

Nominate a Heritage Asset

No. 29 Abbey Road, Oxford (formerly St. Frideswide's Curate's House)



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 and Architectural interest: Built in 1886-7 to designs by Clapton Crabbe Rolfe as a curate's house for the nearby church of St Frideswide on Botley Road. Built in red brick with plain tile catslide roof with ornamental ridge tiles and tall chimney stacks. Windows include stone tracery, providing an ecclesiastical character.	

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	

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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 provides a good example of the work of the locally architect C.C. Rolfe who was one of Oxford' more inventive architects of the late 19th century. His style generally includes high quality detailing, including use of the Victorian Gothic Revival style and can be seen as an Oxford based contribution to the development of the Arts and Crafts style. The building also illustrates the wealth of the church in the late 19th century, even within less affluent communities like West Oxford. It is noted as of interest by Pevsner and Sherwood in Buildings of England (Oxford),</p> <p>Aesthetics: The building contributes to the Victorian character of the area of New Osney, as well as making a notable contribution to the attractive quality of the streetscene through its architectural detailing. The contrast with surrounding buff brick buildings makes it stand out as particularly notable.</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?	Y 4
Rarity ... Is it unusual in the area or a rare survival of something that was once common?	Y 1
Integrity ... Is it largely complete or in a near to original condition?	Y 3
Group value ... Is it part of a group that have a close historic, aesthetic or communal association?	Y 1
Oxford's identity ... Is it important to the identity or character of the city or a particular part of it?	
Other ... Is there another way you think it has special local value?	
<p>How does this contribute to its value?</p> <p>Group value and Rarity: This is one of a small number of buildings by C.C. Rolfe within Oxford forming a corpus of highly competent work that is notable for its highly original and thought provoking style, including attention to detail and materials. The building would be considered to form a part of this small group of buildings which also includes the vicarage of St Thomas' church just a few streets to the south east and the two rows of highly distinctive artisans' cottages at Kingston Road.</p> <p>Integrity: The building is well preserved, retaining much of its historic architectural detail and character as a detached curate's house set within its own grounds.</p> <p>Age: The building forms a contemporary structure to the surrounding housing development, illustrating its development in the late 19th century.</p>	