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Royal Commission
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Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales



Templeton Farmhouse

County: Pembrokeshire

Community: Templeton

NGR: SN1128511683

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Surveyed by: Geoff Ward

Report Author: Geoff Ward

Illustrations: : Geoff Ward

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Comments or queries regarding the content of the report should be made to the author:

RCAHMW, Plas Crug, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 1NJ

Tel: 01970 621214

World Wide Web: <http://www.rcahmw.gov.uk>





This early-17th century farmhouse is located parallel to the road, on the west side of the main street of Templeton, which itself is laid out in a series of medieval 'burgages' with narrow strip enclosures. Its name Templeton farmhouse, and its position by a track through the farmyard, to the nearby Norman Sentence Castle, indicate it was of some importance. By the mid-19th century it had lost its high status and was much altered internally.

The 2-storey, stone-built and slate-roofed building has an 'L' shape plan including two projecting lateral chimneys and a central cross-passage dividing it into 2-units (hall and parlour) to the street frontage, perhaps originally with an-inner-room to the hall. The hall chimney has a diagonally set chimney stack, which emphasises its status.

At the rear, behind the hall, a kitchen-wing projects with wide and deep end-chimney fireplace. A gabled rear stair projection is sited between the kitchen and and includes an arched opening to the stairs. The walls are battered on the south



Kitchen wing at rear

and east sides. It is possible that the front-range is built across a remnant of an earlier part in the rear. In particular, a high stone archway (possibly 16th century) leading to the stair projection from the hall kitchen.



The front's central-entry, leads into a cross-passage with joist ceiling. There is a doorway in the original south stone partition and a narrower later stone partition to the north with two doorways. The **parlour** room to south has a lateral fireplace, which has been blocked and used as a cupboard/pantry with ventilation slit. There is also a window to front and a later fireplace with blocked window in the end wall. Its ceiling has a 19th century spine-beam, with joists and planks. The **hall** to the north has some surviving 17th century chamfered, 'ogee' stop ceiling-beams, one over the cross-wall and one cut-back when a partition was inserted in the mid-19th century. This room probably once had three transverse ceiling-beams, now with 19th century joists and planks. It may once have had an inner-room at the north end, partitioned under the ceiling-beam. The hall and parlour fireplaces have been altered, but blocked recesses indicate they once had timber lintels. A former doorway to the kitchen has been blocked and a ventilation-slit or squint made, probably in the mid-19th century when a doorway was enlarged in-

line with the stair. This stair is partitioned from the kitchen, having a stone base and mid-19th stair treads, which rise both to first-floor, and into the stair projection. The stone base is on the kitchen side of a high stone archway, which is possibly the remnant of an earlier structure.



The **kitchen** fireplace (partly blocked) has a wide, deep opening with a chamfered and diagonal stop to its timber lintel. There were formerly narrow splayed windows to the north wall and an entry in the south wall via a 20th century lean-to. The ceiling retains some roughly chamfered joist-beams and mid-19th century replacements to a plank floor. In the room above there is a small end fireplace to left with a stone lintel and a pointed arched recess, with flue, slightly raised from the floor, of uncertain usage. A narrow square opening above it extends to the gable, as a ventilation opening (part blocked). There is some smoke-blackening to this room indicating it may have been used for smoking meat.

The **stair projection** has a former wide window at first-floor to west (part blocked) and sloping internal cill. There is a rebate for a doorway in the south side by the access to the first-floor front rooms, each with a lateral fireplace. The fireplace

over the hall retains a relieving arch and a probably re-used stone jamb with diagonal stop, possibly originally from the hall's ground-floor fireplace. These first-floor rooms were divided by a stone partition above the parlour partition, with doorway access. They had plaster ceilings with trusses visible below collar level. Throughout the building there are mid-19th century softwood lap collar roof-trusses, all with angled pegs, including two pairs of side-purlins and a ridge-piece.



At ground-floor a mid-19th century single-storey, gabled **wash-house** or kitchen with fireplace and window has been added to the rear of the Parlour, having internal access to the parlour and two external doorways (one blocked).

The mid-19th century alterations appear to show that the house was partly sub-divided perhaps for servants, with the parlour being downgraded to a kitchen/living-room. The cross-passage was made separate from the hall by a two doorway stone partition and the hall was sub-divided. At this time the doorway between kitchen and hall was blocked and an existing hall to stair opening enlarged.



Room over kitchen

Comment

The farmhouse with its lateral chimneys to hall and parlour certainly was high-status when built in the early-17th century, possibly incorporating some earlier work, such as the area around the stone arch in the stair projection. The stone arch is at present eaves level and may indicate it was formerly a higher structure. It is more likely that the high archway was thought necessary in order to tie-in the walls above a tall opening. The projecting chimneys and 3-unit plan with a hall between rooms at each end are typical of Pembrokeshire houses (see Peter Smith's *Houses of the Welsh Countryside*, p.20). It can be compared as similar to the 17th century Poyers Arms Farmhouse NPRN30088, also in Templeton, which has a 3-unit plan, with kitchen in-line and lateral fireplace to the hall. Its stair is also positioned in a rear projection.

The site was visited while refurbishment was taking place, at the request of James Meek, Dyfed Archaeological Trust, and the owner Tegwen Burns.

Recorded, Geoff Ward, 03/03/2011.

