORKERS OF/ THE GRAMOPHONE COMPANY/ WHO DIED THROUGH ENEMY ACTION/ 7TH JULY 1944/ AND LIE BURIED HERE/ [25 further names]/ WHO DIED ON THE SAME OCCASION/ AND ARE BURIED ELSEWHERE/ THIS STONE WAS ERECTED BY THEIR/ FELLOW WORKERS AND THE COMPANY'. The memorial is therefore

both a burial marker to those in the mass grave on site and a memorial to the remaining casualties.

## ASSESSMENT

War memorials will always warrant very serious consideration for designation as they are such poignant reminders of the tragic impact of world events on local communities, and this one is no exception. Our Commemorative Structures Selection Guide indicates that memorials which originate in the Second World War are relatively rare. Clearly many of the war memorials listed nationally have their origins shortly after the First World War and then are enhanced with the names of the fallen from the Second World War. These usually commemorate personnel from the armed services rather than civilians.

A search of the United Kingdom National Inventory of War Memorials for Second World War civilian memorials records sixteen examples in London (this memorial is not currently recorded). They range from a cenotaph in East London Cemetery to the 100 plus victims of air raids in Hackney, to the National Firefighters' Memorial near St Paul's Cathedral which commemorates all the firefighters who lost their lives during the war. Another example is the Grade II listed commemorative monument in Manor Park Cemetery, London Borough of Newham, which was erected by the Imperial War Graves Commission in 1950 to commemorate the 57 civilian victims of East Ham who were killed during the Second World War. All of these memorials, however, are in remembrance of the victims of an area or a profession over the duration of the war, whereas the memorial under assessment here marks a particular event. Our Selection Guide also describes the often modest scale and design of Second World War memorials, such that their interest may be essentially historical rather than architectural, but that visual plainness should not hide the importance of memorials such as those municipal markers over mass graves in cemeteries of civilians killed by enemy action.'

The EMI memorial is a simple yet poignant reminder of the civilian casualties of the Second World War, marking both a mass grave and in memory of the remaining victims of a V1 attack in Hayes which resulted in the largest number of casualties in the area in the war. While not a municipal erection, but rather a tribute from fellow workers to their deceased colleagues, this gives it additional poignancy and is a deeply moving record of the tragic events in July 1944. It is therefore recommended that this memorial is listed at Grade II in recognition of its unpretentious yet effective design, the quality of the materials and the inscription, its prominence within the cemetery, and the clear historic interest and on-going significance of the monument to the families of the deceased and undoubtedly to the local community.

## SOURCES

Hall, P & Brown, C (1992), Hayes on Record: A History of the Processes Involved in the Manufacture of and Development of Vinyl Record and Music Cassettes at Hayes, Middlesex (EMI Music Services (UK), 1992

UK Civilian Dead, 1939-45 for the Urban District of Hayes and Harlington in Imperial War Graves Commission Registers (1954-7), Volume 5, pp1670-2

United Kingdom National Inventory of War Memorials at <http://www.ukniwm.org.uk/>

## ASSESSMENT:

This grave marker and war memorial to workers from The Gramophone Company in Hayes is recommended for inclusion on the statutory list at Grade II.

## REASONS FOR DESIGNATION DECISION:

The EMI memorial, Cherry Lane Cemetery, which is both a grave marker and commemorative stone for workers from The Gramophone Company, Hayes killed during a V1 attack in July 1944, has been assessed and is recommended for designation for the following principal reasons:

- \* A simple yet poignant memorial
- \* Of historic and cultural special interest as a grave marker and memorial to the 37 civilian casualties of The Gramophone Company and an eloquent witness to the tragic impact of world events on their families and the local community.

## VISITS

29-MAY-2009      Partial Inspection

Headstone removed for conservation by Hopper Stonemasons.

24-JUL-2009      Full inspection

The 'head' stone has been re-erected following restoration works.

## COUNTERSIGNING

Countersigning Comments: Agreed.

This simple memorial commemorates a tragic event that affected one company and community greatly. It has special historic interest and should be listed at Grade II.

13 August 2009

Second Countersigning Comments:

HP Director Comments:

Proposed List Entry

HAYES

23-FEB-2010

SHEPISTON LANE  
War Memorial Cherry Lane Cemetery

II

Case UID: 167944

Proposed LBS UID: 506721

Civilian war memorial and gravestone, probably mid-late 1940s, to commemorate the 37 workers of the Gramophone Company, Blyth Road, Hayes killed when a V1 flying-bomb hit a factory surface air-raid shelter on 7 July 1944. Restored in 1994 and again in 2009.

**DESCRIPTION:**

The memorial is located to the immediate west of the main axial north-south path through the cemetery. It takes the form of a simple 'head' stone set to the west of a stone flagged rectangular enclosure, approximately 2.25m square. This has a raised stone surround with chamfered edges and corners with stops at the eastern entrance; also a central octagonal stone vase. The memorial stone, which is approximately 1m wide by 1.75m high, has a gently curved top and stands on a chamfered plinth. Top centre of the stone is a carved flame wreath with ribbons to either side above the long inscription which fills the remainder of the stone. The legend is bi-partite with incised, blackened lettering in capitals in a serif font, and reads: `IN MEMORY OF/ [12 names]/ WAR WORKERS OF/ THE GRAMOPHONE COMPANY/ WHO DIED THROUGH ENEMY ACTION/ 7TH JULY 1944/ AND LIE BURIED HERE/ [25 further names]/ WHO DIED ON THE SAME OCCASION/ AND ARE BURIED ELSEWHERE/ THIS STONE WAS ERECTED BY THEIR/ FELLOW WORKERS AND THE COMPANY. The memorial is therefore both a burial marker to those in the mass grave on site and a memorial to the remaining casualties. Comparison with late C20 photographs indicates that there has been some re-working of the inscription. Most noticeably, there was originally a gap separating the last two lines (now closed) which were in a smaller font. Also, there has been some re-working and blackening of the wreath.

**HISTORY:**

Cherry Lane Cemetery is a municipal cemetery run by the London Borough of Hillingdon. It was initially laid out in the mid 1930s to provide a new burial ground as the churchyard at St Mary's Hayes had run out of space. The grave marker and memorial was erected in remembrance of the 37 employees of the HMV Gramophone Factory, Blyth Road, Hayes who were killed when a V1 flying bomb or 'doodle-bug' hit a factory surface air-raid shelter on 7 July 1944. Secondary sources differ in their records of the event but the original bomb census form, now held in the National Archives, confirms that it was a flying bomb which landed at 1459 hours killing 24 and seriously injuring 21 (some of the seriously injured clearly died later). Hayes on Record (1992, 142-3) states that the V1 came down at the main entrance to one shelter such that the concrete roof collapsed and although some of the badly injured were able to be rescued from the emergency exit to the rear others were trapped for some hours. Twelve of the victims are buried in a mass grave in the cemetery here. The Imperial War Graves Commission registers indicate that while some of the victims were from Hayes, others were from more distant parts of London so were undoubtedly buried closer to home. The date of the memorial's erection is unknown, but it is assumed to have been within a few years of 1944.

During the Second World War, the HMV Gramophone Factory was the largest employer in Hayes. Originally known as 'The Gramophone Company' it gradually became known as HMV from its trademark 'His Master's Voice'. The company merged with the Columbia Gramophone Company in

1932, becoming Electrical and Musical Industries (EMI) although still retaining the HMV brand name. The Hayes factory had a history of war work as it manufactured munitions during the First World War and during the Second World War was involved with radar and communications equipment. The destruction of the shelter and the considerable death toll of July 1944 is believed to have been the most serious single incident, in terms of casualties in Hayes during the Second World War.

**SOURCES:**

P Hall & C Brown (1992), Hayes on Record: A History of the Processes Involved in the Manufacture of and Development of Vinyl Record and Music Cassettes at Hayes, Middlesex, pp142-3. EMI Music Services (UK)

UK Civilian Dead, 1939-45 for the Urban District of Hayes and Harlington in Imperial War Graves Commission Registers (1954-7), Volume 5, pp1670-2

United Kingdom National Inventory of War Memorials at <http://www.ukniwm.org.uk/>

**REASON FOR DESIGNATION:**

The EMI memorial, Cherry Lane Cemetery, which is both a grave marker and commemorative stone for workers from The Gramophone Company, Hayes killed during a V1 attack in July 1944, is listed at Grade II for the following principal reasons:

- \* A simple yet poignant memorial
- \* Of historic and cultural special interest as a grave marker and memorial to the 37 civilian casualties of the Gramophone Company and an eloquent witness to the tragic impact of world events on their families and the local community.