

## Nominate a Heritage Asset

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

The Westgate Hotel (formerly Dodson's Temperance Hotel)  
1 Botley Rd, Oxford OX2 0AA



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

2. <b>WHY IS IT INTERESTING?</b> Is it interesting in any of the following ways?	Tick / Rank
<b>Historic interest</b> – a well documented association with a person, event, episode of history, or local industry	✓
<b>Archaeological interest</b> – firm evidence of potential to reveal more about the human past through further study	
<b>Architectural interest</b> – an example of an architectural style, a building of particular use, a technique of building, or use of materials	✓
<b>Artistic interest</b> – 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?	
The Westgate Hotel was built in the mid-1870s as Dodson's Temperance Hotel, one of at least a dozen hotels which sprang up in the immediate vicinity of the two railway stations in the later decades of the 19 <sup>th</sup> century. The advent of train travel gave a	

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significant boost to Oxford's tourist industry, and the opening of hotels like Dodson's both reflected and further encouraged this growth. The Westgate Hotel is one of only a handful of those railway-related hotel buildings to survive, and it is the only one still in use as a hotel. Hence its continuing presence is an important reminder of the development of both travel and tourism, key aspects of Oxford's economy which are still of vital importance to the city today.

Dodson's was also one of several Temperance hotels built in Oxford in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century and again, the only survivor. The Temperance movement was active in promoting practical solutions to the problems caused by excessive drinking, one of which was to provide hotels where tourists and business visitors could be sure of an alcohol-free environment. Hence Dodson's Temperance Hotel reminds us of social and religious developments in Victorian Oxford.

The physical siting of the hotel is interesting and important; it was built on what was the approach road to the level crossing at which the Botley Road crossed the railway lines. This level crossing was provided for vehicles which were too tall to fit under the railway bridge immediately to the north. The crossing approach road, rising along the northern side of the hotel, and with its double yellow lines still intact, can still clearly be seen from the west.

3. <b>WHY IS IT LOCALLY VALUED?</b> Is the interest of the asset <b>valued locally</b> for any of the following reasons?	Tick / Rank
<b>Association:</b> It connects us to people and events that shaped the identity or character of the area	✓
<b>Illustration:</b> It illustrates an aspect of the area's past that makes an important contribution to its identity or character	✓
<b>Evidence:</b> It is an important resource for understanding and learning about the area's history	✓
<b>Aesthetics:</b> It makes an important contribution to the positive look of the area either by design or fortuitously	
<b>Communal:</b> 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>What is now Frideswide Square became Oxford's transport hub when the two railway stations – the Great Western and the London and North Western – were built here in the early 1850s. The character of the immediate area was almost entirely shaped by the coming of the railways. Developments included housing estates built with railway workers and/or commuters in mind (on, for example, Osney Island, Mill Street, and Cripsey Road); shops and hotels built to serve travellers; and the establishment of industries and businesses dependent on railway transport, including Frank Cooper's Marmalade Factory, various breweries, and the motor garages which once lined park End Street. The Westgate Hotel is a valuable reminder of the transformation that this part of Oxford underwent in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century. Interestingly, the hotel's first proprietor, Charles Francis Dodson, was himself a retired railway inspector, who had previously lived on nearby Osney Island; his move from working on the railway to working in railway-related hospitality is illustrative of the developments that Oxford was undergoing at the time.</p>	

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4. <b>WHAT MAKES ITS LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE SPECIAL?</b> Do any of the following features make the heritage significance of the asset stand out above the surrounding environment?	Tick
<b>Age</b> ... Is it particularly old, or of a date that is significant to the local area?	
<b>Rarity</b> ... Is it unusual in the area or a rare survival of something that was once common?	✓
<b>Integrity</b> ... Is it largely complete or in a near to original condition?	✓
<b>Group value</b> ... Is it part of a group that have a close historic, aesthetic or communal association?	✓
<b>Oxford's identity</b> ... Is it important to the identity or character of the city or a particular part of it?	✓
<b>Other</b> ... Is there another way you think it has special local value?	
<p>How does this contribute to its value? The Westgate Hotel is the only railway-related purpose-built hotel remaining (out of about a dozen) and the only former Temperance hotel still operating in Oxford. It is a unique component in a collection of buildings – shops, business premises and domestic housing – which directly relate to the development of Oxford as a national railway hub in the later Victorian period. Hence it is an important element in the history not only of this part of Oxford, but in the history of the city as a whole.</p> <p>References:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1881, 1891 &amp; 1901 census returns for 1 Botley Road.</li> <li>• Malcolm Graham, <i>On Foot from Paradise Street to Sheepwash</i> (Oxford Heritage Walks, Oxford Preservation Trust, 2016).</li> <li>• Laurence Waters, <i>Railways of Oxford: A transport hub that links Britain</i> (Pen &amp; Sword, 2020).</li> </ul>	