

Nominate a Heritage Asset

No. 46 Hill Top Road



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: This large house was built as the home of William Charles Walker, a former Mayor of Oxford who was a partner, director and governing director of the building firm of Benfield and Loxley, a position he worked his way up to from starting as a builder's labourer in 1912. He was a friend of William Morris (later Viscount Nuffield) and helped him to purchase the site for the Cowley Car Works and subsequently as a director of Benfield Loxley oversaw its construction. Benfield Loxley, under walker's directorship also built Headington School and the Churchill Hospital and many of the University buildings including the Radcliffe Science Library, the New Bodleian Library and Nuffield College. Walker was later awarded an OBE.</p> <p>Architectural Interest: The William Walker built as his family home at Hilltop Road occupies a double width plot and takes the form of a Georgian Mansion in red brick of three two-window bays with the central bay recessed. The corners are detailed with rusticated brick quoins whilst</p>	

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ground floor windows have low arched brick heads. A brick platt-band separates the ground and first floor, whilst the eaves are supported on a dentilled cornice. The central front door is picked out by a moulded stone door case with an oval oculus above. The building has recently undergone extensive renovation including the construction of a single storey extension to the side, which, however has been designed to preserve the site of mature trees in the extensive grounds beyond.

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>Association/Illustration: The building has strong associations with an individual who had a significant impact on the development and character of Oxford as a builder, business man and politician.</p> <p>Illustration: The building illustrates the development of this part of East Oxford as a desirable location for middle class residents, above the more compact suburb further down the hill.</p> <p>Aesthetics: Within Hill Top road it stands out however, for the boldness of its design and scale and attention to detailing.</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?	
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>Oxford's Identity: The house provides a connection with an individual who made a significant contribution to the development of the city in the Inter-War period and to the development of its character. The house also makes an important contribution to the character of Hill Top Road as a building of architectural quality that stands out within its surroundings.</p> <p>Age: The construction of No. 46 Hill Top Road in 1922 is late in the development of the suburb and relates to a period of increasing affluence in the suburb as it became more of a focus for middle class housing with access to the city centre via the developing bus services.</p> <p>Integrity: The main frontage of the building has retained its architectural detailing, maintaining the attractive quality of the building, and has not been negatively affected by the</p>	