

Site Introduction

The site is located towards the South end of the Vale of Health; an enclave of houses on Hampstead Heath grouped around Hampstead Ponds

The area is almost entirely residential, and characterised by 3-4 bedroom family housing.

The site slopes down to the East to Hampstead Ponds.

Key

01. 1:500 Area Plan showing Proposal

02. Site Location Plan

03. Bird's Eye Photo from West

04. Bird's Eye Photo from East

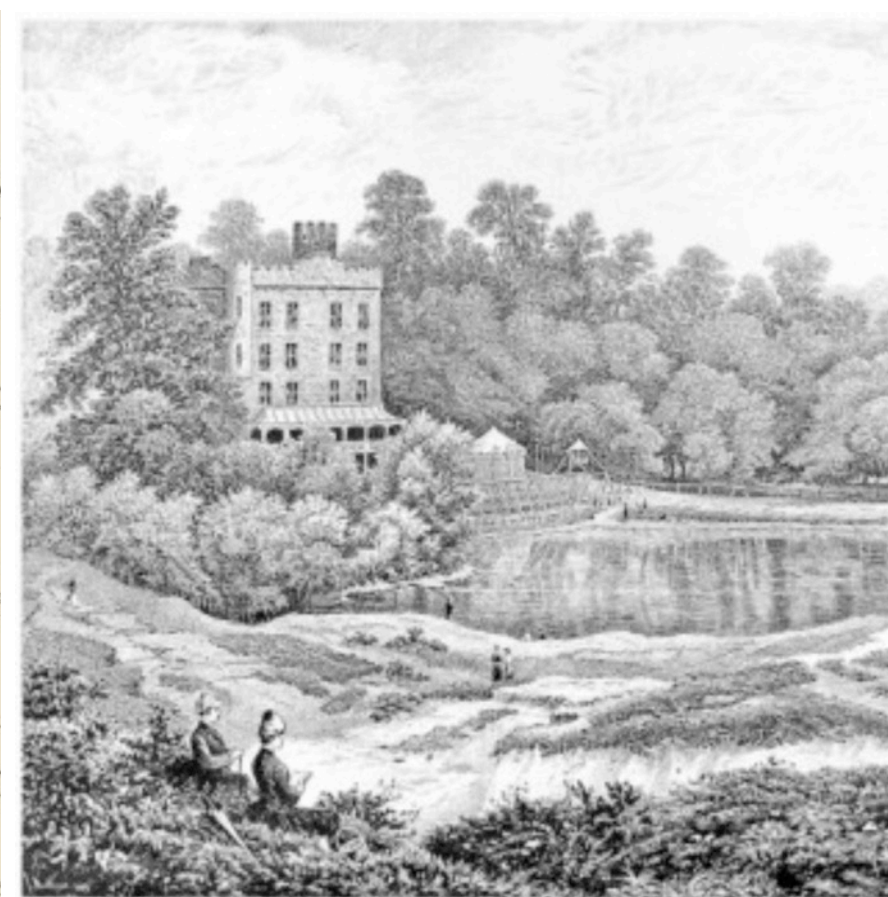


Site History

The hamlet of the Vale of Health consisted of 18 houses in 1851, but the opening of the Hampstead Junction Railway in 1860 provided the impetus for expansion. 1-6 Heath Villas were built by Edward Culverhouse in 1862; and spreading South numbers 7-12 were completed by 1868. In between the two groups of villas was the Hampstead Heath Hotel and the two groups of houses were separated from the pond to the East by pleasure gardens containing grottoes and arbours which catered for the crowds of summer visitors.

The Hampstead Heath Hotel was not a success and in 1877 became the Athenaeum Club and in June 1879 the pleasure gardens to the South were divided into building plots. The site for Hill View was sold by John Gillespie to Thomas William Gittens on condition that the house constructed on the site should cost no less than £300. It was completed within the year and in the Electoral register of 1880 Thomas Gittens is recorded as being in residence.

From the construction details it appears that Faircroft to the South already existed when Hill View was built and that Lakeview to the North was built afterwards.



Key

01. 1815 Newton's Map
02. 1862 Stanford's Map
03. 1880 Ordnance Survey 1st edition
04. 1894 Ordnance Survey
05. 1915 Ordnance Survey
06. 1888 View of Vale of Health Pond
07. 1954 Ordnance Survey

01

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

Number of Schedules 87
(To be filled up by the Enumerator and collector.)

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family.	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX.		PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE.					PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards.			BIRTHPLACE of every person.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country.	INFIRMITY.	
		For Infants under one year state the age in months as "under one month," "one month," etc.	For Males	For Females	Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," or "Divorced," or "Other Relative," "Visitor," "Boarder," or "Servant."	For Married Women entered on this Schedule, the number of—	Completed years the present Marriage has lasted. (If less than one year write "under one.")	Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)	Total Children Born Alive.	Children will Live.	Children who have Died.				Personal Occupation.
1. Thomas W. Gittens	Head	67	male	42	2	2	Private mean 370						St Pancras London British		
2. Emily Gittens	wife	60	female	40	4	5							Leeds 036		
3. Florence Stratford	servant	21	female	single			Domestic 010						Wiltshire 260		

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

I certify that—
(1) All the ages on this Schedule are entered in the proper sex columns.
(2) I have counted the males and females in Columns 3 and 4 separately, and have compared their sum with the total number of persons.
(3) After making the necessary corrections I have completed all entries on the Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.

Males	Females	Total
1	2	3
100	100	200

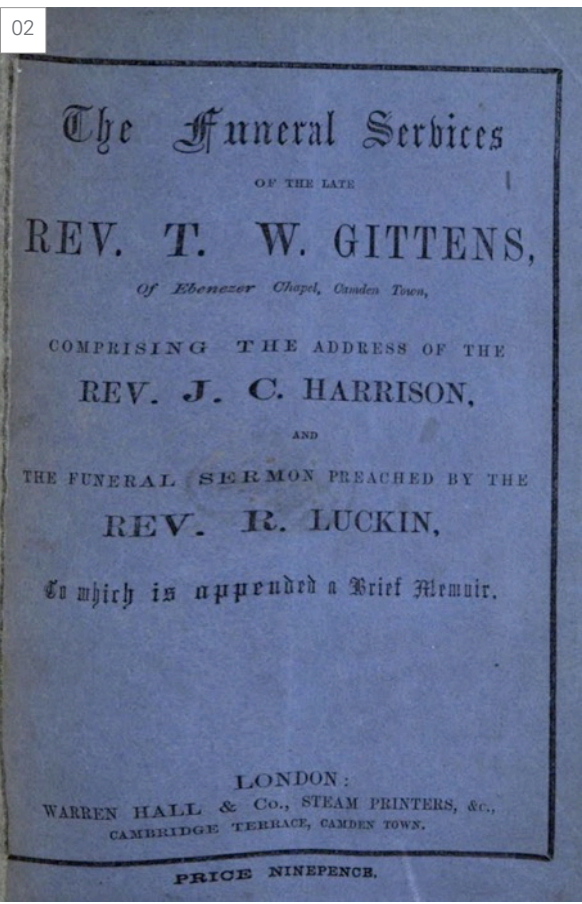
(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (House, Tenement, or Apartment). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom, nor warehouse, office, shop.

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: Thomas William Gittens
Postal Address: Hill View, The Vale, Hampstead

02



Social History

Thomas Gittens had inherited an upholstery business in Camden from his father, also Thomas William Gittens who had retired to found and become the first minister of the independent Ebenezer chapel in Camden, publishing his sermons with splendid titles such as "A smooth stone from the brook, slung in the name of the Lord God of Hosts at Popish doings in Kentish-Town and other places: or remarks upon the history of St. Alexis". Thomas Jr had been born in Camden and lived his whole life there until moving to the cleaner air of Hampstead. He lived at Hill View with his wife Emily at the house for the next 40 years; they had no children.

In 1911, the Census shows a snapshot of the residents. At Hill View Thomas Gittens lived with his wife Emily and 21 year old domestic maid Florence Stratford. Gittens had retired from business by then and describes himself as having "independent means". He was on the board of the local division of the School Board for London, a charitable position.

03

London, England, Electoral Registers, 1832-1965 for Thomas William Gittens

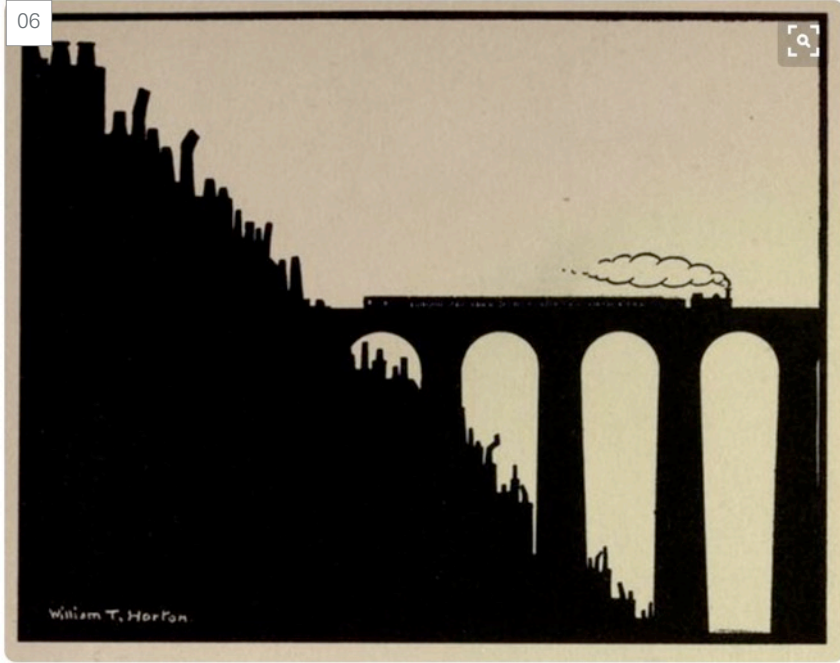
Gittens, Thomas William	19 Lawn road, Hampstead	occupier of house	19 Lawn road
Gittens, Thomas William	Hill view, Vale of health, Hampstead	occupier of house in immediate succession	Woolstone cottage, and Hill view, Vale of health

Nearby at Heathcote, Mr Cooper was a cashier at the London Joint Stock Bank whilst at Heatherlea lived Mr Tonsmann, a German bank clerk who also rented a room to a couple of lodgers. The artist William Thomas Horton lived at Heathhurst; a somewhat mystical figure who was a friend of Aubrey Beardsley and Yeats and who produced startlingly modern black and white illustrations.

Key

- 01. 1911 Census at Hill View
- 02. Printed address at the funeral of the Rev William Thomas Gittens
- 03. 1880 Electoral Register showing W.T.Gittens in residence at Hill View
- 04. The Vale of Health Hotel 1910. the Vale of Health was a place for leisure and resort
- 05 Vale of Health pond at the turn of the century
- 06 An illustration by William thomas Horton

06



05



04

