

## **PENTREHOBYN**

**Ref No** PGW (C) 22  
**OS Map** 117  
**Grid Ref** SJ 250 624  
**County** Flintshire  
**District** Flintshire

**Community Council** Leeswood

**Designations** Listed building: Pentrehobyn Grade II\*  
Scheduled Ancient Monument: Round barrow at Pentrehobin (F51)

### **Site Evaluation Grade II**

#### **Primary reasons for grading**

Remains of seventeenth-century garden associated with fine early seventeenth-century house and unusual llettyau

#### **Type of Site**

Small park; walled and terraced gardens

#### **Main Phases of Construction**

Seventeenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries

## **SITE DESCRIPTION**

Pentrehobyn is situated south-east of Mold on low lying ground south-west of the river Alun, with the house facing south. The house was for long in the hands of the Lloyd family. There have been LLoyds living in or around Pentrehobyn from the eleventh century, being descended from Hywel ap Edwin, Prince of Wales 1096.

The dating of the present house is uncertain, but is thought to have been built for Edward and Margaret Lloyd in the first half of the seventeenth century. Their initials are carved on an overmantel dated 1546, but combined with the coat of arms of James I, none of which tallies. The datestone of 1540 over the front door is also misleading, as the house is probably of the early seventeenth century. Edward's son was to be High Sheriff of Flint in 1679.

The layout of the house is H-plan, built of stone under a slate roof which has coped gables with finials. The mullioned and transomed windows are irregular, varying from three to six bays and these are not even consistent within a block. The round arched windows to the rear and side of the house are thought to be mid sixteenth century.

A row of eight stone roofed cells, or llettyau, is situated to the east of the house which is said to have been for wayfarers. The two-storey stone building standing at the eastern end of the cells is thought to have been for an overseer. An inscription states that they were built by Mr Edward Lloyd who built the house, as night stops for

travellers displaced as a result of the dissolution of the monasteries. However there is no certainty as to which Edward Lloyd was the builder. It could be he who rebuilt the house in 1625 or his grandfather circa 1550, if the the story of the dissolution is to hold water the latter would seem more favourable. However the gable ends of the overseer's house seem seventeenth-century, re-build perhaps at the same time as the house. The arched windows however would seem to belong to an earlier date as indeed do the cells themselves. Other suggestions for the use of these buildings include a private workhouse.

A roughly triangular area to the west, south and east of the house, forms a small park. This land did not become part of the Pentrehobyn demesne until the mid nineteenth century, when the public road was re-routed to take it to its present position, thus allowing a drive to be built to the house. The original public road in fact followed part of the route of the present drive. There are two drives, to the north-west and south of the house. The southern one is now disused, but is visible in the grass, and still has gates and gate piers at the entrance. That from the north-west has a small nineteenth-century lodge and simple stone piers flanked by stone walls at the entrance. The drive is flanked by limes, and runs to a small forecourt on the south side of the house.

Planting in the park is mainly nineteenth-century. The drive to the south of the house is flanked by sycamores; that to the north-west by limes. Further limes mark the field boundary north of the house, with one of similar age to the south-east of the house. Further planting in the area around the garden include a copper beech, three limes in a row, and conifers including a redwood.

The garden is small and lies to the south and east of the house. The garden consists of a lawn bordered by narrow beds and broken up by a small wall on the east side which runs back to the east corner of the house. This also indicates a drop in level and it is possible that this is the remains of a courtyard or garden at the front of the house. The remains of such a wall also runs south from the eastern corner of the overseer's house of the llettyau. Again this could indicate the remains of a seventeenth-century court or garden. This wall formed the boundary until the nineteenth century when the garden boundary was pushed out to the east and another wall built, thus making access possible to the rear of the llettyau. The boundary wall is built of stone, and is about 2 m. high with triangular stone copings.

The present garden layout of paths is post 1871, as up until this date the layout appears to have been informal, planted with trees. A path runs east from the front of the house to the lower level to the south of the llettyau. A circular bed breaks up the path, which then continues to the low wall which formed the original pleasure garden boundary.

There is a small walled garden, probably of seventeenth-century date, to the rear of the llettyau attached to a barn. The walls have half-moon coping stones of Buckley ware, which are probably of twentieth-century date.

## Sources

### Secondary

Leslie, C.H., Rambles round Mold (1869): Clwyd Record Office (Hawarden), NT/977.

Hussey, C., 'Pentrehobyn, Flintshire', Country Life, 15 October 1943, pp. 684-86.

Pratt, D., and A.G. Veysey, A Handlist of the Topographical Prints of Clwyd (1977), nos 836-37.

Hubbard, E., Clwyd (1986), pp. 396-97.