

## PENRHO

On the site of an old cottage, formerly part of Cambridge Place. Penro is on the beach side at the southern end of Borth High Street. It was built in 1935.



*Penrho in 2015.*

Penrho is single fronted, with three floors as there is a bedroom and two storage rooms under the gable roof. The house is almost parallel to the street and has its front door on the south side. The roof is slate coloured and there is a chimney on the north side. The walls are brick and rendered. The front door has an almost flat roof over it, supported by brackets, and a small window beside it lights the hall. All the windows are modern. The front garden is narrow and enclosed by pebble dash brick walls. The plan of the house is deeper than the old cottage that stood on this site, and it is as wide as its plot so that it forms a terrace with its neighbours. The design of the front is plain, with dark lines above and below the windows and on the top of the chimney.



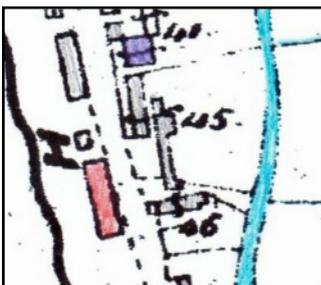
*The house from the beach in 2015.*

At the rear in the roof on the south side is a small light for the loft floor. On the upper floor a balcony accessed by a door has a view over the beach, and a staircase leads down into the back yard. Beneath the balcony is the back door of the house, of a similar design to the one above. The ground floor has a french window opening into the yard flanked by windows. The yard is protected from the sea by a plank wall with a boarded gateway.

In 1829 the site of this house was still an un-enclosed part of the wide stone embankment thrown up by the sea. It was considered 'waste' by the Crown Manor who owned it because it was no use for farming. The road had been there for centuries and had become a turnpike road in the 1770s. It led to a

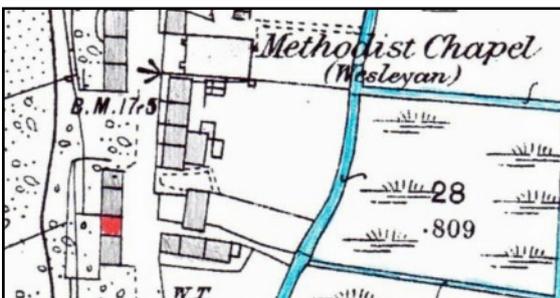
ferry from Ynyslas to Aberdovey and was a quick way to reach north Wales. At the time this house was built there was running water, electricity in the village, and coal could come by train. The old cottage on the site would have had a supply of peat for fuel from across the River Leri near Ynys Fergi, and fresh water from a 'brook' on the other side of the road made up from the tailrace from the Glanlerry corn mill plus two little streams.

The old cottage was already built by 1848 and was in a terrace with others.



*The terrace of cottages in 1848 is marked in red. Marked in purple is the Wesleyan Chapel which was much smaller. As the beach side cottages had no gardens they paid no tithe and we do not have the names of the villagers living there.*

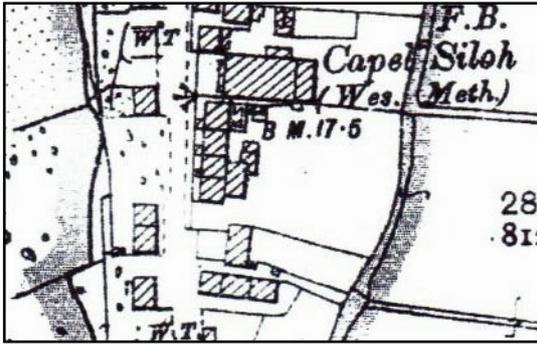
*Tithe Apportionments Map for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township. Online at CYNEFIN, N.L.W.*



*The cottage was one of four in 1886, and is marked in red. It opened on to the street, and shared a back yard and owner with its neighbour on the south. Some defences had been built to protect them from the sea.*

*Detail from the 25 Inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886, published in 1888. Cardiganshire III.10*

In 1891 at the Census in the old cottage was Lewis Lloyd, aged 52, with his wife Sarah and daughter Rebecca. He was a stonemason, and this was a monoglot Welsh speaking family. By 1904 the old cottage had gone. In 1910 at a valuation for a tax, planned but not levied this was a 'plot of land at Wesleyan Place' measuring 14 perches (10 yards). The value had not been decided, and the owner was Lewis Lloyd who had moved to the much grander Lerry Villa (Ty Leri). (Ceredigion Archives T/DV/18 and map at the National Library of Wales).



*By the map of 1905, revised in 1904, the old cottage had gone though its three neighbours in the row were still there.*

Penrho was built about 1935. Mrs Elizabeth Thomas was the owner and occupier and the house was valued at £20, with £12 to pay. The Council listed her paying the rates for it in 1938. She was scared of the sea and sold the house fully equipped for rental after only two years. Mr David Leslie Shaw and his wife Annie bought it when it was said to be about two years old. The hall and sitting room were lined with oak panels salvaged from the demolition of a country mansion in Oswestry, and it had an electric bell system for calling servants. Mr Shaw died in 1939 and his widow married Alfred Downs. The house was rented out, for example with a vote for it in the General Election of 1945 was Bertha L. Atkins. Paying the rates in 1949 was Alfred Downs. He also paid the rates in 1963, and with a vote for the house was Annie Downs. The stairs at the back lead up to the bathroom to prevent sandy feet coming through the house. It had open fireplaces in the living room and kitchen until recent years. The author would like to thank Diana Fletcher for information on the house, Mr and Mrs Shaw were her grandparents who came from Birmingham.

The present house has both a narrow front garden and a square back yard. If Mrs Ely Thomas gave the house this name she must have been familiar with Welsh. The name means at the top or crest of the pebbles - i.e. its site on the top of the stone embankment. 'Gro' is pebbles - the 'g' gets lost - and 'Pen' is at the end or top.