

24 JOHN STREET CHURCH, DISPENSARY, HOSPITAL AND SCHOOLROOM; SPEEDWELL STORE

The Speedwell Store is a relatively modern building that appears to have been built in the late 19th/early 20th century and is one of only two in Stanley with imitation ashlar (stone block) walls; the other is Harbour View House on Ross Road. According to popular local legend the four marble Corinthian column tops on the exterior of the store were brought ashore from the *G F Haendal* which was beached and burned to the waterline in Port William in November 1880. Prior to the 1960s there was a large wooden building called The Speedwell or the Speedwell Cottages joined to the shop at the rear. There was a fire in this building in 1961 and it was later demolished and now the store and the site of the house are separately owned. The wooden building dated back to the early settlement of Stanley.

Described in 1847 as the *“Building in Villiers Street containing rooms appropriated for divine service and the school, the dispensary and room for the Schoolmaster”* construction commenced in May 1847 and the building was finished by the end of the year at a total cost of £570-7-10. [S2; 38]

On 16 September 1848 described as:

“Church, Dispensary and Hospital

This is a large wooden building situated on the East side of Villiers Street and north¹ side of John Street. It contains four rooms, two small lobbies and a loft. Of these rooms, the first is used as the church and schoolroom, the second as the Hospital, the third for a Bathroom for sick persons and the fourth as the Dispensary.

The room used as the “church” is 27’ 5” x 18 feet. It has a fireplace with slate mantelpiece and common grate, tender and fireirons. 2 long and 2 short broad benches and 6 narrow benches, also a temporary pulpit covered with red baize. There is a piece of Kidderminster carpet at the west end on which the communion table is placed. There are no other fixtures.

The Hospital measures 18 feet by 14 but a small portion has been partitioned off, leading into the Church for a vestry Room, this room has also a mantelpiece, grate, fender and fireirons.

The bathroom has no fixtures it about 8 feet square and is now used as the vestry.

The Dispensary is 18 feet long and 14’ 4” wide, lighted with 2 windows in which are blinds. On one side of the fireplace there are rows of shelves for medicines with a small dispensing counter. There is a stepladder leading to the loft.

There is also a fireplace with slate mantelpiece, grate, fender, and fireirons. The floor is covered with floor cloth. This is a Coal hod in the room.”

At a later date someone had written over the top of the church room and the hospital *“These two rooms are now thrown into one and used as the Church and Schoolroom - being 41 foot by 18. Fitted with forms a pulpit and communion table. The walls are lined also the seats with one headth of East drugget all round.”* [E1; 49, 50]

In May 1855 described as:

“Church and, Dispensary

This is a wooden building at the corner of John Street and Villiers Street 66 feet long by 18 feet wide, divided into rooms.

The west room is a dispensary 18 feet X 16, fitted with fireplaces, shelves, window blinds and the various medical stores named in the Surgeons returns.

The East room is 42 feet long by 18 wide and is used on Sundays for Divine Services and on weekdays as the Schoolroom. It has 2 fireplaces and fenders, a pulpit, Communion table and Forms. Also a writing desk for the children.

¹ Actually to the south of John Street - it would have been north facing onto John Street

Between these two rooms is a space of 8 feet, one end of which serves as a lobby communicating both with church and dispensary from the street, and the remainder 12 feet X 8 is the Chaplain's vestry containing the iron chest which holds the Registers, as well as the Church services &c." [E1; 109]

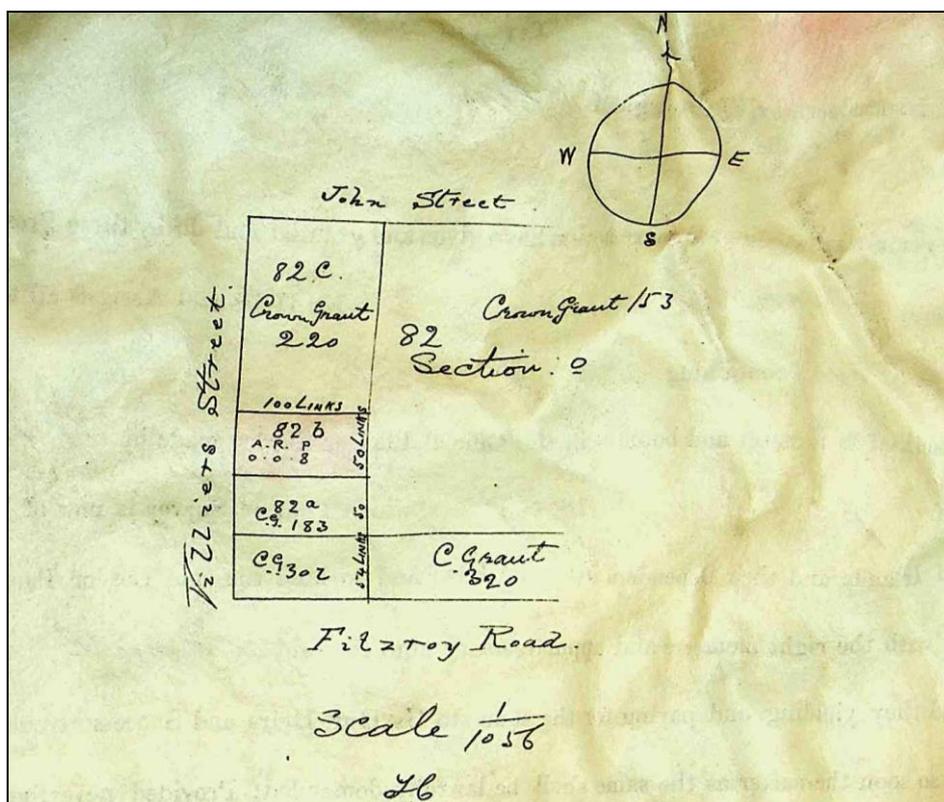


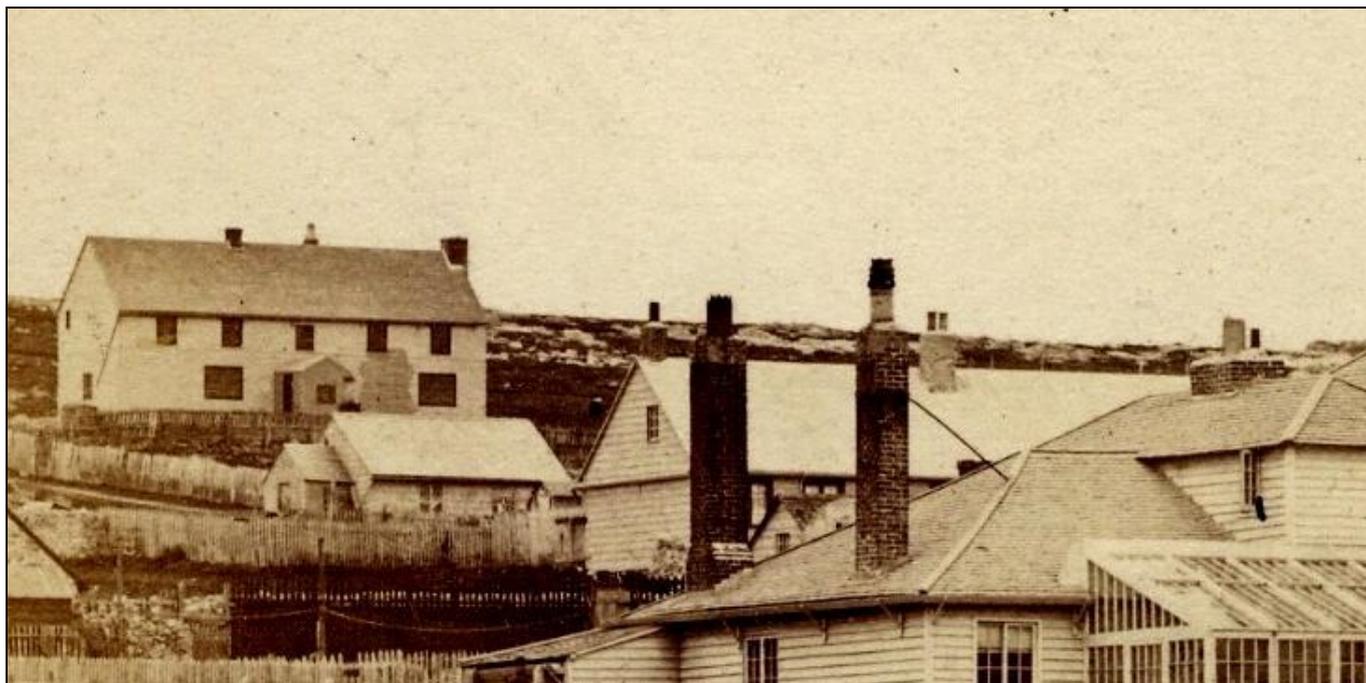
1863 - Large house front centre

On 15 December 1874 Crown Grant 220 was issued to **George NATT** for £250, including dwelling house, on the south east junction of Villiers and John Street, being Lot 82c in Section O containing 24 perches. Bounded:

- North - John Street by 100 links
- South - Crown Grant 206, section 82b by 100 links
- East - Crown Grant 153 by 150 links
- West - Villiers Street by 150 links

[CG 220]





1875 - Large house partially visible in front of the small cottage - FIC Collection, JCNA

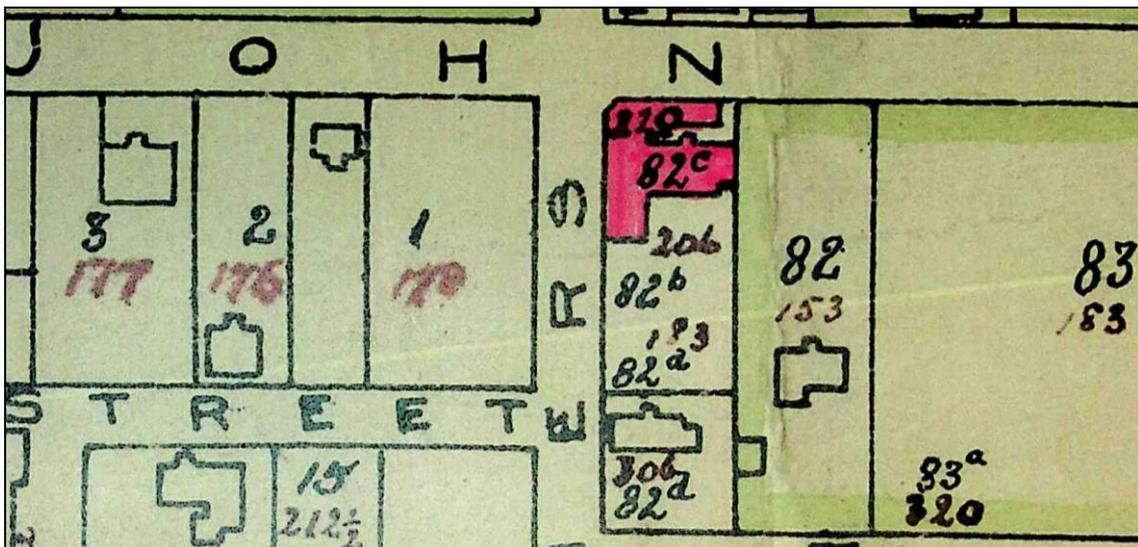
On 13 June 1877 **George NATT** deposited with **Captain John Key THOMAS** the deeds of his land for the security of a debt of £300 plus interest at 7 ½ %, being section 82C and all buildings thereon. [BUG-REG-3; 64]

On 22 November 1887 **George NATT** agreed to transfer all the Deeds or Documents of his Freehold Property situated at the corner of John and Villiers Streets, to **Thomas ROWELL**, Watchmaker of Stanley, for value received on the existing mortgage being arranged with Captain Thomas; and I hereby empower the said Thomas Rowell to take all rents or other advantages, subject to the interest on mortgage aforesaid, The same as though the Deeds had been legally transferred. [BUG-REG-4; 22]

On 17 December 1887 **George NATT**, mariner of Stanley, granted to **Thomas ROWELL**, watchmaker and jeweller of Stanley, "*All that parcel of land & dwelling house in the Falkland Islands situate in the Town of Stanley, containing twenty four perches and numbered (82)c eighty two and more particularly described as to metes and bounds in the official plan or survey made by Arthur Bailey Esquire, Surveyor, in the month of September 1870, which plan or survey is now of Record in the office of the Surveyor General of the Falkland Islands and their Dependencies, together with erections thereon, and the rights, privileges and advantages thereto belonging*" for £700. [BUG-REG-4; 26]

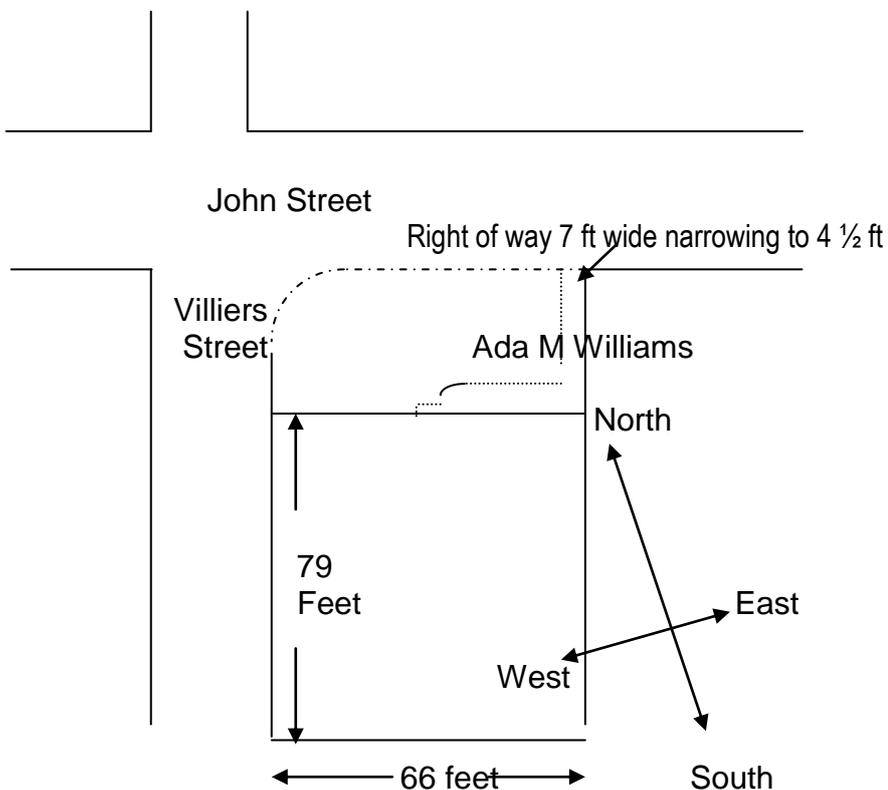
In 1891, for tax purposes, the dwelling house and shop on Villiers Street and John Street was valued at £60. [FI Gazette]

On 13 March 1911 **Thomas ROWELL**, watchmaker and jeweller of 19 Clermont Road, Preston, Brighton, Sussex, England, granted to **Louis WILLIAMS**, merchant of Stanley, "*All that parcel of land and dwelling house in the Town of Stanley, containing twenty four perches and Numbered eighty two, (82c) and more particularly described as to metes and bounds in the Official plan or survey made by Arthur Bailey Esquire Surveyor in the Month of September 1870 Which Plan or Survey is now of Record in the Office of the Surveyor General of the Falkland Islands and their Dependencies together with all erections thereon and the rights and privileges and advantages thereto belonging*" for £750. [BUG-REG-8; 59]



Part of the 1923 Crown Grant map
 - the area coloured pink is the house and store buildings

On 7 September 1923 **Ada Marjorie WILLIAMS**, widow of **Louis WILLIAMS** of Stanley, granted to **Wilhelmina PECK**, widow of **William PECK**, “*All that parcel of land and buildings thereon in the town of Stanley, containing five hundred and seventy nine square yards and three square feet area with all buildings erected thereon and subject to a first mortgage for Three hundred and sixty five pounds, being part unpaid of purchase price, payable as described in separate mortgage deed of this same date. The property hereby sold measures seventy nine feet frontage on Villiers Street facing West, by sixty six feet on the North boundary. It is agreed that this property shall have a right of way from its North boundary to John Street of seven feet wide as depicted on plan at back hereof, narrowing to four and half feet at extreme end*” for £650. [BUG-REG-9; 154]





Circa 1932 - Store at front and house to rear

In August 1933 **Wilhelmina PECK** advertised the Speedwell Cottages for sale consisting of 14 rooms etc. [Penguin 16 Aug 1933; 1] **Wilhelmina PECK** died 26 November 1933.

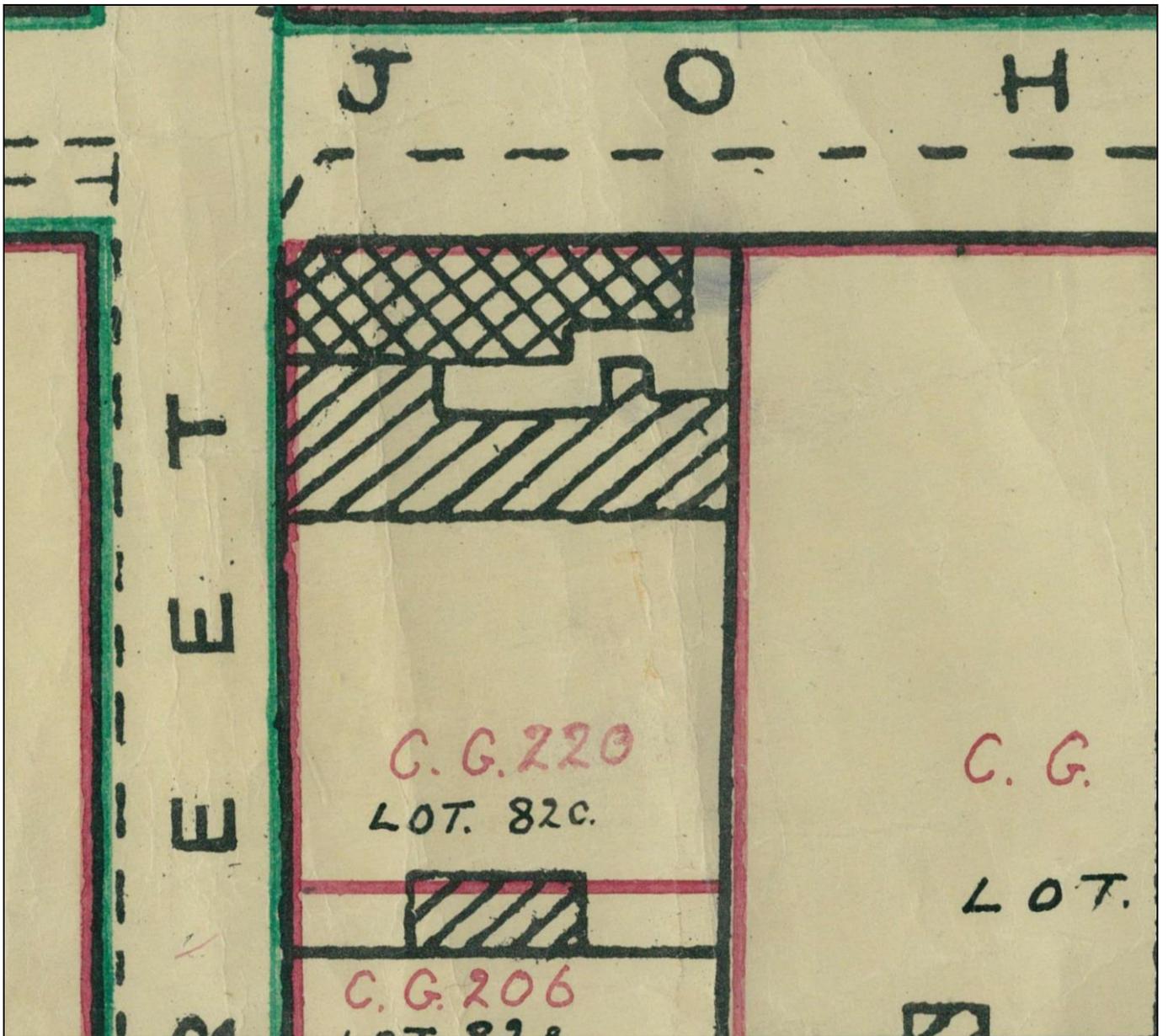
V A H BIGGS offered by sale by public auction on 25 July 1936 the plot of land and buildings thereon known as The Speedwell. [Penguin 29 Jun 1936; 1] On 31 July 1936 **Arthur Walter BEARDMORE** as administrator of the estate of the late **Wilhelmina PECK** granted to **Ada Marjorie WILLIAMS**, through her attorney Ernesto G ROWE, "*All that parcel of Land and buildings thereon in the town of Stanley containing five hundred and seventy nine square yds and three square feet, bounded on the North by right of way to John Street (part of way) and remainder adjoining building known as "Sweet Shop", in all 66 feet, on the South by land owned by Mr Frank Gleadell, 66 feet, on the East by land owned by the Falkland Is Co Ltd, 79 feet and on the West by Villiers Street, 79 feet*" for £360. [BUG-REG-11; 35]



**1936 - Large house in centre with store partially obscured in front
- FIC Collection, JCNA**

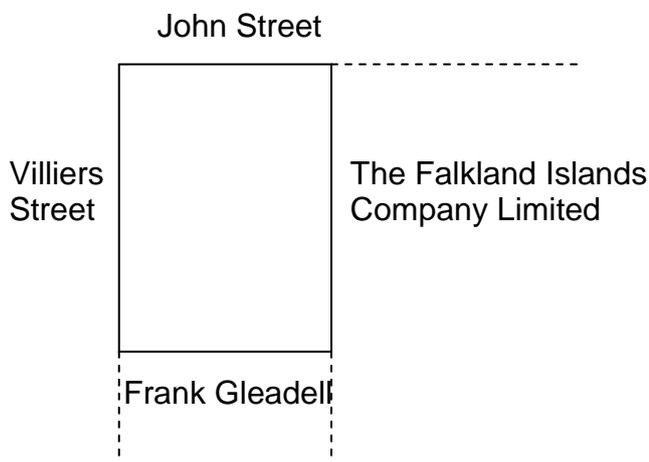


1940s - From the air - FIC Collection, JCNA



Part of the 1943 Crown Grant map

On 28 June 1940 **Ada Marjorie WILLIAMS**, widow of **Louis WILLIAMS**, granted to **Miss Grace Netitia BOSSINGHAM** "All that parcel of Land situate in the Town of Stanley, Falkland Islands, bounded on the North by John Street as to sixty-six feet, on the South by land in the holding of Frank Gleadell sixty-six feet, on the East by land in the holding of Messrs The Falkland Islands Company Limited, ninety-nine feet, and on the West by Villiers Street ninety-nine feet; together with buildings erected thereon" for £800. [BUG-REG-11; 279]



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1993 - Before painting - two of the four Corinthian marble column tops - JCNA



1993 - After painting - JCNA