

This is the House History of 47 High Street, Great Ayton, North Yorkshire, formerly known as Holbrook House.

It was built in 1875 by two brothers, William and Thomas Hutton. both shoemakers as was their father, also called William, before them. William senior was born in Newton in 18, came to Great Ayton in 18, and was living elsewhere on the High Street. But in 1875 William junior, aged 33 years, and Thomas, 35 years, moved into their new house with their widowed father aged 73years.

They had bought a property on this site from Williamson Thomas (more of him later) in 1874. It included a dwellinghouse and yard and an orchard adjoining it, plus two cottages, a stable, granary and carhouse in yard and a pump.



Photograph in 1900

They later in 1876 bought another two cottages next to the property on the High Street.

The house was a three storey building, large in comparison with the properties close by. The shoemaking business must have been doing well. It consisted of two shops with living accommodation above and behind, also a workshop, stables and pump in the yard. The workshop was a two storeyed building where it is recorded in 1881 that William Hutton, senior, classified as a master shoemaker, employed one man and three boys, probably all relations, as we know his two sons and grandson(by another son) lived and worked here then. His wife, Elizabeth's, occupation was, according to the 1881 census, a shoe repairer. Quite unusual for a married woman's occupation to be listed.

Thomas never married but William married their housekeeper, Rosalind, in 1892 and had children late in life. His daughter, Sybil, inherited the property on his death in 1923. In 1914 there is an insurance certificate relating to the two shops, which were both in the name of William Hutton. In one he is described as a Glass and China Dealer and in the other lock-up shop as a Boot and Shoe Dealer. The shoemaking business on these premises came to an end sometime between the wars. Sybil and William, her father, had moved out of the house and were living in a cottage at Overbrook and let Holbrook House. Various people lived in the house and during the Second World War it was a lodging house with people renting individual rooms.

Sybil married in 1934 ? Phillips whom she had met at the Congregational Church, and they went to live in Marton. She still had an income from letting Holbrook House.

Various mortgages obtained over the last 50 years were eventually paid off and in 1958 she sold the property to Arthur Simpson for £1,300. In 1958 the numbering of houses in Great Ayton began and Holbrook House became 47 and 49 High Street.

At some stage he sold most of the orchard for the development of Beech Close sheltered housing which was completed in about 1958. The Simpsons used one of the shops as a general store and let the other, no.49, to different traders over 20 years.

In 1973 Arthur Simpson sold 47 /49 High Street to Dan and Hazel O'Sullivan for £14,000. For 6 years it reverted to private housing then in 1979 until 2001 the shop premises, now all one shop, became The Great Ayton Bookshop, selling new , secondhand and Antiquarian books run by Hazel O'Sullivan and Madalyn Jones.

In 1969 the property was entered as a Grade 2 listed building as a good example of Victorian shop architecture.

Williamson Thomas's grandfather, called confusingly, Thomas Williamson (1733-1801) was living on the High Street in the early 1800's working as a blacksmith, as was his uncle and grandfather (died 1746). His father was a farrier. Thomas Williamson's daughter, Ann, married a David Thomas and lived in Ruswarp, Whitby, they inherited the Ayton property, and he in 1833, when David died, left the property to their son Williamson Thomas.



Photograph in 1994

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 GREAT AYTON, HAMBLETON, NORTH YORKSHIRE
 Photographer: Mr Chris Broadribb
 Date Photographed: 22 November 2001
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 Grade II

GREAT AYTON HIGH STREET NZ 5510 (north side) 11/54 Nos 47 and 49-II

GREAT AYTON HIGH STREET NZ 5510 (north side) 11/54 Nos 47 and 49 - II House and shop, later C19. Coursed squared tooled stone; Welsh slate roof, stone stacks. Two storeys and attic, 2 bays. Left round-arched entrance holds door of 3 and 3 panels, with fanlight, flanked by part-reeded pilasters with leafy capitals which, with 3 more similar pilasters, framing a right double shop front with 3 round-arched lights and transoms at each side; supports a corniced fascia across the building. On first floor a tripartite window and a canted oriel on console brackets, all with sashes. Deep boarded eaves cornice. Fairly high-pitched roof has end chimneys and 2 pedimented dormers with side pilasters.

In 1989 it was classed as a listed building