

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

**SITE DOSSIER**

SITE NAME Talycoed Court

REF. NO. PGW (Gt) 52

OS MAP 161 GRID REF. SO 421152

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

DESIGNATIONS Listed building: Talycoed Court (grade II); stables and  
clock house at Talycoed Court (grade II); forecourt walls and railings  
to W side of Talycoed Court (grade II); lodge and gatepiers at main  
entrance to Talycoed Court (grade II)

National Park AONB SSSI NNR ESA GAM SAM CA

SITE EVALUATION Grade II

Primary reasons for grading

Late Victorian small park and terraced garden, built by Sir Joseph  
Bradney, historian, genealogist, and writer of A History of  
Monmouthshire.

TYPE OF SITE

Small late Victorian landscape park; terraced garden

MAIN PHASES OF CONSTRUCTION

1882 - c. 1893

VISITED BY/DATE Elisabeth Whittle/February 1992

## HOUSE

Name Talycoed Court

Grid ref SO 421152

Date/style c. 1880-90/Victorian baroque

### Brief description

Talycoed Court is a medium-sized Victorian mansion situated on ground sloping to the east just to the north of the Trothy valley. It stands in the centre of a small park, and is approached from the south by a drive which enters the small forecourt to the west of the house from the west. Originally the entrance to the forecourt was on the south side. The house is a two-storey red brick mansion, in plain baroque style. The main block has a steeply pitched slate roof, with an attic storey above, while the wing to the north has less steeply pitched roofs with flat tops. The main entrance door, in the middle of the west side, has a dressed stone surround and pediment, with the date '1882' over it. A small conservatory, contemporary with the house, is attached to the south side. The northern part of the house is slightly lower and narrower than the main block, and contained the library and service quarters. The house was built for Sir Joseph Bradney, author, historian, genealogist, and writer of A History of Monmouthshire. In 1969 it was divided vertically into four separately owned units.

## OUTBUILDINGS

Name The Clockhouse and stables

Grid ref SO 421152

### Date/style, and brief description

The Clockhouse is situated to the north of the forecourt. It is a plain, two-storey red brick building in the same materials and style as the house, with a central archway through to the stable court. In the plain pediment over the arch is a clock face, and on top of the roof is a small lantern. This building is now divided into two separately owned units, one on either side of the arch. To its north is a small courtyard, with a stable range in similar style along its north side. Further north are some farm buildings, including a large stone barn whose upper floor was converted to a ballroom by Bradney, and which still retains its sprung floor.

## THE PARK

Central grid ref SO 421152

Date/style c. 1880-1900

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION, HISTORY AND LAYOUT

Talycoed Park is a small landscape park of pasture and isolated deciduous and coniferous trees set on gently rising and undulating ground to the north of the river Trothy. It is elongated north-south, and is bounded on the south side by the B4233 Llantilio Crossenny-Rockfield road, and on the other sides by mixed woodland. The park entrance is at the southern end, and is flanked by curving stone walls and cylindrical stone gate piers, with a small lodge to the west. Opposite the entrance is a stone wall with an ornamental drinking trough set into it.

The park was landscaped at the same time as the house was built, in the 1880s and 1890s, by Sir Joseph Bradney. Initially a drive flanked by pines led straight from the entrance to the south side of the forecourt. This drive has now completely disappeared, but a few of the pines remain. The present drive leads north from the entrance, and turns a right-angle bend to the east opposite the house to run down the slope to the west side of the forecourt. This alternative arrangement may have been in existence at an early stage, as it is shown in a painting of the Court in Bradney (1907). An avenue of oaks flanks the east-west part of the drive, and continues across the park, with a break in the middle, to the horizon on the ridge east of Talycoed Farm. Originally the avenue was continuous. A small stream runs down the east side of the park, with a wooded slope to its east. To the north-east of the house a small lake was formed, with a dam at its southern end, and a walk to it from the north end of the garden. The lake is now silted up, but it is still surrounded by rhododendrons and laurels, and the straight path to it from the garden remains, although now turf covered. At its north and south ends are stone steps. The area between the lake and the garden has a high stepped brick wall along its west and north sides, and may have originally been an orchard. In the north wall is a door into the woodland, which probably originally led to a woodland walk, now completely overgrown. To the north of the house there is little landscaping, and the open pasture land is divided into fields.

### STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS

The drive is tarmacked, and runs north from the park entrance on the B4233 road, to west of the house, where it turns east and runs down a gentle slope to the forecourt.

A sloping walk runs from a doorway (now gone) in the north wall of the garden north down to the lake. It is bounded on its east side by a low stone revetment wall, with a low parapet wall. The slope to the east is bounded by a revetment wall continuous with the east wall of the garden.

### WATER FEATURES

A small stream runs along the east side of the valley, and to the north of the house it has been dammed to form a small lake (now silted up). Along its south side is a substantial earthen dam with a stone revetment wall and a central sluice. Along the lake's west side is a narrow brick-lined overflow channel with a small stone bridge and iron gate over it. Stone edging is visible in places along the lake's bank.

### BUILT FEATURES

The south side of the park is bounded by a dry-stone wall. Opposite the entrance to the park is a semi-circular wall c. 1 m. high, of

coursed undressed stone, with a flagstone top, ending in circular piers of the same height. In the centre is an ornamental stone water trough and spout with a decorative stone panel behind it, on which there is an inscription (indecipherable).

The entrance is flanked by slightly higher curving stone walls built in the same style, ending with higher circular piers, and stepped up next to the gate piers (c. 2.2 m.). Formerly the piers were all topped with ball finials, but recently all but one were stolen (one remains on the west gate pier). The entrance is closed by simple iron gates.

Just inside the entrance, on the west side, is a simple brick two-storey lodge, of the same date as, and in a similar style to the house. It has a modern extension on the west side.

The drive is flanked by iron railings just inside the entrance, and at its north end.

The blockhouse near the southern end of the drive dates from the Second World War.

At the south end of the walk to the lake dressed stone steps lead up to the garden wall (former doorway). At the north end of the walk dressed stone steps flanked by low parapet walls lead down to the lake. They are now somewhat ruinous and overgrown. Just to the south a small dry-stone bridge, with the date of 1890 carved on the keystone, crosses the lake's overflow channel. Its low parapet walls are ruinous. At its east end is an iron gate which leads through to the lake's dam.

#### PLANTED COMPONENTS

The park is mostly permanent pasture, with scattered isolated specimen trees. Some trees in the park, in particular some of the oaks, appear older than the park.

Just behind the stone wall opposite the entrance is a single pine tree, and flanking the entrance are two pollarded plane trees. Along the south boundary of the park is a belt of deciduous woodland. Throughout the park are fine mature specimen trees, including pines, limes, sycamore, and oaks. In the western half of the park is a small clump of pines, and a larger clump of pines east of Pen-y-parc (small house in separate ownership). Originally an oak avenue ran east-west across the park on the main axis of the house. All that survives of this is the eastern end, flanking the east-west part of the drive, and a short section on the east-facing slope near the west boundary of the park. A few of the pines that lined the original straight drive to the house remain to the east of the present drive.

To the north-west of the house are some fine ancient oaks, including some in an east-west row. The west-facing slope along the east side of the park is covered with mainly deciduous woodland. Around the lake there are remnants of ornamental planting, mainly of rhododendrons.

#### BOUNDARIES

North, east, and west: field boundaries.

South: stone wall

#### ESSENTIAL SETTING, VIEWPOINTS AND CONTINUATIONS OF FEATURES BEYOND THE PARK, EYECATCHERS ETC.

Essential setting: pasture fields to the N

Views: south and east from the house and garden across the park (A and B on map)

#### LAND-USE

Agricultural: pasture; unmanaged woodland

#### ELEMENTS OF BOTANICAL OR OTHER NATURE CONSERVATION INTEREST

None known

#### SURVIVAL OF INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS

Structural components: most  
Water features: some (lake silted)  
Built components: most  
Planted components: most

## THE PLEASURE GARDEN

Grid ref SO 421152

Date/style 1882-1893

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION, HISTORY AND LAYOUT

To the west of the house is a small rectangular gravelled forecourt, entered on the west side, and with a short drive off to the Clockhouse and stables to the north. It is surrounded by a low brick wall topped with iron railings. Before the front door of the house are stone steps flanked by two large stone balls.

The garden lies to the south, east and north-east of the house. It consists of two terraces, only the upper one of which runs along the south side of the house. They are built out over the slope which leads down to the small stream to the east, and are revetted with high stone walls. Stone steps lead down from the top to the lower terrace opposite the centre of the main part of the house. The top terrace has a low stone parapet wall, the lower terrace a higher one, with a terracotta tile top. At the north end of the lower terrace is a small stone pavilion, open to the sky, with two pointed arches on its south side. To its west is a doorway in the wall leading to steps down to the walk to the lake.

Against the south wall of the house is a small wooden-framed conservatory, standing on a brick base, with stone steps up on the south side. It is shown on the painting in Bradney (1907). The original layout of paths within the gardens has gone from all but the upper terrace of the north end of the garden, where a wide gravel path still runs along the terrace. The rest of the garden is laid out to lawns and wall borders, with hedges dividing the separate properties. There are traces of yew hedging along the east side of the southern end.

### STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS

The forecourt is a rectangular levelled gravel area to the west of the house.

There are two large terraces built up over the slope, revetted with stone walls with brick piers. The upper terrace runs along the south and east sides of the house, and extends northwards to level with the stable block. It is revetted on its east side with a stone wall c. 4 m. high, with narrow buttresses. A wide gravel path runs along the north end of the top terrace, but has been grassed over in the other three sections of the garden. In the southern part of the garden remnants of a stone path are visible along the eastern edge of the lower terrace.

### BUILT COMPONENTS

The forecourt is surrounded by a low brick wall topped with iron railings. Flanking the entrance on the west side are square brick gate piers topped with small ball finials. Stone steps lead up to the front door of the house.

To the north of the house the garden is bounded on the west and north sides by stone walls. The west wall has a doorway into the garden, and the north wall has an arched doorway near its west end. The upper terrace has a low parapet wall with a flagstone top; the lower terrace has a parapet wall c. 1.2 m. high, topped with terracotta tiles.

Stone steps flanked by brick piers with stone tops lead down from the upper to the lower terrace opposite the centre of the main part of the house. Halfway down they divide. Underneath them is a shallow arch.

Conservatory

This is a lean-to wooden-framed structure on the south side of the house, standing on a brick base. Stone steps lead up to it in the middle of the south side.

#### Pavilion

A small stone roofless structure in the centre of the north end of the garden, facing south, with two pointed arches on the south side, and a rusticated top.

#### ARCHITECTURAL ORNAMENTS

Two large stone balls either side of the steps up to the front door.

#### PLANTED COMPONENTS

Little of the original planting of the garden survives. The garden is now divided by hedges into four compartments, and is largely laid out to lawn and wall borders. Some yew hedging remains along the east edge of the southern end.

#### Reconstructions of original planted features

None

#### Special collections of garden plants

None

#### Documented living plants

None

#### Other (including elements of nature conservation interest)

None known

#### ESSENTIAL SETTING AND VIEWS BEYOND THE SITE

Essential setting: park all around, particularly to the south, east and north

Views: south (A on map) and east (B on map) from the terraces

#### ANY SPECIAL FEATURES

None

#### SURVIVAL OF INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS

Structural components: all

Built components: all

Architectural ornaments: some

Planted components: little

UTILITARIAN GARDENS

NAME Kitchen garden and orchard

Grid ref SO 421152

Date/style 1893/walled

DESCRIPTION

The kitchen garden is situated to the north of the stable court. It is a small, roughly rectangular walled garden, elongated north-south, with red brick walls topped with terracotta tiles on all but the west side. There are doorways in its north and south walls. Along its west side is a stone wall of uneven height (up to 2.2 m.) with a doorway the date '1893' over it. On the outside of the north wall are lean-to brick bothies.

To the north, on ground sloping gently to the north, is a rectangular area bounded on the east by the walk to the lake, and on the west and north sides by a high brick wall topped by terracotta tiles, stepped down the slope on its west side. It is now a pasture field, but was probably originally an orchard, as it contains a few old fruit trees. There are doors in the walls near the south end of the west side, and in the north side, leading to the wood.



SOURCES

Secondary

Bradney, J., A History of Monmouthshire I, part I (1907), p. 132.

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

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