



# Darganfod Hen Dai Cymreig

## Discovering Old Welsh Houses

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Please note that these reports are being updated as part of an ongoing programme of revision. Older reports sometimes refer to the old names of the Group. Between 2005 and 2012 also known as The Snowdonia Dendrochronology Project, then the N W Wales Dendrochronology Project and then the Dating Old Welsh Houses Group.

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PLAS YM MHENRHOS  
PENRHOS,  
PWLLHELI,  
GWYNEDD  
(NGR SH 355 342)

House History



Author : Margaret Dunn

Date;



A report commissioned by The North West Wales Dendrochronology Project in partnership with The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW).

Plas vn Penrhos, Penrhos, Pwllheli, Gwynedd

Grid ref; 356342

Felling date for house timbers 1608

Possible house date.

Name:

Plas (meaning manor house) Penrhos meaning above or the top of the moor. (Collins Welsh dictionary)

Location.

Penrhos is a small parish on the S.E. coast. Settlement to a gravel ridge between two areas of marshland.

(see appendix 1) Penrhos Parish Church of St Cynfil was rebuilt in 1842 on its old site at the summit of the gravel ridge.

Font: An octagonal bowl of freestone inscribed "HIS 1678", said to have been discovered in 1929 in Plas ym Mhenrhos, where what appears to have been a wooden covering is incorporated in panelling.

(RCAHMW Caernarvonshire inventory Vol 111, 1964, page 89; visited June 1956)

Plas ym Mhenrhos is a small house of one storey with loft, dating from ca. 1700 but modernised. The ceiling has chamfered beams and roughly chamfered joists, and the roof trusses are original with collars pegged on to the principals. Reset in a wooden partition is a wooden panel inscribed "HIS/1678" (in style like the font in the Parish Church) Condition (of the house); good. Visited 15 June 1956 (RCAHMW Caernarvonshire Inventory Vol 111, 1964, page 89. Monument no 1693)

Ca. 1813, as part of an Enclosure Award, an embankment was built from Pwllheli to Carreg y Defaid, near Llanbedrog, with the aim of bringing new land into cultivation. However, being at sea level, and with several watercourses running through it, the land remained marshy and liable to flood. (pers. Comm.. M. Dunn)

Ca 1824 a new road was built across this marshland from Pwllheli towards Llanbedrog and Abersoch. Plas ym Mhenrhos is now reached by a short track from this main road at a point where the land starts to rise above the marshes. (Pers comm. M Dunn)

Early (1731) references to the house in the Broom Hall manuscripts (see below) give the name as Tyddin John suggesting that the original house may have been a smaller, simpler version of the present building. Tyddin being defined as (small) farm, holding. (Collins Welsh dictionary)

Renaming the house Plas suggests that the house may have been extended / modified and that this was a house of substance owned by an important person in the area.

Early history.

(Poof of ownership for a marriage settlement for the son and wife of Edward Williams.) Plas vn Penrhos, Penrhos, Pwllheli, Gwynedd

XM/5879/2 Archifdy Caernarfon May 19th 1731

LLYFRGELL GENEDLAETHOL CYMRU A SCHEDULE

From BROOM HALL MANUSCRIPTS AND DOCUMENTS

Presented y BRIGADIER J.M.J.EVANS C.B.E., M.C. Wishanger

Compiled by :RHIANON FRANCIS ROBERTS 1953

19th May. 1731

1. Edward Williams of the parish of Penrhos, co Caernarvon, gent, and Catherine, his wife, and John Williams, gent. son and heir apparent of the said Edward Williams and Catherine, his wife.

2. Henry William Bellis of the parish of Penmorva, yeoman, and John Jones Junior of Tythin-madog-Goch, gent (witnesses)

"DECLARATION of the uses of a fine of messuage and lands called Plas- yn- Penrhos, otherwise Tyddin-John in the township and parish of Penrhos, and messuages and lands called Ty-tan-y-bryn, Bod-yr-yale, Ty-mawr-yn-Bangor, in and a house and backside in Bangor, in the townships and parishes of Penrhos, Abererch, and Bangor, all in co. Caernarvon."

1745 The Young Pretender (Jacobite) launched another invasion of Britain.

1760 King George 111

1777 Sale of the house and land

1. Edward Jones of St.John's Lane, Clerkenwell, co. Middlesex, tallow- chandler;

2. William Evans of Rhiwgoch, co.Merioneth, gent.;

3. John Garnons of Rhiwgoch aforesaid, esq.

LEASE AND RELEASE, to make a tenant to the precipe for suffering a recovery of messuages and lands called Plas yn Mhenrhos otherwise Tythin John and Tu Tan Y Bryn in the parish of Penrhos, a messuage, lands and houses called Bodruale otherwise Bodyryale in the parish of Aberach otherwise Abereirch, and a messuage and lands and the house and houses thereunto belonging called Tu Mawr and a house and backside in Bangor in the town and parish of Bangor, all in the co. of Caernarvon, and declaring the uses thereof.

1780-1820 Land tax assessments (not towns)

1782-1785 According to the land tax assessment the plas was owned and occupied by Robert Williams. The tax for the first three years was 5/4p following that it was 3/6 until 1818

1788-1818 According to the land tax assessment the owner and occupier was William Roberts (presumably the son of Robert Williams)

1800 Land Enclosure Awards

1815 Battle of Waterloo

1819 Death of Owen Parry age 94 shown in the births & deaths records of Plas yn Penrhos .No record of his position in the household

1820 King George IV

1828 Death as above of Gwen Griffiths age 5 years but no indication of who she was.

1837 Queen Victoria

1837 As above the death of William Roberts age 84 (he is the. father of Edward Williams who takes over from him in the Plas, and also Margaret Roberts who married John Walter Davies.) see appendix 2.

DEGWM6 IR29/48 61— 69 1839 Caernarvon records office. Parish of Penrhos.

1839 Landowner/occupier Edward Williams.

1841-1846 The 'Hungry Forties' Peel began to reduce the cost of living by substituting an income tax for duties on imported goods.

1840 Marriage of Margaret Roberts (Plas Ymhenrhos) to John Walter Davies from Llanerchymedd Anglesey. Her father William Roberts of Plas Ymhenrhos (certificate held with deeds of house by present owner)

The census the. following year shows the head of the household of Plas to be Edward Williams this is (Margaret's) brother as the tendency was to use the first name of the father. for the surname of the son

Census records, Bethesda library.

1841 Census showing Edward Williams, age 30. Of independent means as the head of the household. He had two farm servants and one house servant. They were all born in Wales.

1843 Birth of Eleanor to Margaret Davies (nee Roberts of Plas ymhenrhos) and John Walter Davies, who was a shopkeeper in Pwllheli at that time.

1844 Death (at Bryntirion Llanerchymedd, Anglesey) of Margaret, daughter of the above, age 10 years (do they mean months)

1845 Death of their daughter, Margaret Anne at Pwllheli

1846 Death of another daughter Margaret Anne, age 10 months, from convulsions, not certified.

1846 Repeal of the Corn Law, making bread cheaper.

1847 Birth of the Catherine Davies who lived at the Plas until her death in 1929

1849 Death of another daughter of the above, Margaret Jane. John Walter Davies is now a grocer in Pwllheli.

1850 Death of another Margaret Jane age 4 months (No birth certificates were found for the above nor was there any documentation for the birth of their daughter Catherine who lived there with John Walter Davies at least from 1891 until her death in 1929 at the age of 82)

1851 Census showing Edward Williams was still head of the household. His place of birth is shown as Penrhos. He had three farm servants, one domestic servant, and 15-year-old Owen as a servant.

1861 Census showing Edward Williams now aged 51 with 3 servants and a Mably Williams aged 38 but no further information about her.

1871 Census showing Edward Williams (age 60) farmer of 75 acres with three servants including the above mabley Williams, Mabley Jones and John Williams age 50

1879 Death of Edward Williams 4th October, Wife Margaret sole executor, Personal estate under £600. Probate 22 December.

Ref BMD register volume 1 lb page 392.

1880 10th November, Mortgage agreement of Plas ynmhenrhos to John Walter Davies and his wife Margaret to secure £1500 and interest.

1881 Census listing John Williams age 65 (is this John 0.1871 census who was a Farm servant, the age does not match but frequently do not)

1883 Further charge of £100 and interest on the mortgage of Plas to John W Davies and his wife.

1891 Birth, m and deaths register shows the death of Margaret Davies age 85 at the Plas. The census shows that the same year the Head of the household was John Walter Davies, his daughter Catherine Davies, his grand daughter Helen Jackson and Jane Parry, a domestic servant, and two agri labourers. John Walter Davies was born in Llanerchymedd on Anglesey in 1818. He married Margaret (who was born in 1809 according to the 1871 census which would make her 62 but the 1881 census has her born in 1829 and shows her as being 52 then) Margaret was the daughter of William Roberts. Gent of Plas yn Penrhos. She married John W Davies on 20th January 1840 and she died in 1891. In the 1871 census they were living at 64 High Street Pwllheli with daughter Catherine age 23, daughter Ellen Jackson age 27, granddaughter Catherine Margaret Jackson who was 2 years 7 months and grandson Edward John Jackson age 10 months. At this time he (JWD) was a flour merchant. In the 1881 census John W Davies and his family were living at 92 High Street Pwllheli and he was a farmer of 40 acres, employing 3 men. Also living with him were his wife, daughter Catherine, granddaughter Esther Jackson age 8, granddaughter Ellen age 6, and grandson Arthur S Jackson 5 years old.

1895 Indenture between John Walter Davies, his wife, and Benjamin Thomas Ellis of Rhyllech in the parish of Llannon where he needs to raise £1,500 "All that and those the messuages tenements lands hereditaments and premises with their and every of their appurtenances commonly called and known by the name of Plasymhenrhos otherwise Tyddinsion and Tyan-y-bryn situated lying and being in the parish of Penrhos formerly in the occupation of Edward Williams until his death and now in the occupation of the said John Walter Davies and containing eighty four acres three roods and four perches or thereabouts were conveyed and assured by the said John W Davies and his wife Margaret into and to the use of the said Benjamin Thomas Ellis, his heirs and assigns for ever by way of a mortgage for securing payment to him of the sum of £1,500 and whereas by another indenture dated 18<sup>th</sup> July 1883 was made to John W Davies and his wife and the said Benjamin Thomas (see appendix)

1895 Indenture also to an agreement between John W Davies and his wife and Edward John Jackson (eldest son of Helen Jackson, Margaret's other daughter but later documents are signed by his younger brother William Robert Jackson who was born a year after him in 1871), regarding the fact that they have inherited the Plas and all the lands equally between them. Jackson agrees that J.W Davies and his aunt Catherine are to live there for as long as they live. They raise £350 to give to him. (See appendix) Further sums of money were raised on the property, which may have been further payments to Jackson.

1900 Lease of the piece of land (coloured red in appendix) by J. W. Davies to Peter Edwards where Riverside cottages were built.

"Abstract of TITLE to a freehold farm and lands called Plasymhenrhos situated in the parish of Penrhos and Llannon in the County of Caernarvon and also to the reversion in Riverside Cottages part of the said lands." (Appendix)

1901 King Edward VI 1

1901 The census shows John W Davies (age 83) a farmer with his daughter Catherine age 53 and granddaughter Helen W Jackson but no servants are listed on the census return.

1905 John Walter Davies dies at Plas yn Penrhos age 87

1910 King George V

1910 Parish Land Tax Assessment

1911 The census has as occupier miss Catherine Davies. Her name is then crossed out and the property is marked as uninhabited, however she has the Plas as her place of death in 1929 when she dies intestate at the age of 82

1914 -1918 World War

1923 Mortgage dated the eighth day of May One thousand nine hundred and twenty three and made between the Intestate of the one part and Frederick Catesby Holland and Cecil Maurice Chapman of the other part to secure the sum of One thousand two hundred pounds an interest as therein mentioned which said sum of One Thousand two hundred pounds together with the securities for the death of the Intestate vested (by virtue of the two deeds of transfer hereinafter respectively called the first transfer and second transfer) in Thomas Edward Jones Plas Tudur Llannon in the said county of Carnarvon farmer and as to the part of the said hereditaments which is coloured green on the plan hereinafter mentioned

1929 25th February death of Catherine Davies.

1929 Her sister's son William Robert Jackson now living in Swansea, South Wales, and working as an estate agent, requests a search of living relatives in order to claim the estate.

1929 Twenty second day of October Indenture Conveyance is made Between William Robert Jackson of Teign cottage 10 Maple Crescent, Glamor Road, Swansea, Surveyor and Estate Agent and Gwilym Parry of Gwynfryn in the parish of Llannor in the county of Caernarfon farmer (hereinafter called the Purchaser) of the other part, Whereas Catherine Davies (hereinafter called the Intestate) late of Plas yn mhenrhos in the parishes of Penrhos and Llannor in the saidCounty of Caernarvonshire died on or about the twenty fifth day of February last intestate a spinster and letters of administration to her estate and effects were granted by the Bangor District Probate Registry on the eleventh day of April one thousand and nine hundred and twenty nine to the vendor.

1929 W.A Jackson sold 54 acres, two woods, and thirty purches 953 and half yards to Mr.Gwilym Parry.

1931 Mr.Gwilym Parry rents it all to Owen Lloyd Roberts of Blaenddol Ffestiniogfor £ 100 per annum

1936 King Edward V111

1936 King George VI

1952 Queen Elizabeth 11

1970 Letter sent to Mr.Roberts it increase in the rent to £210 per annum.

The present owners of Plas Ynmhenrhos are descendants of the above Mr.Roberts