

n house



In the beautiful countryside of Monmouthshire, a stunning example of tiny house architecture can be found...that's over 700 years old!

This Grade II listed building had sadly fallen into a state of disrepair, and did not even have running water when the current owners purchased it. But with some imagination and perseverance, they were able to not only restore it, but to create a well-designed space with modern conveniences.

Accessed by a winding spiral staircase, the interior is an open floor plan with a loft space and a high-gabled ceiling, accentuated with cross timbers.

Listed in the top 5.8% of UK buildings of historical significance, there were special challenges when renovation was undertaken. A Village Alive Trust Award was granted in 2009 for conservation of the gatehouse. As you might imagine, the planning regulations were highly restrictive. However, the owners managed to retain the original character of the structure while creating a comfortable dwelling for today.

The building was constructed around 1270 A.D., and is rather late Norman/early English Gothic in style. The living area is couched between the two towers of the gatehouse, which originally would have had kept watch for approaching visitors. The diamond-paned, cottage style windows are framed with stone, and a cosy fireplace with an ancient mantle reminds you that you're standing in a building over 700 years old!

The owners believe that the house originally had a second floor, but they elected to build a loft space for the bedroom which is accessed with a ladder. By leaving it open, it seems much larger and brighter than the

After Tewdric had stepped down from the throne in favour of his grown son Meurig, he was called upon to lead the Britons into battle against the invading Saxons. Though he was successful, Tewdric was severely injured when struck in the head with an axe. Knowing that his time was near, he asked his son to build a church on the spot where he died. On the way to Flat Holm Island, the entourage stopped at a well to bathe his wounds. This place is known as St. Tewdric's Well, and the well is said to never run dry. It stands at the end of the drive path to the Welsh Gatehouse! True to his word, Meurig built a church to honour his slain father, which is still in existence today; nearby St. Tewdric's Church at Chepstow.

If you would like to find out more information about this amazing place, visit the website at www.welshgatehouse.com, where you can even book a stay at this historic tiny house, and perhaps derive some inspiration for your own!

Our thanks to the Welsh Gatehouse for photos and historical background.

