

The Royal Commission
on
The Ancient and Historical Monuments
and Constructions
in
Wales and Monmouthshire.

AN
INVENTORY
OF
THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS
IN
IN
WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE.



VI.—COUNTY OF MERIONETH.



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1921.

Parish of **LLANFACHRETH**.

DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

311. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 33 N.E.). Ded: St. Machreth. Diocese of Bangor; archdeaconry of Merioneth; rural deanery of Ystumanner; townships of **Nannau** uwch afon and is afon.

The present church is modern, having been rebuilt in 1874. The tower is a little older, of about the end of the 18th or commencement of the 19th century. All the fittings of the church are modern. There are memorials to the Nanneys and Vaughans of **Nannau** and the Morgans of Hengwrt ucha; also to Rice Jones of Blaenau, a Welsh poet, who died 14th February, 1801, aged 87. The churchyard, which is circular, contains four ancient yews; the oldest gravestone noticed bears the date 1740.—Visited, 19th September, 1913.

DIVISION III (STONE STRUCTURES—DOMESTIC).

536. *Dolau Gwyn* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 46 N.E. ; lat. $52^{\circ} 36' 39''$, long. $4^{\circ} 2' 1''$).

This is a pleasing example of the small residence of the early 17th century. It is a house of two stories above the ground floor, stepped gables, dormers, tall

square chimneys, mulioned and transomed windows of various sizes, and a projecting porch in the centre of the front. The entrance through the porch is into a small but well-proportioned hall. In the kitchen is the date 1620 with the initials L.G.A.G. for Lewis and Anne Gwynne, and in one of the bedrooms is the same date above a heraldic shield. The drawing room retains its beautifully panelled plaster ceiling, and one of the heraldic shields bears the date 1656 and the initials G.N.A.N. for Griffith and A.

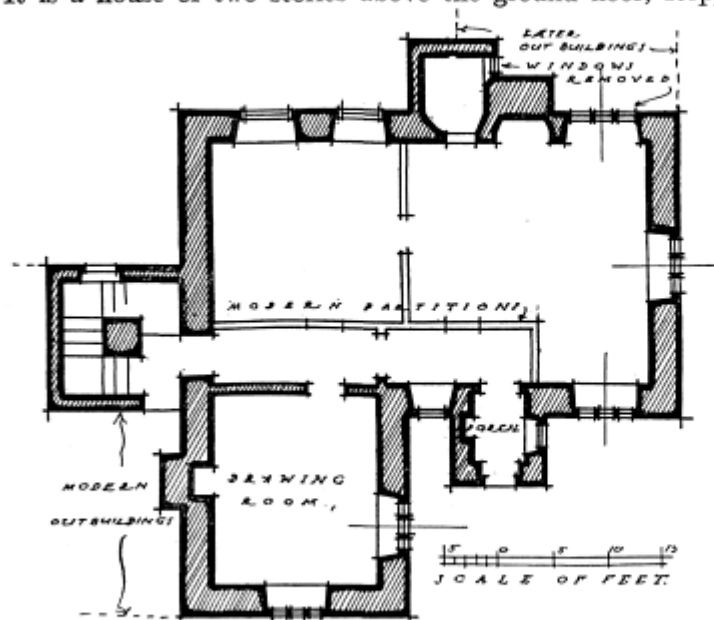


Fig. 136.

Nanney. The staircase is original.—Visited 30th April, 1914.

Arch. Camb., 1868, V, iii, 253 (illustrated).

NOTE.—*Dolau Gwyn* was built somewhat before 1620, as a deed dated 30th April of that year speaks of "the new house of Lewis Gwynne in the p'ish of Towyn called y Dole Gwyn."

[Illustrated, figs. 134, 135.]

537. *Dyffryn Gwyn* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 48 N.E.; lat. $52^{\circ} 33' 54''$, long. $4^{\circ} 1' 5''$).

A small mansion, now a farm house; the north front presents some interesting features. The almost perfectly circular-headed doorway in the middle of the front is unaltered, as also is the three-light mullioned window on one side of the doorway under a dripstone having above it the date 1640 and the letters H.P. In the roof are three dormer windows of mid-17th century, but much spoiled in modern times — Visited, 6th May, 1914.

537A. *Ynysmaengwyn* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 46 N.W.; lat. $52^{\circ} 36' 1''$, long. $4^{\circ} 4' 5''$).

One of the largest mansions in the county; built about the middle

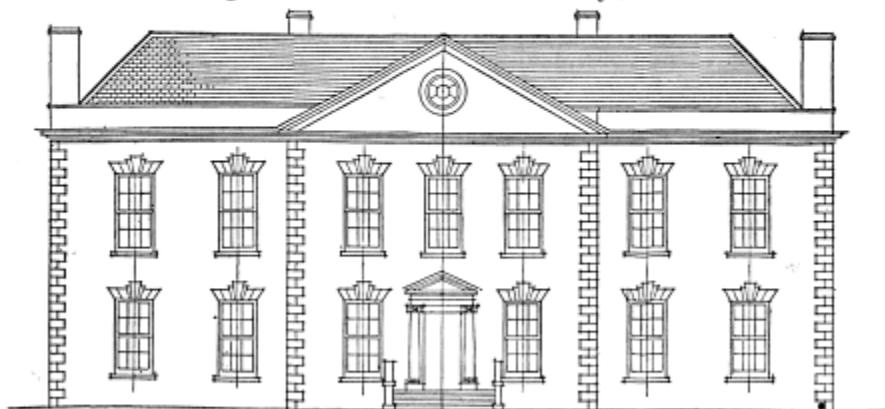


Fig. 145.

of the 18th century. It is an effective example of the style of that period.

Y

Parish of TOWYN.

DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

538. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 46 S.W.). Ded : St. Cadvan. Diocese of Bangor; archdeaconry of Merioneth; rural deanery of Ystumaner; townships (in 1592) of Y Faenol, Cynfal, Bottalog, Caethle, Gwyddelfynydd, Penmaen, Trefryon and Maesmore, Trefeddian and Cefn Rhos (*Pub. Rec. Office, Land Revenue Book*, No. 234, 34 Eliz.).

A cruciform church with central tower; the nave and aisles and some portion of the north transept date from the period 1150-1200. The rest of the building is modern, though the chancel is probably built upon the original foundations. The nave arcade consists of three bays of very rude and plain circular Norman piers,

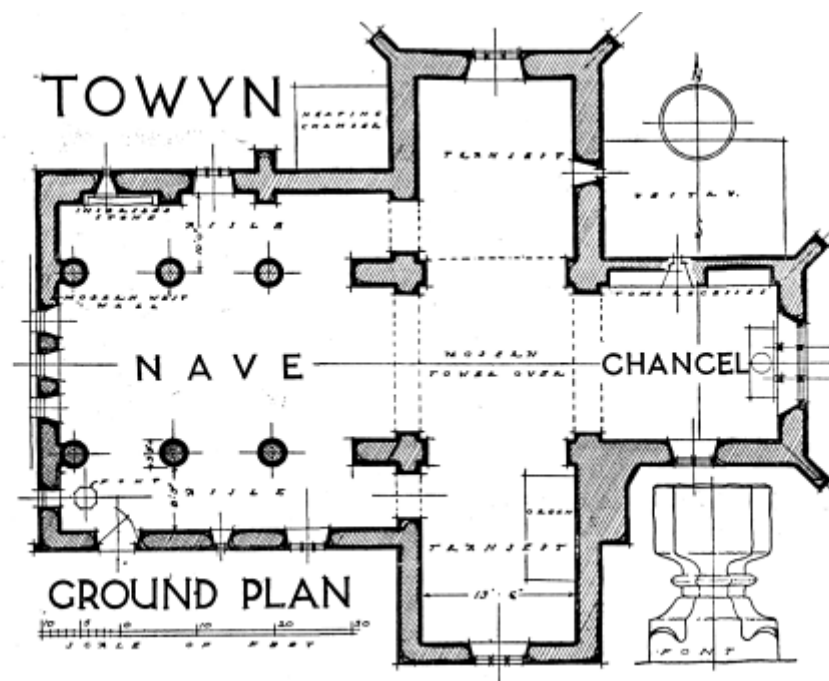


Fig. 137.

built of ashlar and rubble plastered over, and without capitals; their diameter is 3 feet 6 inches. The arches which spring from these piers are correspondingly rude. Above the arches are small round-headed windows deeply splayed to the interior. The church at one time extended further to the west, but on the fall of the central tower in 1692 a low tower was erected within the church, mostly incorporating and destroying the westernmost bay. This tower was pulled down about 1848, but traces of it remain in the lower part of the outside of the west wall, the upper part of which is fitted with modern round-headed windows. The aisles were probably lean-tos, but on the north side the nave arcading has been strengthened by what appear to be intended for rough flying buttresses. The windows in both aisles are modern. The font is Norman, 2 feet 10 inches high. In the chancel are two effigies which have been fully described in *Archæologia Cambrensis* for 1875 by Mr. M. H. Bloxam. Set up by the south wall of the chancel is the sun dial.—Visited, 29th April, 1914.

St. Cadvan's well has for many years been enclosed within a stable.
Arch. Camb., 1897, V, xix, 160; Glynne, 'Notes,' *ib.* 1901, VI, i, 141.

[Illustrated, figs. 23, 28, 75 and 138-140.]

NOTE.—At the accession of king Edward VIth, there existed in Towyn church a chantry chapel, or at any rate a chantry altar, founded in honour of St. Cadvan. This is made clear by the certificate drawn up after the suppression of the chantry, which runs as follows (Pub. Record Office: *Chantry Certificates*, No. 76):—

No. 22, TOWYN.				
The stipendiary called St. Cadvan's Chaplain	...	...	...	70s. in rent of lands.
The incumbent dead	...	...	...	70s.
Memorand' there was a stock of cattle belonging to this service which is sold by the wardens about 12 months now expired.				
Another stipendiary called Our Lady Priest	...	...	...	40s.
of the yearly increase of a stock of cattle now prized at £10 12s. 4d.				
Sir John D'd Lloyd	...	...	...	40s.