

11 DRURY STREET OR 6 LOWER ROW

The original house on this site was one of the original “two roomed kit houses worth £50 each” that were shipped down on board the *Victory* which arrived in Stanley 13 October 1849. Twelve cottages were built on Drury Street (or *Lower Row* as it was originally called) for the military pensioners who also arrived on the same ship. This house was originally 6 Lower Row and was allotted to **William BROWN**, a private and military pensioner from Ireland, who had arrived with his wife Emily 13 October 1849 on board the *Victory*.

William and Emily left June 1853 for England and the property escheated to the Falkland Islands Government. In 1858 the cottage was allocated to a member of the newly arrived detachment on the *Ealing Grove*. [B10]



1863 – Sixth house from left middle row

On 8 September 1879 Crown Grant 245 was issued to **Mary DOOLAN** for £66 being No 6 Pensioners Cottage Allotments containing poles and measuring 60 links x 250 links. [CG 245]

On 1 June 1883 **Mary DOOLAN**, publican of Stanley, granted to **Michael Christopher DOOLAN**, horse breaker of Stanley, Pensioners Cottage Allotment No 6 containing 24 poles and bounded “on the North by Drury Street 59 ½ links on the East by allotment No 5 (five) 250 links and the South by a road 59 ½ links and on the West by Crown Land 250 links. Together with the Cottage and all erections thereon and rights and privileges thereto belonging” for £66. [BUG-REG-3; 174]

On 2 December 1887 **Michael Christopher DOOLAN**, shepherd of Stanley, granted to **Bradford WILMER**, police constable of Stanley, Pensioners Cottage Allotment No 6 containing

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24 poles and bounded "on the North by Drury Street 59 ½ links, on the East by allotment No 5 (five) 250 links, on the South by a road 59 ½ links and on the West by Crown Land 250 links, together with the Cottage and all erections thereon and rights and privileges thereto belonging" for £150. [BUG-REG-4; 24]

In 1891, for tax purposes, 6 Lower East Pensioners Row was valued at £15. [FI Gazette]

Bradford died 27 August 1904 and on 27 March 1905 **Caroline WILMER** granted **Richard Francis SHORT**, shepherd, Pensioners Cottage Allotment No 6 containing 24 poles and bounded "on the North by Drury Street 59 ½ links on the East by allotment No 5 (five) 250 links and the South by a road 59 ½ links and on the West by Crown Land 250 links together with the Cottage and all erections thereon and rights and privileges thereto belonging" for £130. [BUG-REG-6; 132]

In December 1926 William and Rose PEARSON and their five youngest children were living in the house. On 12 December 1926, Isabella, their 12 year old daughter who worked at the office of the Colonial Surgeon, sounded the alarm at about 6:45am when she woke him up saying that the house was on fire. The parents were outside by this time. Their 9 year old son, William, had left the house earlier as he had gone to his work as an errand boy. The upper storey of the house collapsed at 7:20am. Mabel age 10, John age 6 and Heather age 4 were all found in their beds dead from asphyxiation. The three children were placed in one coffin and buried together two days later. The house was completely gutted and had to be demolished. [625/26]

The report by D J O'Sullivan, chief constable reports "On the morning of the 12th inst at 7.15am the fire bell was rung by Mr G Paice. I learned that the House occupied by Mr Wm Pearson was then badly in fire in Drury St.

On arriving at the house at 7.20am it was in flames all over and I learned that three of Mr Pearson's children were still inside the house; it was impossible to save the children.

A fire hydrant was connected and water was played on the next house which had just caught, during this time the fire engine was in the Dockyard getting up steam and hoses were connected to the scene of the fire, when after a little while something went wrong with the fire engine. Water was then procured by lorries, and also from a well at the back of Mr F Lellman's premises, and at about 8am the fire was well under control.

The fire must have originated from the kitchen stove which had an iron pipe, instead of a brick chimney.

The stove was lit that morning by Mr Pearson's son about 6.15am, when he then went to his work as errand boy.

At about 9.15am the bodies of the three children were removed to the mortuary by the police.

In my opinion great credit is due to Mr John Grierson, Mr V A Biggs & Mrs McNicoll & Mr G Roberts for the good work done by them, also to Mr J Miller & Mr J Davis for their prompt action in getting Mr & Mrs Pearson out of the house.

From the time of the fire first noticed until the roof fell in was about 30 minutes.

The inquest held 14 December 1926 returned a verdict of asphyxiation through accidental fire.

Another house was later built on the same piece of land and still stands there today.

On 1 September 1942 **Estate Richard F SHORT** of Stanley granted to **Albert P HARDY** Pensioners Cottage Allotment No 6 containing 24 poles and bounded "on the North by Drury Street 59 ½ links, on the East by allotment No 5 (five) 250 links, on the South by a road 59 ½ links and on the West by Crown Land 250 links, together with the Dwelling House and all erections thereon and rights and privileges thereto belonging" for £600. [BUG-REG-11; 303]



Early 1927 – Space to right of front row of houses



Late 1940s – Showing the new house, first house from right top row