



GMAAS
Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service

Local Heritage Listing Project

Hollinwood,
Oldham

Gazetteer of Validated Candidates

June 2025

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Site Location: Hollinwood, Oldham

Prepared for: Oldham Council

Document Title: Local Heritage Listing Project: Hollinwood 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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OLDHAM LOCAL LIST – HOLLINWOOD

Historical Overview of Hollinwood, Copster Hill and Hathershaw

Historically part of Lancashire, Hollinwood in pre-industrial times was a moor or common on the borders of Chadderton and Oldham. The rights to the land were disputed by the townships with Chadderton claiming 8 acres, but a 1713 court settlement stipulated that Hollinwood Moor should be within Oldham. The mid to late 18th century saw Hollinwood develop into a village. James Butterworth (1826) described it as being of 66.5 Cheshire acres (approx. 140 statute acres). It was enclosed by the Oldham Enclosure Acts. Hollinwood's mills such as the Heron, Fox, Asia, Wharf, Richmond and Park were later built on what had been the Hollinwood Common. The Chapel Road playing fields is one of the few open spaces remaining in the district.

Mid-19th-century gazetteers described Hollinwood as 'an extensive village in the townships of Chadderton and Oldham'. The area became known in the later 19th century for its cotton mills, engineering works and chemical plants, with a particularly strong presence of the coal industry, notably the Hollinwood Branch Canal and the Werneth Colliery. As industry thrived, terraced housing and civic buildings emerged to support the growing workforce. Hollinwood also developed a distinct identity through local institutions such as churches, schools, and the former Roxy Cinema.

Hollins, Copster Hill and Hathershaw all lie adjacent to Hollinwood. Hollins has its origins as a small rural hamlet situated between Oldham town centre and the southern boundary with Failsworth. Historically part of the township of Oldham Below Town, Hollins remained largely agricultural well into the 19th century, with scattered farms and cottages. The expansion of the cotton industry and nearby collieries encouraged population growth and urban development and, by the late 19th and early 20th centuries, terraced housing, mills and schools had been established to support the working communities. Despite industrialisation, Hollins retained a semi-rural character longer than many surrounding areas. In the post-war period, further residential development transformed Hollins into a primarily suburban neighbourhood, though traces of its rural and industrial past remain in its street patterns, green spaces, and historical buildings such as local chapels and old mill sites.

Copster Hill, located to the south-east of the town centre, similarly developed from open farmland into a residential and industrial district during the rapid urban expansion of the 19th century. Originally part of the historic township of Oldham Below Town, Copster Hill became increasingly populated as textile mills, engineering works, and housing spread outward from central Oldham. In the 20th century, the area underwent significant change with the introduction of council housing estates and regeneration projects. Today, Copster Hill reflects both the legacy of Oldham's industrial past and the shifts in urban planning aimed at improving living conditions in working-class neighbourhoods.

Hathershaw has a long history that reflects the wider development of the town from rural farmland into an industrial centre. Originally a small settlement on the route between Oldham and Ashton-under-Lyne, Hathershaw remained largely agricultural until the 19th century. Hathershaw's history is emblematic of Oldham's transition from rural township to industrial powerhouse, and its changing landscape reflects broader social and economic shifts in the region.

Candidates for Local Listing in Hollinwood

Property Name and Photo	2-12 & 1-17 Copster Place – HER 5740.1.0 
Property Address	2-12 & 1-17 Copster Place, Hollins Road, Oldham, OL8 3DH
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> Copster Place is a small street of two facing terraces at right angles to Hollins Road. The terraces date to the early 19th century, and is shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:10,560 map of 1848. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> Typical of local industrial workers' houses, unaltered for the most part. Stuccoed or pebble-dashed brick, with moulded stringcourses, flag roofs and distinctive moulded brick chimney stacks. While some of

	the houses have been extended/alterd at the rear, there are sufficient houses in each terrace to retain an understanding of their original design and appearance. <i>Local Interest:</i> The terraced properties are amongst the earliest buildings to have been erected on Copster Hill. Copster Place was known originally as Cotton Street. <i>Aesthetic Interest.</i> Traditional cottages of the period providing a distinctive grouping. <i>Group Value:</i> Copster Place has a high group value with other surviving early 19th-century buildings on Hollins Road. <i>Rarity Value:</i> The terraces provide an increasingly rare example of early 19th-century industrial workers' housing. <i>Landmark interest:</i> Contributes to a distinctive street scene.
Score	9

**Property Name
and Photo**

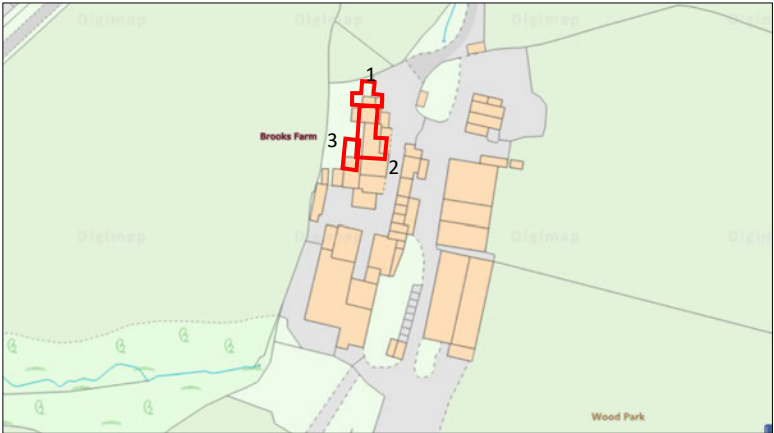
Bell Mill – HER 6075.1.0



Property Address

Claremont Street, Hathershaw, Oldham, OL8 3EJ

Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> Built by the Bell Mill Co. in 1904. Ceased production May 1957. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> Designed by the notable architectural practice of Potts and Son & Hennings. The brick-built spinning mill is one of more decorative examples. It is of five storeys and 13 x 5 bays with a steel and concrete internal structure. Flat roof. Terracotta brickwork and pillars to the top storey between the windows. The engine house is attached to the south-east corner. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The mill makes an important contribution to the character and aesthetic quality of the historic textile-manufacturing townscape. <i>Group Value:</i> The mill has a strong group value with the nearby Heron Mill, Earl Mill and the early 20th-century workers' housing on Ashton Road, cumulatively representing key elements of the textile-manufacturing townscape. <i>Social / Community Value:</i> Some local families may have a personal association with the mill as it provided employment for several generations, contributing to their sense of place. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The mill is a notable landmark feature of this section of Ashton Road.
Score	11

Property Name and Photo	Brooks Farm – HER 18012.1.0  
Property Address	Coal Pit Lane, Hollinwood, Oldham, OL8 3JN
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> The farm is shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:10,560 map of 1848. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> A farm complex site of several different styles, including modern buildings of no historic interest. The three components of interest comprise the main farmhouse, which is actually two co-joined buildings

	(1), the main range / shippon that lies immediately to the south (2) and another brick-built structure with a slate roof that abuts the south-western elevation of the main range (3). An interesting example of a farm in the local vernacular. The identified buildings are in brick with limited architectural detailing arising from what appear to be stone cills and lintels and modest brickwork detailing such as on the chimneys. All roofs to these buildings are in slate including slate ridge tiles. <i>Local Interest:</i> A rare physical reminder of the former importance of agriculture to the local economy. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The buildings make a positive contribution to the character and aesthetic quality of Coal Pit Lane. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The farm is a notable landmark feature of the local landscape, which retains a semi-rural prospect.
Score	9

Property Name and Photo	Heron Mill – HER 6008.1.0 
Property Address	Heron Street, Hollins, Oldham, OL8 4JT
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> Built in 1905 by the Heron Mill Co Ltd. Taken over in the 1930s by the Lancashire Cotton Corporation. Ceased production in 1960. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> Designed by the notable architect PS Stott. The brick-built spinning mill is five-storeys high and 38 x 5 bays. Much of the architectural detailing arises from the use of brickwork and the more limited use of stone for pilaster head/cornice details and continuous window cill/cornice details. Stone work is used for other particular details especially the attached tower to the south-west corner which incorporates the name “HERON” to all four sides. The engine house is attached at the north-west corner of the mill. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The original mill building and the section of stone boundary wall make an important contribution to the character and aesthetic quality of the historic textile-manufacturing townscape.

	<i>Group Value:</i> The mill has a strong group value with the nearby Bell Mill and Earl Mill and forms part of an important cluster of historic textile mills. <i>Social / Community Value:</i> Some local families may have a personal association with the mill as it provided employment for several generations, contributing to their sense of place. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The mill is a notable landmark feature on Heron Street.
Score	11

Property Name and Photo	Victoria Inn – HER 18013.1.0 
Property Address	535 Hollins Road, Hollins, Oldham, OL8 3TP

Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> The building dates to 1897, according to a datestone, and is shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1909, replacing an earlier building that occupied the site. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> This two-storey building is in a Queen Anne Revival style that was popular during the late Victorian / early Edwardian era. It is principally in red brick but with use made of matching terracotta elements on the principal (Hollins Road) elevation street with the combination giving a restrained frontage that is nevertheless full of visual interest. Historically the footprint of the building suggests a double-depth, two-storey building with a narrow addition across much of the rear elevation. <i>Local Interest:</i> One of the oldest surviving buildings along this section of Hollins Road and a rare reminder of the late 19th-century streetscape. <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 pub served the local community for well over a century and several generations of local residents will have personal association with the building, providing them with a sense of place. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The pub is a notable landmark on this section of Hollins Road.
Score	10

Property Name and Photo	Welcome Inn – HER 18014.1.0 
Property Address	741 - 743 Hollins Road, Hollinwood, Oldham, OL8 3SY
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> A public house that was known originally as the Wellington, with Benjamin Schofield listed as the first licensee in 1825. The name Sett Tavern was first recorded in 1837. The pub may have been rebuilt in 1858. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> An interesting example of a public house belonging to Wilsons Brewery Ltd. The original built form is mostly two storeys with a pitched slate roof expressed on the two street frontages with a robust eaves feature. The pilasters, window surrounds and fascia are all painted a dark grey / black and the remaining areas of the ground floor elevation are covered with deep orange coloured glazed tiling. <i>Local Interest:</i> A survey carried out in the late 19th century recorded the pub to contain six drinking rooms, five bedrooms, a bathroom and stabling for five horses in the enclosed yard. <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 pub has served the local community for well over a century and several generations of local residents will have personal association with the building. <i>Group Value:</i> The pub has a group value with the surrounding terraces of workers' housing that cumulatively represent the later 19th-century townscape. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The pub occupies a prominent location at the corner of Limeside Road with Hollins Road.
Score	9

Property Name and Photo	Air-raid Shelter – HER 18015.1.0 
Property Address	Between Argus Street and Knowl Street, Hollins Road, Oldham

Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> A former air-raid shelter dating to the Second World War. It occupies the end of a strip of land that ran between the rear yard walls of terraced housing fronting Argus Street and Knowl Street. The Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 2nd revision map of 1922 shows this wide strip of land as being free of built form but by the time of the OS 1:2,500 National Grid Series map of 1954 it has started to be infilled with various elements of built form including the air-raid structure. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> This is an extremely utilitarian built form of its time reflecting its purpose. It has a long, narrow rectangular plan form but with one chamfered corner. The width is narrower than the frontage of the adjacent terraced house at No.4 Argus Street but its length is around 1½ times the depth of the house. The elevation to Hollins Road contains a number of matching and regularly spaced ventilation bricks which appear original (or historic alteration) as the surrounding brickwork does not evidence alteration. <i>Local Interest:</i> Constructed as part of communal street shelters built in 1940 by local authorities. These brick-lined, concrete-roofed shelters were designed to protect workers and families in densely populated areas. <i>Social / Communal Value:</i> The shelter served as a social space where neighbours found protection together during air raids, reinforcing local solidarity. <i>Rarity Value:</i> A rare surviving example of an air-raid shelter.
Score	9

Property Name and Photo	The Knowls – HER 18016.1.0 
Property Address	5 - 7 The Knowls, Hollinwood, Oldham, OL8 3XD
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> A 19th-century villa residence identified as 'The Knowls' on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map of 1894. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> At the time of the 1894 map The Knowles was shown as built form with a principally square footprint with the principal elevation/entrance front on the south elevation facing a large garden area. This garden also ran up the western side of the building. Both these garden frontages each retain a single storey canted bay window and evidently accommodated the principal internal rooms. The building is principally in red brick with stonework detailing limited to the arched headed front door surround, the bay windows, cills and expressed key stones on two arched headed first floor windows on the entrance front. The slate roof is almost pyramidal in form and three chimneys remain although some appear altered.

	<i>Local Interest:</i> One of a small number of villa-type properties that were erected in the area during the late 19th century. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> An attractive dwelling with distinctive features that contribute to the historic character of the locale. Group Value: The Knowls has a group value with other surviving elements of the late 19th-century built environment. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The house is a notable building set amongst modern bungalows.
Score	9

**Property Name
and Photo**

Limeside Primary School – HER 18017.1.0



Property Address	Third Avenue, Hollinwood, Oldham, OL8 3SB
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> The school was an integral part of the layout of the surrounding housing estate – both the school and estate first show on the Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 3rd Revision map of 1922. It is contemporaneous with the laying out and building of the surrounding housing estate. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> This large, two-storey purpose-built school building provides a fine example of 1920s school architecture. The building is principally in a red/brown brick with limited use of stone for particular elements of restrained embellishment. Elevation articulation was achieved by the built footprint but also the use of deep first-floor window reveals. Brickwork detailing such as to arched window heads also contribute to the overall designed appearance. <i>Local Interest:</i> The school was at the heart of the development of Limeside as a residential area during the 1920s. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The school makes a positive contribution to the historic character of the surrounding housing estate. <i>Social / Communal Value:</i> The school fulfils an important role in the local community, and generations of former pupils will have personal association with the building, contributing to their sense of place. <i>Group Value:</i> The school has a group value with the surrounding houses that are of a contemporary date, cumulatively representing the development of Limeside.
Score	10

Property Name and Photo	19 Clive Street – HER 18018.1.0 
Property Address	19 Clive Street, Hollins, Oldham, OL8 3TP
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> A detached house that appears on the Ordnance Survey 1:500 Town Plan of 1892. Land to the west, south and south-east remains undeveloped fields. To the north is frontage development along Hollins Road and to the east is a brush works and an extensive nursery. By the 1920s the rural setting has disappeared under new suburban housing. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> This modest two-storey detached house is an interesting survivor of a pre-suburban era. It is a simple brick building with limited architectural embellishment arising from stone cills and brickwork detailing such as arched window heads. Elements of the Clive Street boundary wall structure may be original or historic.

	<i>Local Interest:</i> The house provides a physical reminder of the pre-industrial townscape. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The building makes a positive contribution to the aesthetic quality and historic character of the streetscape. <i>Group Value:</i> The house has a group value with nearby broadly contemporaneous built form (mostly fronting Hollins Road) including the nearby Victoria inn public house. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The house is a notable building on the modern streetscape.
Score	9

**Property Name
and Photo**

The Railway Public House – HER 16704.1.0



Property Address	Railway Road, Hollinwood, Failsworth, OL9 7LG
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> The public house is shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:500 Town Plan of 1892 located directly opposite the booking office of Hollingwood railway station. All the original railway architecture has now disappeared but the stop remains in use as a Metrolink station to a highly utilitarian design. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> A modestly scaled, two-storey, double pile building with associated gables to an 'M' shape to both side elevations. The architectural embellishment is reserved for the principal elevation facing Railway Street. This has four elevation bays but the right hand three have been designed with greater architectural detailing. <i>Local Interest:</i> The pub was a vital social hub for railway staff, carters, mill workers, and residents of this industrial corridor . <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The building is of aesthetic value with the front elevation the focus of architectural embellishment. More recently installed security lights with associated trailing external white cabling serving these and various elements of signage detracts from the aesthetic value in various views. <i>Social / Community Value:</i> The building remains in a public house use which has served the local community for over a hundred years. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The public house is a notable local landmark.
Score	9

**Property Name
and Photo**

Former Hollinwood Gas Works Canal Bridge
HER 18836.1.0



Property Address	West of Albert Street, Hollinwood, Failsworth, OL8 3QP
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> Bridge formerly linking two sites of Hollinwood Gas Works across the Hollinwood Branch of the Ashton Canal. Mapping suggests the bridge dates to between 1882 and 1894. <i>Architectural Interest:</i> A footbridge of iron construction crossing the former canal and towpath. The particular architectural interest here is in the use of metalwork technology as a building material to span a relatively large distance without support other than at its ends which are demarcated with stonework embankment end-walls under the bridge and large brickwork piers (with stone copings) above to either side of the route atop the embankment. <i>Local Interest:</i> It was a private bridge linking the two parts of Hollinwood Gas Works and provides a physical reminder of the former canal and gas works. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The aesthetic value arises from the functional use of building materials notably the metalwork with its repeated components. <i>Group Value:</i> The bridge has a group value with other surviving structural elements of the former canal. <i>Landmark Status:</i> Whilst currently largely concealed from view, the bridge is nevertheless a notable local feature with considerable potential for enhancement and re-use as a pedestrian thoroughfare.
Score	9