

The locations of Barclays Bank, Lowick, Northumberland

1921 – 2000



- 2. Barclays Bank, Main Street by 1927
- 1. Barclays Bank, Main Street, 1921
- 3. Final location of Barclays in South Road.

Second Edition 25" OS Map revised 1897, Published 1898 Sheet XI.10 (Lowick)
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<https://maps.nls.uk/index.html>

According to Barclays Archives a sub-branch of the Bank opened in Lowick in 1921 in the cottage shown below. The notice in the window is headed *Deposits* and there



Courtesy of Barclays Group Archives 30.1748

appears to be a notice board on the wall. The cottage has been identified by several residents, as one that stood on the south side of Main Street between the Old School and School House but which had been pulled down before 1965. It does not appear on the Ordnance Survey maps published that year. By chance, a photo taken by George Bone from the upper floor of Eden House, (located on the north side of the village) shows part of the cottage and the building behind the Old School. The building, which can also be seen in the photo above, was a stable and garage belonging to Lyall Brothers, Carters.

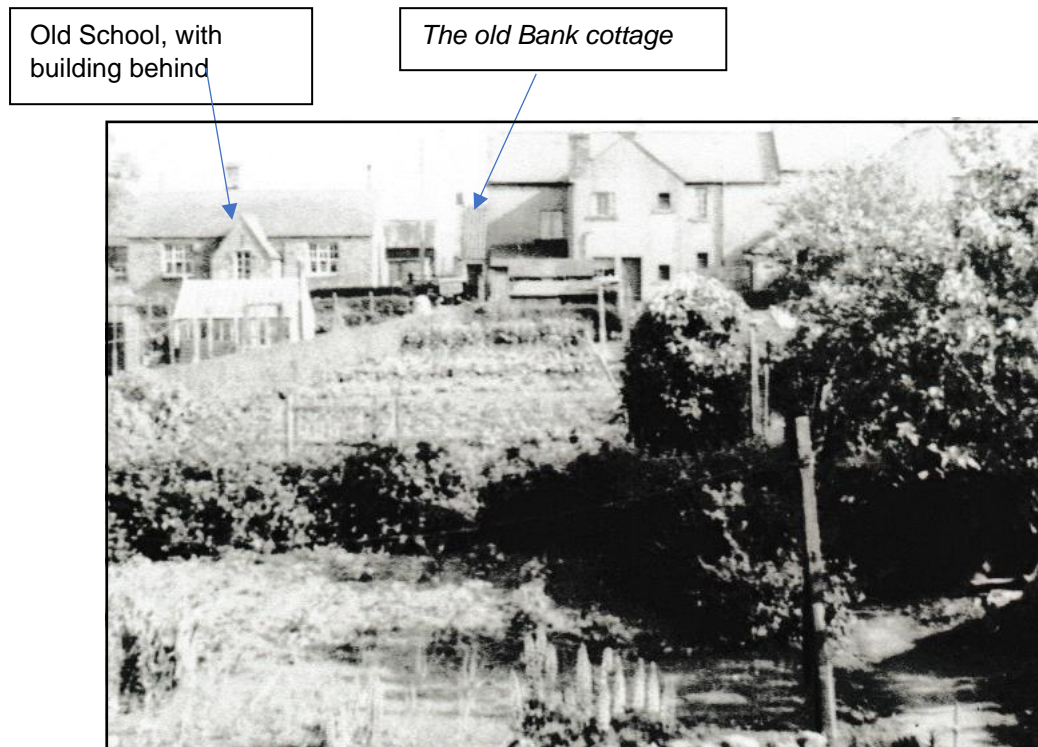


Photo taken from upper floor of Eden House looking towards the Old School, Main Street, c 1950s. *Courtesy George Bone*

By 1927, the sub-branch had moved across the road to one of the two storey cottages shown in the postcard below.



Keith Purvis's collection.

The row, consisting of a butcher's shop at the western or far end and three cottages, was sold by Sir John de Marie Haggerston in June 1912 to Mrs Mary Dixon Reavley. According to the Conveyance, the properties were occupied by John Young, Miss Allan and Northumberland County Council. The Council may have utilised a cottage and/or the land and outbuildings.

In March 1927, Mrs Reavley sold the properties to James Henry Forster Foreman of Main Street, Lowick, Butcher. This Conveyance states that the cottages were in the occupation of the Vendor, Barclays Bank Ltd and David Turnbull respectively. The accompanying Plan has the words written in pencil, *Bank Hs* [House] on the end cottage, followed by *Bank*, *House* and *Shop*, on the remaining three. The lane, coloured yellow, is Park Lane and leads from Main Street to an old cottage.



Plan attached to 1927 Conveyance. Reproduced by permission of the owners of 59 Main Street.

In 1938, Mr Foreman protested about paying water rates on the premises occupied by Barclays Bank Ltd but to no avail as Glendale Rural District Council confirmed that the premises were chargeable.

Barclays may have closed in 1942 for the war years, as did the other bank (Martins Bank). Both re-opened on Tuesday 7 May 1946, from 10am to 1pm.

A photo of the school children who attended the Old School in the late 1940s, conveniently includes the roof of the first cottage and a good view of the second cottage with the large door.



School children outside the Old School, c1940s

Courtesy George Bone

The door to the bank was reached by a set of steps, the ground floor being higher than the adjacent properties, due to the presence of a small cellar. This explains why the door in the old postcard, below right, appears to be set so very high.



Enlarged images of the door to the bank and the four small windows.

On sunny days, the Security Guard would sit on the wall near the steps. The four small windows to the right of the bank door can be seen in both images. The door to the small cottage occupied by Mr and Mrs Turnbull can just be made out at the far right of the postcard, just above the shopkeeper's head!

James Foreman died in June 1951 and his widow Mary, July 1959. According to the deeds their son Thomas Richard Foreman (known as Dick) sold the properties consisting of a shop, house, and two cottages, one of which was occupied by Barclays Bank, to Andrew Henry, a retired farmer previously of Moss Hall but by then of the Blue House, Lowick. A reference to Mr R Turnbull of Bank House appears in the Glendale Rural District Council Minutes in January 1956.

Barclays moved to South Road in 1965, but before discussing its new location, it is worth noting the changes that have since occurred to the old property.

The easternmost cottage, referred to as *Rose Cottage* in the conveyance, was sold in September 1964. [No 63 Main Street]. A portion of the adjoining cottage was sold in 1973 to Cecil and Marjorie Moffat for use as a wool shop, with Cecil repairing shoes at the rear. This had previously been the Bank. [No. 61 Main Street]



A blurry copy of plan attached to the 1973 Conveyance shows the shop.
Reproduced by permission of the owners of 59 Main Street.

In 1995 *Old Bank House* (Rose Cottage) was advertised for sale by Halifax Property Services in the Newcastle Journal, 2 September. It was described as having a living room, kitchen, shower room, two bedrooms and garden. The digital copy of the photo included in the advertisement is of very poor quality. [The newspaper page in question is under copyright and cannot be reproduced here.]

Planning drawings for converting the shop to a garage with bedroom over, to form part of No.63, were submitted to Northumberland County Council in 2000. They include sketches of the then existing front and rear views of the two properties and show the steps leading up to No. 61's front door, and the cellar.



61 Main Street, now the garage, and No. 63, the remodelled Barclays Bank and cottage. *Image by Eileen Langdale, 2019 with permission of the property owner.*

The third location, South Road

In December 1964 Barclays received planning permission to make alterations to the property at the junction of South Road and Main Street. The plans only show the elevations on South Road, Main Street and at the rear, and not the internal layout.



Old cottage at the junction of South Road and Main Street
Courtesy of Barclays Group Archives 30.1748a



Old Cottage on Main Street - *Courtesy of Barclays Group Archives 30.1748b*

You can just make out the name of the bakers *J & M Carmichaels* on the lower tiles to the right of the door in the image above. The small derelict cottage to the left of the

Bakery was demolished. After renovation commenced on the remainder of the building it was found that the condition of the structure necessitated its total demolition. Revised plans were submitted in May 1965 and the following month Barclays received permission to demolish the derelict property and to erect a new bank. It would seem from the drawings that the larger part of the elevation facing South Road was rebuilt, the stone colour washed and a new roof added. The far end was retained, with a note on the plan *to lower eaves of adjoining property to eaves and dress with cement. The existing pantile roof to be demolished and the eaves level lowered. The rear elevation, that is the one parallel to the South Road elevation, was retained, repointed, brushed down and colour washed.*



Barclays Bank, 1965. Courtesy of Barclays Group Archives 30.1748

An ex-employee recalls working at Lowick from time to time, between 1970 and 1973, while aged 18 to 21. It was the practice of sub-branches to be manned by junior staff. He was based in Berwick but worked in Lowick on a Tuesday and Friday, the bank being open 10.00am until 1.00pm. He travelled by taxi and was accompanied by a guard, an elderly gentleman who liked to occupy his time.

In March 2000 giving only five weeks' notice, Barclays decided to close a number of branches in North Northumberland, including that at Lowick. Alan Beith, the MP for Berwick upon Tweed, spoke strongly against the closures. His speech can be seen at <https://api.parliament.uk/historic-hansard/westminster-hall/2000/mar/15/barclays-bank-closures-northumberland>

Permission was granted for a change of use from a Bank to residential in August 2001.

No doubt many will have memories of Barclays Bank. If you have further information do please get in touch with Lowick Heritage Group.

Sources

Berwick Record Office: LG 1/11, LG 1/24 Glendale Rural District Council Minutes

Glendale Register of Plans, Berwick Archives: 1553 5/11/1964 Messrs Reavell & Cahill, 8 Sandgate, Berwick, owner Messrs Barclays Bank Ltd, approved 30/12/1964 U64/55 Alterations to property at junction of South Rd & Main St, Lowick, for use as a Branch Bank.

1578 20/5/1965 Messrs Reavell & Cahill, 8 Sandgate, Berwick, owner Messrs Barclays Bank Ltd, approved 16/6/1965 U65/27 Demolition of derelict property and erection of Branch Bank at junction of South Rd & Main St, Lowick, for use as a Branch Bank.

National Library of Scotland Second Edition 25" OS Map revised 1897, Published 1898 Sheet XI.10 (Lowick) <https://maps.nls.uk/index.html>

British Library Newspapers on Findmypast.co.uk: *Newcastle Journal*, 2 September 1995; *Berwick Advertiser* 30 May 1935; 25 April 1946

Deeds owned by the current owner of No 59 Main Street.

Photographs: Barclays Group Archives 30.1748, 30.1748a, 30.1748c; the Keith Purvis collection, Eileen Langdale; George Bone

Northumberland County Council: 1995 Planning Application 95/B/0643/P; 2000 Planning Application N/00/B/0432

Julie Gibbs, May 2021