



GMAAS
Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service

Local Heritage Listing Project

**Failsworth West,
Oldham**

Gazetteer of Validated Candidates

June 2025

Ian Miller



Site Location: Failsworth West, Oldham

Prepared for: Oldham Council

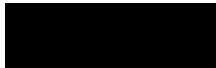
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OLDHAM LOCAL LIST – FAILSWORTH WEST

Historical Overview of Failsworth

The name Failsworth derives from the Old English 'fegels' and 'worth', which may be translated 'enclosure with a special kind of fence'. The first documentary reference to Failsworth occurs in records dating to 1212, when the name was recorded as 'Fayleswrthe' and the settlement was documented to have been a thegnage estate, or manor, comprising four oxgangs of land. The Byron family came to acquire all four oxgangs in the mid-13th century, and thus held the entire township. However, apart from a small estate in the township held by Cockersand Abbey, Failsworth was acquired by the Chetham family, which was then broadly sold to smaller holders. Little more than 300 years ago its population was over just 1,000, today it is about 20,555. Farming was the main industry of the area with villagers supplementing their meagre incomes by hand-loom weaving until the advent of cotton and the Industrial Revolution. Other industries that emerged during the 18th century included silk weaving and hat-making, whilst engineering works became increasingly important to the local economy during the later 19th century..

Candidates for Local Listing in Failsworth West

Property Name and Photo	Failsworth Library – HER 17097.1.0 
Property Address	Oldham Road, Failsworth, M35 0AE
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> Constructed 1908, the building incorporates part of the earlier Town Hall, which was built in 1880 to designs by J N Frith, although the earlier façade was entirely encased by the new building. The library was officially opened on 16 October 1909. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> Externally the design is Edwardian free style, built on an asymmetrical rectangular plan, of two storeys over a basement, in red brick with Portland stone dressings under a slated roof. Designed by E Ogden and P Cartwright, and financed by Andrew Carnegie.

	<i>Local Interest:</i> These buildings demonstrate the growth of Failsworth in the 19th and early 20th centuries to the point where it required its own administrative offices and function area and public library, in this case built with benefactor's monies from the Carnegie Trust. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The building has considerable aesthetic value that makes a positive contribution to the character of the historic townscape. <i>Social / Community Value:</i> The library has served the local community for over a century. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The building is a notable building within the streetscape.
Score	12

**Property Name
and Photo**

Co-operative Store – HER 17224.1.0



Property Address	52-56 Old Road, Failsworth, Oldham, M35 0AW
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> Co-operative store built 1898. Originally consisted of a butchers, grocers and first-floor reading room, a cellar, delivery area and three store/food processing rooms. It ceased to be a co-operative in the 1970s and became an engineering workshop until it closed in the 1990s. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> The building has a double-pile arrangement but with the less deep (front to back) rear half - unlike the front half - not quite extending across the full width of the site. The road frontage with its robust detailing in brick and stone retains a strong sense of its original form. The ground floor retains masonry pilasters and two square-fronted cast-iron columns framing a central doorway. The building contained a state-of-the-art ventilation system. Constructed of Ruabon brick and York stone with a thin slate roof, this building was a showpiece for the Failsworth Industrial Society. <i>Local Interest:</i> The store was a major supplier of goods to the local community for nearly a century. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The building makes a positive contribution to the historic character of the streetscape. <i>Social / Community Value:</i> The original use would have played an important role in the lives of many people in the local community. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The building is a notable landmark of Old Road.
Score	10

Property Name and Photo	Brown Cow – HER 18075.1.0 
Property Address	295 Oldham Road, Failsworth, M35 0AN
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> The current building is first shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1908, occupying the footprint of a smaller building shown on the 1st Edition map of 1894. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> The plan form of the two-storey (plus attic) building is essentially square, with octagonal towers in three corners. The building is of brick construction with stone string courses at window sill height of the ground and first floors, and a slate- covered pyramidal roof. <i>Local Interest:</i> The Brown Cow was originally one of several cottages fronting the Old Road in existence by 1836, when Sarah Tetlow is listed as a beer retailer. In the 1870s, the Brown Cow was owned by John Rothwell, proprietor of the Russel Street Brewery in Hulme. In 1899, the property was taken over by the Cornbrook Brewery, which rebuilt

	the Brown Cow on a grand scale. The Brown Cow remained as a beer house until 1929, when a wine licence was obtained. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> This former public house makes a positive contribution to the appearance and character of the locality. <i>Social / Community Value:</i> The pub lay at the heart the local community and served residents for more than a century. <i>Group Value:</i> The building sits comfortably alongside other nearby buildings of a similar palette of elevation materials. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The building occupies a prominent location at the junction of Old Road with Oldham Road.
Score	9

Property Name and Photo	Mowbray Conservative Club – HER 18076.1.0 
Property Address	330 Oldham Road, Failsworth, M35 0EN
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> A large, detached, two-storey building with a rectangular plan form, designed by Charles Thomas Taylor and erected in 1891-93. It is of red brick with stone and red Ruabon terracotta dressings. The building is mark as a 'club' on the Ordnance Survey 1st Revision 1:2500 map of 1909. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> The original external design intent remains clearly evident and much of the original architectural detailing remains intact. The loss/alteration of various external elevation features such as windows, rainwater goods

	and unsympathetic accretions detracts from the original character, although these could be appropriately reversed to better reveal the heritage significance. <i>Local Interest:</i> The building has provided a local base for Conservative politics, enabling grassroots connections and influencing community governance. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The building makes a positive contribution to the aesthetic quality and character of Oldham Road. <i>Group Value:</i> The building has some group value with other nearby historic buildings of a similar palette of elevation materials such as the Brown Cow on the opposite side of Oldham Road, and the Grade II listed Regent Mill. <i>Social / Community Value:</i> The club has served residents for more than a century. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The building is a local landmark.
Score	10

Property Name and Photo	Bethel School – HER 18077.1.0 
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Property Address	267-9 Oldham Road, Failsworth, M35 0AS
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> A detached, single-storey former Sunday school, bearing the inscription 'Bethel Schools 1874' carved into stone above the centrally placed entrance door. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> The building has a rectangular plan, with the south gable elevation fronting onto Oldham Road, and a small outshut abutting the north-western corner. It is of brick construction with a steeply pitched roof. The front entrance is set in the centre of the gable elevation, flanked by brick pilasters and a half-moon window, and a (blocked) window on each side. The windows have stone sills and brick arched lintels. String courses of blue engineering brick below and above the windows. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The building is a modest building with limited architectural features but nevertheless has some aesthetic value partly due to this relative simplicity. It makes a positive contribution to the historic character of the Oldham Road frontage within which it is located. <i>Social / Community Value:</i> The school was built to serve local religious communities and so will have some community value.
Score	9

Property Name and Photo	Marlborough No. 1 Mill – HER 6088.1.0 
Property Address	Mellor Street, Failsworth, M35 0HY
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> Built to a design by PS Stott in 1905. The mill owner once lived in a substantial nearby residence, Failsworth House, at 199 Oldham Road. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> The building is of considerable architectural interest as a large-scale industrial building of its time. It is in a restrained/economic Edwardian design making use of brick elevations and limited use of stone work principally for window cills and the heads of some elevation openings. The use of brickwork pilasters containing recessed areas of brickwork and elevation openings brings visual relief and a strong sense of elevation rhythm. The particular way this design and material palette is transferred to the attached engine house is notable. <i>Local Interest:</i> The mill was a major local employer and contributor to Failsworth's economic growth during the early 20th century. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The mill makes a positive contribution to the historic character of the local historic environment.

	<i>Group Value:</i> The mill has a strong group value with contemporaneous nearby buildings including other mills but especially with the associated workers' housing and community buildings. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The mill is a striking local landmark.
Score	10

**Property Name
and Photo**

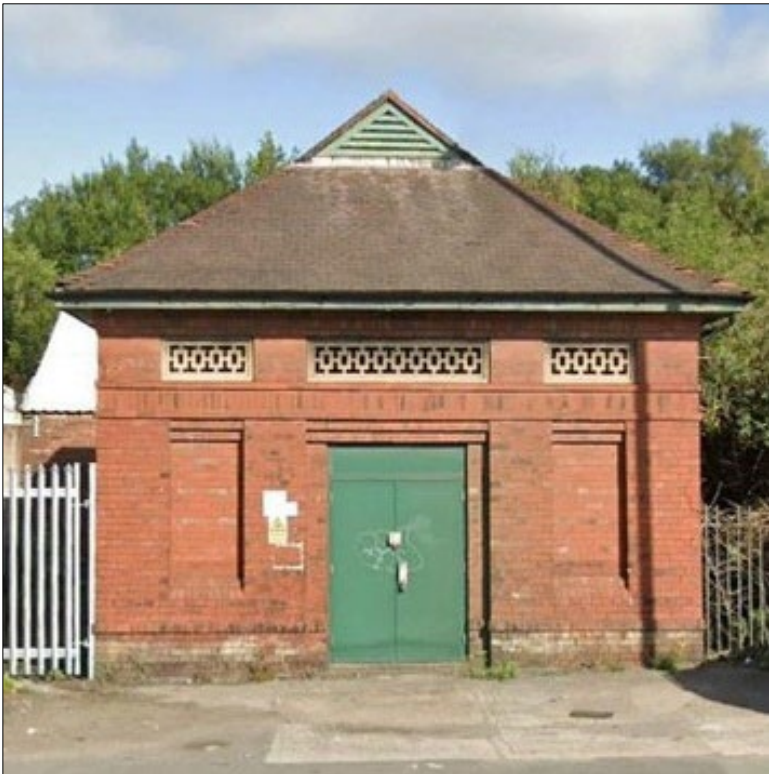
Telephone Exchange – HER 18078.1.0



Property Address

Oldham Road, Failsworth, M35 0BX

Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> A telephone exchange first shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map of 1951. The building has historic value through the role it played in the transformation of telecommunication and its increasing availability to the wider population with the passage of time. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> A three-storey building with a rectangular plan in brick in a restrained neo-Georgian style typical of such General Post Office buildings of the time. The architectural interest partly arises on the front/principal elevation (facing Oldham Road) by from the proportions, the visual interest created by breaking the window rhythm with over-sized arched headed first-floor windows with highlighted key stones), the modest brick detailing and stone cills. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> Both the earlier exchange and later extension have aesthetic value and are both characteristic of their time. <i>Local Interest:</i> Its evolution from manual lines to fibre optics maps the digital transformation of local communications. <i>Rarity Value:</i> The building is a relatively rare intact example of a GPO telephone exchange, <i>Social / Communal Value:</i> Since its inception, the exchange has been critical for households and businesses by connecting Failsworth to the wider world, first via landline, then broadband. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The telephone exchange is a landmark feature of the local streetscape.
Score	11

Property Name and Photo	Electricity Sub-Station – HER 18079.1.0 
Property Address	Oldham Road, Failsworth, M35 0BX
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> A small, square, brick-built electricity sub-station erected in the mid-20th century, and first shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map of 1951. The building has historic value through the role it played in the transmission of electricity and its increasing availability to the wider population. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> A modest building but highly typical of a building of its age and type. It is felt to be a relatively rare survivor.

	<i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The building makes a positive contribution to the aesthetic quality of the street scene on this section of Oldham Road. <i>Group Value:</i> The sub-station has a group value with the adjacent telephone exchange. <i>Rarity Value:</i> The building is a relatively rare intact example of a mid-20th-century electricity sub-station. <i>Social / Communal Value:</i> Since its inception, the sub-station has been critical for supplying households and businesses with electricity. <i>Landmark Status:</i> Whilst of a modest scale, the sub-station is nevertheless a notable feature of this section of Oldham Road.
Score	9

Property Name and Photo	Holy Trinity Church – HER 18080.1.0 
Property Address	Oldham Road, Failsworth, M35 0BZ
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> This church was founded in the 1870s as a mission church to St John's Church, Failsworth and was known as 'St John's Number 2 School'. It was made into a parish church in its own right in 1907, and the church was opened in 1909. It closed in c. 2007. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> The plan consists of wide nave with stone arcading and narrow side aisles, wide chancel of good proportions, and transepts, and a side chapel. These are all expressed externally. The building is faced with Yorkshire stone with all dressings of red Rainhill or Yorkshire stone. The roofs are in slate and overhang the elevations without particular embellishment other than for two gables that have stone coped upstands with crucifix finials. The internal walls are plastered, and the woodwork of selected pitch-pine, with nave arcading, piers, and internal dressings of stone. The style adopted is Late Decorated Gothic. Accommodation was for 500, and the architect was Frank Freeman of Bolton. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The church has considerable aesthetic value and enhances the historic character of Oldham Road and contributes to the aesthetic quality of the local street scene.

	<i>Social / Community Value:</i> Yes. The church was built to serve the local community and the original use only ceased in relatively recent times. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The church is a significant local landmark on Oldham Road, but not through height.
Score	12

Property Name and Photo	Lamb Inn – HER 18081.1.0 
Property Address	82 Oldham Road, Failsworth, M35 0JD
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> A licence for this beer house was obtained in 1830. The built form is apparent by the time of the OS 1st Edition 1:2,500 map of 1893 but it only becomes annotated as a public house from the OS 1:2,500 map of 1952.

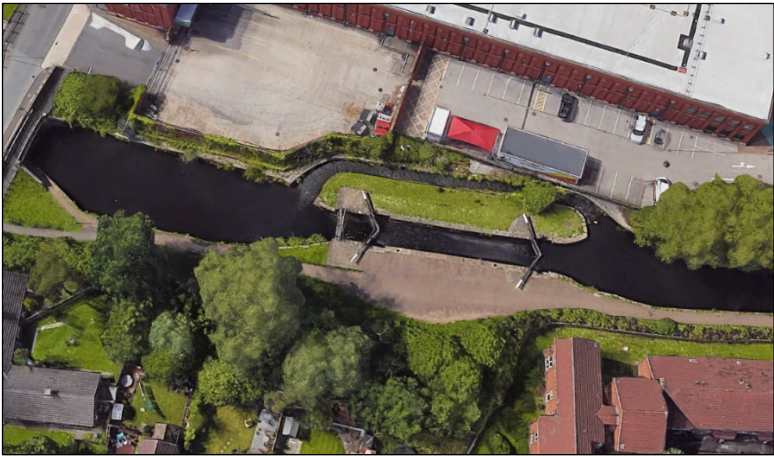
	<i>Architectural Interest:</i> The building has a principal two-storey element with a pitched roof. This is the historic built form and has a range with its ridge line parallel to Oldham Road and two elements at right angles projecting from the rear. This historic built form is probably of brick construction, but the elevations are all rendered and the front range is painted white, with stone quoins painted blue. The front elevation facing Oldham Road is double fronted, with the main entrance off-centre. The main entrance has an open porch with pitched slate roof which appears historic other than for utilitarian replacement barge boards. The pitched roof is slate and the front range (which has gables to either end) has a ridge parallel to the road with a decorative clay ridge tiles. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The public house has considerable aesthetic value and enhances the historic character and aesthetic quality of the local street scene. <i>Social / Community Value:</i> The public house is understood to have been in place for many years and appears to remain in this use and continues to serve the local community. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The public house is a notable feature of this section of Oldham Road.
Score	9

Property Name and Photo	Lock 65 and Associated Bridge –HER 18082.1.0 
Property Address	Rochdale Canal, Alfred Street, Failsworth (NGR SD 89626 01795)
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> Canal lock. c.1800, for Rochdale Canal Company.

	<i>Architectural Interest:</i> Coursed squared sandstone, wooden gates. Chamber of 14-foot width with pairs of gates. A stone footbridge at the southern end of the lock has a single arched and cobbled/setted roadway surface matching the lock-side area. <i>Local Interest:</i> The Rochdale Canal played a key role in the industrial development of Failsworth, and served the numerous cotton mills that lined its banks. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The lock makes a very positive contribution to the aesthetic quality and historic character of the Rochdale Canal corridor. <i>Group Value:</i> The lock is part of a wider historic canal environment with a variety of associated features including built features which, where not statutorily listed, should be treated as non-designated heritage assets. Other historic buildings and built features adjacent to the lock and wider canal would be likely to also contribute to the heritage significance of (the setting of) this lock and the wider canal. <i>Landmark Status:</i> Locks are a notable feature of the canal route.
Score	9

Property Name and Photo	Lock 66 and Associated Bridge – HER 18083.1.0 
Property Address	Rochdale Canal, Failsworth (NGR SD 89059 00945)
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> Canal lock known as Tannersfield Highest, built in c.1800 for Rochdale Canal Company.

	<i>Architectural Interest:</i> Coursed squared sandstone, wooden gates. Chamber of 14-foot width with pairs of gates. A stone footbridge at the southern end of the lock with a single arched and cobbled/setted roadway surface matching the lockside area. The bridge forms a part of the Ridgefield route between Oldham Road (to the north) and Ridgefield Street/Marlborough Drive (to the south). <i>Local Interest:</i> The Rochdale Canal played a key role in the industrial development of Failsworth, and served the numerous cotton mills that lined its banks. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The lock makes a very positive contribution to the aesthetic quality and historic character of the Rochdale Canal corridor. <i>Group Value:</i> The lock is part of a wider historic canal environment with a variety of associated features including built features which, where not statutorily listed, should be treated as non-designated heritage assets. Other historic buildings and built features adjacent to the lock and wider canal would be likely to also contribute to the heritage significance of (the setting of) this lock and the wider canal. <i>Landmark Status:</i> Locks are a notable feature of the canal route.
Score	9

Property Name and Photo	Lock 67, Tannersfield Middle – HER 18084.1.0  
Property Address	Rochdale Canal, Failsworth (NGR SD 88888 00807)
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> Canal lock known as Tannersfield Middle, built in c.1800 for Rochdale Canal Company.

	<i>Architectural Interest:</i> Coursed squared sandstone, wooden gates. Chamber of 14-foot width with pairs of gates. <i>Local Interest:</i> The Rochdale Canal played a key role in the industrial development of Failsworth, and served the numerous cotton mills that lined its banks. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The lock makes a very positive contribution to the aesthetic quality and historic character of the Rochdale Canal corridor. <i>Group Value:</i> The lock is part of a wider historic canal environment with a variety of associated features including built features which, where not statutorily listed, should be treated as a non-designated heritage assets. Other historic buildings and built features adjacent to the lock and wider canal would be likely to also contribute to the heritage significance of (the setting of) this lock and the wider canal. <i>Landmark Status:</i> Locks are a notable feature of the canal route.
Score	9

**Property Name
and Photo**

Lock 68, Tannersfield Lowest – HER 18085.1.



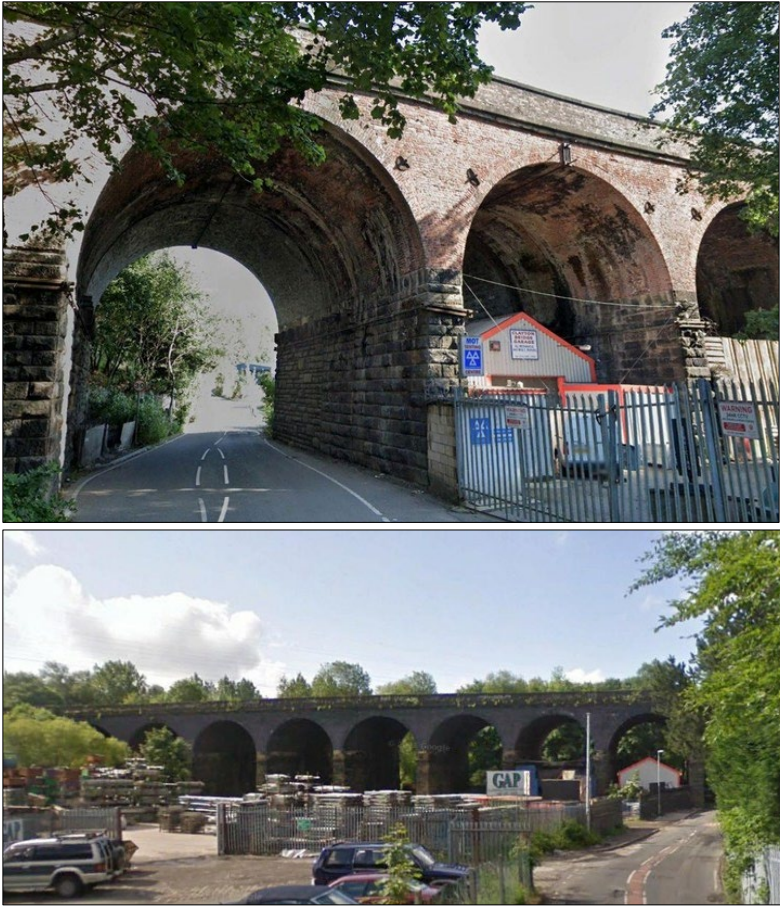
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Property Address

Rochdale Canal, Failsworth (NGR SD 88726 00745)

Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> Canal lock. c.1800, for Rochdale Canal Company. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> Coursed squared sandstone, wooden gates. Chamber of 14-foot width with pairs of gates. <i>Local Interest:</i> The Rochdale Canal played a key role in the industrial development of Failsworth, and served the numerous cotton mills that lined its banks. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The lock makes a very positive contribution to the aesthetic quality and historic character of the Rochdale Canal corridor. <i>Group Value:</i> The lock is part of a wider historic canal environment with a variety of associated features including built features which, where not statutorily listed, should be treated as a non-designated heritage assets. Other historic buildings and built features adjacent to the lock and wider canal would be likely to also contribute to the heritage significance of (the setting of) this lock and the wider canal. <i>Landmark Status:</i> Locks are a notable feature of the canal route.
Score	9

Property Name and Photo	Railway Viaduct – HER 10495.1.0 
Property Address	Millstream Lane, Clayton Bridge, Oldham
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> A 19th-century railway viaduct carrying the Ashton Branch of the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway across the River Medlock.

	<i>Architectural Interest:</i> A viaduct of nine or so arches taking the road over a valley with one arch each containing the River Medlock and the Millstream Lane roadway. The freestanding piers are faced in roughly dressed stone up to the springing point for the rounded arches that are in a red brick. The stonework has stringcourse detail to all visible sides just short of the springing point. The brickwork elevations incorporate a continuous stepped stone stringcourse running the full length of each side of the viaduct at approximately deck level. The brick parapet walls are at a constant height and topped with a stone coping. Patress plates and similar fixings are evident in a number of locations but are not consistently used. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The railway viaduct has considerable aesthetic value and enhances the historic character and aesthetic quality of the local street scene. <i>Group Value:</i> This viaduct is a part of a longer historic railway route and this viaduct would have group value with other historic built form associated with this route. It may also have group value with other buildings of heritage significance – especially if there is some specific relationship such as through use or age – in the more immediate locality. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The viaduct is a notable local landmark.
Score	9

**Property Name
and Photo**

Army Reserve Centre – HER 18087.1.0



Property Address

Oldham Road, Failsworth M35 0BH

Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> There is historic interest in the building arising from the military association and how this expressed itself within the built environment. Historically, the building housed the 71st (East Lancashire) Searchlight Regiment, raised in 1938 and active through the Second World War in air-defence. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> The building has a design associated with buildings from around the Second World War and has a built form and design features that are typical of this era including the way in which, on the principal elevation facing Oldham Road, the elevation area between the ground and first floor windows is in a continuous large masonry slab/tile finish <i>Local Interest:</i> Known previously as the Failsworth TA Centre, the building has hosted various Territorial Army units including royal engineers, cadets, and Air Training Corps for decades. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> For the most part this is limited and restricted to an appreciation of a pared back and rather utilitarian design but the architectural expression found on the principal elevation very much identifies the building as one of a particular era and gives the building a distinctive appearance within the wider streetscape. <i>Social / Community Value:</i> There is likely to be local interest given a military connection to the local area and possibly historically to the local community. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The building is a local landmark.
Score	9