

## Nominate a Heritage Asset

**No. 147-151 Howard Street, Donnington Arms Public House, Howard Street**

1. <b>WHAT IS IT?</b> Is it one of the following?	Tick
a <b>building or group of buildings</b>	y
a <b>monument or site (an area of archaeological remains or a structure other than a building)</b>	
a <b>place (e.g. a street, park, garden or natural space)</b>	
a <b>landscape (an area defined by visual features or character, e.g. a city centre, village, suburb or field system)</b>	

2. <b>WHY IS IT INTERESTING?</b> Is it interesting in any of the following ways?	Tick / Rank
<b>Historic interest</b> – a well documented association with a person, event, episode of history, or local industry	y
<b>Archaeological interest</b> – firm evidence of potential to reveal more about the human past through further study	
<b>Architectural interest</b> – an example of an architectural style, a building of particular use, a technique of building, or use of materials	y
<b>Artistic interest</b> – 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><b>Historic Interest:</b> A former public house and now a restaurant, The Donnington Arms was built for Halls' Brewery in 1935 and is a good example of an 'Improved Public House'. This part of the Robin Hood Area was developed from 1878, partly by the speculative developer John Galpin. However an early reference to the Donnington Arms survives from Kelly's Directory of 1876, when the proprietor was recorded as Mrs Hebborn, who was also a cab proprietor.</p> <p><b>Architectural interest:</b> A good example of the 'improved Public House' style produced in the Inter-War years, in this case by Halls Brewery. The style was intended to change the perception of public houses, by making them more aspirational destinations to eat and drink and using architectural motifs that referenced coaching inns of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The building has prominent canted bay windows with 17<sup>th</sup> century style transom and mullion windows with stone detailing set against red brick .</p>	

3. <b>WHY IS IT LOCALLY VALUED?</b> Is the interest of the asset <b>valued locally</b> for any of the following reasons?	Tick / Rank
<b>Association:</b> It connects us to people and events that shaped the identity or character of the area	y
<b>Illustration:</b> It illustrates an aspect of the area's past that makes an important contribution to its identity or character	y
<b>Evidence:</b> It is an important resource for understanding and learning about the area's history	
<b>Aesthetics:</b> It makes an important contribution to the positive look of the area either by design or fortuitously	y
<b>Communal:</b> It is important to the identity, cohesion, spiritual life or memory of all or part of the community	y
<p>How is the asset locally valued as heritage?</p> <p><b>Association and Communal:</b> The Donnington Arms is one of a number of public houses that provide a connection with the area's past as a working class suburb where pubs were an important venue for socialising and entertainment. A pub has stood on this site since the 1870s, providing a considerable continuity with the past, whilst this has served as a building where the community have come together, building cohesion and a sense of identity.</p> <p><b>Illustration:</b> The architecture illustrates the development of the 'improved public house' as a type of building found within Oxford, paid for by the brewery companies. It represents a shift in attitudes towards frequenting public houses and drinking beer in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century as a recreational activity among the increasingly affluent working class communities and the response of brewery companies in seeking to raise the profile of their buildings.</p>	

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**Aesthetics:** The building has attractive features that contrast with the older Victorian and Edwardian character of the houses in the street, providing variety and interest.

<b>4. WHAT MAKES ITS LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE SPECIAL?</b> Do any of the following features make the heritage significance of the asset stand out above the surrounding environment?	Tick
<b>Age</b> ... Is it particularly old, or of a date that is significant to the local area?	y
<b>Rarity</b> ... Is it unusual in the area or a rare survival of something that was once common?	
<b>Integrity</b> ... Is it largely complete or in a near to original condition?	y
<b>Group value</b> ... Is it part of a group that have a close historic, aesthetic or communal association?	y
<b>Oxford's identity</b> ... Is it important to the identity or character of the city or a particular part of it?	y
<b>Other</b> ... Is there another way you think it has special local value?	
<p>How does this contribute to its value?</p> <p><b>Age:</b> The use of this site as a public house can be traced to the very earliest days of development on Howard Street and in the Robin Hood area of the East Oxford Suburb, although the present building is a later rebuilding of the premises.</p> <p><b>Integrity:</b> The historic appearance of the building as a public house has been preserved whilst its use as a restaurant preserves the character of the building as a place for socialising and entertainment, although not perhaps as communal in use as it once was. This sustains understanding of its historic function and relevance to the area and the attractive details of its Inter-War design.</p> <p><b>Group Value and Oxford's Identity:</b> This is one of a group of public houses spread across the East Oxford Suburb and particularly concentrated in the streets between Iffley Road and Cowley Road that preserve evidence of developments in the retailing of beer during the mid and late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, including the use of architecture to create messages about the status of pubs and their clientele. These buildings provided an important venue for socialising and entertainment for the residents' of these areas in the past and form an important element of the Victorian and Edwardian working class character of the area, which is an important part of its identity. The later, Inter-War period 'improved public houses' are notable for the high quality of architecture they present, adding to the architectural interest of the suburb as a whole and providing important landmarks on many streets.</p>	