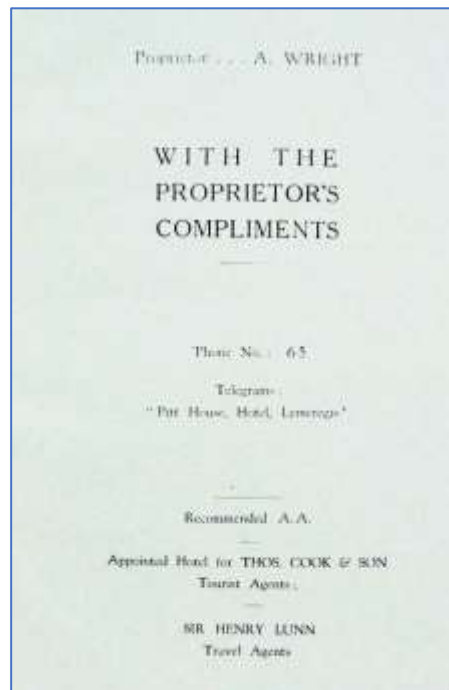
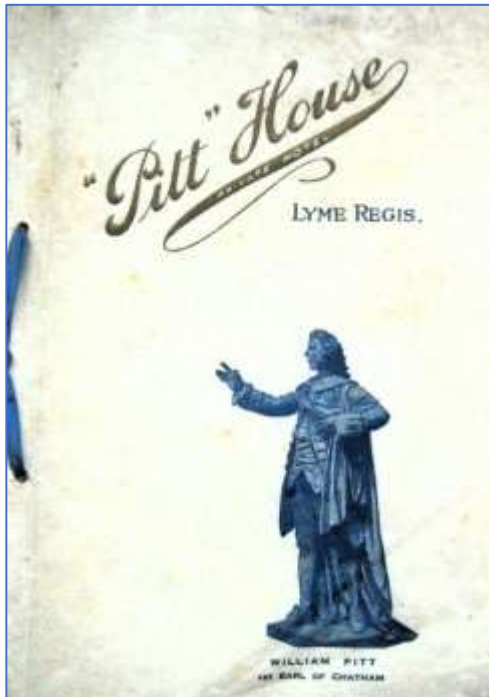


# Pitt House Hotel

## 44 Broad Street, Lyme Regis

Graham Davies, July 2023



The above images are from the hotel brochure.

Below (July 2023), the passageway between Tesco and Boots now leads to residential flats and NCP car park.



### Historical Background

1895-1915 Mrs A M Brown, Apartments  
 1906 The Retreat (Mrs Brown), Apartments  
 3 sitting rooms, 8 bedrooms  
 1905 11 rooms, large garden

1920-39 Pitt House Private Hotel/The Retreat (Albert Wright)  
 1920 The Retreat, board residence  
 1921/22 Pitt House Private Hotel (late The Retreat)

The Retreat was the former stables of the 16<sup>th</sup> century Great House, which stood on the site of today's Nos. 45-48 Broad Street. In spite of the many changes to the Great house over the centuries, echoes of its past can still be found beneath the façade of Boots, Costa and residential flats. Its most famous tenant was the Earl of Chatham and his son William Pitt when they visited Lyme in 1773.

In 1814 Lyme merchant, John Drayton, sold part of the Great House, converted the stables and moved into the 'Retreat', or whatever it was called at that time.

## Pitt House Hotel Brochure

I was shown a copy of the hotel brochure by Lyme Resident Miss Iris Warren in 2006. I believe it was published in the late 1930s but the photo of the drive up to the hotel may have been earlier. The brochure provided visual and written information of what the hotel had to offer in the 1930s but I shall ignore much of the standard self-advertisement and potted histories of Lyme Regis.

*The entrance to the Hotel is unique in its "Oldworldliness," with its hand-wrought, antique iron gates, as stood in the time of Lord Chatham, enclosing as they do the 80 foot Drive to the Hotel door, thus ensuring quietness from the noise of street traffic.*

*Passing through the Hall, on to the Verandah, one is met by an exquisite panoramic view of coastal scenery, embracing the entire range of hills and cliffs of the famous Dorset coast line as far as Portland Bill.*

*Hotel garden is acclaimed to be unequalled, whilst no lack of amusement is afforded in the Hotel grounds, with its Tennis Court, Putting Green, and Croquet Lawn. Teas are served on the grass terrace during the summer months.*

*The interior of the Hotel is replete with every convenience, electric light throughout, gas fires in most bedrooms, bathrooms with constant hot water, and ample sanitary conveniences.*

*Spacious "Adams" Lounge, Card and Writing Room, Smoke Room, two Dining Rooms and Covered Verandah.*

### *HOURS OF MEALS.*

Table D'Hote	Breakfast	9 a.m.
„ „	Luncheon	1 p.m.
„ „	Dinner -	7.15 p.m.
	Tea	4.15 p.m.

*Separate Tables.*

*Midday Dinner served on Sundays.*

*Accounts rendered weekly. For Tariff see card in pocket at back of Brochure.*

*Small Dogs are accepted at 5/- weekly, but any damage done by them will be chargeable to the owners. A commodious garage adjoins the hotel. Usual charges.*





Pitt House and NCP Car Park, July 2023



Albert Wright regularly advertised his hotel in the local and national newspapers.

The Americans were billeted at Pitt House during the war - it was unlikely that Albert continued after the war. Pitt House was converted into three apartments (1949 Electoral Register).

In 1983, planning permission was given to convert the ground floor to commercial premises (a bakery). In 2021, permission was given to convert back to residential premises.

### References

Pitt House Hotel Brochure  
 Research Team's Digital Archive