

Cardiff Archaeological Unit was commissioned to undertake a historic building survey of the farmstead Ty'r Mynydd, Heol Mynydd, Welsh St Donats, Vale of Glamorgan. Ty'r Mynydd is an isolated farmstead situated north of the village of Welsh St Donats on Heol Mynydd, Mynydd y Glew. The building is noted by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales as a post-medieval domestic dwelling and is also illustrated in the Glamorgan Inventory,²⁰ as a 'lobby-entry house in a longhouse derivative form, with the cow house uphill'. Smith²¹ notes it as an example of a sub-medieval regional house, Type C (lobby entry) house. The farmstead is also a Vale of Glamorgan County Treasure (No. 354) described as a 'long house c.1700 with byre at upper end'. Ty'r Mynydd is not a listed building.

The farmstead is a three unit building comprising a dwelling, 'pen uchaf' and two byres, 'pen isaf' but differs from the traditional form in that the dwelling is unusually at the lower end. Ty'r Mynydd is one of only three surviving examples in Glamorgan of a long house with an uphill byre. The cow house (Byre 1) immediately to the east of the chimney and accessed from the lobby entry is an integral part of the farmstead and is contemporaneous with the dwelling. Byre 2 appears to be a later addition without early internal access from Byre 1, completing the three unit longhouse. Several early roof timbers remain in situ in both byres.

There are only four hearth passage houses with uphill cow houses identified by RCHAMW and three lobby-entry houses, including Ty'r Mynydd, and 'these house and uphill byre combinations are certainly very unusual'.²² Ty'r Mynydd was dated c.1700 by the RCHAMW in 1983 and the building survey also identified interesting architectural features which still survive nearly thirty years later. These features include the stone chimney and fireplace with substantial beam of ogee profile dated c.1700, adjacent

salt wall cupboard and stone spiral stair to upper floor, and two timber plank and batten doors of early date.

Documentary research identified Ty'r Mynydd as present on the tithe map and apportionment of 1841 and shown as a tenant farm of twenty-three acres occupied by William Watts and his family. The land was a mixture of meadow, pasture and arable with field names including Erw vach, Cae gilfach and Wain goch. The annual rent of £2 was payable to the Talbots of Hensol Castle and the farm formed part of the Hensol Castle estate. Parish records show that William Watts was the youngest child of Edward and Margaret Watts of Bwlch Gwyn, Ystradowen, born in 1798 with six older siblings. In 1827 he married Ann Williams and they had five children: Anne (1828); Hannah (1833); Mary (1835); William (1837) and Edward (1840) and lived at Ty'r Mynydd. Records show William's occupation as 'farmer' and also that in 1837 William's father Edward was living at 'Ty yr Mynydd' when he died aged eighty-two. William Watts died in 1852 aged fifty-four and records for the nearby parish of Pendoylan show the deaths of his wife Anne Watts (1880) and his son William Watts (1909) later of Cross House, Pendoylan. Archive records show that during the twentieth century land associated with Ty'r Mynydd farm was sold (1921) and that the farmhouse was later sold along with a neighbouring farm 'Bryn-y-Ddafod' (1924) coinciding with the sale of Hensol Castle and estate by Sir Francis Rose in the 1920s.

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