

Comisiwn Brenhinol Henebion Cymru
Royal Commission
on the
Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales



No.1, Well Street, Holywell

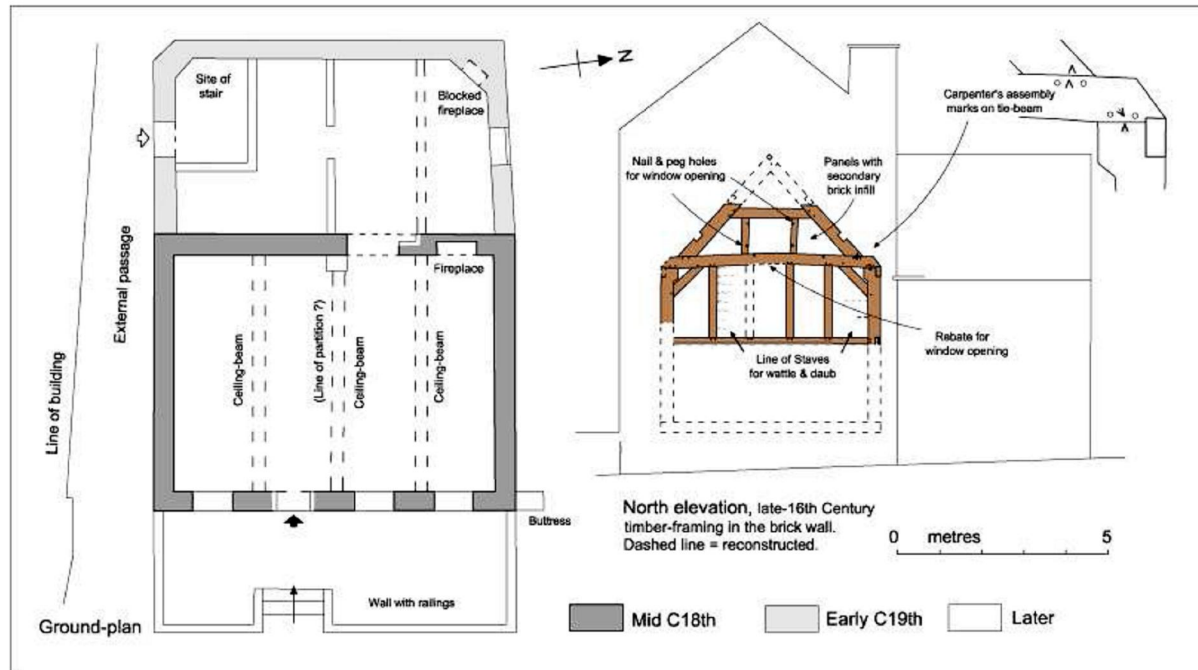
County: Flintshire
Community: Holywell
NGR: SJ1852075980
NPRN: 36300
Date of Survey: October 2007
Surveyed by: Geoff Ward
Report Author: Geoff Ward
Illustrations: Geoff Ward

© Crown Copyright: RCAHMW 2008

Comments or queries regarding the content of the report should be made to the author:
RCAHMW, Plas Crug, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 1NJ
Tel: 01970 621214

World Wide Web: <http://www.rcahmw.gov.uk>

No. 1, Well Street, Holywell, Flint is outwardly a mid-C18th, brick-built, rendered, 3-storey, town house, with 4 window façade, and an early-19th century, 2 ½ storey rear-wing, all built on a stone plinth.



Well Street, No.1, Holywell NPRN36300,

SJ1852075980, Recorded, Geoff Ward, 18/10/2008, Measurements based on architect's drawings, and site notes.

1: 100 scale at A4, (Autocad plot scale 10:1).

Crown Copyright: Royal Commission on Ancient & Historical Monuments of Wales, 2008.
Hawthraint y Goron: Cofrestru Brenhinol Henebion Cymru, 2008.

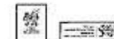


Fig. 1, Ground Plan and North Elevation

However, whilst undergoing repair work, remnants of a tie-beam collar truss and principal-post partition, of a late-16th century form were revealed, behind the rendering of its north gable-end. This truss-partition defines a former 2-storey timber-frame structure (figs.1, 7 & 8), one of few, retaining timber-framing, known in Holywell.

The rendered façade's first and ground-floor sash windows have sandstone details, including fluted keystones, moulded sills (figs. 2 & 3), and moulded copings to the north gable.



Fig. 2 Fluted key stone lintel



Fig. 3, Moulded sill

The present ground-floor plan (fig. 1.) has an off-centre entry with six-panel door with narrow fan-light, and three chamfered ceiling-beams with diagonal cut stops. The central beam is boxed, possibly on the line of a former partition dividing the space into two rooms.

Although the main front interior is modernized, there is a fireplace opening in the right lateral wall, which is served by a corner chimney stack. A doorway opening in the lateral wall leads into the altered rear-wing, which has a diagonal-set fireplace (blocked) to the right gable-end corner, and once used the same chimney-stack as the front fireplace. The later rear-wing is divided into two rooms by a central partition with doorway. A partitioned stair, which rises against the left gable-end, is presently reached from a doorway in the alley and provides access to all the floors.



Fig. 4, Ground-floor



Fig.5, Ceiling-beam detail

A timber-frame casement window of two-lights (blocked in brick) over the alley entrance retains evidence for leaded lights, which were once tied to horizontal iron bars. One of these two lights formerly had an opening metal frame. A window opening in the gable-end of this wing was probably also of this same type.



Fig. 6, Timber-frame casement window

The truss-partition (figs 7 & 8), consists of a collar with two studs over a cambered tie-beam with principal-posts. These posts have a jowled head and there is a short diagonal brace to the tie-beam. The principal-posts are mortised for a girding-beam, at a former first-floor level, both across and lengthwise. The post has been cut back just below these mortices and no further framing was visible.



Fig. 7, Framed truss- partition between collar and tie-beam



Fig. 8, Timber-framed truss-partition between tie-beam & girding-beam

The partition (fig. 8) consisted of four vertical studs (one removed), which formed Vertical rectangular panels, that are now infilled by brick, but were formerly of wattle & daub. This type of vertical rectangular panels was noted at Greenhill Farm (Holywell), NPRN35841, and at Bryn-y-parc (Denbigh Town), NPRN26889, both late-16th century in date.

The carpenter's assembly marks include an arrow shape on the principal-post at the tie beam (Fig 9), and a simple V shape between tie-beam and truss (Fig 10).



Figure 9



Figure 10

Probable development

- 1, A late-16th century timber-framed structure of 2-storeys, and of 2/3-bays in width, perhaps with a framed wing, although no evidence exists of framing, except a stone plinth.
- 2, A mid-18th century, 3-storey, sash-window fronted brick building of 2-bays, on a stone plinth, replacing the main timber-frame structure.
- 3, A brick rear-wing added in the early-19th century on a stone plinth.
- 4, Blocking of timber casement windows to rear-wing in the late-19th century
- 5, Mid-20th century internal modernization with partition to stair and some replacement brickwork to front façade.

This site is situated in a prime position at the centre of the old town, close by the High Street, on the road leading to St Winefrides holy well. It was probably always a building of some status. The surviving timber-frame suggests that much of Holywell would have been timber-framed in the late-16th century. However, this can be contrasted with the early 17th century building opposite (no.8, Well Street), which is stone-built with stone mullion windows. This may indicate that timber-framing was being replaced by stone in Holywell from this period and why little timber-framing has survived to the present day.

Geoff Ward, visited, 18/10/2007.