

## Cottage Trail

### Entrance

The lintel over the front door of the Cottage bears the date 1629. This may be the original lintel, but recut when it became badly weathered. The original would have shown the initials of the couple who lived here, but the date is probably correct, judging by the interior of the building. We enter the cottage through two doors with a lobby between.

### Ground floor

Turn right and we are in the original living room; note the massive beams which support the ceiling and the floor above. The floor of the living room is stone flagged. In the wall behind the volunteers' table is a window looking out on to Main Street. A small window in the same wall was the fire window, which shed light on to the fireplace where cooking used to be done. Below the fire window is a 'secret drawer'. The cottage was until recently the home of the Bolton family, and the drawer was put in in the 1920s by Katherine Gregson's grandfather. He also built the cupboard on the left of the fireplace, with leaded panes to the cupboard where china ornaments were displayed, with shelves below. To the right of the fireplace is a matching door with leaded glass above and wood below. Behind the door and up two steps is another door which is original and gave access to the barn; there is a latch, and a bolt on the cottage side. Go into this room, and you will see that the ceiling is much higher than that in the living room as the barn was only one storey. This room was originally one part of the barn, the other part of which is now the Heritage Centre. The aim is to reunite the two parts, thus enlarging the Heritage Centre and restoring the whole building to its original form as a 'long-house', Cottage and Barn under one roof. The barn room has a low window on to the street and a small heavily barred window at the back.

Returning to the living room (and all tall people should be aware of low beams and low doorways) we can look at the size of the fireplace, which has been filled in; there is a chain across it which at an earlier date was secured to a point much higher up the chimney. It would have been used to suspend kettles and cooking pots above the open fire.



Possible fireplace in 19th century

### Kitchen and bathroom

On the left at the back of the room is the door to the kitchen which is up a very steep step, which has been raised at some time. The kitchen is lit by a heavily barred window. Opposite, under the stairs, is a small pantry with a stone shelf which is always cold even though the original door has been removed. The floor is tiled. Next to the pantry is the back door, actually at the side, bolts, a latch and a key give access to a side passage leading to the narrow back garden and the other way to Main Street. There is a window in the door which is covered with a movable wooden panel.

As we turn away from the back door, we get a surprise, opposite is the bathroom. This dates from the early 1930s, it is very big for such a small cottage and can be dated by the Art Deco tiles with their distinctive black-on-white design, especially round the window, which is the only back window not to be barred. Take a look at the period fittings, the bath and toilet are raised on plinths, the toilet flushed by a chain which goes through the ceiling to a cistern hidden above.

### Upstairs

Now we can explore upstairs. At the top of the stairs there is a three-part window (only two parts visible from the stairs) in the gable which allows light on to the landing. Facing us at the top of the stairs is a kind of door, more a panel of wood, leading to the underdrawing which gives the only access to the toilet cistern; if we remove it there is a cable which, when plugged in at the right-hand side, powers a light. The underdrawing was used also for storage.

There are only two bedrooms upstairs lit by skylights, but originally this first floor was one large room, lit by the three-light window in the gable end. The division into two bedrooms and the skylights date from the late 19th century; at the same time the stairs were enclosed. The bedrooms have steeply sloping floors from back to front, which would leave room for the toilet cistern at the back. Heavy beams support the roof. In the front bedroom a portion of ceiling has been removed to reveal the lath and plaster construction.



Front bedroom

Note the small window in the wall. This is one third of the 3 light window.

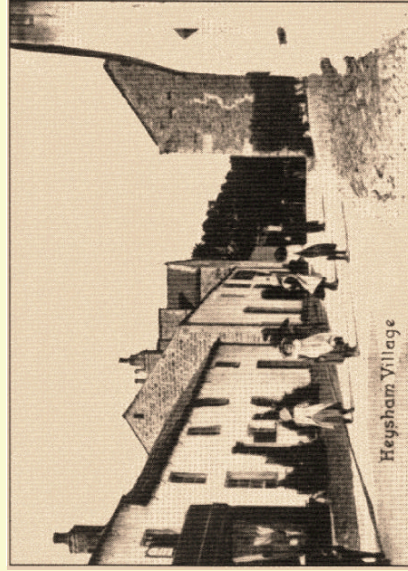
We hope you enjoy your visit to this historic cottage, and if you spot anything we have missed, do tell one of the volunteers and make a note of it. Above all

do mind your heads.

## Village Regeneration

Heysham deserves regeneration, as has been achieved for other historic villages. A Regeneration Partnership, of which Heysham Heritage Association was a member, was formed in 1995 by the City Council to raise funds to carry out restoration.

Another member of the Partnership, the Heritage Trust for the North West, purchased part of a listed building in Main Street. This was converted to a Heritage Centre and opened in 2000. It is run voluntarily by members of the Association. (Right of 1900 picture below.)



In 2004 the Heritage Trust for the North West purchased the other part of the building (the cottage) and in due course this will enable the existing Centre to be extended.

## Headland and Coastline

The City Council planned to freely transfer the fields at Half Moon Bay to the south of the Cliffs to the National Trust as a natural extension of their ownership of the Head and Cliffs. This is unlikely now to happen in the short term.

The Trust also attempted to purchase the Village Bay fields in the late 1990s without success. These fields feature in Turner's *Heysham and Cumberland Mountains* and should be preserved as coastal landscape for posterity.

Together these two sets of fields give the village a green setting which enhances its individuality.

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## Heysham Heritage Association

The Association is a group of people who care for Heysham. We work with other organizations, such as the Neighbourhood Council and St Peter's Church, to preserve the heritage of Heysham. We work with the Heritage Trust for the North West in running the Heritage Centre. We study the history, and prepare exhibitions mounted in the Centre.

## How you can help

The best way to help is to become a member of Heysham Heritage Association and to join in the activities. Please contact the Secretary at the address below.

If you are unable to join but would like to make a donation, this can be done at the Heritage Centre when open. Otherwise please send your cheque (payable to Heysham Heritage Association) to the Secretary at the address below.

*The Association works in partnership with the Heritage Trust for the North West, Registered Charity No. 508300.*

# HEYSHAM Heritage Association



Mesolithic Scraper

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The printing of 5000 copies of this leaflet has been very generously sponsored by a member of Heysham Heritage Association.

# The Cottage 22 Main Street Heysham



## Guide

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- ★ Heysham is an historic village and listed Conservation Area. The Heritage Centre adjoins the Cottage.
- ★ Heysham village looks over Morecambe Bay towards the Lakeland Fells and was painted by the artist J M W Turner.
- ★ Most of Heysham Head with its monuments is in the care of the National Trust.

Access :

*By car: M6 Motorway, junction 34.*

*Public transport: Bus or train to Lancaster or Morecambe, then bus (no. 2, 2A, 4 or 5)*

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