Unregistered Park & Garden: Ranby House

NCC/BDC Ref: UPG45

Date(s):

Late-C18; early & mid-C19, c1910, mid-C20

Description & historic information:



Late-18th century landscaped park associated with Ranby House, a mid and late-18th century mansion with 19th and early-20th century (c1910) alterations (grade II listed). Features a range of associated buildings and structures. Used as a school from the late-1940s. The original house was constructed in the mid-18th century of red brick with a hipped slate roof. This structure, being two and a half storeys, is still visible on the west and east elevations, with timber glazing bar sashes throughout, a large stair window and shallow brick arches above the openings. Some of the wooded plantations on the site were also planted in the mid/late-18th century period.



18th century section of building to rear of later façade.

Wooded area to east of main building.

In the late-18th/early-19th century, a range of outbuildings (mostly stables) was constructed at the northern end of the house, together with walled gardens on both west and east sides of the house. The outbuildings are much altered, although the majority of the walled garden to the west remains, with a section of the east garden wall also extant.



Former stable range to west of main building.



Former stable range to north of main building.



Kitchen garden wall to west of main building.



Kitchen garden wall to east of main building.



Also in this period, the main façade of the house was rebuilt, utilising a yellow coloured brick. The only visible remnants of this phase are on the east side of the house, with a rounded window bay, a small area of brickwork visible in a narrow recess between the window bay and the later façade and a series of chimney stacks.



Yellow brickwork on rounded bay, chimney stack and in gap between bay and later extension.

In c1820, Centre Lodge (grade II listed) was constructed alongside the main entrance into the site. In 1832, John Rogers Esq is recorded as the ownerⁱ. It is likely that it was Rogers who was responsible for the construction of this lodge and for some of the planting alongside the driveway.



Centre Lodge, viewed from south west.

1835 Sanderson's Map, showing Ranby House.

The estate was purchased by Henry Francis Noble Champion in the early-1850s. In the later-19th century (approximately 1860s/70s), new entrances were installed to both the west and east of the original entrance, with sweeping driveways from each end. Adjacent to both new access points, small lodges were constructed (now called 'West Lodge' and 'East Lodge'). Both are of similar design, of yellow brick with hipped slate roofs. The entrance driveway from the east was the primary entrance for visitors, as it passed through an area of parkland formed at that end of the site (also dating to the 1860s/70s period). It is likely that John Champion (Henry Francis Noble's son), owner of Ranby House during the 1860s & 70s, was responsible for these alterations.



1885 Ordnance Survey map, showing Ranby House and new lodges at west and east ends of front boundary.





East Lodge, east elevation.

East Lodge, north elevation.



West Lodge, west and south elevations.

West Lodge, north elevation.

In the early-20th century, Ranby House was purchased by Sir Albert Edward Bingham, a cutlery manufacturer and factory owner from Sheffield. In c1910, Bingham had the main façade of the house rebuilt, covering the earlier yellow brick structure with a new red brick and stone exterior in an Elizabethan style, contrasting to the Georgian classical style of the earlier building behind.



Main façade, viewed from south east.



Main façade, viewed from west.

Sir Albert Bingham died in 1945 and in 1948, the house became Ranby House School, officially opened by Earl Manvers (of Thoresby Hall). The change to a school saw the main area of parkland to the east of the house turned into a cricket field. Other areas of open space also became sport fields. Various alterations were made to the various outbuildings to form classrooms, with further structures added since to add more teaching accommodation.



Cricket field and lawns to east of house.



Sports field at east end of site.

Features of significance:

Ranby House (grade II); Centre Lodge (grade II) alongside the original entrance to the site; West Lodge and East Lodge (both curtilage listed) with associated entrances, wooded plantations, grassed lawns.



Aerial photograph of Ranby House, taken 2007 (source: Bassetlaw District Council)

Listed Buildings:	Ranby House (grade II); Centre Lodge (Grade II); West Lodge, East Lodge, the range of outbuildings adjacent to Ranby House and the kitchen garden walls are all regarded as curtilage listed.
Scheduled Ancient Monuments:	n/a
Conservation Area:	n/a
Local Interest Buildings:	n/a



References:

ⁱ White's Directory of Nottinghamshire; 1832.