

## Trail One

### FOUNDRY SQUARE AND QUAYS

#### Foundry Square



From the footway next to the roundabout the whole of Foundry Square can be seen. Located anti-clockwise from the north are White's Warehouse, John Harvey House, Barclay's Bank, Foundry House, Foundry Hill, the White Hart Hotel, the Masonic Hall, Penpol Road, Lloyd's Bank, the Post Office, Chapel Terrace, Isis Gardens and the railway viaduct. Beyond the viaduct lie Penpol Quay, Penpol Creek and Penpol Terrace on the road to Copperhouse.

#### White's Warehouse

Now housing both graphic design and animation studios as well as a café-bar, this attractive brick dressed, stone faced Grade II listed building



was previously used as an oriental carpet warehouse. The structure retains much of the original stores building of about 1828, but its appearance dates from a substantial late 19<sup>th</sup> century remodelling. The rear elevation has the remains of furnaces added to the adjoining foundry in the 1840s. From 1852 onwards the building became part of the J.H. Trevithick holdings, separated from the foundry. Known at one time as Trevithick's Stores, by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century it was operating as the HTP Bakehouse / Hayle Steam Bakery.

The interior, although subdivided later, was structurally unaltered with a good series of cast iron columns and beams and the remains of machinery. The open plan of each floor has been substantially recovered in the 2005 refurbishment. Against the viaduct stands a boundary stone marked GWR (Great Western Railway).

### **John Harvey House**

This Grade II listed building which was refurbished in 2004 is an early 19<sup>th</sup> century alteration and extension of original offices of 1780 that were built as part of the headquarters of Harvey and Co. Note the slate-hung clock turret with its pyramidal roof and gablet over each clock face; at one stage the clocks are said to have respectively displayed local and London times.



Despite late 20<sup>th</sup> century alterations during conversion to restaurant and subsequent reversion to offices, there are extensive internal remains of

the original offices. There are two cast iron and fire-proofed strong rooms, door fittings, windows, cast iron columns and supports and later 19<sup>th</sup> century stair and reception suite, with evidence of other openings and of the original curved north front of the building.

Equally important are the remains incorporated in the west side of the building, both externally and internally, of parts of the original late 18<sup>th</sup> century foundry, including the main entrance, the cobbled yard, building walls, furnaces and chimney bases, and possibly part of a lime kiln also dating from the 1770s.

### **Barclay's Bank**

This Grade II listed classically styled building was part of the former Harvey's Emporium, headquarters of Harvey and Co., iron founders. It is an early 19<sup>th</sup> century extension and alteration of a 1780s block with its entrance in the central, narrower bay; part of the main plan was remodelled as a bank in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



### **Foundry House**

In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, this Grade II listed building housed the foundry offices and shop, part of the general trading side of Harvey & Co's business which passed to J H Trevithick in 1852. In 1895 it was converted to the Cornubia Biscuit Factory, and the building as it



now stands (especially the front elevation) is largely of that date.

The similarity in materials and detailing between the White's Warehouse and 22-23 Foundry Square is related to their ownership by J H Trevithick rather than Harvey's (although the two companies remain linked). By 1890, the firm had merged with the other great Hayle based milling firm of W Hosken & Son to form HTP (Hosken, Trevithick and Polkinghorne), one of the largest milling, grocery and shipping businesses west of Bristol in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Their house style can be seen in buildings in Truro and consisted of bright red brick or terracotta detailing in an early Northern Renaissance style. The noted Cornish architect Sylvanus Trevail was employed in Truro and it would be intriguing to know whether he was involved with the remodelling of these buildings in Hayle. The Cornubia Biscuit Factory was an early purpose-built production line factory designed to bake biscuits on a conveyor-belt system, time and temperature controlled. It is built on the site of the earlier Harvey & Co coppersmith's shop.

### **White Hart Hotel**

A few years later, in 1838, Henry Harvey built this much larger and more imposing second White Hart Hotel to accommodate and impress his growing business clientele. This largely unchanged, stylish three-storey stuccoed building with its rusticated plinth and giant classical orders



includes a debased mix of Tuscan, Roman Doric and Egyptian influences and its interior retains many of its original architectural details. The Grade II\* listed building is the focus of Foundry Square and is built over the former Penpol pool blamed by Henry Harvey for the spread of cholera in the town. Behind the hotel are its former stables and smithy, with a granite boundary stone marking the corner opposite the remains of the grist mill.

### Masonic Hall

This was the original White Hart Hotel built by Henry Harvey in 1834 to provide a living for his sister, Jane Harvey Trevithick, and her children. Her husband was the famous engineer Richard Trevithick. He left her without support after his long absence in South America, where he travelled initially to supervise the installation of nine of his engines in Peru. While in South America he was engaged in many daring and some ill-fated ventures but sent Jane no money; and, on his return to Falmouth in October 1827, he had (according to Francis Trevithick) only the clothes he wore, a gold watch, a drawing compass, a magnetic compass, and a pair of silver spurs.



### Lloyd's Bank

This building was once an imposing two-storey building, the Foundry Market House, which also housed Hayle's first



cinema. A serious fire in the 1930s caused major damage and the upper storey was removed.

### Penpol Road

This was, at one time, the main road to Redruth as shown by the 18<sup>th</sup> century incised granite milestone reused in the front garden wall of No. 3 Penpol Road. Although this row of early 19<sup>th</sup> century dwellings was lived in by workers at the Harvey's Foundry, it was built on land owned by a director of the Cornish Copper Co at exactly the same time as Harvey's was in the throws of its most bitter conflict with it, hinting at a more complex relationship between them.



### Chapel Terrace

This important little street begins next to the viaduct and continues down the eastern side of Foundry car park to Penpol Road. Built as a two storey row of mixed double fronted houses, single fronted and half-houses it was, in its early days, a respectable middle class residential address. It was and is the remaining core of the small town centre that developed around Harvey's Foundry, a very much a smaller version of the centre which developed in Copperhouse at the same time. Far from regular in their treatment, the simple rendered finishes are probably later alterations



from the original roughcast with rusticated quoins and other architectural details in typical Hayle style. The most important single change came with the introduction of shops into the front gardens. Photos show that the monopitch roofed single storey shops were added before 1900, when Chapel Terrace became less desirable as a middle class residential address. Warren's Bakery (nos. 3 & 4 of which no 3 is shown above) preserves much of two originally well detailed 19<sup>th</sup> century timber shopfronts.

### Foundry Chapel (Pratt's Market)

Dated 1845 with its stuccoed and enriched front and plain rubble sides, this fine non-conformist chapel and its separately roofed later 19<sup>th</sup> century schoolroom at the rear reflect the strength of the Wesleyan movement in Cornwall. The interiors have retained many original architectural features despite conversion to commercial use and the former chapel now accommodate a variety of Hayle's interesting small businesses.



### Old Bolitho Bank: 8 Chapel Terrace

The first house in Chapel Terrace to retain its front garden has stucco pilasters with tall round-arched panels, a pillared porch with double doors, ground floor window openings with moulded hoods on consoles and first floor windows with moulded architraves. The higher quality of this Grade II listed building reflects its status as the former Hayle branch of the Mounts Bay Bank of Bolitho and Co.

## Penpol River

The curving stone wall down the west side of Chapel Terrace runs southwards from the Post Office past the telephone exchange and the Foundry car park, marking the alignment of the culverted Penpol River on its way to Penpol Creek and the sea.

## Post Office

The post office building epitomises a vernacular architecture that is peculiar to Hayle, with its slated roof, local pebble dash (which succeeded the original roughcast), split pane sash windows with their decorative plaster architraves and the wide decorative plaster door surrounds with their horizontal rustication on both sides that runs smoothly into the radial voussoir markings of the flat arch lintel. The Post Office stands roughly on the site of George Grenfell's 1820 Trelissick Tin Smelter which was bought by Harvey & Co in 1855 and demolished, the site being reused for the Drill Hall of the Volunteer Artillery Battery.



## Isis Gardens

These public gardens next to the viaduct provide a small green oasis in the busy heart of Foundry and commemorate the gift of the Hayle Lifeboat by Oxford University in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Between the gardens and the Post Office, in what is now the



eastbound carriageway to Copperhouse, was the little 1843 railway station serving the early Hayle Railway which ran northwards out of the square. In the same eastbound carriageway, but a little closer to the roundabout and facing down the square to the White Hotel, stood the former Literary Institute founded by Henry Harvey for the benefit of his workers.

## Railway Viaduct

This runs closely along the alignment of I K Brunel's original structure but his 1852 design, with its iron girders supported by his favoured timber tree trusses on twinned masonry piers has been replaced at least once. A quick inspection of today's rustic granite and brown brick piers will reveal evidence of their realignment on earlier bases and odd differences in the design of individual piers. The viaduct still carries the main railway line from Paddington to Penzance and is said to be unique in crossing the same road twice.



## Penpol Terrace

Penpol Terrace was developed by the Cornish Copper Co. in 1819 as part of their development of the New, or East Quay built in opposition to Harvey's new Penpol Quay; they cut back Penpol cliff and straightened the foreshore at the same time but the houses, road village and creek bank



are all on ground made up with smelter waste.

Most of the houses on Penpol Terrace retain the low roughcast or granite walls along the road and between the houses, forming quite a striking feature of the row. A mixture of half-houses and double fronted houses, most with the Hayle-style of detailing, with roughcast render, rusticated stucco detailing of mixed motifs and, originally, slate roofs.

There are several front garden shops here, reflecting the decline of Harvey & Co's influence at Foundry. The most interesting examples include a pair of shops (23/25) built in 192 by W. R. (Bobby) Trevithick, a ships chandler and grocer. Faced with green faience (glazed terracotta tiles) they are now occupied by a café and an ice cream parlour. Bobby Trevithick's original fascia sign is still there behind the "Fresh Café" fascia.

A little further along at 28/29 Penpol Terrace is Biggleston's, an 1875-1891 double fronted shop, still trading at an Ironmonger.

Lastly, the Carnsew Gallery now occupies John Runnals' butcher's shop, with its fine quality decorative green and cream faience (glazed terra cotta), mosaic murals and doorstep.



The old Hayle Railway ran along the bank of Penpol Creek opposite the front garden shops, its tracks now lifted and the route grassed over. Look out for the monument to local hero Rick Rascorla who lost his life saving others in the terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre in New York.

## Penpol Quay

Penpol Quay, also known as Harvey's Quay, Foundry Quay and South Quay, was built in 1817-19 by Henry Harvey and is an important survival since it is the first quay built by the firm. Before acquiring Carnsew Quay in 1817, Harvey's had been forced to use the bare foreshore for trading and boat building. East Quay was begun by the Cornish Copper Co almost immediately after and in rivalry with Penpol Quay; both quays survive almost unaltered from their finished states, with good series of granite bollards and flights of steps. The quay walls are scalloped to accommodate the curving sides of boats.



## Penpol

At the northern end of Penpol Terrace stands an important complex of buildings, the first of which is the **Royal Standard Inn** (41). Before the building of Hayle Causeway and the A30 Turnpike, travellers to St Ives and Penzance would have to ford the sands to Lelant from this point, and the Royal Standard would serve their creature comforts while they awaited the right tidal conditions. Formerly known as the "Passage House" or "Millward's House" this is a very early inn. There is a boundary stone at the door of the adjacent shop. The stone is marked "B.S." This



could mark the boundary between the old parishes of Phillack and St Erth, although it appears to be a little too far east for that.

The major building in this complex that includes the Royal Standard Inn is **Bridge House**, one of the oldest buildings in Hayle. This was the Count House of the Arundell family of Wardour Castle, who owned most of the area before the industrial development of Hayle. Tenants of the Arundell estate would gather here on quarter days, etc, for payments of rents, reassignments of leases and other business. Before East Quay was built, the harbour wall ran along just in front of Bridge House. In the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Bridge House served as the Hayle Police Station.



A little to the east, where the filling station now stands, are a few remnants of the very early copper smelting works (circa 1710).

## East Quay

East Quay is important in the history of Hayle as its construction in 1818 led to violent disputes and much litigation between Harvey & Co and the Cornish Copper Company.

East Quay also holds the remaining few 1888 buildings of the Hayle Gas Company. The gas office facing the Royal Standard across the road is now a shop and ladies hairdressers. At the back of this building is a small window in stained glass depicting "Mr Therm", the inter-war advertising symbol of the gas industry. Some of the gasworks buildings are now part of a tyre fitting

establishment and the gas company house is still standing at the back of the yard. Near the northern tip of East Quay is a late 19<sup>th</sup> century warehouse with a curved roof of rare and early corrugated iron.

At the entrance to East Quay are the granite supports for the drawbridge which carried the Hayle Railway line and the roadway across the canal before the present iron swingbridge was built in 1868.

The swing-bridge no longer rotates. An hydraulic mechanism, the remaining elements of which can still be seen beneath it, lifted and rotated the bridge to allow the passage of seagoing vessels along the canal as far as Copperhouse dock. The swingbridge was built to replace the original drawbridge and carry the Hayle Wharves Railway line.



## Customs House Quay Customs House

In 1862 Hayle was given a custom house with the right of bonding general merchandise, but the warrant was withdrawn seventeen years later.



Today the Custom House, with its two storey central block and possibly later single storey lean-tos at either end is used as offices for the Hayle Harbour Co. Constructed of stone rubble

with hipped roof and granite plinths, this attractive little Grade II listed quayside building is painted at the sides and back and pebble dashed at the front. It has the date 1862 carved into the lintel over the front door and the points of the compass incised into the doorstep.

### Customs House Quay Bridge

The Grade II listed quay bridge dating from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century runs over the stream a little to the north of the Customs House.



Constructed from granite rubble with shaped scoria copings, it is a single span bridge widened at south west side in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The original south west parapet wall has a curtailed end.

### Customs House Quay Lock

Located on the harbour side of the northern end of the iron swingbridge, the Grade II listed weir and flood gates at the mouth of the Copperhouse Pool were built in 1788. Although a track and bridge had existed here probably since at least medieval times giving access to the Lelant ferry, the present cinder/scoria bank now carrying the road and rail links was constructed at the same time as the flood gates.

The whole complex was made possible by the acquisition of John 'Merchant' Curnow's quays on the south and north sides of the creek following his death and the sale of his property in 1780. The gates are still in partial use by Hayle Harbour Users Association.

### North Quay

North west of the swingbridge is North Quay where the Octel factory processed sea water to produce much of Britain's wartime supplies of bromine, the anti-knock additive for aviation fuel and where, as late as the 1970s, medium-sized coasters berthed to coal the now demolished power station.

### Merchant Curnow's Quay

Immediately to the east of the iron swingbridge and fronting the canal is Merchant Curnow's Quay, thought to have



been constructed in the 1740s and comprising one of the earliest surviving quays in Hayle. John 'Merchant' Curnow established a major importing and trading enterprise at Hayle in the 1740s and became a prominent landowner (Trelissick Manor, Penpol and Bodriggy). His business and quays were acquired by the Cornish Copper Co. after his death in 1780. At least three phases of development are visible in the quay walls and in the three bollards to be found on the quay: granite, cast-iron and timber.

