



Detail of stained glass window from Cathedral Road Synagogue.
Manyl yn o ffenestr gwydr lliw o Synagog Heol Gadeirlan.
Llun trwy garedigrwydd/image courtesy of A. H. Schwartz.

Synagogues / Synagogau

“The old Goat Street synagogue, you have probably heard from other members, was bombed in the war, and there was money—I do not know, from some war reparations or whatever—to build this synagogue which was a big synagogue [Ffynone Street]. It had, and it represented a merger between the old Beth Hamidrash which was once called the Immigrant’s Synagogue, and the English shul, the English shul, Goat Street. And the two merged. And, that was a big congregation then, it was a big building, and now we sold off—you may well have heard of this as well—we sold off the main synagogue—or the whole synagogue actually—to an evangelical church called Life Point. And we kept what was the Palto Hall and converted it to a very nice mini synagogue.”

Leonard Mars.



Synagogue, Goat Street, Swansea 1859- 1941.
Synagog, Heol Gafr, Abertawe 1859-1941.
Llun trwy garedigrwydd/image courtesy of Norma Glass.



Synagogue, Merthyr Tydfil, 1877-1982.
Synagog, Merthyr Tydfil, 1877-1982.
Llun trwy garedigrwydd/image courtesy of David Jacobs.

“The building still exists today at the top of a hill, very prominent within the community and — and it’s — it’s interesting, even nowadays, talking to non-Jewish people who lived in Merthyr at the time, how they would say it was a sight to be seen on a Saturday morning, people very, very smartly dressed walking to the synagogue — yep, and again in the mid-fifties, early-sixties, it was very packed on High Holy Days which was a joy to see, but sadly I believe there’s not one Jewish person living in Merthyr now today, which is, as I said, very sad.”

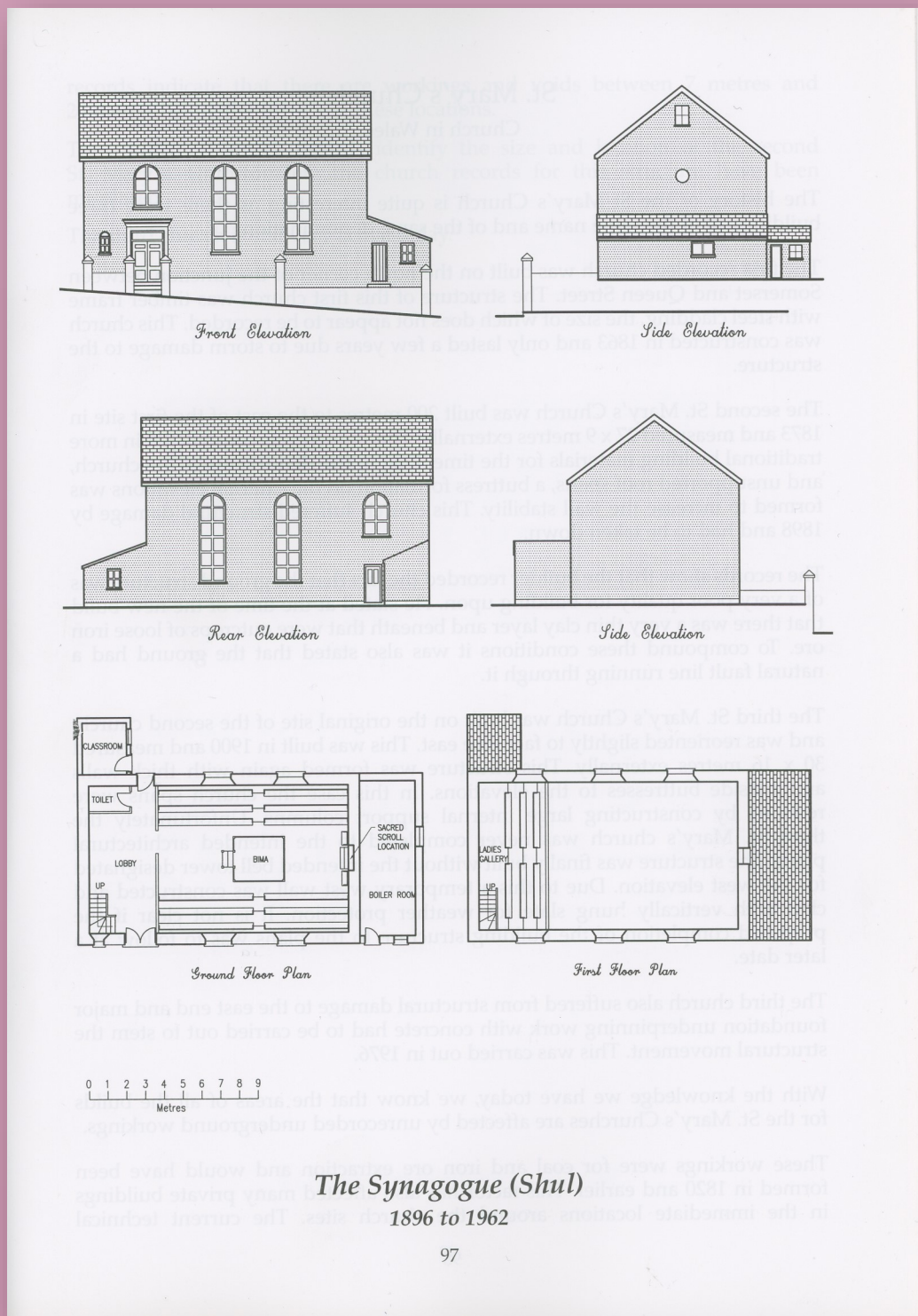
Stephen Hamilton.

“In Aberdare...The shul was a double fronted house near the centre of the town. The minister lived in the downstairs section and the shul was the upstairs section. The front upper room was for men and had about 20 or so seats. The second room was for ladies (and used also as a cheder) had an opening so that the ladies could hear the service. The house had a small yard and I recall regularly taking live chickens that my mother had bought from a local chicken farmer through the town to the schochet who killed them in his yard. I cringed if I met one of my friends on the way to the schochet!”

Cecil Bloom.



Former synagogue c.1877-1957, Seymour Street, Aberdare.
Hen synagog c.1877-1957, Stryd Seymour, Aberdare.
Llun trwy garedigrwydd/image courtesy of David Jacobs.



Synagogue, 1889-1965, Bailey Street, Brynmawr.
Synagog, 1889-1965, Stryd Bailey, Brynmawr.

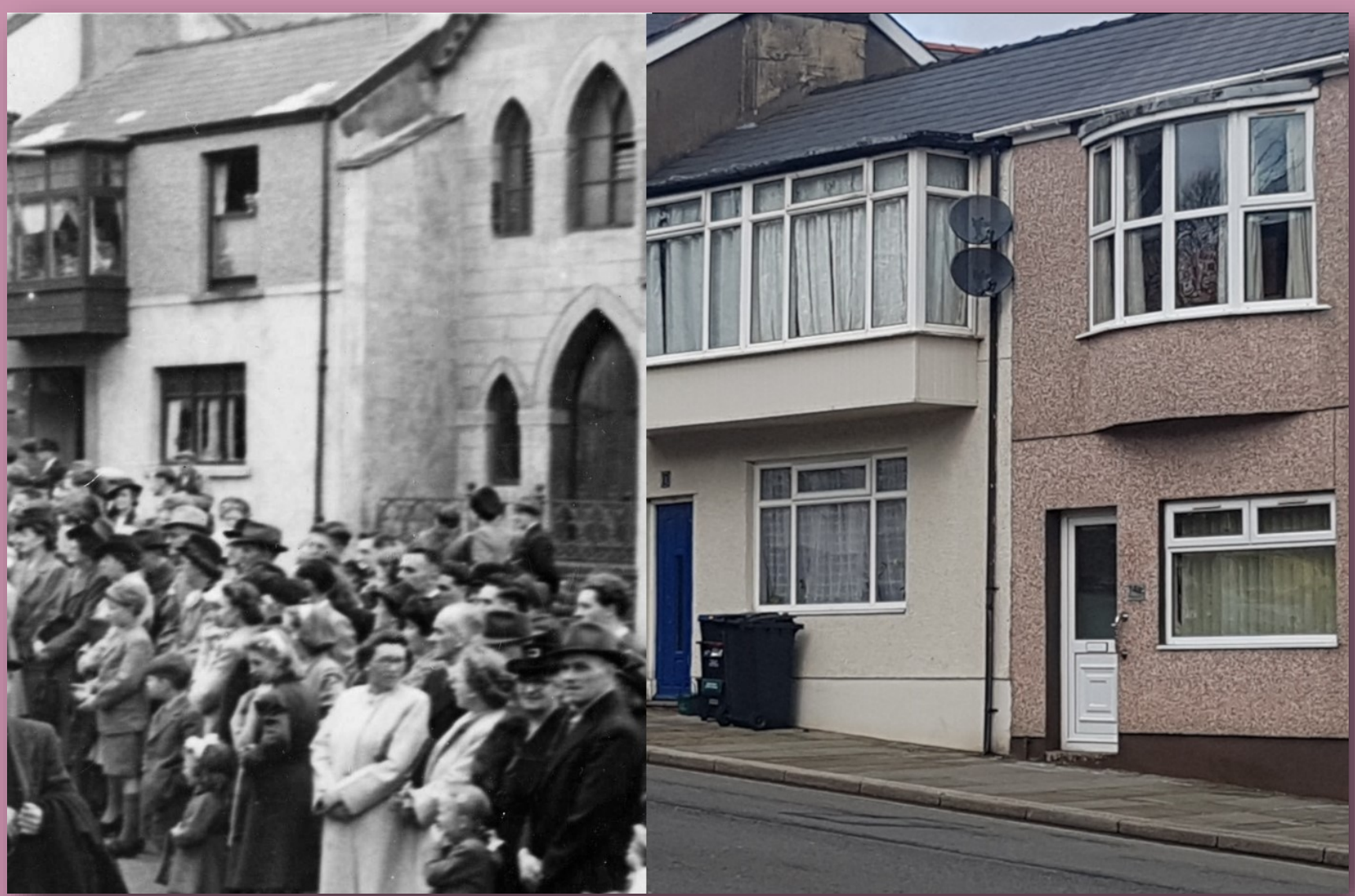
Llun trwy garedigrwydd/image courtesy of Adrian Drew, o/from “Brynmawr Chapels and Churches Past and Present”.

“And when I remember the boys talking about – my uncles – talking about, one of the things was remarkable about Brynmawr, of course, all these communities, they were very poor people living hand from mouth; there came a time where they needed a Torah scroll for the community, and there wasn’t one person or two or three people that could put the money together to write one, they’re handwritten, they’re expensive. So, on the- the Atzei Chaim, the wooden supports for the Torah which is rolled, the names of all the people who contributed towards it are there, and there’s about 30 or 40 names...”

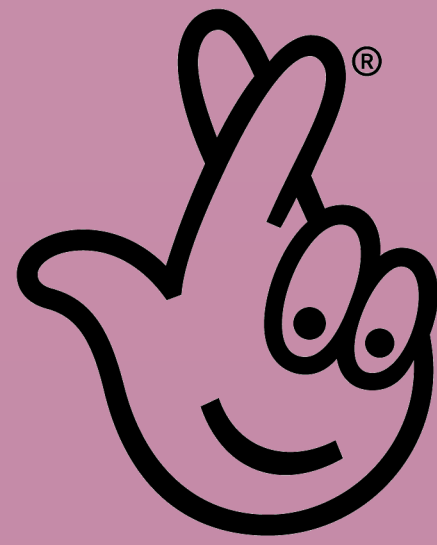
Pat Morris.

“Now, to go to the synagogue, we walked...I was given a piggyback, my brothers, they walked eight miles to Tredegar and we’d stay there over the festivals with various members of the community.”

Freda Krotosky.



Former synagogue, 1884-1957, Tredegar./Hen synagog, 1884-1957, Tredegar.
Llun trwy garedigrwydd/image courtesy of Tredegar Museum.



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