

Minnis Bay Coast Guards

The terrace of Coast Guard houses between Ethelbert Rd and Grenham Bay Ave were built c. 1880. At that time they were very near the creek (Minnis Rd area) that had once formed a haven for shipping waiting for favourable winds to go out into the estuary on its way to London.

Being the only properties down at Minnis, the men had a clear view along the length of the Bay as far as Reculver. An officer was always on duty in the Lookout Station at the north end of the terrace, day and night. If needed, their boat could be quickly launched down the slipway. There is still a large iron ring in the old wall which probably moored the boat.

In 1885, in their spare time, the men helped to build the Non-Conformist Church in Ethelbert Rd (now the URC Church). They were given the spare wood from Arthur Rayden's Exhibition Building in the Dip.

By 1900, the need for the Station had gone and the men were withdrawn - the end of a very eventful era!