



GMAAS
Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service

Local Heritage Listing Project

Alexandra and St Mary's,
Oldham

Gazetteer of Validated Candidates

June 2025

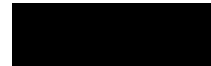
Ian Miller



Site Location: Alexandra and St Mary's, Oldham
Prepared for: Oldham Council
Document Title: Local Heritage Listing Project: Alexandra and St Mary's Gazetteer
Document Type: Gazetteer
Version: Version 3 (Validated)

Author: Ian Miller
Position: Director
Date: June 2024

Signed:



Approved By: Validation Panel
Date: June 2025

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Contact: GMAAS, Centre for Applied Archaeology, Peel Building, University of Salford, Salford M5 4WT

Telephone: 0161 295 4467

Email:



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OLDHAM LOCAL LIST – ALEXANDRA AND ST MARY’S

Historical Overview of Alexandra and St Mary’s

The Alexandra area of Oldham lies to the south-east of the town centre and has a rich industrial heritage that reflects the broader history of the town itself. Originally a rural part of Lancashire, Alexandra developed rapidly during the 19th century with the rise of the cotton industry. As Oldham became one of the world's leading centres for textile manufacturing, Alexandra saw the construction of mills, workers’ housing and infrastructure to support the booming economy. The area takes its name from Alexandra Park, which opened in 1865 and was named in honour of Princess Alexandra of Denmark. The park became a central feature of the community, offering green space amid the growing urban landscape. Over the 20th century, as the textile industry declined, Alexandra experienced economic and social changes, leading to redevelopment efforts in recent decades aimed at revitalising the area while preserving its historical character.

The St Mary's area of Oldham has a long and evolving history, shaped by Oldham’s industrial growth during the 19th century. Originally a rural part of the township, St Mary's transformed in the 19th century as Oldham emerged as a major hub for cotton spinning and textile manufacturing. The area became densely populated with rows of terraced housing built to accommodate mill workers, along with churches, schools, and small businesses to support the growing community. St Mary’s Church, which gave the area its name, became a central landmark and symbol of the community’s identity. In the 20th century, as the textile industry declined, St Mary's, like many parts of Oldham, faced economic challenges and periods of urban decline. However, it has since been the focus of regeneration projects aimed at improving housing, public services, and community facilities, reflecting both its historical significance and its potential for renewal.

Candidates for Local Listing in Alexandra

Property Name and Photo	Former Co-operative Society Building – HER 18858.1.0 
Property Address	104 Abbey Hills Road, Oldham, OL8 2DQ
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> The building is shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map of 1893 and, whilst not annotated on the map, a worn stone at in the front elevation indicates it to have been erected by the Co-operative Society. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> A detached, two-storey, double-fronted property occupying the junction of Prior Street with Abbey Hills Road. The building is primarily of brick construction with stone detailing and Gothic architecture. The front elevation is of three bays with the central bay stepped and rising to an apex. A string course of decorative terracotta above the historic shop front adds to the architectural interest. The side elevation is more utilitarian in design, with a blocked entrance marking the covered entrance to the warehouse at the rear of the shop.

	<i>Local Interest:</i> Co-Operative shops have been an important element of local townscapes since the later 19th century. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The building makes an important contribution to the character and aesthetic quality of Abbey Hills Road. <i>Social / Community Value:</i> The building was in use as a club by the later 20th century as it is identified as such on the 1:1250 map of 1979 and it is likely that generations of local residents will have a personal association with the building. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The building occupies a prominent location at the junction of Prior Street with Abbey Hills Road.
Score	9

Property Name and Photo	Vicarage – HER 18860.1.0 
Property Address	1 Alexandra Road, Oldham OL8 2BQ

Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> Architect's plans for the vicarage were submitted to Oldham Council in 1877 and the vicarage is marked on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map of 1894. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> An imposing two-storey property of stone construction with steeply sloping pitched roofs and Gothic detailing. It retains stone gateposts at the entrance drive and a low stone boundary wall to Alexandra Road. <i>Local Interest:</i> The high quality of the vicarage reflects the affluence of the locale during the later Victorian period. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The vicarage makes a positive contribution to the aesthetic quality and historic character of the entrance to Alexandra Park and the wider conservation area. <i>Group Value:</i> The vicarage has a group value with the adjacent Grade II listed lodge and the Grade II listed St Mark's Church on Glodwick Road. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The vicarage occupies a prominent location at the junction of Alexandra Road with Queen's Road, overlooking the entrance to Alexandra Park. Its landmark status is further enhanced by the use of stone building materials in contrast to the almost ubiquitous use of brick for the surrounding buildings.
Score	9

**Property Name
and Photo**

267 - 269 Park Road – HER 18861.1.0



Property Address	267 - 269 Park Road, Oldham, OL4 1RT
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> A commercial property first shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st Revision 1:2500 map of 1909, although architect's plans for the building were drawn up for the Co-operative Society in 1892 and submitted to Oldham Council. The building was converted subsequently to offices. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> An impressive two-storey commercial property with a U-shaped plan and a hipped roof behind a stone balustrade parapet. It is primarily of brick construction but features liberal use of stone embellishment. The rear elevation is plain but retains historic loading doors, indicating that the rear of the building was used as the store's warehouse. <i>Local Interest:</i> The building provides a particularly fine example of a late 19th-century Co-operative store. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The building makes a very positive contribution to the aesthetic quality and historic character of Park Road. <i>Social / Communal Value:</i> The Co-operative store served generations of local residents, contributing to their sense of place. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The building is of slightly large scale and massing that its neighbours, increasing its visibility on this section of Park Road and enhancing its landmark status.
Score	10

Property Name and Photo	Former Park Hotel – HER 18862.1.0 
Property Address	159 Park Road, Oldham, OL4 1SH
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> A former hotel identified on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map of 1894. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> A two-storey hotel of brick construction with a hipped slate roof but no parapet. The building has a rectangular plan form, although the two corners on the principal (south) gable elevation are chamfered. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The former hotel makes a positive contribution to the historic character of the area and the setting of the Alexandra Park Conservation Area.

	<i>Archaeological Value:</i> The footprint of several former buildings to the rear of the hotel shown on historic mapping, and probably representing stables, lie within the car park immediately to the rear of the building. Any below-ground remains of these buildings could be of some archaeological interest. <i>Social / Communal Value:</i> The Park Hotel served generations of local residents, contributing to their sense of place. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The building occupies a prominent location at the junction of Woodstock Street with Park Road.
Score	9

**Property Name
and Photo**

Oldham Deaf Social Club – HER 18863.1.0



Property Address

165 Park Road, Oldham, OL4 1SH

Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> An institute dating to 1900, according to a datestone embedded in the historic fabric, and is first identified as a club on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1909. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> The building has an irregular plan form that comprises a two-storey range along the Park Road frontage and another two-storey range extending to the north along Thornton Street. The two ranges are separated by a three-storey hexagonal tower that incorporates a datestone. To the rear is a slightly taller rectangular-shaped block that was likely used as a public hall. <i>Local Interest:</i> The club has long been at the heart of Oldham's deaf community with its roots in the Oldham Deaf and Dumb Society that founded in 1851 when William Bolton gathered local deaf people for meetings. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The composition of the building makes a positive contribution to the historic character and aesthetic quality of the area. <i>Social / Communal Value:</i> The club provided a space where members could communicate freely in British Sign Language. It has hosted a wide range of events, including social gatherings sports, trips, workshops and youth-focused activities, strengthening community bonds and well-being. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The building occupies a prominent location on Park Road and is a local landmark.
Score	11

**Property Name
and Photo**

Ashton Road Congregational Church – HER 3091.1.0



Property Address	Ashton Road, Oldham OL8 1NN
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> The Congregational church was erected at the dawn of the 20th century to replace the smaller chapel on the adjacent plot, which was converted subsequently for use as a Sunday school. An architect's plan for the church held by Oldham Council is dated 1901. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> A red brick-built church with stone dressings. It features a Gothic style window over entrance on west front facing Ashton Road and an impressive tower with a spire on the north-west corner. <i>Local Interest:</i> In 1902, a war memorial organ accompanied by a brass plaque commemorating 24 local men who died in World War I was installed within the church, reflecting its strong ties to the community . <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The church makes a positive contribution to the historic character and aesthetic quality of the area. <i>Social / Communal Value:</i> The church remains in its original use and has served the local community for over 100 years and can be expected to have communal value. <i>Group Value:</i> The church. has a strong group value with the adjacent Sunday school and streets of terraced housing. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The tall spire, coupled with the size and massing of the church and its location at the junction of Villa Road with Ashton Road, afford the building considerable landmark status.
Score	10

Property Name and Photo	Ashton Road Sunday School – HER 3091.2.0 
Property Address	Ashton Road, Oldham OL8 1NN
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> The building is marked as a 'Chapel' with seats for 200 on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:500 Town Plan of 1892. The chapel was converted to a Sunday school, first marked on the Ordnance Survey 1st Revision 1:2500 map of 1909, when the Congregational church was erected immediately to the north. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> The building has a rectangular plan and is of two storeys with a pitched roof. It is primarily of brick construction with string courses of stone at the height of the window cills and lintels at ground- and first-floor level.

	<i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The building makes a positive contribution to the historic character and aesthetic quality of the area. <i>Social / Communal Value:</i> The school served the local community for over 100 years and can be expected to have communal value. <i>Group Value:</i> The school has a strong group value with the adjacent Congregational church.
Score	9

**Property Name
and Photo**

The Boat House – HER 19065.1.0



Property Address

Alexandra Park, King's Road, Oldham OL8 2BH

Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> Alexandra Park was opened in August 1865 and, in 1903, a boating lake was created along the western edge of the park. The boat house had been erected by 1909 and is identified as such on the Ordnance Survey 1st Revision 1:2500 map. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> The single-storey building has a rectangular plan with the central four bays having a raised roofline. It is primarily of brick construction with timber detailing and provides an interesting example of an early Edwardian boat house. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The building makes a very positive contribution to the historic character and aesthetic quality of the Grade II* listed Registered Park & Garden and the Alexandra Park Conservation Area. <i>Social / Communal Value:</i> The boating lake and boat house have provided generations of local residents with a focus for social leisure activity for over a century. In use as a café, it contributes to the area's architectural integrity while serving as a modern community hub. <i>Group Value:</i> The boat house has a strong group value with the boating lake and the adjacent launch house. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The boat house occupies a prominent location in Alexandra Park at the northern end of the boating lake and visible from King's Road.
Score	10

Property Name and Photo	Launch House – HER 19066.1.0 
Property Address	Alexandra Park, King's Road, Oldham OL8 2BH
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> Alexandra Park was opened in August 1865 and, in 1903, a boating lake was created along the western edge of the park. The launch house had been erected by 1909 and is identified as a boat house on the Ordnance Survey 1st Revision 1:2500 map, although it probably opened at the same time as the lake in 1903. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> The building has a narrow rectangular plan and is of a single storey with a pitched slate roof. It is of brick construction with full-height double doors in the south gable and a single chimney against the internal elevation of the north gable. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The launch house makes a very positive contribution to the historic character and aesthetic quality of the Grade II* listed Registered Park & Garden and the Alexandra Park Conservation Area. <i>Social / Communal Value:</i> The boating lake and launch house have provided generations of local residents with a focus for social leisure activity for over a century.

	<i>Group Value:</i> The launch house has a strong group value with the boating lake and the adjacent boat house. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The launch house occupies a prominent location in Alexandra Park, occupying the north-eastern corner of the boating lake.
Score	9

Candidates for Local Listing in St Mary's

Property Name and Photo	Windsor Works – HER 5727.1.0 
Property Address	Gravel Walks, Oldham
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> Appears on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 1st Revision map of 1909 as a 'Nut & Bolt Works', enabling it to be identified as the Auto Bright Hexagon Nut Works listed in Kelly's <i>Directory</i> for 1905. The works was erected on the site of a row of 19th-century back-to-back houses. It is identified on the Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map of 1954 as a 'Knitting Works'. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> A single building of three storeys, 18 bays long by three bays wide with arched windows, with modern roof-top extension that was added as part of a residential conversion in 2008. A loading bay is on the Hall Street frontage has been remodelled as a stairwell but is nevertheless apparent.

	<i>Local Interest:</i> The works may have originated as premises for Ward, Whittaker & Co Ltd, cycle manufacturers, which appears in Kelly's 1901 directory. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The building makes a positive contribution to the historic character and aesthetic quality of the area. <i>Rarity Value:</i> A rare surviving example of a multi-storey nut and bolts works, forming an important part of Oldham's textile-machinery manufacturing heritage. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The building is a notable feature of Gravel Walks, not least due to the additional modern storeys.
Score	9

Property Name and Photo	17 Gravel Walks – HER 18865.1.0 
Property Address	17 Gravel Walks, Oldham, OL4 1JY
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> The footprint of the building appears on the Ordnance Survey 1:1056 Town Plan of 1851, situated between Gravel Walks and the Woolpack Inn. It is similarly shown on the 1:500 Town Plan of 1892, which shows court housing to the rear. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> A short terrace of three single-fronted, two-storey houses (plus basement) that may have originally been back-to-back cottages. The building is composed of hand-made bricks bonded with lime-based mortar,

	indicative of a late 18th- or early 19th-century construction date. Two of the original front doors have been blocked with brick and stone surrounds inserted. <i>Local Interest:</i> The terrace is a rare physical reminder in the locale of the early 19th-century townscape. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The building makes a positive contribution to the historic character and aesthetic quality of the area. <i>Group Value:</i> The terrace has some group value with the adjacent Windsor Works as components of the historic industrial townscape. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The historic domestic character of the building is a notable feature of Gravel Walks.
Score	9

**Property Name
and Photo**

Former Greenacres Wesleyan Chapel – HER 10423.1.0



Property Address	10 Greenacres Road, Oldham, OL4 1HA
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> The foundation stone for the chapel was laid on 30th May 1857, and the church was opened on 22nd April 1858. A good local example of a mid-19th-century Wesleyan chapel. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> Brick with stone dressings, pedimented front of four bays with two tiers of windows, the upper range with segmental pediments on brackets, paired entrances at centre. Designed by James Simpson of Leeds. The original round-ended continuous gallery remains, supported by cast-iron columns. <i>Local Interest:</i> The chapel's congregation began in 1832 with a Wesleyan Methodist society meeting at Mount Pleasant, then relocated to Greenacres Road in 1858, reflecting the area's rising population amid Oldham's rapid industrial expansion. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The building makes a positive contribution to the historic character of the area, providing a reminder of the 19th-century streetscape that has been heavily eroded in the immediate locale. <i>Social / Communal Value:</i> The chapel served generations of residents from the local nonconformist community for over a century and some may have a personal association with the building, contributing to their sense of place. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The former chapel has a degree of physical prominence within the locality.
Score	9

Property Name and Photo	Castle Iron Works – HER 5597.1.0  
Property Address	Overens Street, Oldham OL4 1LA

Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> Established 1862 by Buckley & Taylor Limited, engineers and iron founders, and provides a good surviving example of a textile-engineering works that played a key role in Oldham's 19th- and 20th-century economy. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> Site consists of a variety of buildings evidently of varying date. The office building lies on the corner of Wrigley Street and Overens Street. The building fronts Overens Street and has a date of 1909 on the doorway lintel. <i>Local Interest:</i> Buckley & Taylor built over 200 mill engines, many of which were for the Oldham mills, making a significant contribution to Oldham's prowess as a former centre for the textile engineering industry. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The building makes a positive contribution to the historic industrial character and aesthetic quality of the area. <i>Social / Communal Value:</i> The iron works provided employment for several generations of local residents. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The former engineering works has a degree of physical prominence within the locality.
Score	9

Property Name and Photo	257 – 267 Roundthorn Road – HER 5753.1.0 
Property Address	Roundthorn, Oldham, OL4 5LJ
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> A former fold that probably dates to the 18th century, representing some of the oldest buildings in the modern local townscape. Shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:10,560 map of 1848. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> Group of houses laid out in an obtuse angle plan. The buildings are of two storeys, low proportions, hand-made brick, some colour washed, flag roofs. Boarded or new doors, some with small fanlights. Seven windows on each floor and there are three original three-light windows, with stone mullions, and one of two lights, the others altered. Nos. 257 and 259 have a new blue slate roof. Brick chimneys are mostly old. <i>Local Interest:</i> A group of vernacular cottages forming the heart of what was the small settlement of Roundthorn. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The building group makes a positive contribution to the historic character and aesthetic quality of the area. <i>Rarity Value:</i> A rare surviving local example of a traditional fold.

	<i>Group Value:</i> A good group lying diagonally opposite the listed terrace row at 264-276 Roundthorn Road. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The group of houses is a notable feature on Roundthorn Road.
Score	9