



SOUTH STREET AND CHICHESTER ROAD, MIDHURST

South Street (Island site)
The Old Market House



Extract from the Sussex entries of the **Victoria County History**:

"The old market hall stands isolated, south of West Street and west of the market square. It is now used as an estate agent's offices and the upper story is a private residence; this upper story was the first home of the grammar school founded by Gilbert Hannam* in 1672. It dates presumably from 1552, when Sir Anthony Browne granted to the burgesses a vacant space, 70 by 30 ft., in the market on which to build a market house, but it has been much renovated and altered; the lower story, which presumably was open-sided originally, is closed with modern timber-framing, windows, &c. The upper story is jettied on the north front and east and west ends on moulded bressummers supported by shaped brackets. The front is of two bays with square framing. In each bay is a three-sided bay-window on shaped brackets and with pedimental heads. The two main gable-heads also project on stop-moulded bressummers and brackets and are of square framing. The east and west ends are similarly treated except for the windows,

Listed 18.6.59
GV II 21/61

Originally the Market Hall. Now an annexe of the Spread Eagle Hotel. Restored C16 timber-framed building with modern red brick infilling. The ground floor was originally open but is now enclosed. First floor jettied on north east and west fronts with moulded bressummers and brackets. Two oversailing gables on north front with shallow projecting bars on brackets and with pedimented heads. Tile-hung gable to south front. Tiled roof. Casement windows. At one time the building extended further south. The first floor is now reached by an outside wooden stair-case. Two storeys and attic in gables. Two windows to each front.

Listing NGR: SU8869521427

which were flat and are now blocked. The south elevation is in one plane and the west half is of timber-framing with a tile-hung gable-head; the east half is of brick and has a chimney-stack. That the building extended one bay farther southwards originally is borne out by the positions of the two long diagonal ceiling beams in the lower story."

*Bridget Howard has argued the case that this is incorrect; that Gilbert Hannam's school was over the building within the Market Square, variously the fire station, the town hall, and now a cafe.



At one time the building was home to the Egmont Temperance Hotel. Arthur Glazier has been brought up in the workhouse at Easebourne and saw first-hand the dangers of alcohol. He signed up to the

teetotal pledge and put his money where his mouth was! He is shown living here in the 1901 census, aged 34, with his wife Hannah, his daughter and son, and a domestic servant,



Old photos: the Charles White Collection

South Street, East side
Nos 1, 2 and 3

GV II 21/56

One building. Early C19. Stuccoed. Hipped slate roof. Glazing bars intact. Nos 2 and 3 have doorways with flat hoods over. Included for group value.

Listing NGR: SU8871221398



[Where is entrance to No. 1?]

South Street, East side
South Pond House

[actually listed as South Pound House]
Listed 18.6.59
(formerly listed as The White House)

GV II 21/59

House. C18. Stuccoed on stone base. Hipped slate roof. Glazing bars intact. 2 modern curved bay windows on ground floor. Doorway with pilasters, projecting cornice and rectangular fanlight. 2 storeys and attic. 3 windows. One large modern dormer.

Listing NGR: SU8871221389



[There is a cottage in the garden, South Pond Cottage, but that does not appear to be part of the listing.]



[In their 2006 sales brochure, Jackson-Stops describe the ground floor as having a dining room, sitting room, drawing room, reception hall and kitchen/breakfast room. On the first floor is a bedroom suite, family bathroom and further bedroom. There is a guest suite on the second floor, along with another bedroom. There is also a cellar.]

South Street, East side
Brook House

GV II 21/57

House. C18. Stuccoed. Dentilled eaves cornice. Slate roof. Glazing bars intact.

Doorway with flat hood over. Two storeys. Three windows.

Listing NGR: SU8871221382



South Street, East side
No 6



GV II 21/58

House. C18. Stuccoed front, north wall painted brick. Stringcourse. Tiled roof.

Glazing bars intact. Doorway with pilasters, projecting cornice and rectangular fanlight. Iron baskets for plants on ground floor. Two storeys and attic. Five windows. Three dormers.

Listing NGR: SU8871821354

(Formerly listed as House of Pomegranates 18.6.59)

Why Pomegranates? Is there a connection with Catherine of Aragon? Or is it a tribute to Oscar Wilde? Here is what **Danielle Dale** says:

"The house was called Southend (or South End) until the late 1940s. In 1944 it was purchased by Herbert Hayes Marshall (Interior Designer) who redecorated the house and sold it to Irene Smith (widow) in 1946. I have a document showing that she changed her name to Renee Astor Smith in 1947 and also renamed the house as House of Pomegranates. In April 1949, the house is featured in Ideal Home Magazine showing the redecoration by Hayes Marshall. In the 1970s, Patrick Gwynn Jones lived in the house. He had a famous restaurant called Pomegranates in Pimlico - perhaps he chose the name based on his house in Midhurst! In 1978 Gwynn Jones sold the house to the Gowars and they changed the name to 6 South Street. I'm currently investigating the possibility that HG Wells lived in the house in the 1880s. I know others have tried, and failed to reach a definitive answer. It appears to be either our house or South Pond House. I have deeds for No. 6 over the past 100 years."

South Street, West side
The Spread Eagle Hotel

"The Spread Eagle of Midhurst, that oldest and most revered of all the prime inns of this world "...**Hilaire Belloc**



GV II* 21/60 Listed 18.6.1959

Hotel. The main portion of the hotel is made up of 2 originally separate buildings, now united. The northern of these is an L-shaped building of which the north west wing was formerly separately listed in West Street as 'Premises adjoining the Spread Eagle Hotel, Occupier Willshire, Fishmonger'. This is a timber-framed building, probably of C15 date containing the Lounge Bar etc. The hotel sign gives the date as 1430. Painted brick infilling. Some close-studding. First floor oversails on brackets. Curved braces. Tiled roof. Casement windows with diamond-shaped panes.

Overhanging gable at north end of east front. The north front has 2 small bays on ground floor and over these a sloping tiled hood. 2 storeys. 4 windows facing east, 4 windows facing north.

The south building, originally separate, is an early C18 house. Painted brick. Stone stringcourse. Dentilled eaves cornice. hipped tiled roof. Windows in stone surrounds with keyblocks and glazing bars intact. Recessed doorway with spayed reveals. 2 storeys and attic. 5 windows and 2 window-spaces. 3 dormers. Modern additions behind.

The Hotel also spreads into 2 former Mid C19 painted brick cottages in West Street.

Listing NGR: SU8868021412

Extract from the Sussex entries of the **Victoria County History**:

"The Spread Eagle Hotel includes an L-shaped building of timber-framing at the corner of West Street and South Street, dating probably from the 15th century, and a mid-late 17th century building, south of it, facing eastwards into South Street. The timber building was apparently the inn originally but was abandoned when the 17th century part was built, and became shops.

"The southern part of the hotel is of red brick with stone angle-dressings and plain architraves to the windows. It is of two stories, attics, and cellars. The southernmost room is lined with late-17th-century oak panelling, also the room above, and there is some reset early-17th-century panelling. Behind is an 18th-century wing of whitened brickwork. Part of it—the dining-room—has a wide fire-place and old ceiling beams." (The northern part is described in West Street.)

Extracts from **'The Inns and Taverns of Western Sussex 1550-1700 ' by Janet Pennington (2003)**

The date 1430 is firmly attached to the inn, at least in 20th century literature and present day advertising, though it is not evidenced architecturally: the timber-framing gives it a mid-sixteenth century date. While there could have been an inn on the site in 1430, it was not the present Spread Eagle. There is unlikely to have been an inn of this name in Midhurst before 1542 when the Browne family inherited the Cowdray Estate. There is no known documentary evidence for the name earlier than 1621. Mary Hudson was the occupier then, though she was holding a wine licence in Midhurst in 1614.

Sire Anthony Browne, the first Lord Montague, granted space for a market house in the south of the town in 1552, a likely date for the first build of the Spread Eagle which he possibly financed. The crest of the Browne coat of arms is an eagle with its wings outspread, the tips pointing upwards, commonly known as a 'spread eagle'.

The inn comprises three builds. The earliest is a timber-framed sixteenth century range, situated on the corner of West and South Street by the Market Square. The front facing the market place is jettied, indicative of high status. The second build, on the south, is a separate late seventeenth-century brick range, with stone dressings. A third eighteenth-century brick range adjoins the western side.

A map of Midhurst dated 1633 shows the inn with a large arched entrance to a separate building on the south, presumably the stables. Mary Hudson was still at the Spread Eagle in 1637 but by 1646 the Courtney family had arrived and soon afterwards the stable range may have been enlarged. A datestone inscribed 1650 is set above its entrance, though this might only relate to part of the building, or record an event like a marriage. Other service buildings have disappeared but the 1874 Ordnance Survey map shows an entrance between the north and south ranges, and a rear exit from the northern courtyard. Two undated (probably 1666-1670) inn tokens, each displaying a spread eagle design, survive for 'Henery Cortney' worth a farthing and a halfpenny.

In 1673 the inn had a brewhouse, seven rooms and two cellars, one for beer (capacity for c880 gallons) and the other for wine. There were three named rooms – 'Crown' (blue and red bed furnishings), 'Eagle Room' (red), and 'Angel Chamber' (being used for storage of linen) – an indication of a high status building. Although well set-up for eating and drinking, there was no accommodation for living-in servants, which would suggest that it was a tavern rather than an inn.

By 1694, however, widow Frances Cooke had taken over the Spread Eagle, which now also related to the southern range. There were now nine more named rooms (indicating that it had become an inn): Nags Head, Kings Head, Greyhound, Rose, Luce (Fleur de Lys), Lion, Swan, White Hart, and Bell. There was also a new garret, perhaps for servants.

Following the death of Frances Cooke, William Courtney (son of Henry) was running the inn. By 1716 it was in the hands of Henry Pruet; in 1760 William Pruet. In 1730 the inn (buildings and contents) was insured for £1,000 with the Sun Insurance Company of London.

South Street, West side
The Jacobean Hall, the Spread Eagle Hotel



GV II 21/60A

Originally outbuildings, barns or stables of the Spread Eagle Hotel. Later the hotel garage. Now a meeting room with hotel accommodation over. To the south west of the southern hotel building. The north end of the building is a C17 or earlier timber-framed building with painted brick infilling. The remainder is C18. Stone, now painted. tiled roof. Modern sash windows with glazing bars. 2 storeys and attic. 8 windows. 3 hipped dormers.

Listing NGR: SU8866621373

In the magazine *Midhurst Heritage* No. 3 (2005) reference is made to the buildings attached to the southern end of the Old Market House (once occupied by the Cobden family). Between circa 1895 and 1906, the Young Men's Institute occupied three rooms here, with their own separate entrance at the back. It was later renamed the Working Boys' Club and moved to South Pond Cottage. Their President was the Reverend Tatchell.

H G Wells in South Street

In the 1881 census H G Wells is listed as lodging with Horace Byatt, headmaster of Midhurst Grammar School in South Street, Midhurst. But which house? The census doesn't say.

When the school reopened in 1880 after being closed by a fire in 1859, there was no headmaster's house and Byatt took accommodation in South Street. We know that he took young Bertie under his wing, and Wells was later to write: "Mr Horace

Byatt, the new headmaster, was a not very brilliant graduate of Dublin University, but he was an animated and energetic teacher resolved to make a success of his first headmastership. He was quartered with his wife and three small children in a comfortable old house near the South Pond until the Commissioners could rebuild the school house."



In the 1881 census H G Wells is recorded as a scholar, aged 14, lodging with Horace Byatt, his wife Laura, four children aged 6 years and under, and a general servant. But the census-taker didn't give names or numbers to the houses he recorded.

If the census-taker walked up South Street towards the Market Square, can we assume that he listed the houses in order, south to north? If so, we can get close to the answer. First listed is Charles Port, manager of the Midhurst Gasworks. Next was Gilbert Eames, corn merchant. Could that be what is now South Pond Cottage? Byatt was in the next house listed, which would have been South Pond House.

The 1871 census lists George Harrison as manager of the Gasworks at the Wharf. James Lucas, solicitor, occupied the next house listed, but the Post Office Directory for 1878 lists Lucas as living at South End. By 1881 he was living in Elmleigh, which would suggest that South End, now No. 6, could have been available for Byatt to move in during 1880. The next house listed in 1871 was occupied by Mary Sandham, the last of three sisters who lived there, but Mary died in 1879 aged 89. This house, also, would have been available for Byatt in 1880. This could have been what is now known as South Pond House. The Cottage doesn't quite fit Wells' description, but South Pond House is large enough to have accommodated six people, with a servant on the second floor, and to young Bertie's eyes could have seemed 'old and comfortable'.

In the absence of absolute proof, South Pond House seems as likely as anywhere.

CHICHESTER ROAD Taylors

Grade II 21/93
House. Restored C17 or earlier timber-framed house with the timbering exposed at the north end with stone rubble infilling and a tile-hung gable over. The main part of the building to the south was added or refaced in the C18. Coursed stone, set in galletting, with red brick dressings and quoins. Tiled roof. Casement windows. C19 gabled porch. 2 storeys and attic. 4 windows. One gabled dormer.

Listing NGR: SU8862421095

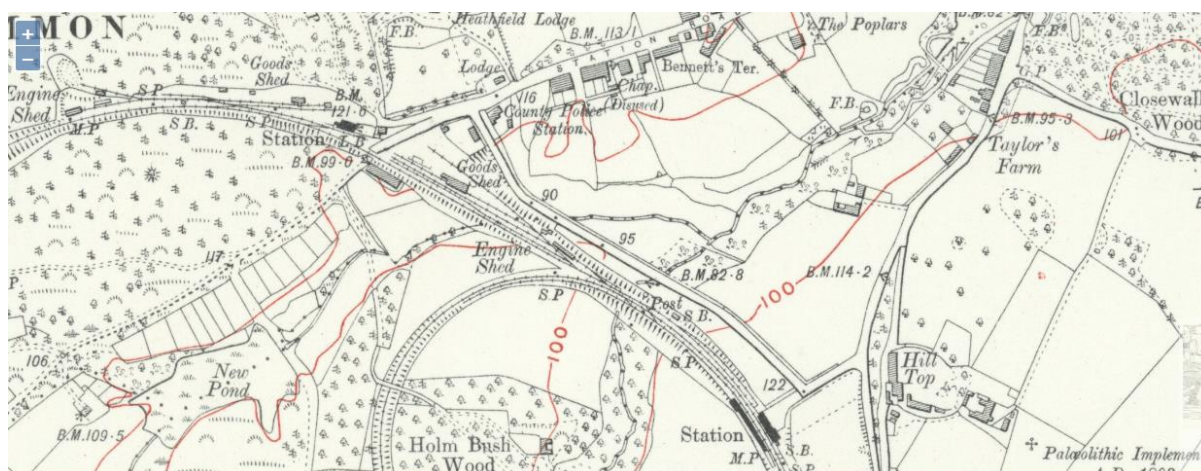


[Reference: Add Mss 14,808
Title: Plan and specification of alterations to Taylors Cottage, West Lavington, for Richard Fisher by George Knight, contractor, Midhurst

Date: 23 June 1877

Held by: West Sussex Record Office]

This map from 1910 shows Taylors when it was a working farm.



Although the area between Chichester Road, Bepton Road and New Road is now largely given over to housing, the name has been preserved in "Taylors' Field", a road running to the west of Taylors to New Road.