

GOLDEN GROVE

Ref No PGW (C) 31
OS Map 116
Grid Ref SJ 088 815
Former County Delyn
Unitary Authority Flintshire
Community Council Llanasa
Designations Listed building Golden Grove Grade I
Site Evaluation Grade II

Primary reasons for grading

Attractive Edwardian terraced garden, blending very well with the house, with yew topiary, designed by Lady Aberconway; remains of seventeenth-century walled garden.

Type of Site

Terraced garden with topiary; walled garden

Main Phases of Construction

Seventeenth century, late nineteenth to early twentieth century

SITE DESCRIPTION

Golden Grove is a sixteenth- or seventeenth-century stone house with crow step gables and finial decorations, and with stone mullioned and transomed windows. Evidence for the date of the house includes a chimney piece with the date 1604, and a 1578 datestone over the entrance. Towards the west end of the south front is a storeyed porch with crow-stepped gables, and supported by Tuscan columns. The building is elongated east-west, with one cross wing with a half wing at the rear and another half wing at the front.

Adjacent to the house are various outbuildings, including a barn, part of which may be contemporary with the house, and a row of three nineteenth-century stables and two coach houses, one now converted for storage. A split-level stone dovecote is connected to the barn by a raised walkway.

To the south-east of the house is a large field known as the park, through which the drive passes. This runs north-westwards to the house from the entrance on the Llanasa-Dyserth road, on which there is a small nineteenth-century, single-storey stone lodge. A secondary drive used to branch off westwards below the area that is now terraced and gave access to the stables. Other outbuildings were situated in the area that is now garden below the house.

A track from the north side of the house meanders through Home Wood, a wood of mixed deciduous and coniferous trees, with some fine mature beeches, and leads to St Elmo's Summerhouse, a low mound on top of the ridge between the house and the sea. As the name implies, there was a summerhouse here (a wooden one within living memory), but nothing remains of it. The outer ditch and bank are part of a denuded Bronze Age barrow, and the masonry remains in the centre are probably part of a wartime

lookout. There are wide-ranging views from the mound. On it is a stone with the inscription 'Alas Poor Frisk'.

The drive is lined with a sycamore avenue. Apart from this the only trees are a small clump of beech and mixed woodland along the road.

The gardens lie to the south and below the house. Three stone terraces lead down from the forecourt to the walled garden, which contains both pleasure garden and kitchen garden. Golden Grove was bought by Henry Pochin in 1877, having bought Bodnant in 1874. However it was the present Lord Aberconway's grandmother, Lady Aberconway, daughter of Henry Pochin, who was largely responsible for the present layout which includes the terraces to the south of the house. The terraces were constructed from old farm buildings which were sited just below the terrace area on the line of the service drive.

The area of garden below the terraces is walled on three sides, with an axial path running north-west and a mulberry tree in the centre as a focal point. Prior to 1877 this was a complete walled garden, probably dating to the seventeenth century, but with the building of the terraces the north wall was partly removed and stepped at one end to integrate the walled area with the terraces. This part of the garden is divided into three sections by yew hedging, probably planted by Lady Aberconway at the same time as the terraces were made. The largest portion is the central area which has a central path running north-west. The grass lawns either side of the path contain eight rectangular rose beds. The western section is used as a vegetable garden.

The eastern part of the garden has undergone recent improvements with the planting of a nuttery, and a small arbour at the southern end. The southern boundary of the garden has been extended by formation of a low stone wall with a central semi-circular bay. Part of the seventeenth-century stone wall remains to the north and provides a background for a narrow shrub and herbaceous border. In front of the semi-circular bay is a rectangular raised pond. A path in front of the border leads to a door in the wall and to a house which was formerly the gun room. Corresponding to this another path leads westwards to the vegetable garden.

A square orchard, shown on the Sale Particulars map of 1877, is situated to the south of this garden.

Mown grass lawns surround the drive sweep on the south front of the house. The western end is planted with yew topiary figures. There are narrow flower beds immediately under the south front of the house. The 1877 sale catalogue is decorated with a vignette of the house and drive sweep. This shows a large oval of grass with four small round beds directly in front of the house. Slightly to the east of this arrangement two larger circular beds are indicated, but may not have existed.

Behind the house on the north side is a high stone walled garden which once contained a free standing conservatory, indicated in the sale plan of 1877. The rear wall of the garden also had an ornamental building of some kind against it, although all that is left of it today is a large area of rusticated stone. It is possible it was a fernery. On a lower level, on the eastern end of the house is another small walled garden.

Sources

Primary

Sale Particulars 1877. Clwyd Record Office: D/GG/66.
National Library of Wales:

Late nineteenth-century photo of view from the terrace (photo album 599).

Secondary

Hubbard, E., Clwyd (1986), pp. 384-85.

FOXHALL NEWYDD

Ref No PGW (C) 32
OS Map 116
Grid Ref SJ 029 675
Former County Clwyd
Unitary Authority Glyndwr DC
Community Council Henllan

Designations Listed building Foxhall Newydd Grade II
SAM New Foxhall Dovecot (De55); New Foxhall house (De54)

Site Evaluation Grade II

Primary reasons for grading

Earthwork remains of seventeenth-century formal garden

Type of Site

Garden enclosures, walled garden and semi-ancient woodland

Main Phases of Construction

Early seventeenth century

SITE DESCRIPTION

Foxhall Newydd was built by John Panton, Recorder of Denbigh in the early seventeenth century. It is thought to have been part of an ambitious project for a massive H-plan house, but only one wing was built. Although the house was reputed to have never been finished fragments of interior plasterwork have been found, suggesting a project that was well advanced.

The house is now a ruin, with only the stone exterior walls remaining. It was a tall three-storey house, with a basement and gable end windows. The windows are mullioned and transomed and on the north-west end there is some dressed stone quoin detailing, with moulded string coursing. There is a datestone of 1608 over a fireplace.

A walled garden is attached to the south-east side of the house. A roofless but once gabled stone dovecote is built into a wall of this garden. Doorway and window detailing have disappeared.

The house of Foxhall Newydd lies within an overmature mixed woodland of oak, ash, sycamore, holly, and gean. This wood, known as Foxhall Woods, and sometimes referred to as the Warren, appears to be a continuation of Coed Coppy which lies to the south-east of the site. Coed Coppy is recorded as being an example of semi-natural ancient woodland. The name Warren suggests that this may have been an area for raising rabbits. However the area is practically all solid limestone and would not have been conducive to burrowing.

There are the remains of a lane once bounded by stone walls in the Warren and it is possible that this may have been the approach to the house of Foxhall Newydd. It runs from the southern boundary of what was the pleasure garden south-east to the boundary wall of the Warren. Along the south-east side this is a very well built limestone wall, standing to

about two metres, with large coping stones. A gateway entrance is recent. The wall continues to the north of the house becoming a retaining wall, possibly later in date, with a drop to a lane. The wall curves towards the walled garden and then gains height before joining up with the walled garden wall.

Shallow earthworks, probably the remains of a formal garden, are sited on the north-west side of the house. This area would almost certainly have been walled. The remains of walling can be seen on the north-west boundary, forming part of the lane wall already mentioned. Remnants of stone walling can also be seen on the north-west side of the pleasure garden area. What looks like the remains of shallow terracing can be seen to the north-east of the walled garden. In front of the house, on the north-east side, are two rows of four square raised earthworks, which could represent flower beds. A low mound is situated on the north-west side of the house, just outside the pleasure garden boundary. The whole area is now pasture.

To the south-east of the garden is a small rectangular area surrounded by uncoursed rubble walls c. 2.5 m high. Perimeter and cross paths were still visible in 1874 (Ordnance Survey map). Part is now occupied by a tennis court, and there are some old fruit trees remaining which relate to the nineteenth-century farmworkers' cottages behind Foxhall Newydd.

Sources

Secondary

Hubbard, E., Clwyd (1986), p. 181.

GYRN CASTLE

Ref No PGW (C) 33
OS Map 116
Grid Ref SJ 114 816
Former County Clwyd
Unitary Authority Delyn BC
Community Council Llanasa
Designations Listed building: Gyrn Castle Grade II
Site Evaluation Grade II

Primary reasons for grading

Nineteenth-century picturesque layout centred on a series of lakes with a circuit walk

Type of Site

Lakes and woodland with circuit walk incorporating rock garden; terraced garden

Main Phases of Construction

1817-24; 1860s; 1890s

SITE DESCRIPTION

Gyrn Castle is situated to the east of the village of Llanasa. To its north-east the ground drops to the coastal plain, giving fine views from the house out over the Dee and Mersey estuaries. To the south the ground drops steeply to the valley of the Afon-y-Garth.

In the early eighteenth century Gyrn formed part of the estates of the Mostyns of Cilcain. It then passed to the Revd Samuel Edwards of Pentre Hall, Montgomeryshire, on his marriage to Charlotte Mostyn, eldest daughter of Roger Mostyn, in about 1749. However it was sold in the following year to Thomas Hughes of Halkyn. His son Robert died in 1806 leaving it to a James Ewer of Holywell. The estate was sold to John Douglas (a partner in Douglas, Smalley and Co, the Holywell Cotton Manufacturers). Douglas had the house rebuilt in the castellated style in 1817-24, incorporating parts of the earlier house. The eastern end has a top lit picture gallery, with a tall tower standing in the front of it. The south side of the gallery block has castellated turret towers.

A coach house and stables with other farm buildings lie directly behind the house, to its west. They are enclosed by a castellated curtain wall, with entrances to the yard under two castellated archways, one on the west, the other on the north.

There really is no park at Gyrn but an attempt was made to 'parkify' the field lying immediately south of the main drive in the nineteenth century by the removal of hedges and some clump planting. The two main clumps are of oak, and stand in the centre of the field and near its southern boundary.

The present main drive runs straight from Llanasa eastwards to the house. It is flanked by oaks, with some ash and sycamore. The entrance is

flanked by plain sandstone gateposts with shallow pyramidal tops and curving sandstone walls. A simple one-storey lodge stands to the left of the gate. The east drive, now disused, branches off past the lakes, and leads to the village of Glan-yr-Afon. A single-storey lodge similar to that at the west entrance marks this gate. A short drive with an informal avenue of mixed deciduous trees, including beech and oak, runs from the Llanasa to Glan-yr-afon road to the house. The lodge and lodge gates were designed by Culshaw and partners for Sir Edward Bates, the present owner's great grandfather, in 1866-68. These consist of a castellated arch gateway with a circular turret and a steep roofed octagonal lodge.

The main focus of the pleasure garden is the series of five lakes which lie in the valley to the south-east of the house. These were probably made at the same time as the major re-modelling of the house for John Douglas in 1817-24. They are shown in a print of Gyrn drawn by J.P. Neale in about 1818-23. The lakes were formed by widening the small Afon-y-garth stream. The central lake is the largest, with two small islands. The rest are much smaller. Wooded banks surround the lakes, creating a certain picturesqueness, and an earthen path makes a circuit walk around the woods and lakes. The largest lake has an artificial otter holt built into its eastern side. The woods are planted mainly with beech and horse chestnut, with an underplanting of rhododendrons around the lakes.

A rock garden, probably created in the 1920s, is sited at the end of the bank to the north of the ponds. Rustic stone steps wind up through the middle of it, and artificial waterfalls run into a small moat around the base. It is no longer maintained as a rockery. On a precipitous slope just below the house is a series of nine terraces thought to have been made by the present owner's grandmother in the 1890s. They are reached by stone steps down either side. Four are broad, five are narrow, and they are revetted with dry-stone walling. The terraces are bounded by a stone wall and holly hedge to the north, and planting in the area includes monkey puzzles and Scots pines. A summerhouse once stood on the south-western corner of the lakes wood.

A large area of lawn in front of the house, to its north-east, was once laid out with a tennis court and some formal beds, but today all is mown grass. From here it is possible to see the Hillbre Islands and the Wirral. A sale notice in The Times, 1853, described the views: 'It commands indescribably extensive and beautiful views, including the Isle of Man, Hillbre Island, the port and town of Liverpool, the estuaries of the Mersey and Dee'. A stone paved area on the north front of the house acts as another sitting area.

A tarmac tennis court is sited to the north of the house, to the south of which is a recently erected stone wall and gateway, with a fine pair of Italian wrought iron gates depicting the family crest of the Visconti family, a serpent swallowing a baby. In front of the gates are some formal rose beds.

A well preserved stone ice-house is situated next to the largest lake. It has a small window opening about the entrance doorway. To its west are the remains of a timber boathouse. On the south side of the lake there is also an artificial otter holt.

The small walled kitchen garden is built into the boundary wall of the farmyard, to the west of the house. The garden is entered by a wooden door with some Gothic detailing next to the western entrance of the farmyard. The walls are castellated, with a turret complete with arrow slits. There are some old fruit trees on the walls with lead labels. An album of paintings (c. 1890) by Lady Constance Bates shows this garden named as the Melon Yard.

Sources**Primary**

Album of watercolours of gardens and surrounding country by Lady Constance Bates. Private collection.

Secondary

Pratt, D., and A.G. Veysey, A Handlist of the Topographical Prints of Clwyd (1977), nos 724-25.

Hubbard, E., Clwyd (1986), p. 383.

EYARTH HOUSE

Ref No	PGW (C) 34
OS Map	116
Grid Ref	SJ 127 548
Former County	Clwyd
Unitary Authority	Glyndwr DC
Community Council	Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd
Designations	Listed building: Eyarth House Grade II
Site Evaluation	Grade II

Primary reasons for grading

Good example of naturalistic limestone rock garden of 1933-34 by Hayes of Ambleside. Island beds designed by C.H. Taudevin of Raby Nurseries, Wirral about 1937. Extensive beech woodland planted with spring bulbs and rhododendrons.

Type of Site

Informal garden with rock garden and island beds; walled garden.

Main Phases of Construction

1933-34 and 1937-1960s

SITE DESCRIPTION

Eyarth House is a two-storey stuccoed house situated on an eastward-facing slope at the north end of the Craig Adwy-wynt ridge. Much of the house is of the period 1812-1814, built of stone with fretted bargeboards. It was bought by J. Lever Tillotson, the father of the present owner, in 1929. Mr Tillotson had the house extensively remodelled. The house has five bays and a porch with two pairs of stone Tuscan columns. A stone terrace with reinforced concrete balustrading goes around two sides of the house. Mr Tillotson added a sun-room to the south-east side of the house.

The stables and outbuildings are situated on the north-west side of the house and are enclosed by a high stone wall. A stone workshop contemporary with the 1812-14 house is situated to the rear of the yard and is reached by a flight of stone steps. The bank in front of this workshop has a 2 m. high stone retaining wall. Below this is a lawn with a lower retaining wall. A small L-shaped unit of stables, of 1812-14, is situated in the north-east corner of the yard.

Eyarth House is approached from the north by a long curving tarmac drive ending in a gravel sweep on the north-east front of the house. The estate lies in an elevated position situated between the river Clwyd and one of its tributaries, the Afon Hesbin. The house and garden are surrounded by extensive beech woods with walks leading up to the hillfort of Craig Adwy Wynt, with extensive views from the garden to the north-west towards the Clwydian Hills, including Moel Famau. Towards the south end of the drive it is flanked by large specimen conifers.

The garden lies mainly to the north-east and south-west of the house, on gently sloping limestone ground. Mr Tillotson employed Hayes and Son of

Ambleside to construct a natural rock garden on the north-western side of the drive. Hayes are a well known company and particularly renowned for building rock gardens. The rock garden at Eyarth was made in 1933-34. In its original state it had a much sparser look, and a photograph album with photographs of the garden a year after its construction illustrate this point. The rock garden now has many mature acers, pines, and other trees and shrubs, some thought to have been brought back from Japan by Mr Tillotson. In the 1960s more shrubs were added. On the south-eastern side of the drive island beds were laid out in about 1937 by a nurseryman, C.H. Taudevin from the Wirral. A small pond was also constructed. A dry-stone ha-ha was constructed at the same time between the garden and the neighbouring fields.

Behind the rock garden there is an area of lawn divided in half by a low dry-stone wall and planted with heather. At the centre of the heather beds are two clipped sentinel yews to walk through.

On the south-eastern side of the house, at a slightly lower level than the house, is a flat area of grass for a tennis court. A swimming pool built in the 1930s marks the north-eastern boundary of this area, beyond which the ground drops steeply to the lawn and island beds already described. To the south-west of the tennis lawn is a terraced rockery cum shrubbery which was overgrown until recently. This runs from the south-west corner of the house to the ha-ha. Behind the terraced rockery are the remains of an orchard.

The walled kitchen garden lies to the north of the house and stable yard. In date it probably relates to the early nineteenth-century house. The walls are built of stone and are about 3m in height. The garden is not quite square, as the stables butt into the garden. A lean-to potting shed is situated just inside the garden gate. A half pitch range of nineteenth-century glasshouses with a central conservatory are situated in the north-western corner of the garden. The facing range is not built against the back wall but is free standing, with boiler houses behind and cold frames in front. The north wall is made of brick and instead of coping stones there is a small slate roof to protect the fruit trees that once grew there. The garden is laid out with box hedged vegetable beds. An early photograph in the possession of the owner shows this garden also planted with roses and decorated with rustic treillage.

Sources

Secondary

Hubbard, E., Clwyd (1986), p. 208.

Hellyer, A., 'On a rock foundation, the gardens of Eyarth House', Country Life, 1 November 1984.

ST BEUNO'S COLLEGE

Ref No PGW (C) 35

OS Map 116

Grid Ref SJ 080 742

Former County Clwyd

Unitary Authority Rhuddlan BC

Community Council Tremeirchion

Designations Listed building: St.Beuno's College Grade II; The Rock Chapel, Our Lady of the Sorrows Grade II

Site Evaluation Grade II

Primary reasons for grading

Good example of nineteenth-century designed garden attached to a religious house.

Type of Site

Terraced fruit and vegetable garden and pleasure garden with formal elements.

Main Phases of Construction

1846-49

SITE DESCRIPTION

St Beuno's College was founded in 1848, although the Jesuits had owned a farm in the Tremeirchion area since 1662. Lying in the lee of Moel Maenefa, St Beuno's faces west toward Snowdon and the Great Orme at Llandudno, with the Vale of Clwyd below. It was built in two main periods, 1846-49, and 1873-74. The architect of the first phase was J.A. Hansom, who designed a building in the local white limestone in a gothic style described by Hubbard as 'Pugin-inspired collegiate' and by Gerard Manley Hopkins, Jesuit priest and poet, who lived here from 1874 to 1877, as 'like Lancing College done worse'.

The main west front is dominated by a central four-storey tower with an oriel window. The wing to the left of the tower was added by Hansom & Son in 1873-74, and in order to accommodate it the minor road to the north of the college had to be re-routed. The front of this wing forms part of the entrance court on the east side, including the main entrance, with segmental arches on columns either side of the front door. To the right of the tower is the library, now a chapel, with a high pitched roof and buttressed walls. To the east of the chapel a part two-storey, and part three-storey wing climbs the hill. On the eastern side of the college buildings is the church of the the Holy Name which is part of the earlier work of the 1840s.

The Rock Chapel, Our Lady of the Sorrows, is situated on a rocky outcrop in a field to the south of the college buildings. The chapel was designed by Father Ignatius Scoles while a student at St Beuno's, and was built in 1866. It has a semi-circular apse and slender spire.

The majority of the gardens are situated to the west, east and south of the main building on the steep west-facing slope that the College is

built on. In a letter to his father, written in 1874, Gerard Manley Hopkins described the gardens as 'all heights, terraces, Excelsiors, misty mountain tops, seats up trees called Crows' Nests, flight of steps seemingly up to heaven lined with burning aspiration upon aspiration of scarlet geraniums: it is very pretty and airy but it gives you the impression that if you took a step farther you would find yourself on Plenlimmon, conway Castle, or Salisbury Craig'. Like the house, the garden appears to have been built in two main periods. The first period of 1846-49 included the west-facing kitchen garden terraces behind the house, of which there are five. These were originally planted with fruit trees, but are now mostly grassed over. The main north-south path is gravelled, and the path on the topmost terrace tarmacked, but most of the gravel paths on the terraces are now grassed over. The long flight of steps to the south of the house forms an axial line through the terraces, flanked by clipped Irish yews. This line is continued with the steps following through to the next level down, lining up with the west front of the house. A side axis is formed by another set of steps leading to the grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes. The original steps are of slate, but some have been replaced with concrete. They are flanked by large nineteenth-century urns of reconstituted stone.

Below the terraces on the south side of the house is another separate terrace on which are three circular formal beds. To the south of this area, and on a higher level reached by steps is a grotto to Our Lady of Lourdes, a small artificial cave of dripstone. The grotto was built sometime after 1871, probably at the time of the second period of building 1873-74. It is backed by a dense planting of rhododendrons and laurels. Just to the west of the grotto a wooded walk leads to the garden boundary, and then strikes out across a field to the wooded promontory where the Rock Chapel, to Our Lady of the Sorrows, stands. Next to the walk to the Rock Chapel and behind the grotto are two disused hard tennis courts, dating to after 1871.

On the south side of the house are steps to the west descending to the west terrace at the front of the house. This originally formed part of the main drive, which descended down the hill to the B5429, but this entrance is no longer used. The grounds are now entered from a lane on the north side of the house. This was probably resorted to after the route of the lane had been changed to accommodate the extra wing on the front of the house in 1873, which resulted in an entrance court on the north side of the house.

The west terrace is supported by a stone retaining wall 2 m. high. This in turn once formed the back wall for a row of lean to glasshouses, now replaced by a border. After the north wing was added in 1873-74, the terrace was also extended to the north. The 1871 Ordnance Survey map shows an open area of ground below the terrace, with a perimeter planting of trees, encircled by a path, with a path leading off to the now unused drive to the west. Another path led to 'feature' of some kind just to the south which looks like a specimen tree, encircled by a path. This area below the terrace now consists of shrub plantings in beds, with a background of cherry Laurel and rhododendron. A more recent innovation is a cement lined pond, now dried up.

An informal lime walk forms a continuation of the west terrace walk, with another walk to the west just above the B5429. An area of orchard lies to the east of the lime walk. This has been planted with Christmas trees in recent year as a cash crop, but they were never cut and are now over mature for such a purpose.

A cemetery for the college is situated to the south of the main kitchen garden terraces.

Sources

Secondary

Thomas, A., 'G.M. Hopkins and St Beuno's College', Flintshire Historical Society Publications 25 (1971-72), pp. 95-102.

Hubbard, E., Clwyd (1986), p. 450.