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**The Old Court Hotel, Whitchurch, Herefordshire HR9 6DA**

**Heritage Statement**

The village of Whitchurch is named after the church of Saint Dubricius, which was originally white in colour. Until 9<sup>th</sup> Century when the area was taken over by Mercia, the village was within the Welsh Kingdom of Ergyng. After the Norman conquest the area became known as Archenfield and was governed as part of the Welsh Marches. It subsequently became part of Herefordshire and England in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century although the use of the Welsh language continued into the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Welsh name for the Village, LLandywynnog, means church of Tywynnog, derived from the personal name of Gwynnog.

Whitchurch Court was the ancestral home of the Gwillim family and was occupied for some time by John Graves Simcoe, first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada (1791-1796) and founder of Toronto in Ontario. Whitchurch Township in Ontario was named by Simcoe after the birthplace of his wife, Elizabeth Posthuma Gwillim.

The Old Court Hotel is statutory listed grade II\*, dating originally from 16<sup>th</sup> Century with subsequent 17<sup>th</sup> Century additions and altered during 20<sup>th</sup> Century with the addition of a rear wing extension; the property was listed on 18/05 63.

Formerly a fine manor house of two storey with attics, coursed and square sandstone rubble with ashlar dressings, stone mullioned windows and stone tiled roof in the main, the plan form is an irregular E shape with projecting porch to the principal facade. It is thought that the current stone exterior may be cladding of an original timber framed house. The hall of two storeys and three bays, panelled cross beamed ceiling with moulded members, timber framed internal partitions, close studding with two blocked doorways with arched heads and a large open fireplace.



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