

Nominate a Heritage Asset

Nos. 9 and 10 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	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: No. 9 Marston Street was purchased in 1894 by the Sisterhood of the Holy Childhood, an order of Protestant Nuns who taught at Sister Alice's School on Marston Street. No. 10 was purchased soon after by the Cowley Fathers and leased to the sisters. A chapel at the rear was built in 1898. The order left the buildings in the 1950s after which the Cowley Fathers used them to accommodate visitors and religious guests.	
Architectural interest: The small chapel at the rear of the building provides evidence of the former use of the building as a small convent and is identifiable as a result of the distinctive gothic traceried windows.	

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	y

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contribution to its identity or character	
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	
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? Association and Illustration: These two buildings are associated with both the Sisters of the Holy Childhood and the Society of Saint John the Evangelist (The Cowley Fathers). Both of these religious orders made important contributions to the welfare of the community of the suburb, whilst the chapel as a distinctive feature of the building provides evidence of their presence.	

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?	y
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? Rarity: This small, back garden chapel is an extremely unusual feature not seen elsewhere in the Suburb. Integrity: The chapel, in particular, remains identifiable due to its distinctive architectural details, whilst the houses retain much of their Victorian character. Group value and Oxford's identity: The buildings with a history of use as a convent and the small chapel are part of a range of buildings across the suburb that have associations with the religious orders. The development of the East Oxford suburb as a focus for these communities in the mid and later 19 th century is an important feature of the character of suburb, as well as being an element of the identity of Oxford as a whole reflecting its importance in the Oxford Movement – the Anglo-Catholic Revival of the mid and late 19 th century.	