

Site Name: ABERDARE FARM.

Site File Ref. No.: CARD/AH01

Site Type: House; Farm

N. G. Ref.: SN 17042 48231

Period: Post-Medieval; Modern

History:

The property called Aberdare is located close to Nantyferwig near the north side of the mouth of the Teifi estuary, and stands close to the Cardigan-Gwbert road. The place-name seems unlikely to be a 'steal' from the south Wales community of the same name, and probably means the mouth of the 'Dare' – perhaps an earlier name for the Nant-y-Ferwig stream. 'Dare' itself is likely to be a corruption or diminutive of 'derwen' meaning 'oak'. The earliest known reference to the property dates from August 13th 1574 when the “...*tenement and lands...*” of Tythen Aberdare, which were described as being located in Ferwig parish, were in the tenure of Howell David John. Tythen Aberdare was at that time the subject of a £20 mortgage to Rees ap Morgan ap Owen of Richardston in Brawdy, Pembrokeshire, from Owen ap Rees Phellip of Crugbychan, Ferwig. The witnesses of the document were Rees Gwynne, Nicholas ap Rees and Ievan Thomas Griffith Ychan.

On July 10th 1686 Jane Yong, a widow, of Cardigan, who was probably living at Aberdare at that time, wrote her will, which was proved on November 9th 1686. In the document she referred to her daughters: Jane Yong; Martha Yong (who was then a minor); Elizabeth; and Mary Yong. Jane was her chief beneficiary, receiving one yoke of oxen, a pair of four-year-old cows, four more in calf, a yearling heifer, seventy four sheep, thirty four lambs, a horse, two mares and two yearling colts, a breeding sow, a pair of geese and a pair of turkeys, together with one cart with its appointments, a plough with irons, two harrows...

“...and such other implements of husbandry as shall be requisite to manage the husbandry upon the tenement called Aberdare (given and devised unto her by her father's Last Will and Testament) and also all the Corne and grayne that Shal be in the ground, haggard and house of Aberdare, or upon the land called Pritchardvach at the time of my decease...I do further give and bequeath unto my sayd Daughter Jane the Standing bed in the Roome over the outkitchin in the house wherin I now dwell...”

Jane also received other items of furniture and clothing, and it seems she remained at Aberdare. The name ‘Aberdare’ was used by Lewis Morris on his 1748 plan of Cardigan Bay, Bar & Harbour. In 1814 William Jenkins lived here and probably remained here until the 1830's. Based on the architectural details of the building, the present house was probably built at some time between 1820 and 1840. It may have been designed by the Cardigan architect Daniel Evans, as it has certain features similar to those found in some of his other buildings.

On May 26th 1826 Griffith Jenkins of Aberdare, who was a tenant farmer, wrote his will. In it he referred to his son William Jenkins; his married daughter Anne Jones; his son David Jenkins; and his wife Elizabeth Jenkins. On August 16th 1826 David Jenkins of Aberdair was buried at Ferwig Church, having died aged 7 years. He was the grandson of Griffith Jenkins. In June 1828 Griffith Jenkins died here aged 76 years. It is likely that he was buried at Ferwig Church. He left his son William Jenkins the sum of 5/- a year, and his daughter, Ann Jones, received “...*one of my best horses and one of my best cows...*” in the terms of his will. The children of his son, David Jenkins, were left 1/- each. The lease of Aberdare, subject to the terms of a marriage settlement he had made with his son, William Jenkins, passed to his widow, Elizabeth Jenkins, together with the rest of his estate. In September 1833 Charles Alban North died here aged 4 months. As the Jenkins family are referred to at this address both earlier and later than this date, perhaps there was a connection to the family through marriage, or else the property was temporarily let out. Aberdare is marked on John Wood's map of Cardigan of 1834.

On August 26th 1836 Elizabeth Jenkins of Aberdare, the widow of Griffith Jenkins, wrote her will. In it she referred to Anne Jenkins, the daughter of her deceased son David Jenkins; Margaret Jenkins, another daughter of the same David Jenkins – both of these received 1/- each in her will; Thomas Jenkins,

the son of her son – William Jenkins, who received a shelf and dresser; Phoebe Jenkins, the daughter of the same William Jenkins – received her largest brass pan; Anne Jones, her daughter – who received her household furniture, bedclothes and wearing apparel; and William Jenkins, her son, who received the residue of the estate. On 6th September 1836 Elizabeth Jenkins was buried at St Cynllo's Church, Llangoedmor, having died here aged 86 years. It seems likely that her son, William Jenkins, sold the property the following year.

Between 1838 and 1840 the property was owned and occupied by John Phillips. Aberdare was advertised for sale in 1839, described as being a:

“...commodious and substantially built brick marine residence close to Cardigan Bar...”

This is a slightly misleading advertisement, as the building is actually constructed of stone! This error suggests that the building was stuccoed or covered in roughcast render at that time. On January 16th 1839 John and Margaret Phillips, the farmers, had their son, William Phillips, christened at St. Mary's Church, Cardigan. They must have left the property soon afterwards.

At some point between 1839 and 1841 spirit merchant John Gibbs moved here from Cardigan High Street. At the time of the Census on June 6th 1841 the following persons were living here: Matilda Gibbs, aged 50 years, the farmer; Elinor Jones, aged 20 years, her servant; Mary Davies, aged 40 years, her servant; and Griffith Davies, aged 25 years, her servant. All of them had been born in the county of Cardiganshire. Matilda Mitchell, aged 40 years, was also resident. In August 1841 the property, which was then occupied by John Gibbs, was advertised for sale, described as being “...quite new...” On July 14th 1842 John Gibbs of Aberdare Hall, a former Cardigan spirit merchant, was buried at St. Mary's Church in the town, having died aged 65 years. It seems likely that Matilda Gibbs left soon afterwards. In 1847 Aberdare Hall was owned by Mr. Hall and was occupied by the Revd. Evans, together with just over an acre of land. It is marked on the Tithe Map drawn that year. On March 30th 1851, at the time of the Census, the occupiers of Aberdare were: William Jones, aged 34 years, the farmer, born at Llanfihangel; Sarah Jones, aged 36 years, his wife, born at Llantood; Thomas Jenkins, aged 22 years, a servant, born at Tremain; and Margaret Lewis, aged 18 years, a servant, born at Llangoedmor. In May 1851 a daughter was born to the wife of the Revd. William Jones of Aberdare Hall. On September 16th 1853, Charles North died here aged five months. He was the youngest son of the Revd. William North, the Rector of Llangoedmor and a Professor of St. David's College, Lampeter. The family name echoes the 1833 reference, but what the connection with Aberdare is remains unclear.

On April 7th 1861 at the time of the Census, Aberdare Hall was occupied by: Josuah James, aged 49 years, the farmer of 48 acres, born at Cardigan; Sarah James, aged 40 years, his wife, born at Cenarth; and two servants: Abraham Evans, aged 18 years, a carter, born at Capel Colman; and Mary Jones, aged 24 years, a house servant, born at Llangoedmor.

At some point between 1862 and 1868 John Davies and his family had moved here from Nevern to live. Between 1868 and 1875 John Davies was the farmer here. On April 2nd 1871 the following persons were living here at the time of the Census: John Davies, aged 58 years, the farmer of 40 acres; Anne Davies, aged 54 years, his wife; John Davies, aged 23 years, their son; Eliza Davies, aged 15 years, their daughter; Hannah Davies, aged 13 years, their daughter; and Margaret Davies, aged 8 years, their daughter. All of the family had been born in Nevern parish. On July 9th 1875 Aberdare Hall, together with Nantyferwig and 47 acres of land, was advertised for sale. In 1880 Thomas R. Nicholas lived here with Sarah Ellen Nicholas and Mary Charlotte Nicholas, having recently moved here from No. 28 High Street. Thomas R. Nicholas, a bank manager by profession, owned shares in the ‘Cardigan Mercantile Company’ On September 20th 1880 Jane Davies of Aberdare Hall, married David Elias, a carpenter, of Blaenporth. In 1880 Thomas R. Nicholas and John W. Nicholas, both farmers, lived at Aberdare Hall.

Between 1881 and 1891 Thomas James lived here. On April 3rd 1881 the following persons were living here at the time of the Census: Thomas James, aged 50 years, the farmer, born at Eglwysrw; Hannah James, aged 50 years, his wife, born in Cardiganshire; and Mary H. Davies, aged 22 years, a dairymaid, born in Cardiganshire. On December 23rd 1881 Aberdare Hall was advertised to let – Thomas R. Nicholas having moved to live at No. 49 Pendre in the town. The property is indicated on the 1886 and other O. S. maps. At the time of the Census on April 5th 1891, Aberdare Hall was the home of the following persons: Thomas James, aged 61 years, born in Eglwysrw, bilingual in Welsh and English; Hannah James, aged 61 years, his wife, born in Ferwig, Welsh-speaking; Hannah Davies, aged 8 years,

their niece, born in Ferwig, Welsh-speaking; and Elizabeth Morgan, aged 17 years, a servant, born in Ferwig, Welsh-speaking. The James household left soon afterwards and the Jones family then moved here to live.

In 1893 Edith Jones, a spinster, lived at Aberdare Farm. In 1894 Mrs. Jones lived at Aberdare Farm. In 1895 Mrs. Esther Jones was the farmer of Aberdare Farm. On October 29th 1895 Arthur Llewelyn Lewis of Carmarthen married Miss Hannah Jones of Aberdare Farm. The house may have been in use as a guest house in 1899. In August 1899 Samuel Jones began paying towards supporting his father, who lived here. In 1901 the Revd. David Hughes, the Calvinistic Methodist Minister of Tabernacle Chapel in Cardigan, apparently lived here temporarily.

Between 1901 and 1940 John Jones and his wife Anna Jones, who had married about the year 1898, lived and farmed here. On March 31st 1901 the following persons were living here at the time of the Census: John Jones, aged 31 years, born in the parish of Llangrannog, a farmer; and his wife Anna Jones, aged 24 years, born at Cardigan. Both of them were Welsh-speaking. On January 9th 1902 Samuel Jones was born, the son and only child of John and Anna Jones. In 1907 it was stated that William Hope Hall lived here – he was the only surviving son of the late William James Benjamin Hall of Bryntirion, St. Dogmaels, and his wife, Joan Eliza James. On June 17th 1908 Mrs. E. Jones of Aberdare died aged 69 years. On April 26th 1909 Miss Sarah Eliza Mitchell, the third daughter of the late William Wagner Mitchell, died at Aberdare Farm aged 52 years and was buried at Netpool Cemetery, Cardigan.

In August 1909 John Jones of Aberdare Farm was elected to serve as a Deacon of the Tabernacle Calvinistic Methodist Chapel in Cardigan where the family were all members. At the time of the Census on April 2nd 1911 the following persons lived in 13 rooms here: John Jones, aged 42 years, the farmer, born in Cardiganshire; Anna Jones, aged 34 years, his wife for 12 years, the mother of their only child, assisting on the farm, born in Cardigan; Samuel Jones, aged 9 years, their son, at school, born in Cardigan; D Hughes, aged 40 years, their boarder, a Minister of the Gospel, born in Mwnt; Tom James, aged 56 years, a general labourer; and Lizzie Davies, aged 14 years, a general servant, born in Cardigan. All of them were bilingual in Welsh and English. It seems that Anna Jones may have died at some point shortly after this date, and it seems that John Jones married Hannah Jones of Trebared soon afterwards. On October 10th 1916 their daughter, Jane W Jones, was born. Between 1924 and 1926 Evan Ceredig Evans, a retired Cardigan chemist, formerly of No. 11 High Street, lived here and was also a member of Tabernacle Calvinistic Methodist Chapel. He was said to be ill with pneumonia in February 1925. Evan Ceredig Evans died elsewhere on February 10th 1927.

Between 1933 and 1962 Samuel Jones lived at Aberdare Farm. In the autumn of 1939 the following persons lived here: John Jones, aged 70 years (b. 20/06/1869), the farmer; Hannah Jones, aged 62 years (b. 31/03/1877), his wife; Samuel Jones, aged 37 years (b. 09/01/1902), their son, assisting his father as a horseman on the farm; Jane W Jones, aged 23 years (b. 10/10/1916), their daughter; and Joshua Jones, aged 17 years (b. 16/02/1922), a widower, a farmer. In a separate unit lived Dorothy Mackender, aged 37 (b. 19/01/1902), a married woman, and two other persons, probably her children. On March 23rd 1940 Sarah Myfanwy Jones, the elder daughter of Mr. & Mrs. John Jones, married Charles Vaughan Llewelyn Edmunds of Newport in Monmouthshire. On November 10th 1940 John Jones of Aberdare Farm died aged 73 years. He was buried at Netpool Cemetery in Cardigan.

On December 28th 1940 Jane Winifred Jones, aged 24 years, of Aberdare Farm, the daughter of the late John Jones, married Sergeant William Lynn Jones, aged 27 years, of Uplands in Grangetown, Cardigan. Her new husband was the son of Railway Station Master Cornelius Edward Jones. Samuel Jones and Brinley James were the witnesses at the ceremony, which took place at St Mary's Church, Cardigan. On January 4th 1941 Mrs. Hannah "Anna" Jones of Aberdare Farm died suddenly at the age of 63 years, while preparing to go to the funeral of her brother – Tom Jones of Trebared. Her husband had died only a few weeks earlier. She was buried with him at Netpool Cemetery. In 1944 Mr S Jones of Aberdare Hall was a member of Cardigan's Tabernacle Calvinistic Methodist Chapel. Between 1955 and 1976 Mrs. Hannah Jones lived at Aberdare Farm. On April 29th 1962 Samuel Jones of Aberdare Farm, the son of the late Mr. & Mrs. John Jones, died aged 60 years. He was buried at Netpool Cemetery. His widow, Hannah Jones, died on February 23rd 1990, aged 86 years. She was also buried at Netpool Cemetery.

In 1983 permission was granted for a building to be erected nearby for the repair and storage of boats. On October 20th 1989 the property, together with 31 acres of land, was sold by auction at the

Guildhall in Cardigan. In 1992 the house became a Grade II listed building. In July 1998 the 5 bedroom property was advertised for sale with 25 acres of land for £255, 000. In May 1999 it was sold for £245, 000. In 1999 planning permission was granted for building new extensions, a garage and a swimming pool here. Harries Planning Design Management worked on the extensions to the property in a style sympathetic to the listed building. On November 22nd 2001 the property was sold for £310, 000. In September 2002 concerns were raised over plans for a proposed agricultural building here, and planning permission was refused the following month. The property has since been sold again.

Description:

The house was described by CADW in 1992:

“...Circa 1820-40 house in squared blue lias stone with slate roof, coped gables and stone end stacks. Formal 3-window front, 2-storeys with centre attic pediment. Deep bracketed eaves and similar brackets to pediment which has tripartite arched window. 12-pane sashes and centre tripartite 4-12-4 pane sash to first floor; all with cut blue lias voussoirs and slate sills. Similar sashes to ground floor each side of broad arched doorway with voussoirs, ledged door with sidelights and fine traceried fanlight. Windowless stone end walls, whitewashed rear wall with rear wing to left and round arched stair light to right with flanking 12-pane sashes each floor. Rear wing has one 12-pane sash above, door, window and door below. Lean-to on east end.

INTERIOR – Plaster rose in entrance hall, stick baluster staircase...”

Sources:

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Cardigan Bay, Bar & Harbour, Lewis Morris 1748
Will of Griffith Jenkins, Aberdare, 1828.
Cardigan – Map by John Wood 1834
St. Mary’s Parish Registers, Cardigan
Will of Elizabeth Jenkins, 1836
Parish Registers – Llangoedmor
NLW Minor Deposit 490-9B
Census Returns 1841; 1851; 1861; 1871; 1881; 1891; 1901; 1911
The Welshman, 1841
Tithe Map for St. Mary’s Parish 1847
Pembrokeshire Herald 1853
Slater’s Directory of South Wales 1868
Kelly’s Directory of South Wales 1875; 1914; 1926
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Annual Report – Tabernacl C. M. Chapel, Cardigan 1901; 1924; 1944
The History of Cardiganshire, Samuel Rush Meyrick, 1907 edition.
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War Census, 1939
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