

BACHYMBYD

Ref No PGW (C) 27

OS Map 116

Grid Ref SJ 094 611

County Denbighshire

District Denbighshire

Community Council Llanynys

Designations Listed building: Bachymbyd Grade II*

Site Evaluation Grade II

Primary reasons for grading

Remains of seventeenth-century walled garden

Type of Site

Walled garden, with bee boles

Main Phases of Construction

Seventeenth and twentieth centuries

SITE DESCRIPTION

Bachymbyd is situated on the western edge of the Vale of Clwyd, on ground rising to the west. Just to its east are the A525 Ruthin to Denbigh road and the river Clywedog. Bachymbyd is an ancient foundation, the house of a branch of the Salusbury family founded in the fifteenth century by John, fourth son of Thomas Salusbury who was killed in 1471. The most famous member of the house was William Salusbury, known as 'hen Hosanau Gleision', 'Old Blue Stocking', who defended Denbigh for the king during the Civil War, from 1643 to 1646. His younger son Charles received Bachymbyd and it was he who built the present house in 1666 as recorded in the datestone over the front door.

The house is of brick, with stone dressings. It has two storeys with an attic level, and a nine-bay front and stone string coursing. The windows are stone mullioned and transomed. There is a separate staircase wing at the rear. Presumably the house was meant to have had two projecting wings as illustrated in William Williams's map of Clwyd of c. 1720. The south-east wing is missing. The house has had much work done on it, including a remodelling of the end, where the wing should be, in 1960. The original door case has been lost. It was round headed with columns. As a result the date stone was reset in about 1900. The porch and dormer windows which have a strong Arts and Crafts flavour were added at the same time. The line of the roof has been slightly altered as well: originally

there was a stone parapet with an internal gutter. This resulted in serious timber rot, and consequently the roof was lengthened and an ordinary gutter installed. The result is a rather fanciful roof line most obvious when viewed from the south-west end.

A barn near the house has two cruck beams and some remains of a brick nogged wall.

A short drive leads off the Ruthin-Denbigh road and then turns into a forecourt by the house with a stone pond and fountain of recent date.

The garden surrounds the house and is built up with a drop to a pond on the north-east side. The ground is retained on this side by a stone wall which incorporates a well house, with the wall doubling up as a bee garth. There are the remains of an orchard at the rear, and another part walled garden to the north-west of the house. Much of the structure of the garden, and its perimeter walls are thought to be seventeenth-century in origin, and contemporary with the rebuilding of the house in 1666.

There is a raised terrace on the north-east front of the house which drops down to lawn, and half-way down the lawn there is a steep bank which could be part of the original seventeenth-century garden boundary, or perhaps the remains of a terrace. Stone footings are to be found under the lawn above the bank. There is a tennis court and twentieth-century summerhouse at the north-west end of this bank. There is a swimming pool below the bank which is surrounded by a Leyland cypress hedge on the north-east and south-west sides. A shrub border, on a slightly higher level, bounds the north-west side of the pool, with the tennis court above. There are shallow terraces on the south-east side of the garden backed with a bee garth. Much of the stonework is of twentieth-century origin.

Below the north-east wall is a pond, and a piece of informal ground continues alongside the drive to a much larger rectangular pond which is concrete lined. This pond is probably a fish pond in origin, dating from the same period as the rest of the garden. Beyond the pond and adjacent to the road are the remains of a group of noteworthy sweet chestnuts planted in the late seventeenth century by the three daughters of Sir William Salusbury as a token of their affection for each other, known locally as The Three Sisters. The occasion was the marriage of one of the sisters to Sir Walter Bagot of Blythefield in Staffordshire.

Sources

Secondary

Roscoe, T., Wanderings and Excursions in North Wales (1838).

Howell, P., 'Country houses in the Vale of Clwyd', Country Life, 29 December 1977, pp. 1966-69.

Hubbard, E., Clwyd (1986), pp. 247-48.