

Dorset House, No.1 Pound Road, Lyme Regis

Graham Davies & Richard Wells, 2013, revised 2020



Formerly named Gibraltar Lodge, the house became the Dorset Hotel in the 1930s.



Dorset house, a Grade II listed building, is located on the corner junction of Pound Street and Silver Street. The front faces North onto Pound St. A large Regency style house, built sometime between 1825 and 1841, it still retains many original fittings such as door frame and skirting mouldings, hinges and locks, motifs on the architraves, cornices and ornate ceiling bosses particularly in the living room, entrance lobby and stair area. The building was converted for use as an hotel in 1933-34. In spite of the alterations at that time and subsequently, it is still possible to identify much of the original layout including the servants' quarters.



Entrance lobby with stairs of Regency design
The ground floor has typical high Georgian ceilings at 2.90m.



A typical Regency arched sash stair-light window with coloured glass over and frame with motifs



Stair leading to servants' area
'below stairs'.



Motif on door architrave



Ornate ceiling boss



Cornices

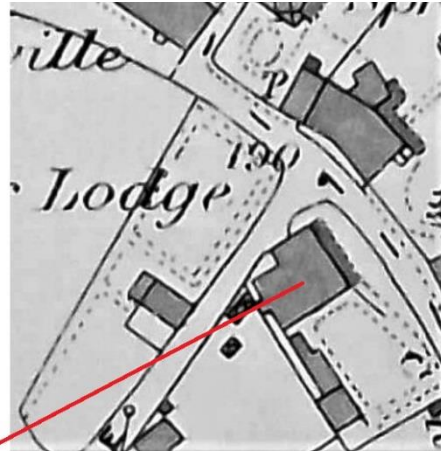


Window of Regency design

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Tithe map 1841



Gibraltar Lodge

OS map 1890

The authors have traced the name Gibraltar Lodge back to 1869. The House, which appears on the Tithe map of 1841, was built on land owned by the Henley family of Winsham, who were major landowners in Colway and Lyme Regis at that time.

As shown in the above maps, structural change took place in the north-west corner of the house, sometime between 1841 and 1890, leading to the footprint that we recognise today.

Timeline

The timeline refers to known dates that a person(s) occupies a property. Unless stated, no distinction is made between owner or tenant. Occupations may well extend beyond the known timeline.

1841 John Hussey

Former mayor John Hussey built Gibraltar Lodge and lived there for many years with his large family of grown-up sons and daughters with seven servants (five living in) and a gardener. He rented a large garden at the house and kept a carriage and pair of horses. His son Thomas Hussey was returned Member of Parliament for Lyme in 1842 after successfully petitioning against William Pinney for corruption following the disputed election of 1841. At that election the servants hall at the Lodge provided refreshments for all that wished to partake of them, the tradesman's door at the side entrance being left open.

1851-52 Mrs Rebecca Goldwyer, widow

Mrs Goldwyer (48), described as a 'landed proprietor and fund holder', lived at Gibraltar Lodge with her three daughters (13-18), four sons (5-17) and three servants, a nurse, cook and housemaid. The family came from Bristol. Her husband, Henry Goldwyer, a surgeon, died there in 1845.

1859

The Museum has recently learned of an association between Lyme Regis and the Ven. E J Burrow, DD, FRS, Archdeacon of Gibraltar. In 1859 he returned to England in poor health and came to Lyme Regis, eventually dying in Honiton in 1861. He may have visited Lyme on earlier occasions. The authors have found no evidence to date that the Archdeacon lived at 'Gibraltar Lodge', but they cannot ignore the strong possibility that the 'Gibraltar' name is more than just a coincidence in this context.

1865-85 Mrs Louisa Landon, widow

Mrs Landon's husband was Capt. Charles G Landon of the 8th (Kings) Regiment of Foot. He later served with the East India Company. He died in 1861. Mrs Landon came to Lyme in the 1860s and lived at Gibraltar Lodge with her unmarried daughters and son, and three female domestic servants.



Her son, Henry Palmer Landon became a solicitor. In 1885 he is recorded as solicitor & clerk to the improvement commissioners & burial board, Bridge Street, Lyme Regis. He was still living at Gibraltar Lodge.

Louisa Landon died in 1887, aged 77, and is buried in Lyme Regis cemetery, as is her daughter, Mary Landon, in 1892.



1889 Henry R Waring

1891 Miss Mary Smith, governess

1891 Census Record for Gibraltar Lodge

Mary Smith	Head	S			Governess			Widow
Mary D. Wyle	Scholar							Widow
Cecil Shaw	"		4					Northfield Rec ^d Birm War
M. L. & Jeffreys	"							Amherst Canada
C. E. & do	"							Hardy Baylon
Sarah E. Hemmings	Serv	S			Domestic Servant			Saraback, Borneo
Laura E. White	Serv	S			" do do			Northampton
								Worcester

Has the role of the governess strayed into running a private school?

1895-1903 Mrs Xarifa Zara Holmes, widow

Xarifa Zara Holmes was the widow of Dr Thomas James Holmes, whose father, Robert Holmes, was a former mayor of the town, and had lived at Holmesdale (now Little Place) in Silver Street. Mrs Holmes had previously lived in Tudor House, Church Street, before moving to Gibraltar Lodge, where she had three servants. She died in 1903 at the age of 68.

1907-1932 Mrs Jane K Pinkney, widow

Mrs Jane K Pinkney came from Sunderland, where her late husband had been a merchant. She lived at Gibraltar Lodge with her sister Dorenda. The 1911 census describes the sisters Jane (43) and Dorenda (36) living in a ten room house with one 'live in' servant. In 1924, Mrs Pinkney purchased Gibraltar Lodge for £1525.



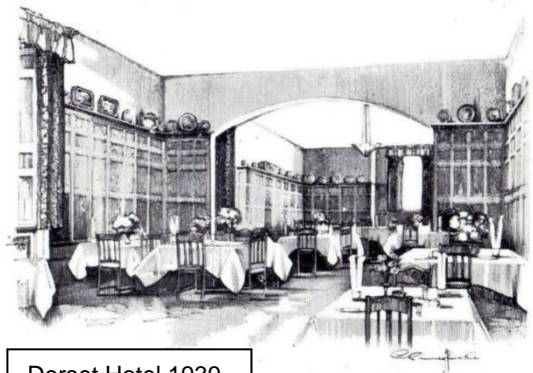
The artist, Richard Ernst Eurich (1903-1992), lived in Lyme in 1932-33, and his paintings of the town will have originated from that period. 'The Pink House', dated 1933, is a painting of Pound Road where it joins Silver Street. Eurich has modified the view for effect to give a very striking image of the then Gibraltar Lodge before it became the Dorset Hotel in 1934.

Dorset Hotel - Timeline

1934-39	Mr & Mrs Ernest Heathcote
1949-63	Mrs E M Woolcott
1970-74	Hilda Biggs
1981	Derrick & Barbara Marshall
1984-86	Ken & Jean Dibben



THE "DORSET"
FOR COMFORT, CUISINE AND REFINEMENT



Dorset Hotel 1939

The Dorset Private Hotel



Central position with fine views of Sea and Coast
 Newly decorated, beautifully furnished throughout for comfort
 Electric Light and all modern conveniences

BATHROOMS fitted with Showers
 24 large airy Bedrooms, each with HOT AND COLD RUNNING WATER
 Box Springs on all beds

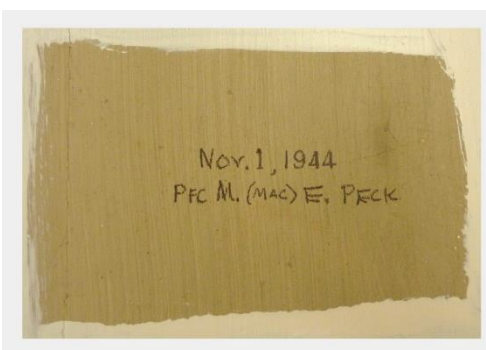
Smoking Room and Billiard Room

Full size table, free to visitors

Near to Golf, Tennis, Boating, etc. Excellent Cuisine.
 Moderate Inclusive Tariff. Very Highly Recommended.
 Special Early Season and Winter Terms.
 Garage, also free parking accommodation.

No Irritating Restrictions Illustrated Tariff on request

Proprietors: Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Heathcote. Phone: 196
 (LATE BEACH HOUSE HOTEL, MINEHEAD)



This graffiti, discovered in the house, indicates that the hotel was requisitioned by the US Army during their stay in Lyme during WWII, as were many other properties.

The authors were invited to look around the house in 2013