

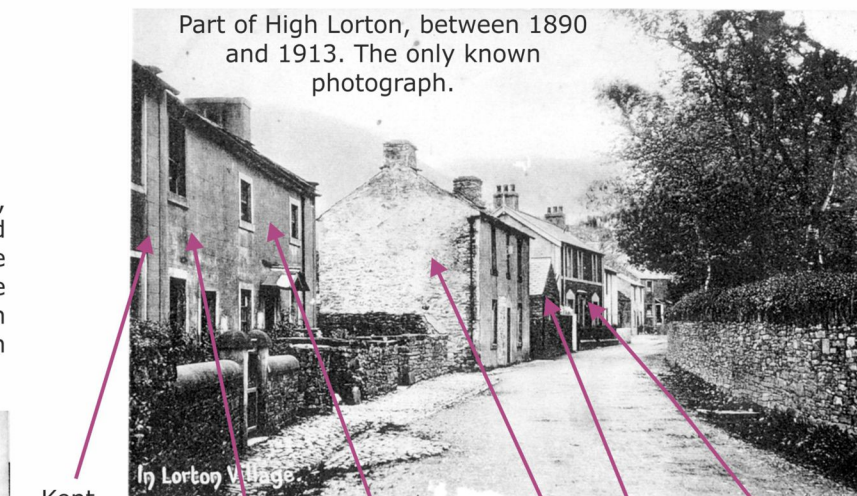
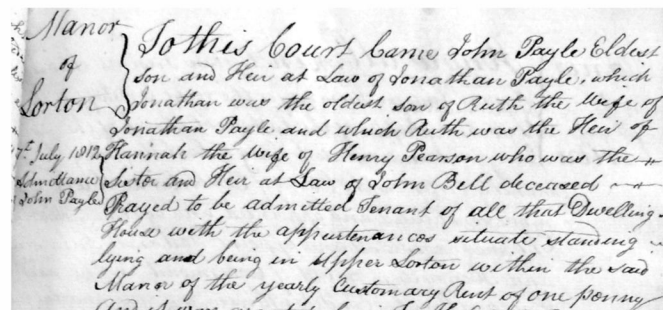
This panel illustrates how the old block on the site was used for general housing

A history of the use of a piece of land in High Lorton, previously for a wooden bungalow, and now for a pleasant garden space.

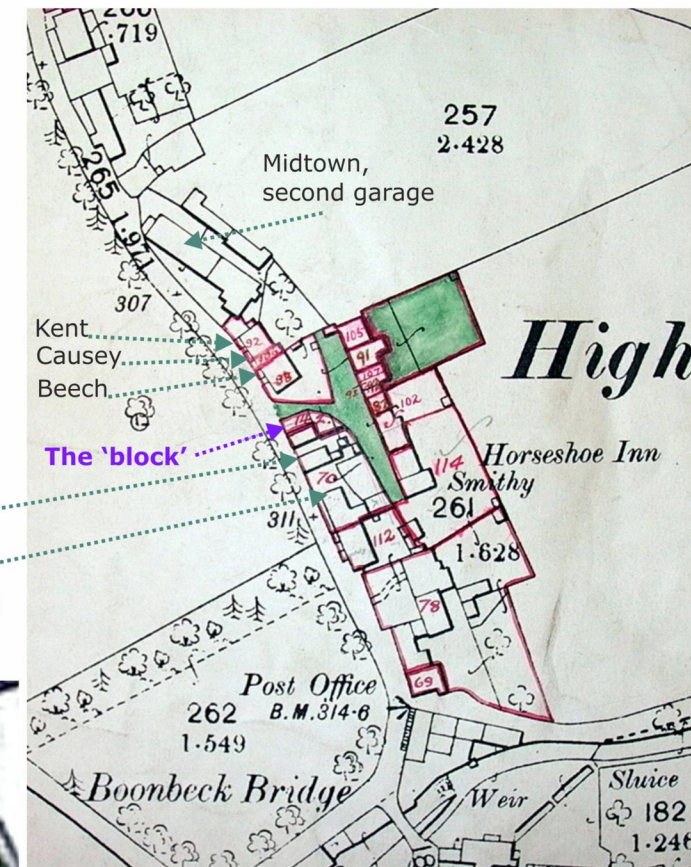
In his lecture on Lorton and Loweswater Eighty Years Ago, given in 1891, John Bolton recorded his mother-in-law's recollections of around 1811:

'The block what I may call Mary Benson's house was 80 years ago one large house. It must have been a house of some repute when built, for a very good oak cabinet, well carved used to be in it. Perhaps it is yet Mr Towers? It was occupied by a woman named Martha Pale & when I was looking through the Registers, I saw the name & thought it was a mistake for Peale or Peile. But it came over & over Pale, & was pronounced I find Peall. She was an elderly body & kept a publick back-hus. The door front was flagged with rammels, & when the lads ran over them (as lads will) old Martha used to wait for them with her long-shanked malin, so the game would not be all on the boy's side. You know the old Cumberland expression "as black as a malin". When Martha's work was over she used to put on a clean blue gingham bed-gown & sit in a low chair & shuffle her clogs backwards & forwards. She had a son John ...'

John Payle was admitted in 1812, as heir to John Bell, in the manor of Lorton belonging to the Dean and Chapter of Carlisle Cathedral. John Payle was the son of a farmer at High Nook, Loweswater. Martha Payle was his mother. She died in 1823, aged 82. With John Payle as the owner of the block, the connection with slating ceased.

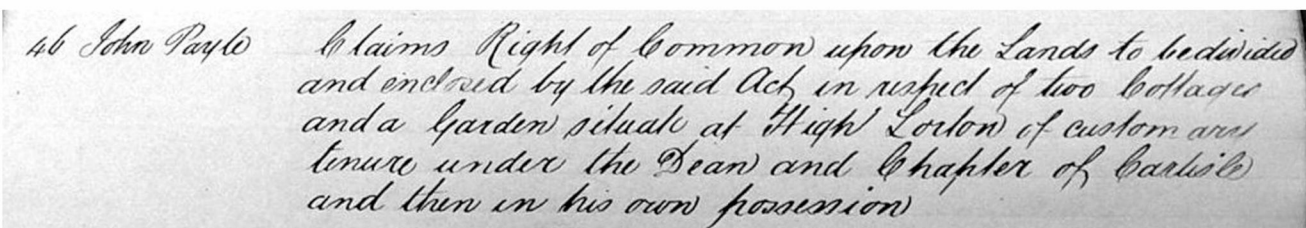


Kent Cottage Causey Cottage (a barn conversion) Beech Cottage (Borthwick the tailor) Joiner's shop Red House
The 'block' demolished by 1913



This OS map above of High Lorton in 1899 was annotated for this land tax survey in 1913. The old block where the first garage was later built was now in two ownerships, as Mr Burn's premises has expanded. The land tax Field Book, in The National Archives, confirms that the former three houses had been demolished and that this plot of building land, of 143 square yards, was worth £14 per annum. The owner was W A Wilson.

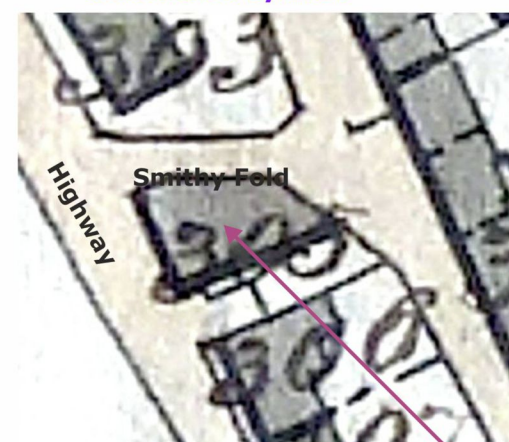
The enclosure of the commons, 1826



The enclosure of the commons of Lorton, by an Act of 1826, resulted in the first survey and plan of High Lorton, where John Payle's property was no.305. John Payle's small part of an old farm, now two cottages, had rights on the common. He received one acre of land just above the present Kirkfell House. By 1840 he had sold it.



Enclosure Allotments, 1835 plan



John Payle's block of two cottages, number 305 in the 1826/7 survey

Occupants of John Payles's two cottages in 1841, 305 on plan

John Payle 60-4 agricultural labourer, (owner)
Isabella Thompson 50-4 baker, (occupier)
Mary Thompson 20-4 ag lag (daughter)
 Joseph Thompson 65-9 ag lab
 Anne Thompson 60-4 ag lab
 Isaac Thompson 40-4 labourer

William Wise 35-9 mason
 Margaret 30-4
 Mary 15-9
 Joseph 13 apprentice mason
 John 7
 Sarah 5
 William 2

Bella Thompson the baker, 1787-1856

Back in 1826, Bella Thompson, the village baker lived in a building which was replaced by or incorporated in Lorton Park by 1830. The bakehouse was converted into the current kitchen, to the left of the house.

John Bolton wrote:
Here lived Bella Thompson, a short, thick, round-about body who kept a bakehouse. I fancy that Mary Benson whom I knew would be just such another as she.

Mary Thompson was Bella's natural daughter, born in 1819, and Mary's natural daughter, Rebecca, was born 1835 and buried 1838. Mary married John Benson in 1839, becoming the Mary Benson known by John Bolton.



Lorton Park

Manorial tenants (owners) of the property, 305 on plan

- 1812 Admittance of John Payle
- 1849 John Payle died in Buttermere, aged 81
- 1866 Elizabeth, wife of Daniel Fleming admitted, as niece of John Payle
- 1866 Pearson White admitted
- 1872 Isaac White, heir of Pearson, surrendered and Moffat Towers admitted.