

Birchington Hall or Place

The will of John Friend was drawn up by the solicitor and notary William Brooke of 12 Cecil Square, Margate and his partner Herman D. Mertens Esq. solicitor of Grove Place, Margate, in 1849 and was proved 10th August 1858.

Birchington Hall, owned by John Friend was put on the market in 1852 and detailed plans were drawn up indicating the extent of the estate. It was bought soon afterwards by Thomas Gray and his wife Susan. After Susan's death it was willed to her niece, who had cared for her in old age after she was widowed. It was then bought by the Spurgeon's Children's Orphanages as a seaside home for their children in 1917 and remained in their hands until the whole estate was sold for redevelopment in 1978-80.