



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE MINERAL POINT LIBRARY ARCHIVE

## MARTIN CABIN

The oldest structure on site, this cabin was built in 1841 and home to John and Christiana Martin and their five children. Both were immigrants to Mineral Point, with John being one of the earliest Cornish settlers in the early 1830s and Christiana arriving from Nova Scotia. Bob and Edgar bought the entire Rowhouse structure in the early 1950s and removed clapboard siding as well as an addition from the cabin.

## PUB

Known as a kiddleywink, the Cornish pub was created in the 1960s by Edgar and never existed before that time. After visiting Cornwall several times, Edgar was inspired to recreate a pub for Pendarvis. The leather trim comes from his uncle's shoe factory in Stoughton. This room was most likely originally used as a cellar or kitchen.

# VISITOR GUIDE



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114 Shake Rag Street | Mineral Point, WI | 608.987.2122

[pendarvishistoricsite.org](http://pendarvishistoricsite.org)

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# WELCOME TO PENDARVIS

## We're glad you're here!

The picturesque cluster of stone buildings that make up Pendarvis Historic Site today were originally constructed by Cornish immigrants who immigrated to the area in the early 1800s. They were preserved through the efforts of life and business partners Bob Neal and Edgar Hellum. Bob and Edgar met in 1934 and began to rescue these buildings one at a time from demolition. Assigning Cornish-language names to each, they opened a restaurant to sustain their preservation efforts and lived on the grounds. Their remarkable success – at the height of the Great Depression – launched the 20th-century transformation of Mineral Point into the vibrant hub for arts, preservation, and tourism it is today.

### POLPERRO

Bob and Edgar bought their second Shake Rag house in 1937 all because of a birch tree. Built in 1842, Polperro was used as their residence while they restored Trelawny. Their work included stripping clapboards from the building to reveal the log and stone structure underneath, and removing a two-story addition. Bob and Edgar used this space as an antique shop and mining museum.



### PENDARVIS

Constructed in 1845, this structure was purchased in 1935 by Bob and Edgar. The dining room of the Pendarvis House restaurant served traditional Cornish pasty dinners, tea, saffron cake, and pastries with clotted cream. It was named as a top seven restaurant in the country by *The Saturday Evening Post* and appeared in publications such as *National Geographic* and *Life* magazines. The restaurant was a favorite of Duncan Hines, who visited twice and listed the restaurant in the early editions of his guidebook, *Adventures in Good Eating*.

### TRELAWNY

This was the third building bought and restored by Bob and Edgar in the late 1930s and was the home they shared for 37 years. Richard Thomas and James Carbis, Cornish stonemasons who also constructed Orchard Lawn, built this house in late 1842/early 1843. The original four room structure housed nine people. The kitchen, located in the back of the house, was added during the 1930s restoration and serviced the adjacent restaurant. Bob and Edgar entertained guests and friends here. The first floor rooms still appear much as they did while they lived here in the 1940s.

### MERRY CHRISTMAS MINE HILL

Though this property never belonged to Bob and Edgar, it is central to the mining history they were attempting to save. Over 100 badger holes and mine shafts dot this hill and can be seen from trails winding through one of the largest prairies in Southwest Wisconsin. After zinc was discovered in the mines around Christmas time, the hill became known as Merry Christmas Mine Hill.