

Heritage Statement - Part 1

Listed Building Application: Supporting Documentation:

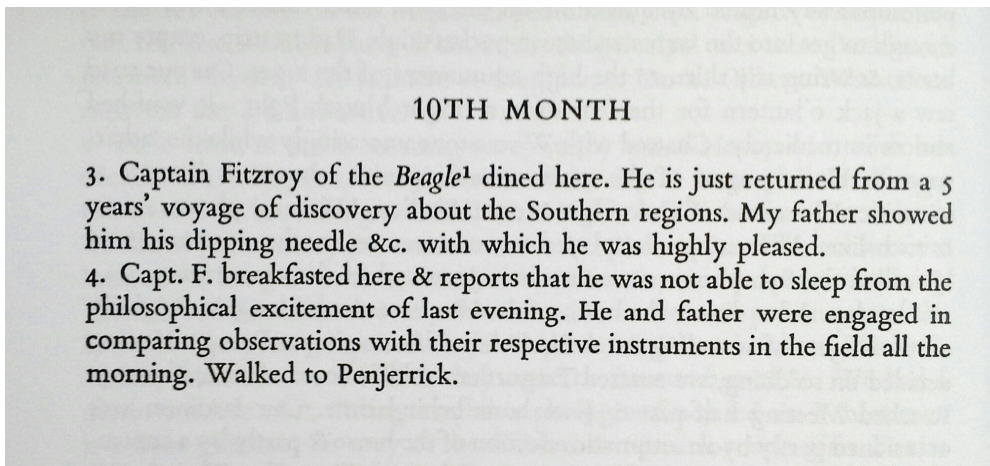
1. The History of the Barometer and its Importance to Falmouth

A FitzRoy Barometer was issued by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution to Falmouth in 1868 to coincide with the arrival of Falmouth's first lifeboat 'The City of Gloucester' (See below a copy of the RNLI Register showing Barometer No 88 for display at Falmouth Custom House)

No. of Instrument.	PLACE.	Date sent.	REMARKS.	Reported on by District Inspector.
88	Falmouth	6. Feb 1868	D/SW reported on 17/9/79 that barometer no. 88 had been stolen & loss reported to police. * At the Custom House	Yes on
145	Ditto	Nov 1888	** On Quay at Fushing	Two
173	Ditto	D. 1. 4/1/85	On Prince of Wales Pier Returned to Dept 6/85. to WDI B. B. No Barometer at Fushing was returned by Dept. and not found in Falmouth Harbor houses:	

RNLI Register

Vice Admiral Robert FitzRoy, who is well known as the Captain of the Royal Naval Hydrographic Survey Ship 'HMS Beagle', which had aboard Charles Darwin at the invitation of Fitzroy, when fulfilling Admiralty Orders to complete scientific observations during a circumnavigation of the Earth 1831-36. He returned to the port of Falmouth in 1836 where Darwin disembarked and FitzRoy visited scientist Robert Were Fox at Penjerrick House(See below).



Entry in Robert Barclay Fox's Journal

Retiring from the Navy in 1850 and elected Fellow of the Royal Society the following year, he went on to mastermind the development of weather forecasting, and he is now considered to be the father of Meteorological Office.

FitzRoy became disturbed by the great loss of life experienced by poor fishing communities around the coast of Britain due to inadequate forecasting of the weather before leaving port.

Largely at his own expense he developed suitable barometers in liaison with manufacturers, together with his explanatory handbook giving simple instructions. In 1859 he was elected Member of the RNLI Board of Management and through the RNLI and the Board of Trade, arranged for barometers and handbooks to be issued progressively to all Lifeboat Stations and the training of Coxwains in their use in accordance with the RNLI's minuted wishes.

FITZ-ROY'S own Manual, as well as large placards containing extracts from it, will be extensively circulated on the coast, fully explaining the working of the barometer.

It is proposed to fix such instruments, wherever found useful and practicable, in suitable positions at the Society's lifeboat houses, which are situated on most parts of the coasts of the United Kingdom.

RNLI Board of Management Minute

After FitzRoy's death the RNLI continued to honour his legacy and a publicly funded barometer was installed at Falmouth Custom House in 1868. 111 years later this barometer was reported stolen, as recorded in the Register (See above) and the surviving granite housing is currently positioned within the private space of the Old Custom House portico, to where it was moved by Fullers Brewery; Owners of The Stable Restaurant from public space to allow a new doorway to be formed in its original position.



Having become aware of the empty barometer housing and its' importance as a Heritage Asset, Falmouth Civic Society adopted the restoration as a project which would benefit the Conservation Area. With the approval of Fullers Brewery and The Stable management, the Society raised the necessary funds by public subscription to enable it to purchase a 19th Century FitzRoy Barometer. We have now funding, with donations from local benefactors, the developers of the FitzRoy Apartments, together with Lord FitzRoy and Sir Robin Knox-Johnstone, and are currently engaged in discussion with A&P for the fabrication of a secure cabinet to house the barometer which will be set in the existing granite housing.

The Falmouth Civic Society Replacement FitzRoy Barometer