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Site Name: **BRYN-Y-MOR; BRIDGETFACH; PRITCHARD-FACH.**

PRN: 24338

My Site File Ref. No.: CARD/BRYN

Site Type: House

N. G. Ref.: SN 169 474

Period: Post-Medieval; Modern

History:

The present name of the property means ‘The Sea Hill’ and it is located on the north bank of the Teifi estuary approximately a mile and a half downstream of Cardigan Bridge. According to Samuel Rush Meyrick ‘*Pitchert*’ was the scene of a revenge attack during the early 14th Century when Gwilym ap Einon, sometime Constable of Cardigan Castle and the founder of Towyn, Ferwig:

“...slew the Irish that dwelt at Pitchert for firing the house of his foster-father...”

The site was recorded circa 1660 as ‘*Y Pichert*’. On July 10th 1686 Jane Yong wrote her will, referring to ‘*Pritchard Vach*’ as her property. She left daughters Jane, Martha, Elizabeth, and Mary Young – Jane inherited Aberdar, Ferwig, where she lived. In 1731 Elizabeth Young, Mary Young and Martha Young lived here. The property then belonged to Thomas Powell of Nanteos. In 1734 Elizabeth Young, Mary Young and Martha Young were still resident. John Edwardes of Treffgarne was then the owner. He died in 1736 and Damaris Owenia Phillips inherited the property. It was shown on Lewis Morris’ 1748 plan of *Cardigan Bay, Bar & Harbour* as “*Bridget fach*”. In 1749 John Davies, a clerk; Raleigh Evans; John Evans, a gentleman; and Cather Owen, a widow, lived here. In 1756 Damaris Owenia Phillips took possession of the property. In 1759 she married Thomas Beynon, a clerk. Both of them died intestate. In 1790 Margaret David lived here. In 1797 John Philipps Laugharne, a nephew to Damaris Owenia, moved in and claimed the property as his inheritance. There is a persistent, yet completely unsubstantiated tradition that Admiral Horatio Nelson (d. 1797) visited this spot, possibly meeting Lady Hamilton here. The Hamilton family are known to have visited Cardigan in the 1850's.

In 1802 Samuel Jones, a master mariner, purchased the property and had the house rebuilt. Arthur Jones had purchased much of the associated land. David Davies and Mrs. Gwynne were referred to as Samuel Jones' tenants here. On November 18th 1819 Samuel Jones of Brynymor and Nantyferwig wrote his will. He referred to his wife Elizabeth Jones; his daughter Mary Davies – the wife of Rev. Daniel Davies of Pendre, Cardigan; and his daughter Sarah Evan – the wife of John Evan. He died and

the property passed to his widow. The property remained with the family – Betsy Evans, Mary Evans and Samuel Jones Evans – until 1878, but was tenanted out. In 1832-33 Eli Phillips lived here. On March 2nd 1833 Eli Phillips of Pritchardfach wrote his will. He referred to his son David Phillips alias David Davies (received £1); his son Eli Phillips (received eight Winchester bushels of barley and all his wearing apparel); his son Owen Phillips (inherited his house in St. Dogmaels, then tenanted to John Davies); his daughter Margaret Phillips (received £5, her mother's chest and her father's best tub); his grandson John Evans – the son of his daughter Anne Evans (received £5 and his watch); Anne Phillips, his wife (received his house in St Dogmaels then tenanted to Thomas Williams, an annuity of £2, four Winchester bushels of barley, his bedclothes and all of the household furniture); John Phillips, his son (two houses in St Dogmaels occupied separately by his daughter Anne Phillips and Elizabeth John Howells and the residue of the estate). The house is marked on an 1834 map by John Wood as “Pritchard fach”. In 1836 John Phillips of this address was a burgess of Cardigan and owned shares in the 33 ton Cardigan ship ‘*Surprise*’. On 6th June 1841 at the time of the Census, the property was occupied by Thomas Jones, aged 60 years, the farmer; Ann Jones, aged 55 years, his wife; and Mary Thomas, aged 15 years, a servant. The property was called ‘Pritchetchfach’. On April 23rd 1841 the following item appeared in the ‘*Welshman*’:

“...CARDIGANSHIRE. TO BE LET, AND ENTERED UPON IMMEDIATELY,

ALL that commodious and delightful Marine Residence called “PRITCHARD FACH” situate in the Parish of Saint Mary, Cardigan, with, or without about twenty acres of good arable and pasture land adjoining the dwelling-house, which is quite new, and well finished; is pleasantly situated on a gentle eminence, and is fit for the reception of a genteel family. It commands a full view of the beach, and of Cardigan bay, and is within a few minutes walk of Cardigan Bar, where the water is quite pure, and the sands very extensive, hard, and firm. The neighbourhood has for many years been the resort of some of the first families in the country, for the benefit of sea bathing.

The house consists on the ground floor, of a dining room, drawing room, kitchen, and pantry; on the first floor of a sitting room, three bed rooms, and a store room and on the second floor of three bed rooms, a dressing room, and store room it has also an excellent spacious underground cellar. The Tide passes, and re-passes in front of the house, and within a few hundred yards of it twice daily, and the grounds about the house, may, at a trifling expense, be tastefully laid out. Pritchard Fach also commands extensive views of the sea, and the country adjacent, is within about a mile of the market and post town of Cardigan, to and from which there is a London mail daily and from its contiguity with the beach, lime and sand for manure may be obtained at a comparatively small expense. For furthers particulars, and for a view of the premises, apply (if by letter, post-paid) to Mr. John Evans, Merchant, Cardigan...”

Between 1843 and 1848 Samuel Jones Evans, a ship-builder, owned Pritchardfach and leased it with 19 acres to the Rev. Thomas Rees, the Vicar of Ferwig and Mwnt. It was recorded variously as “*Pritchardfach*” and “*Bridgetfach*”. From 1843 until 1855 the Revd. Thomas Rees (1800-1864) lived here. He was described as a Dickensian-looking character. He wore thick woollen clothing, heavy cloth gaiters on his legs, stout nailed boots, a thick shawl around his neck and

shoulders, and a bit of black sheep's wool in each ear to keep out the cold. On 30th March 1851 at the time of the Census, “*Pritchardfach*” was occupied by the following persons: Rev. Thomas Rees, aged 48 years, the Curate of Mwnt, born at Llangrannog; Hester Eleanora Rees, aged 49 years, his wife, born at Llanybyther; Thomas Rees, aged 12 years, their son, born at Llanybyther; Elizabeth Rees, aged 10 years, their daughter, born at Llanybyther; David Phillips, aged 31 years, a farm servant, born at Llangoedmor; Margaret Davies, aged 17 years, a farm servant, born at Ferwig; and Mary Evans, aged 16 years, a farm servant, born at Mwnt. Hester Eleanora Rees was the only daughter of John Thomas Watkin & Hester Watkin of Gwndwn, Llangrannog. On February 23rd 1855 Mary Rees, the daughter of Rev. Thomas Rees & Hester Rees, died aged 18 years. She was buried at St Mary's Church. On May 22nd 1855 Thomas Rees, the son of Rev. Thomas Rees and Hester Rees, died aged 16 years. He was buried at St Mary's Church. On March 8th 1861 the following item appeared in the 'Welshman':

“...CARDIGANSHIRE. A VERY DESIRABLE MARINE RESIDENCE. TO BE LET, and entered upon at Lady-Day next, That very desirable farm called PRICHARD-FACH, situate in the parish of St. Mary's, Cardigan.

The premises consist of a commodious and suitable dwelling House, with convenient out buildings and garden. The House contains two underground rooms, parlour, dining- room, kitchen, and dairy on the ground floor. Sitting- room and four bedrooms on the first floor and four bed- rooms for servants in the attics. The farm contains 20 acres of good arable meadow and pasture land. The property is situate on the banks of the far famed Tivy, and commands a fine view of Cardigan bay. It is distant from the market and post town of Cardigan, one mile. The above property is well worthy, the attention of all persons who require a comfortable residence within an easy distance of the sea side. For further particulars, apply to Miss Betsy Evans Pendre, Cardigan...”

On 7th April 1861 at the time of the Census the following persons lived here: John Jones, aged 35 years, the farmer, born at Dolgellau; and Lavinia Jones, aged 28 years, his wife, born at Llangoedmor. On June 27th 1862 the following item appeared in the 'Welshman':

“...CARDIGAN.—AN ALARMING OCCURRENCE.

On Tuesday afternoon last the family of Mr. David Jones of Prichard-fach near Cardigan, were much alarmed by a cannon shot taking ground in a field adjoining the dwelling house, and ploughing up the earth to a great distance. A servant girl was close to the spot where the shot fell, and had she been struck by it she must have been killed. It is supposed to have been fired by some of the Coast Guard at the neighbouring station of St. Dogmells...”

On July 11th 1862 the property was advertised to let, fully furnished, by David Jones, a saddler, of No. 22 High Street, Cardigan. On November 2nd 1863 the christening took place at St. Mary's Church of Ellen Mary Griffiths, the daughter of Thomas Griffiths, an auctioneer, and his wife Anna Maria Griffiths, all of this address.

In 1868 David Jones lived here. On 2nd April 1871 at the time of the Census, Pritchardfach was the home of the following persons: Mary Evans, aged 43 years, a widow, the farmer, born at Cardigan; Elizabeth Williams, aged 50 years, a housekeeper, born at Carmarthen; and Anne Edwards, aged 25 years, a farm servant, born at St. Dogmaels. On March 17th 1876 the property was advertised to let. In 1878 David Jones owned the property. In 1880 it passed to John Mathias, an emigration agent from Liverpool. In 1881 John Mathias opened a Temperance Hotel at Pritchardfach, with an A1 skittle alley, billiards table and refreshments. The occupants at the time of the Census on 3rd April 1881 were: John Mathias, aged 40 years, the farmer of 20 acres, born in Cardigan; Elizabeth Mathias, aged 53 years, his wife, born in Anglesey; Elen Evans, aged 24 years, their married daughter, born in Liverpool; Robert Evans, aged 1 year, their grandson, born at sea on the Pacific; Rosaline Evans, aged 6 months, their grand-daughter, born in Liverpool; Elizabeth James, aged 14 years, a nurse, born in Cardigan; Frances Davies, aged 14 years, a domestic servant, born in Cardigan; and David Davies, aged 28 years, a farm servant, born in Cardigan. On April 23rd 1881 the following item appeared in the '*Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser*':

“...GOOD FRIDAY AT PRITCHARDFACH

This fine sea-side residence, which was purchased by Mr J Mathias, some few months ago, has been thoroughly renovated and considerably improved, a splendid bowling alley – second to none in South Wales – has been laid down and covered in, the field has been cleared, and the place promises under Mr Mathias' energetic proprietorship to become a favourite resort of Cardigan holiday makers. On Good Friday the place was well patronised, large numbers of persons taking advantage of the splendid alley to pass the time in honest rivalry, and others, of the quiet offered by a stroll on the beach, or among the fields. Altogether the opening day was a great success, and we may congratulate Mr Mathias on the complete arrangements made in anticipation of this result...”

On November 10th 1882 “*Bridgetfach*” was advertised for sale with 20 acres of land, and was auctioned at the “Black Lion” on Cardigan High Street, on November 18th 1882. In 1883 John Mathias & Mrs. Mathias still lived here. John Mathias offered the property for sale again on January 23rd 1885. On June 10th 1887 it was advertised to let and on June 24th 1887 it was advertised for sale again.

In 1889 Mary Ann Jones and Esther Jones, both spinsters, lived here. On November 19th 1889, Amy Jones, the eldest daughter of Mr D Jones of Pritchard-fach, married William Phillips of Glanduad Fawr, Meline, at Capel Mair. From 1889 until 1894 David Jones lived here. On 5th April 1891 at the time of the Census, the following persons were living here: David Jones, aged 50 years; Esther Jones, aged 52 years, his wife; Mary Ann Jones, aged 24 years, their daughter; Hugh Jones, aged 22 years, their son, a grocer; David Jones, aged 15 years, their son; Edith Jones, aged 13 years, their daughter; and Arthur Jones, aged 12 years, their son. All of them were bilingual in English and Welsh and hailed from Pembrokeshire. In May 1894 Bridgetfach was advertised to let. John Mathias still owned Brynymor between 1893 and 1895. In March 1895 John Mathias stood as a candidate in the Cardigan Municipal Election, but was not successful.

In 1896 the house was sold to James Adams of Glantivy House, Cilgerran. In 1899 it was referred to as 'Bridget Fach' again. On 31st March 1901 at the time of the Census, it was occupied by the following persons: David Jones, aged 59 years, the farmer, born in Glamorgan; Anne Jones, aged 47 years, his wife, born at Nevern; Elizabeth Jones, aged 26 years, their daughter, born at Whitland; Sarah E. Jones, aged 20 years, their daughter, born at Whitland; George A. Jones, aged 18 years, their son, born at Clydey; Margaret A. Jones, aged 16 years, their daughter, born at Whitland; Annie M. Jones, aged 13 years, their daughter, born at Whitland; David A. Jones, aged 10 years, their son, born at Whitland; Gwendoline Jones, aged 9 years, their daughter, born at Whitland; Charles C. Jones, aged 7 years, their son, born at Whitland; and Elizabeth Adams, aged 83 years, a widow, his mother-in-law, born at Llanrhian. Mr. & Mrs. David Jones still lived here in 1903. In 1907 the occupier was David Jones. At the time of the Census on 2nd April 1911 the following persons were living in 16 rooms here: David Jones, aged 69 years, a farmer, born in Glamorgan; Anne Jones, aged 57 years, his wife for 39 years, the mother of 14 children, ten of whom were still living, born at Nevern; Lizzie Jones, aged 36 years, their daughter a dairy maid; Edith Jones, aged 30 years, their daughter; David Alfred Jones, aged 20 years, their son, an assistant draper; Gwendoline James, aged 19 years, their daughter, a dress-maker's apprentice; and Charles Clifford Jones, aged 17 years, their son, a draper's apprentice. Except where noted otherwise, all of them were bilingual in Welsh and English and had been born in Whitland. On March 1st 1912 "*Bryn-y-Mor*" was advertised for sale with 16 rooms and 20 acres. On September 26th 1912 there was a clear-out sale here for David Jones, who was leaving.

In 1914 Thomas Phillips was the occupier. On November 19th 1915 a former occupier, John Mathias, died at Gordon Terrace, North Road, Cardigan. Private Wilson of Brynymor lost a leg in France during World War I. From 1919 until 1924 Edward Welson lived here. In 1920 Albert Welson was the farmer. Brynymor was advertised for sale again on September 3rd 1920. The building then contained a Drawing Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, Pantry, Cellar, and 10 bedrooms. There were also outbuildings and 20 acres of land. On October 7th 1924 there was a clearance sale held here for Edward A. Welson, who was leaving the property.

From 1926 until 1950 Thomas Hamer was the farmer of Brynymor. In March 1927 John Armstrong, the son of the late Mrs. Thomas of Laundry House, died here aged 19 years. In 1936 Miss Hamer lived here. In the autumn of 1939 the following persons lived here: Thomas Morgan Hamer (b. 02/11/1870), a mason and farmer; Ellen Ann Hamer (b. 03/02/1881), his wife; Elsie Gwladys Hamer (b. 02/07/1910), their daughter, a nurse; and Annie Myra Evans (b. 23/05/1918), a domestic servant. On June 4th 1950 Thomas Hamer, who had farmed here for more than 30 years, died aged 79 years, leaving a widow. On June 29th 1950 Mrs. Ellen Ann Hamer, the widow of Thomas Hamer, died aged 69 years.

In 1955 Josiah James Sutton lived here. From at least 1955 until 1966 Josiah James Sutton lived here. On December 30th 1955 and October 19th 1956 the property was advertised for sale. In March 1966 Josiah James Sutton of Brynymor died.

In 1986 work began on restoring the house, which was made a listed building that year. The work was completed in 1989. A small extension was added for Mr. & Mrs. Young in 1992. That year the house became a Grade II Listed Building. Peter G.

Young & Josephine C. Young lived here from at least 1992 until 2002. On 12th November 1998 Peter Gray Young (b. 08/02/1918) died aged 80 years. In 2003 Peter & Josephine Young still lived here. Mrs Josephine “Jill” C. Young, by then a widow, was still resident between 2005 and 2012. Jill Young (b. 11/06/1928) died on 4th December 2012 aged 84 years. She was buried with her husband at St Thomas' Church, St Dogmaels. In July 2014 the property changed hands after being sold for £800, 000.

Description:

The property was described by CADW in 1992:

“...Early C19 small country house, carefully restored 1985-9. Colour-washed roughcast or rubble stone walls, hipped slate roofs with deep bracketed eaves cornice and 3 stone end stacks. Three-storey, U-plan, the rear wings of uneven length, 3-window and basement west façade. Cambered headed windows throughout with slate sills and mostly renewed sashes, 6-pane to upper floor, 12-pane elsewhere. Centre 6-pane door with traceried overlight in restored plain surround. Fine broad flight of 6 nosed slate steps up. South side has one-window range set to right, lighting stair in south east rear wing, blank east end wall to wing. North side is colour-washed rubble stone, 2-window range, blank east end wall with end stack and one-window range to south return of this wing, the window openings restored (formerly obscured in C20 extension, removed since 1986). Rear wall of main range has door and one window each floor. Pent roof obscuring short sections of cornice, suggesting that rear has been built out slightly.

INTERIOR – Retains good late Georgian detail, panelled doors and window splays, though ground floor cornices appear of later date. Unusual treatment of square lobbies on 2 main floors, with segmental arches on three sides and moulded wood pilasters, oddly thickened to accommodate wider rear wall with an extra roll-mould at corner. Open well stair in south east wing, stick balusters and ramped handrail, service rooms and very narrow service stair in north east rear wing. No obvious sign that an older house is incorporated except that rear entrance and lobbies that give access from wings to main house may be infill between earlier thicker walls.

Slate revetment wall by estuary edge with narrow slipway. Single storey stone 2-room privy north of house with hipped renewed roof...”

Sources:

NLW Egerton MS 2

Cardigan Bay, Bar & Harbour, Lewis Morris 1748

The History & Antiquities of the County of Cardiganshire, Samuel Rush Meyrick 1808

Pembrokeshire Record Office: Abstracts of Wills 1819

Pembrokeshire Record Office: Port of Cardigan Shipping Registers

Map of Cardigan, John Wood 1834

Electoral Register 1843

NLW Minor Deposit 490-9B

Census Returns 1841; 1851; 1861; 1871; 1881; 1891; 1901; 1911
The Welshman 23/04/1841; 08/03/1861; 27/06/1862
Tithe Map for St. Mary's Parish 1847
Parish Records of St. Mary's, Cardigan
Slater's Directory 1868
Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser 1876; 23/04/1881; 1882-83; 1885; 1887; 1889;
1894-95; 1900-02; 1907; 1912; 1915; 10/09/1920; 1921; 1924; 1927; 1949-50; 1955-
56; 1966; 28/12/1984; 16/04/2015
Cardigan Observer 1881-82
Register of Subscribers – Tabernacl C. M. Chapel, Cardigan 1883
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Kelly's Directory of South Wales 1895; 1914; 1920; 1926
A Guide to Cardigan & District, William Edward Yerward James 1899
Annual Report – Tabernacl C. M. Chapel, Cardigan 1901
List of Voters – Cardigan 25/07/1910
Parish of St. Mary Jury List 1919
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The Phone Book 2003.

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