

36 Westgate, Cowbridge – Thira Cottage

1843 Part of plot 19 (one acre 36 perches) belonging to Thomas Edmondson, occupied by Robert Church, market gardener. The police station and 36 Westgate were later built on this plot. *Tithe*

Property probably built about 1870.

1871 Thomas John, 29, master carpenter employing one man, born Bridgend, with wife Janette, from Penmark, and children William, Anne, Edith and Laura *Census*

1877 *Ordnance Survey map, 25"*, first edition shows both 36 Westgate and the police station

1881 Thomas John, 39, sons William and Thomas and daughter Laura, plus a visitor *Census*
Thomas John died in 1894 aged 52; his wife Jennett died in 1922 aged 78; they are buried in Cowbridge churchyard (*grave 57C*).

1891 Joseph Williams, 44, general labourer, born Pembroke, with his wife Elizabeth, 43 b Cowbridge, his widowed mother in law Elizabeth Thomas, daughter Elizabeth a dressmaker, three sons (William 17, ? Jack 14, Thomas 12) and daughter Martha 8, all born Cowbridge. *Census 15*

1922 Described as a 'villa residence', held on a 99 year lease from May 1st 1870, with a ground rent of £2.14s.2d. *Edmondson estate sale catalogue*
It is thought this lease was granted when the house was built, or about to be built.

Mr and Mrs Arthur Bowen lived there for two or three years, just after they married. They were in their 20s and their first baby, Margaret was born there.
Recollections of Barbara Davies (nee Bowen)

1940/50 Miss Dodd (till about 1950), who ran the Antique Shop there. She had a white Pekinese dog with her always, but committed suicide in the Thaw, near the town bridge.
After her came the Cusstances, who continued to run the shop for a while, moving in about the mid '50s to Sevenoaks, Kent.

Memories of Tim Edwards

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John and Jane Sorotos bought the cottage from a developer and named it 'Thira Cottage', Thira being the old name for Santorini, the Greek island where the Sorotos family still live.

Information from current owner Mrs Jo Williams 2016

2013 Mr and Mrs Peter Williams

Sources/abbreviations :

Tithe, census, Edmondes documents (D/D) – held in Glamorgan Record Office