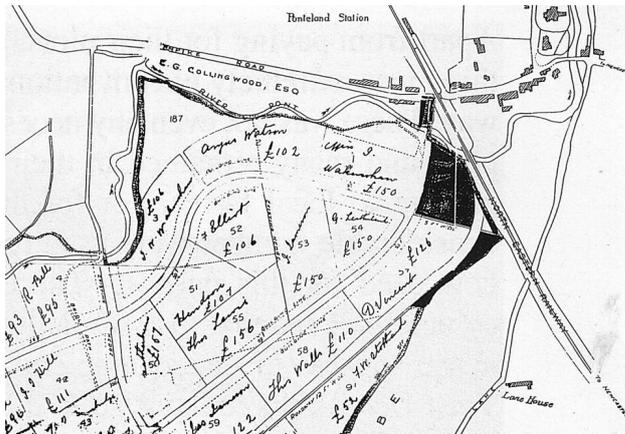


14. Arts & Crafts House, Darras Road

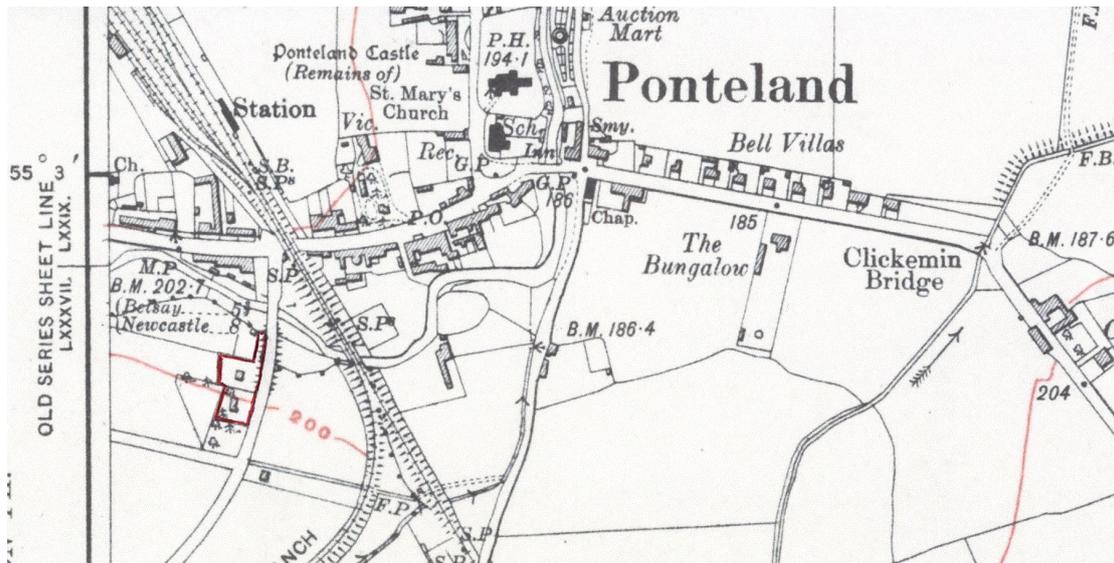


The bungalow known as Number 10 Darras Road was almost certainly the first house to be built on the Darras Hall Estate after it was formed in 1910, and is therefore of significant local historical interest. It was built on a site designated as Plot No. 1 and closest to Ponteland village, originally comprising approximately 5 acres (as did nearly all the Plots) and purchased for the sum of £150 at Auction in the name of *Miss I. Wakinshaw*.



Miss Wakinshaw was the sister of the Founder and first Secretary of the Estate, *Joseph Whiteside Wakinshaw*. Map records indicate that this particular Plot was not subdivided for housing until circa. 1956, which would suggest that Miss Wakinshaw – who employed a full-time gardener – retained the whole Plot and actually grew produce

for sale in Newcastle; this was the original purpose of the Darras Hall Estate when it was formed under the aegis of the Northern Allotments Society.



The 6inch OS Map of the Darras Hall area was revised in 1913 but not published until after the Great War in 1921. An extract is reproduced here and shows the house and adjacent gardener's cottage (outlined in red).

Of brick and slate with a cavity-wall construction, the house is built in the “Arts and Crafts” style and characteristically has roofs of a noticeably steep pitch together with an elegant treatment of chimneystacks. This style of architecture was extremely popular in the 1920’s and early 30’s and is now recognized as an important architectural milestone; examples of the style have more recently been included in the formal Listing process. [1]

The design of the house may possibly have been influenced by the smaller domestic work of Sir Edwin Lutyens, who designed a number of houses in the Arts and Crafts style. He visited Blagdon Hall on several occasions and designed the canal water feature south of the Hall and several decorative patterns in some of the garden paths. He was also responsible for the remodelling of Lindisfarne Castle as well as the later War Memorials at Hartburn and Lindisfarne, amongst others.

[1] “Current Archaeology” No. 332 Nov. 2017. Joe Flatman. p. 46.
Milestone Cottage, Stroud (list entry 1420117).

