

Occupants of Gower House

1835 to 1839	Matthew Fern	4 years
1841 to 1856	Jane Bunney	15 years
1857 to 1858	William Askin	2 years
1861 to 1871	John Watkin	10 years
1876 to 1889	John Cundall	13 years
1890	William Jones	1 year
1892 to 1902	Eliza North	10 years
1903	Alfred Sleath	1 year
1905 to 1911	Lillie Squirrell	6 years
1913 to 1914	Mr and Mrs Robert Marston	2 years
1915 to 1945	Florence Ward	30 years
1919 to 1958	Henry Stretton-Ward	39 years
1919 to 1967	Jassamine Stretton- Ward	48 years
1924 to 1955	Lillie Squirrell	31 years

As mentioned in the main article, the house is named in the 1876 directory when the resident is John Cundall. The directories for 1874 and 1872 make no mention of the house, but it is named on the 1871 census when the resident is John Watkin, who was a Merchant and agent for the Grand Junction Canal Company.

The directory for 1868 records John Watkin living in High Street but does not name the house, however, the directories for 1866 and 1863 record it as Warnford House. So while the house is not named on the 1861 census, by studying the route taken by the enumerator, plus the fact that the resident is still given as Mr Watkin, I am confident I have found the correct property.

The 1860 directory shows John Watkin living in Ranelagh Street, so he must have moved in to what was to become Gower House sometime between this directory being compiled and the census being taken in April 1861.

As well as recording John Watkin at Warnford House, the 1863 directory also records the person living in the other half of the property, that person being Thomas Pearson. As the directory for 1860 lists a Thomas Pierson, living in High Street, I took this to be the same person as the one listed in 1863. This would mean the person living in the part of the property that was to become Gower House in 1860 was William Russell, who the directory states was living in Warnford House at the time.

However, when I looked at the Parish Rate Books ⁽ⁱ⁾ I found that my assumption was wrong. The book for 1860 does record a Thomas Pierson but he is shown as living at the other end of High Street, near to its junction with Tachbrook Road.

The rate books tell us that from 1859 to 1860 this part of the property was empty, from 1857 to 1858 the occupier was William Askin and from 1856 back to 1840 it was occupied by Jane Bunney. It is unoccupied again in 1840 and from 1839 back to when it was built in 1834 it was occupied by Matthew Fern.

We know from the 1851 census that Mrs Jane Bunney was a Fund Holding Gentlewoman. This census also records the house as Warnford Terrace. This name is also used in the directory for 1835 when the property was newly built. This seems to suggest that this was the name originally intended for this part of High Street, but the rest of the grand terrace was never built.

On the following list

Census Returns are in Black, Directory entries in Green and Parish
Rate Book Entries in Orange

N.B. there is no distinction between the two parts of the property
before the Rate Book of 1839

1834		Property Not Listed as Being Built ?
1835	Matthew Fern a Plasterer	Warnford Terrace – Not Named
1835 to 1837	Matthew Fern	High Street – Not Named
1838		There is no Rate Book for this year.

1839	Matthew Fern	High Street – Not Named
1840	Unoccupied	High Street – Not Named
1841	Jane Bunney	High Street – Not Named
1841	Jane Bunney – Independent	High Street – Not Named
1841	Jane Bunney	High Street – Not Named
1842		There is no Rate Book for this year.
1843	Jane Bunney	High Street – Not Named
1844		There is no Rate Book for this year.
1849	Mrs Bunney	High Street – Warnford House
1850	Jane Bunney	High Street – Not Named
1851	Jane Bunney – Gentlewomen / Fund Holder	Warnford Terrace – Not Named
1851	Jane Bunney	High Street – Warnford House
1846 to 1855	Jane Bunney	High Street – Not Named
1854	Mrs Bunney	High Street – Warnford House
1855		There is no Rate Book for this year.

1856	Jane Bunny	High Street – Not Named
1857 to 1858	William Askin	High Street – Not Named
1859 to 1860	Unoccupied	High Street – Not Named
1860		No Record of the House Found
1861 to 1869	John Watkin	High Street – Not Named
1861	John Watkin a Timber and ?? Merchant	High Street – Not Named
1863	John Watkin	Radford Road - Warnford House
1866	John Watkin a Merchant / Canal Agent	High Street – Warnford House
1868	John Watkin	High Street – Not Named
1871	John Watkin a Seed Crusher	Radford Road – Warnford House
1872		This part of the property is Not Recorded
1874		This part of the property is Not Recorded
1876	John Cundall	Radford Road – Gower House
1880	John Cundall	59, High Street – Gower House
1881	John Cundall an Architect	High St. /Radford Rd. Not Named
1883 &1884	Mr J. Cundall	63, High Street – Gower House
1885		There is no Directory for this year
1886	Mr J. Cundall	High Street – Gower House
1887 &1888	Mr J. Cundall	57, High Street – Gower House

1889	John Cundall	57, High Street – Gower House
1890	William Jones	57, High Street – Gower House
1891		There is no Directory for this year
1891	Uninhabited	11, Radford Road – Not named
1892 to 1902	Eliza North	11, Radford Road – Gower House
1901	Eliza North – No Occupation	11, Radford Road – Not Named
1903	No Resident Recorded	11, Radford Road – Gower House
1904	Alfred Sleath	11, Radford Road – Gower House
1905 to 1906	Miss Squirrell	11, Radford Road – Gower House
1907		No Record of the House Found
1908	Miss Squirrell – Nursing Association	11, Radford Road – Gower House
1909	Miss Squirrell	11, Radford Road – Not Named
1910 to 1911	Miss Squirrell – Maternity Nurse	11, Radford Road – Gower House
1911		This part of the property is Not Recorded
1912	Nursing Home - No Resident Recorded	11, Radford Road – Not Named
1913	Mrs Marston	11, Radford Road – Gower House
1913	Robert Frank and Mrs Marston	11, Radford Road – Gower House
1915 to	Mrs Ward – Nurse and	11, Radford Road – Gower

1916	Masseuse	House
1917 to 1918		There are no Directories for these years
1919	Mrs Ward – Nurse and Masseuse Henry B. Ventham Rev. S. and Mrs Church	11, Radford Road – Gower House
1920	Mrs Ward – Nurse and Masseuse	11, Radford Road – Gower House
1921 to 1923		There are no directories for these years-
1924	Mrs James Ward Miss Squirrell - Midwife	11, Radford Road – Gower House
1925		There is no directory for this year.
1926	Mrs James Ward Miss Squirrell - Midwife	11, Radford Road – Gower House
1927	Mrs F. R. Ward	11, Radford Road – Gower House
1928	Mrs James Ward Miss Lillie R. Squirrell - Nurse	11, Radford Road – Gower House
1929		There are no directory for this year
1930 to 1931	Mrs James Ward Miss Lillie R. Squirrell - Nurse	11, Radford Road – Gower House
1932		There is no directory for this year.
1933 to 1934	Mrs James Ward Miss Lillie R. Squirrell - Medical Nurse	11, Radford Road – Gower House
1935		There is no directory for this year.
1936	Mrs James Ward Miss Lillie R. Squirrell - Medical Nurse	11, Radford Road – Gower House

1937		There is no directory for this year.
1838 to 1940	Mrs James Ward Miss Lillie R. Squirrell - Medical Nurse	11, Radford Road – Gower House
1941		There is no directory for this year.
1942 to 1943	Mrs James Ward Miss Lillie R. Squirrell	11, Radford Road – Gower House
1944		There is no directory for this year.
1945	Mrs James Ward Miss Lillie R. Squirrell	11, Radford Road – Gower House
1946 to 1947		There are no directories for these years
1948	Lillian Richardson Squirrell Henry Stretton-Ward	11, Radford Road – Gower House
1949		There is no directory for this year
1950	Lillian Richardson Squirrell Henry Stretton-Ward	11, Radford Road – Gower House
1951 to 1952		There are no directories for these years
1953	Lillian Richardson Squirrell Henry Stretton-Ward	11, Radford Road – Gower House
1954 to 1955		There are no directories for these years
1956	Henry Stretton-Ward	11, Radford Road – Gower House
1957 to 1958		There are no directories for these years
1959	Mrs J. Stretton-Ward	11, Radford Road – Not Named
1960		There is no directory for this year

1961	Mrs J. Stretton-Ward	11, Radford Road – Not Named
1962		There is no directory for this year
1963 to 1967	Mrs J. Stretton-Ward	11, Radford Road – Not Named
1968		House Demolished during this year