



# Darganfod Hen Dai Cymreig

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North West Wales Dendrochronology Project  
DATING OLD WELSH HOUSES

**Bodwrdda, Aberdaron, Gwynedd**

**ARCHITECTURAL RECORD**

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*in partnership with*



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# North West Wales Dendrochronology Project

## Bodwrdda, Aberdaron

### Introduction

This report contains the results of a survey undertaken to complement the dating of timbers at Bodwrdda, as part of the North West Wales Dendrochronology Project. The survey was undertaken on 27 January and 2 February 2011 by Adam Voelcker. Documentary research will be undertaken by volunteers to accompany this survey, and separate reports will be issued describing the results of the documentary survey and of the dendrochronology sampling.

### Site particulars

#### Site address

Bodwrdda, Aberdaron, Pwllheli, Gwynedd LL53 8BL

#### NGR

SH 21883272

#### NPRN

26063

#### Listing status

Grade II\*

### Methodology

The ground floor plan and cross-section AA are taken from the RCAHMW Inventory (Fig. 41). The attic and upper floor plans, and the long-section, have been derived from the RCAHMW drawings, but the present survey revealed discrepancies in the RCAHMW drawings (for instance, the west internal wall of the kitchen is a thick stone wall, not a thin partition). This and other changes have been made to the attached plans, but the drawings remain not entirely accurate and any historical interpretation should not rely on the drawings alone. The truss elevation and beam/joist details have been drawn by hand following measurements taken on site. Only one truss has been shown since they are all similar (T1 to T4).

## HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE HOUSE

The historical development of the house is unclear and it is obvious from the attached descriptions (from the Bodwrdda file at the RCAHMW, referred to by their catalogue numbers) that a number of experts have had differing views on the sequence of building. The listing description and the Pevsner entry are not referred to as these offer no original interpretations.

L Monroe (C425351) described the house as a stone block built in the first half of the fifteenth century, possibly with a north-west wing. He appeared not to differentiate between the western and eastern halves of the stone block. The remaining experts seem to agree that the original house was the western half of the main stone block, probably about 40 ft long internally to go by the four original trusses in the roof and the change in thickness of the south wall in line with truss T5. But whereas Peter Smith (C425345) and Colin Gresham (C425350) agreed that the original part was a fifteenth-century hall-house, with an open hall at the west and a solar at the east, C N Johns (C425346) thought the house must be later, probably early sixteenth century, and was built as a two-storey house with an upper hall. This is what the final published version in the Inventory states, though it does not dismiss the possibility that the house might have started as a single-storey building.

The final RCAHMW description states that the original house might have been extended eastwards when the brick wings were built in the early seventeenth century (all agree that the 1621 date must be treated with caution) in order to accommodate the wings. At the same time, the roof of the original house was raised about 3 ft and the trusses lifted. Gresham seemed to agree with this interpretation, though he disagreed with Radford's theory that the original house had been extended earlier (in the late sixteenth century, when the roof was raised and the floors inserted).

Peter Smith thought that the raising in height and the insertion of the upper floor had been carried out in the sixteenth century, then the original house was extended east and soon after the brick wings were added.

*Any advance on these theories must be offered with caution, and I do not offer any - except to say that none of the above seem to have noticed the rather marked horizontal line at window-head level along the south elevation of the eastern extension. This suggests that this extension started lower, too, like the western half, and was then raised in height. If this line is significant and marks a later build above, it must surely suggest that the original house was extended eastwards at the lower height before both parts were raised and before the brick wings were added.*

## ROOF TRUSSES

For the purposes of this report, the trusses are numbered T1 to T8, with T1 to T5 in the main south (stone) block (T1 being at the west end), and T6 to T7 in the north west (brick) wing (T8 being at the north gable).

Ring-dating samples were taken in trusses T1 and T2.

Trusses T1 to T4 are of a similar type and age: of the typical arch-braced, collar-beam design, with plain raking struts, all of oak. The members are pegged together with oak dowels, the struts (less thick than the remainder) flush on the west face but set back on the east face. Carpenters' marks (small inscribed circles, about 40-50mm diam.) are just visible at the bottom of each strut (west side) and between the strut pegs in the collar, just on trusses T3 and T4. Other points to note are the scratch moulds on the west face of the struts to T1, and the cusped cut-outs in the underside of the principals of trusses T1 to T4, just above their bearings in the wall. The plain chamfer to the undersides of the truss continue into the cusps. The RCAHMW noted that these cusps occur in the trusses at Saethon (Llanfihangel Bachellaeth). Trusses T2 and T4 have rough partitions below, no doubt added later. In the lower part of the T2 partition are three panels of wattle and daub.

Truss T5 is much less substantial and plainer. It has no arched braces (and never did have) and its struts are missing. The quality and design of this truss suggest that the original house was only of five bays, and that the plainer type were used when the house was extended to the east.

Trusses T6 and T8 are located within the thickness of the partition and gable wall respectively, presumably to help distribute the point loads of the roof which the softish brickwork could not have done. For this reason, T7 has a wall-post below each of the principals' feet. The design of T7 is similar to that of T1 to T4, and the RCAHMW suggested this truss might have been a fifth original one, reused from the main block. However, although the design is similar, the scantling sizes are less and the number of pegs at each joint slightly differs, so this may in fact be a later truss, coeval with the brick wings and made to match the trusses in the main roof.

## DATE INSCRIPTION

A note is attached here of a date inscription that the owners found carved into the oak bressummer above the lateral fireplace in the ground floor west room, when they were carrying out work in the fireplace. They photographed the date but unfortunately did not remove all the previous plaster before doing so, with the result that only two full figures were exposed ('53'), plus, just preceding the '5', the top corner of a third figure which looks like a '7' yet would be surprising if it was, since 1753 would not make sense for the date of the fireplace. It is hoped that the new plaster might be removed at some time in the future, and the entire date inscription uncovered and photographed, even if the plaster is reinstated afterwards.

## References

### Cadw listing description

Record No. 4209

### RCAHMW Caernarvonshire Inventory

Vol. 3 (West). Entry no.1461 (pp. 3-5) (inspected 1955)

(see Appendix)

### Sources of information at the NMRW, Aberystwyth

Cat. no. C425345 typed notes, probably by Peter Smith (no date, 1955?)

Cat. no. C425346 hand-written notes by C N Johns, 1961

Cat. no. C425350 typed notes by C Gresham (no date)

Cat. no. C425352 hand-written notes by L Monroe (no date)

(see Appendix)

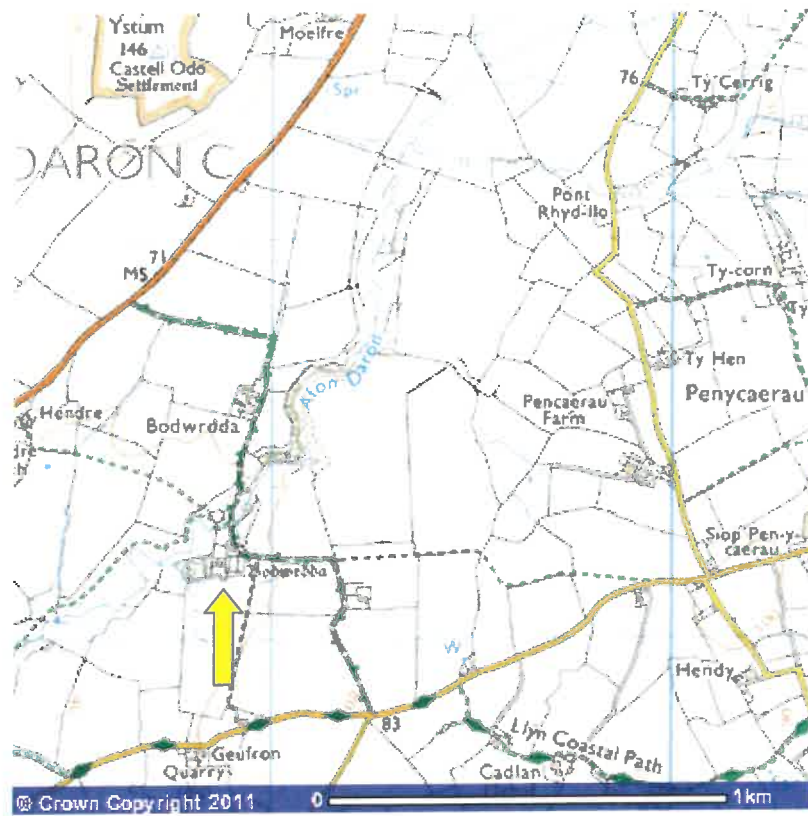
### Houses of the Welsh Countryside (Peter Smith)

included in text, in connection with the brick wings (p. 275)

included on maps 28 (Regional house type A), 34 (load-bearing facing brickwork before 1700), 37 (post-and-panel partitions), 43 (ornate open roof) and 49 (date inscription 1600-1649)

### The Buildings of Wales: Gwynedd (Haslam, Orbach & Voelcker)

pp. 228-9



Bodwrdda, Aberdaron



South elevation, marked up to show more clearly the blocked windows  
and the horizontal line at window head level at the east end

## SECULAR BUILDINGS

(1461) BODWRDA (Fig. 41; Plates 49, 52, 53, 59) is a house of the early 16th and late 16th or early 17th centuries. It consists of an early stone-built main block, its axis E.-W., with added wings of red brick projecting to the N., all of two storeys with cellar and attic. The roofs are covered with modern slates. The early history of the structure is not completely certain, as there are no definite straight joints in the stonework and, although changes in the masonry can be detected, they are in fact no greater than those which elsewhere occur accidentally in work known to be all of one period; they do not, therefore, provide a sound basis for analysis of its development. However, a reduction in thickness in the S. wall, and a difference between the footings on either side of the N. doorway, suggest that the earliest building was about 40 ft. long, and now forms the base of the W. end of the stone block. It includes three small pointed windows, probably of the early 16th century (Plate 53). It may have been the home of John Bodwrda, the earliest member of the family to bear the name.<sup>1</sup> It is probable that this earliest house was of two storeys, having a first-floor hall lighted by the small horizontal windows (now blocked) above the pointed windows in the S. wall, but this form could have been reached by enlargement of an original single-storeyed building.

The break in the S. wall and the fact that the roof trusses over the W. end of the house are arch-braced whereas those over the E. end have plain collar beams suggest an extension. It is difficult on such a hypothesis to account for the four-centred archway leading to the bakehouse at the E. end of the block, unless it is assumed to be re-used material, perhaps from the original early 16th-century entry. There is nothing to date this extension and nothing to show it was not executed at the same time as the addition of the brick wings on the N. and the almost complete refenestration of the house early in the 17th century. The fact that there is no structural wall nor a good quoin between the E. end of the stone block and the projecting wing suggests that the two were probably contemporary.

There is some evidence that at this time the roof was heightened by about 3 ft. and the old roof trusses lifted. The roof trusses at the W. end, of arched collar-beam construction, have a concave moulding at the foot of the blades similar to that found at Saethon (No. 1603), the owner of which married the heiress of Bodwrda in 1550, and at Hafod Yspytty, Pfestiniog, Mer. There is an arch-braced collar-beam truss over the added brick W. wing, but this may have been re-used from the main block. The trusses are not at present related to an open hall design, being alternately boarded, but they could have been part of such a design before the attic floor was inserted.

The date 1621 painted on each brick gable was not noted by Kennedy in an engraving of the house published in 1849,<sup>2</sup> but the style suggests that it restores earlier lettering. The style of the wings, the fenestration and the associated joinery inside the house are consistent with such a date.

In 1740 the property passed to the Edwards family of Nanhoron,<sup>3</sup> and it is still held by their descendants. The engraving of 1849 shows the front substantially in its present form, apart from some mutilation of the windows. These have since been repaired and the house restored to its 17th-century appearance.

**Architectural Description.**—The main front (Plate 49) consists of a central stone block with two projecting brick wings. The central door (Plate 52), which seems to have been built when the brick wings were added, is splayed and rebated and has stop-chamfered moulded jambs and a depressed four-centred arched head with rosettes in shallow false relief in the spandrels; over the head is a moulded label. The fenestration of the gable-ended wings consists of three-light mullioned windows with moulded labels (Plate 53); the lights have elliptical heads with spandrel cuts, and the jambs and mullions, which are flush with the wall face, have quarter-round mouldings on both inner and outer faces. The main block and the sides of the wings have similar windows but of two lights, the side windows being blocked. There is a two-light gabled dormer to each side and to the centre (though a loft door is shown in this last position in the drawing of 1849). Many of the windows have been patched and restored. In the gable of each wing is a diagonally placed stone plaque bearing the painted inscription 'HB/1621' (Hugh Bodwrda); but as noted above, this is not certainly authentic. There is a moulded brick plinth beneath the ground-floor windows of the brick wings which is returned on the sides; the walling below the plinth is of rubble. Both centre and wings have a hollow-moulded eaves course. There are stone quoins to the wings, and moulded stone kneeders and copings to the gables.

In the W. elevation the stone block has good quoins, against which the brickwork makes a straight joint. The brick wing has a blocked two-light window to the ground floor, and a tall brick chimney with recessed panels on the sides above a corbelled string course (the 1849 drawing shows chevrons in the panels, but this is probably an error). The gable-end of the stone block has a modern window to the ground floor, a blocked four-centred window (Plate 53) between the ground floor and first floor, perhaps originally lighting a solar, and to the first floor a deeply recessed square-headed window originally of two lights with a mullion, under a moulded label with returned stops; this differs from the other mullioned windows in design, but not necessarily in date. There is a small blocked square-headed window to the attic.

In the S. front (Plate 49) it seems likely that the masonry is not all of one period, although the difference in character can occur in rubble work of one build. At the E. end, beneath a small outbuilding, there is a four-centred doorway with segmental rear-arch; its position is unusual and it may have been re-used, though the masonry gives no indication. There are two small depressed-pointed windows to the ground floor, one at the W. end and one E. of the chimney base. Above them, slightly lower than the later mullioned window in the W. gable end but higher than its pointed window, are two blocked square-headed windows of horizontal proportion; that to the W. has remains of a wooden frame with mortices for five vertical bars forming four lights. Two-light mullioned windows have been inserted to each floor. Just W. of the centre line is a tall square stone chimney; the wall below is heavily buttressed.

which is plain; it may have been rebuilt, since the drawing of 1849 shows it panelled as the chimney on the W. wing. The gable end of the stone-built block has an inserted doorway on the ground floor above which is a window, perhaps 17th-century but later narrowed. There is an inserted door to the first floor approached by a modern flight of stone steps. There is no proper quoin to the stone block at its N.E. corner, possibly because there was a projecting stone wing which was demolished when the brick structure was erected. This possibility is supported by the fact that there is only a thin partition between the stone block and the N.E. projecting wing.

The cellar, which lies under the E. end of the stone block, contains no early features. The interior of the house has been extensively modernised, and at the E. end few old features of interest remain. On the ground floor opposite the main door is an early 19th-century stair. The room to the W. has a projecting chimney breast with a modern fireplace. The ceiling has stop-chamfered beams and joists; the stops are missing by the chimney, suggesting that it has been enlarged. The W. side of this room has a post-and-panel partition with shallow mouldings on the posts. There is an original doorway to the N. of the partition. Between the two small rooms to the W. in the main block is another post-and-panel partition, probably refitted.

The rooms are panelled, with shallow mouldings on the faces of the main posts, and a frieze of foliated semicircles. Though altered and added to in places, the panelling is probably mostly in its original position as it has been designed to fit window openings since blocked.

The first floor is without early features apart from some reused early 17th-century panelling with an enriched frieze, and some early 17th-century door frames with ovolo mouldings, at the E. end.

The attic is reached by stairs from the first floor in the S.W. and S.E. corners. It is divided by a brick partition of c. 1800, added when the house formed two dwellings. The S.W. part has four arch-braced collar-beam trusses (Plate 59) with plain raking struts, having once formed an open roof; their feet have a small segmental cut as at Sacthon (No. 1603). Under the trusses are some decayed post-and-plaster partitions, probably 17th-century. The remainder of the roof including the wings has mostly plain collar-beam trusses. The whole roof was recently repaired. The attic was at one time used as living quarters as it has windows and a number of blocked fireplaces.

<sup>1</sup> Down, II, p. 246; Griffith, *Pod.*, pp. 14, 168. The place-name is known from 1351 as the name of a mill, 'Bodwrdd', *Rec. Caern.*, p. 37; mill of 'Bodwrdd' in 1551, *Cal. Caern. Q. Ser.*, p. 85 (121).

<sup>2</sup> Accompanying an article by H. Longueville Jones, *Arch. Camb.*, 1849, pp. 208-10.

<sup>3</sup> *Arch. Camb.*, 1926, p. 469; '1849' must be a misprint.

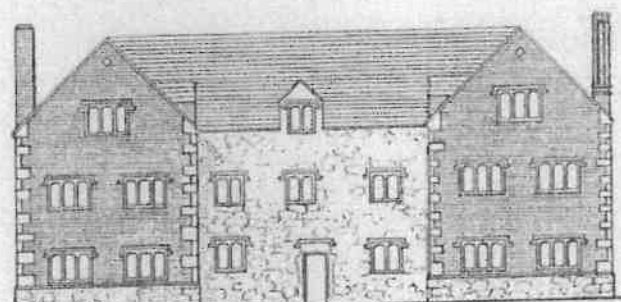
Condition: good.

SH 18892720

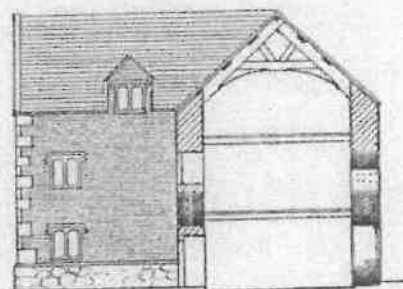
5 II 55

43 S.E.

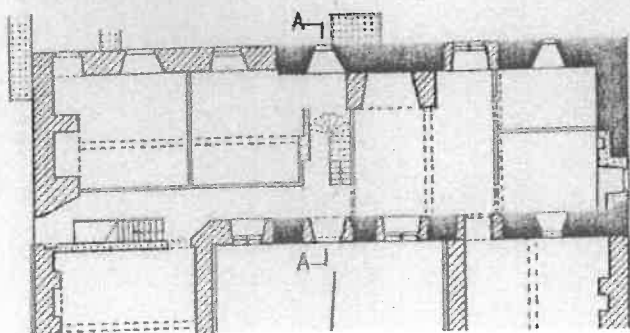
1461) ABERDARON



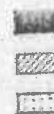
NORTH ELEVATION



SECTION A.A.



EARLY 16TH CENTURY  
PROBABLY BY 1621  
UNCERTAIN OR MODERN



BODWRDA

Aberdaron  
Buildings Secular  
43 S.E. Wj  
P.S.

~ Peter Smith?

BODWRDDA, a U shaped house consisting of a stone built main block axis E.W., with brick wings projecting N. The architectural development is not certain but it seems likely that the earliest part of the house was the E. end of the stone block which probably dates from the 15th century and formed a hall-type house having a solar at the E., and an open hall to the W. In the 16th century the house seems to have been converted into a two-storeyed building by raising the roof and inserting a floor. Bodwrdda was later extended to the E. when the end wall, possibly housing a fireplace, was pulled down, and the present inward projecting fireplace in the E. wall was built. It is not certain when the brick wings were added. The date 1621 painted on a plaque on each gable should be treated with reserve as it is not mentioned in earlier accounts. It seems possible however that the brick wings were added soon after the eastward extension of the main block probably in the early 17th century. At the same time the earlier house was largely refenestrated with square-headed mullion windows matching those used in the brick wings.

Bodwrdda was the home of John Wynne, High Sheriff of Caernarvon 1587, and his son Hugh Gwynn who adopted the surname Bodwrdda and died in 1622.<sup>(1)</sup> The property passed to the Edwards of Nanhoron in 1749<sup>(2)</sup> who carried out extensive alterations to it, including apparently the division of the house into two dwellings. It has since reverted to one. A short article on Bodwrdda signed H.C.J. in Arch. Camb., 1849 has an engraving of the N. elevation from a drawing by H. Kennedy. This shows the front substantially in its present condition apart from a few of the windows, some of which are shown as being blocked, others converted into sash windows by the removal of a mullion. The article recommends the restoration of Bodwrdda which seems to have been carried out to the extent of replacing the mullions and removing the blockings to the windows of the N. front not long afterwards.

N.

The main/front consists of a stone centre block with two projecting brick wings. The main door which seems to have been built when the brick wings were added stands slightly off centre in the stone block. It is splayed and rebated with stop-chamfered moulded jambs and a depressed four-centred arched head with rosettes <sup>in</sup> on shallow false relief in the spandrels. Over the head is a moulded hood. The fenestration of the gable-ended wings consists of three-light mullioned windows with square moulded hoods. The lights have elliptical heads and the jambs and mullions, which are flush with the wall face, have quarter round mouldings on both inside and outside faces. The sides of the wings and the main block have similar windows only with two lights. The windows on the sides are blocked. There is a two-light gabled dormer to each side and to the centre. Many of the windows have been patched and restored. In the gables of the wings is a diagonally placed stone plaque bearing the painted inscription H.B. /1621 (Hugh Bodwrda). As no reference is made to the inscription in Arch. Camb., 1849, it is presumably not authentic, though the style of the lettering is consistent with the period. There is a moulded brick plinth beneath the ground floor windows of the brick wings which is returned on the sides. Both centre and wings have a hollow-moulded eaves course. There are stone quoins to the wings and moulded stone kneelers and copings to the gables.

The W. end has a blocked, two-light, ground floor window to the brick wing and a tall brick chimney with recessed panels on the sides, beneath which is a corbelled string course. The gable end of the main block has a blocked, pointed window between the ground and first floor, probably originally serving a solar or a staircase, and a deeply recessed, square-headed, originally two-light, mullion window at a somewhat higher level probably dating from the conversion of the house to a two-storeyed building proper. There is a further blocked square-headed window to the loft.

The S. elevation has undergone a number of reconstructions which make its interpretation difficult. It has two pointed

windows, one at the W. end, and one to the E. of the chimney, and pointed-headed doorway at the E. end with segmental rear arch, now concealed by a small single-storey outbuilding projecting to the S. The doorway may be reset as its position is unusual. There are also a number of hooded, two-light mullion windows, (one with the mullion missing), of the same type as elsewhere described. Roughly in the centre of the elevation is a tall square chimney the base of which has been heavily buttressed.

The E. end of the house has a blocked window to the projecting brick wing, and a tall, square, plain, brick chimney which may have been rebuilt, as the Kennedy drawing shows it as panelled like the chimney to the W. wing. The end of the stone block has a broken-through doorway on the ground floor, above which is an original window reduced. There is a break-through door to the first floor approached by a modern flight of stone steps. It is noteworthy that there is no proper quoin to the stone block between it and the brick projection, which suggests that there was either a stone wing where the brick projection now stands, or more probably that the brick projection was ~~an~~ envisaged when the E. end of the stone block was built. This possibility is rendered more plausible by the fact that there is only a thin partition between the stone block and the N.E. projecting wing. The house has two storeys, a cellar and an attic. The interior has been extensively modernised. The cellar, which lies under the E. end of the central block, contains no early features. On the ground floor opposite the main door is a 19th-century stair. The room to the W. has an inward projecting chimney/with a modern fireplace. The ceiling has step-chamfered beams and joists. The steps are missing by the chimney which suggests it has been enlarged. The W. side of this room has a post-and-panel partition with scratch mouldings on the posts. There is an original door to the N. of the partition. The two small rooms to the W. in the main block have some further post-and-panel partition, probably refitted between them.

The room in the W. wing is entered through a contemporary door-<sup>way</sup>post with quarter-round moulding. The walls of the rooms are covered with oak panelling with scratch mouldings on the faces of the main posts, and a frieze of foliated semi-circles. Though tampered with the panelling is probably in its original position as it has been designed to fit window openings since blocked. The E. end of the house has been largely modernised.

The first floor is without early features apart from some reused early 17th-century panelling with an enriched frieze and some early 17th-century door frames with quarter-round mouldings.

The loft is reached by stairs in the S.W. and S.E. corners. It is divided by a brick partition of ca. 1800. The W. part of the loft has four arch-braced collar beam trusses with raking struts, once forming an open roof. They have, however, been raised and reset. Under the trusses are some decayed post and plaster partitions, probably 17th-century. The remainder of the roof including the wings has plain collar-beam trusses. The whole roof was recently repaired. The loft was at one time used as living quarters as it has windows and a number of blocked fireplaces.

1) Griffith Pedigrees, p. 68.

2) Arch. Camb., 1926, p. 469, "1849" must be a misprint.

Condition: good.

SH 18892720

5 : II : 1955.

43 S.E.

Aberdaron  
43 SE Wj

### Bodwoda

After visiting this house and seeing the roof as well as the earlier windows, I doubt whether it can be accredited in the first instance to the 15<sup>th</sup> century, whether late as we have said or early as L.M. thought.

(a) There are two instances of the four-centred head, for an upper window in the W. gable and for a doorway near the S.E. corner. In England, it is true, this form appears about the middle of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, eg. at Cambridge, Old Schools, and at Oxford; in S. Wales it occurs in the second half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, at St. Donat's Castle. But when did it reach the North? Our earliest datable instances, I think, are the nave arcade of Bangor Cathedral which is ascribed to Bishop Skevington, 1509-33, and the N. arcade of Llangwnnall church which is dated 1520. It was generally used in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century enlargement of Caernarvonshire churches, or in the larger windows then substituted. It is more likely to have spread from churches to houses than vice versa.

(b) The roof trusses in the S.W. part are remarkably like those of the W. house at Saethon (Llanfihangel Bachellarth, or Buan, 40 SW NL, NK), even to the little segmental cut in the foot. There we have what appears to be a cusped window (mostly obscured by blocking) that could be either 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century. But the two houses actually became united about the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> century by the marriage of Robert, of Saethon, to Elisbeth, heiress and co. of Sion Bodwoda (Down, I, p. 281, no. CCXIV, cf. Cal. Caerns. Qu. Sess., p. 99 (173), naming Robert as constable in 1553). Hence it is perfectly possible that the same carpenter was employed, working both roofs about the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century.

The other terminus is given by the blocked windows on the S. of the upper hall which are

horizontal with remains of a wooden frame with five vertical bars (as may be seen from the S.W. staircase, see detail), and these can hardly be later than the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century. To judge from the profusion of stone-framed and glazed windows at Plas Mawr, Conway, in the 1580's.

consequently, it seems that Bodwoda develops -

- i) S.W. part with upper hall, early 16<sup>th</sup> cent.
- ii) S.E. extension, later 16<sup>th</sup> century
- iii) N.W. and N.E. wings added, S.W. and S.E. parts re-entranced, early 17<sup>th</sup> century

C.N.J. Jones 6 May '61.

Genealogical -

A floruit of ca. 1490 for

John Bodwoda seems too early for

- a) he was second husband to a grand-daughter of Llywelyn of Chwaen Hen who occurs in 1485, Griffiths, Ped., p. 14;
- b) his only child and heiress Elizabeth must have been born ca. 1500, her fourth son Humphrey being born hardly before ca. 1523, Griffiths, Ped., p. 168;
- c) she was remarried to Robert Saethon, ap Hywel ap Gruffydd (as Dwnn's copy of the pedigree shows, contra Griffiths, Ped. p. 249) who was constable in 1553 and later, Cal. Calens. Qu. Ser. Rec., p. 91 (173) etc.

Therefore the life span of her father

John Bodwoda would have been

ca. 1475 - 1545, his floruit or central

age ca. 1510 - 25. He was dead by 1551

as the mill at Bodwoda belonged to

Elizabeth's son Hugh ap Richard, Cal. Calens.

Qu. Ser. Rec., b. 85 (121).

C.N.J.

B O D W R D D A

First a 15th. century Hall House of which the north, west and south walls must remain almost entire at the west end of the main block of the present building. This is dated by the pointed window in the west wall at second floor level suggesting the presence of a solar at this end. The outer face of the south wall has been so altered and patched up at many periods as to be useless for the purpose of interpretation or dating. The pointed windows there may well have been reset. It seems likely that the four arched roof trusses spanned this Hall in their present position, but at a lower level. The spacing of these, together with the evidence of alterations to be seen in the modern dairy suggest that the house was about 40 ft. long internally

In the second half of the 16th. century this house was modernised by having its roof raised, the trusses being re-set, and two floors inserted with stopped and moulded beams. A room or rooms were partitioned off by a wooden screen at the west end and the stairs were possibly in the SW corner. New stone mullioned windows with flat heads were inserted of which one remains in the west wall. I suggest at the moment that this house was about the same length as its predecessor, that is 40 ft. internally and 54 ft. externally, with a chimney block 11 ft. deep taking up the entire east end. I deduce this from the scars of alteration to be seen in the modern dairy and above it, from the way the way the extended part is roofed and from the fact that the present stone built block has no proper NE corner. I think that the protruding chimney breast was built when the main chimney was pulled down at the east end of the house, at the time it was lengthened. Radford thought that the lengthening of the house was done at the same time that the roof was raised and the floors inserted in the late 16th. century. I think the lengthening was done by Haw Bodwrdda to accommodate his brick wings. I can't see how one can accept the makeshift plan and construction of the extension and the way the roof over it is supported, on the basis of its having stood alone.

The date 1621 should be accepted with caution for the brick wings, it may have been painted up less than a hundred years ago. Several of the windows are partly reconstructed. The house was bought by Nanhoran in the 18th. not the nineteenth century. There is a misprint in Arch. Camb.

But see Arch. Camb.

Alternative explanation } unfinished corner to E wing might  
be evidence of former timber structure of house at early.

CPF/A/02/09

BODWRDDA - house, 1 m. N.E. of Berdaron Church.

The house consists of a long rectangular block, its main axis lying approximately E-W, with a wing at either end projecting northwards. The rectangular block is the original house. It is a stone structure, and was built probably in the first half of the 15th century. The only features of this period which now remain are a pointed doorway and two small pointed windows on the E. side, a similar window in the W. gable and a larger two light window in the E. gable with a moulded label. There are also signs of blocked windows in the S. wall, the date of which cannot now be determined. The absence of the main N. wall ~~between the house and the N. wing~~ suggests that the original house formerly had a wing in this position.

The two northern wings were added by Hugh Gyng, who adopted the name Bodwrdda, in 1621. They are built of red brick with gablestone pinnacles and dressings. At this time also the red house was fitted with windows, in the front and back, to match those of the new wings.

The house has been extensively modernised internally, and partly replanned. The slate roof coverings are modern.

Architectural Description:

Elevations: The original 15th c. house has a front of two storeys with attic. The walls are of rubble with gablestone dressings. The main part is to the south and has a central entrance which in its present form, dates from the 16th century reconstruction. It has an almost flat four-centred head with chamfered jambs and a moulded label. The head is also contained within a square frame but in the spandrels, set in light relief are flowers and leaf patterns. The windows to 15th floor, together with the attic door are of the same period and have two lights with elliptical heads within a square frame with quarter round moulded jambs and a moulded label.

On the S. side are two small original 15th century windows each with a pointed head and chamfered jambs. The remaining windows were inserted in 1621 and are similar to those of the front. At the E. end is an original doorway (but possibly reset) with a two-centred pointed head, square jambs and a segmental

Bordwadda (Cont.)

On this side of the house, also, are some traces of some blocked windows to the first-floor and attic, with flat stone lintels. In the centre of the wall is a large mold-briar supporting the back of the chimney.

In the W. gable is a small original pointed window in chamfered jambs between the ground and first floors and probably to light a stair. Another original window to the first floor is mutilated, but was of two lights, probably pointed heads, within a square frame with chamfered feet and a moulded label. It now contains a modern frame. Beneath it is a modern window.

The E. gable wall has a modern ground-floor entrance and another to the first floor reached by an external stone stair.

Neither gable now has any copings.

The two north wings are of two floors with attics. Between the eastern one is a cellar. They were built in 1621 by the Gwyns, and are of red-bricks with a rubble stone plinth and girt-stone dressings and quoins. The windows to the N. are each of three elliptical-headed lights in a square frame with quarter-round moulded jambs and a moulded label. In the side walls are similar windows but of two lights only. These are now blocked. Next to the ground floor on the W. side of the eastern wing was at one time made into a doorway but a later added to a window and a concrete mullion and side inserted. The attics are lighted by dormers, now blocked, in the side walls.

The girt-stone eaves copings are hollow. Chamfered and are continued round the front and back walls of the older part.

In the centre of each gable is a brick panel bearing initials and date H.B. 1621.

The chimneys are of brick. That of the wing is painted with a corrugated

Interior: The plan of the original 15th c. house is now lost but the large chimney in the S. wall, now filled with a modern fire, represents the position of the original one serving the hall, and it is probable that the original kitchen was at the E. end as is the present one. The main entrance now opens to a stair-hall containing a modern stair-case. On the E. of this a passage leads to a dairy and the

with two small chambers beyond. The partitions between these rooms are formed of wood.

The kitchen has a large fire place with a feet deep, the date timber. On the S. is the original pointed doorway already noted, which may not be near its original position. On this side also is a two-light window of 1621. The ceiling is plastered, but a plain oak beam is visible. The wood partition between the kitchen and parlour is of the "in-and-out" type; part of it is modern.

In the dairy is a slip-chimney from the W. end of which runs on a wall running partly under the stairs.

The large room to the W. of the entrance is divided from the stair-hall by a modern partition above which is a moulded beam. A similar beam runs across the centre of the room, and a third, but smaller, one above the partition at the other end. The mouldings of the central beam are stopped at the N. end and on the S. they run into the chimney-breast which now projects further into the room than originally. The floor joists have mouldings similar to the main beams. All are renewed in the bay adjoining the chimney. The fire-place is modern. The doorway leading to the N. wing has an oak frame with a quarter-round moulding on the edge, and tongue-stops. (a modern frame has been inserted at the other end of the passage through the wall of 1621).

The partition at the W. end of this room is formed of wood with moulded edges and plain panels, divided by a horizontal rail above the head of the doorway. The doorway at the N. end is original and formerly had a shaped head. That at the S. end is an insertion. The lower part of the partition at this end has been reconstructed.

The partition between the two rooms at this end of the house <sup>(see earlier insertion and)</sup> is formed of heavy chamfered upright posts and plain panels. It contains a doorway which is now blocked. In the small S. room is an original small pointed window in the wall. The ceiling beams here have been rearranged and form the other E-W.

The northern room is lighted on the W. by a modern window. A recess in the N. wall may represent an earlier window built in when the wing was added in 1621.

On the first floor, at the E. end, are some early 17<sup>th</sup> cent

door frames with quarter-round moulded rails and tongue-stops

a small room, is lined with early 17th-c. oak wall-paneling with an enriched frieze.

The attic is now divided into two compartments by a brick wall (in which is a blocked doorway) in line with the western wall of the E. wing. The western part of the attic is lighted on N. side by a 1621 dormer and is of six bays with five trusses of which the four westerly ones are of arch-braced collar-beam type with plain raking-studs. The soffits of the arches are chamfered and the feet of the principal hollow shaped. Post-and-plaster partitions have been inserted under the 2nd and 4th trusses. Part of the plaster remains on the western partition, and is laid on battens which are woven round horizontal laths held in grooves in the posts. A single partly modern truss spans the other part of the attic.

The stair to the western compartment lies in the S.W. corner and cuts across some blocked window openings in the S. wall. It is enclosed in some post-and-plaster partition work in which some material is reused.

The stair to the eastern compartment is in the N.E. corner. The rail at the top of the stair-ways is made of re-used grooved posts, belonging to a partition, and the hand-rail is formed of a moulded beam similar to those in the large ground floor room. A portion of a similar but larger beam spans a small brick backed fireplace in the E. gable.

### The 1621 wings.

Each wing contains a single room on the ground-floor. That in the eastern wing is modernised. In the western wing the room contains contemporary oak paneling with small plain panels, moulded rails and muntins and an enriched frieze of conventional foliage in half-circles. The paneling is in situ but has been tampered with, and though originally formed round the window openings in the side walls, now blocks in

The first-floor rooms are modernised.

The attic room in each wing is lighted by a three-light window in the gable and dormers in the side walls. The dormers are all blocked. In each is a small blocked fireplace.

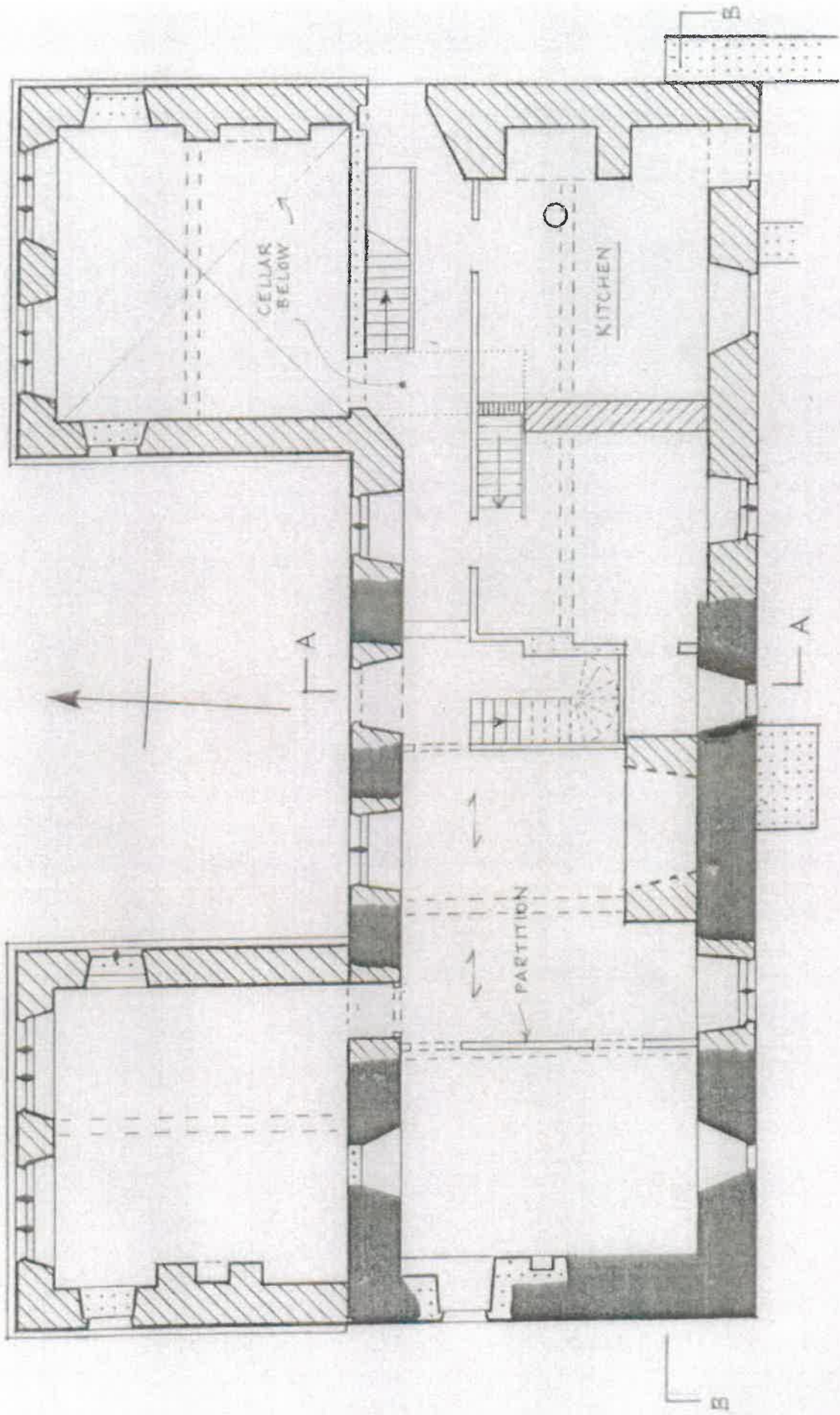
dwadda. (Museum).

The roof of the western attic is of two bays with a central truss of similar type to those in those main part of the house, but of lighter scantling. The purlins are stop-chamfered, and the rafters are modern.

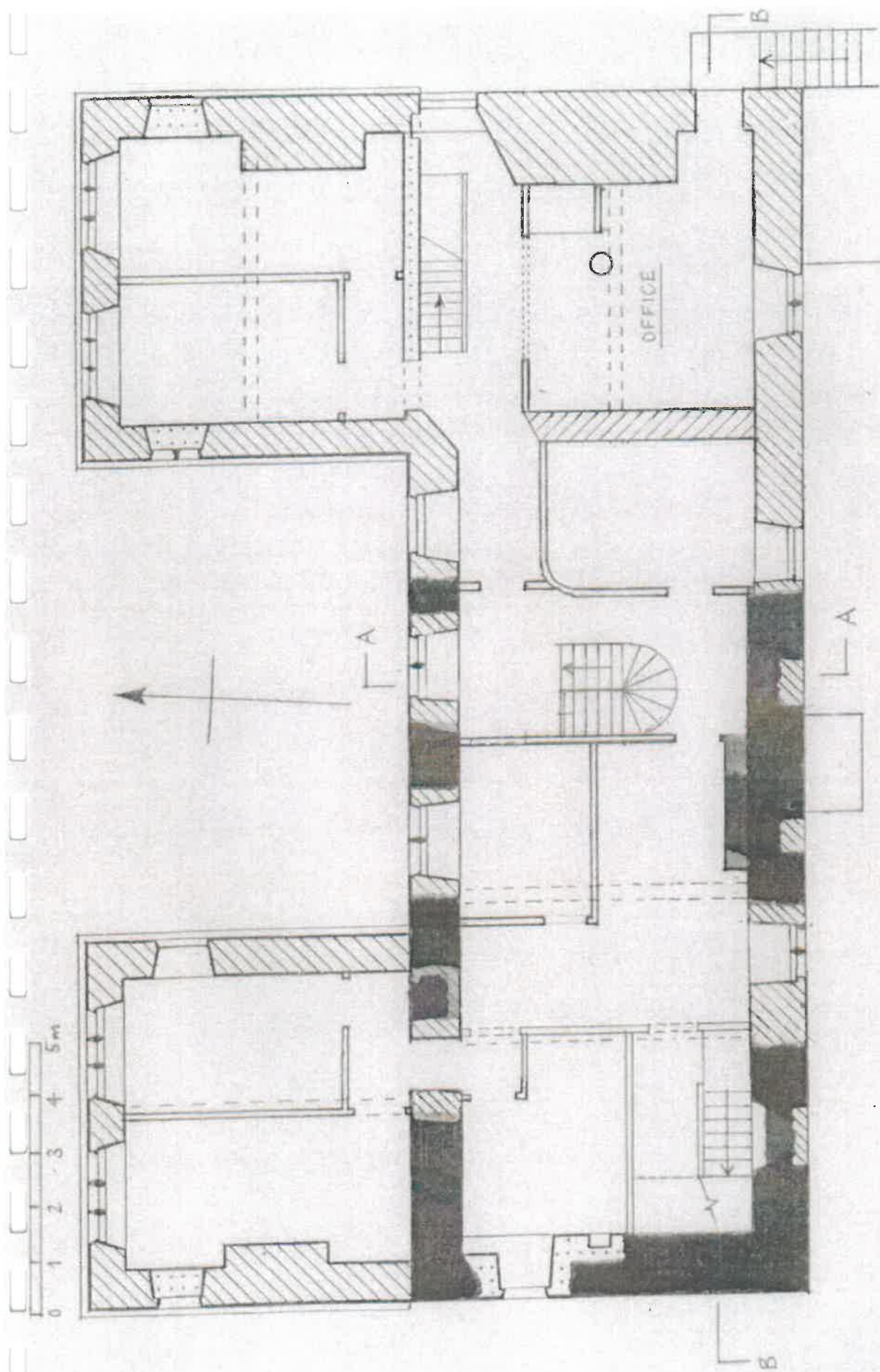
At the junction of this wing and the older part is a timber and brick partition built on the top of the wall of the earlier part and causing the blocking of a small attic window. A dormer in the partition has a quarter-round moulded frame. A simple truss with raking struts is incorporated in the N. gable.

There is no similar structural division between the eastern wing and the earlier part, and the central truss here is of similar collar-beam type. The construction of the gable is similar to that of the W. wing.

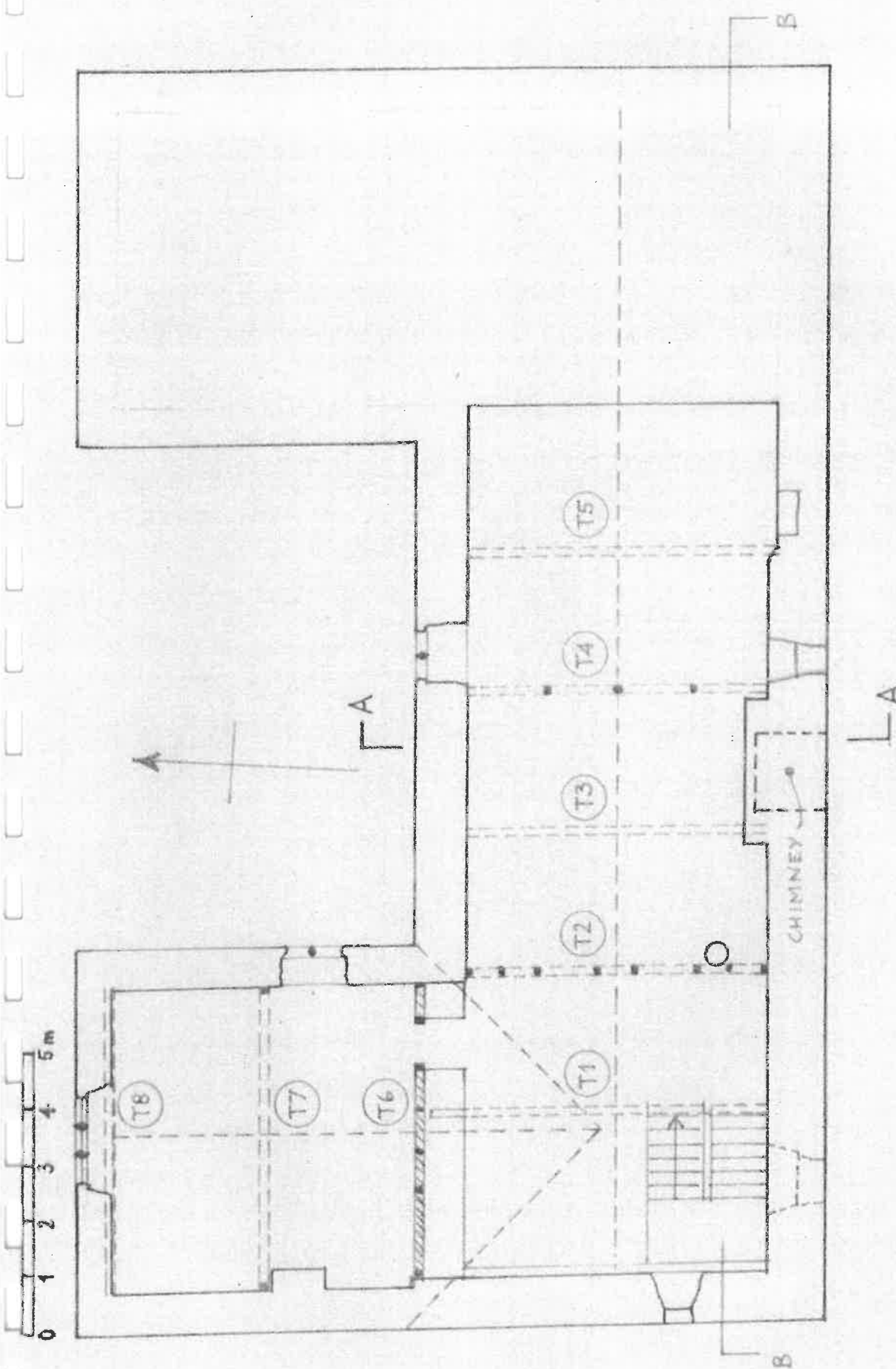
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Bodwrddda, Aberdaron Ground floor plan

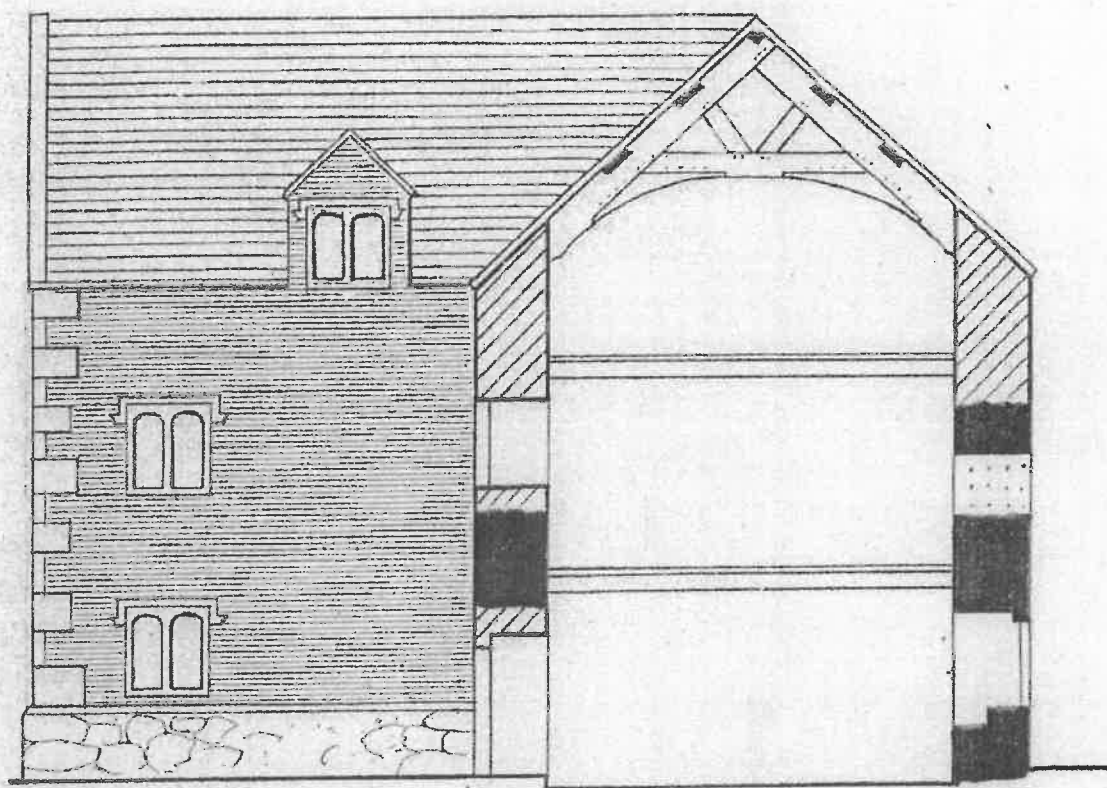


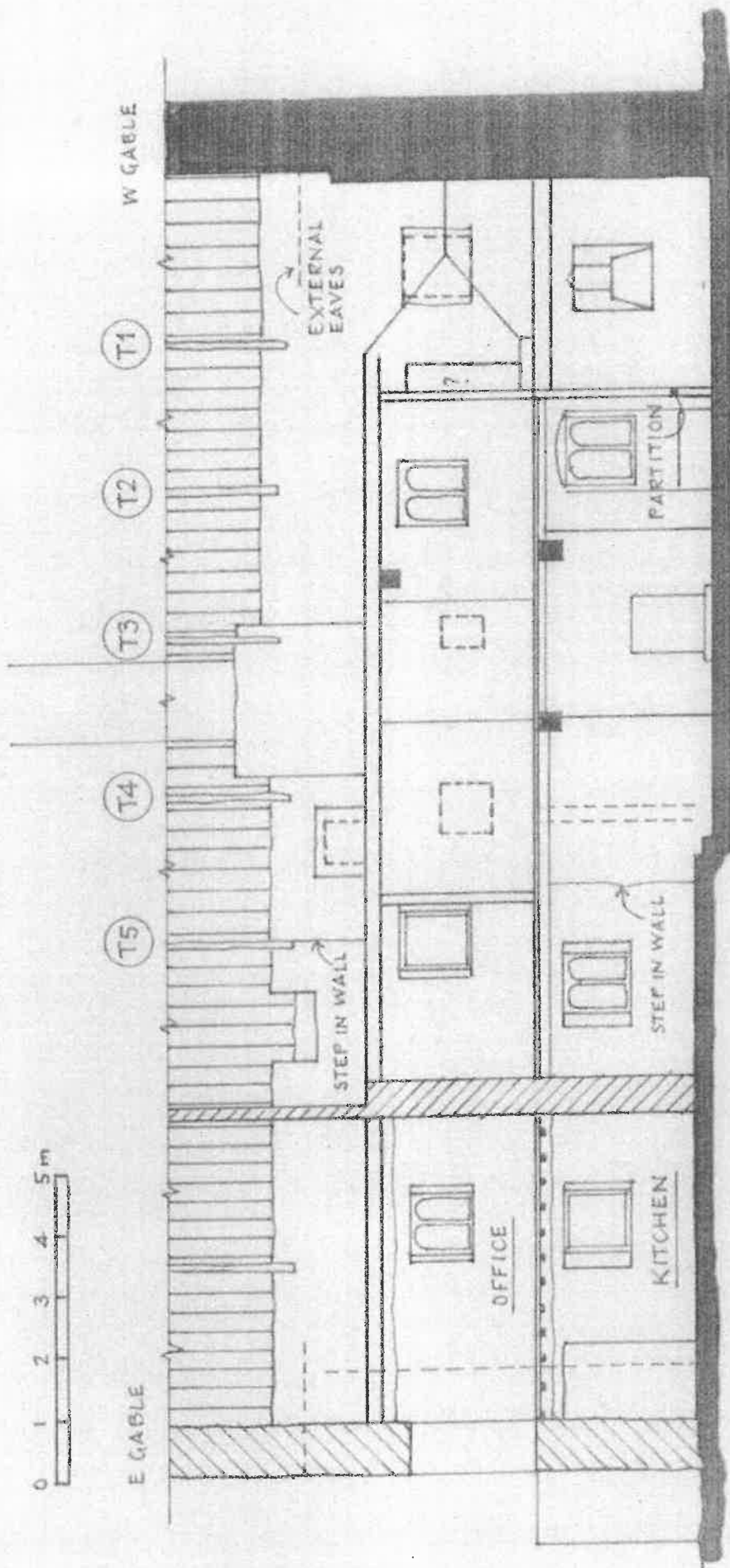
Bodwrdda, Aberdaron Upper floor plan



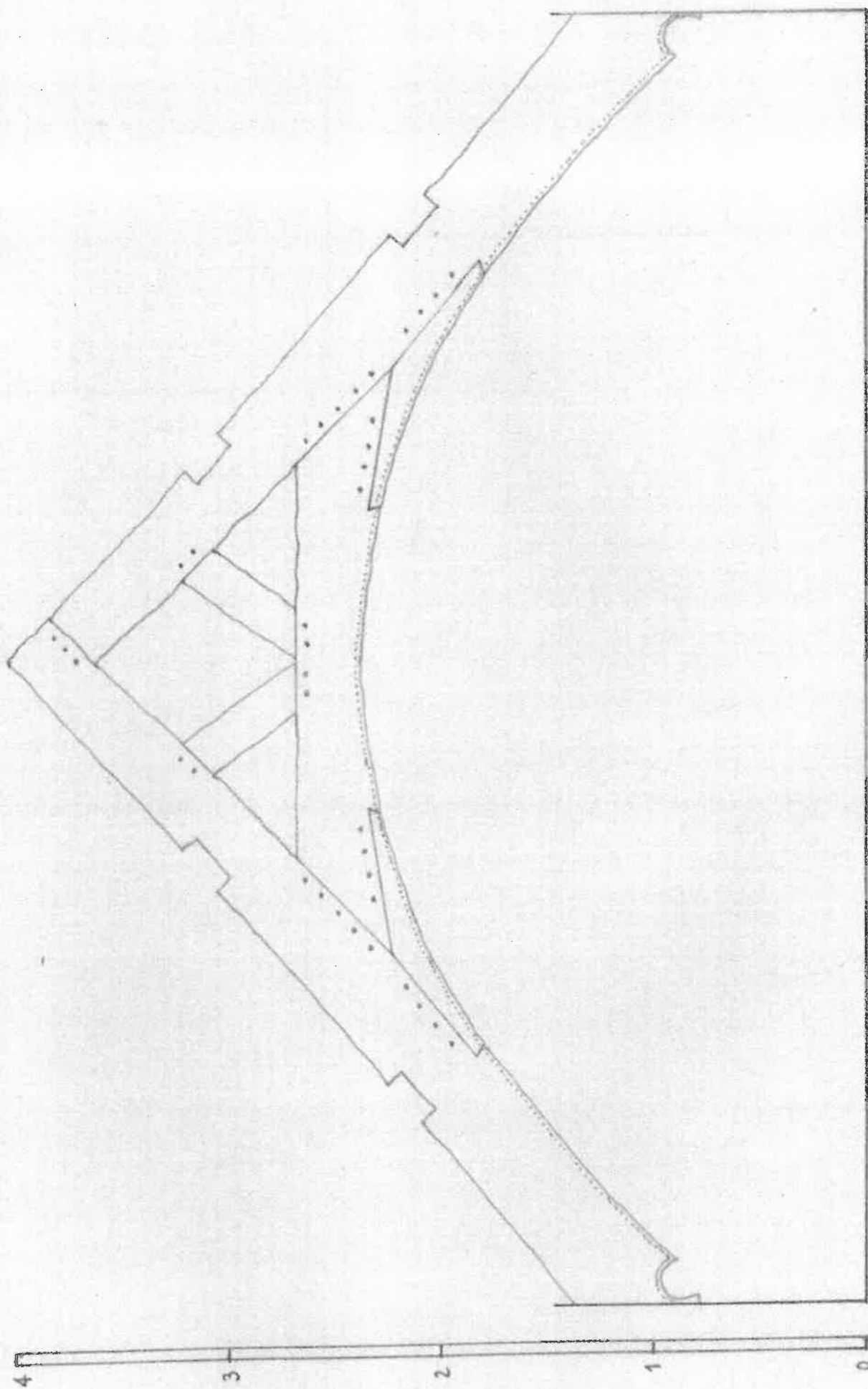
23

Bodwrddda, Aberdaron      Attic floor plan

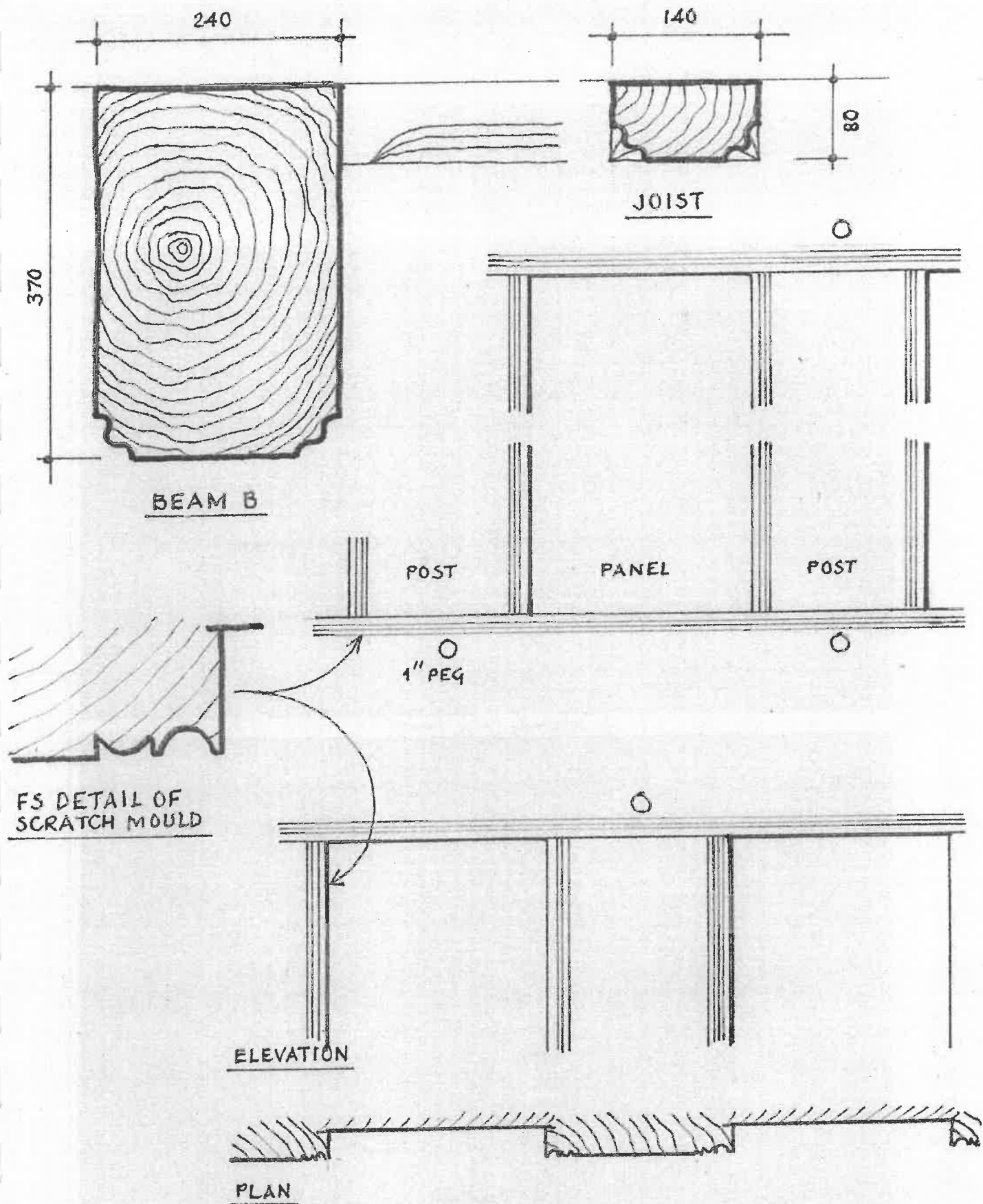




Bodwrdd, Aberdaron Section BB



Bodwrddda, Aberdaron      Elevation of trusses T1 to T4



PARTITION IN G.F. WEST ROOM

Bodwrddda, Aberdaron      Ground floor west room  
 DETAILS OF BEAM, JOISTS AND PARTITION



Plate 1 North elevation



Plate 2 South elevation



Plate 3 East gable



Plate 4 West gable



Plate 5 Truss T1, from west



Plate 6 Cusp at foot of Truss T1 (north end)



Plate 7 Truss T2 and partition, from west



Plate 8 Truss T4, from east



Plate 9 Truss T3, from west, showing pegged joint

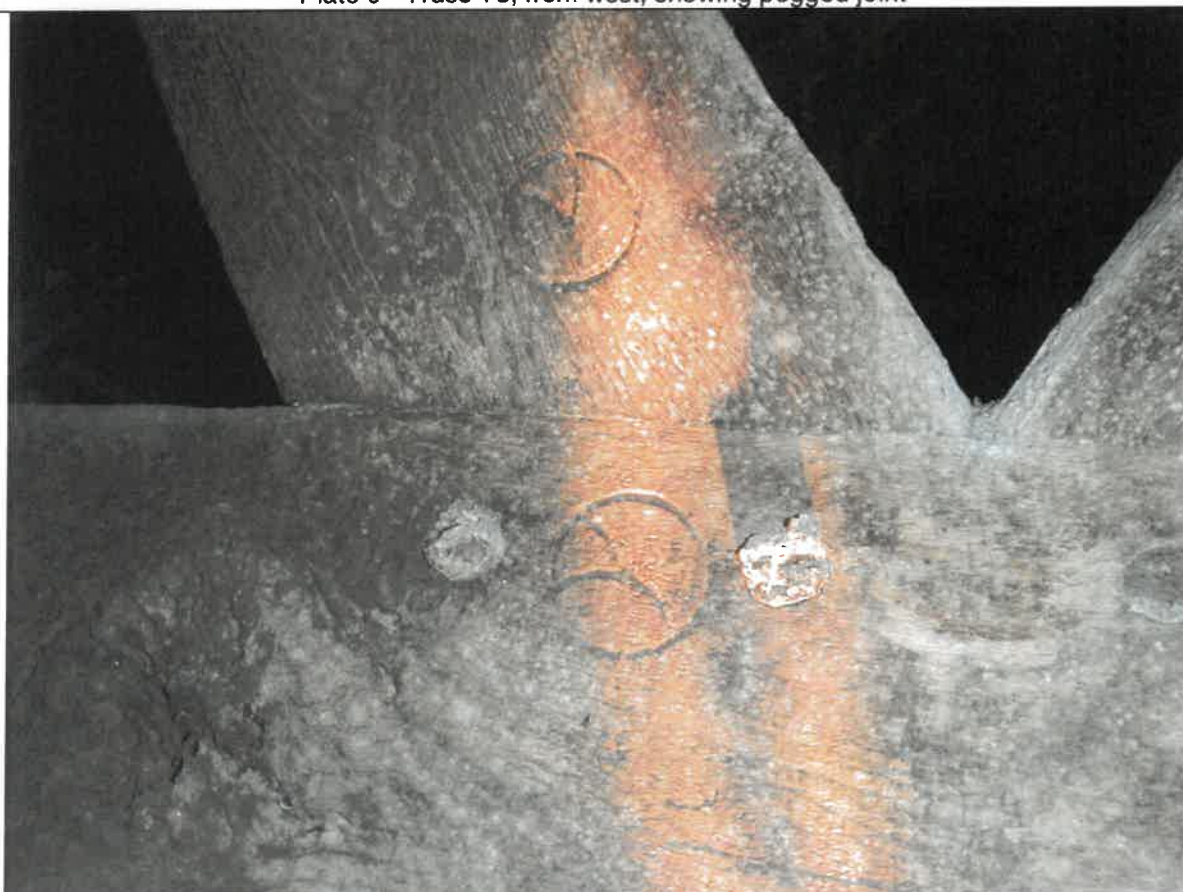


Plate 10 Truss T3, showing carpenter's marks on west face



Plate 11 Truss T7, looking north (in north-west wing)



Plate 12 Truss T6, looking south, between north-west wing and original part



Plate 13 Post-and-panel partition at west end of ground floor

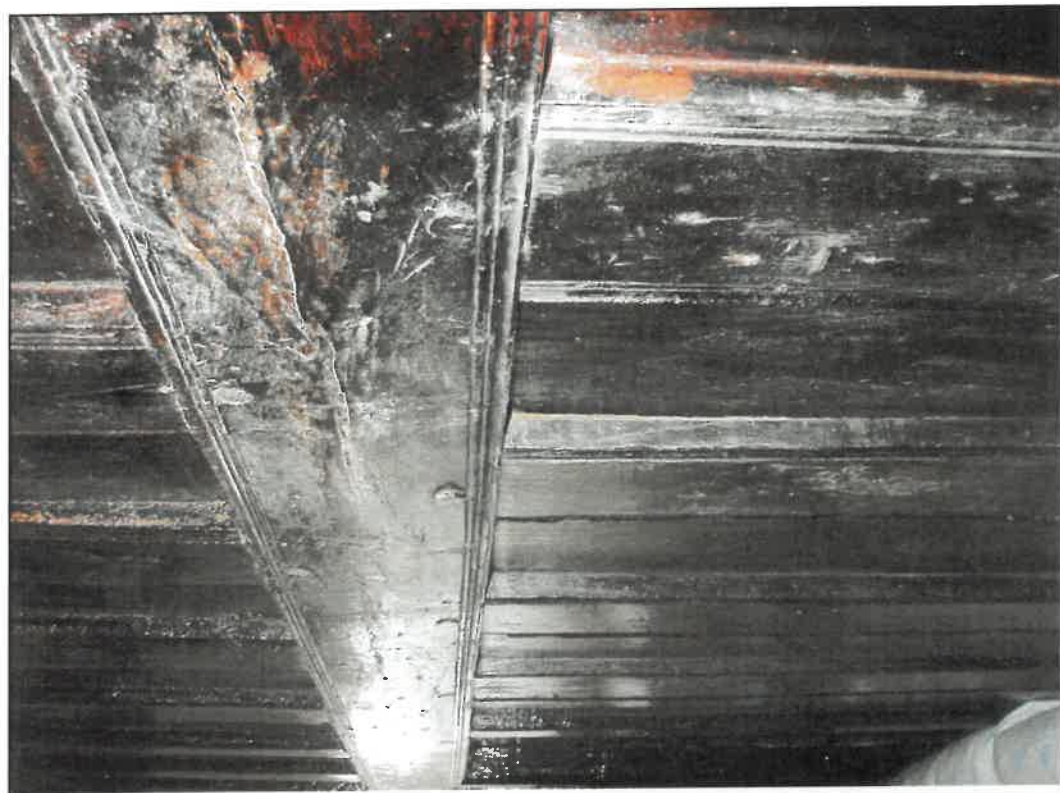


Plate 14 Ditto