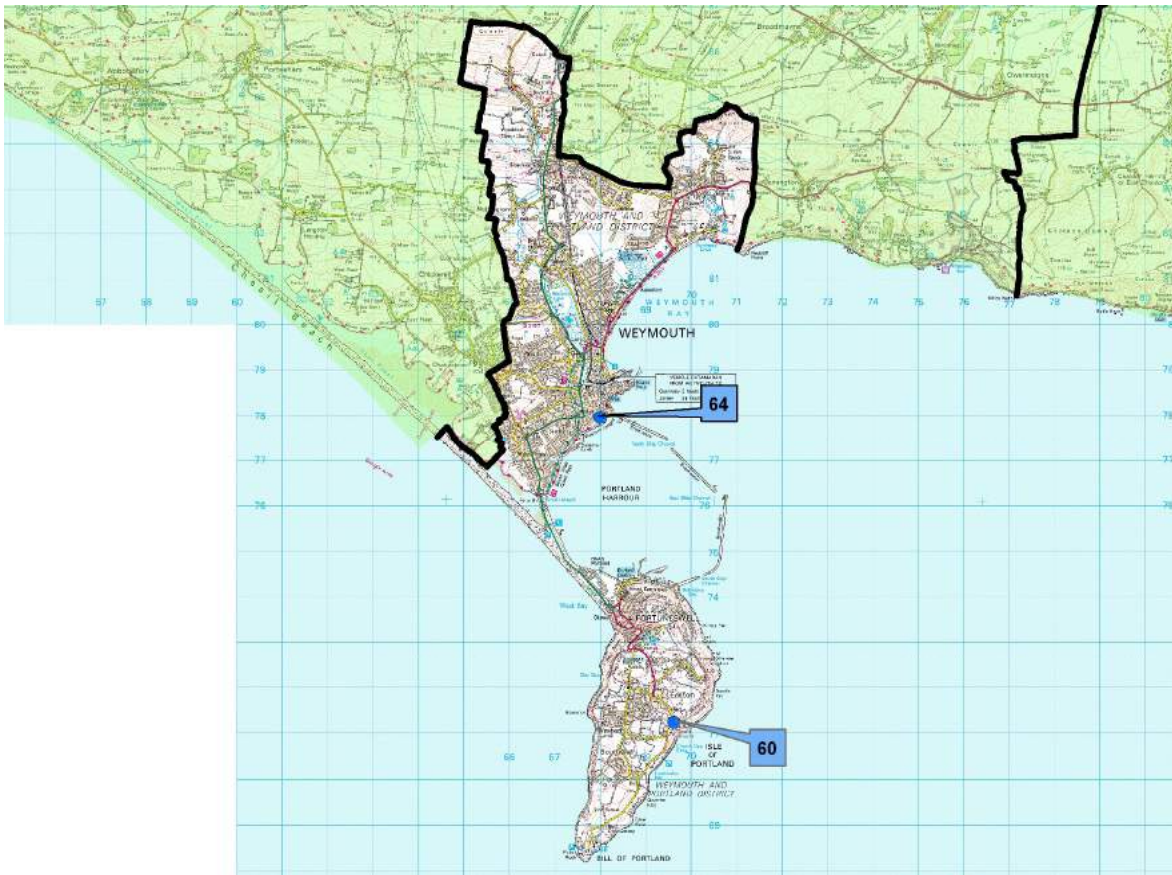


## WEYMOUTH AND PORTLAND



# Weymouth & Portland

## Historic England Register

None

## Dorset Gardens Trust List of Sites of Historical and Landscape Significance

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DORSET GARDEN TRUST  
LOCAL LIST

## Pennsylvania Castle

<b>Address:</b>	Pennsylvania Castle, Portland, Dorset DT5 1HZ		
<b>District:</b>	Weymouth & Portland Borough Council	<b>Parish:</b>	Portland
<b>Map Series:</b>	Landranger	<b>Map Sheet:</b>	194
		<b>Grid Reference:</b>	697 712
<b>Area :</b>	12.6 ha		
<b>Site owner(s):</b>	Private		
<b>Designation:</b>	Dorset Gardens Trust Local List		
<b>Site designers:</b>	James Wyatt, W A Nesfield		

### Brief description of site:

Pennsylvania Castle is on the south eastern side of the Portland Peninsula facing south east out to sea, on a sloping site down to the cliff edge with picturesque views of Rufus Castle and St. Andrews Church. A deep rock fissure runs through the garden creating a miniature gorge.

### Brief history of site:

Pennsylvania Castle was built for John Penn, the grandson of William Penn, the founder of the American State. John Penn accompanied King George III on an excursion from Weymouth around Portland in 1797 and was much taken by Church Ope Cove. Penn obtained land from the Crown and the architect James Wyatt (architect to the King for the restoration of Windsor Castle) designed a mansion (castle) for John Penn on the site which was opened by the King in 1800. A recently discovered Sale particular states that W A Nesfield 'designed pleasure grounds with terrace and parterre'. Penn had the road moved and landscaped the site with exotic shrubs and trees. The garden has since been divided between owners, but some of the original landscaping survives. In Church Ope Cove, a number of traditional beach huts are surrounded by small garden areas with rough stone boundaries. This fragile landscape is representative of a disappearing seaside tradition.

### Significance

Pennsylvania Castle is important because of its marine location together with its historical associations with George III, John Penn and the architect James Wyatt. This site is one of the few examples of Picturesque style surviving in the country though in a limited form. It is in divided ownership but with views of Rufus Castle and St. Andrew's Church and rugged remains of quarrying and the deep rock fissure running through the garden which creates a miniature gorge effect.

In Church Ope Cove, a number of traditional beach huts are surrounded by small garden areas with rough stone boundaries.

### Sources:

RCHM Vol. II, part 2, 253, b(8): *castle, lodge and stone gateways leading to the park from Wakeham Street*  
H M Colvin *Biographical Dictionary of English Architects* (1954), 730

The Dorset County Chronicle & Somerset Gazette, 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1863

Michael Hill *East Dorset Country Houses* 2013 p44

Michael Hill, John Newman & Nikolaus Pevsner *The Buildings of England – Dorset* p488 Yale University Press 2018

**Pennsylvania Castle, Portland**



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Scale 1/5780

Date 21/2/2005

Centre = 369655 E 71124 N



DORSET GARDEN TRUST  
LOCAL LIST

## Portland House

<b>Address:</b>	Portland House, 10 Redcliff View, Belle Vue Road, Weymouth DT4 8RW	
<b>District:</b>	Weymouth & Portland Borough Council	<b>Parish:</b> Weymouth East Ward
<b>Map Series:</b>	Landranger	<b>Map Sheet:</b> 194
		<b>Grid Reference:</b> 679 779
<b>Area (ha):</b>	1.42 ha	
<b>Site owner(s):</b>	The National Trust	
<b>Designation:</b>	Dorset Gardens Trust Local List	
<b>Site designers:</b>	Lord Gerald Wellesley and Trenwith Wills	

### Brief description of site:

Portland House is on the cliff top with south facing views over Portland Harbour to Lulworth Cove and Weymouth. The foreshore is part of the Portland Harbour SSSI.

### Brief history of site:

It was built for Mr. Geoffrey Bushby as a holiday home by Lord Gerald Wellesley and Trenwith Wills. The house is Grade II listed and is described as a 'complete and well designed example of 1930's Mediterranean villa style'. The garden with rock garden, large lawned area and exotic planting, slopes down to the sea maximising fine south facing views. There are arcaded loggias at either end of the terrace, fine shelter belts and an avenue of palm trees. The original planting was by Hilliers Nurseries of Winchester.

### Significance:

Largely intact and significant garden with exotic and continental character to match the Hollywood hacienda style seaside villa. The involvement of Hilliers Nurseries is also significant with Chusan Palms lining the entrance pathway though little of the original planting remains.

### Sources:

*Twentieth Century Society Casework December 2001*  
*National Trust South Dorset Association Newsletter 2012*  
*National Trust HBSMR*  
Dan Cruickshank *National Trust Magazine*

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# Portland House, Weymouth



0 10 20 40 60 80 Meters

Map Date: 16/02/2014  
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