

THE JUNCTION HOTEL, EASTLEIGH

The Junction Hotel was sited at the northern end of the space in front of Eastleigh Station, opposite the Home Tavern. It was pulled down in 1970 to make way for the present station car park. The following notes give an account of its construction and early history.

From the following report, which appeared in the Hampshire Advertiser dated Saturday 28th August 1841, it would seem that the Junction Hotel was in the course of erection in August of that year:

"COUNTY BENCH – On Thursday. This being the annual licensing day, the court was somewhat crowded; and the magistrates determined on hearing all the applications first and then deciding on them afterwards. Thomas Slade, for a house at Stoke, near the terminus of the Gosport Branch. The house was at present in an unfinished state, and of course the case was at once passed over".

From the characteristic structure of the chimney stacks, it is evident that the building was designed by Mr. Tite, architect to the London and Southampton Railway Company, who designed Bishopstoke Junction Station and the Termini buildings at Vauxhall and Southampton. The builder was Mr. David Nicholson of Wandsworth, who was responsible for the building of most of the stations of the London and Southampton Railway Company, but apparently he erected the Junction Hotel for himself.

The premises being completed a few months later, they were licensed as a beerhouse. The first licensee was Miss Mary Slade, the daughter of Mr. Thomas Slade, the licensee of the Wykeham Arms in Winchester, who, being an innkeeper, could not take out a licence for a beerhouse, so the licence was granted in the name of his daughter.

Unfortunately, although the licence was granted for the sale of beer only, Mr. Slade sold a little wine and spirits sometimes, for which he was reported to the Supervisor of Excise at Southampton, whose agents trapped Slade into selling wine and spirits to them on 30th July 1842.

After this offence, Slade hurriedly obtained a licence to sell wines and spirits, but it was too late, and on 15th September, his daughter was convicted for retailing spirits without a licence to do so. This was a sad blow for Slade, for he not only lost the licence for the Junction Hotel but for the Wykeham Arms as well, and he had to sell up and go out of business.

On 15th July 1843, the house was advertised to be LET with immediate possession at a moderate rent, and on 9th September 1843, another advertisement appeared announcing that *“James Heath respectfully makes known to the Public that he has now entered upon the Junction Hotel, Bishop’s Stoke Station, South Western Railway, where he intends by every possible exertion to meet the wishes of his customers”*.

James Heath was a railway contractor who employed men to work on the Bishopstoke and Salisbury Line Railway, for which he had obtained a contract. He boarded and lodged several of his men at the Junction Hotel, deducting the cost of their maintenance from their wages. There were frequent disagreements between Heath and his employees over the balance of their wages, which resulted in Heath appearing in court on more than one occasion.

In December 1845, David Nicholson decided to dispose of the premises and they were advertised to be sold by Auction, at the Junction Hotel, on 8th January 1846. They were bought by Peter Young of the Twyford Brewery, Twyford, and at the end of the same year, James Heath announced that he had completed his contract on the Bishopstoke and Salisbury Line Railway and put up his plant for sale by Auction on 29th December 1846.

At the Southampton County Bench on Thursday 25th March 1847, the licence of the Junction Hotel was transferred from Mr. James Heath to Mr. Charles White, who was a native of Thatcham, Berks. Charles White was 34 years of age when he took the house, his wife Jane, a native of Winchester, being one year younger. Four years later, the Bishopstoke Cheese Market was established between the main railway line and Dutton Lane off Bishopstoke Road. With the completion of the Salisbury Line Railway and the setting up of the Cheese Market, the importance of the Junction Hotel began to grow. Peter Young identified himself with the Cheese Market in which he bought shares. He also added to the Junction Hotel the Market Room, where the annual market dinners were held. This later became the billiards room.

These annual dinners and other similar functions were patronised by many of the local gentry, one of whom was the Hon. Ralph Heneage Dutton, who in later years was to become the Chairman of the London and South Western Railway Company. It was he who laid the foundation stone of the Eastleigh Railway Institute. At the time of which we are speaking he was residing at “Spring Grove”, Church Road, Bishopstoke.

Later, the name was altered to become "The Junction Family Hotel". It was licensed to let horses and carriages for hire and for a time those connected with the hotel enjoyed an era of prosperity. However, misfortune was soon to beset them. Charles White's two daughters died in 1856; his wife Jane died suddenly in February 1859; Peter Young died on 4th November 1859, and Charles White died on 25th December 1860. The ownership of the hotel passed to Peter Young's executors and the licence was transferred from Charles White to John Russell.

In the year 1871, a notice appeared in the local press stating that the hotel and other property of the late Peter Young were to be sold pursuant to an Order of the High Court of Chancery. This sale took place at the Junction Hotel on 31st August 1871, when the premises were bought on behalf of the London and South Western Railway Company for £2,300.

John Russell carried on the business of the hotel for some twelve years, after which his mind became deranged and he ended his own life on 18th June 1873, following which the licence was transferred to Charlotte, his wife. Charlotte Russell continued in the business until 11th February 1881, when the licence was granted to Richard Glasspool. However, Mrs. Russell continued to live at the Junction Hotel until she found a suitable residence for herself. Eventually, she moved to "Farleigh", a semi-detached house in Southampton Road. Charlotte Russell died on 1st September 1902 and was buried in Eastleigh Churchyard. Her house, at the corner of Blenheim Road, became part of the Unity Club, recently destroyed.

Richard Glasspool took a great interest in local affairs. In October 1884, he was instrumental in forming the Loyal Walton Lodge of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows, which opened at the Junction Hotel on 25th October. In April 1884, he was elected a churchwarden of the Parish Church.

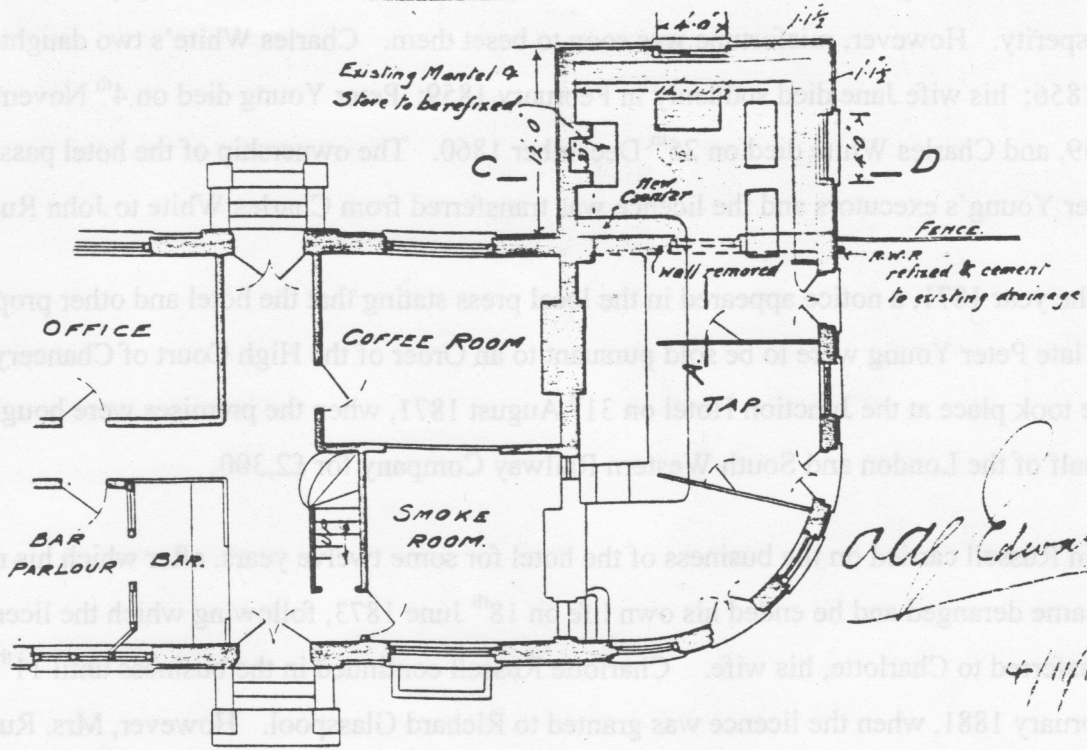
In November 1887, Richard Glasspool announced that he was leaving the district to take over the Greyhound Hotel at Hampton Court. On Monday 28th November 1887, he was presented with a magnificent clock by the townspeople of Eastleigh, and on 30th December 1887, the licence of the Junction Hotel was transferred from him to Mr. Joshua Ellis, secretary to Messrs. Spiers and Pond. Since that date, the Junction Hotel has been controlled by a catering establishment who have appointed managers for the hotel and refreshment rooms.

Charles E. James

November 1972

L.S.W.R. EASTLEIGH. JUNCTION HOTEL.

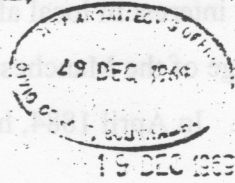
PROPOSED ADDITIONS.



British Railways Southern Region

Winter Office
London SE1
G1-020 5151 Tel. 2359 R. W. Coombe FRICS Estate Contractor

The Southampton Corporation,
Council Offices,
Southampton,
Hants.



Y/Y
o/r M/M

Dear Sirs,

Public Health Act 1936 - Section 29
PROVISION: Junction Hotel

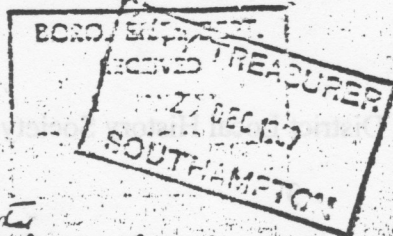
I hereby give notice under the above Act of my intention to have this provision cancelled.

Orders are being invited for the work and the contractor will be instructed to serve the required notices and perform all works required by the Act.

Yours faithfully,
for R.W. COOMBE

Walter

Assistant (Maintenance)



Received
5.1.70

W. Butler
R. W. Coombe