

Appendix 1 – Nominations for adoption to the North Somerset Local List

Bracken Hill House



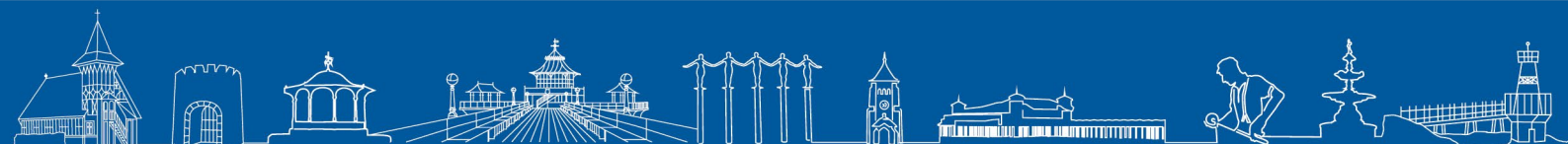
The house was built in 1894-5 for Walter Melville Wills, a member of the wealthy and influential Bristol tobacco family, who moved to the house in 1896 with his wife and young family. It is not clear who the architect was; either Edward Gabriel, a local architect, or Henry Shaw. Leigh Woods became a popular place for the wealthy of Bristol to live in the late 19th century following the completion of the Clifton Suspension Bridge. By 1891 there were over twenty houses in the woods owned by some of Bristol's wealthiest businessmen

including Melville Wills's brother George and Francis Fry the chocolate manufacturer. Melville Wills extended the house in the early 20th century, adding a further floor to the service end, and built Rayne Thatch in 1907 which was used as a guesthouse and estate office.

The Pulhamite rockwork structures were installed in four stages between 1900 and 1927. Following Melville Wills's death in 1941, the house and grounds were bequeathed to the University of Bristol in 1947 by his son. The site was used by the National Agricultural Advisory Service between 1948 and 1954 and the University moved its Botanic Gardens here in 1960. The house and lodge were used as student accommodation, and the coach house for teaching accommodation. The University sold the site in 2004.

This is a substantial Domestic Revival style house constructed of snecked stone rubble with ashlar dressings to ground floor, tile hung first floor, and pargetting and applied timber framing to the attic storey, with a plain tiled roof and brick stacks. The house is of two and half storeys and rectangular in plan with the entrance elevation facing south west, away from the road, and principal rooms to the right (south east) end and the service end to the north west end. The main entrance is to the right of the elevation, and behind the porch is a three storey tower. To either side of the tower are projecting two and a half storey gables with central oculus and ornate pargetting to their apex.

Beyond this, to the left, the elevation is regularly fenestrated of five bays with dormers to the attic. The right return has a date plaque 1895 on the end stack. The left return is of two storeys with a turret to the north east corner over a rounded stone porch. The rear elevation loosely mirrors the front with a pair of large projecting gables at the left (south east) end, again with pargetting at their apex, and more regular massing to the right. Pulhamite rockwork runs alongside, but does not



actually touch, this end of the elevation. The windows are mostly stone mullion casements at ground floor and wooden casements with leaded lights to first and second floor. Internally there is a good degree of original fabric to ground and first floors and the original floor plan appears to be largely intact, despite some subdivision.

An entrance vestibule leads through to the hallway and a relatively plain principal staircase. The hall has a Jacobethan style plasterwork ceiling and a large fireplace with wooden surround and overmantle. The principal reception rooms retain their fireplaces; that to the room to the north of the hall has a large surround with carved figures. Much of the original joinery survives, including doors and architrave. The kitchen and other former service rooms have largely been modernised. The first floor rooms on the whole retain fireplaces and joinery; the attic rooms retain some small cast iron fireplaces. A large rectangular skylight lights the first floor and attic corridors. The lodge stands to the west of the house and is built in similar fashion. It is of two storeys with a gabled entrance bay. Internally it retains fireplaces, joinery, doors and stair. The coach house and stables stand to the south west of the house. They are ranged around three and half sides of a courtyard, with the entrance to the north. As with the other buildings they are constructed of snecked rubble with ashlar dressings and tile hung first floor.

<https://maps.bristol.gov.uk/kyp/?edition=nsom&layer=Community%20layer&x=355873.16&y=173013.92&extent=576.86>

1930s Modernist / Art Deco Homes Neva Road and Station Road



Originally part of the 'Ellenborough Estate', this collection of Modernist / Art Deco homes in Neva Road and Station Road were designed by local architects N.H.N Leete & Darby (of 1 The Centre, Weston-Super-Mare) for The Building Constructors (Somerset) Ltd. Constructed c.1936, this group of houses comprise of 8 pairs of semi-detached houses on Station Road and Neva Road, 2 detached houses on Neva Road, and a pair of semi-detached bungalows and one detached bungalow on Neva Road.

Homes were very modern for the period including integral garages, indoor downstairs WCs, and also contained fuel stores and pantries off the kitchens. Fireplaces were classic 1930s tiled surrounds in the living room, dining room and two main bedrooms. All houses in this set (apart

from 31-33 Neva Road) were built with flat roofs and had wide width steel Crittall windows (nearly all with corner windows) with horizontal glazing bars, including a leaded chevron design on two main windows on the front elevation ' all typical of art deco homes of this period. The original front doors and garage doors of these properties particularly stand out with a distinctive 3 slanted window design in each door panel, similar to some Mid-Century Modern designs.

Houses were all named and the original drawings shows development up to the train station on a proposed road before the extension of Neva Road. Original architect drawings filed at Somerset Heritage Centre contain floor plans, various elevation drawings, plus questions and answers on detail of construction e.g. materials, drainage, WC details. It is also of interest that some of the designs for plots on Ridgeway Avenue, also part of the Ellenborough Estate featured Art Deco 'Sun Trap' houses, traditional semi-detached houses with pitched roofs, a double height extended bay to the front with a curve on one side, with curved steel windows (Somerset Archives D/B/wsm/24/1/6467. Additionally, a similar design to the Station Road/Neva Road semis was also proposed on Albert Avenue, with a pitched roof, steel windows with chevron design and front doors with 3 slanted glass windows (Somerset Archives D/B/wsm/24/1/6013). Both of these designs, however, were not built to the original design. Directly behind the set of houses on Station/Neva Road that was formerly the site of allotment now houses Weston-Super-Mare tennis club. NHN Darby also designed a 'temporary' sports pavilion which is still in use today on the site of the tennis club. It featured a separate 'Ladies' and 'Gentleman's' Room, each with their own WC, between a central covered shelter. Details such as the external doors match design of the doors on some of the houses on Station Road (Somerset Archives D/B/wsm/24/1/6127).

Additionally, it is worth noting that Leete & Darby also designed 'Littlemead' in Clevedon (72 Walton Road) for local artist Doris Hatt, and Dial Hill House (formerly Sunway, 33 Dial Hill Road) also in Clevedon, both in a similar style. 39-42 Station Road Ellenborough Estate Plot 39-42 Two pairs of 4-bedroom semi-detached houses with integral garages, a balcony off the principal bedroom and veranda off the dining room. Leete & Darby for The Building Constructors (Somerset) Ltd, site plan and drawings dated July 1934, approved July 1934 (Somerset Archives D/B/wsm/24/1/5794). 43-46 Station Road Ellenborough Estate Plot 43-46 Two pairs of 3 bedroom semi-detached houses (no garages), a balcony off the rear bedrooms and veranda off the dining room. Leete & Darby for the Building Constructors (Somerset) Ltd, site plan and drawings dated July 1934, approved October 1934 (Somerset Archives D/B/wsm/24/1/5863 & D/B/wsm/24/1/6068; D/B/wsm/24/1/6589). 47-48 Station Road Ellenborough Estate Plot 47-48 A pair of 4-bedroom semi-detached houses with integral garages, a balcony off the principal bedroom and veranda off the dining room. Leete & Darby for The Building Constructors (Somerset) Ltd, site plan and drawings dated September 1934, approved Septemb

<https://maps.bristol.gov.uk/kyp/?edition=nsom&layer=Community%20layer&x=332283.26&y=160999.29&extent=576.86>

Yatton Library



The building that currently houses Yatton Library is an imposing building with a distinctive style reminiscent of the non-conformist chapels of the era, but has had many uses over the years and the building's real value is in its service to the community. It was built in 1866 on the site of cottages and gardens known as The Square and seven tenements to replace the Claverham Friends Meeting House. From 1902, at the instigation of Rev. Mather a subscription library service was provided in a room at the meeting house every Monday.

In 1913 The British School moved here and became known as the 'Undenominational School' leaving one room for the use of the Friends for their meetings. In 1939 30 evacuees joined the school. In 1940 the Friends gave up the use of their room, and it was used as an Air Raid Shelter and for the children's meals. The room was available for rent and was being used in

1944 by the Junior Discussion Group. In 1922 there was a suggestion by the County Inspector that children should stay at one school until they were 8 or 9 and then transfer to the other school. Plans to amalgamate the two schools were considered in 1932. In 1944 The Education Act re-organised the schooling system aiming to bring National and British schools under the state banner and provide free secondary education for 11-15 year olds.

Presumably, because of this, in 1946 the managers of the National and Undenominational schools agreed that children under 7 would attend the Undenominational School building and 7-11-year-olds would attend the National School building. The reorganisation was to start in September 1947. Having outgrown the building in 1999 the Infants School moved to a new purpose-built school. The building was converted in 2006 and the library re-located to here along with the Parish Office, this and was again refurbished in 2017.

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United Reformed Church, Portishead



The United Reformed Church building is a prominent church building that was converted into apartments in 2012. It still retains its external appearance as a traditional Victorian church building. A service of dedication was held in 1875 when it was built to replace a smaller church in the town; the number of churchgoers at that time exceeded the capacity of the previous building on West Hill.

<https://maps.bristol.gov.uk/kyp/?edition=nsom&layer=Community%20layer&x=346733.9&y=176607.23&extent=2307.44>

Former Portishead Post Office



The building was constructed as a purpose-built Post Office in 1939 to a national standardized design of the time. The Post Office is of brick construction with a stone doorway and slate roof. Built in a Georgian style, the building was one of several in the area used as the Post Office over the years, but its distinctive design means that it is still known as The Old Post Office locally.

The construction of the building would have emphasized the growing importance of Portishead as an urban centre – the High Street from Stoke Road towards St Peter’s Church was largely made up of cottages which over time were being used as shops with minor alterations. From the 1930s, many of these buildings were replaced by more modern structures.

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Upper Lodge, 42 Down Road, Portishead



The Upper Lodge was originally built in 1863 as a Lodge House to 'Hollywood' estate. Woolstan Edward Berkeley, a member of the Berkeley family of Berkeley Castle, Gloucestershire, bought 'Hollywood' in 1926 and renamed it 'Bruton Manor'.

It is now a private home which stands out from the modern houses around it. The Upper Lodge is a two-storey building with many gables. It features decorative bargeboards and a finial. The window surrounds are ornate and the building features tall chimneys with decorative chimney pots. One of very few lodge houses left in Portishead.

<https://maps.bristol.gov.uk/kyp/?edition=nsom&layer=Community%20layer&x=345381.35&y=176033.35&extent=4614.87>

Mariners Cottage, Portishead

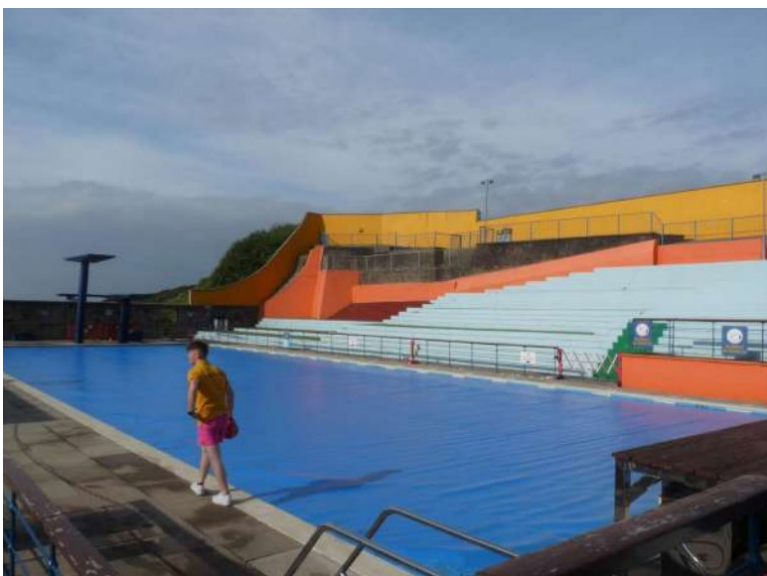


Mariners Cottage' was built in 1832. It is one of a group of four individual houses which date from the Georgian and Victorian era that line Beach Road West. The cottage is of two storeys and features white rendered walls and symmetrical facades. Mariners Cottage is shown on the 1840s Tithe Map. It was built by John Gordon, a member of the local gentry, for one of his land overseers. It became a lodging house for sailors.

It reputedly had a smugglers' window facing the Bristol channel in which a light would be placed if the coast was clear. Bond and Fardon recorded in their 1855 publication 'The Portishead Guide and Visitor's Handbook' that a family named Rowles lived there and it was a lodging house at the beach. In the painting by Joseph Walter 1783-1856 entitled 'A View from Portishead towards Wales' it is possible to identify Mariner's Cottage being built.

<https://maps.bristol.gov.uk/kyp/?edition=nsom&layer=Community%20layer&x=346333.85&y=176769.15&extent=2307.44>

Portishead Lido



One of only 100 lidos currently left in the UK. Functional design representative of the era. The Lido is tied in to Portishead's industrial history being unusual in that it is a warm water outdoor pool. The pool was filled with warm waste water from a local phosphorus plant.

The community of Portishead formed a community trust to take over the running of the pool in 2009. This was done in response to threats of closure. They have

since worked to secure funding for restoration works and the Lido has even featured on a television restoration programme.

The pool is run by volunteers which further demonstrates its local community value.

<https://maps.bristol.gov.uk/kyp/?edition=nsom&layer=Community%20layer&x=346510.07&y=177514.49&extent=4614.87>

Woodlands Villas (Woodlands & Holmleigh), Portishead



'Woodlands Villas' now known as 'Woodlands' and 'Holmleigh' are shown on the 1840s Tithe map (45) Woodlands Villas' were built in the 1830s and are the earliest houses in Woodlands Road.

They are a pair of substantial semi-detached houses constructed in good quality stonework, most likely in local stone. The houses have matching gables, slate roofs and decorative chimneys. There is a canted bay window with decorative metal mouldings on the west elevation at the 'Woodlands'.

Above it is an arched window with metal mouldings and stained-glass borders.

At 'Holmleigh' there is a matching arched window on the east elevation but without any of the decorative metal mouldings. Except for a small conservatory, which replaced the metal balcony to the rear of 'Holmleigh' the houses have been little altered externally since they were built.

<https://maps.bristol.gov.uk/kyp/?edition=nsom&layer=Community%20layer&x=346795.82&y=177438.29&extent=4614.87>