



FAQ Who built or owned the building?

Unfortunately, records have not been found that would tell us who built or owned the building that houses the museum. It is thought that it was built towards the end of the 1820s, or early in the 1830s.



Most likely built by an entrepreneur/builder who leased out the houses and the looms separately.

Piggots Trade Guide of 1844 lists several 'Flannel Manufacturers' in the Penygloddfa area, and the 1851 census for Commercial Street lists Edward Gillard as one of many Flannel Manufacturer employing 40 men, as living in this street. Maybe he was the owner then.

The houses were probably converted to three rather than six during the late 1800s during a period of slum improvements. In 1963 when the building was purchased to create the museum, the houses were individually owned but let to tenants. The Museum charity purchased them at that time. The top two loom floors were probably last used for hand-loom weaving in the early 1900s, but later used for storage and to hang out the washing!.

We keep looking to see if we can find any reference to the original owner, and the owners up to the 1960s. We do have the names of the tenants after 1967.

Where were the bathrooms?

Originally there would have been no bathrooms, and no running water in any of the houses. Water was drawn from a public pump at a well, which was frequently contaminated. A sewerage pipe was installed in Commercial Street in 1857, one of the first in the town.

'Privies' were located in the courtyard at the back of the building. One group of three are still there, though not in use! Those who lived in the houses on the street side would have had to go through the passage between No 6 and No 7, to get to the courtyard. Piped water became available in this area of town in the 1870s and 1880s.

What was the cellar used for/how did everyone access it?

There were cellars beneath each house, accessed by a small staircase, still in place in three of the six original houses. There was also access through a small entrance from the street at the front, and it is most likely that they were used for storage of wood or later, coal, for the fire. They would almost certainly always have been damp but occupants could have stored almost anything down there.

The Model

In the second room of the Museum there is a model of the building that shows the construction and layout of the various rooms, including the external staircase. This model shows the way the upper floors of the building were large open spaces to hold the hand-loom.