

1930s Houses

During the 1930s, several 'modern' buildings were erected in Birchington. All of them are still standing at the moment (2004), but none of them are listed. They are all painted white and are finished with a smooth cement rendering. They have the wide horizontal framed windows, but none of the Birchington ones have the curved corners that some buildings of there period were given. They also all have flat roofs.

'Gardner's Stores' – on the corner of Station Road and Albion Road, now owned by **Ward's Estate Agents**

This was built about 1929, when William J. Gardener bought and demolished 5 and 6 Bath Cottages (a pair of Dutch-gabled cottages that mirrored 'Laburnum House' opposite). Gardner was a seed and corn merchant and also sold vegetables and firewood.

'The Nore' – its front door is in Arthur Road, although listed under Minnis Road

'Logan's Rock' – Minnis Road, facing the putting green

These two properties were built abutting each other, in the early 1930s. They have continued as two separate dwellings ever since, although they look as if they are one single unit.

'Twentieth Century', 102 Minnis Road.

This house was built for an estate agent called Kathleen Hawkes. Her husband was a builder and he probably built it for her. It was there by 1935 and is listed in the 1936 Kelly's Directory.

The building had become rather sad looking by the end of the twentieth century, but its new owners have done wonders with it. They have given it some delightful new stained-glass windows and some new railing along the top of the walling round the garden, very much in keeping with its period.

1930s Houses (cont.)

'Guesland' – now called **'Bay House'** in Cliff Road.

The owners of this property believe it was built about 1934. It was certainly there by 1939 and featured in an advertisement when it came up for sale with Pearson's Estate Agents in Birchington that year. It is built so that one of its slimmest sides of it faces the North Sea – a very wise decision.

'Fort Grenham' – Cliff Road.

This property was also built in the mid 1930s, but the designer placed it so that one of its widest sides faced the North Sea, which makes it rather a bleak outlook during the worst of the winter weather. In its early years it was probably not occupied during the wintertime, because many of the houses along this road were only used as summer escapes.

Footnote

With the arrival of the Second World War and the tight restrictions on building materials for so many years after the war, no further properties of these designs were built in Birchington. There are a few with flat roofs, several of these being blocks of flats, but nothing else links them with the '1930s' style.