

Site Name: ARGOED; LE MALROS; PARC-Y-MARLES

Site File Ref. No.: CARD/ARGD

Site Type: House

N. G. Ref.: SN 1887 4665

Period – Medieval; Post-Medieval; Modern

History:

The property is located close to the Cardigan Bypass off Feidrhenffordd – and is now accessible only via the road from Llangoedmor. The current name of the property means ‘Enclosure of Trees.’ This was the property known in the medieval period as “Le Malros” or “Parc y Marles”, so-named from the land being rich in marl which may very well have been used in the wool-dyeing process. This property was rented out by Adam le Mouner from 1301 to 1305 in return for the payment of 1 shilling a year. Adam le Mouner lived on Cardigan's Bridge Street and was also leasing the town's mills during that period. In 1305 the rent fell to sixpence a year, or else an error occurred in the accounts. The discrepancy may even have been due to Adam le Mouner's death, as in 1314 his widow was renting Le Malros for an annual rent of 9d.

In 1718 “Park y Marlys” was described as having been lately in the tenure of John Gambold. On June 17th 1761 lands called “Park Tir Marl” and “Park Pwll Marl” were leased for a year to Thomas Lloyd of Bronwydd and John Morgan of Cardigan by Hannah Mathias of Cardigan, a widow. Hannah was the daughter of Thomas Brock, who was formerly a burgess of Haverfordwest. In 1847 the property was referred to as “*Marles Fields*”, and then contained just over five acres of land, which were owned by Thomas Lewis Lloyd and leased to Messrs. Lloyd & Davies. An empty field here is shown on the Tithe Map for St Mary's Parish of the same year. On June 29th 1882 “*Marle's Fields*” were held by Mrs. Mary Harper.

In April 1883 the Revd. Griffith Davies advertised in the local press seeking tenders from local builders for building a house and outbuildings at ‘*Marle's Fields*’. Between 1883 and 1896 the Revd. Griffith Davies lived here. In 1881 he had become the Minister of the Tabernacle Calvinistic Methodist Chapel on Pendre in Cardigan. On November 19th 1889 the Revd. Griffith Davies of Argoed married as his second wife, Miss Elizabeth Davies of London House, No. 41 St. Mary Street, Cardigan. The wedding took place at the Llwynnadda Calvinistic Methodist Chapel in Llechryd. At the time of the Census on 5th April 1891 the following persons lived here: Rev. Griffith Davies, aged 59 years, a Calvinistic Methodist minister, born in Cardiganshire; Elizabeth Davies, aged 49 years, his wife, born in Cardiganshire; and Jane Rees, aged 19 years, a house servant, born in Pembrokeshire. All of them were bilingual in Welsh and English. He retired as the Minister of the Tabernacle C M Chapel in 1894. On April 18th 1895 the following report appeared in the ‘*Aberystwyth Observer*’:

“...*ACCIDENT TO THE REV. GRIFFITH DAVIES.*

The Rev. Griffith Davies, Calvinistic Methodist Minister, Cardigan, met with an accident which broke one of his legs on Sunday. He was returning to Penlone chapel in a carriage from Gorsfach, where he had preached, and when near Nant Eos the accident happened. Dr. Hughes, Llanilar, was in the neighbourhood, and attended to the rev gentleman. Mr. Vaughan Davies, Tanybwllch, afterwards gave Mr. Davies every assistance by lending his carriage and securing an invalid saloon to take him home to Cardigan...”

It is possible that the accident led to a more general decline in his health, and the Revd. Griffith Davies died on December 12th 1896. On December 18th 1896 the following item appeared in the ‘*Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser*’:

“...*DEATH OF THE REV. GRIFFITH DAVIES, CARDIGAN.*

It is with feelings of unfeigned regret we record the death of the above estimable gentleman, which took place rather suddenly on the 12th instant. The previous day he assisted at the funeral obsequies of Mrs Williams, High Street, and we little thought his own end was so near at hand. He was born 65

years ago at Llwydcoed, near Blaenannerch, and his early days were spent in the locality, which is regarded as one of the "hallow'd grounds" of Welsh Methodism. After a few years' absence from the county he settled in Aberystwyth as minister of the English Presbyterian church there, and his first wife was an Aberystwyth lady.

After a successful career he received a call to the Welsh Presbyterian church, Nassau-street (now Charing Cross road), London, where he laboured for several years with great acceptance. During this period Mrs Davies died, and, as will be remembered, her body was brought to Aberystwyth for burial. In consequence of this bereavement, the rev. gentleman felt that he was justified in leaving the hurly-burly of the great metropolis, so before the end of 1881, he removed to Cardigan, to take charge of the Tabernacle church there, which pastorate he continued to hold until 1894. Mr Davies' character may be summed up in the two words "Christian gentleman" and to our mind these two words convey all that is truly good and all that is truly noble. As a preacher, his sermons were well thought out and arranged, but he himself somewhat lacked the enthusiasm which is considered essential to the popular orator. At the same time his style was always acceptable and occasionally he would rise to a high point of eloquence. He was one of the most useful men of the denomination, and with the exception of the membership of the General Assembly, had filled all the higher offices. The Cardiganshire Monthly Meeting has lost in him one of its "main columns", his erudition, and thorough acquaintance with the Methodist constitution enabled him at all times to speak with authority. Since giving up the Cardigan pastorate he had devoted all his time to preaching and to connexional matters, and his loss is almost irreparable. In 1890 Mr Davies married a second time, Miss Davies of Cardigan, who now survives him, together with three sons and one daughter by the first wife, with all of whom much sympathy is felt..."

On December 26th 1896 the following item appeared in the 'Cardigan Observer':

"...FUNERAL OF THE REV. G. DAVIES, CARDIGAN.

The funeral of the Rev. G. Davies, Calvinistic Methodist minister, who expired suddenly on Saturday morning, the 12th inst., took place on Friday morning last, the funeral starting from Argoed for Blaenannerch at 11 o'clock. The respect in which the deceased was generally held was proved by the exceedingly large number of persons who had congregated to pay their last tribute of respect to him. Besides a large number of public men we notice the following ministers and clergymen present at the house, and many more joined the cortege at Blaenannerch:- Rev. J. Cynddylan Jones, D. D., Moelwyn Hughes, John Williams, T. J. Morris, George Hughes, D. Jones, W. Cynog Davies (vicar), T. Jones (curate), all of Cardigan; Rev. Bowen Jenkins, M.A. (rector of Llangoedmore), Isaac Morgan (curate), W. D. Rowlands, Llechryd; J. Griffiths, Cilgerran T. J. Davies, Capel Drindod T. M. James (curate), St. Dogmells; John Evans, Abercarn D. Morgan, Capel Seion, St. Dogmells, &c.

The service in the house was conducted by the Rev. John Griffiths, Cilgerran. The coffin was of polished oak and bore a number of floral tributes. A distance of five miles having been covered Blaenannerch Chapel was reached, where the funeral service, under the presidency of Rev Moelwyn Hughes, was held, and which was well filled. The introductory portion was taken by the Revs. Daniel Lewis, Penmorfa, and John Bowen, Pontrhydfendigaid, and D. Oliver, Twrgwyn, and the funeral sermon preached by the Rev. Dr. Cynddylan Jones, Cardiff and the service concluded by the Revs. D. Morgan, St. Dogmells, and T. J. Davies, Capel Drindod. At the graveside the service was conducted by the Revs. J. Jenkins, Newquay; Evan Phillips, Newcastle-Emlyn; and J. Moelwyn Hughes giving out hymns. The interment took place in front of the chapel, near where the late eminent Revs. John Jones and John Davies, former ministers, having peacefully reposed for years. The funeral was conducted in the simplest manner possible in accordance with the often expressed wish of deceased. On Sunday evening last the Rev. Moelwyn Hughes preached a funeral sermon at Blaenannerch, the family being in attendance. Mrs Davies and the family of the late Rev. Griffith Davies, of Argoed, desire to return thanks for the many letters of condolence, and other kind expressions of sympathy which they have received in consequence of their recent bereavement. They regret that, on account of the number of communications received they cannot reply to their friends individually...."

On August 11th 1899 Argoed, which was described as having been "...recently-built...", was advertised for sale with 9 acres of land as Mrs. Davies was intending to leave. In March 1900 Argoed was advertised for sale or let as follows:

"...ARGOED, NEAR CARDIGAN.

TO BE LET OR SOLD, with immediate possession, the above residence, charmingly situated, and facing due south, well sheltered from north and east wind; containing 3 reception rooms, 2 good kitchens, china pantry, dairy and other out-offices, 6 bed and dressing rooms, fitted bathroom and w. c. There is a coach house and stable, with a range of farm buildings, all newly-erected. Also two kitchen gardens well stocked with fruit trees, and three fields of about 9 acres of very superior meadow land. There is an excellent water supply...

At the time of the Census Returns on 31st March 1901 Elizabeth Evans, aged 48 years, a married woman, lived here with her father, Abel Davies, aged 81 years. Both of them were bilingual in Welsh and English and had been born at Newcastle Emlyn. On March 22nd 1901 Mrs. Elizabeth Evans of Argoed allegedly assaulted a bailiff. In May 1901 the following item appeared in the 'Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser':

"...ASSAULTING A BAILIFF.

The adjourned hearing of the case of Thomas Meredith Davies, bailiff of the Cardigan County Court, against Mrs Elizabeth Evans, Argoed, near Cardigan, for assaulting him on the 22nd of March, while in the execution of his duty, took place on Monday, before Mr D Ivor Evans, (Mayor), and Messrs. W Woodward and E C Evans. Mr J L Stokes, solicitor, for the defence. The complainant said that from instructions received from the High Bailiff, he proceeded to execute a warrant (produced) on the goods of the defendant. This was on the 15th of March; and on the 22nd he took the goods down to the Corn Market for sale on the following day. P C Davies was with him at Argoed and at the market. When he had put two chairs in the market, the defendant came in, and then witness felt a whip round his legs. He turned round and saw the defendant, and she then struck him with the butt end of the whip. P C Davies then interfered. The defendant had assaulted him at the house on the 15th of March.

Cross-examined: He had been a bailiff six years and was appointed by the High Bailiff. Witness could not produce his appointment.

Mr Jenkins pointed out to the bench that it was necessary for a bailiff's appointment to be in writing as without that he maintained there was no appointment.

The Magistrates Clerk: The bailiff produced the warrant which is quite sufficient.

Witness (continuing): He went up to Argoed about half past two, produced the warrant and read it out to Mrs Evans. He then took a four-wheeler, which he left at the Castle Inn, leaving a note with the defendant where it was. He did not visit Argoed between the 15th and 22nd of March, and no-one was in possession. He did not see Mrs Evans on the 22nd.

Mr Jenkins addressing the bench said that there was much in the conduct of the defendant that was justified, as she was protecting her own property from the creditors of her husband. The bailiff went up on the 15th for a claim of £3, and took a carriage away worth £9 or £10, and he (Mr Jenkins) pointed out that the bailiff had no right to re-enter the house the second time, before he had realised what he had taken away. If it was insufficient, he could re-enter. His second visit was, therefore, illegal.

The Magistrates' Clerk: That was not a matter for the magistrates. The question of title to the goods could not be raised, and if there had been any illegality in the levying of the goods, the defendant could sue the high bailiff for damages.

The Bench said they had taken a lenient view of the case and fined the defendant 10s and costs..."

Between 1902 and 1911 Richard William Picton Evans, a Cardigan solicitor and a Boer War veteran, lived here. On November 27th 1901 he had married Katherine Frances Blake, the second daughter of Mr. A. P. Blake of Sunberry Park, Sunbury, Middlesex. On December 17th 1902 a son, Richard Arthur Lawrence Picton Evans, was born here to Katherine F. Evans, the wife of R. W. Picton Evans. On January 12th 1903 R. W. Picton Evans and Katherine Evans had their son, Richard Arthur Evans, christened at St. Mary's Church. Another son, William Picton Evans, was born on May 10th 1905 and was christened on May 25th 1905 at St. Mary's Church. On October 13th 1909 Katherine Frances

Evans, the wife of Captain Richard William Picton Evans of Argoed, died aged 37 years. On October 15th 1909 the following item appeared in the 'Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser':

"...OBITUARY. MRS R W PICTON EVANS

Early on Wednesday morning the inhabitants of Cardigan were thrown into a state of general gloom by the unexpected death of Mrs R W Picton Evans, the beloved wife of Mr R W Picton Evans, solicitor, and captain of the local company of the Territorial Forces. The deceased lady, who was only 37 years of age, had been ailing for some little time, but no serious results were anticipated. Consequently the general shock was more severely felt. Mrs Picton Evans was a lady in the true sense of the word, her genial disposition, her tenderness of heart, and the magnanimity of her spirit endearing her to all with whom she came into contact. As the president of the Cardigan Nursing Institute, her efforts in relieving the sorrows of the poor were indefatigable, and in this respect alone her memory will long be cherished..."

Votes of condolence were passed by the Cardigan Nursing Institute and Cardigan Town Council. On October 22nd 1909 the following remarks were made in the 'Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser':

"...Rarely has the town of Cardigan shown a more unanimous desire to evince its respect and esteem for one who was so universally beloved, in the person of Mrs R W Picton Evans of Argoed, whose funeral took place at the Cemetery on Monday last. Every place of business was closed en route to and from the place of burial, and blinds of private residences closely drawn. There was an undercurrent of sorrow intense in feeling and which will not easily be forgotten. The funeral cortege – a large and imposing one – left Argoed about 2 p m, and was met by a posse of the County Police, the Corporation, Mace-bearers preceding the Mayor (Mr S Young), wearing his gold chain of office; the Aldermen, Councillors and Borough Officials; the Borough and County Magistrates; members and representatives of public bodies; the tradesmen of the town and public generally, and a number of the principal gentry of the district at large. St Mary's Church was thronged with sympathisers long before the mournful procession arrived. The coffin and hearse were covered with magnificent wreaths..."

R W Picton Evans remained resident here for a time. At the time of the Census on 2nd April 1911 the following persons were living in 13 rooms here: Richard William Picton Evans, aged 38 years, a widower, a solicitor, English-speaking; Richard Arthur Lawrence Picton Evans, aged 8 years, his son, English-speaking; William Picton Evans, aged 5 years, his son, English-speaking; Elizabeth Lewis, aged 46 years, the cook, bilingual in Welsh and English; Elizabeth Anne Thomas, aged 41 years, a domestic nurse, born in Swansea, bilingual; Margaret Mary James, aged 22 years, a Parlour maid, bilingual; and Arthur Lewis Davies, aged 43 years, a domestic motor car driver, born at Llangynllo, bilingual. Except where noted otherwise, they had all been born in Cardigan. On June 30th 1911 Argoed was advertised for sale by auction, which was due to take place at the Commercial Hotel, Cardigan, on August 26th 1911. The house was described as being:

"...now in the occupation of Mr R W Picton Evans, who is leaving at Michaelmas'. The house contains 3 reception rooms, 4 bed and dressing rooms, 2 servants' rooms, 2 kitchens, china, pantry, dairy and other offices, bathroom (h & c) and w c. There is a coach house and stable. With a good range of farm buildings. A productive kitchen garden well-stocked with fruit trees, and 3 fields of superior pasture land, containing altogether 9 acres or thereabouts. The house faces south and commands excellent views. It is protected from the north and west winds..."

In 1912 Col. Richard William Picton Evans became the Mayor of Cardigan. He was re-elected in 1913. On September 5th 1914, four weeks after the outbreak of the Great War, R. W. Picton Evans, who was then the Mayor of Cardigan, volunteered for active service and was accepted at the rank of Captain of the 12th Battalion, Welsh Regiment, serving as the second-in-command of the unit, under Colonel Ommaney. In 1915 he insisted on joining the Cardigan Territorials at Gallipoli and in August 1915 Major R. W. Picton Evans was sent home, suffering from the effects of frostbite and pleurisy. Following his recovery he rejoined the Cardigan boys on service in Egypt. On March 26th 1917 he was wounded at the First Battle of Gaza. In June 1918 he became gravely ill and died on September 13th 1918 from inflammation of the pancreas at the aged of 46 years at No. 47 Stationary Hospital, Gaza. Major R. W. Picton Evans died only three weeks after his brother, Lawrence Evans, had been killed in France.

In 1915 John Morgan lived here. In May 1918 Mr. & Mrs. H. W. Howell lived here – possibly as temporary tenants of the property. Between 1918 and 1929 Titus Morgan and Phoebe Morgan farmed

Argoed. On April 19th 1927 William Eleder Walter Morgan, aged 23 years, a confectioner, the son of farmer Titus Morgan, married Anita Vinora Jenkins of Greenfield Terrace, St. Dogmaels. On November 23rd 1928 John Williams Morgan, the elder son of Mr. and Mrs. Titus Morgan of Argoed, died aged 27 years. He was buried at Penuel Cemaes Baptist Chapel. In August 1929 the 5 bedroom property was advertised for sale. On October 22nd 1929 Titus Morgan (d. 14/03/1942) held a sale of livestock and furniture here.

Early in 1930 Argoed was sold by William Morgan to Mr. Webb-Potter of Brynderwen in the parish of Llangoedmor. Between 1933 and 1940 Mrs. Potter-Jones lived here and attended St Mary's Church. Between 1938 and 1945 the occupiers of Argoed were M. Caroline Georgina Jenkins; Marguerite Potter-Jones, aged 54 years (b. 12/10/1885), a widow, a house gardener; Annie Lydia Webb-Potter, aged 57 years (b. 01/08/1882), unmarried; Emily Elizabeth Webb-Potter, aged 52 years (b. 29/05/1887), unmarried, assisting her brother on the farm; and David Webb-Potter, aged 64 years (b. 06/07/1875), a dairy farmer. Between 1946 and 1955 Emily Elizabeth Webb-Potter lived here. Argoed is marked on the 1953 O. S. map and others. In 1955 Annie Lydia Webb-Potter, David Webb-Potter, Emily Elizabeth Webb-Potter and Marguerite L. Potter-Jones lived here. In June 1957 Mrs. E. M. Mathias of Argoed died. On April 4th 1958 the 4-bedroom property was advertised for sale together with 17 acres of land.

On June 20th 1971 Mrs. Martha Anna ("Pattie") Davies of Argoed, the wife of Thomas Lewis Davies, died. The daughter of Mary and Daniel Davies of Court, Eglwysrwr, she was buried at Ebenezer Baptist Chapel, Llanfair Nant Gwyn. Mr. Thomas "Tom" Lewis Davies lived here between 1971 and 1976. He died on January 12th 1987, aged 87 years, and was buried with his wife at Ebenezer Baptist Chapel, Llanfair Nant Gwyn, where he had been a deacon and the conductor of singing for a number of years.

In 1992 planning permission was granted to build a new barn here.

Description:

Ca 1883 two storey house, rendered walls, slate gabled roof with end stacks. Three window range with central ground floor door and flanking 3-sided canted bay windows.

Sources:

NLW Bronwydd MS 2912; MS 7117
Tithe Map, St. Mary's Parish 1847
Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser 1881-82; 18/12/1896; 1899; 18/05/1900; 03/05/1901; 1902; 1905-06; 15/10/1909; 22/10/1909; 11/08/1911; 15/11/1912; 1915; 20/09/1918; 1928-30; 1934; 1940; 1957-58; 1971
Cardigan Observer 1883; 1889; 19/12/1896; 26/12/1896
Census Returns 1891; 1901; 1911
Aberystwyth Observer 18/04/1895
Kelly's Directory of South Wales 1895; 1914; 1926
St. Mary's Parish Registers, Cardigan
List of Voters – Cardigan 25/07/1910; 1918
Parish of St. Mary Jury List 1919
St. Dogmaels Parish Register – Marriages 1837-1970
Ministers Accounts For West Wales 1277-1306, Myfanwy Rhys 1936
War Census, 1939
O. S. Map 1953 etc.
Post Office Telephone Directory 1955
Trade & Industry in Some Cardiganshire Towns in the Middle Ages, I J Sanders, Ceredigion 1959
Official Programme – National Eisteddfod 1976
Planning Decision – Argoed 13/08/1992
Cardigan Annual Show Catalogue 02/08/1995; 28/07/1999; 02/08/2000
The Phone Book 2003
Cardigan County Agricultural Show, Islwyn & Betty Griffiths 2004.
Cardigan Town Cenotaph, David Griffiths, 2013