

Nominate a Heritage Asset

Nos. 55-66 Marston Street



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	y2
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	y1
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>Architectural interest: The buildings were designed G. T. Sessions a local architect who designed several groups of buildings as well as individual town houses around the East Oxford Suburb and in the adjoining area of St. Clement's. They are in matching buff coloured brick forming a long frontage with division between properties marked by rainwater goods. Window and door openings have steeply pointed arched openings as part of Gothic Revival style scheme, whilst the ground floor bay windows have substantial brick mullions and central pilasters.</p> <p>Historic Interest: These houses were built by the Oxford Provident and Industrial Land and Building Society in 1878, an organisation who played a prominent role in the development of Oxford's suburbs normally by developing land that was then sold or lease to speculative developers under strict covenants. In this instance it appears they undertook the development</p>	

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themselves.

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	
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>Illustration: The building illustrates the contrition of the Oxford Provident and Industrial Building Society to the rapid development of the suburb but also their use of architects who would add to the interest of the environment.</p> <p>The building also illustrate the spread of the Gothic Revival style across the city as a distinctive style embraced in Oxford, where it contributes to the long history of Gothic architecture seen in the colleges and buildings of the University.</p> <p>Aesthetics: This is an attractive and distinctive row of buildings that add considerably to the positive character of East Oxford Second Suburb Area and to Marston Street in particular. The uniformity of architecture and good state of preservation, albeit with many replacement windows makes an important contribution to the building's high aesthetic value</p>	

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?	
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?	y
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>Integrity: The building is well preserved, with detailing and materials contributing to the strong unified character and aesthetic appeal created by G. T. Sessions strongly expressed but still restrained Gothic revival design.</p> <p>Group value: These buildings form part of a group of work y G. T. Session in the local area that also includes No. 17 Iffley Road and Terraces at London Place and Glebe Street (all within the St Clement's and Iffley Road Conservation Area), as well as the combined shops and flats at Nos. 211-215 Cowley Road. Throughout Sessions retained his distinctive Gothic revival motifs making a strong contribution to the character of the area.</p> <p>Oxford's identity: These buildings have a strongly expressed late 19th century character, using the severe Gothic Revival style that was particularly popular in Oxford in the 1860s and '70s. As such they make a strong contribution to the distinctive character of East Oxford and are representative of the positive historic character of the 19th century suburbs of Oxford as a whole.</p>	