

1 & 2 FOUNTAIN VILLAS, Park Lane now 9 Park Lane

1840 – The land on which the houses now stand was arable land, owned by John Friend Esq., who was given the designation “Birchington”, to distinguish him from another John Friend of the same family, who lived at Brooksend Farm and was given the designation "Brooksend". The occupier in 1840 is listed as Edward Young (Senior). At this period, the plot contained a ‘Yard and Buildings measuring 18 perches’.

There is no sign of any houses at this point.

1865 – By this date, the Cotton family of Quex Park had acquired the land, together with a number of other pieces nearby (see the plan). They came in a marriage settlement when Henry Percy Cotton’s son, Henry Horace Powell Cotton married Matilda Christine Gordon.

1872 – On the Ordinance Survey map of this date, the two houses are already included.

1888 – There is an indenture of this date, but this gives no clue as to what sort of dwellings it included.

1894 – On the 23rd of June in this year, Percy Horace Gordon Cotton ordered that from this date onwards he was to be know as Powell-Cotton, so there is a note of this in the deeds. It also speaks of all the places where he held land locally, ie. Birchington, Acol, Minster, St John the Baptist (Garlinge), St John the Baptist (Westgate), Ash, Richborough, Chislett (sic.), Monkton, Sturry and Fordwich. [The family also owned large tracts of farmland in Essex (NE London), which was rapidly being developed at this period.]

In later sections of the deeds, there are sections detailing how the Powell-Cotton family’s inheritance was to be divided, on the death of Percy Powell-Cotton. His wife, Hannah Brayton Slater of Somerleyton, Lowestoft, Suffolk, who was connected with John Forbes of Bronte Cottage, Peterhead, Aberdeenshire (brother-in-law?) and William Slater of Somerleyton, Lowestoft (father or brother?), appears to have had this block of land gifted to her on her marriage to Percy on 20th November 1905. It was then to be passed onto their children after his death, to provide for their education.

1940 – On the 24th June in 1940, Percy Powell-Cotton died. He was outlived by his wife, Hannah, his three daughters, Diana (the eldest), Mary (by then married to Arthur G. Neville) and Antoinette and by his son and heir, Christopher.

1945 – ‘No: 7 Park Lane (or 1, Fountain Villas) was to be sold for not less than £174, while No: 9 Park Lane (2, Fountain Villas) was to be sold for not less than £150.

- 1946 – The Powell-Cottons sold No: 7 Park Lane to Kathleen Morrison. Whether she ever lived in it is unclear. By 1948, according to Kelly's Directory, the house was occupied by Mrs Quartermain, which means she must have been there in 1947, in order to have completed the questionnaire for the entry in the directory. She was still there in 1957.
- 1954 – It was on November the 8th of this year that Mrs Evelyn May Hough and her daughter Mavis Brenda Hough bought No. 7 and 9, Park Lane. They do not appear in Kelly's until 1957, but could well have occupied it from 1955.
- 1958 – On March 29th of this year, Mrs Hough and her daughter sold No: 7 Park Lane to Mabel Elizabeth Goodban. In the deeds it states that the two properties shared one half of the common entrance, serving both No: 7 and No: 9. No mention is made of the fountain, which stands in the front garden of No: 7.