

Nominate a Heritage Asset

Bangkok House (Former Boatmen's Mission Chapel) Hythe Bridge Street



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| 1. WHAT IS IT? Is it one of the following? | Tick |
| a building or group of buildings | y |
| a monument or site (an area of archaeological remains or a structure other than a building) | |
| a place (e.g. a street, park, garden or natural space) | |
| a landscape (an area defined by visual features or character, e.g. a city centre, village, suburb or field system) | |
| 2. WHY IS IT INTERESTING? Is it interesting in any of the following ways? | Tick / Rank |
| Historic interest – a well documented association with a person, event, episode of history, or local industry | y |
| Archaeological interest – firm evidence of potential to reveal more about the human past through further study | |
| Architectural interest – an example of an architectural style, a building of particular use, a technique of building, or use of materials | y |
| Artistic interest – It includes artistic endeavour to communicate meaning or use of design (including landscape design) to enhance appearance | |
| What is it about the asset that provides this interest? | |
| Historic interest: Built c. 1868 to replace the former floating chapel at Fisher Row, serving the community of boatmen and their families on the Oxford Canal, many of whom also lived at Fisher Row. It also served as a day school for infants and a night school for men. | |
| Architectural interest: The single storey brick building has the appearance of a small chapel, retaining a pointed gothic-arched door from the street and similar arched window with a steeply pitched roof of clay plain tile. | |
| 3. WHY IS IT LOCALLY VALUED? Is the interest of the asset valued locally for any of the following reasons? | Tick / Rank |
| Association: It connects us to people and events that shaped the identity or | y |

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| character of the area | |
| Illustration: It illustrates an aspect of the area's past that makes an important contribution to its identity or character | y |
| Evidence: It is an important resource for understanding and learning about the area's history | |
| Aesthetics: It makes an important contribution to the positive look of the area either by design or fortuitously | y |
| Communal: It is important to the identity, cohesion, spiritual life or memory of all or part of the community | |
| <p>How is the asset locally valued as heritage?</p> <p>Association and Illustration: The building has a special association with the community of boatpeople who made the Oxford Canal and Fisser Row their home in the 19th century. The presence of the small chapel helps to illustrate the distinct identity this group of people maintained as a separate community from the parish of St Thomas', as well as the perceived need to 'Christianise' them.</p> <p>Aesthetic value: The small chapel building is designed to convey the impression of a religious building, using familiar 'church building motifs' such as the gothic arched doors and windows to convey understanding of its purpose. It stands out within the streetscene as different from the residential and commercial buildings around it, although the materials and detailing form a part of the Victorian character of the area.</p> | |

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| 4. WHAT MAKES ITS LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE SPECIAL? Do any of the following features make the heritage significance of the asset stand out above the surrounding environment? | Tick |
| Age ... Is it particularly old, or of a date that is significant to the local area? | y |
| Rarity ... Is it unusual in the area or a rare survival of something that was once common? | y |
| Integrity ... Is it largely complete or in a near to original condition? | y |
| Group value ... Is it part of a group that have a close historic, aesthetic or communal association? | |
| Oxford's identity ... Is it important to the identity or character of the city or a particular part of it? | y |
| Other ... Is there another way you think it has special local value? | |
| <p>How does this contribute to its value?</p> <p>Age: The building dates from the mid 19th century and retains sufficient of its appearance to be recognised as a mid-Victorian structure that dates from considerably earlier than the 20th century building which form large parts of Hythe Bridge Street. As such it represents an early phase of development of the street</p> <p>Rarity and Integrity: The building is sufficiently well preserved to be recognised both in terms of its age and purpose, whilst it is unique in the city as a religious building constructed for a community defined by their trade.</p> <p>Oxford's identity: The building plays an important role in the identity of the area by providing a memory of the community of boatpeople who worked on the Oxford canal and the city's waterways who have now gone but were once an integral element of the character of West Oxford. Indeed, this community may have had its origins in the medieval period, based on the hythes that surrounded Osney Island, only dying out with the end of the use of the canals for freight and the demolition of the buildings of Fisher Row in the mid 20th century. As such it also reflects the importance of the theme of transport and industry to the history and character of West Oxford.</p> | |