

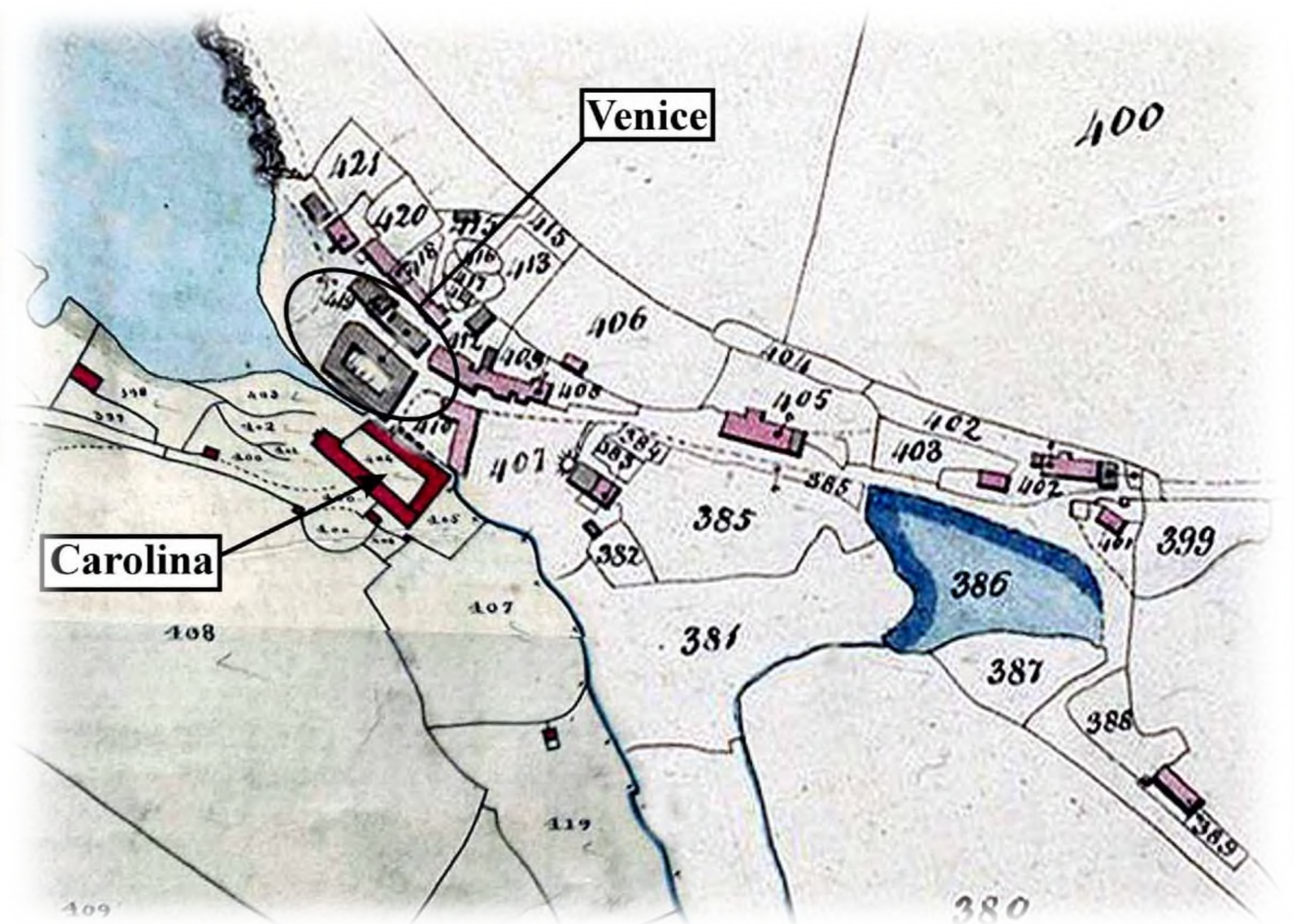
Port Quin



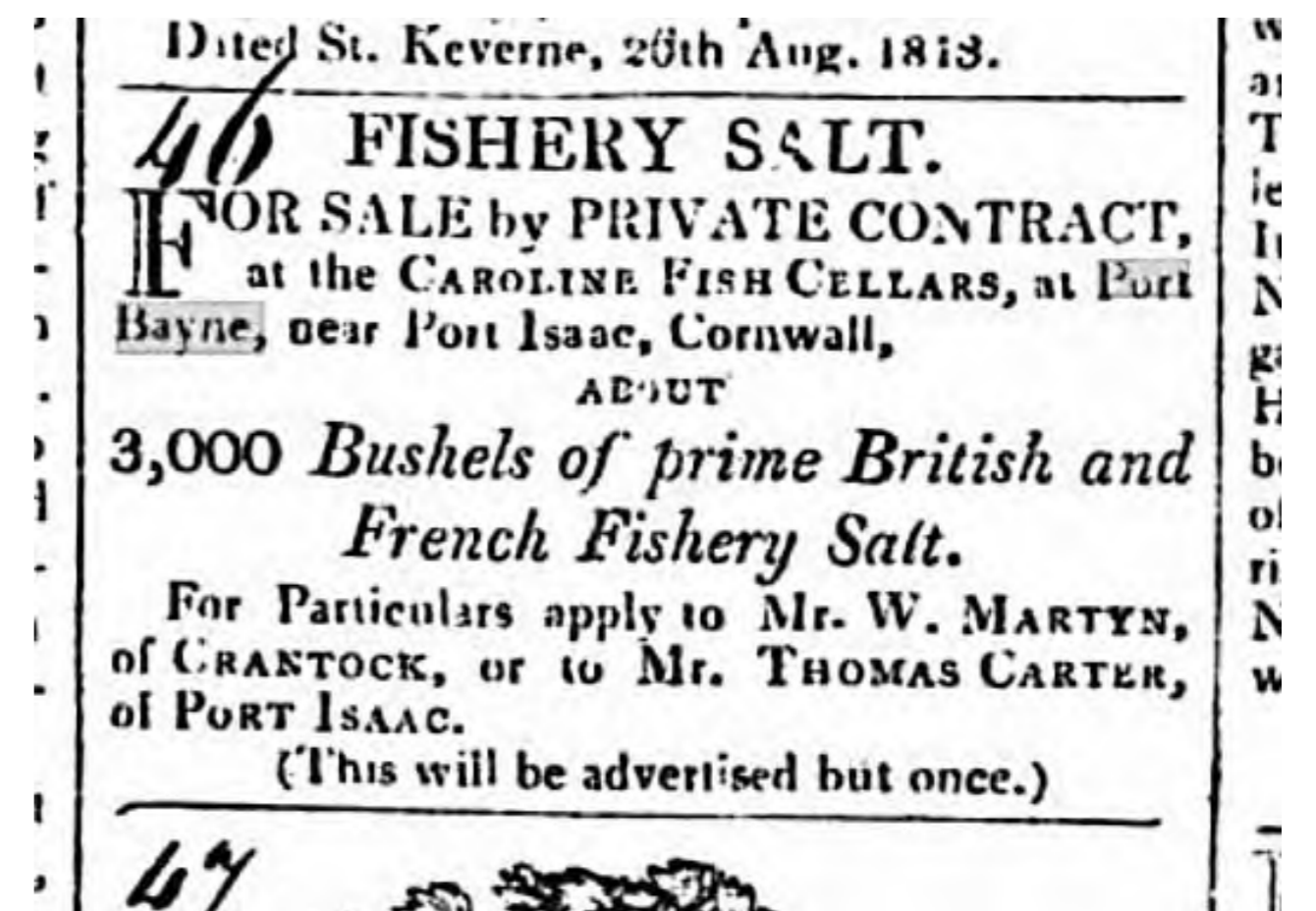
Venice Cellar today

The socket holes of the demolished half of the single arm are visible just above the grass

Venice Cellar: John Norden described Port Quin as ‘much increasing by fishing’ in 1584, and in this restricted valley bottom site both Venice and Carolina cellars are most likely utilising the footprints of former Tudor fishing buildings. The Venice cellar is in two parts; a fairly typical, if much smaller [25m (82ft) by 17m (55ft) estimated], rectangular cellar layout and an adjacent single arm cellar with sail loft above. The two part Venice cellar is more solidly constructed than the Port Isaac and Port Gaverne ones, being in stone rather than slate and cob, and has the three courses of brick on the interior side of the walls only. Perhaps this is an earlier cellar design than the late 18th century ones elsewhere in the parish. With socket holes solely on the insides, this probably only had a capacity of around 170 hogsheads. Trevan refers to a joint venture with the Industry and Union seines in the 1834 season. This only caught 20 hogshead between them, perhaps the last pilchards landed here. In 1841 it is shown as owned by Mark Guy at Roscarrock (who also owned the Rashleigh and Union cellars in Port Gaverne) and occupied by the Venice Sean Company, but this was probably dormant. Only a quarter of the rectangular cellar, and half of the single arm cellar survives today. In the 1881 large scale Ordnance Survey map, both parts are shown intact, but by the 1907 survey it was recorded as we see now. Today, what remains of the rectangular cellar is a car park for the National Trust cottages, and the single arm is a holiday cottage, unfortunately called Carolina Cellar, with storage beneath. In the half which has been demolished the back wall still has the socket holes and holes for the first floor joists. Both parts of Venice cellar, including the back wall with socket holes, are Grade II listed.



Port Quin Composite Tithe Map 1841
(St Minver tithe map to left of the stream, with Endellion to the right)



Carolina Cellars salt advert was from the Royal Cornwall Gazette of 28th August 1813

Carolina Cellar: A fairly conventional rectangular cellar. It is mainly built of stone, and has the three courses of brick on both the inside and outside face of the north-eastern wall. Its capacity is likely to be around 280 hogsheads. In August 1804 a 1/32nd part of the Carolina seine “carried on at Port Isaac” was sold by auction. In an advertisement dated August 28th 1813 the Carolina Fish Cellars at “PORT BAYNE [sic], near Port Isaac” was the setting for an auction of “about 3,000 bushels of prime British and French Fishery Salt” and interested parties were invited to obtain particulars from “Mr W Martyn of Crantock or Mr Thomas Carter of Port Isaac”. Presumably ‘Port Bayne’ was the editor’s best guess at what had been written. Hopefully, Mr Martyn or Mr Carter would have pointed out where this mythical place could be found! In 1841 the property was described as “fish cellars and dwelling house” owned by Samuel Symons of Gonvena, Wadebridge (who owned Doyden House and Doyden Castle, as well as other land and property around Port Quin), but no seine company was present. The occupiers were listed as Samuel Symons himself, and John Knight, a 60 year old agricultural labourer who probably lived in the dwelling house. The cellar has survived pretty nearly intact, and is now accommodation. The exterior wall only is Grade II listed.