



## HOUSE

Name Llantilio Court (demolished)

Grid ref SO 398151

Date/style c. 1775, altered and enlarged 19th century/Georgian

### Brief description

The site of the house lies to the N of the church on the edge of a steep bank down to a small valley to the NE. It was demolished in 1922.

The house was built by John Lewis in about 1775, and was altered and enlarged in the 19th century. The main front was on the W side, with drives approaching from the W and S.

The site of the house is now grassed over. Stony mounds cover the area, and in places there are remnants of walling, particularly along the NW side. The cellars remain, with several holes giving access to them.

## OUTBUILDINGS

Name Stables and farm buildings

Grid ref SO 398149

Date/style, and brief description

A range of barns and stables, now partly converted into a farmhouse, to the S of the church. Late 18th-19th century. A long barn (W end converted to house), running E-W, with two projecting porches (W one now in house). Clock tower in middle. Stables at right-angles at E end. To the NW a small single-storey gardener's cottage.

At SO 397148 is a water mill with a water-wheel driven pump which supplied water to the house and vicarage (mostly intact, in underground chamber, with an overshot wheel, and pump by R. Warner & Co.).

## THE PARK

Central grid ref SO 400149

Date/style

c. 1775; 19th century/landscape

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION, HISTORY, AND LAYOUT

The small park is a roughly circular area lying between the B4233 on the N (the road was diverted round the park at the time that it was made), the river Trothy on the S, and White Castle Brook on the W. The church and village of Llantilio Crossenny lies within this area, but were not part of the park. The house lay close to the church at the W end of the park, with the gardens to the W and the large kitchen garden to the S.

The ground occupied by the park is rolling pasture with isolated trees scattered throughout. Some of these probably pre-date the park, while others, such as the wellingtonias, are part of the 19th-century landscaping.

The park was made in the late 18th century by John Lewis. It was improved in the first half of the 19th century by Mrs Toddy, daughter of Richard Lewis (1749-1836), who made the winding carriage drive through the park to a lodge on the Abergavenny-Monmouth road on the NE side of the park. She also made the two ornamental ponds either side of the W end of this drive. A further drive runs from the house (site of) southwards past the church and down to a lodge, of cottage orné style, in the S corner of the park. At some stage in the second half of the 19th century this drive was lined with wellingtonias, many of which survive.

The larger of the two ponds, S of the E-W drive, was ornamented with two artificial, stone revetted islands, and a 'Japanese' garden was created, probably towards the end of the 19th century, by 'Japanese' planting around the lake (now all gone except for a swamp cypress on the island), an arched bridge to the larger island, the framework of which remains, and a Japanese tea-house on the island.

## STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS

There are two carriage drives through the park, one from the house (site of) to a lodge on the road on the NE boundary, and one running S to a lodge in the S corner of the park. Both are gravelled, the E one largely grassed over but still traceable through the fields. Both are laid out in winding, picturesque style. The S one is lined with mature wellingtonias. To the W of the house site is a hollow way from the edge of the garden to the road (B4233), which may be the site of the old road from the village towards White Castle. It is now grassed over.

There is a small natural valley, running N-S, to the E of the house and church which has been dammed to the SE of the church to make two ponds. Along its E side, above the ponds, is a levelled grass path which runs from the upper pond to the head of the valley, where it splits in two, one continuing along the side of the slope to a small natural pond and the other curving round the head of the valley to join the garden terrace/path on the W side of the valley.

## WATER FEATURES

### Ponds

At the N end of the small valley is a small semi-natural pond (SO 399152).

To the SSW of the house site (SO 399148) are two artificial ponds, the N one considerably smaller than the S one. They were made under the

auspices of Mrs Toddy, daughter of Richard Lewis, in the first half of the 19th century. The E drive, which was made at the same time, passes between them, over the dam of the small pond. They are informal in shape, occupying the curving valley floor. The southern, larger pond has two islands, the larger of which has stone revetted sides. The curved iron girders are all that is left of a bridge from the SW side of the pond to the island. (This is also described as having been 'Japanese' by the present owner.) The ponds were redredged by the present owner's father.

#### BUILT FEATURES

##### Lodges

1. Raglan Lodge. This is a cottage orné-type half-timbered building (private house) on the S side of the entrance in the S corner of the park (S drive). (Separate ownership, private house.)

2. East lodge. This is a small simple building on the W side of the entrance on the NE side of the park (E drive). It is a private house and has been modernised (unsympathetically). There are low iron railings with an iron gate around it. (Separate ownership, private house.)

The park entrance by the E lodge consists of a curved stone wall on the SE side, and a single gate pier (on the N side). The drive leads into a modern farmyard.

To the S of the house site there are low iron railings along the top of the stone-revetted drop to the valley to the E. Where a footpath (public) crosses the S drive (the footpath runs between the churchyard and the stables, crosses the drive and continues eastwards across the park) there are stone steps (8) on the W side of the drive, an iron gate in the railings and stone steps (8) down the slope to the E.

At the W end of the E drive there are iron railings along its N side up to a fine iron gate at the E end of the pond dam. This is divided into two main sections, the lower half having vertical bars, the upper part being divided in a criss-cross diagonal pattern. The top is curved with scrolled ironwork in the spandrels. There are iron gate piers on either side. Iron railings continue for some distance eastwards along the S side of the drive.

#### PLANTED COMPONENTS

There are isolated mature trees dotted about the park. These are mainly oaks, but include a wellingtonia (N of the E drive, TPO ref. T33) and a copper beech (in the field between the church and the main road (B4233) to the NW. TPO ref. G1) To the S of the E drive (near the lake) is a clump of mature oaks.

The S drive is flanked by mature wellingtonias: 3 on the N side and 2 on the S side of the first, straight stretch, and 5 on the W side of the N-S stretch to the W of the large pond (TPO refs G21, T48, T49). They are interplanted here with small pines. On the E side there is a cut-leaf beech. At the N end of the drive (W of the small pond) there are 2 wellingtonias (TPO refs. T35, T36) and four limes on its E side (TPO refs G6, G7).

On the larger island in the large pond there is a swamp cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) (and other more ordinary trees and scrubby vegetation). The trees that originally surrounded the large pond were mostly dug up and removed when the house was sold in the 1920s (the present owner reports that they were ornamental, 'Japanese').

#### BOUNDARIES

N side: B4233 Abergavenny-Monmouth road  
SW side: minor road and White Castle Brook  
SE side: River Trothy

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

Essential setting: pasture fields to the NW, NE and E of the park

LAND-USE

Pasture: grazed by sheep and cows

ELEMENTS OF BOTANICAL OR OTHER NATURE CONSERVATION INTEREST

None known

SURVIVAL OF INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS

Structural components: drives: lines survive, but gravel grassed over  
Water features: complete (redredged)  
Built components: little  
Planted components: isolated trees - survival good, trees around  
large pond - largely gone

## THE PLEASURE GARDEN

Grid ref SO 398151

Date/style c. 1775/terraced

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION AND LAYOUT

The gardens lay to the W and NW of the house. They are now grassed over, partly as pasture, partly incorporated into the church graveyard. There were two large rectangular terraces to the W of the house and a further smaller one to the NW. At the W end of the lawn in front of the house was a flight of wide stone steps. The SW side of the garden is walled, with a small round look-out tower in the W corner. The NE boundary of the garden is formed by a steep drop, partly revetted with a stone wall, to the valley below. Half-way down the side of this slope is a levelled narrow terrace or walk.

A few mature trees remain in the garden area; otherwise no planting remains, and the whole is visible only as grassed over earthworks.

### STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS

#### Terraces

Running NW from the church are two rectangular terraces, now grassed over, which were part of the gardens. The graveyard has now been extended on to the upper one, across which the drive ran (there is no trace of it now).

The original boundary of the gardens with the churchyard was formed by the steep bank, c. 2.5 m. high on the SE edge of the upper terrace. There is a drop of 0.6 m. on the NW edge of the upper terrace down to the lower terrace which is slightly narrower. It is bounded on its NW side by a scarp 0.5 m. high. The SW edge of the terraces is visible as a low scarp. The NE end of the upper terrace merges into the jumble of the house site. To the NW of the house site is a rectangular level area bounded by low scarps, which represents a third smaller terrace. Its NE side is bounded by a steep bank c. 2.5 m. high (with stones on the surface which suggests it may once have been a revetment wall) down to a level narrow terrace half-way down to the valley floor. This terrace continues SE below the house site, to the E of which there are stone steps down to it.

### BUILT COMPONENTS

The SW side of the gardens is bounded by a stone wall c. 3 m. high capped with dressed stone slabs. This runs from the lych gate to the churchyard, where it is capped by ball finials on either side of the entrance, to the W corner. A little to the NW of the churchyard entrance is a wide entrance with a simple stone pier on the NW side and a small arched doorway on the SE side. In the W corner is a small round look-out tower (roofless) c. 2.5 m. high. Inside it has two sets of curving steps up to a look-out platform c. 1.5 m. high. The wall continues a little way to the NE and then stops abruptly. In this section is a wooden door with strong iron hinges. The rectangular doorway is surrounded by simple dressed stone slabs and is topped by a small stone pitched roof. The NW boundary of the gardens continues as a fence with iron posts.

To the E of the house site the W side of the small valley is revetted with a stone wall down to the level of the narrow terrace. This is continued above the top as a low parapet wall c. 1 m. high with stone slab coping towards its southern end and some iron railing on top. Towards the S end of the gardens the parapet wall ceases and there is only iron railing at the top of the revetment wall. There are

steep narrow steps with an iron hand-rail down to the terrace near the S end of the wall. A little further to the N a small privy is set into the wall, framed by buttresses and with a corbelled lintel above.

#### ARCHITECTURAL ORNAMENTS

Near the SW wall of the garden, between a lime and yew tree is a dressed rectangular stone c. 0.7 m. high with the following inscription:

WHISKY COLLEY AND COMPANION

Below is a illegible inscription. To its NW is a further, smaller stone, with no inscription.

There is some iron fencing along the NW boundary of the garden, and on top of the revetment wall along the NE side of the garden.

#### PLANTED COMPONENTS

The garden is abandoned, and only a few trees remain of the original planting. The rest is rough grass.

The upper terrace is partly in use as an extension of the church burial ground. On the terrace slope above this is a large copper beech. In the middle of the SW side of this terrace is a large sweet chestnut.

Along the inside of the SW wall is a row of evenly spaced trees, with a copper beech to the E of the gate, and to its W a yew, lime, pine, and a further yew. To the NW of the lower terrace, between it and the boundary, is a large cedar, and in the N corner is a large cut-leaf beech and an oak.

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

Park to the NW and NE of the garden; churchyard to the SE

ANY SPECIAL FEATURES (e.g. continuation of avenues, belts, clumps, eyecatchers, e.g. church spire)

None

SURVIVAL OF INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS

Structural components: most (terracing)

Built components: very little

Architectural ornaments: none

Planted components: trees only



UTILITARIAN GARDENS

NAME Kitchen garden

Grid ref SO 398148

Date/style 19th-century/Walled kitchen garden

DESCRIPTION (categories as for the pleasure garden)

The walled kitchen garden (K on map) lay to the south of the house and garden, on ground sloping gently to the S between the road to the church and Court Farm. It was built some time in the 19th century. It occupied a large trapezoidal area, with its W boundary along the road. Most of its walls have now gone, and it is in agricultural use, partly grazed by cows and partly sown with oilseed rape. The walls at the N end are the best preserved part. These lie S of the track to Court Farm SW of the church. Iron railings and an iron gate along the S side of the track lead to a small triangular area of rough grass outside the outer wall. This wall is built of brick and stone, with a simple stone capping. In it is a small narrow doorway with a small gabled porch (stone tile roof and wood) outside it. Inside this wall is a further brick wall, running roughly parallel to it. On its N side are lean-to sheds, and on its S side a (derelict) brick glasshouse. Near the E end is a gabled shed and a small former gardener's cottage.

The W wall of the kitchen garden has gone. The E wall continues for about a third of the way southwards from the N end (the rest of the side is a fence). Along the S side a low dry-stone wall and outer slight ditch are all that remain. In the centre are the remains of an entrance: the E gate pier (square) and a short stretch of wall standing to c. 1.8 m.

SOURCES

(Primary and secondary. For primary, give location. Aerial photos (AP): ref. no and collection)

Primary

National Library of Wales:

1904 wash sketch by Patty Harding of house on terrace (drawings vol. 205. f.8)

watercolour drawing 1839 by C.L. Traherne 'The Skyrid Mountain and White Castle from the window of Mr Taddy's house at Llantilio' (drawings vol. 81. f.97)

Secondary

Williams, D., History of Monmouthshire (1796), pl. XXXIV

Bradney, J., History of Monmouthshire (1904), pt. 1, p. 94

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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