

Mr Stanley Leighton

Sweeney Estate Properties

Contemporary Drawings and Textual Annotations.

20th February 2013

These drawings and the accompanying textual annotations are from three albums compiled by Mr. Stanley Leighton of Sweeney Hall, who, as well as being a local landowner, was also a noted historian of the locality. The three albums, with their contemporary drawings of Stanley Leighton of Sweeney Estate properties both before and after modernization by him, are unique and reveal not only a practical, social commentary but also a dedicated historian at work. The majority of the properties are still in existence and a location map has been prepared by Mr. J.W. Phillips, Engineer and Surveyor to the Oswestry Rural District Council.

The Library, and no doubt both present and future local historians, is greatly indebted to Mrs. M.E. Leighton of Sweeney for her kindness in depositing these albums on permanent loan in Oswestry Library.

HOUSES IN LOWER BROOK STREET. 1884

No. 14 Lower Brook Street

House - brick and slate - parlour, kitchen, back kitchen, pantry, cellar, 4 bedrooms, 1 attic, garden.

Rent £20.

No. 13 Lower Brook Street

House - brick and slate - parlour, kitchen, back kitchen, pantry, cellar, 4 bedrooms, 1 attic, garden.

£15 - tenant Mathew Hall.

No. 9 Lower Brook Street

House - stone and slate - kitchen, pantry, 2 bedrooms, garden.

Rent £4. 8. 6. (David Richards)

No. 8 Lower Brook Street

House - brick and slate, 2 parlours, kitchen, back kitchen, cellar, bakehouse, 4 bedrooms, garden.

Rent £20.

No. 7 Lower Brook Street

House - stone and slate - parlour, kitchen, back kitchen, larder, cellar, 8 bedrooms, garden and yard.

Rent £24 - John Richards.



HOUSES IN LOWER BROOK ST. OSWESTRY

N^{os} 14-13-9-8-7-6

Tues 16 Dec
51

LEIGHTON PLACE. 1898

No. 15 Lower Brook Street

House - stone and slate - kitchen, back kitchen, parlour, pantry, cellar, 3 bedrooms, garden.

Rent £12. 2. 6.

No. 12 Lower Brook Street

House - stone and slate - kitchen, back kitchen, parlour, 3 bedrooms, garden.

Widow Evans. Rent £8. There are attached to this house a coach house and stables let separately. Rent £7. 14. 0.

Leighton Place (Old Dispensary Yard)

In 1898 the stable between No. 15 and No. 12 was converted into a dwelling house and the drainage turned towards West Street; a few yards of land were bought adjoining West St. Some old pigsties were removed; the closets re-arranged, iron fencing put up, and the chimney rebuilt - Cost about £200.

Rent of new dwelling £12.



LEIGHTON PLACE (OLD DISPENSARY YARD)

Fri 26 Aug 1898

LLWYD MANSION
i.e. Timbered house at the Cross, Oswestry

The first sketch shows the condition of the building when it was bought in 1875 by Stanley Leighton from the trustees of the will of a Mrs. Bennion. The 'lean-to' was removed and the frontage towards Bailey St. taken down and rebuilt some feet back, in order to widen the street. A new shop was erected of brick on this site of some very much dilapidated timber work.

The arms of the Spread Eagle, the cognizance of the Lloyds of Trenewyth near Whittington, who were a younger branch of the Lloyds of Llanymaieu, are on the front of the house, which was probably at one time a residence and not a shop.

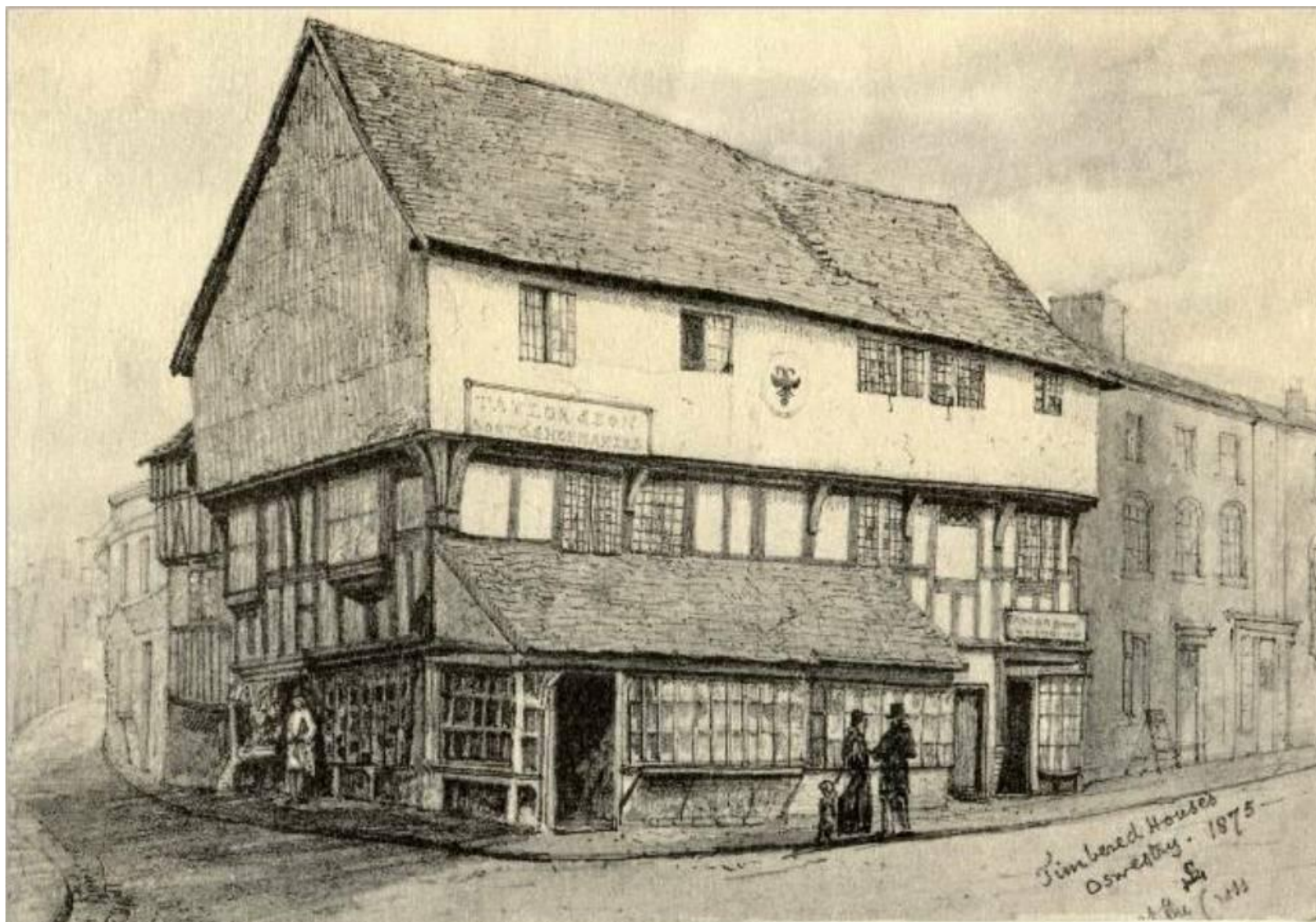
The massive beams of the edifice were in perfect preservation in 1876. Many Carolean coins were found during the repairs.

In 1896 this property was transferred by Stanley Leighton to his son Parker Leighton on his coming of age.

	£
Purchase money	1,500
Repairs	<u>1,930</u>
	3,430
Received from Corporation for frontage	<u>350</u>
Total cost	3,080

New rents:-

Shop - Dutton & Co.	70
Ditto - ditto	40
Ditto - Neville	<u>50</u>
	160



LLWYD MANSION

1875



LLWYD MANSION

1880

A description of the property from an advertisement in 1843.

LOWER BROOK STREET, OSWESTRY

FAMILY HOUSE TO BE LET, and entered upon immediately;
or it may be readily made into two Occupations.

It consists of a Dining Room, 23 Feet by 17, and Drawing Room over, two other Sitting Rooms on Ground Floor, nine Bed Chambers, including four very good Attics, Offices, Cellars, Coach-house, and Stables.

The House is bounded, excepting to the Street, by an Acre and Three Quarters of Shrubbery, Garden, and Pasture Ground. The Rent of the whole has hitherto been £60 per Annum, but now reduced to £40, on account of the additional Number of Houses lately built in Oswestry.

If divided into two Occupations, the Rents will be from £30 to £35, and from £20 to £25, (the latter having no Attics and only four Rooms), according to Requirements of Tenants as to Alterations and Additions.

A good Pew in the Parish Church is attached to the House.

DATE STONE on the West side of the house.

	B	
T	H	Thomas Browne, born 1706, married Hannah Lloyd of Crumpwell in 1730 and died in 1760.
		1749

DATE STONE on the garden side of the house.

	B	
E	M	Edward Browne, second son of the above, born 1733, married Margaret Howell of Treflach and died without issue in 1781.
		1779



TYMAEN BROOK ST, OSWESTRY

Mon 28 Aug 1899

THE LODGES. 1872

Old Lodge "Stone and slate in fair repair. Parlour, kitchen, pantry, milkhouse, back kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bakehouse, coalhouse and pigstye". (Burd's valuation 1873). Trees injure garden. Rent £7.

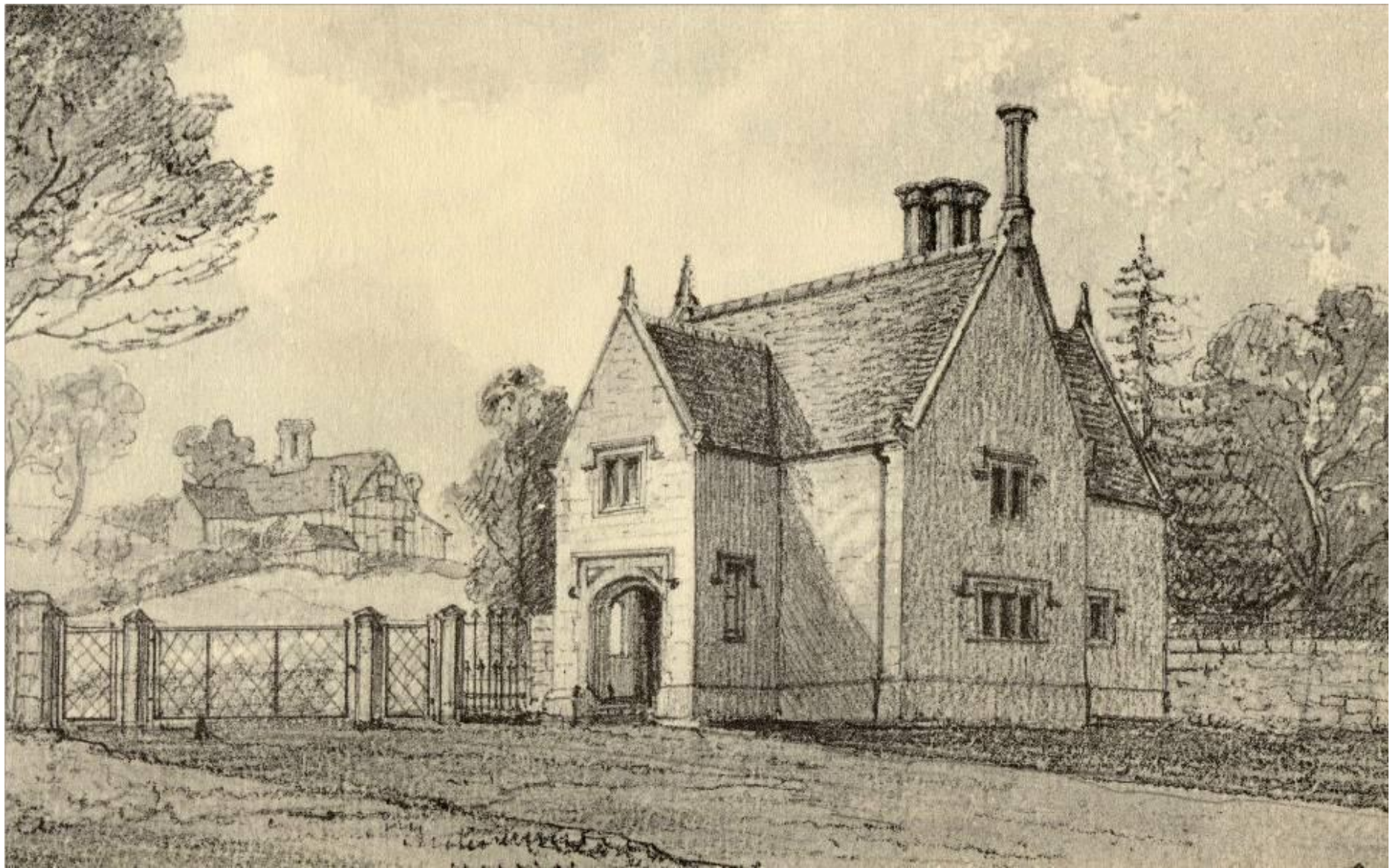
New Lodge "Stone and tile. Kitchen, back kitchen, pantry, 3 bedrooms and small room over porch". (Burd's val. 1873). Rent £7 - with garden at Nant-y-caws.

The old lodge was built by Thos. N. Parker about 1810 - when the course of the turnpike road was changed the lodge was left some 100 yards from the new road, and was used till about 1866 as a school supported by the Sweeney family.

In 1866 Sir Baldwin Leighton built the new lodge, which cost three hundred pounds.

The entrance gate was put up by T.W. Parker.

[The view is from inside the grounds looking across the A483 to TY STANLEY, the property in the background].



OSWESTRY LODGE

15 Apr 1872

Gough in his History of Myddle says "This Mr. [Thomas] Baker erected a new fair house at Sweeney ... I have heard Mr. Baker say it was wholly built in sixteen weeks". In 1686, according to the receipt for the hearth tax, there were 19 hearths in Sweeney.

In 1796, Sarah, daughter and heiress of George Browne of Oswestry and granddaughter and heiress at law of Thos. Browne of Sweeney ... married Thos. N. Parker of the White House, Longdon, Co.Worc. The Parkers thus became seated here.

Thos. N. Parker died in 1848. The Rev^d. John Parker, his only surviving son, died 1850 leaving the estate to his sister Lady Leighton who died in 1864 leaving the estate to her husband Sir Baldwin Leighton. He conveyed it in 1869 to his second son, Stanley Leighton, by deed of gift.

The earlier house, of which there is no drawing, was taken down in 1805 by Thos. Netherton Parker when he built the house, represented in the sketch, on the same foundations.

The East wing together with the corridor was built in 1832 by Thos. Netherton Parker.

It was re-edified in 1873 by Stanley Leighton. Pountney Smith of Shrewsbury was architect and Thos. Groves was the builder - the cost was £700.

The terrace in front of the stone part of the house was built in 1821 by Thos. N. Parker.

In 1873 an addition to the terrace was made by Stanley Leighton, and the earth which formed a bank on the North side of the house was removed to the South side.



A house of wood and plaster, on a stone foundation, formerly stood on this site and was described in a marriage settlement of 1619 as "called by the name of Sweeney Hall".

In 1640, Thomas Baker built a "new fair house" on his adjoining property in Sweeney so the earlier house became distinguished as "Old Sweeney".

Old Sweeney, "being much out of repair, was pulled down about 1840 ... Mr. Lloyd of Llanymynech, the architect/builder of the present house, took some of the panelling away for use in Llanyblodwel Church which was being repaired about 1840".

The present house was built about 1840 by Mr. Oldnall who had inherited the earlier property. The material is stone, the windows have stone hood moulds but the mullions are of wood.

In 1892 it was purchased by the Trustees of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Leighton's marriage settlement from Mr. E. Clive Oldnall Long Phillips Wolley and his mortgagees.

Purchase money	£5,400) of which £5,000 was paid out of the trust
Conveyance	<u>£ 140</u>) fund and £540 by Mr. Leighton.

£5,540

Acreage 145a. 1r. 23p. in the townships of Sweeney and Llynclys.

The principal tenant Mr. Markey occupies 136 acres at a rent of £220.

The commutation value of the tithe is £37.



LOWER SWEENEY

Mon 15 Aug 1892

SWEENEY BRICK AND COAL WORKS. 1885

The Sweeney coal mine was sunk about 1840 by a company of which Mr. Croxon was the principal partner. The Company also worked the coal mine at the Drill, though it belonged to another property. After a time a fault in the Sweeney workings made them useless except to pump the water from the Drill.

A fine clay was found intermixed with the coal, and the clay and the coal together made the business fairly profitable.

Mr. Croxon gave up the concern about 1872 - a new company took it: and spent large sums on brickmaking machinery and in developing the Drill coal workings. The Company was not successful.

About 1880 the coal getting was altogether given up and the business of brickmaking alone carried on - a large clayhole was opened on the surface near to the back drive to Sweeney and the clay carried by a tramway to the brick-kilns.

Mr. Latimer directed (1885) the business under the company.



BRICKYARD COTTAGES

Mon 2 Jan 1885

The house was built in 1866 by Sir Baldwin Leighton at a cost of £1,460 and is built entirely of Sweeney bricks from the local brickyards. It contains a good cellar, 2 parlours, kitchen, back kitchen, brewhouse, pantry, milk room, cheeseroom, 5 bedrooms and 2 attics.

Extensive farm buildings were also erected in 1866 at a cost of £1,060 to replace those taken down in 1866.

The original property had been purchased in 1820 by Thos. N. Parker from Sir Edw. Disbrowe and with 127 acres of land cost £8.113. 86 acres of the original purchase remain with the farm, the rest was detached at Weston Cotton, and form a portion of Weston farm excepting a few acres which were exchanged.

Mr. Richard Wainwright (tenant 1885) is the son of the former tenant who lived here for a great number of years and in 1885 paid rent of £420 being

	£	
Tithe	55	
House & buildings	25	
Nant buildings	5	
Land (231 acres)	<u>335</u>	£420.



TY VALDWIN

Fri 16 Nov 1883

UPPER SWEENEY. 1892

The property was purchased by Mr. Stanley Leighton in 1890.

Upper Sweeney	108 acres	£3,950	vendor R. Wynne Garthewin Denbighshire.
"Scotland"	34 "	£1,300	" Thos. Evans
		100	surrender of old lease.
		<u>150</u>	conveyance cost.
	<u>142 acres</u>	<u>£5,500</u>	

The farm, together with 34 acres of his own land, was occupied by Mr. Thos. Evans who, having become blind and deaf, gave up farming and died in 1891.

The land was re-let to several tenants (Grindley, Wainwright, Hughes, Humphreys, Markey, Conde, Thos. Jones, Mrs. Evans (farmhouse) Thos. Williams) at a new rent of £214.19.6. The tithe rent charge was paid by the landlord.

Some of the farm buildings were in a bad state when the property was bought and fences were much neglected. The cost of the following repairs may be put down at least at £250. (laying 25 acres down to grass, draining 15 acres, planting 7 acres, repairing fences and gates, repairing buildings).



UPPER SWEENEY

Fri 2 Sep 1892

WESTON COTTON FARM. 1878

This was part of the original estate which Thomas Baker bought of Mr. Chambre. It is a small farm, 106 acres, compact and all of it good land.

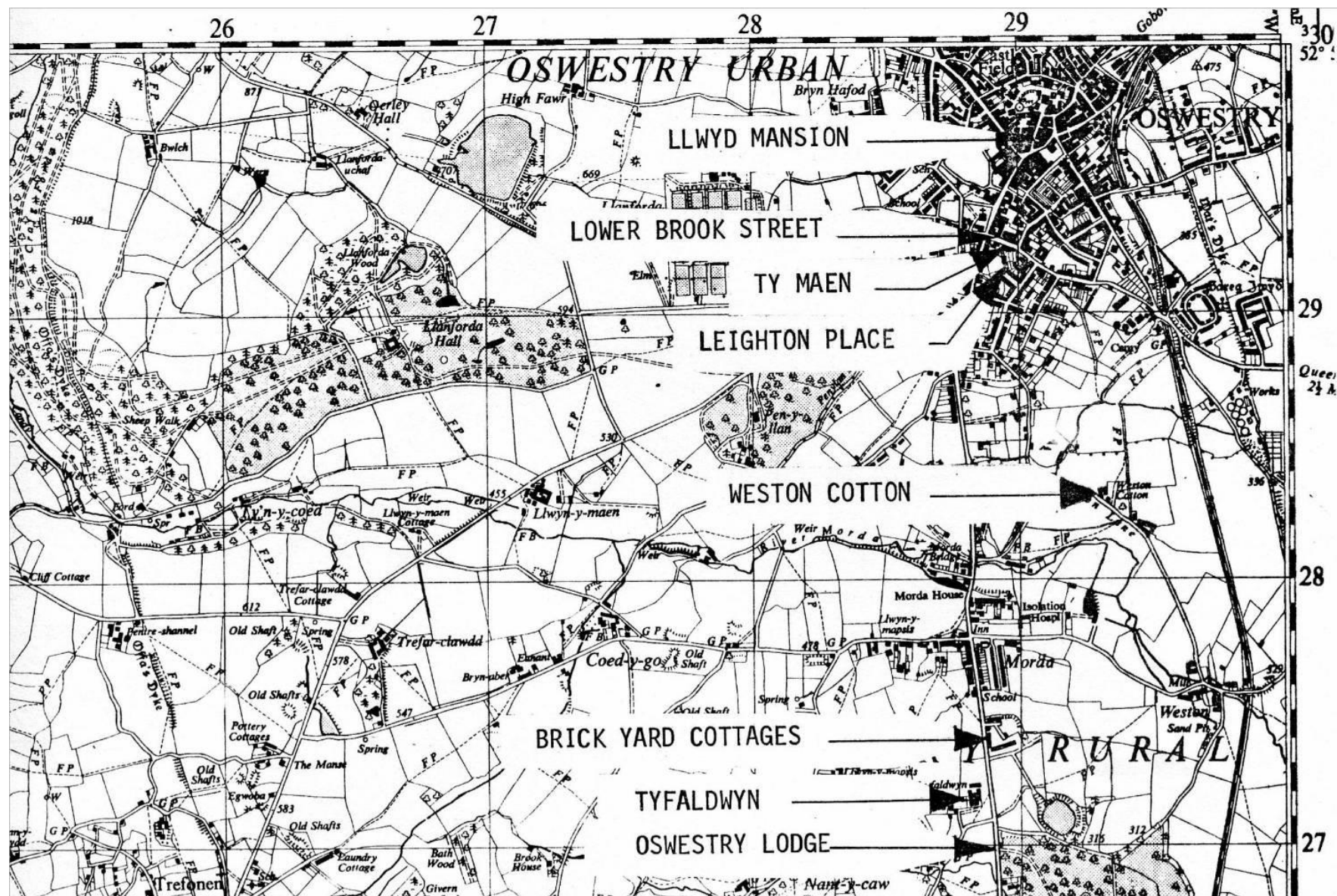
The house in 1870 was somewhat out of repair. Old Mr. Hayward the tenant had been there 50 years and more, he was born in the house, and had made sufficient out of the farm to buy land of his own. He was a fine old fellow, very tall, very independent, very respectful, he died at the age of 79. His great nephew Joseph Hayward is tenant 1855.

The sketch shows the buildings which were built in 1875 at a cost of £350 in place of an open shed. The porch [which is no longer there - 1973] was added in 1876 and came from the Grammar School at Oswestry.



WESTON COTTON

Mon 2 Sep 1878



LEIGHTON, S. (West Shropshire).—Mr Stanley Leighton (Conservative) of Sweeney Hall, Oswestry, Shropshire, is the second son of the late Sir B. Leighton, and brother of the present baronet. He was born at Loton Park, Salop, in 1837, and married in 1873 Jessie Marie, daughter of Mr Henry B. W. Williams Wynn of Nant-y-Meichiad, Montgomeryshire, and Howberry Park, Oxfordshire. He was educated at Harrow and Balliol College, Oxford, and was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple in 1861. Mr Leighton is a magistrate for the counties of Salop and Montgomery. He represented North Shropshire from February, 1876, to the close of the last Parliament.