

Nominate a Heritage Asset

Former Castle Hotel, Park End 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	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?	
<p>Historic interest: Built as a hotel in the 1880s as part of the development of the former market gardens on land owned by Christ Church to the north of St Thomas' Church opposite Oxford's two main railway stations (those of the competing GWR and LMS railways,</p> <p>Architectural interest: The Castle Hotel was designed by E G Cobb in 1888 and stands out in the streetscene for a French baroque design with a pavilion roofed tower capped with ornamental</p>	

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ironwork and decorated across its frontage with stonework including string courses and cartouches, keystones and jambs to windows and the central front door and aprons to the eaves. The high level of ornament would have helped the building to stand out in the streetscene contributing to its function as a hotel.

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	
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	
How is the asset locally valued as heritage?	
<p>Illustration and Association: The building illustrates the development of the area as an arrival point for the city catering for travellers through provision of hotels and, as such, has associations with the importance of the transport networks in this part of the city.</p> <p>Aesthetics: The building was designed to form an attractive element of the street scene with eye-catching features that have remained intact. It contributes to the wider Victorian and Edwardian character of Park End Street and the historic character of the south and west sides of Frideswide Square.</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
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?	
How does this contribute to its value?	
<p>Age: The building represents the first built development of this land, illustrating the growth of the suburb as an extension of the commercial area of the city centre in response to the increasing importance of the railways and passenger traffic to Oxford. As such it represents an important phase in the area's development. T</p> <p>Integrity: The building has retained its Victorian character well, including its historic joinery and detailing which makes an important contribution to the aesthetic quality and historic character of the frontage of Park End Street, as well as of understanding of its historic role.</p> <p>Group value and Oxford's identity: the building forms part of the southern frontage of Park End Street, which has a strongly expressed late Victorian and Edwardian architectural character using a limited palette of red brick with stone dressings. These buildings together help to illustrate the development of this route in the late 19th and early 20th century as an important route into the 20th century acting as a new commercial area in response to the growing importance of this route and the importance of the railway stations in particular, making this the most important entrance to the city centre (replacing the roads from London) for visitors.</p>	