

### A Gneiss New Occurrence.



The new occurrence was observed forming part of the wall at the right - hand side of Old Harbour Cottage opposite the slipway into English Harbour.

Historic photographs show that double doors originally existed at the right - hand side of the building, which gave access into the upper and lower floors. These doors were separated by an unusually large lintel. Between 1894 and 1896, these doors were removed and blocked up with new stonework and a window installed on the upper floor and single width door on the lower floor. The stonework consists predominantly of granite with several black and white - banded blocks of gneiss (**Fig. 1**).

**Fig. 1.** The colour difference and banding make the gneiss blocks easy to identify when contrasted with the uniform texture of the orange-brown and pink granite (**Figs. 2, 3**).



**Fig. 2.**



**Fig. 3.**



**Fig. 4.**

**What to look for in Jersey.** Gneiss is a regional metamorphic rock, produced by heat and pressure greater than found at the earth's surface, characterised by individual bands of minerals such as white quartz or feldspar, black biotite or hornblende, and also with red garnets (**Fig. 4**) depending on the amount of heat and pressure, which produces various grades or facies (textures).



Jersey does not have any of these rocks but varieties from Brazil, possibly used as ballast were used to build walls and houses in and around Le Petit Menage, Fountain Lane, the Bagot Road, and in and around Seafield House, Victoria Avenue (Fig. 5) and at the bottom of Le Mont Félard. Here, the gneissic texture is generally of black and white bands, with and without garnets.

**Fig. 5.** However, around Rozel, the Ecréhos gneiss is foliated, and has yellow and white bands (Fig. 6).



**Fig. 6.**

### **References.**

Nichols, R. A. H. 2011. Jersey Geology Greats: In tribute to Le Père Noury. Ann. Bull. Soc. Jersiaise. 30. 3. p.393.

Photographs taken by members of the Geology Section of the Société Jersiaise.

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