



THE ARCHITECTURAL  
HERITAGE FUND

## CASE STUDY

The Architectural Heritage Fund has helped Building Preservation Trusts and other charities regenerate historic buildings, create community and education facilities, workspace and homes for nearly 30 years. We have provided grants, loans and advice on more than 750 projects to date. This is one of many examples.

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### Allt-y-Bela, Llangwm, Nr Usk, Monmouthshire

Allt-y-Bela was described in *Monmouthshire Houses* (1954) as “the first truly Renaissance house” in the region. It consists of a long two-storey farmhouse of the mid-16th century and a three-storey tower block added in 1599. The property is remarkable for a very early cider cellar, contemporary with the introduction of cider-making to Monmouthshire, the earliest example in Wales of recessed chamfering around doors and windows, and the earliest shaped door-head of the kind that later became so typical of 17th century Welsh architecture. It is therefore of exceptional importance. Residential use ceased in the 1960s, and the collapse of a gable-end wall and part of the roof allowed a Compulsory Purchase Order to be served against the owner, who had consistently refused to undertake any repairs.

Having been familiar with the house and its accelerating state of disrepair for many years, the Spitalfields Historic Buildings Trust decided to make this its first project outside London. This required an amendment to the Memorandum of Association to permit it to operate anywhere in England and Wales. The Trust has rebuilt the house and outbuildings to the condition they were in at the end of the nineteenth century, and it will shortly be on the market as a private dwelling. The AHF has been able to assist the project throughout, latterly providing a loan for working capital.



**The Spitalfields Historic Buildings Trust**  
**Listed Grade II\***  
**Architectural Heritage Fund assistance: £2,650 Feasibility Study Grant in 1998**  
**£385,000 loan in 2003**

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Please contact us if you require further information.

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