

THE ANCHORAGE

The Anchorage was built about 1890 as a bungalow in the style of those in Spenser Road. The dating of its advent is difficult, but it was certainly not there in 1885, but had definitely arrived by 1886. It had timber framing, and a tower and its cavity walls were insulated - with sawdust!

It became the home of Captain Ashton for a while. He was in charge of both the Birchington and the Westgate Fire Brigades. He kept Birchington's engine in a large garage he had built in the huge garden of the property. He sometimes used the tower to keep an eye out for any fires that might need his attention. In the light of the construction of his home, he was the most suitable occupant it ever had!

It was eventually pulled down in c. 1967 and has now become the site of Geoffrey court. These flats were built by Geoffrey day - hence their name. He named Claire court in Gordon Square after another member of his family.

When the old house was being demolished, Fred Castle was employed to come and take away much of the wood framing. It was during this episode that the insulating sawdust was discovered.