

= Clifton Hall , Cumbria =

Clifton Hall was a fortified manor house in the Clifton , Cumbria , England . Dating from around 1400 , it was constructed by either Elianor Engaine or her son @-@ in @-@ law William Wybergh , and was held by the Wybergh family until the 19th century . Initially taking the form of an " H " -plan design built around a central hall , around 1500 a three @-@ story stone pele tower was added , providing both additional security and acting as a status symbol for the family . At the start of the 17th century a new stone hall was added to the south of the tower .

The Wyberghs were able to retain Clifton Hall , despite the challenges of the English Civil War , but the house was caught up in the Jacobite risings of 1715 and 1745 . In the early 19th century most of Clifton Hall was pulled down to make way for a new farmhouse , and only the pele tower survived . In the 21st century the tower is in the care of English Heritage and operates as a tourist attraction .

= = History = =

= = = 15th ? 16th centuries = = =

Clifton Hall was originally built around 1400 in the village of Clifton , south of Penrith , Cumbria , by either Elianor Engaine or her son @-@ in @-@ law William Wybergh . The Engaines had held the manor of Clifton since at least the 12th century , providing military service to the regional feudal lords in exchange for the land , and may have built an earlier manor house on a different site , possibly close to the village church of St Cuthbert . Clifton Hall was initially constructed around an " H " -plan , with a central hall bracketed by two cross @-@ wings , one wing containing the family 's living accommodation , the other the kitchen and the other service rooms . This style was popular at this time across Cumbria , and indeed England more generally .

William Wybergh and his descendants owned and lived in Clifton Hall until the 19th century . Around 1500 , the three @-@ storey tower that survives today was built onto the western end of the range , replacing the existing buildings there . " H " -plan houses with towers were common during this period , but the towers were often added on subsequently ; the tower was probably constructed by Elianor 's grandson , another William Wybergh . The tower was probably built in response to the security situation along the troubled Anglo @-@ Scottish border at the time , but it would also have made a social statement about the status and wealth of the Wybergh family , and would have provided additional accommodation . A timber building was then built early in the 15th century to the south of the tower , probably to provide further chambers .

= = = 17th ? 18th centuries = = =

At the start of the 17th century , possibly around 1600 , a new hall was built in stone to replace the older timber @-@ framed one ; it was positioned to the south , replacing the earlier 15th @-@ century extension . The new hall was slightly anachronistic , having only one floor , unlike most new halls from this period which had two storeys . The old hall was then probably adapted for use as a service area .

After this investment , the Wybergh family 's fortunes began to deteriorate . When the English Civil War broke out in 1642 between the supporters of King Charles I and Parliament , Thomas Wybergh was a Royalist supporter and found himself on the losing side in the war . He was fined by Parliament as a Royalist " delinquent " in 1652 , and mortgaged the surrounding manor to Sir John Lowther for £ 846 , but not the hall itself or the lands immediately to the north . The mortgage led to a prolonged legal dispute , and in 1706 John 's grandson successfully claimed the mortgaged estates , in exchange for giving the Wybergh 's £ 400 .

Further work was done on the property in the early 18th century , providing an additional service room and bedrooms . The Jacobite risings of 1715 and 1745 impacted on the hall , which was close to the Scottish border . In 1715 , William Wybergh , the owner , was abducted by Scottish soldiers ,

and in 1745 , shortly before the Clifton Moor Skirmish , it was occupied and looted by the rebel forces .

= = = 19th ? 21st centuries = = =

By the early 19th century , the medieval structure of the property had become quite limiting for the owners . The buildings on either side of the tower were then pulled down to allow for the construction of Hall Farm , including a more modern farm house ; only the tower survived to become an ancillary farm building . In 1973 the Lonsdale Estate , who owned Hall Farm , placed the tower into the guardianship of the Department of the Environment , who decided to open it to the public . An archaeological excavation of the site took place between 1977 and 1979 , making it one of only a handful of such sites in Cumbria to have been investigated in this way . In the 21st century the tower is in the care of English Heritage as a tourist attraction , and is protected under UK law as a scheduled monument .

= = Architecture = =

The only surviving part of Clifton Hall is the early 16th @-@ century tower wing of the hall , often referred to as a pele tower . Despite this label , its construction date is relatively late compared to similar fortifications , and it is less robustly designed than equivalent towers in the region .

The tower measures 33 ft (10 m) by 26 ft (7 @.@ 9 m) , with red sandstone walls around 3 ft (0 @.@ 91 m) thick and 37 ft (11 m) high . The ground floor was originally the parlour , with a carved wooden ceiling and a fireplace , with doors leading externally and into the hall . Originally , the stairs did not reach down to the ground floor . The first floor formed the principal chamber in the tower , accessed from stairs in the hall ; it had a fireplace , a garderobe and its walls would have been plastered and painted , with wood panelling . Stairs led up to the second floor , again equipped with a fireplace and wood panelling , and up onto the roof .

Few of the original windows survive in the tower , but those that remain are larger than in some of the other older peles , suggesting it may have been built with defence less in mind than in some earlier pele towers . The originals have mainly been replaced by 17th- and 18th @-@ century versions . The original roof would have resembled that at nearby Yanwath Hall , but was replaced at a later date with the current hipped @-@ roof design , probably during the late 16th or 17th centuries . The current roof was further restored in 1979 .