

## TREVOR HALL

<b>Ref No</b>	<b>PGW (C) 19</b>
<b>OS Map</b>	117
<b>Grid Ref</b>	SJ 257 424
<b>County</b>	Denbighshire
<b>District</b>	Denbighshire

**Community Council** Llangollen Rural

**Designations** Listed building: Trevor Hall Grade I; Garden wall, ha-ha, gazebo, and entrance gate pillars Grade II; Stables and farm buildings Grade II

### **Site Evaluation Grade II**

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

Seventeenth- and eighteenth-century garden in fine position overlooking the Dee valley.

#### **Type of Site**

Walled garden; woods with bath house

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

Seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries

## **SITE DESCRIPTION**

The history of Trevor is somewhat fragmented due to repeated inheritance on the female side. It is known that Tudor Trevor was born in a house on this site. A Mary Trevor married a Lloyd of Llanrhaeadr in the early eighteenth century, and their daughter married a Lloyd of Pentre Hobyn in the 1740s. The estate then unified with the Coed Helen estate near Caernarvon belonging to the Rice-Thomas family, who had moved out of Trevor by 1820. The house was let on a short tenancy to the manager of the local iron works, and again on another short tenancy to a shipping agent from Liverpool. In 1865 Trevor was sold on a 100-year lease to J.C. Edwards, the Ruabon brick and terra-cotta manufacturer, to whom the property had been let by the Coed Helen estate for some time previously. Edwards's widow lived here until her death in 1927. By 1952 the lease expired and the estate reverted to the Coed Helen estate. The house was then sold, and bought by a local timber merchant. It then became a children's home and lastly a farm building. The house lost its roof in a fire in the early 1960s, but has recently undergone extensive restoration.

Trevor Hall is an eighteenth-century remodelling and enlarging of an earlier house built by the Trevor family. The brick front with stone base and quoins was added by Bishop Trevor in the mid eighteenth century. The brickwork is broken up by two sandstone string

courses, and stone key stones over the windows. The front door has a stone surround and pediment, and a double flight of stone steps with plain iron baluster rails leading up to it. A water pipe is dated 1742. There is also a datestone on the east wing of the house with the inscription '1742 John Roberts, Mason, Anno Domini, Dum spiro spero'. The eastern wing was remodelled and extended northwards for J.C. Edwards, probably by G.C. Richardson.

To the east of the house are nineteenth-century stone stables and farm sheds of three sides with a central yard.

Trevor Hall is situated on the north side of the Dee valley on ground sloping to the south. The land to its east, west and south is not a true park, but in the nineteenth century a lodge was built by what is now the A539, to the south. The drive, now disused, was in place prior to the lodge being built, and may be a later utilization of a farm track following the line of a wood on the north side. This wood once extended as far as the garden boundary, and is shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. Trevor Church stands to the south-west of the house. This was built in the first half of the eighteenth century (consecrated in 1772) as a private chapel for the Lloyd family, who lived at Trevor Hall at the time. In the present wood is a stone bath house with a sunken stone-lined rectangular bath up to one metre deep. The present drive from the east is of earlier origin and retains the remains of a lime avenue. It probably relates to the mid eighteenth-century brick front of the hall. The open pasture of the park contains a few isolated eighteenth-century oaks, and Trevor Hall Wood, at the western end, is of mixed deciduous and coniferous trees.

The pleasure garden is small and lies to the south, east and west of the hall. It is enclosed by a stone wall of between two and three metres in height. The wall is roughly contemporary with the earlier part of the house, though nothing of the garden layout of that time remains. The last known recorded layout dates from the nineteenth and early twentieth century, when the Edwards family took the property on a hundred-year lease. The garden is separated from the park on the south side by a stone ha-ha.

The garden falls into three distinct areas. To the east of the house is an area which contains the nineteenth-century glasshouse against the north wall. The central section was divided from this section by a beech hedge. This area lies immediately in front and to the south of the house, with its ha-ha and summerhouse. The summerhouse is situated next to the ha-ha, facing east. It is a domed stone alcove with a dressed stone front, in which is a fitted bench. It is probably contemporary with the eighteenth-century remodelling of the house. A level area of grass just in front of the house was made as a tennis court or croquet lawn in the late nineteenth century. Immediately to the west of this is a separate walled area which was used as an orchard in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

## **Sources**

### **Primary**

National Library of Wales:

1808 watercolour drawings and Tour by Mrs Smith (drawings vol. 48, ff. 2, 3, 5; Tour).

### **Secondary**

Hubbard, E., Clwyd (1986), pp. 291-92.