

PORTAL HOUSE

Then and Now....



The Village, St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe, 1840



Portal House, St. Margaret's Bay



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Portal House in St Margaret's at Cliffe is notable for its transition through several distinct roles, each contributing to its current architectural layout and community significance.

1. Victorian Foundation & Expansions

Original Structure: Built in 1840 as a private villa known as Marine House, it was owned by James Temple and operated as a high-society girls' boarding school. By 1851, it housed up to 38 students from as far away as India.

The Morley Era (1883–1909): Philanthropist Samuel Morley MP purchased the site to create the

Morley House Convalescent Home for working men.

The Victoria Wing: A significant expansion occurred in 1898 when the Earl of Aberdeen opened the Queen Victoria Wing, which added 60 beds to the original 24.

Amenities: By the early 1900s, the house boasted a dining room capable of seating 150 guests and four acres of kitchen gardens.

2. Wartime and Friendly Society Use

Military Requisition: During WWI, the 6th Royal Fusiliers used the house as a billet. During WWII, it housed personnel from the Royal Marines.

Friendly Society Ownership: In 1919, the National Deposit Friendly Society (NDFS) bought the property for use as a national healthcare convalescent home. It was renamed Portal House in 1920 after their founder, Canon George Raymond Portal.



Dining Hall, Morley House, St. Margaret's Bay

