

# Home of a world-famed painter

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An estate of town houses which Margate Town Council was told last week is to go up at Birchington, will provide the new owners with a link with a world-famous artist.

The land to be developed is bordered by Beach Avenue, Shakespeare Road and Rossetti Road, and I am reminded this week that it was in a bungalow on this site that Dante Gabriel Rossetti died in 1882.

The ailing painter had left his studio in Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, on February 4th of that year, and stayed at the bungalow as guest of novelist Hall Caine.

Unfortunately, the Birchington air was not caught in time to restore his health, for he died on 9 April, 1882. His grave is just outside the south door of Birchington Parish Church, the cross having been designed by his friend, Ford Madox Brown.

Ald. J. H. M. Thomas, who made the announcement to the Council about the plan for town houses on this site, conducted an auction in the bungalow, which was wooden with an asphalt roof, in 1952.

The premises fetched £4,500 and its contents were auctioned later.

The bungalow contained six bedrooms and a lounge dining-room. There was also a room designed as an Eastern-style chapel, and signs that part of the lounge may have been used for painting.

The bungalow was pulled down about five years ago. Locally, the site is still known as the "Rossetti Land."



Rossetti Bungalow in 1950