

MAUNSELL THIRD OPEN S 1346 S

Similar to 1381 and 1323 with Lancing frames and Eastleigh bodywork/interior fittings also to design diagram 2005 but built as part of Lot no. 706 during 1933. The only slight visible difference with 1381 are 1323 and 1346 have two louvre vents over the toilet windows whereas 1381 has one vent.

1346 was damaged during one of many WW2 bombing raids on Clapham Junction. It ran 'loose' until included in 10 coach set 269 in 1954 but became 'loose' again in 1959. The coach was withdrawn in 1961 and converted for departmental use as an Instruction Coach numbered DS 70201.

It was further renumbered for Internal User usage to 083181, during 1975, and used as a classroom by BR's Chief Mechanical & Electrical Engineers Department at Clapham Junction. May have been used also at Lancing and Eastleigh although its final BR 'home' was Stewarts Lane in London.

Purchased by the Tenterden Rolling Stock Group arriving at Kent & East Sussex Railway in September 1982 to be renumbered No. 78. Repainted to represent an ambulance car for K&ESR's 'Steaming to Victory in 1985 (marking 40 years from the end of World War II) and 'Steaming Home' Gala in 1986 then moved to the Rother Valley Railway at Robertsbridge in 1999.

Purchased in February 2002 for use on the Swanage Railway. Went to Ramparts in Derby during 2011 for assessment of structural and mechanical overhaul but has since been moved to Ramparts' new premises at Barrow Hill where restoration is taking place.

Peter Sykes 4/3/2017

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