

Authority	<b>Rhondda Cynon Taff</b>	Grade	<b>II</b>
Community	<b>Aberdare</b>	Date Listed	<b>10/01/1991</b>
		Grid Ref	<b>SN 995 035</b>
		Record No	<b>10876</b>

Name **HEN-DY-CWRDD CHAPEL,ALMA STREET,TRECYNON**

**Exterior**  
10876

Set back from the road at the junction with Mount Pleasant Street. Walled burial ground to the front.

This is one of the oldest sites of non-conformity in the valleys and was probably the first place in Wales to preach and adopt the Priestley type of Unitarianism. The meeting house was founded in 1751 and was originally known as Ty Cwrdd Godre Hirwaun. In 1862 the cottage-like meeting house with its outside stone stairs was rebuilt by Mr Evan Griffiths, architect of Aberdare, to create the present structure. Hen-dy-Cwrdd also founded and ran the Trecynon seminary once famous for its education. The chapel itself had several distinguished ministers.

Symmetrical cement rendered gabled front, channelled below gallery windows. Slate roof, ridge cresting boarded eaves and undulating bargeboards with finial. Round attic window; sash glazing below; stringcourse over gallery windows, arched up over semi-circular headed paired central windows with dividing pilaster; flanked by 2 windows to each side, the outer sashes of which are broader; overall sill band, again stepped up to centre. Round arched doorway with broad voussoirs and keystone below inscribed plaque; steps up to panelled double doors and 7-pane fanlight. 6-pane sash windows to either side.

Side elevations have round arched headed gallery windows. Lower cottage attached to left and square headed ground floor windows to right.

Square interior with gallery around 3 sides. Simple cornice, central rose and octagonal ventilation panels. Unusually deep gallery front with extensively moulded and stained woodwork including central pulvinated band; ramped band beneath with acanthus leaves over the cast iron columns. Semi-circular arched recess with label behind set fawr; steps up to either side with acorn finials to balustrade. Monument in lobby to Thomas Evans (Minister - 1811-1833) and on gallery stairs one to Edmund Llewellyn (died 1829).

Group value with Nos 37 and 37A.

References: Dr Jacob Dafis (ed), Crefydd a Gweriniaeth yn hanes Yr Hen-dy-Cwrdd, Aberdare 1751-1951, (Gomer Press, Llandyssul, 1951).

The Unitarian Heritage, 1986, p 118

R Jenkins Jones The Origin and History of the old meeting House, Hen-dy-Cwrdd Aberdare Transactions of the Unitarian History Society, Vol 1 pt 2 (1918) p 155-176.