

map

map contd

Trail Three

PENPOL AND COPPERHOUSE

Penpol



Copperhouse Canal

Running eastwards from the iron swingbridge, the canal built in 1769 to serve the Copperhouse smelting works and latterly the Copperhouse foundry can still be clearly discerned at low tide. An impressive Georgian dock lies at its eastern end.

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 also 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 the three bollards to be found on the quay: granite, cast-iron and timber. The quay is separated from the road by a low granite wall as it has been since at least the mid-19th century.

Merchant Curnow's Cellars

Just behind Bridge House were ore cellars known as Curnow's or Hayle Cellars, part of the industrial complex around Hayle Harbour. They may have been first built for the Penpol Copper Smelter.

St Elwyn's Church

Standing prominently on the hill above Merchant Curnow's Quay is the imposing St Elwyn's Church. It is a fine Grade II* listed late Victorian Gothic Revival building and both the exterior and the interior are worthy of close inspection. The architect, John D Sedding, also designed the Holy Trinity in London; and this new parish church, built in 1886-8 for the newly formed parish, was Sedding's last work. It is constructed from roughly dressed granite brought to course with granite dressings. The roofs are of dry laid Delabole slate, with a coped gable end to the main roof, a polygonal-ended roof to the chapel in the north-east corner and an octagonal spire over the 3-stage tower.



St Elwyn's Church Hall

The attractive little Grade II listed Gothic church hall dates from 1905 and is built of roughly dressed granite brought to course with granite dressings and a dry laid Delabole slate roof. The interior is simple with plastered walls and original dressed granite fireplaces.



Hayle Terrace

Nos. 14 - 54 were built by 1842, with the rest of the row being completed by 1877. Like Penpol Terrace, this row of houses is built on a long curve, partly explained by the former shape of the coastline and road and partly by design to give a picturesque appearance, now culminating in the much later St Elwyn's church. The row is a mixture of houses and half-houses built of rendered and exposed rubble with slate and artificial slate roofs; for the most with less ornamentation than Penpol Terrace, although the east end has some very good quality houses but with a number of full height bays added around 1900.

Dairy

Midway along the row is its only example of a front garden shop, which was built originally as a retail dairy. Listed Grade II with the cottages behind it,



this single storey shop has a fine classical front of dressed granite, its three bay arcade of round keyed arches carried on slender round shafts, all framed within flanking corner pilasters and carrying an entablature with moulded cornice surmounted by a parapet with shaped pediment and round date plaque over the central bay (inscribed 1891). The tympanum of each opening has patterned leaded glazing with painted farming scenes, including milkmaid and cow, depicted in the principal stained glass panes.

Site of Cooperage

Opposite the former dairy is a derelict motor garage next to the canal. On this site stood Smith's Cooperage where the barrels for the Ellis Brewery were made.

Drill Hall

A little further on is the single storey granite built Drill Hall with a terracotta datestone of 1911 over the door – another of the small group of important public buildings thought to have been designed with a social agenda for the two company townships. It is still used for its original purpose.

Passmore Edwards Institute

The reason that Hayle possesses such a fine Grade II listed public building is that J. Passmore Edwards intended it to be a memorial to his parents who had lived in the town. Finely designed in dressed granite brought to course, granite ashlar and granite dressings, the U-plan Institute has a dry laid



Delabole slate roof with two pedimented gables at the front with a parapet between and hipped ends at the rear. The foundation stone was laid in 1893 and the Institute was opened in 1896 by Mrs Passmore Edwards, the wife of the donor. The building is little altered. Its interior has a good original open-string staircase, pitch-pine dado panelling, panelled doors and doorcases together with a large cast-iron Cornish range (known as a Cornish slab). Built on newly made-up ground donated by Harvey's, the Institute had an important social agenda for the two communities and is still actively serving the town today. Hayle Institute is the largest of four institutes given by Passmore Edwards in Cornwall and one of the many buildings designed for him by his architect and friend, Cornishman Sylvanus Trevail. From a little Cornish village (Blackwater) Passmore Edwards became a city journalist and lecturer, MP for Salisbury, editor of a leading London newspaper and a life-long champion of the working-classes.

Commercial Road

War Memorial

This Grade II listed dressed granite war memorial commemorates those who died in the Great War (1914-18) and, later, those who died in the World War II (1939-45). The monument comprises on a tapered cross shaft with a Celtic cross head and on octagonal sarcophagus with a stepped base. The sarcophagus chest has a moulded plinth and cornice; alternate sides have recessed inscribed panels. The memorial which, like much of Hayle Terrace and Commercial Road is on built-up ground, is located a just few metres to the west of the site of the former Bodriggy Quay.

12, 14, 16 Commercial Road

These simple rendered two storey houses with their low eaves, cement washed slate roof and stacks, and their relatively small windows are among



the older properties in the town; although altered in the the 19th and 20th centuries, they date from the 18th century and were probably associated with Bodriggy Quay . While looking like a typical Cornish half-house, with three windows at first floor and two at ground floor with paired doors in the centre, the whole asymmetrical layout of the elevation indicates its earlier origin and late conversion to half-houses. The decorative style of many of the 9th century houses on both sides of Commercial Road is, with their roughcast or pebble dashed walls and their decorative window and door surrounds like those of Hayle Terrace or Penpol Terrace, quite common in Hayle and said to be peculiar to the town. Opposite the library, two early shopfronts survive at 48 and 50 Commercial Road, while 50 was the Globe Inn.

Cornish Arms: 98 Fore Street

The Grade II listed public house was originally a beer shop. Dating from the 18th century or early 19th century, it was remodelled around the end of the 19th century when the partly glazed



box porch with original side door and all the are four-pane hornless sash windows were added. During the tenancy of Edward Chegwin (1867-73) the beer shop was uprated to an inn and named the Cornish Arms. It has a half-hipped grouted scantle slate roof (replaced at the rear with corrugated asbestos) and painted chimneys. The building now has a double pile plan but was, perhaps, originally two houses of only single room depth.

Milestone: Cornish Arms forecourt

Dating from about the mid C19 this is a painted and dressed probably granite monolith. The Grade II listed milestone has a triangular shaft over a rectangular base. Two rectangular sides of the shaft face the road obliquely with has incised lettering and numerals saying, respectively: Hayle - Penzance 8 miles, Lands End 18; and Hayle - Camborne 5 miles, Redruth 9 miles, Truro 19 miles.

Brewery Office: 1 Sea Lane

This one and two storey Grade II listed building used to function as the office for the brewery.

Dating from 1873 it has a wet laid Cornish scantle slate roof on

walls of rubble and Cornish rab (rubble and - mostly - earth) finished with paint, stucco and pebbledash. The interior with its built in office furniture is unusually complete and unaltered but the brewery office was extensively repaired, refurbished and extended in 2008. Harvey's



Foundry Trust, based in John Harvey House in Foundry Square, is managing the building as an archive for the town and the former steam brewery.

Penpol Brewery: Sea Lane

The Penpol steam brewery was in existence in 1815 and was operated as C. Ellis and Son Ltd (Steam Brewery) until it merged with Hicks & Co in 1934. The vacant (2008) Grade II listed brewery buildings were last used as a distribution centre.



Bodriggy House

Bodriggy House, located at the top of Sea Lane, is a Georgian manor house in the classical style. The Grade II* listed house



incorporates 17th century or earlier remains but the present structure was largely or wholly rebuilt in about 1718 and extended slightly in the late 19th century. It is built of painted rubble with a granite ashlar front and a steep, dry laid Delabole roof with tall brick chimneys. The two storey house has a symmetrical seven window front with a central doorway. Decorative features include a plinth, flat arches and moulded mid-floor string which steps up as hood mould over the doorway. The panelled front door and the windows are early 19th century but the original 18th century fanlight over the door survives. There is a a fine period interior, with

many contemporary features intact. Bodriggy was one of the large estates that surrounded the estuary of the River Hayle before the town came properly into being. The estate is known to have been in the hands of the Bodriggy family as early as 1181. During the last 800 years its ownership passed into different families only twice. Once the home of Merchant Curnow, the West family (of engineering note) and the Ellis family of the Penpol (Hayle Steam) Brewery.

Cross Street, St Johns Street, Bodriggy Street and Upper Church Street

These streets of modest early 19th century workers' cottages were laid out by the Cornish Copper Co. Low, two storey rows with regular fenestration but varying in style, they comprise a mixture of half-

houses, single fronted and double fronted properties. Most were built of stone rubble and scoria by the Cornish Copper Co, but some were built of granite by its tenants. Nearly all the houses are rendered and, for the most part their slate roofs and sash windows have now been replaced.



Few of these houses have the typical Hayle detailing of roughcast and stucco displayed on the grander river-front rows (eg Hayle Terrace & Penpol Terrace) as is to be expected in what was a modest part of the growing town. Most are built right onto the pavement, although some have small walled forecourts or front gardens. Most of these properties, however, have long rear gardens.

The Salvation Army Church in Cross Street is also of interest because General Booth was a non-conformist minister at Hayle when he was formulating his ideas about his subsequent world-famous organisation.

Fore Street

Much of the shopping end of Fore Street is made up of late 18th and 19th century shops and houses, with a good number of valuable



surviving contemporary timber shopfronts. From the open sections of Fore Street there are panoramic views of Copperhouse Pool and, on the far side, Memorial Walk and Rivière House, Clifton Terrace and Rivière Farm on the skyline to its east, the Towans and , last, the historic village of Phillack with its fine church tower.

The Cornubia Tavern or Hotel

This public house dates from 1867 and featured frequently in the history of Copperhouse. Many public meetings, official dinners, shareholders assemblies and many public sales and auctions were held there while the Cornish Copper Company and the great Copperhouse Foundry were in operation. The sale of the Copperhouse Foundry's assets took place there in February 1875.



The two storey building has stuccoed walls, a hipped grouted scantle slate roof with slightly projecting eaves and an open porch with roughly square Doric columns.

The hotel was named either after the Copperhouse-built railway engine called Cornubia, or after the Hayle-built steam packet Cornubia which was built much earlier but famed at the time as a blockade-runner for the Confederate States in the American Civil War.

The Copperhouse Inn or Hotel

This is another important, Grade II listed, Copperhouse public house. Dating from 1791, it was remodelled in or



about the early 19th century. It has stuccoed walls with classical details and hipped roofs behind stuccoed parapets; the rear elevations are of painted scoria blocks.

The original plan form of the building is not clear but nowadays there are three rooms along the street frontage, all under separate roofs. The modern entrance doorway is set in the angle between the two left-hand bays and the front wing in an open Doric porch with square columns.

The building has a good rear yard with an especially good stable block built of painted scoria with a slate roof and a flight of large steps to the upper floor.

Initially called The Commercial, the public house had been renamed as Hooper's Inn by 1835.

Warehouse: 6 Fore Street

Opposite the Copperhouse Inn is a little lane. Visible at the end and backing onto the dock gates, this warehouse and store is said to have



been a light copper goods workshop for the Cornish Copper Company and/or J & F Pool Ltd before reverting to a (retail grocery) warehouse in the 20th century. Originally it comprised at least two mid-late 19th century buildings of rubble, slate, scoria and granite with a wet laid scantle slate roof, they were linked in the early 20th century by a surviving glazed atrium. From the access lane / towpath behind the warehouse adjoining the floating dock, there are good views of the remains of the dock gates and the low water footbridge across the canal.

2 & 4 Fore Street (Daniels'/Cooperative)

This shop, empty for several years, is a former warehouse dating from the mid 18th century that was altered in the mid 19th



century and extended in the mid 20th century. The original warehouse is a two storey rendered building with vermiculated rusticated stucco quoins and stucco window surrounds, and a hipped slate roof. The first floor window looking westwards down Fore Street has been altered at least twice and may indicate that the building had a count

house (payroll) function at one stage. A building of these dimensions is shown here on the 1791 map of Hayle and almost certainly survives beneath the later render. This building and another immediately to the east were the only structures standing on the Cornish Copper Co's wharves at Copperhouse in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, and this one was the company's principal warehouse or store. This gentrified former warehouse has an important townscape role in defining Market Square and the entrance to Fore Street. The adjoining car park to the east was once a turning basin for ships using the Copperhouse canal and docks.

Copperhouse Dock

In about 1769 the canal - around a kilometre long - was excavated from the harbour to a new dock at Copperhouse with watertight gates



at the dock entrance. The impressive Grade II listed Georgian floating dock is built of cast scoria blocks set vertically in regular courses. It is about 100 metres long, built in two sections at an obtuse angle to one another and narrowing where they join. The modern road bridge crosses it here.

A basin on the south side at the western end was filled in mid-20th century to form Daniel's car park and roughly faced in concrete blocks and reused scoria. At the eastern end of the docks is a round arched culvert on the north side and a 20th century bridge over a sluice that appears to have been a lock to the narrow canal which continues eastwards.

The retaining walls of the dock are battered and scalloped to accommodate the boats snugly. At the western end is the main dock entrance built of granite ashlar with rounded corners, a pair of timber lock gates in a serious state of decay and cast-iron mooring posts.

Originally the dock was used by vessels belonging to the Cornish Copper Company. Later the company sold its wharves to Harvey's after failing in 1867 and although most trade was carried out from the quays in the main Hayle River, the dock remained in use and a few small ships were built here in the 1860s. In fact, coasting vessels continued to use the dock and to load coal and grain at the adjoining wharves until the 1930s.



Market Square

St George's Hall & former Palace Cinema

This striking building is located on the site of the first (1814) market house in Copperhouse. The hall was built of rubble and scoria blocks very early in the 20th century as St George's Hall and was converted into a cinema around 1914. The principal elevation to Market



Square, repaired in 2008, is faced with ornate, good-quality glazed terracotta and the recently reinstated oriel was originally an external projection room accessed by climbing out of the

window and walking along the balcony on the cornice above the shops. Around 1938, a large white reinforced concrete balcony and projection room on slender columns, was added with the loss of the original cast-iron balcony railings and all but the base of the original projection oriel. Two original shopfronts survive (left and centre) which have been carefully repaired and a new shopfront has been installed to the right. As part of the building's rehabilitation the auditorium, vacant since the cinema closed in the 1950s, was converted to flats and a new first floor flat added above the right-hand shop. The refurbished St George's Hall and its granite forecourt have a key townscape role in Market Square.

Phillack Church Hall: 9 Fore Street

This little scoria block hall was built in the late 18th century, possibly as a Sunday School for the first Methodist Chapel (1785) in Copperhouse which stood opposite. In 1877 it was a volunteer drill hall, the first company having been raised at Copperhouse in 1798. The hall was re-fronted and extended in 1912 for its present purpose.

Copperhouse Market House

The Grade II listed former Market House, with its 1839 date stone, replaced the earlier market on the site of St George's Hall. This five bay, two-storey building has a stuccoed front with dressed granite rustications and a grouted scantle slate hipped roof with wide eaves. Until 1930 there was a small central clock tower rising from the



ridge which housed the town clock. The front rooms were later fitted with shopfronts replacing the original, smaller windows. The Market House was still in use as the head office of J. & F. Pool Ltd in 2000.

6-10 Market Street

Behind the Market House is the former market place.



This contains a rare surviving row of three quite early Cornish Copper Co cottages. The two-storey painted rubble and cob cottages date from the 18th century but only the central, least altered one is listed. The cottages have small front yards with scoria walls and moulded scoria copings.

The pair of three-storey houses adjoining the east end of the row were originally built by the Cornish Copper Company in 1779 as offices. The Grade II listed pair are of painted rubble and scoria with some slate hanging. While the history of these buildings is not known in detail, they were probably used as the manager's house before Rivière House was built on the far side of Copperhouse Pool in 1791 and are said to have barrel vaulted strong rooms as cellars.

Copper Terrace

This terrace was built in 1901 by Jack Luke on the site of the Cornish Copper Co smelter, a small fragment of which remains at the roadside defining the front garden at the eastern end. The roadside elevations are rendered with enriched moulded stucco surrounds, and full height canted bay windows, but the rear elevations and boundary walls re-use large numbers of scoria blocks taken,

presumably, from the various Cornish Copper Co. buildings on the site that had been demolished - such as the smelter, the foundry and the ropewalk.

Pond Walk

Cornish Copper Company Office

This innocuous Georgian house, set back from the main road opposite Lethlean Lane, is the former Copperhouse Foundry office and was built by the



Cornish Company Co in about 1775. The much altered Grade II listed building has a stuccoed front but is otherwise built of painted scoria blocks. The steep half-hipped roof is now covered with asbestos slate. The two storey property has three windows in the north front and may originally have been symmetrical with a single central doorway. The right-hand room may once have been a shop with a shop-front. .

Lethlean Lane

Within a 60 m radius of the junction with Lethlean Lane once lay a 1780s lime kiln and the Cornish Copper Co's 1830s gasworks, and 1842 four-storey tidal grist mill (known as Paddy's Mill) with a 20 foot (6 m) diameter iron wheel. The tidal mill was converted to steam in the late 19th century and used until 1927. it was finally demolished in the 1980s and now only an arched sluice survives at the eastern end of Copperhouse Dock.

Lethlean Lane Bridge

An attractive Grade II listed granite clapper bridge with a central supporting pier carries Lethlean Lane over the stream that runs just south of Glebe Terrace and the Undercliff.



There is an inscription "WH 1812" on the western side; WH was the Reverend William Hockin, rector of Phillack. The stream banks are revetted with granite on each side of the bridge. Together with the nearby former poor- house cottages in Glebe Terrace, the bridge formed a picturesque subject for 19th century and early 20th century painters and photographers, including Stanhope Forbes.

Lethlean: Hayle Railway Bridge

This Grade II listed bridge carried the single track of the Hayle railway over part of the creek at Copperhouse. It is located about halfway



between the Lethlean Lane clapper bridge and the Black Road and is said to be the oldest surviving railway bridge in Cornwall. The line opened for mineral traffic in 1837. By 1852 the line was bypassed and closed and the bridge then carried the footpath. The structure is of granite with a capping of large granite blocks. It is 25ft (7.64M) long and 12ft (3.67M) wide and has three round headed skewed granite arches on rounded cutwaters.

Black Road

The Black Road as it is known locally is a man-made causeway across Copperhouse Creek from the rear of the co-operative store north-westwards towards Memorial Walk on the north side of Copperhouse Pool. The road was reputedly built for John Edwards, manager of the Cornish Copper Co, to improve access to the North Quays for which they acquired the lease in 1780. He was, however, manager only until 1807 and the Cornish Copper Co only acquired the freehold of the quays in 1811, so this is a more likely date of the road's construction. The carriageway is built of large moulded scoria blocks with road surface partly metallised with copper slag.

Black Bridge

The unique Grade II listed Black Bridge was built as part of the Black Road to span a water channel flowing into the Hayle mills tidal pond. The bridge was supposedly altered to allow the Rector of Phillack, William Hockin, to pass under it in his boat. The change is reflected in the raised northern arch - which is segmental, asymmetrical and higher at the abutment than the smaller, original arch which is unaltered and almost round. The bridge uses two types of scoria block: the standard blocks for the main structure and arch headed blocks for coping stones. The two ends of the bridge splay out with battered walls where they meet the embankments.



Memorial Walk and the Route of the Hayle Railway Rivière Cottage

Formerly a poorhouse this Grade II listed house dates from about 1790 and was remodelled in the early 19th century. It has a granite ashlar plinth, stuccoed walls and a long hipped grouted scantle slate roof with wide eaves and panelled soffit. Originally the building probably comprised a two-room house to the left, with a central stairhall projecting at the rear, and a pair of cottages to the right with a right-angle wing at the rear.



Rivière House

Best viewed from across Copperhouse Pool in Fore Street, this fine Grade II listed country residence above the King George V Memorial Walk was built in 1791 for John Edwards, while he was the managing partner of the Cornish Copper Company. It has a stuccoed entrance front, with slate hanging to the garden front, otherwise it is of killas and granite rubble with granite dressing. The house's basement and its circa 1800 extension are of scoria blocks. The building is three-storeys high with hipped grouted scantle slate roofs on wide bracketed eaves, although there is a local tradition that the roof was originally



copper clad. The north-east front is symmetrical with three windows and a central doorway. The exterior is granite ashlar plinth with stucco eaves cornice to bracketed eaves soffit. The original door has six-panels and a fanlight in a Tuscan porch retaining its original entablature even though the columns were replaced in the 20th century.

At the time when John Edwards occupied Rivière House there is a recorded incident of Davies Gilbert (of Tredrea, St Erth, and a friend of Richard Trevithick) taking the young Humphry Davy to the house. There he saw for the first time a well equipped laboratory including apparatus which he had previously seen only in engravings. Davy expressed “tumultuous delight and worked an air pump with the simplicity and joy of a child engaged in the examination of a new and favourite toy”.

The next resident was Joseph Carne FRS, Edward’s successor as manager of the Cornish Copper Co. Carne was also a friend of Richard Trevithick’s and helped Trevithick test the latter’s first model of a high pressure steam engine in the cellar workshop of this house. Bought by Canon Hockin of Phillack on the sale of Cornish Copper Co assets in 1875, Rivière House was home to Sir Compton McKenzie in the early 20th century.

Rivière Farm

Best viewed on the skyline from across Copperhouse Pool, this Grade II listed farm complex includes an engine



house, cartshed, stables and granaries with fodder stores in the lofts. Located east of Clifton Terrace,

high on the hill above Rivière House, this very good group of farm buildings was originally built to accommodate the pack-mules and pack-horses of the Cornish Copper Company. They date roughly from the mid 19th century and are built of scoria blocks and granite rubble with granite dressings.

The Hayle Railway

The Hayle Railway opened in 1837 carrying mineral traffic to and from mines at Camborne and Redruth. The line started at Penpol, from there crossing the creek by a swing bridge and passing Rivière on the north side of Copperhouse Pool to reach Angarrack via an inclined plane. It was superseded in 1852 by the West Cornwall Railway which re-used the parts of the Hayle Railway from Penpol to the wharves and on the wharves themselves, and built a new link to the main line. The branch along the north side of Copperhouse Pool was maintained at least as far as Penmare for most of the rest of the 19th century. The wharf system had a third rail laid to 7 ft (2.125 m) gauge in 1877, the last such broad gauge rail to be laid. Shown as abandoned on the 1907 OS map, the line was re-used during WW I to serve the National Explosives Works which closed in 1922, although the branch was only officially closed in 1934. The main and branch lines used steam engines (the first came from Liverpool; the second - the Cornubia - was built at the Copperhouse Foundry in 1838), but the Penpol quays rail system used horsepower for shunting until its closure in 1963. The north and south stone abutments of the original Hayle Railway bridge, dating from 1837, survive at Penpol just north of the later iron swingbridge.

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 19th century runs over the stream a little to the north of the Customs House.



Constructed from granite rubble with arch headed scoria block copings, it is a single span bridge widened at south west side in the late 19th century.

