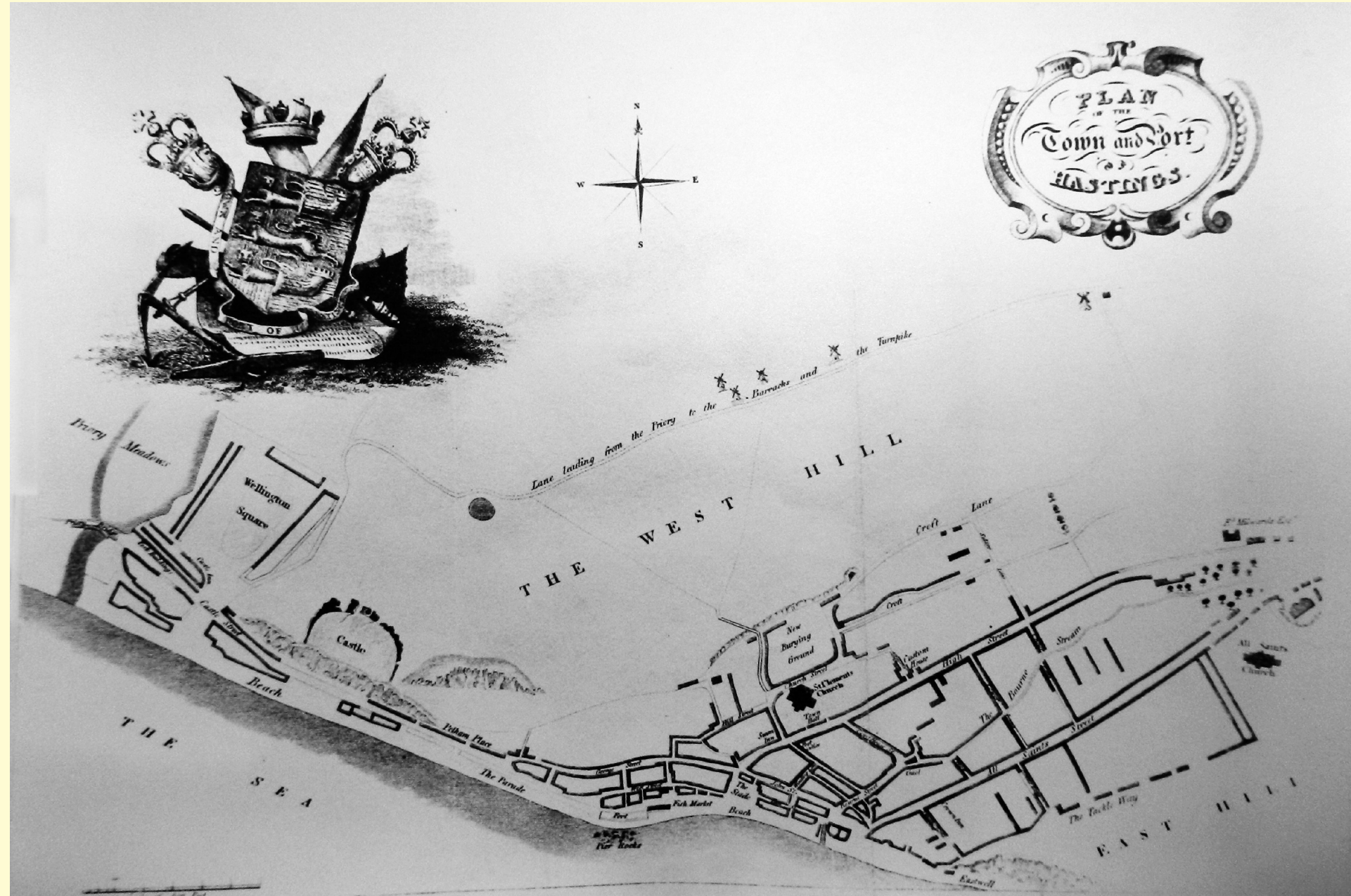


1-Early Days 1830-1870 in Hastings

Using quotes taken from “Recollections of a happy life”, the autobiography of Marianne North this display uses her own words (*Shown in italics*). The spellings and names are those in use at the time. For example Ceylon became Sri Lanka and Chili is now spelt Chile. Additional captioned illustrations have been added to follow her remarkable life.



Marianne North



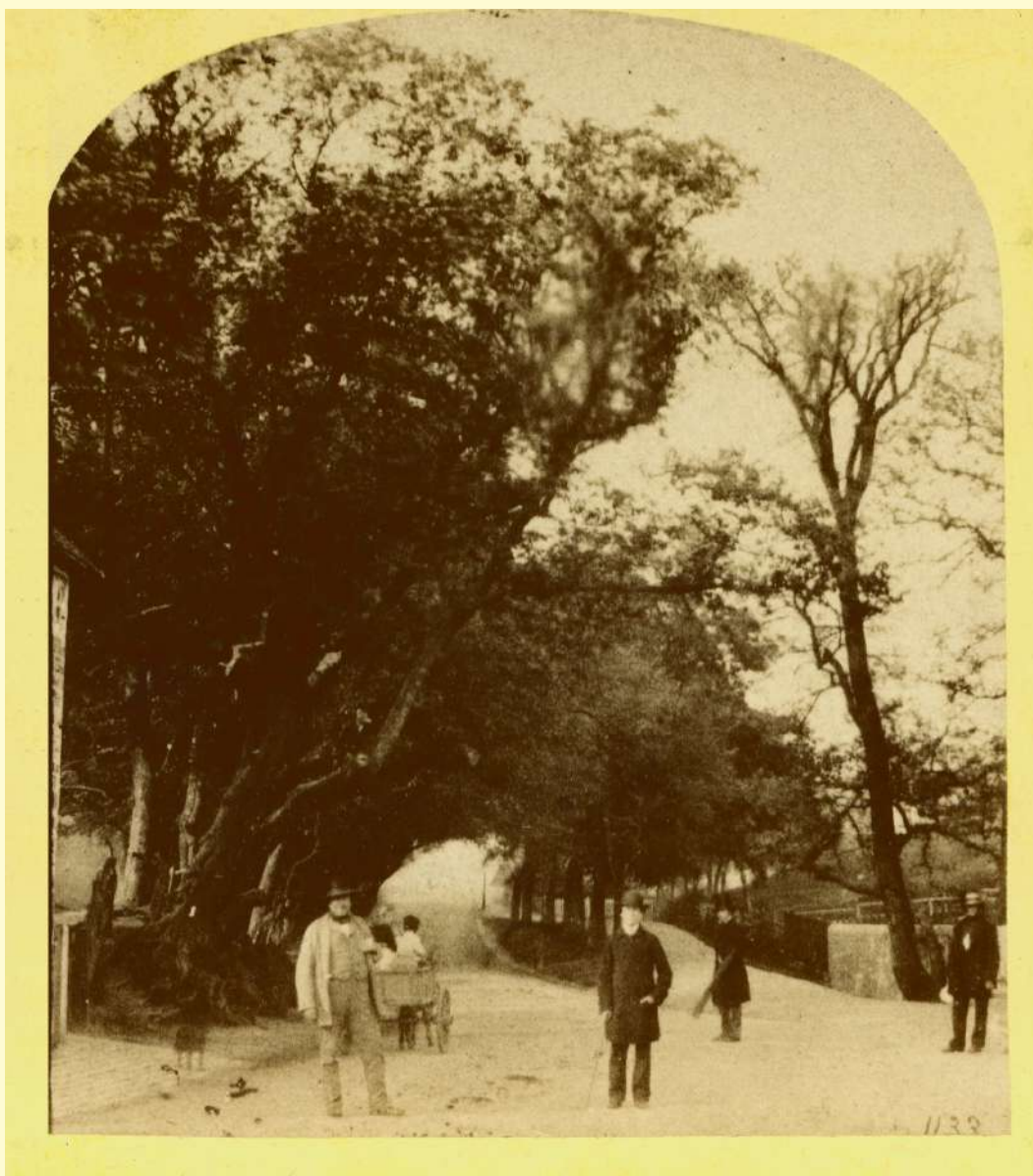
This map from a local guide book shows just how different the town of Hastings was in Marianne's childhood

...in the mildest climate of England, Hastings. In those days it was a very different place from what it is now. There were not half-a-dozen regular lodging-houses, it was (though first of the Cinque Ports) merely a fishing village. There was no St. Leonards at all, the great "White Rock" to the west was afterwards removed bit by bit: it is now only marked by the name written on a portion of the long two miles of continuous houses that join the towns of Hastings and St. Leonards. My father was elected member for the town in 1830 by ten "Freemen," one of them being himself.



A Dutch auction on the beach at Hastings. Different from modern sales it means an auction in which the auctioneer begins with a high asking price, and lowers it until some participant accepts the price, or it reaches a predetermined reserve price.

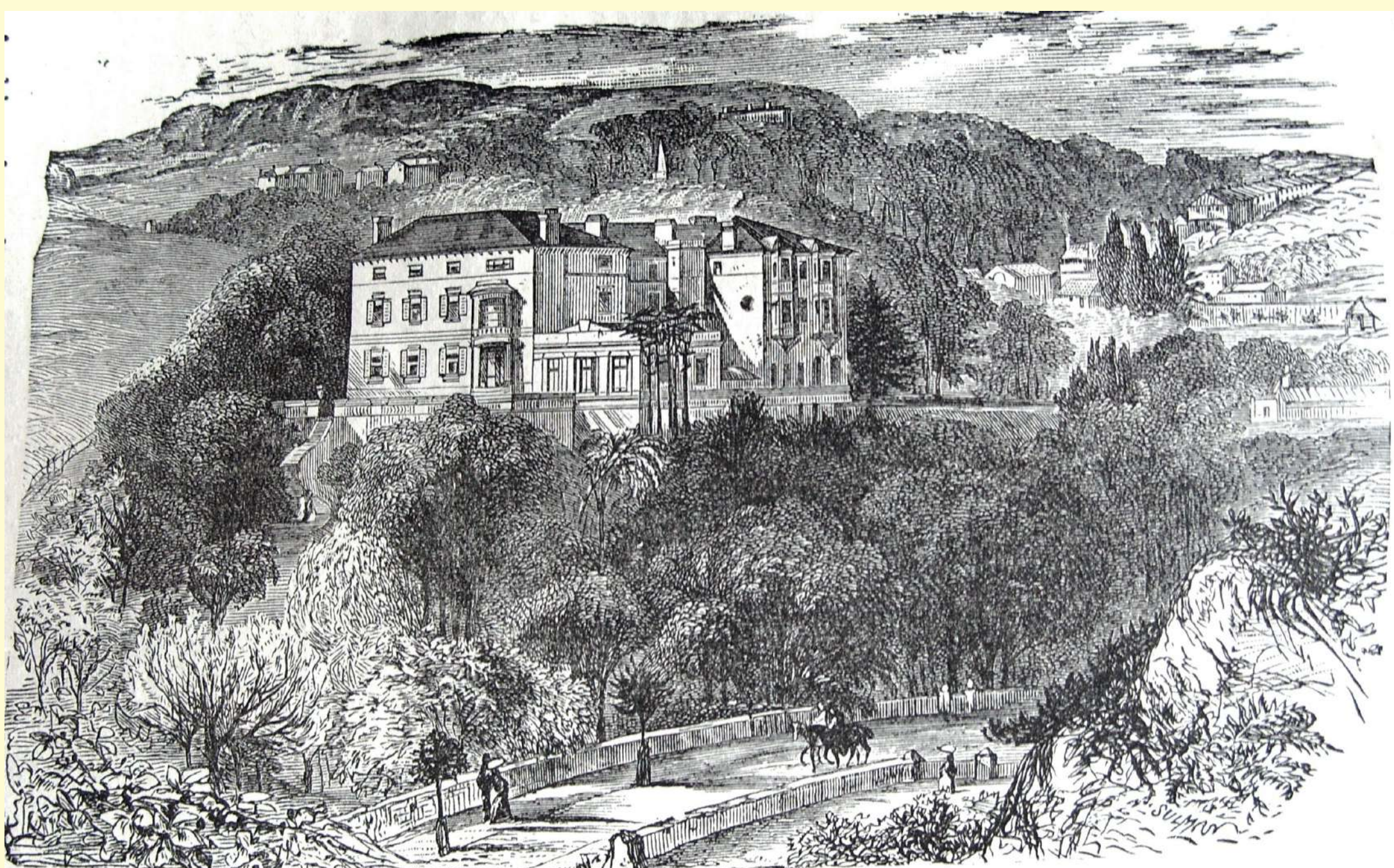
“My first recollections relate to my father. He was from first to last the one idol and friend of my life, and apart from him I had little pleasure and no secrets. He used to carry me on his shoulders over the hills and far away, down on the beach to see the fishing-boats land, and the heaps of glittering slippery fish counted and sold by Dutch auction; and I well remember the old fishermen, covered with silver scales, calling out, "Make way for Muster North and his little gal !" giving me kind pats with great salt hands as I, passed perched high on my father's shoulder through the crowd.”



The wooded road ahead is the main London Road out of Hastings viewed from the top of the High Street. Hastings Lodge stood on the right hand side and a short distance up the hill.



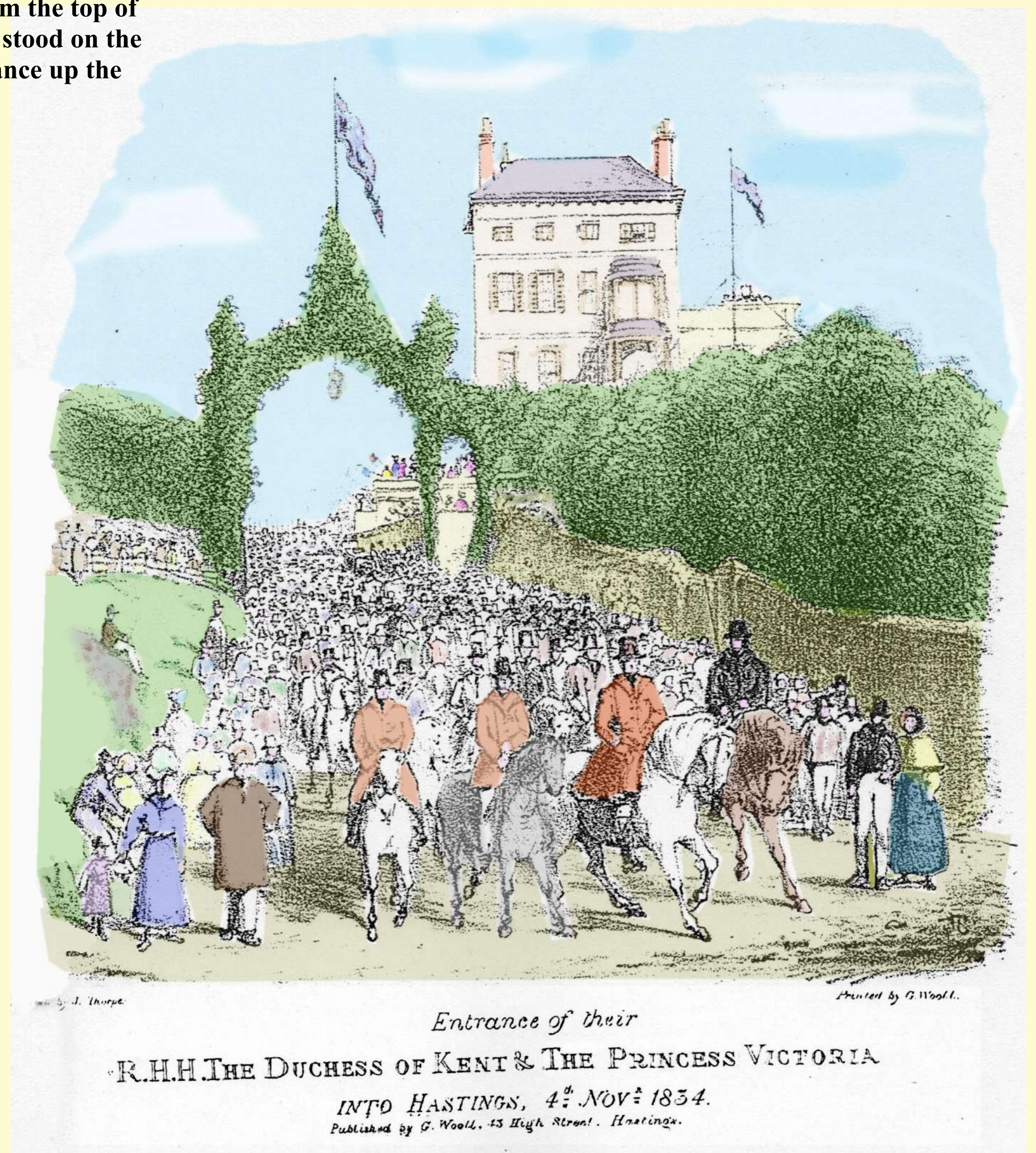
Hastings Lodge was located just above the trees on the right of this print overlooking the small fishing port of Hastings. Much of the area surrounding it was farmland.



THE HASTINGS HYDROPATHIC ESTABLISHMENT—FROM THE EAST HILL.

After Marianne sold Hastings Lodge for £4,100 in 1870 it was extended to become a Hydropathic Establishment in 1884. It offered a wide range of water treatments and baths from the iron rich spring which was located in the grounds.

“People tell me this is impossible, but I have a strong recollection of seeing the great dinner given after the passing of the Reform Bill, for which my father voted, riding or walking home night after night after the heated divisions to his house at Notting Hill, and arriving in the small hours of the morning. When that was over, his health broke down, and he had to give up Parliament for awhile, and had the more leisure to attend to me.”



Princess Victoria passing Hastings Lodge in 1834. Old London Road was the main road into Hastings at that time even though the Royal party were going to stay in the newly developed town of St Leonards.

