

EXHIBIT

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Lookout Cottage was the school house serving the residents of Tucker's Town before the Mid Ocean Club was built. It has the simple pilasters and cornice moulding of its period.

of land and dumped up to 20 feet of sand on the few fields and pastures in the area. The vicinity of Tucker's Town was also prone to waterspouts and tornadoes which wrecked many homes and cut paths of destruction across the land. In the early 20th century Tucker's Town was one of the most desperately poor and neglected locales in Bermuda.

About 1800 Benjamin Dickinson Harvey had assembled 12 lots totalling nearly 200 acres in the Tucker's Town area, between Tucker's Town Bay and Trott's Pond to the west. Harvey, a lawyer who lived nearby in Hamilton Parish, seems not to have built on the property. In 1862 his heirs sold 11 of the lots (103 or more acres) to James Talbot, then aged about 42. Talbot, a black man and son of Baker Talbot, also of Tucker's Town, is variously described in the records as fisherman, labourer, farmer and planter. He and his wife brought up a large family in the area. It was James Talbot who in 1882 sold for a nominal amount the

land for a school to serve the area. This school survives as **Lookout Cottage** on South Road, just before the entrance to the Mid Ocean Club. The eight trustees had the aim of erecting a building "suitable for a schoolroom and for the holding of meetings for the encouragement of temperance".

In 1885 James Talbot was assessed in the church records for a new house and it is probable that this is the original wing of **Earnscliffe**. Two wings to the south were soon added, and a large new domed tank built when the original small tank was enclosed by the wings. Fronting on South Road, near the junction with Paynter's Road, Earnscliffe is still remembered as Talbot's Store, run by one of the sons of James Talbot in the early years of this century. It had the first telephone in the area. The Bermuda Development Company later used it for offices, and when the wooden verandah, which at that time ran along the road, collapsed they proposed to de-

molish the whole house. In the 1970s Dr. William (Peter) Outerbridge (now of Clifton Vale in St. George's) persuaded them to allow him to restore the building, and it was he who created the present handsome residence. He moved the access to the eastern side of the house, stopped up the downstairs old shop doors, built a chimney on that side and enclosed part of the eastern verandah.

Tucker's Town changed dramatically in the 1920s. In response to the rise of tourism, led by an influx of American visitors seeking an escape from the urban jungles of the east coast, a group of Bermudians formed the Bermuda Development Company to create an exclusive and prestigious enclave in this neglected backwater of Bermuda. In a move similar to the base lands takeover, the corporation was empowered to force those living in Tucker's Town to sell their land. James Talbot's son, Benjamin Darrell (B.D.) Talbot, still owning 74 acres of his father's 103, and reputed to have