

Comisiwn Brenhinol Henebion Cymru
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Glanhafon Fawr

County: Montgomeryshire
Community: Pen-y-bont-fawr
NGR: SJ07311 2573, **NPRN:** 29229
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Glanhafon fawr, was a former Township, an ancient form of administration and taxation.

The farm house of the same name retains an early 17th century, end-chimney, storeyed, 3-bay, box-framed, parlour-range (encased in stone), built at right-angles behind a mid-late 19th century front-range, and at the site of an earlier hall. A fragment of a 'spere' found here and kept at Pentrehobin near Mold by members of the same family (the Lloyds), is thought to be part of the screens furniture, placed between the aisle-posts of a spere-truss (Hancock, T.W.), indicating it was a former aisled hall.

Adjoining the parlour-range, at right-angles, to the west is a late-17th century, end-chimney, storeyed, 2-bay, formerly timber-framed, later-parlour-wing, now with stone walls. Both 17th century buildings have an original stone-built end-chimney fireplace.

The box-framed parlour-range is divided into two rooms on the ground-floor, by a square-framed partition with ogee headed doorway (blocked) to form a small entrance-bay, and a larger parlour-room beyond, formerly with close-studded side walls. This room has an end-fireplace and winding-stair to first-floor. A further winding stair in the end wall at first-floor leads to the attic. Its bays have principal-posts with down-braced square-frame partitions on each floor and additional up-braces to the tie-beams. The tie-beam and collar trusses originally had raking-struts to the collar and three struts under. They have a ridge-purlin and two pairs of trenched, chamfered side-purlins, with straight wind-braces to the second purlins, in the two northern bays. All the bays were closed, except the north end-truss, indicating the stone end-chimney fireplace is original. At a later period doorways were inserted in the attic partitions. It is probable that there was an external jetty to the first-floor on its east side, as the principal posts appear to be intersected by the partition cross-beams.

The parlour room was close-studded, evidenced from ceiling wall-plate mortice peg holes, while the first-floor above appears to have been square-framed (west wall-plate mortice evidence). The ground-floor has a chamfered cross-beam with an intersecting spine-beam, all with curved stops and square section quarter-

round moulded joists, sufficient for a quality parlour. The west wall has c1700 panelling with a cornice and cupboard. The east wall has a c1700, 3-light timber transom window with chamfered mullions on the inside and vertical rectangular glazing, held by metal surrounds. The central light has a metal frame hinged to open and a window catch. The end fireplace lintel is cranked, or 'ogee' headed, with chamfer, enriched moulding and an inscribed fleur-de-lys. A doorway to right of the fireplace has a c1700, moulded and raised 2-panel door, which opens onto a winding stone stair of timber treads. It rises to first-floor, formerly with a window light (blocked) in the east wall. At first-floor a late-17th century, reed moulded 8 panel door gives access to the unheated chambers. The ground-floor fireplace's embellished moulding is repeated at first-floor on the frame of a cupboard in the end-wall. The east wall retains a c1700, timber, 2-light transom window with 'ogee' mouldings, an opening frame and vertical rectangular glazing. The fireplace's timber lintel and parlour doorway's 'ogee' heads tend to confirm they are contemporary and that the stone built fireplace is original.

The late-17th century wing to the west is accessed from the parlour and has a single transverse ceiling-beam with medium chamfer and plaster ceiling. The end fireplace and a cupboard to left are encased in re-sited c1700 panelling. A large modern window in the north wall may obscure an original window opening. There is no remaining wall framing, but a straight-joint in its south wall, suggests it was formerly framed. The tenants said that, there was once a doorway from the external passage in the south wall, where a recess remains. The first-floor has been closed off for some time, although a 3-light c1700 transom window, as in the parlour, is visible externally, and suggests it would have been a heated room of status, said to have had panelling. A straight-joint indicates the position of a further smaller window alongside. The roof over has two queen-strut collar and tie-beam trusses with low angled-struts to the tie-beam. The carpenter's assembly marks consist of auger marks, different from the feathered assembly marks to the parlour roof.

The first-floor and attic of the parlour ranges partitions are odd in that, they were all designed as closed, and therefore the stair would have only provided access to the first bay of the first-floor and attic-bay above. This suggests it was adjusted on

site to suit the owner's needs. At first-floor doorways have been inserted into each partition to afford access. The attic north-bay was floored by two axial chamfered ceiling-beams with 'ogee' stops and applied wall plate beams. The other two bays have joists only, supported on applied wall-plates beams. This may indicate a stronger floor was required for storing grain close by the heated chimney, initially of only one bay. The second bay has had a small opening made into one side, while the next bay has a proper chamfered doorway inserted (see section drawing). The south end-bay has also had a doorway inserted, presumably into the earlier hall-house at a later stage.

Comment

This early 17th century parlour-range appears to have been built below the cross-passage of an earlier hall-house, situated down sloping ground. It must have acted as a parlour to the earlier hall. This earlier hall was demolished and replaced when the Victorian front (ca 1860) was added. In the late-17th century a later-parlour-wing was added to the west. Probably, by c1700 the walls of both parlour ranges were encased in stone and the timber mullion transom windows and panelling were inserted. At this time the entry-bay still retained, what was probably the cross-passage of the former hall-house, in the upper part of the parlour-range. It is visible externally today, as a relieving arch with straight-joints in the east wall.

It is just possible that the parlour-range addition of the early-17th century was of only two-bays, situated below the cross-passage of the extant hall-house. Its frame was then rebuilt in the late-17th century of 3-bays and refurbished with stone walls c1700.

Reference

Hancock, T.W., in Parochial History of Llanrhaidr-ym-mochnant, Montgomeryshire Collections, Vol.6, 1873

Visited, Geoff Ward, November 2010.