

Nominate a Heritage Asset

The Green Street Bookbinders	
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	
<p>What is it about the asset that provides this interest?</p> <p>Historic interest: “The site was first developed in or around 1988 as an additional stable block for the horses of the City of Oxford & Tramways Co. Ltd. Becoming, with the arrival of motorbuses in 1914, the principle coach-building body and repair shop for what became the City of Oxford Motor Services Ltd., the current Oxford Bus Company. It was vacated by them in 1929 when the operational base was moved to the new depot at 395 Cowley Road. ... It became a hand bindery in 1962 and was altered for that use. The bindery was operated by Blackwells. ...The premises were sold by Blackwells to the current owner, Green Street Bindery, in 1982. The adjoining building was acquired by the current owner for the expansion of the Bindery business. At a later stage, offices were constructed within the building envelope at the front of the building on the first floor.” (JPPC, 2013, Planning and Heritage Statement , 15-16)</p> <p>Architectural interest: Architectural interest comprises the building’s industrial character which provides evidence of its past use for multiple industrial purposes including its form, materials, scale and detailing. This is limited to the large brick built shed that occupies the majority of the site. The later addition to the property, a single storey flat roofed shed is not considered to contribute to the architectural interest of the site.</p>	
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 character of the area	y
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	y
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: The building is associated with two businesses that are recognised as Oxford Bus Company and Blackwells that have made an important contribution to the character and development of Oxford.</p> <p>Illustration: The buildings illustrate the development of public transport in Oxford from the days</p>	

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of horse drawn trams to the introduction of buses. The survival of such buildings provides evidence of the development, economy and society of the suburb. Public transport played an important role in the development of the city suburbs, making it possible for people to work in the city centre. The Oxford Bus Company played an important part in this process and remains a prominent feature of the city, competing with the buses of national companies. The development of the bus company followed the resistance of the University and Colleges to the introduction of overhead wires for electric trams along the High Street.

Aesthetics: The building may not be comely but contributes to the mixed architectural character of the streets of Central East Oxford neighbourhood, which typically include a scatter of light industrial buildings, in addition to houses and buildings of other uses. Its architecture and materials reflect its late 19th or early 20th century origins. This variety is an important element of the appearance of the suburb, whilst the potential for employment uses in the otherwise largely residential areas provides opportunities for activity in the streets.

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?	
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?	
How does this contribute to its value? Rarity and integrity: The building is considered to be unique in Oxford as a surviving tram depot and has largely retained its early 120 th century architectural character. Group value and Oxford's identity: The building is one of a small number of industrial buildings in the immediately surrounding streets that illustrate the presence of industrial activity within the suburb in the late 19 th and early 20 th century. The combination of industry and residential use is an important feature of the historical character and identity of the East Oxford suburb. The type of industry that is represented reflects the history of Oxford as a centre of motor engineering in the past, as well as learning and production of books in Britain.	

Sources:

JPPC Chartered Town Planners, 2013, Planning and Heritage Statement; Site: 9 Green Street, Oxford, OX4 1YB