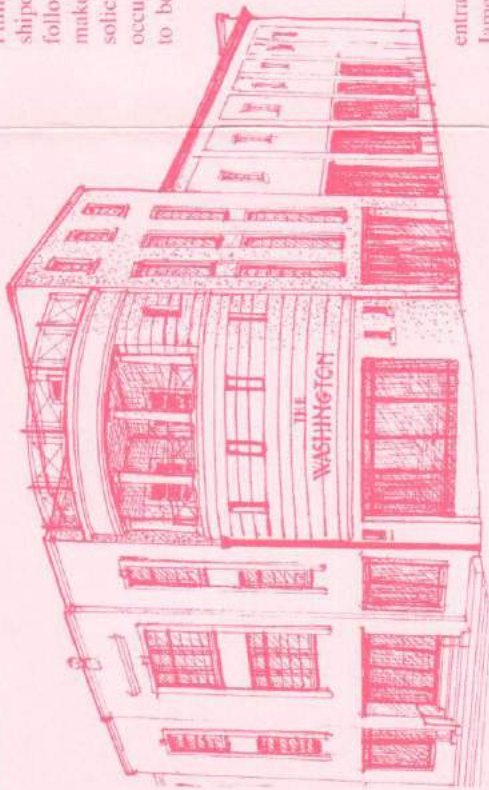


In the 1930's the Willmore brothers, Oliver and Leonard, turned the buildings into flats, with shops built on the gardens to the front. The gardens and tennis courts of one house became the Washington Cinema and the gardens of the other a car park. The cinema was opened on 4th April 1938 by Lt. Colonel J. H. R. Downes-Powell, who resided at "The Lindens".



Washington Cinema

The cinema was designed by Feather and Wilson, Cardiff. The shops alongside were built c.1960's. The four large houses opposite were built c.1890 on the site of Taylor's farm and the Town Pound. Occupants included Dr. Lindsey, the Tylke family who owned Barry Island in the 1870's, and H. Snell.

The large house on the corner of Rectory road, distinctive in design and built of materials unusual in Penarth, was constructed in 1892 as "Trelleaven" for Edmund Handcock, tug and shipowner, on the site of the demolished All Saints. The church, a temporary one of corrugated iron, which could

Iron Church



seat 400 people, was opened in 1881 and taken down in 1892 when it moved to Maughan Street.

Rectory Road was laid in the 1860's, and four stone houses were built. The first, "Springrove", now has a modern house in its garden. An early occupant of "Springrove" was Johan Holst; his next-door neighbour in "Woodlands" was Philip S. Hacquoil shipowner, brother of Francis, also a shipowner. By 1890 Mdlme. de Soldenhoff was in residence, followed by B. W. Freeman, tobacco importer and cigar maker. The first occupant of "The Elms" was R. F. Langley, solicitor and Registrar of Cardiff County Court. By 1890 the occupant was Ethel Trehearne Rees, H.M. Inspector of Mines, to be followed by W. J. Tillet, shipowner, who had three steamships c.1900.

Across the road stands the Penarth Lawn Tennis Club and to the rear the Penarth Bowling Club. Alexandra Gardens were opened on Wednesday 25th June, 1902, on land gifted to the town by the Windsor family. Prior to the landscaping the area was used for communal grazing.

The Old Rectory, c.1860, stands behind a massive proprietorial stone wall with a grand double-gated entrance. The first resident appears to have been the Rev. James Evans followed by the Rev. Charles Parsons.

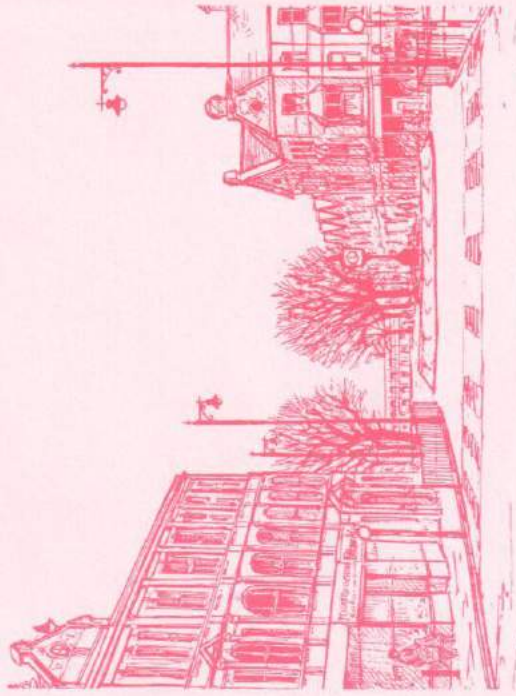
By the 1920's the house had been divided into two. Thomas Thomas occupied "Greystones" and the Misses A. and S. Thomas resided in the other half, "Karfa", which opened into Rectory Road.

The flats of Albany Court were built in the gardens of "The Hollies", a grand town mansion built c.1860 on the site of a demolished thatched cottage for George Taylor, a coal factor. The last occupant appears to have been Sir Frederick Alban.

The first houses on the north side of Windsor Terrace were built c.1860 and were classed as being part of Windsor Road. Six houses were built on the south side in the early 1870's and the row was completed by 1880. Early occupants included the Windsor Estate Offices at No. 3, built on the site of John Henry's demolished thatched cottage. Offices were occupied by Robert Forrest, Windsor Agent, and the architect H. Snell. Alfred D. Ashton, a founder member with H. J. Vellacont of the Penarth Yacht Club c.1880, lived at 25, with Hyalmar Lorange at 26. Mrs. Mary H. Shipman's Young Ladies School was at 29. Early occupants of the shops in the north side of Andrews Buildings included Mrs. S. E. Thomas, tobacconist, and Serre Achille Limited, dyers and cleaners. The Trail ends at the roundabout.

THE PENARTH SOCIETY

Town Trails No. 9



PENARTH TOWN COUNCIL

**Duration of Walk:
Approximately 45 minutes**

Text © Alan Thorne 1998
Illustrations © Diana Mend

Prior to urbanisation, 1850-1870's, the area covered by today's town centre contained two or three farms and about six cottages, clustered around the junction of the Parish Road, now Albert Road and Stanwell Road, and two tracks - one that ran down to the foreshore and one, today's Windsor Road, that ran down to Cogan Pill. Robert Forrest, Windsor Estate's Agent, remembered - "When I first came to Penarth (1850's) I saw some tumble-down farms and a few streets that were most difficult to walk along."

The Trail starts at the St. Fagan's Castle Inn built with four cottages to the rear, now Table Talk, c.1850's.

The pub's first landlord was David Evans from Coychurch. The house next door, with large bays, was built c.1860 for Dr. Byers and the garden stretched to the Windsor Lodge, now Ferrari's, built c.1860 for Henry Batchelor, a naval architect and marine engineer, brother of John and James Batchelor. The house is of an unusual design and is built of yellow brick which was uncommon for the period. The linking row of five smaller stone houses was built c.1870. The pub and the houses all had front gardens; commercial fronts were built on the gardens 1880-1890's. However, the pub retained its garden until c.1910. Early shop occupants included Tom King, ironmonger, and Ed Paxford, dairyman.

The impressive Lloyd's Bank and the Arcade were built in the 1890's by Solomon Andrews to designs by E. Webb. The Bank, of ashlar Bath stone, was opened 1898, the site having previously been occupied by the farmhouse, yard and outbuildings of Farmer Lawrence.



Town Centre

Barclay's Bank, opposite, was built c.1880's as a large private residence for Anne Morgan. By 1883 it had become the offices of the Star Bowkett Building Society; c.1890 it became the London and Provincial Bank - Henry W. Price, manager, lived in. Barclays acquired the house at the end of World War I.

Around the corner is Bradenham Place - two rows of grand town houses c.1880, all with distinguishing architectural features. The name is derived from a title, Baron Windsor of Bradenham, bestowed on Sir Andrew de Windsor in the 16th Century. The Place was built on a track that ran from Lawrence's farm to West House farm. The track was 'severed' when the cutting was excavated c.1870's.



Bethania Chapel

Hickman Road is named after Thomas Hickman who became Baron Windsor in June 1660. The villas "Pymont" and "Claremont" were built c.1880's for Dan Mules, ship-broker, and S. Coleman, accountant. Alongside, now sadly demolished, stood Bethania Welsh Calvinistic Chapel built c.1890 with locally raised funds. A principal fund-raiser was Dame Clara Novello Davies. The attractive houses opposite, built of local stone c.1880, were designed by Henry Cornelius Harris, who resided in Hickman Road as did another architect, Henry Snell. Other occupants included Professor Templeton, a number of mastermariners, John Blampied, James Tucker etc, a shipowner R. H. Strong and Charles Williams, owner of the "Penarth Observer".

Herbert Terrace reminds us of the builder of Cogan Pill House, Matthew Herbert c.1554, (Charlotte Herbert married Lord Mountstuart 1766.) The eight houses were built c.1880. H. J. Vellacott, a shipowner who had been born off the Cape of Good Hope 1853, on a vessel skippered by his father Captain H. Vellacott, was the original occupant of number 3.

Turning left into Stanwell Road we reach a short row of houses built c.1880. One has recently been demolished. An original occupant was John Hugh Rees MD, surgeon, later followed by Homphray P. Hacquoil, surgeon and physician, son of F. Hacquoil, shipowner. The corner house was originally occupied by Charles Millward. It later became the Grosvenor Restaurant, then in 1920 Penarth's Post Office and

Telephone Exchange. The Post Office moved in 1936 but the Exchange remained until well after the end of the last war. Shop fronts were eventually added to all the houses.

Opposite stand Andrews Buildings with Windsor Chambers, built in 1896 by Solomon Andrews. The five shops had as original occupants S. Andrews & Son, fruiterers, E. J. Coleman & Co., chemist and Ralph Crossling, florist. Above, the Windsor Chambers were occupied by D. H. Edmonds, auctioneer, B. W. King, solicitor etc. Built of Bath stone, the rear walls are of brick from Andrew's Llandaff Brickworks. The modern offices alongside were built on the site of the demolished Christchurch. The church, in Gothic style with 110 foot spire, was designed by Habershon & Faulkner. Over 600 people attended the opening on Wednesday 10th May, 1897. The total cost was £6,500. Worshippers included Dr. Joseph Parry and family.

Christchurch



The Public Library, Jacobean of coursed grey local limestone with Bath stone dressings, was designed by Henry Snell and opened in 1905 on land gifted by the Lord Windsor aided by a gift of £4,000 from the Carnegie Trust. The grand arched entrance in Stanwell Road is now a large window. Opposite is the recently-renovated Washington. Up until c.1880 the site was occupied by Step Cottage, in reality a large farmhouse. In 1871 the occupant was Sarah Evans, widow of a Channel pilot. One of her five children, Edward, was described as a "small farmer" (17 acres). The cottage was demolished and two large town houses were built; first occupants were James Thomas and Alfred Holman, shipowner (Fry, Holman, Fry of Bute Street). By c.1900 Charles Aitken MD and R. F. Neil MRCS occupied the houses, which then became the Penarth Tutorial College. During World War I a military hospital was established in the school. In October 1922 Captain Beavan opened the houses as the Washington Hotel.