

## **STACKPOLE MANOR HOUSE - SURVEY MARCH 2009**

### **INITIAL ANALYSIS**

No analysis of the building is required during this recording phase of the project. However, it is useful to put some initial thoughts on paper as they will assist in clarification of the development of the structure should a more analytical phase of the project be commissioned. The main subject of this analysis is to discuss the development of the building as elucidated during the building recording. It has been recognised that Manor House consists of two main phases: the kitchen block/stairwell and the Georgian House. The Georgian House is classic symmetrical, three-bay, two-storey, hip roofed structure of the period, and little more needs to be said about it. It was built onto the kitchen block/stairwell block.

The kitchen block/stairwell is clearly earlier than the Georgian House, and it has been suggested that it originated as a sub medieval tower house, which is a recognised south Pembrokeshire building type. The building survey has demonstrated that it is not a tower house, but that it is of some antiquity, probably dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and was of three-storeys. The kitchen block/stairwell is stone-built, rendered externally and plastered internally. It would seem that it was eviscerated when the Georgian House was added, with floors and roof replaced, and converted from the three-storey house to a two-storey kitchen block/stairwell block. This analysis is therefore based on the limited evidence of the ground plan and limited visible detail.

A large chimney provides the main clue to the antiquity of the kitchen block/stairwell. Fireplaces serving this chimney are blocked, but a flue from large boiler in the cellar feeds into it. The Georgian stairs are positioned against the chimney. A toilet is located in a recess/alcove adjacent to the large chimney. This alcove is important evidence. It originally had one of two functions: the location of a chimney stair, or the site of the original entrance into the building. The former type of arrangement has mainly a north Wales distribution, but with a notable group in south Pembrokeshire. Known buildings of this type are two-storeys; it is difficult to envisage how a three-storey example would work. It is more likely that the toilet alcove was originally the entrance into the building. The plans produced as part of the survey support this. If this is the case the alcove would have formed a small lobby with the side of the fireplace facing the entrance and with doors leading to rooms to the left and right. The chimney would have been central to the house. The only problem with this arrangement is that the known distribution is exclusively in eastern Wales.

The evidence for a three-storey kitchen block/stairwell lies in the loft space, in particular the wall of the large chimney. There is a blocked fireplace in the loft space (red brick blocking). For this fireplace to function the roof must have been higher than present – a steeply pitched roof resting on the present tops of the walls would have served. When the Georgian House was added the roof was lowered and provided with a lower pitch, which cut across the (blocked) fireplace. A valley between this roof and that of the Georgian House protected original plasterwork. However, it would seem that this valley was too low to drain efficiently (possibly on account of the large chimney) and therefore the roof was raised to its present level and a higher valley created.

In order to create a pleasing façade for the Georgian structure it is likely that the southeast end of the kitchen block/stairwell was truncated and rebuilt flush with that of the Georgian House. It is likely that a chimney was originally located in the southeast gable of the kitchen block/stairwell, but not necessarily so, as the large central chimney may have served the whole structure.

In summary, the kitchen block/stairwell was originally a house. It probably had a large central chimney with a lobby entrance. Originally it has rooms on to the northwest and southeast of the central chimney. There is very little evidence for rooms to the northwest. Rooms to the southeast were substantially altered when the Georgian House was built. Prior to it being incorporated into the Georgian House it was three-storeys high, although it may have gone through several phases prior to this. Undoubtedly removal of plaster and render would elucidate this above suggest sequence and reveal more phases of building.

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