

MULBERRY HOUSE

Formerly called 'The White House'
205 Canterbury Road, Birchington

[This section of Canterbury Road was originally called Margate Road or sometimes 'The Avenue' or 'Hall Avenue']

The house is a Grade II listed property, with a listing that states:

It is a late 18th century to early 19th century building, whose frontage has now been rendered with cement.

The house is three stories high and has a tiled, hipped roof with an eaves cornice.

There are three of the windows on the first and second floors and one either side of the front door. They no longer have their original glazing bars.

The door-case has fluted pilasters with a triangular pediment. The door itself is a six panel, moulded door, in which the top two panels have been cut away and glass inserted, in order to let in more light into the hallway behind.

The house is shown on both the Quex Estate Map of 1832 and the Tithe Map of 1840. In this latter version, it is listed as containing a house and garden covering a quarter of an acre (or one rod). The owner is listed as John 'Birchington' Friend Esq. and occupied by John Brooks, who also rented 32 other parcels of land and buildings in the parish.

In 1885-6, Clarence Neame is listed as living in 'The White House' while his father, Walter W. Neame, lived across the road in 'Evergreen House'. By 1897-8, Walter's widow was alone in 'Evergreen House', but Clarence still occupied 'The White House' across the road. The following year, 'The White House' had Henry Clarence Neame as the occupant. Is this the same man or a second generation?

Moving rapidly through the years, in 1929, Mrs Gordon Stewart was the occupant of 'The White House', while 'Evergreen' was now owned by Mrs Coates. This situation did not last long, as 'Evergreen' was no longer listed in 1930 and did not reappear until 1933, by which time it had been renamed 'The Smugglers' and had become a 'Tea House' under the management of Mrs J. M. Cornford. It had also ceased to be listed under Margate Road by this time, but was included in The Square from then onwards.

Between the two World Wars, a Community Kitchen operated from the right hand side of these premises, as can be seen in a local photograph below. The picture is dated 1925.



Community Kitchen - 1925

In the room now listed in the plans as "The Library", (behind the "Community Kitchen" notice) there were mains services for water and gas laid on. This had puzzled a previous owner until he was shown the above photo.