



Stephen's House

An elegant villa in Silverhill, the Mercer family founded and ran a stylish homeware store.



census
2021

Brief History of Abergeldie Villa

From my research I feel that Abergeldie Villa was built around 1865 on land that made up of part of Silverhill Farm owned by George Burry Cement. It had a stable at the side facing Duke Road (now 47 Duke Road). The first person I can find to be living in Abergeldie Villa is a Miss Henrietta Francis Bishop in 1867. Miss Bishop stayed there to around 1876, The villa was advertised for sale in the Hastings Observer in 1875.

Freehold known as ABERGELDIE 16th September 1875:

On the ground floor- two fine reception rooms, kitchen, scullery, pantry, larder, cellar, and spacious entrance hall, with side entrance.

On the first floor- five bedrooms, linen closet and WC.

On the top floor- attic and a box room.

The outbuildings comprise a coach house and a two stall stable with a room and loft over, summerhouse, two fowl houses, two tool houses and a potting shed, coal and wood house, a pump and three rain water tanks.

There is a grapery and a productive garden at the back well stocked with fruit trees and there is also in the front of the house a large flower garden and a conservatory about 26 feet long.

Gas and water laid on.

The house is in complete decorative and substantial state of repair.

The property is situated in a salubrious, cheerful and improving locality on the turnpike road leading from Hastings to Sedlescombe and is in the immediate vicinity of the fashionable watering place of Hastings and St. Leonards on Sea.

For particulars and conditions of sale apply to Messers. Young and Godwin Solicitors, Bank Building, Hastings, or to the auctioneer at his estate agency office 7 Claremont, Hastings.

Sales by Auction.

SILVERHILL, HASTINGS.

SALE OF A DESIRABLE FREEHOLD VILLA RESIDENCE, suitable for Occupation or Investment.

MR. BRIDGER

Is favoured with instructions to Sell by Auction, at the CASTLE HOTEL, HASTINGS, on THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER, 16th, 1875, at Six for Seven o'clock in the Evening (unless previously sold by Private Contract), a very desirable and substantially-built SEMI-DETACHED FREEHOLD VILLA RESIDENCE, situate at Silverhill, in the parish of St. Leonard, and known as "ABERGELDIE VILLA," and containing the following accommodation :-

On the Ground Floor—Two fine reception rooms, kitchen, scullery, pantry, larder, cellar, and a spacious entrance hall, with a side entrance,

On the First Floor—Five bed rooms, linen closet, and a w.c.

On the Top Floor—Attic and a box room.

The Out-buildings comprise a coach-house and a two-stall stable, with a room and loft over, summer house, two fowl houses, two tool houses, and a potting shed, coal and wood houses, a pump, and three rain-water tanks. There is a grapery, and a productive garden at the back well stocked with fruit trees; and there is also in front of the house a large flower garden, and a conservatory about 26 feet long.

Gas and water laid on.

The House is in a complete decorative and substantial state of repair.

The Property is situated in a salubrious, cheerful, and improving locality, on the Turnpike Road leading from Hastings to Sedlescomb, and in the immediate vicinity of the fashionable watering places of Hastings and St. Leonards-on-Sea.

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Over the next 13 years four or five different families lived in the villa and in 1891 the family of Mr William Mercer (same family that started Mercer funeral directors in Silverhill) moved in and stayed there for about another 12 years. In 1893 planning for three shops in the front garden of Abergeldie Vila was put in by a Mr Richard Davis and built by 1894 they were built and called Abergeldie Stores (now know as 72 Sedlescombe Rod North and 49 Duke Road).



Abergeldie store from another angle



*William Mercer and his sisters Nellie and Edith.
Abergeldie store around 1900.*

By 1902 the Mercer family were running the store and stayed running it for many years. Many of the families that moved in to Abergeldie Villa took on the store as well.

Around 1975 East Sussex County Council started to buy up properties in preparation for Silverhill Gyratory Scheme. Abergeldie Villa now XX Sedlescombe Road North was one of the unlucky and sat empty to 1980's when they shelved the scheme, and the property was allowed to be inhabited again.



70-72 Sedlescombe Road North 1973. Looking from junction of Alma Villas.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Abergeldie Villa (70 Sedlescombe Rd North)</u>	<u>Occupants</u>	<u>Surnames other Occupants</u>	<u>Other info</u>	<u>Source</u>
1859				Francis Smith sold Silverhill Farm to George Clement	
1860					
1861				Wellington Rd (Duke Rd.) Started to be built	
1862					
1863					
1864					
1865					
1866					
1867	Miss Henrietta Francis Bishop				Kelly's
1868	Miss H. F. Bishop				
1869	Miss H. F. Bishop				Pike
1870	Miss H. F. Bishop				
1871	Miss H. F. Bishop	3 Female, 1 Male	Sands,Webb,Reynolds	Henrietta Bishop was head of the house aged 68	Census
1872	Miss H. F. Bishop				
1873	Miss H. F. Bishop				
1874	Miss H. F. Bishop				