

BURGH ISLAND HOTEL, DEVON



ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORY

ENGLISH GRAND SEASIDE HOTELS

BRIAN ROBERTS

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BRIGHTON- GRAND HOTEL



EASTBOURNE- QUEENS HOTEL



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BLACKPOOL- METROPOLE HOTEL 1785



The Metropole Hotel opened in 1785 and is still the only Blackpool Hotel located directly on the shoreline. Originally named Bailey's Hotel by the owner a local farmer, Lawrence Bailey, it opened with 34 bedrooms, 3 dining rooms and a lounge. From 1826 it had a succession of owners, starting with Robert Dickson who renamed it the Higher Royal Hotel. In 1852, it was taken over by Robert Rossall, who renamed it Rossall's Dickson Hotel, but in 1867 it changed back to Bailey's.

Meanwhile Blackpool had changed. In 1856, the first promenade along the beach was created. In 1870, this was upgraded and a sea-wall added, leaving Bailey's the only hotel on the seaward side of the promenade. Then in 1885 the trams arrived with the first section of track laid directly outside the hotel on its landward side.

The hotel was renovated and enlarged in 1873 and again in 1876 and 1900, becoming twice the original size. In 1939 it was requisitioned by the government. After more owners and name changes, by 2018, the Grand Metropole Hotel, had 223 bedrooms and two restaurants.

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BLACKPOOL- METROPOLE HOTEL



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BLACKPOOL- METROPOLE HOTEL



BOURNEMOUTH- ROYAL BATH HOTEL 1838

Bournemouth—Royal Bath Hotel.
TARIFF, À LA CARTE OR "INCLUSIVE."



No charge for Attendance or Lights.

GOLF.

GARAGE. INSPECTION PIT.

PALM LOUNGE, Finest in the Kingdom. Afternoon Tea a Spécialité.

Hotel Orchestra and Entertainments daily.

Electric Lifts.

Mr RITZ, of the Carlton and Hyde Park Hotels, London, and the Hotel Ritz, Paris, says: "I shall be delighted to recommend the Royal Bath Hotel whenever the opportunity occurs. I know I can do so in confidence, as I consider it excellent in every respect." The "Outlook," June 4th, 1910—"One of the most luxurious Hotels in the World."
New King's Hall for Banquets, Balls, &c.

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Patronised by H.M. King Edward VII and other members of the Royal Family, the British Medical Association, etc. The late Mr. Edmund Yates on his last sojourn wrote—"A charming Hotel, excellently conducted, perfect in comfort, cleanliness and cookery."

Apply to Secretary for Tariff and Souvenir.

Te'graphic Address: "LUXURIATE." Telephone No. 802.

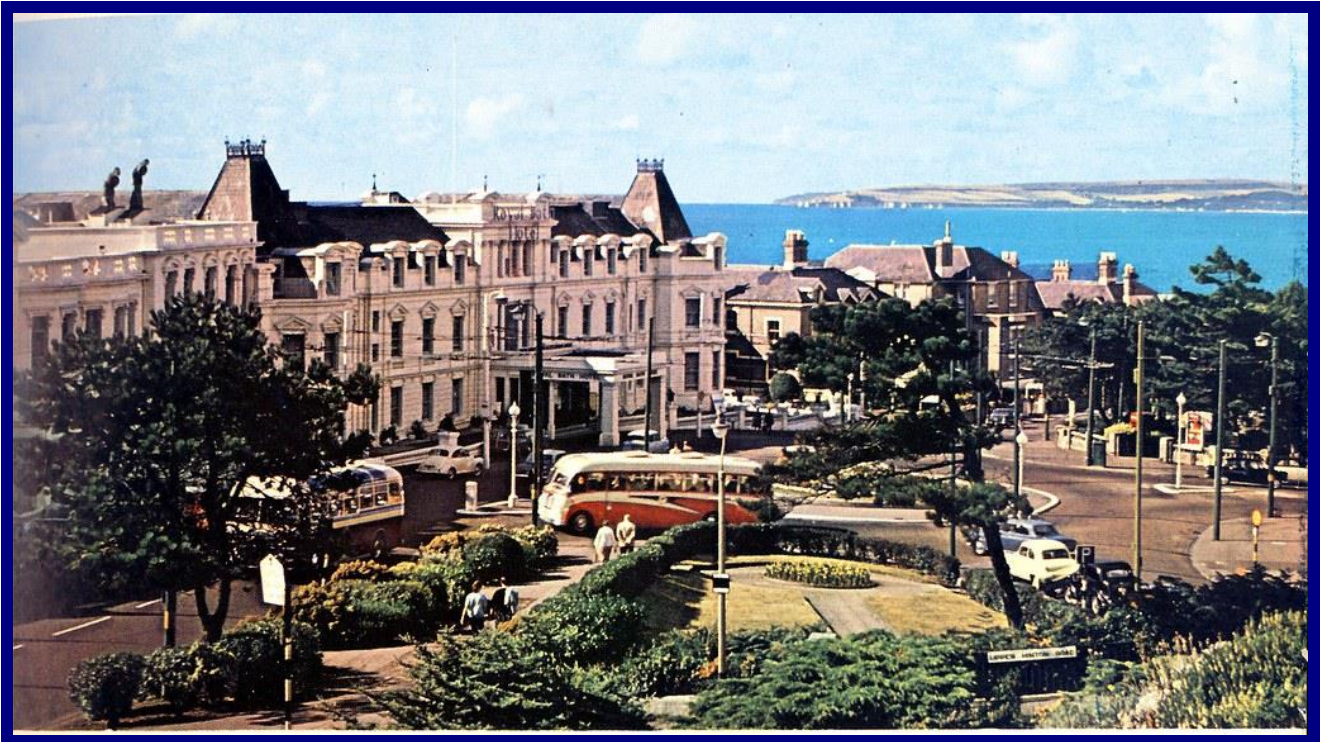
The hotel, built by George Tapper-Gervis, opened on Queen Victoria's coronation day in June 1838. A 1878 extension was designed by Christopher Crabb Creeke.

The above advertisement, undated but from 1910 or shortly thereafter, lists some of the features of the Royal Bath Hotel. The tariff was a la carte or inclusive, with "no charge for Attendance or Lights." It boasts of being patronised by H.M. King Edward VII and other members of the Royal Family. The hotel had a fashionable Palm Lounge and Hotel Orchestra and, by contrast, a Garage Inspection Pit, Golf and Electric Lifts.

Since 1974, the Royal Bath Hotel has been a Grade II Listed Building.

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BOURNEMOUTH- ROYAL BATH HOTEL



BOURNEMOUTH- ROYAL BATH HOTEL



BRIGHTON- GRAND HOTEL 1864



The Grand Hotel was designed by the architect John Whichcord Jr., and built in 1864 on the site previously occupied by the West Battery at Artillery Place, part of Brighton's 18th century coastal fortifications. It was intended for "members of the upper classes", being an example of Italian influence in Victorian architecture.

It was claimed to have advanced engineering, notably the "Ascending Omnibus", a hydraulically-powered lift powered from cisterns in the hotel roof. (It is said that this was the first lift, outside London, to have been built in the UK.)

A bomb, planted by the IRA (Provisional Irish Republican Army) exploded in the early morning of 12 October 1984, in an attempt to assassinate Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, but failed. The hotel was re-opened in 1986.

The hotel has 201 rooms, 77 of which are classed as "sea-view" including a "Presidential Suite", conference facilities for 1,000 guests and the Cyan Restaurant and Bar.

BRIGHTON- GRAND HOTEL



J.S.&C^o

N^o 1933.

The Grand Hotel Brighton.

Regencysociety.org

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BRIGHTON- GRAND HOTEL



BRIGHTON- METROPOLE HOTEL 1890

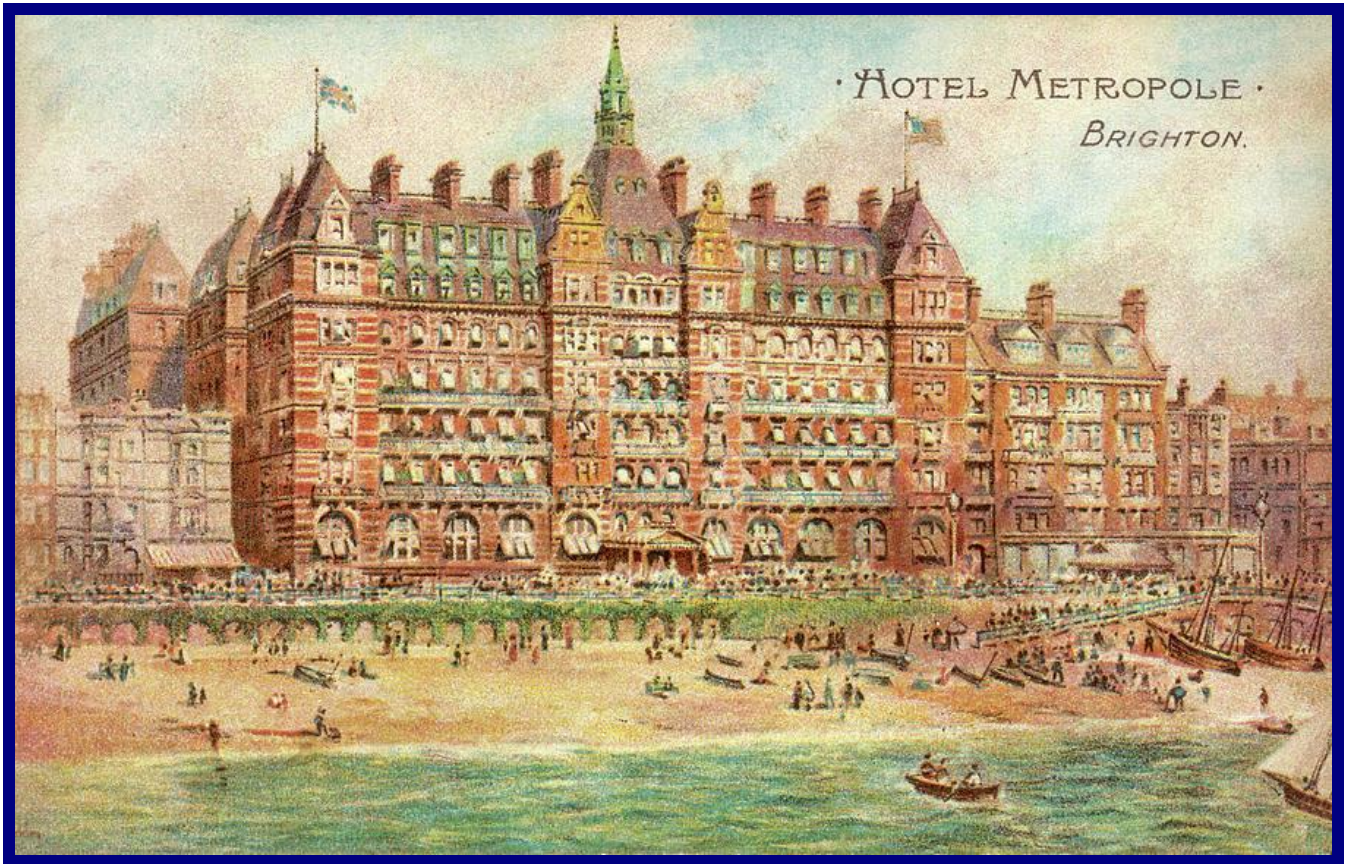


The hotel opened in 1890 having been designed by Alfred Waterhouse. He was one of the leading architects of the time, responsible for both London's Natural History Museum and University College. The original cost was £57,000.

Originally with two manually controlled elevators, another three, including a luggage elevator, were added in the 1970s. All five elevators were installed by the Otis Elevator Company.

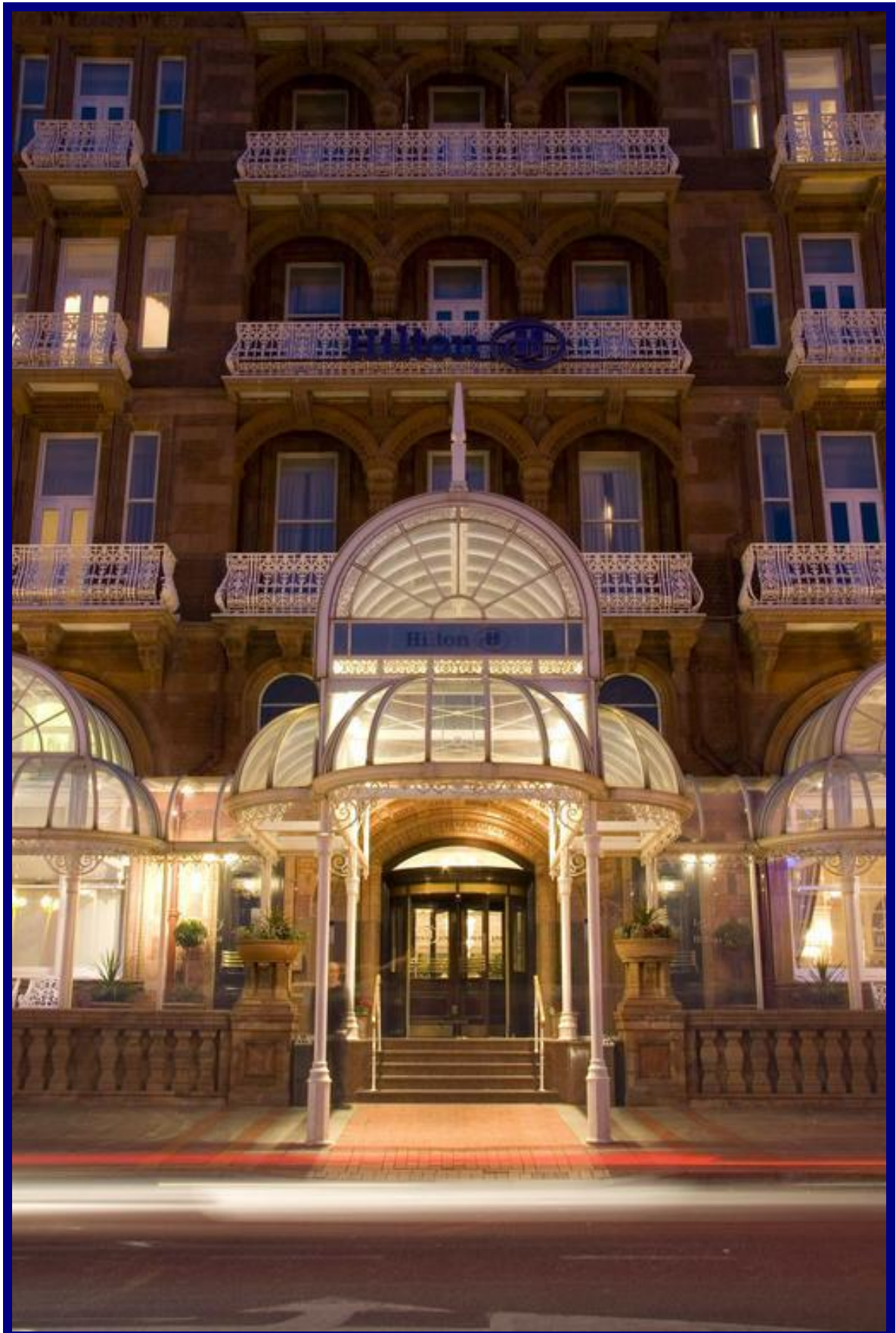
In the 1960-70 period, a two-storey block of flats for residential use was built on top of the hotel. Now with 340 bedrooms, the hotel is said to be the largest residential Conference Centre in the South of England.

BRIGHTON- METROPOLE HOTEL



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BRIGHTON- METROPOLE HOTEL



BURGH ISLAND HOTEL, DEVON 1929



In the 1890s, a prefabricated wooden house was built on the island and used for weekend parties. In 1927, the island was sold to the film-maker Archibald Nettlefold, of Nettlefold Studios, heir to the GKN engineering firm, who built the present Art Deco hotel. Additions were made in the 1930s when it became a popular destination. This included a room created from the captain's cabin of the warship HMS Ganges. Burgh Island Hotel is linked to the crime novelist Agatha Christie as it inspired the settings for two of her novels.

During World War II, the hotel was used as a recovery centre for wounded RAF personnel, while the top two floors were damaged by a bomb. Despite being repaired, it suffered a period of post war decline, until restored during the early 1990s.

The island is some 270 yards from the mainland at Bigbury-on-Sea and can be reached on foot at low tide. At high tide, a sea tractor carries passengers on a raised platform to and from the island (shown on page 18).

Burgh Island Hotel is now a Grade II Listed Building.

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BURGH ISLAND HOTEL, DEVON



<18>

BURGH ISLAND HOTEL, DEVON



CROMER- HOTEL de PARIS 1830



The Hotel de Paris is on a Norfolk cliff top in the centre of Cromer overlooking its Victorian Pier. The first hotel was built and owned by the French aristocratic family of Baron del Barr, probably escaping from the French Revolution of 1799. Opened in 1830, it was described in 1836 as a "Boarding House." By 1845 it was listed as the "Hotel de Paris" and sold to Henry Jarvis, a local businessman. By 1860, a third and possibly fourth floor had been added.

In 1877, the Great Eastern Railway arrived. The Hotel de Paris was showing its age when competing hotels were established in Cromer. So in 1891, Jarvis decided to have a new larger hotel built on the site. He employed the architect George John Skipper. The builder was the firm of J. Smith. Smith would later become President of the Norwich Master Builders.

The new hotel had both a front and main entrance with the ground floor having "various private and public rooms, a new reception and bar." The hotel has had a number of changes of ownership and renovated or modernised.

The hotel was listed Grade II in 1977.

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CROMER- HOTEL de PARIS



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CROMER- HOTEL de PARIS



EASTBOURNE- GRAND HOTEL 1875



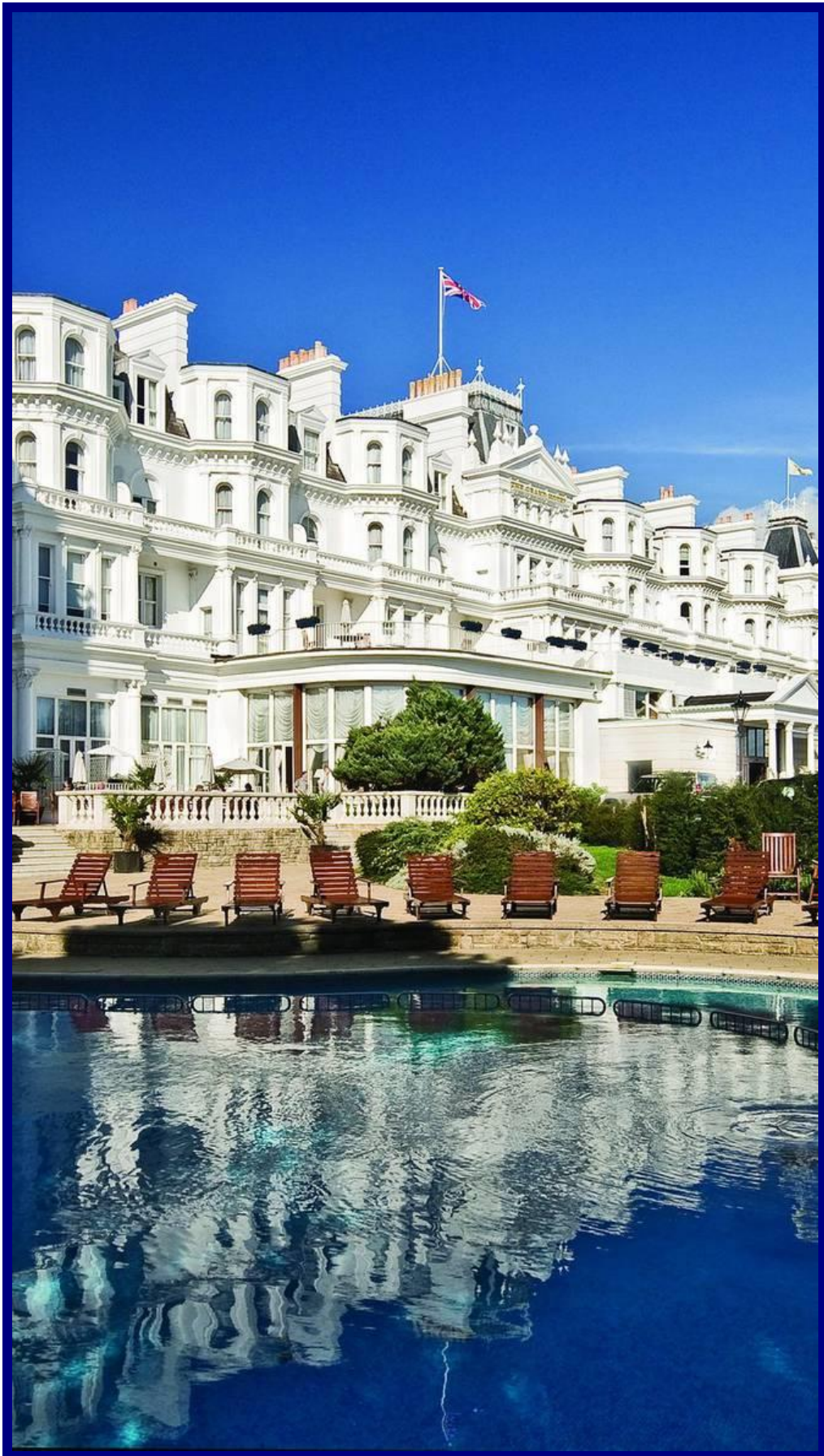
In 1874, a local resident William Earp proposed to build a hotel with a 400-foot frontage at a cost of £50,000. His Grand Hotel was built in 1875 to the designs by local architect Robert Knott Blessley.

The Grand has had a long association with music and composers, including Debussy and Elgar. The Grand Hotel Orchestra broadcast palm court music live on the BBC from the Great Hall every Sunday night from 1925 to 1939 on the programme *Grand Hotel*. Air raids forced the hotel to close in World War II and it became a military headquarters.

The current Grand Hotel has 152 rooms, including 53 suites and 17 conference and meeting rooms, the largest being the Compton Room which can accommodate 300 persons. The hotel changed ownership in 1965 and then in 1998 when a complete refurbishment took place.

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EASTBOURNE- GRAND HOTEL



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EASTBOURNE- GRAND HOTEL



HASTING- ROYAL VICTORIA HOTEL 1828



The Royal Victoria Hotel, originally named the St. Leonards Hotel, was built in 1828 by renowned architect James Burton, as part of a plan to create a new seaside resort. The hotel received the Royal Charter from Queen Victoria, a regular visitor. Other distinguished visitors included King George V, Prince Albert, Princess Louise, King Edward VII, prime ministers Gladstone and Palmerston and the poet Tennyson.

By 1832, many terraces, villas and public buildings had been completed and Burton persuaded the Turnpike Commissioners to arrange for a road to St. Leonards. It is said his design for St. Leonards was influenced by his involvement with John Nash in London's Regents Park. In 1850 his son, Decimus Burton, also a prominent architect, acquired more land and extended the resort.

HASTING- ROYAL VICTORIA HOTEL



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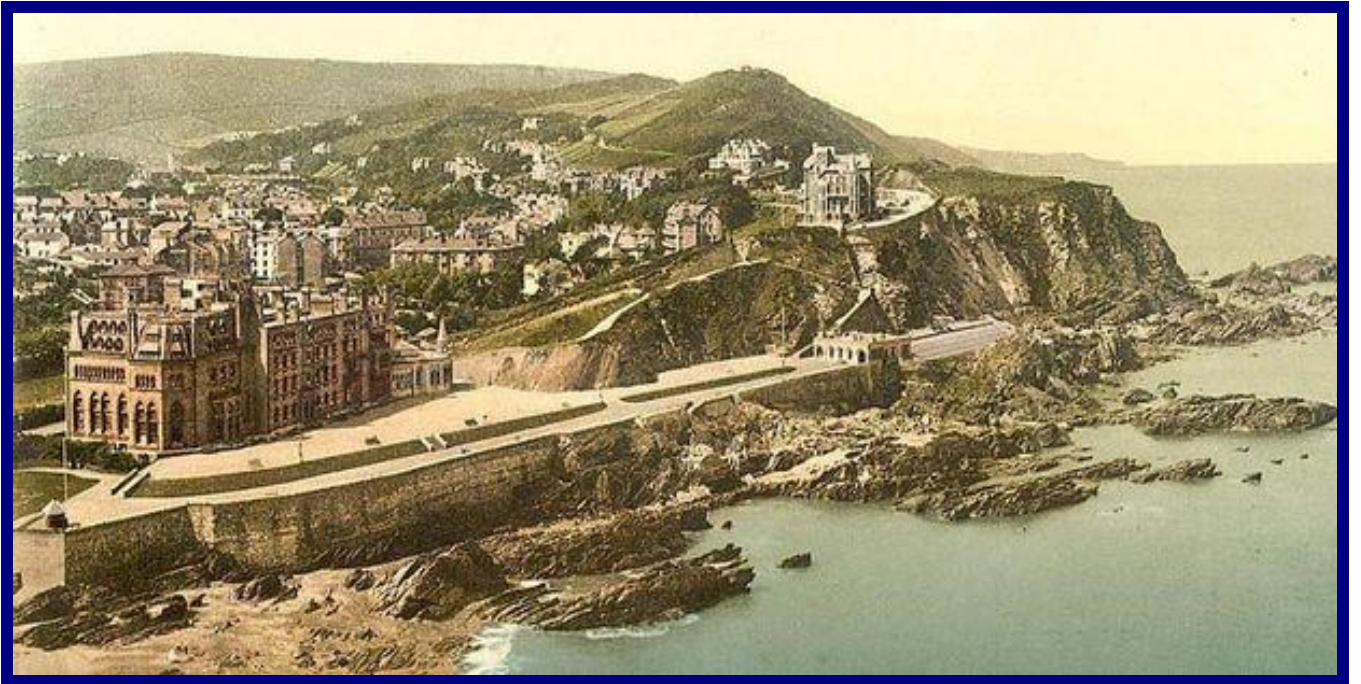
HASTING- ROYAL VICTORIA HOTEL

ST LEONARDS ON SEA



THE ROYAL VICTORIA
HOTEL

ILFRACOMBE HOTEL 1867



<29>

LOWESTOFT- EMPIRE HOTEL 1900



<30>

MORECOMBE- MIDLAND HOTEL 1933



NEWQUAY- HEADLAND HOTEL 1900



In 1879, Silvanus Trevail's Great Western Hotel was the first in a series of Cornish Hotels. Trevail's Cornish Hotels Company was formed in 1890 and their Atlantic Hotel was built in 1892. Trevail then planned to build another luxury hotel on the headlands of Newquay, but a lack of money hampered his plans. Then there was opposition from local people who felt his planned hotel threatened the local use of the cliff top as grazing land and space to dry fisherman's nets. This, together with planning problems delayed completion of the Headland Hotel. It finally opened in 1900, built in a prominent position overlooking Fistral Beach and Town Head.

The hotel's original cost was estimated to be £25,000, but Trevail added luxurious furnishings, expensive kitchen equipment, a tennis court and four croquet lawns, doubling the overall cost to £50,000.

In 1911, Edward, Prince of Wales, and his brother Prince Albert (later Kings Edward VIII and George VI respectively) recuperated at the hotel after catching measles and mumps while studying at Dartmouth Royal Naval College. During World War II, the hotel was requisitioned as an RAF Hospital.

The Headland Hotel is a Grade II Listed Building.

NEWQUAY- HEADLAND HOTEL

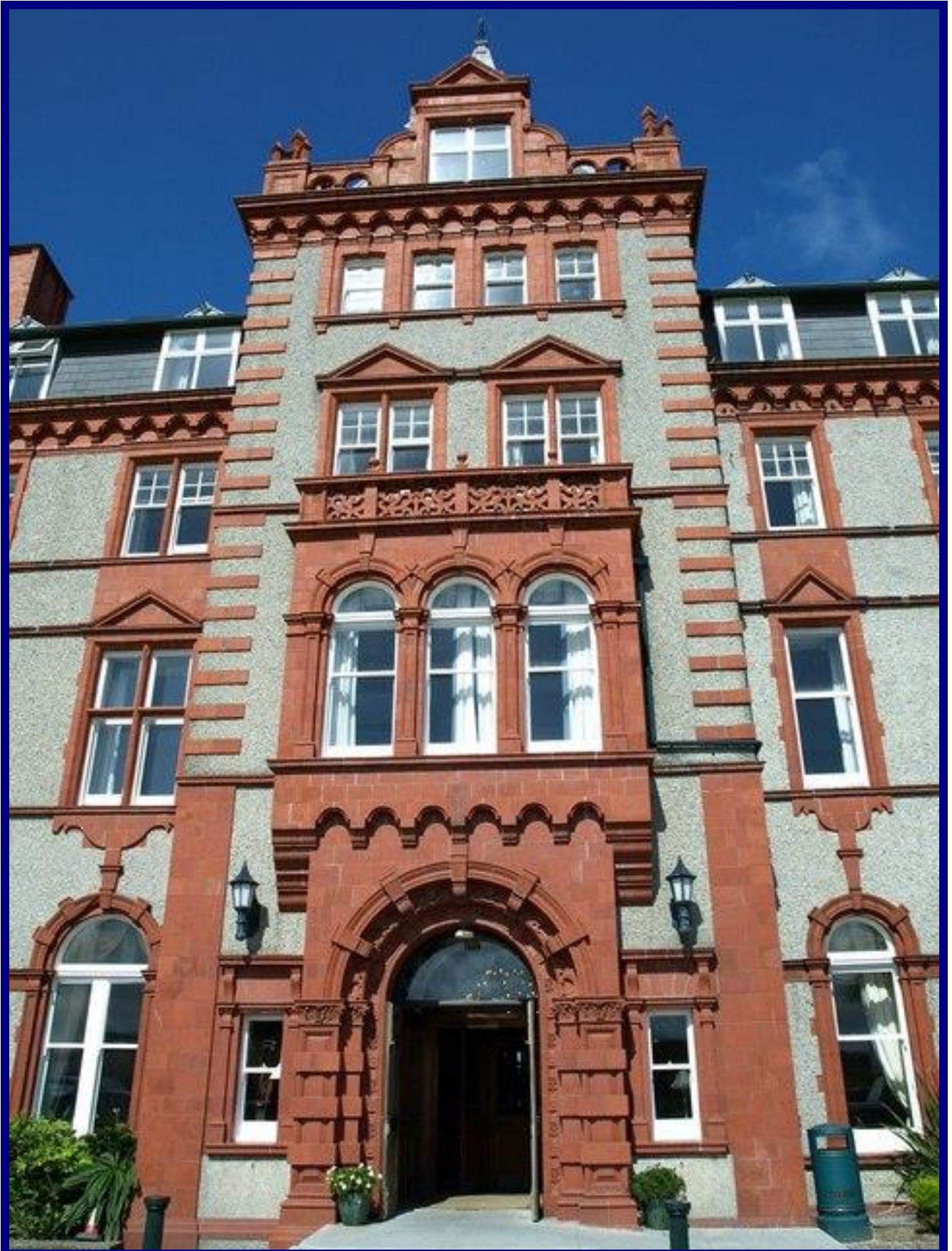


The Headland Hotel, 1920s

Photo © The Headland Hotel & Spa



NEWQUAY- HEADLAND HOTEL



PLYMOUTH- DUKE OF CORNWALL 1863



PLYMOUTH- DUKE OF CORNWALL HOTEL



PLYMOUTH- ROYAL HOTEL 1812



RAMSGATE- GRANVILLE HOTEL 1869



In 1866, the architect Edward Welby Pugin (son of Augustus Pugin), with his business partners, purchased a plot of land on Ramsgate's east cliff for £9,250. He designed and in 1867 the partners built an eight-house-terrace in the gothic style. These were substantial properties with four floors, a basement and a private entrance. "The houses were marketed as exclusive villas to be let for weeks at a time to wealthy visitors to Ramsgate who were expected to arrive at the nearby Ramsgate Sands station below the cliff."

However, in 1869, the owners decided to convert the houses into a hotel named "The Granville" in honour of Earl Granville. The young Queen Victoria, who had stayed nearby, regularly used the hotel as a holiday home.

In 1871, the Granville became a spa hotel "with over 25 kinds of bath, including Turkish" and these remained a feature until demolished in 1980. During this time, a skating rink was added in the hotel gardens and a tunnel to the beach (started by Pugin) was completed. In 1899, the front elevation was altered, the Granville tower was reduced and the inside of the building was extensively remodelled. Then in 1915, the hotel was requisitioned as a Canadian Special Hospital, reopening in 1920 after a £60,000 modernisation. The hotel suffered bomb damage in World War II, so in 1947 the hotel was converted into flats.

RAMSGATE- GRANVILLE HOTEL



RAMSGATE- GRANVILLE HOTEL (FLATS)



SALTDEAN- OCEAN HOTEL 1938



SCARBOROUGH- GRAND HOTEL 1867



When it opened in 1867, the Grand Hotel in Scarborough was said to be the largest hotel and the largest brick building in Europe. It was designed around the theme of *time* by the Hull architect Cuthbert Broderick. It had 4 towers to represent the seasons; 12 floors for the months of the year; 52 chimneys for the weeks, with 365 bedrooms, one for each day of a non-leap year. The hotel is in the shape of a "V" in honour of Queen Victoria, and the hotel's peak was in Victorian times. Scarborough was a spa town and the hotel's baths originally included both fresh water and seawater taps. Construction began in 1863 and the final cost was £100,000.

On 16 December 1914, the hotel was badly damaged by gunfire from three German warships and is said to have been hit at least thirty times. In 1939, the Grand became a home to RAF trainees and the corner cupolas were fitted with anti-aircraft guns.

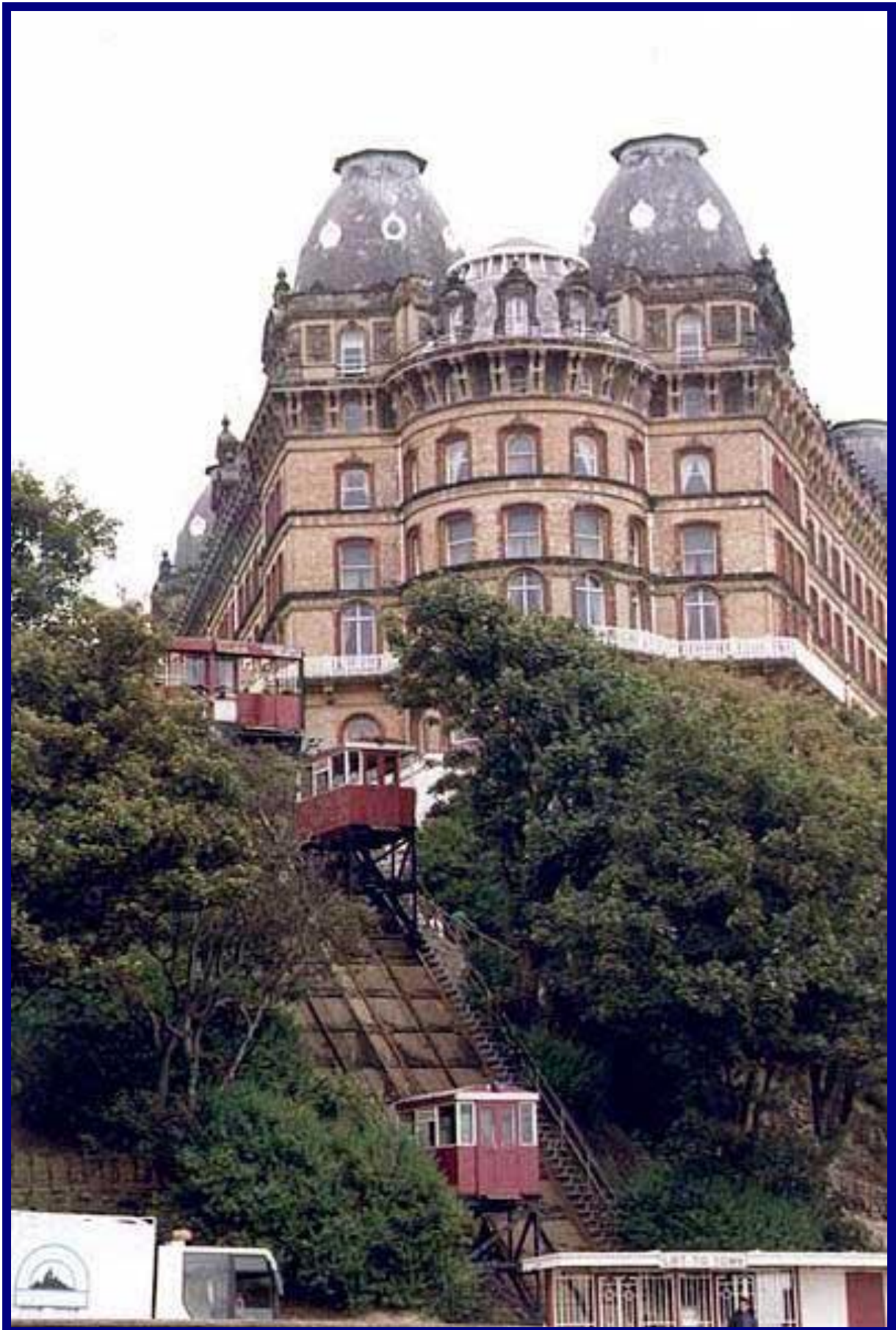
There have been problems and complaints in more recent years since it became a budget hotel with 413 bedrooms. However, it is still a Grade II Listed Building.

SCARBOROUGH- GRAND HOTEL



<43>

SCARBOROUGH- GRAND HOTEL



<44>

TORQUAY- HYDRO HOTEL 1917



<45>

TORQUAY- IMPERIAL HOTEL 1866



TORQUAY- IMPERIAL HOTEL { TODAY }



WEYMOUTH- ROYAL HOTEL 1899



Sea bathing was established at Weymouth in the 1770s, although there had been complaints about the town's lack of "desirable" accommodation. In response, Stacie's hotel was opened in 1773. In due course, Weymouth became a popular seaside resort, beginning in 1789, when it was frequented by King George III and Stacie's was renamed the Royal Hotel. Having its own Assembly Room it was used in the early 1800s by the Royal Family.

The original hotel was demolished in 1891 and completed in 1897. During World War II, the hotel became the local headquarters of the United States military, while Weymouth and Portland became major embarkation points for the Allied D-day Normandy landings.

The Royal Hotel is a Grade II Listed Building.

WEYMOUTH- ROYAL HOTEL



WEYMOUTH- ROYAL HOTEL



THE GRAND HOTEL AT CROMER



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Most of the illustrations, photographs and information have been taken from Wikipedia and a number of internet websites.

See also The CIBSE Heritage Group Website: www.hevac-heritage.org