

HISTORIC BUILDING DESCRIPTION MINERS' BARRACKS, LUCKETT

EXTERIOR

Rectangular two-storey building with cellar under south east end, of part stone, part timber construction, at roadside on steep hill in Lockett village centre. The building backs onto the extensive site of New Great Consols Mine.

Ridged Delabole slate roof with fully hipped ends, black glazed roll-top ridge tiles, probably originally gutterless, now with black plastic rainwater goods. Slates and structure of north end only restored / replaced to match in c1995, including felt inserted below slates. Plain planked barges and soffits, closing in rafter ends completely. Twin flue brick stack to north end, plain tapered terracotta pots; south end had matching stack, since removed.

North east front and south west rear elevations have flush-pointed slate rubble masonry with dark red brick quoins, door and window jambs. Masonry terminates at first floor level, although ends of facades continue to eaves. Timber framed and weatherboarded infill to first floor walls. North west and south east ends have stone rubble with brick quoins up to eaves.

North east front has semi-regular ground floor fenestration relating to internal layout, with pair of widely spaced windows to left lighting the barracks, a single window to far right lighting the barracks keeper's accommodation, with pair of widely spaced doors between. Right hand door entered keeper's accommodation while left hand door accessed lobby between this and the barracks. Timber door lintels are at lower level than window lintels; staggered red brick jambs; slate sills to windows; granite doorsteps. First floor windows are symmetrical to façade, following positions of left hand windows and doors. Timber surrounds and sills. All windows originally had 3x1 over 3x1 hornless sashes to front and rear. Original window frames survive in all openings but only those in right hand part of facade have original pattern sash leaves. Those in left part of façade have had later two-light casements inserted, but the sash cases survive in their original unpainted state. Left hand door to barracks survives in its original form with framed door with four flush beaded panels, mortice lock and plain chamfered frame. Right hand door has later four panel replacement.

Rear elevation had two doors to ground floor, left hand door entering lobby between barracks and keepers accommodation, right hand being 'dirty' door by which miners could directly enter the barracks. Ground floor windows are irregularly spaced with one window to each of the three ground floor rooms, lintels and sills as front elevation.

To lower left in keeper's accommodation, granite trough built into rear wall, formerly accessed from exterior and interior, later bricked in.

First floor has four semi-symmetrical placed windows of same size, with smaller fixed window above left hand door, lighting smaller bedroom in keeper's accommodation. All these windows now have plain single paned sashes. Right hand part of weatherboarding replaced by asbestos sheeting; left hand remains intact.

North west end elevation completely plain, but south east end contains small door at basement level entering cellar.

INTERIOR

Ground floor has three rooms with central partition up to eaves level, of timber framing with stone rubble infill. This has straight run stair against its south east side between two floors of barracks, each of which consisted of a single large room, used for communal eating and living on the ground floor and sleeping on the first. Ground floor has large open fireplace with carved timber surround, long ogee corbels supporting overmantel with evidence for pair of matching full height cupboards to either side, as in north-west end of keeper's accommodation; first floor has small fireplace with brick jambs, formerly with slate hearth slab. Ground floor and first floor structures were boarded, with unpainted common joists. Ground floor walls were plastered and whitewashed; first floor side walls close-boarded with evidence for fittings including hinged shelf on north east wall. First floor ceiling probably planked, as no evidence for plaster; framing survives for two square ventilators with decorative cast iron rotating vents, which remain in-situ.

Keeper's accommodation has two rooms to ground floor comprising central lobby with straight-run stair to first floor against timber framed and planked partition to kitchen/living room at north west end. Pair of doors enter this from lobby which also has single door to barracks to south. Living room is well preserved with planked joists to ceiling, paired cupboard doors flanking fireplace in north west end wall, 1x2 panels with small panel to top of each in plank frames. Granite trough in alcove at foot of south-west wall. Fireplace is known to have contained a cast iron range by Doney & Hancock of Callington, with numerous metal pasty tins hanging from a bar above – these may survive behind a modern fireplace. First floor has single room over lobby with connecting door to barracks; original single bedroom over living room (recently partially sub-divided to make two, by plain framed and never completed partitions), with fireplace in north end wall.

Roof structure: Eight tie-beam and queen-strut trusses, every other truss with a face-nailed collar, with two trenched purlins per side supporting common rafters, sitting on a continuous wall-plate supported on the timber framed side walls.

The miners' barracks at Lockett was built in 1871 by New Great Consols Mine to house 50 miners. It is important as it was built by the company on mine-owned land for its own employees, and serving the close function of the mine. New Great Consols was worked from 1870 to 1877 for tin, copper and arsenic. The barracks remained in the mine's possession, being used in the last period of working in the 1940s and 50s for staff accommodation and storage.

Miners' barracks are nationally rare, with only seven listed. This is the only timber framed example to have survived, and is important in that it retains its original internal ground-plan and much original fabric. Despite its condition, it is the best preserved miners' lodging in south-west England, where metalliferous mining was extensive during the 19th century. It immediately adjoins the New Great Consols mine site which is currently being Scheduled as an Ancient Monument (SAM No. 35831) and lies within the UNESCO Cornwall & West Devon Mining World Heritage Site, inscribed in 2006.