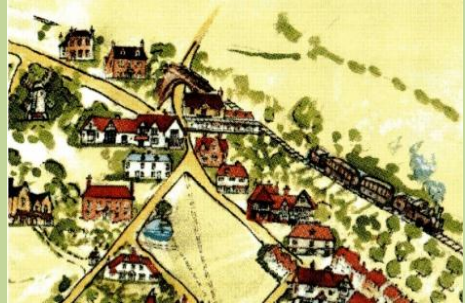
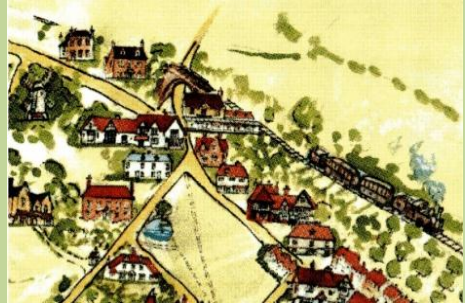


The Parade, Bearsted



***An application (number 1427747)
to Historic England
from
The Bearsted and Thurnham Society
for
The Parade in Bearsted, Kent
to be designated a
Grade II listed building.***

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Site Details



- ❖ The Parade is located within the Bearsted Green Conservation Area and comprises three retail shop units.
- ❖ The property address is -
 - The Parade,
 - The Green, Bearsted,
 - Maidstone, Kent ME14 4DN
- ❖ The property is owned by –
 - Evenden Estates Limited,
 - 1 Princes Square,
 - Hove, East Sussex BN3 4GE
- ❖ The recent Planning Application –

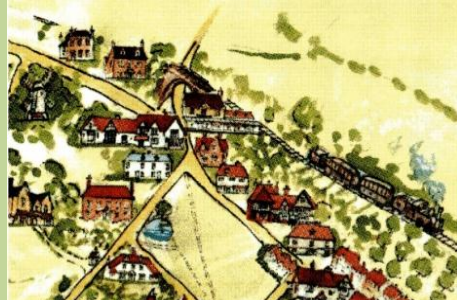
An application, reference 14/505873, was submitted to Maidstone Borough Council in November 2014. The submitted scheme called for the demolition of The Parade and the construction of three new retail units with seven flats above. The application attracted well over 300 objections from members of the public, and was subsequently withdrawn.

In a meeting held between the owners and their planning consultants on 13th April 2015 the Bearsted & Thurnham Society was informed that a new planning application would be submitted.

Redevelopment of the site would inevitably result in the total loss of the existing building.

The leases on all three premises expire in 2016 and one of the three within the next nine months.

Reasons for Listing



- ❖ The Society believes there is a strong case for The Parade to be listed because it is an increasingly rare survivor of purpose built colonnaded village shops that have remained essentially unaltered for over a hundred years. As a result it continues to display architectural features typical of late 19th and early 20th century design.
- ❖ Village shops were normally contained within converted dwelling houses and had simple frontages. A purpose built range of shops of this era outside a metropolis is rare.
- ❖ With its pleasing and distinctive architecture and modest scale, The Parade lies at the historic core of Bearsted and forms an integral part of the Bearsted Green Conservation Area. It makes a major contribution to the appearance, distinctiveness and vitality of the historic heart of the village, Bearsted's sense of place and its shared community identity.
- ❖ It is also essential to maintaining the quality and character of this part of the village and to reinforcing the group value of the neighbouring buildings, of which it forms part.
- ❖ The building houses three thriving businesses which meet the needs of local people, and those from well beyond the village, in key areas of their lives. The Parade is much loved by villagers and visitors alike, who value what it contributes to their individual and collective quality of life. It is the heartbeat of our local community.
- ❖ Listing will ensure the retention of a building that contributes importantly to the quality of Bearsted's built environment, its economy, history and heritage. It will enable The Parade to continue serving the needs of the community whilst having its special interest preserved for future generations, for the conservation area and the village as a whole.
- ❖ The montage on the following page shows the outline of the recent planning application overlaid on The Parade. Listing will not only safeguard the building it will also protect this corner of The Green.

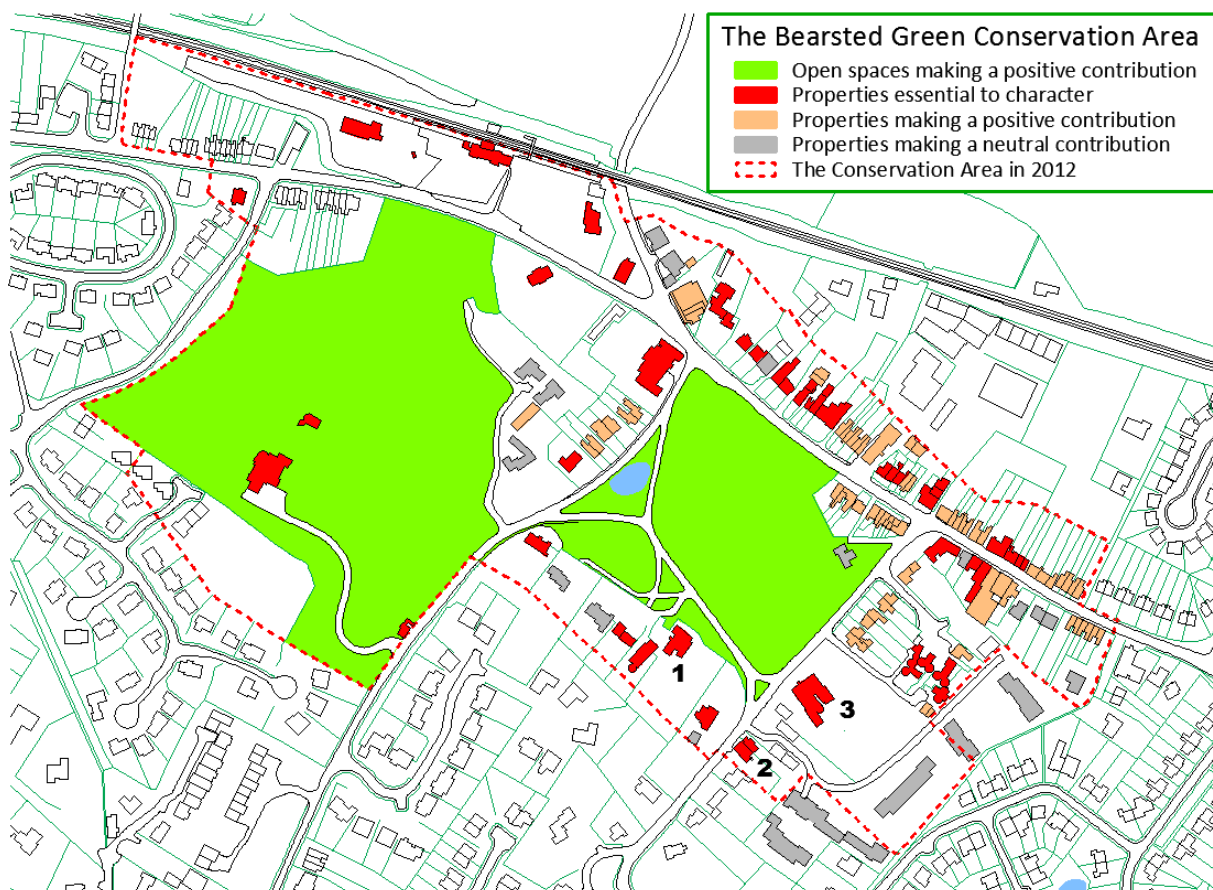
Reasons for Listing

continued



- ❖ This submission for listing is divided into three main parts:
 - Firstly, it describes the Bearsted Green Conservation Area and the place of The Parade within it.
 - Secondly, it outlines the history of the building.
 - Thirdly, it focuses on the architectural merits of The Parade.

The Conservation Area

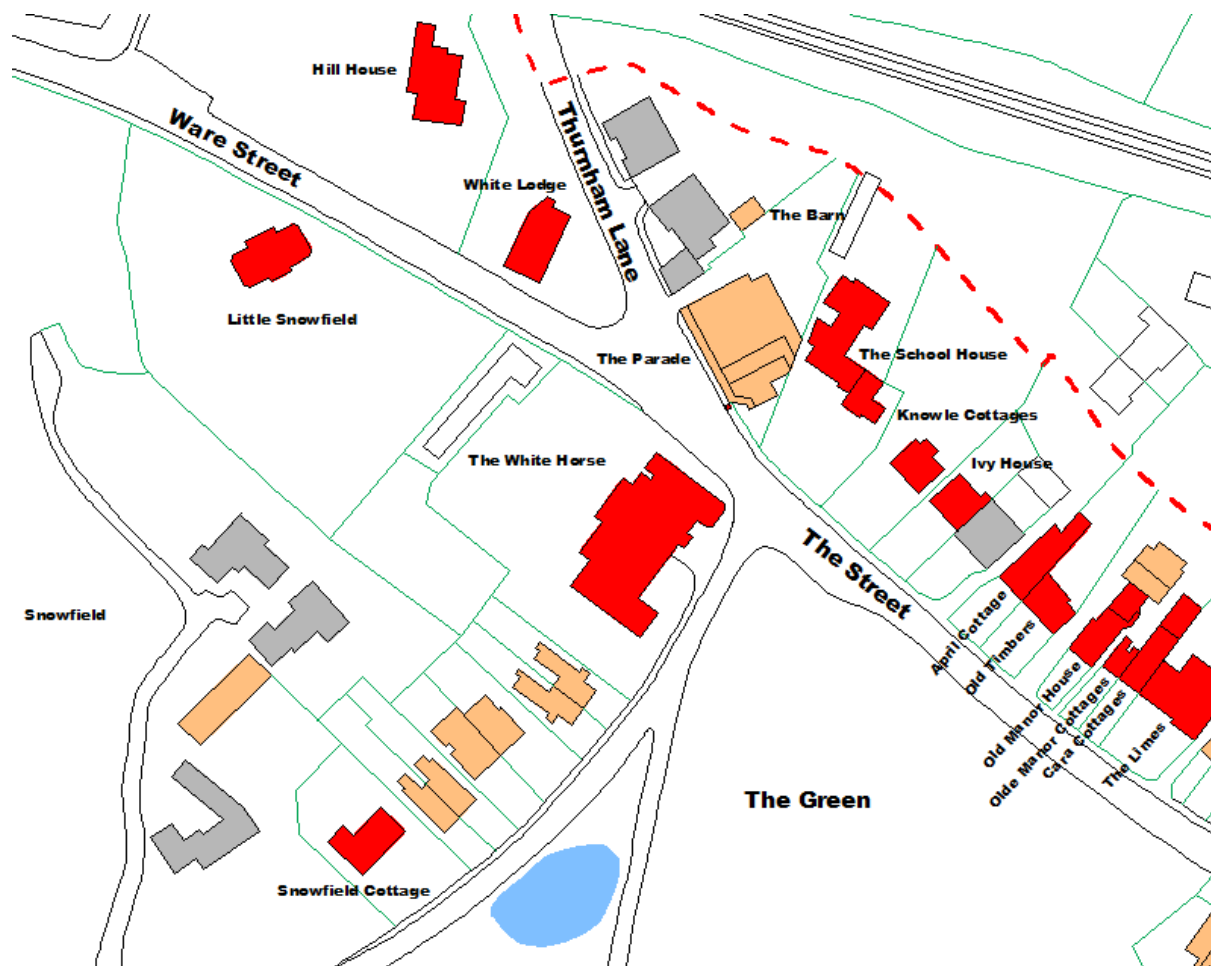


The Parade sits close to the northwest corner of the original Bearsted Green Conservation Area. The map of the area shows the proliferation of listed buildings around the Green and those designated to be essential, or having a positive or neutral impact on the village landscape.

Since 2010 the Conservation Area has been extended to include the railway station, goods shed and adjacent weighbridge house, together with lands and buildings to the west. This extension was proposed in Maidstone Borough Council's Bearsted Conservation Areas Appraisal & Management Plan, 2010, and the three buildings were accorded Grade II listing status in January 2011.

The numbered properties to the south east of The Green are Bell House (1), Corner and Hazel Cottages (2) in Church Lane, and Bearsted House (3). These and other properties named in the map on page 5 are illustrated and described later in this section of the submission.

The Conservation Area



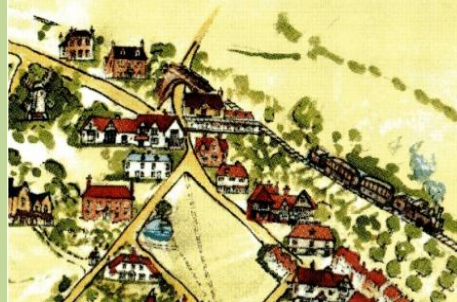
The enlarged detail of the Conservation Area demonstrates the important role of The Parade in anchoring the north west corner of The Green, and the adjacent properties.

There are no properties within the Conservation Area that have a negative impact, and the great majority are either listed, deemed to be essential or to have a positive impact on it.

The Parade falls into the latter category and makes an important contribution to the village landscape as a whole, and to the group value of the properties immediately adjacent to it. With The White Horse public house, which is Grade II listed, to the south west, White Lodge to the west and The School House to the east The Parade forms an integral part of this group of buildings which anchors the north western edge of The Green.

The Conservation Area

continued



The Bearsted Green Conservation Area covers the historic heart of the village, and is one of two in Bearsted. The Assessment Report, compiled by Maidstone Borough Council in 2010, categorised buildings within the conservation area in four ways:

Essential - buildings/sites which, because of their high architectural or historic interest or townscape function, must be retained.

Positive – Buildings/sites which contribute positively to the character and interest of the conservation area and whose retention should be encouraged wherever possible.

Neutral – buildings/sites which do not harm the character of the area but whose retention is not necessary.

Negative – buildings/sites which harm the area's character where redevelopment would be advantageous.

The report gave The Parade a positive designation, the second highest it could award.

As the Conservation Area Report notes, The Green is the dominant defining characteristic of the area. *“The original medieval layout of the village is still readily discernible and consists of dense linear development along The Street, the pre-existing route way which defines the northern side of the green, with more scattered and sporadic development, often of more prestigious properties in substantial grounds, around the other three sides. The difference in the pattern and density of development on different sides of the green is an essential component of its character. The Green itself remain free of development except for its eastern corner which probably represents an encroachment onto common land dating from the early 19th century.”*



The Green is the dominant feature of the Conservation Area and cricket has been played here since 1749, making it one of the oldest cricket grounds in the country.

This is reflected in the village sign, which features the redoubtable Alfred Mynn (1807-1861).

As noted above the Bearsted Green Conservation Area contains a wealth of architecturally important and interesting buildings, dating from the mediaeval period to the 20th century, that go to make up a classic village landscape. Some of the most important are described and illustrated in the following pages.

The Conservation Area

continued



Bell House, a 16th century timber framed farmhouse with later additions, dominates the southern side of The Green.

It forms part of a farmstead group, the barns of which have been sympathetically converted to residential accommodation.

In addition to its numerous chimneys it retains its bell tower, originally used to summon farm workers.



Corner and Hazel Cottages, in Church Lane and adjacent to The Green, were originally one hall house and are some of the oldest properties in Bearsted.

The body of John Dyke was prepared for burial in the first of these cottages following his execution for arson on Christmas Eve 1830.

Caught up in the Swing Riots, yet always protesting his innocence, Dyke was buried in Bearsted churchyard later the same day. Some forty years later, so the story goes, the chief witness against John Dyke made a death bed confession that he, and not Dyke, had committed the crime.



The south eastern corner of The Green is dominated by Bearsted House, constructed in the early 18th century and greatly enlarged in 1830.

During World War II the house became the centre of the Bearsted war effort, with rooms dedicated to the use of the local Red Cross, the ARP Wardens, the Home Guard and a local clinic.

The Conservation Area

continued



To the west of The Green lies the Snowfield estate, which contains the largest house in the village.

Snowfield was originally built in 1839 and Baroness Orczy (1865-1947), the author of *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, owned it from 1905 to 1919.

In 1911 the Baroness commissioned the distinguished architect Andrew N Prentice (1866-1941) to undertake a

design for re-fronting and remodelling the house in the neo-Georgian style. At the same time he designed The Garden House, which sits just to the north east of the main house.



He returned a year later to design Little Snowfield as a home for the Baroness' mother.

Little Snowfield is a rare Kentish Vernacular style house in brick and close-studding applied timbers, and the specifications for the house were of the highest quality.

It is largely hidden from public view by high walls and trees.



Snowfield Cottage is mainly 18th century and faces the western edge of The Green and the village pond.

The front elevation is clad in painted mathematical tiles.

The Conservation Area

continued



Bearsted is said to have helped inspire the story "*Jackanapes*". This tale of a boy soldier and his pony, set at the time of the Napoleonic Wars, includes references to a village green, a pond, an oak tree, a pub and a church, all essential features of the village.



The School House, which sits next to The Parade, was built in 1839. The south east wing, which included the Master's House, was added in 1847-1848.

The School House now contains the local village library.



April Cottage and Old Timbers are mid to late 18th century with chequered red and grey brick in Flemish bond brickwork to their facade.

April Cottage was, until recently, a restaurant.

The Conservation Area

continued



Originally one hall house dating from the 15th century, with later additions, The Old Manor House is now divided into cottages. It has a brick ground floor on its front elevation. The left wing includes an under-built jetty with hipped roof, while the right wing is also jettied and gabled to the street



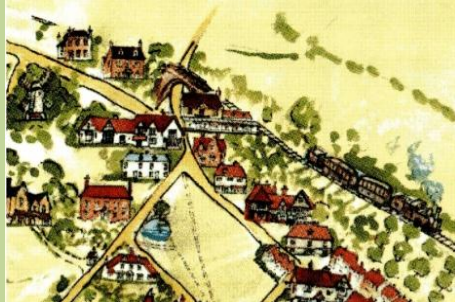
Bearsted's literary connections are further demonstrated at Ivy House. This Grade II listed 16th century timber framed house with 18th century front clad in red and grey mathematical tiles, was the home of the author and poet Edward Thomas between 1901-03. His brooding, melancholy poem "*The Long Small Room*" recalls the picturesque attic room in the house which he used for his work. It was written shortly before his death on the first day of the battle of Arras, 9th April 1917.



This photograph was taken in 1907, looking east along The Street, and gives a clear indication of the importance of the location in relation to the historic green.

The Conservation Area

continued



This photograph, taken in 1925, followed by one taken from the same position in 2015, shows how little this corner of the village has altered over time.

With the exception of more vehicles, different signage and the sympathetic extension to White Lodge it remains essentially unchanged.

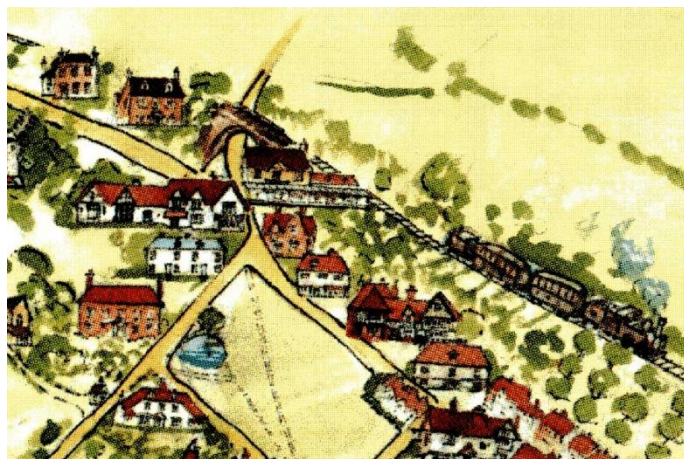
Due to its low form the physical impact of The Parade on the Conservation Area is small and it is subservient to the White Horse public house, a 16th century building. Yet its role is important as it serves to reinforce the group value of neighbouring buildings, Bearsted's sense of place and its shared community identity.

It is much loved by villagers and visitors alike who value what it contributes to their individual and collective quality of life.

This is reflected in the fact that it has featured in postcards, Christmas cards, mugs produced for the Parish Council and Richard Odell's painting.

The iconic picture painted by the late Richard Odell, of which this is part, was commissioned for "The Jubilee DVD" which was made locally to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002.

Not all of the important buildings around The Green were included, yet The Parade is clearly featured at its key location.



A History of the Building



The Parade was originally constructed in 1882, the year that the railway came to Bearsted, for Mr. John Perrin, a grocer from Aylesford in Kent. Although the architectural style was not

unusual for the period, the building was constructed to a high standard, with the provision of a colonnade being almost unique in a village location. Mr. Perrin's entrepreneurial venture was all the bolder when you consider that the population of Bearsted Parish as a whole was 620 people in 1881, and that there were already a number of other shops serving the village



itself. The enterprise flourished and the shops, known then as Chestnut Place, quickly became established as the economic and social hub of the village. However on the morning of Saturday 13th January 1900 the shops suffered a catastrophic fire. Luckily Mr. Perrin, his family and staff, managed to escape although the building suffered extensive damage and had to be rebuilt. Unfortunately Mr. Perrin was under insured and could not afford to replicate the structure in its original form. Nevertheless the single storey building he commissioned, which reopened for business in 1901, included many points of fine architectural detail which exist to this day. Of particular note was the retention of a canopy and, with its concave form, the replacement was finer than the original .

Maidstone Borough Council's Conservation Area Report, 2010, records that the rebuilt shop was *"almost a small department store, containing grocery, butchery and drapery sections as well as a general store and post office"*.

The local population soon came to rely heavily on the diversity of goods offered by Mr. Perrin and his bill heads proudly announced that these included *"China and Earthenware direct from the Potteries, Iron & Tin Goods from the best London houses. Best Fed, Fresh & Pickled Pork and genuine Home-made sausages. Licensed to Retail Patent medicines, Gunpowder & Benzoline. Best household coals etc."*

Mr. Perrin's foresight in using available funds to rebuild the ground floor very much as before, whilst foregoing the first floor accommodation, ensured that Bearsted retained a range of shops under one roof. Although purchasing habits, and therefore retail opportunities, have changed over

A History of the Building

continued



the decades the butcher's shop at the western end of The Parade has stood the test of time from 1882 to the present day. Even the grocery shop, next to the butcher's and now a Master Bakers and Delicatessen under the same ownership as the butchers, sells a range of items that would have been available to Bearsted residents in 1882.

The census returns for 1891, 1901 and 1911 give an indication of John Perrin's attitude towards his family and employees, although this was not uncommon for the era.

In 1891, some nine years after he started trading in Bearsted, Chestnut Place had thirteen occupants. There were eight members of the Perrin family, six of whom worked in the shops, and five shop assistants living-in. The two youngest Perrin children, John and Sidney, were pupils at Bearsted School, next to Chestnut Place.

The census for 1901 was taken after the catastrophic fire, and by then the Perrin family were living at The Limes on The Green. John continued his business from a marquee at this address until the reconstruction of the shops was completed. Three of the Perrin daughters had presumably left home to marry, yet of the remaining family members four were still working in the family business. In addition John had a servant and five shop assistants boarding with him.

By 1911 John and his wife had both retired from business and their eldest daughter Emily was living with them as a housekeeper, as was a servant. As there was no longer accommodation available above the shops John Perrin had five shop assistants boarding with him, as he had ten years earlier.



Mr. Perrin's residence, The Limes, a 15th century hall house.

A History of the Building

continued



Although living arrangements have changed dramatically since 1911 it is interesting to note that the three businesses currently occupying The Parade employ 49 people, full and part-time, the vast majority being locals. This reinforces the reality that, for one hundred and thirty three years, The Parade has been an integral part of the social and economic fabric of the village and surrounding area.

On John Perrin's retirement the stores were split between his two sons, John Thomas and Albert Sidney. Young John took over the butchery and grocery shops and Sidney the drapery, post office and hardware departments. John emigrated to Canada before 1911 and the butcher's business was sold off, eventually to Bill Moss. John Perrin died in 1914 and the remaining businesses passed to Sidney, who did not inherit his father's entrepreneurial skills as he went bankrupt a year later.

The grocery shop was sold to Harry Brook to begin that family's connection with Bearsted that lasted nearly sixty years, first under Harry and later under his daughter and son in law.

For GROCERIES & PROVISIONS

Phone 6363.

H. J. BROOK,

Grocer, Provision Merchant and Draper,

THE STORES, BEARSTED.

CHINA, HARDWARE, etc.

The shop was the leading, and largest, grocers in the area, selling a range of high quality products and customers often remarked how the shop was suffused with the smell of hams, bacon, tea and coffee.

Over the years the shop served the great and the good of Bearsted and Thurnham, and their visitors. Baroness Orczy was one of its customers as was, it's said, the American author Sinclair Lewis, the first American to win the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1930.

A History of the Building

continued



The newsagents, which before World War II included a library, has anchored the eastern end of the parade since the 1920s, and it was run by the Taylor family for sixty years until the 1980s. It continues trading to this day.

**E. W. M. TAYLOR,
THE LIBRARY, BEARSTED**

—


STATIONERY	FANCY GOODS
NEWS	TOYS
TOILETRIES	PERFUMES
PHOTOGRAPHIC SUPPLIES	● DEVELOPING & PRINTING

*Newspapers, Periodicals, Magazines, Etc.,
Delivered Throughout the District.*

2d. PER WEEK NO DEPOSIT LIBRARY

A post office was also part of the original building and this remained in existence until a reorganisation resulted in its closure a decade ago, to be replaced by Bearsted Computers.

PHONE 6130.



W. J. MOSS

The Green, Bearsted,

for . . .

**BEST QUALITY
ENGLISH AND
COLONIAL MEAT**

Families waited upon daily

Since it was built The Parade has always housed a butchers at the western end and originally it included a slaughter house, although this activity has long since ceased. Like the grocers and newsagents, it provides another example of one of The Parade's shops being run by a local family for decades.

The butcher's shop was taken over in the 1970s by Norman Rickwood who, in the early 1980s, merged it with the grocers to make a combined butchers, delicatessen, cheesemonger and bakery. These activities were further extended by the current owners, the family of William Crouch. Mr. Rickwood's son still works in the business.

A History of the Building

continued



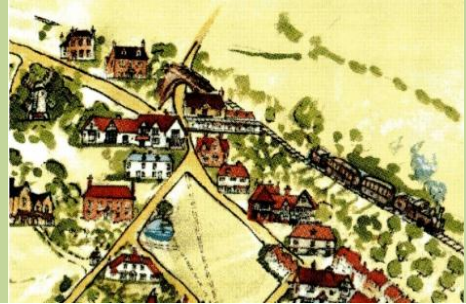
Sixty years ago, within some 550 metres from the railway station to just beyond the Oak on the Green public house, there were four grocers shops, two butchers, two bakers, two newsagents, two garages, one post office, one blacksmith, one cobbler and one clock and watch repairer. Since then the overwhelming majority have gone as the result of changing shopping patterns, fierce competition, ill health or death.



Now only the three shops in The Parade remain. Despite tough competition they have developed niche markets and nowhere else, in nearby Maidstone, for example, is there a similar high class butcher, delicatessen and bakery under one roof. All three shops trade profitably, all three provide a valued public service and all three, especially W J Crouch and the computer shop, draw trade to the village from well beyond the Maidstone area. The shops have been deeply embedded in the community for well over a century and they have remained as family businesses wedded to a strong sense of service to the people of Bearsted and Thurnham.

Architectural Features

~ The Canopy ~



This view of the eastern end of the façade from The Street emphasises the architectural importance of the swept, lead lined, canopy which is supported on ten slender cast iron columns.



The concave sweep of the canopy of The Parade is formed by fourteen wide timber laths running along its length, and the curvature is maintained by shaped metal strapwork running from a timber wall plate down to an iron eaves beam. The canopy is weathered in sheet leadwork, finished with squared roll joints.

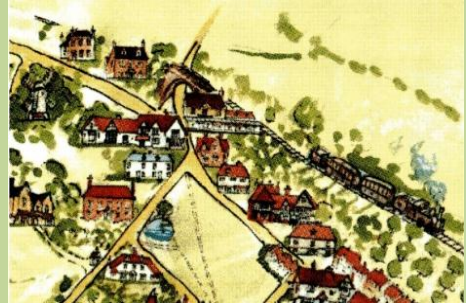
Where the convex underside of the canopy is moulded around the eastern end of the building it resembles the prow of a wooden boat.

This exceptional feature may be the sole surviving example in the country, and is certainly unique in a village setting. The 45° return to the eastern end of The Parade is an unprecedented detail that could easily have been omitted on grounds of cost. In fact its form demonstrates the care and attention paid when the rebuilding was undertaken in 1900.

Whilst the Colonnade at Hawkhurst is certainly larger and older its cast iron columns support a flat roof having a straight fascia. As that building is Grade II listed we believe that The Parade merits the same recognition.

Architectural Features

~ The Columns ~



The slender cast iron columns are capped with capitals having shallow fluted facets terminated with small gargoyles.

An iron eaves beam is bolted to the capitals, and this supports both the canopy and the eaves guttering.

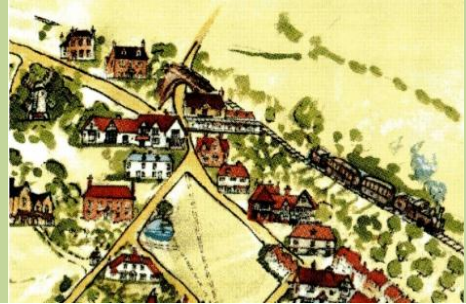
The column shafts are slender, circular in section and parallel sided.



The column bases are square with fluted corners and sit on simple concrete plinths having radiused edges.

Architectural Features

~ Brickwork ~



The mellow facade bricks were produced in the nearby Bearsted Brick & Tile Works and are described as being “*made from locally extracted Gault Clay, were reddish-brown with a very open texture, and no indentation to hold mortar.*” There are records of a kiln on the nearby brickfield site in the late 18th century, and manufacturing continued until 1921. The yellow stock bricks to the side and rear elevations, together with the set-back to the facade behind the telephone kiosk, would most likely have come from the Funton brickfield, near Sittingbourne. Whilst the majority of the brickwork to the facade is in Stretcher Bond, with the occasional header course, the flanks are laid in English Bond. Although the stepped centre section of the parapet was removed many years ago, together with the dentil work immediately beneath it, and the stone cappings replaced, a wealth of original brick detailing remains.



The nine indented panels to the parapet are bordered in Egg and Dart brickwork with Oak Leaf corners.



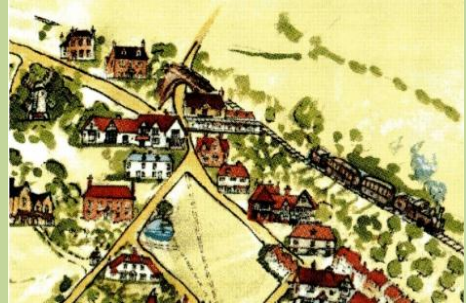
The lintels above the window and door openings are timber clad and capped with a single header course of brickwork with a course of narrow dentils above.

This course was purpose made, with five dentils and a common creasing tile detail to each fired brick unit. The detail is completed with a stretcher course of symmetrical ovolo moulded brickwork.

Architectural Features

~ Brickwork ~

continued



Close to the eastern end of The Parade, where the frontage is splayed back at 45° , the brick detailing is enhanced by the use of a squint, rather than cut, brick.



Above the yellow stock facework at the far eastern end of The Parade the detailing is finished with dentil and ovolo brickwork which returns along the eastern elevation.

Architectural Features

~ Glazed Facework ~



The façade has six piers finished in salt glazed brick facework. These piers sit above a rendered plinth and have a moulded timber detail with fluted panel over at their heads, forming an entablature. The origin of the glazed brickwork is unknown.

The four piers to the west mirror each other and are laid in courses of three headers with two queen closers, followed by a stretcher course.

The three lower courses are in a classic dark orange brown.

The following six courses alternate between a stretcher course in dark green followed by a header and queen closer course, with the central header in a pale green.

There are then three more courses in dark orange brown, with courses one and three laid in stretcher bond.

The central course of the three is laid in a rope twist brick with squared bead edges.

The piers are completed by fourteen courses of cream glazed brickwork.

The single pier to the east is splayed with every course laid in headers and stretchers. The splay is achieved with a squint brick, and this detail is replicated in the rope twist course.

The sixth pier matches the first four and sits at the junction with the yellow stock facework, where it is hidden from general view by the Sir Giles Gilbert Scott Grade II listed K6 telephone kiosk.

The dark orange brown brickwork is also used in three courses below the window to the butcher's, at the western end of the parade. These courses are laid in English Bond.



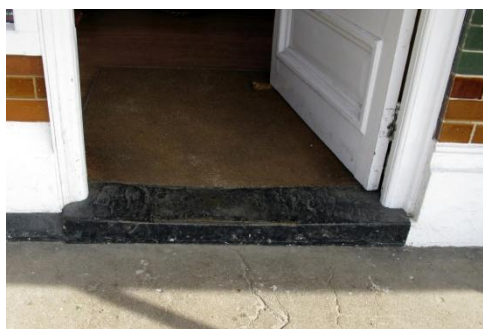
Architectural Features

~ Doorways ~



The façade has five doorways of varying width, although one door has been removed as the splayed entrance now serves two shops. The four remaining doors are original, with little evidence of modification, and have raised and fielded panels, gunstock stiles and clear glazed lights above. The lights are bottom hung, restrained by a pair of quadrant arms and secured by a brass ring fanlight catch.

The western doorway is flush to the frontage and has always served a butcher's shop. It is the widest door in the parade as, historically, it was used to move animal carcasses into the premises. It retains its original "pair and a half" of ornamental butts.



The stone threshold to the butchers shows 114 years of continual footfalls.

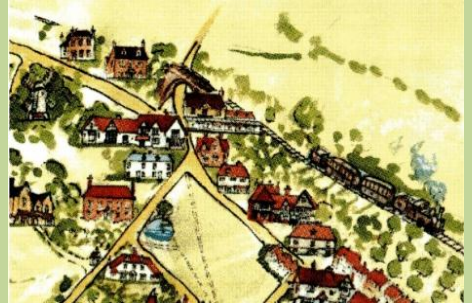


The second doorway has a pair of rabbeted doors set back within a splayed opening flanked by the shopfront glazing. The door frame is contiguous with the glazing frame.

Architectural Features

~ Doorways ~

continued



The central single leaf door is flush with the façade, and has the same detail and framing as the doors to its west.

The stone threshold, although original, shows little sign of wear.

The letterplate is a later addition.



The fourth door has been replaced, although the original frame is retained.

The easternmost door is set back from the main frontage of The Parade, and is framed within a yellow stock brick panel with flush red brick quoins.

Although partly obscured by a later notice board the door retains its small Victorian letterplate.

Architectural Features

~ Splayed Entrances ~



Although missing its original door the splayed entrance to the east of The Parade retains its tessellated tiled entrance. Largely intact, the panel is bordered in pale blue and orange tesserae, with a single tile red boundary. The subsequent yellow beige border is bounded by a single course of brown tessera and is laid in a series of arcs. It has Art Nouveau floral corner embellishments, each with a single leaf extending into the central panel. This panel is formed in a series of arcs in white tesserae, interspersed with pale grey.



Both splayed entrances retain their original soffit detail of "wainscot" framing with inset panels of square edged tongue and grooved boarding.

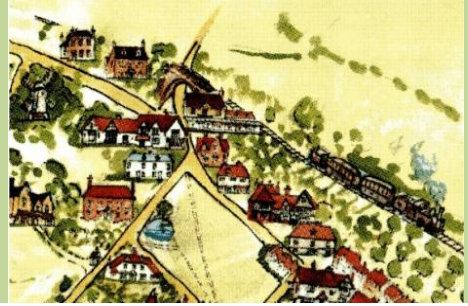
The panels are edged in the same moulding used to frame the raised and fielded door panels.



This photograph shows one of the two splayed shop entrances, and demonstrates the link between the various original Victorian elements.

Architectural Features

~ Windows ~



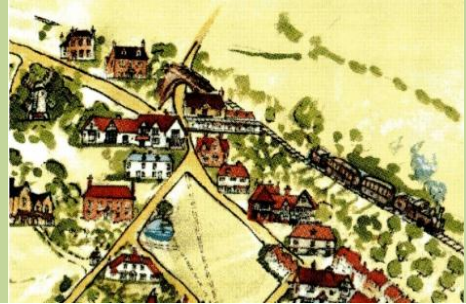
The shop fronts to The Parade have changed little since this pre World War I photograph was taken. Glazed frames are little altered, and generally only with slight moulding changes when larger plate glass panels were fitted, apart from the frontage to the butcher's. This one panel, running from the western end of The Parade to the first doorway, now has a bevel edged glazing subframe .



The shop fronts were originally glazed in two horizontal panes, separated by a "mopstick" muntin. The weight of the upper glazing panel was clearly an issue and this is evident in the photograph above, where the sag in the muntin to the right hand pane is visible. By the time this photograph was taken the left hand pane had been reinforced with a vertical flat metal strap, shaped to fit over the muntin.

The splayed corners serving two of the entrances have "mopstick" full height corner jambs running from a fairly simple cill section.

~ Windows ~ continued



The corner jambs run into a fully moulded head.

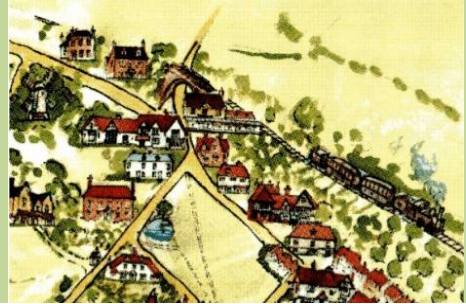
Where the framing abuts the fluted panel at the head of the glazed brickwork the edge moulding is scalloped around the moulding detail above the fluted panel entablature.

The jambs still show evidence of the original "mopstick" muntins, and "piecing-in" is visible.



Architectural Features

~ Plinths and Heads ~



The base plinth runs for the length of The Parade, apart from the short set-back section to the eastern end.

Rendered, and colour washed since built, the plinths sit on a simple splayed foot and have a scotia moulded top.

Constructed to create horizontal display space within the shops, and to offer support and protection to the glazing, the plinths also acted as stall risers. This enabled the shopkeeper to display items outside, which would have been protected from the worst of the elements by the overhanging canopy.



At each shop unit, apart from the butcher's, the plinth is pierced with a louvered wooden grille for low level ventilation. In conjunction with the high level glazed lights over the doors this would have created air circulation within the shops.



The fluted panels above the glazed brickwork piers, with mouldings above and below forming the cornice and architrave, create a simple yet attractive entablature.

Conclusions



The Parade forms an integral part of the Bearsted Green Conservation Area which is widely recognised as one of the jewels in the crown of Kentish villages. While the silence of this “*delightful old-world spot*” - broken only by the clanging blows of the wheelwright that Charles Igglesden noted in 1917, has gone, the Parade and the Conservation Area have remained little altered since then.

The Parade has withstood two World Wars, numerous recessions and a fire to become a rare survivor of purpose built colonnaded village shops, (we have been able to identify only one other) which has remained unaltered in all essentials for over a century – as recognisable today as it was when John Perrin had it rebuilt.

In that time it has become deeply embedded in the village’s history and heritage, and critical to Bearsted’s vitality, distinctiveness and sense of pride and place. In short, it is an important part of what makes Bearsted special.

With the history and architectural merit described in this submission, the Bearsted and Thurnham Society believes the building deserves to be protected, listed and not demolished.

Supporters



This application for designation as a Heritage Asset is supported by –

- ❖ Sir Hugh Robertson
Member of Parliament for Mid Kent and Faversham. (2001-2015)
- ❖ Ann Widdecombe, Dame of the Order of St Gregory the Great
Member of Parliament for Maidstone and The Weald. (1987-2010)
- ❖ Paul Carter
Leader of Kent County Council and the local representative for Bearsted.
- ❖ Jenny Whittle
Kent County Councillor for Thurnham.
- ❖ Val Springett
Bearsted Ward member for Maidstone Borough Council.
- ❖ Mike Cuming
Bearsted Ward member for Maidstone Borough Council.
- ❖ Nick de Wiggondene
Thurnham & Detling Ward member for Maidstone Borough Council.
- ❖ Bearsted Parish Council
- ❖ Thurnham Parish Council
- ❖ Bearsted and District Local History Society
With a membership of over 220.
- ❖ The Bearsted and Thurnham Society
The residents association for the Civil Parishes of Bearsted and Thurnham,
with a membership of over 530.

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- ❖ Centre for Kentish Studies
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(Report of the 1900 fire, touched on briefly on page 12)
- ❖ Charles Igglesden
A Saunter Through Kent with Pen and Pencil: Volume XIV Pages 44 – 54
- ❖ English Heritage
Website.
- ❖ Google Earth
"Streetview" photographs. Google Earth images are not referenced as they download to the screen as you navigate the Google Earth software.
Shop front; Frontispiece; Imagery date 7/09, TQ 79994 56015
Shop front; page 16; Imagery date 7/09, TQ 79994 56015 (the same picture as above)
Eastern end of shop front; page 17; Imagery date 7/09, TQ 79994 56015
The remaining shots all have the same Imagery date of 8/12
Montage; page 3, TQ 79984 56020
Bell House; page 7, TQ 80020 55843
Snowfield Cottage; page 8, TQ 79962 55906
School House; page 9, TQ 80028 55988
April Cottage; page 9, TQ 80085 55936
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Conservation Area detail, page 5, TQ 79991 55980
(Page number where used and OS map reference for map centre)
(These maps were then redrawn using AutoCAD)
- ❖ Kathryn Kersey
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Further Memories of Bearsted and Thurnham pages 12 – 24.

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 - (The National Archives were credited as they hold the image
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- ❖ Richard Odell
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- ❖ Roy Datson
Postcards.
- ❖ Save Britain's Heritage
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