

Nominate a Heritage Asset

Name and location of your candidate heritage asset (please provide a photograph and a map showing its location):

Tenby Cottage and Swansea Cottage, 182 & 184 Abingdon Road, Oxford OX1 4RA



1. WHAT IS IT? Is it one of the following?	Tick
a building or group of buildings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
a monument or site (an area of archaeological remains or a structure other than a building)	<input type="checkbox"/>
a place (e.g. a street, park, garden or natural space)	<input type="checkbox"/>
a landscape (an area defined by visual features or character, e.g. a city centre, village, suburb or field system)	<input type="checkbox"/>

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Archaeological interest – firm evidence of potential to reveal more about the human past through further study	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural interest – an example of an architectural style, a building of particular use, a technique of building, or use of materials	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Artistic interest – It includes artistic endeavour to communicate meaning or use of design (including landscape design) to enhance appearance	<input type="checkbox"/>

What is it about the asset that provides this interest?

These two cottages form part of the early Victorian settlement of New Hinksey. This was a new suburb laid out on two fields auctioned by Henry Greenaway in 1847 and 1849. Greenaway sold the land in response to a demand for housing from workers on Oxford's first railway, which had been built parallel to the Abingdon Road in 1844, terminating at a station just south-west of Folly Bridge. By 1851 New Hinksey housed almost 150 people, many of them railway workers. It remained as an isolated 'island' of housing, half a mile away from the city, until developments began to the north in the 1880s and to the south

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in the 1890s. New Hinksey is noticeably different in character to the estates either side of it. It features narrow streets lined with small flat-fronted terraced cottages like nos. 182 and 184 Abingdon Road, built before the introduction of building bye-laws in the 1870s which produced much more standardised terraced housing.

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	✓
Illustration: It illustrates an aspect of the area's past that makes an important 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?	
<p>The cottages at 182 and 184 Abingdon Road provide tangible evidence of the early effects of the coming of the railway to Oxford, a significant economic change which eventually prompted the development of the whole of the suburb of south Oxford. Their style is characteristic of early and mid 19th-century housing in the city, once common, but now surviving only in New Hinksey, Jericho, and in small pockets of Summertown and St Clement's. As such the cottages are an important reminder of the early Victorian expansion of Oxford in response to economic growth and to changing demographics, as people moved into the city from the surrounding countryside in search of employment.</p> <p>The first occupier of no. 184 (Tenby Cottage) was Henry Weatherhead, a paper maker, who is likely to have worked at one of the two paper mills – New Hinksey Mill and Weirs Mill – which were on the river at the far southern end of the Abingdon Road, in Cold Harbour. Hence the cottages are linked, via their occupants, to an important industry which once characterised this part of Oxford.</p> <p>The cottages are very attractive and make a positive visual contribution to the Abingdon Road. They are built in a characterful, polychromatic chequer pattern, using Flemish bond and vitrified bricks, with a raised, tripartite string course of vitrified header and non-vitrified stretcher bricks. They have a hipped roof and central chimney stack, with symmetrically-placed windows.</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?	✓
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?	✓
Group value ... Is it part of a group that have a close historic, aesthetic or	✓

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communal association?	
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>Nos. 182 and 184 are part of the group of houses which make up the early suburb of New Hinksey, but they are two of the very few remaining houses of that suburb which are visible from the Abingdon Road, and hence to those travelling into and out of Oxford. They are of a character which is noticeably different to almost all the other buildings on the Abingdon Road; it is likely that, together with no. 202 which has a date stone of 1849, they are two of the oldest buildings on the street.</p> <p>The external elevations of the cottages are remarkably unaltered. Their window apertures are original and in situ, as shown by rubbed brick lintels and queen closer bricks down each side. (This is true at the rear also.) The southern side elevation retains evidence of a blocked doorway, which was originally the entrance to Tenby Cottage. Tenby Cottage retains its scrolled metal nameplate, as shown in the photograph above.</p> <p>References:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1861, 1871 & 1881 census returns for 182-4 Abingdon Road. • Malcolm Graham, <i>The Suburbs of Victorian Oxford: Growth in a Pre-Industrial City</i> (DPhil dissertation, University of Leicester, 1985). • The South Oxford History website, http://www.southoxford.org/local-history-in-south-oxford/grandpont-and-south-oxford-through-time/victorian-development 	

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