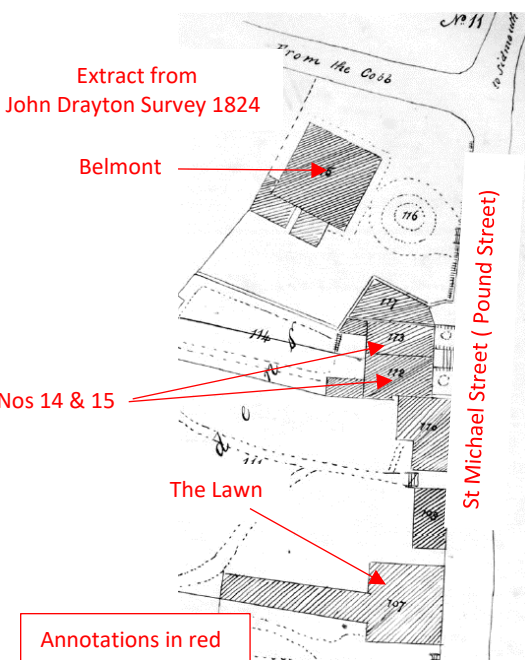


14 Pound Street, Lyme Regis

Graham Davies and Richard Wells, July 2020

No 14 Pound Street, Lyme Regis, is one of a pair of grade II listed semi-detached town houses situated just below *Belmont* and the turning down towards the Cobb. This Regency building, facing roughly North onto Pound Street, is built of exposed stone with fine brick frontage and brick chimney.



In 1824 Lyme Regis Borough Council commissioned merchant John Drayton to survey all the corporation's property to establish what kind of mortgage could be raised on the town towards the £3,000 needed to pay for the damage caused by the Great Storm of that year. John Drayton produced sixteen maps and accompanying schedules⁽¹⁾.

The two town houses are shown in his survey and that they were leased from the Borough to William Govis. The lease was taken out on September 30, 1811 at a ground rent of 8s per annum with William Govis of Pitfield Street, Shoreditch, Middlesex, butcher, agreeing to spend a further £600 on the premises⁽²⁾.

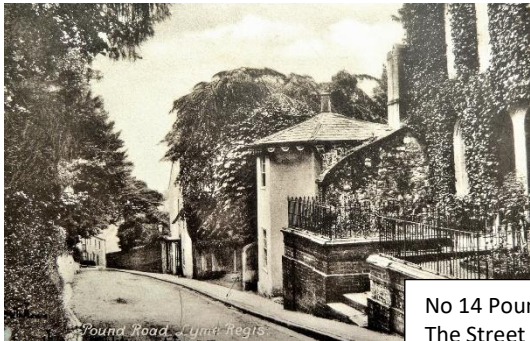
The authors interpret this as an 'improving lease'. William Govis is willing to invest in the building of a pair of houses on the vacant site to sublet them for the length of his lease. At the end of the lease, if not extended, the land, and houses thereon, would revert to the landowner.

Due to continuing financial pressure in 1838, the Borough Council put up for sale many of its properties. Henry Waring, town clerk, bought (sum not disclosed!) the freehold of the site on which the two houses stood and which Mr Govis still leased and sublet Nos 14 & 15* at that time to C Marr Esq. and Capt Warren RN, respectively.

In 1841⁽³⁾ Henry Waring and his family were living in No 14 prior to, or during, the building of their new home, *South Cliff*, on the site of the old Bowling Green off Stile Lane.

* Nos 14 and 15 are used for reference throughout this article but it must be noted that buildings in Lyme Regis had no street numbers until 1900.

Sometime after 1841 the two buildings became the freehold property of William Bennett who worked in the wine trade, rising from clerk, through commission agent to manager. He married Elizabeth Spear in 1864. Recorded as living at No 14 in 1871 and 1881⁽³⁾, his will of that year⁽⁴⁾ makes provision for his wife, as long as she remains a widow, and through trustees for the education of his four children, and later for the equal division of his estate, including the two houses, when the youngest child had reached the age of 21 years.

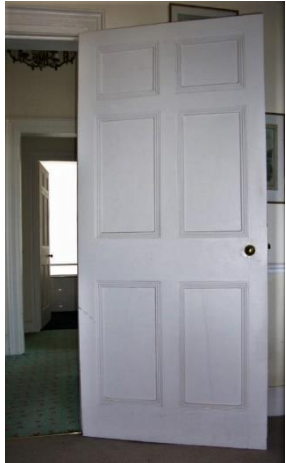
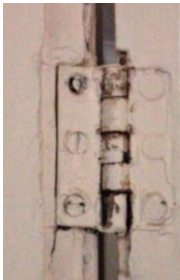


No 14 Pound Street in 1913
The Street was widened in the 1950s

The two houses passed out of the hands of the Bennett family when in September 1928 Mary Elizabeth Bennett and a trustee sold them, now named Ivy Cottages, to Margaret Augusta Cooper, wife of Dr Harry Joseph Cooper of neighbouring Belmont for £1500, with William Legge and Arthur Edwin Hodder occupying Nos 14 and 15 respectively. The Cooper family sold the two houses in Pound Street to Mrs Gene Evelyn Freda Filer of Winsham in November 1955⁽⁴⁾.

Mrs Filer sold No 15 (Wynds Southerly) to Arthur Harry Morris, medical practitioner, of Bridgwater in 1957, and No 14 (Nash House) to Marjorie Newey of Chipping Campden in 1961. This marked the end of an era. From circa 1812 to 1957 the two houses were always leased or owned by the same person, with at least one, but usually both let out to tenants.

In 2012 the authors were invited to look around No 14 (Nash House) and were shown the deeds⁽⁴⁾. All fittings and decoration suggested a build date of around the beginning of the 1811 Regency period. This ties in with their subsequent findings in the 1825 document⁽²⁾.



(1) John Drayton Survey maps 1824, Lyme Regis Museum
 (2) Schedule of Tenements, Lyme Regis Borough 1825, Lyme Regis Museum
 (3) Lyme Regis census records, Ancestry.co.uk
 (4) House deeds, 1881-1961