

St James's Terrace – 1 Epple Cottages

Epple Cottages first appear in Kelly's Directory in 1885, but we have no idea who built the two cottages, nor what the reason for placing them there. They may have been farm cottages as all the land along here was farmed in some way, either for crops or for grazing. On the other hand, the first occupants could have been workers on Powel-Cotton's Brickworks at Epple Bay, which continued to function until about 1910.

Arthur Binfield is shown as the first occupant in 1885. John Cripps was there in 1897 and 98-9, but by 1900, John Arnaud had arrived. He remained the occupant until 1936, but in 1937 the house has no tenant listed, so he had either died or had moved to somewhere nearer the main community. He may have even gone into Hill House, the accommodation provided for the elderly generation, who could no longer cope on their own.

In the final edition of Kelly's Directories in 1974, the occupant of 1 Epple Cottages was Donald Lester with his neighbour George Harding at No 2.

It is unlikely that these two cottages were ever connected with the Coast Guards at Epple Bay, as their housing and boat-house were right on the bay, sometimes on the East side and sometimes the West. There is quite a large section on these buildings in the Museum.