

CADW/ICOMOS REGISTER OF PARKS AND GARDENS
OF SPECIAL HISTORIC INTEREST IN WALES

SITE DOSSIER

SITE NAME St John's, Monmouth

REF. NO. PGW (Gt) 47

OS MAP 162 GRID REF. SO 507127

FORMER COUNTY Gwent UNITARY AUTHORITY Monmouth B.C. COMMUNITY
COUNCIL Monmouth

DESIGNATIONS Listed building: 11 Glendower Street (St John's)
Grade II

National Park AONB SSSI NNR ESA GAM SAM CA

SITE EVALUATION Grade II

Primary reasons for grading

Survival of a small Victorian town garden (with early 20th-century
addition of tennis court), complete with Coalbrookdale verandah.

TYPE OF SITE

Formal small walled town garden

MAIN PHASES OF CONSTRUCTION

19th-century/early 20th century

VISITED BY/DATE Elisabeth Whittle/October 1991

HOUSE

Name St John's (11 Glendower Street), Monmouth

Grid ref SO 507127

Date/style 19th century and earlier/town villa

Brief description:

St John's is a small town villa with a complex building history. It takes its name from an erroneous assertion of Charles Heath (c. 1799), who said that there had been a monastery of St John nearby. The two-storey front on Glendower Street appears older (? 18th-century) than the three-storey block at the rear, which appears early 19th-century in date. A Coalbrookdale verandah runs the full width of this block, facing the garden. Originally a carriage drive entered the property to the east of the house, sweeping round to stables and other service buildings to the east of the garden. (The stables are now converted to a dwelling house and are in separate ownership).

THE PLEASURE GARDEN

Grid ref SO 507127

Date/style 19th-early 20th century/formal town garden

GENERAL DESCRIPTION, HISTORY AND LAYOUT

The garden lies to the S of the house, between it and the public park of Chippenham. Apart from the levelling for a lawn tennis court the walls and internal layout appear to be early to mid 19th century in date, and may well be contemporary with the verandah. Although modest, the garden is of interest as a small Regency or Victorian villa garden, with a formal layout. The addition of a tennis court in the Edwardian period is of some interest, reflecting a fashionable pursuit of the time.

The garden is small and rectangular, bounded on the E and W by high brick walls and on the S by a low stone wall, with a doorway in the middle giving access to the public park of Chippenham. The ground slopes gently to the south, and has been carefully graded, the part nearest the house being steeper than the outer part. The wider southern end is largely taken up with a former lawn tennis court, now lawn, made in 1913-14. The garden is laid out largely to lawn, with wall borders, side paths and a small square pool just above the former tennis court. Along the south front of the house is an elaborate Coalbrookdale cast iron verandah with three bays and a glazed pent roof (the model appears in the Coalbrookdale catalogue between the years 1840 and 1872), below which is a flight of three stone steps.

To the east of the garden there used to be a kitchen garden, but this was sold in the 1920s, and is now built on.

STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS

The sloping ground of the garden has been carefully graded, the part nearest the house sloping more steeply than the rest. The wider southern half of the garden is largely taken up with a former lawn tennis court, made in 1913-14, with gently sloping paths on either side.

Flagstone paths run down the sides of the upper part of the garden. A narrow tarmac path runs around the tennis court lawn. At the north end it is semi-circular, running around the outside of the square pool. This path (tarmacked later) could be earlier than the tennis court. A flagstone path leads to the doorway to Chippenham at the foot of the garden.

BUILT COMPONENTS

The garden is bounded on the E and W by high brick walls. That on the W is best preserved, standing to its full height, capped by stone tiles (with two modern brick buttresses). Near the house the walls extend from the sides of the 19th-century block, but at the foot of the steeper slope the garden widens out. Part of the upper wall on the E side has been demolished recently (but is to be rebuilt). On this side there is only a low wall along the boundary of the wider part of the garden. At the foot (S end) of the garden is a low stone wall topped with coping stones, with a higher part in the middle in which is a doorway leading to Chippenham.

Next to the house an elaborate Coalbrookdale cast-iron verandah spans the whole length of the 19th-century block (and of the upper part of the garden). It has a glazed sloping roof, three bays facing the garden, and one at each side (blocked). It has a flagstone floor, and below it is a flight of three stone steps (also the full width of the garden).

ARCHITECTURAL ORNAMENTS

None

PLANTED COMPONENTS

The garden is largely laid out to lawn, with narrow wall borders around the E, W and S boundaries. There are no plants of note in the garden.

Reconstructions of original planted features

None

Special collections of garden plants

None

Documented living plants

None

Other (including elements of nature conservation interest)

None

ESSENTIAL SETTING AND VIEWS BEYOND THE SITE

Essential setting: Chippenham - public park to the S

Views: S from the upper part of the garden to Chippenham

ANY SPECIAL FEATURES

None

SURVIVAL OF INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS

Structural components: All

Built components: Most

Architectural ornaments: -

Planted components: some

SOURCES

(Primary and secondary. For primary, give location. Aerial photos
(AP): ref. no and collection)

Secondary

Personal communication from Keith Kissack

To be appended: 1:10,000 map of site, marked with boundaries,
viewpoints etc.; colour photographs of site, photocopies of relevant
material, where available.
