

## The Story of the Site – Material and Immaterial Heritage Framework

### *St. Fagans National History Museum, Cardiff (Wales)*

#### ***Tudor Trader's House***

*Inventory Number*

Accession Number: F83.156

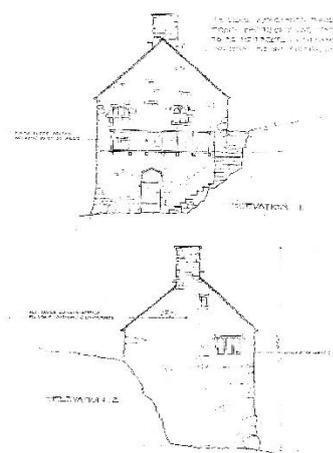
Map Number: 30

*Name of relocated building:* Tudor Trader's House

#### **Photos**



*Building in original location, as found in 1981*



*Plans for the re-erection of the building*

#### **Description**

This house was originally located against a bank near the old quay on the River Cleddau in Haverfordwest. It has been furnished to show how it may have looked in about 1580, when Haverfordwest was experiencing

a period of prosperity and trading goods to and from Bristol and the West Country, as well as along the Welsh coast, Brittany, Ireland, France, Spain, Portugal and north America. Consequently, dozens of properties on and near the quay would have been used for storing, buying and selling the goods and products that were pouring into the town. Ours was one of them.

Owing to the scarcity and fragility of suitable objects, it was decided to use replica items to furnish the house. These give a more 'authentic' context, compared with original period furniture which would, by now, have the wear and patina of age and would look 400 years old!

The trader lived upstairs in a single room. Next to the fireplace is a garderobe (toilet) which discharged into a gutter outside the building. A wooden-framed bed on the floor and a straw mattress on the *crogloff* provide the sleeping accommodation. Other furniture includes a trestle table, benches and small stools. An ark-lid chest would have been used for keeping meal or flour and a planked chest provided the means for storing clothes, fabrics and other belongings. Wrought iron cooking utensils and cast iron cauldrons and pans illustrate the way that food was prepared and cooked. A large, hand-forged iron crane enables cauldrons or kettles to be suspended above the fire. Simple rush-lights in iron holders provide the main source of lighting in the evening, other than that provided by the fire.

The cellar has been furnished to represent a typical storage vault of the period. At the front is a simple wooden trestle table, with a wooden scales and weights, scoops and bushel measures. The contents of the cellar reflect the sorts of goods that were kept and traded there and include wine barrels, sacks for corn, barrels for dried fruit and boxes for general goods. There is also a small hand barrow for moving some of the heavier items.

### Further reading

- 'A Tudor Trader's House from Haverfordwest', *Pembrokeshire: The Journal of the Pembrokeshire Historical Society*, No. 22 (2013) pp 6-19.

### Sources

- G. Douglas James, *The Town and County of Haverfordwest and its Story*, Haverfordwest (1957)
- E. A. Lewis, *The Welsh Port Books, 1550-1603, with an Analysis of the Customs Revenue Accounts of Wales for the Same Period*. Cymmrodorion Record Society No XII, London (1927).
- Owen, H. ed., *The Description of Pembrokeshire, by George Owen of Henllys, Lord of Kemes*,
- Cymmrodorion Record Series, 1 (1892-1936)