

## Nominate a Heritage Asset

### The River Hotel, Botley Road



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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	
What is it about the asset that provides this interest?	
<p><b>Historic interest:</b> Built by 1878, this was originally called Bridge House and was probably home of the builder George Jones who leased a builders' yard to the rear and built houses on Botley Road and Mill Street. Soon after 1881 it became the home of the successful building company owner T.H. Kingerlee who's company built many houses in West Oxford, including houses on Cripsey Road and Abbey Road just across Botley Road and further west along Botley Road where Helen Road and Henry Road are named after family members. The building company's yard was also located just to the north at Abbey Road with access to the wharfs on the river. Kingerlee also built many of Oxford's a landmark buildings, particularly in the west of the city (including the</p>	

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Old Fire Station, the Jam Factory and the New Theatre. He was elected Mayor of Oxford in 1895 at which time he was a Liberal Councillor, and again in 1911. He was made an Alderman in 1906. The firm of Kinglerlee still continues to be an important company in Oxford today.

**Architectural interest:** This is a large and imposing late Victorian building standing next to Botley Road which is now one of the main routes into the city centre. It is significantly larger than surrounding houses and occupies the conspicuous position next to the river. The building retains architectural detailing, including its timber framed sash windows, some of which are embellished with gothic arched heads.

<b>3. 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	
How is the asset locally valued as heritage?	
<b>Association:</b> The building has a strong association with an influential business man and politician who played a role in the civic and commercial life of the city in the late 19 <sup>th</sup> and early 20 <sup>th</sup> century including the building of the West Oxford suburb.	
<b>Illustration:</b> The building illustrates the wealth generated by speculative building of new housing in Oxford in the later 19 <sup>th</sup> century (a time of considerable expansion of the city). Nevertheless the house is located in what was generally a suburb of artisans with a strong industrial character and near to the owners' own builders' yards.	
<b>Aesthetics:</b> This is a striking building that has retained much of its late Victorian character, as a restrained version of the Gothic Revival housing being built in Oxford's more affluent suburbs at this time.	

<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?	
<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?	
How does this contribute to its value?	
<b>Age and integrity:</b> The building has retained its historic character well, revealing its age as part of the wider development of New Osney but of a markedly different scale and status as the home of a wealthy businessman who was a prominent member of the city's community.	
<b>Oxford's identity:</b> The building has a strong association with the founder of a company who are now a well recognised Oxford name (equivalent for example to Cooper's Marmalade, Blackwells Bookshop or Oxford Bus Company).	