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Site Name: **GROSVENOR HOTEL; BRIDGE HOUSE (see also CASTLE CHAMBERS)**

PRN No.: 6493

My Site File Ref. No.: CARD/BSGH

Site Type: Hotel; House

N. G. Ref.: SN 1771 4589

Period: Post-Medieval; Modern

History:

The site, on the south end of the west side of Bridge Street, must have been occupied since at least the middle of the 13th Century. Reference was made on May 3rd 1720 to a newly-erected dwelling house, perhaps here, with quays and wharves belonging to the property, which was then occupied by Jenkin George. The present Bridge House was built or rebuilt about the year 1785, probably for merchant Thomas Davies. He and his brother, John Davies, had maritime interests in Cardigan and Newport, Pembrokeshire, and, through their clever business deals, ultimately held a virtual monopoly on Cardigan's maritime and commercial interests. On April 11th 1785 Anne Davies, the daughter of Anne Davies and Thomas Davies, died aged 9 years. She was buried at St Mary's Church. About the year 1786 Evan Davies, the son of Anne Davies and Thomas Davies, was born. In early 1789 Anne Davies, the wife of Thomas Davies, gave birth to another son, who was christened Lewis Davies. On August 2nd 1789 Lewis Davies died aged 6 months. He was buried at St Mary's Church. About the year 1791 Thomas Davies, the son of Anne Davies and Thomas Davies, was born. About the year 1793 John Davies, the son of the same couple, was born.

From at least 1795 until 1832 Thomas Davies lived here. He was the son of Evan David, who had been a mariner and was a former warden of St. Mary's Church, and the grandson of Jenkin David. On April 4th 1795 David Davies was born, the son and eventual heir of Thomas Davies (who had been born on 17/04/1758). From 1795 until 1840 David Davies lived here. The property was called Bridge House at that time. About the year 1799 Lewis Davies, the son of Anne and Thomas Davies, was born, as was Anne Davies, the daughter of the same couple. On September 17th 1799 Thomas Davies, a son of Thomas and Anne Davies, tragically drowned in the river Teifi, aged 8 years. In 1802 Jane Davies, the daughter of Anne and Thomas Davies, was born. On January 6th 1803 Jane Davies died aged 9 months. She was buried at St Mary's Church. In December 1804 William Davies, the son of Thomas and Anne Davies, who was serving as a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy, was lost at sea in the sloop-at-war ship '*Seagull*', aged 24 years.

By 1805 Thomas Davies was a merchant banker with premises at Bank House, High Street. He was in partnership with the banks of Sir James Esdaile of London and David Morris & Sons of Carmarthen. In 1807 he acquired Parry's Storehouse alias Bridge End Warehouse, together with its' associated wharf and lime-kilns. These were a valuable asset to the growing Davies commercial activities. In 1808 the 86 ton Cardigan brig 'Mary' became the first Davies-owned vessel to trade with the Americas when she landed at Jamaica. In 1809 Ann Davies, the daughter of Thomas Davies, was born here. In 1809 Llywelyn Davies, a son of Captain John Davies, was the Captain of the 126 ton Cardigan brig 'Alliance' (which had been built in Bideford in 1796, with a 12ft draught). On November 24th 1811 Evan Davies, the son of Thomas and Anne Davies, who had worked as a solicitor at Cardigan, died aged 25 years. He was buried at St Mary's Church. In 1813 the Davies' largest vessel, the 146 ton brig 'Eliza', was captured by the French and was conveyed to a French port. Thomas Davies had to send regular payments of money to France for 21 months to maintain the crew until he purchased the vessel back. On August 9th 1813 Thomas Davies' vessel, 'Alliance', which had been a regular timber trader with Sweden, was burnt off the Irish coast by the American warship, 'Argus'. The crew were allowed to take to their boats and survived the ordeal. On November 15th 1813 Thomas Davies, was summoned by the Court Leet at Cardigan:

"...for an encroachment and nuisance in digging and carrying away into Pembrokeshire Gravel from Netpool Bank, being an infringement upon the rights and privileges of the Burgesses of the Town and Corporation of Cardigan..."

In 1814 William Davies, the eldest son of Thomas Davies, was lost at sea. In 1815 William Roberts of Milford, who had married Mary – the sister of Llywelyn Davies – built the vessel 'Albion' for the Davies' of Cardigan and Newport. A 166 ton square stern snow, she was 72ft long with a 23ft breadth. She was 13ft 5 inches high, with two masts and a single deck. Her owners were Llywelyn Davies (her Master); John Davies (the Master's father); Thomas Davies (of Bank House, a Merchant); William Davies (a cousin to John Davies and Thomas Davies); Owen Harries (of Newport); Daniel Evans (also of Newport); and John Owen (of Nevern). Cardigan reached its' peak as a port at about that time, with the Davies family as the prime movers in the associated trade. On January 1st 1817 Captain Thomas Davies accused John Lloyd and David Lloyd of stealing cloth and a quantity of wearing apparel from his warehouse – items which had been salvaged from the wreck of the ship 'Elizabeth & Mary'. Both men were found guilty and were transported for seven years. On April 24th 1818 Lewis Davies, the son of Thomas and Anne Davies, died aged 19 years. He was buried at St Mary's Church. On April 9th 1819 the 'Albion' sailed from Cardigan to St. John's, New Brunswick, in Canada, with twenty seven families of emigrants on board. She arrived on June 12th 1819. She was the first of many such emigrant ships to sail directly from Cardigan to the Americas. In November 1819 she was lost on the Wicklow Bank, together with her master, Llywelyn Davies, and all hands.

In 1820 Thomas Davies of "The Bridge", bought the farm and estate of Parcypratt in the parish of St. Dogmaels. A poster exists from January 1820, advertising the forthcoming sailing of the Davies-owned ship the 'Active' to St. John's, New Brunswick. John Davies was the master, but the poster is actually obviously modified from the previous year's poster advertising the sailing of the 'Albion', and must have been the printer's proof. Thomas Davies was either the

outright owner or a shareholder in the following Cardigan vessels: the '*Active*', 54 tons (1820-25); '*Mentor*' (1824); '*Fishminer*' (1824); '*Nelson*' (1824); '*True Briton*' (1824), '*Victory*' (1824); '*Eliza*' (1824); '*Irish Miner*', 90 tons, (1825); '*Mary & Eleanor*' of Fishguard, (1825); '*Hawke*', (1825); '*Thetis*', (1825); '*Margaret*', 128 tons (1825-30); '*Art*' (1825); '*Princess Royal*' (1825); '*Hope*' (1825); '*Phoenix*' (1825); '*Mary & Eliza*' of Newport (1825); '*Mary*' (1825); '*Lion*' (1825); '*Commerce*' (1825); '*Trident*' (1825); '*Wellington*' (1825); '*Minerva*', (1825); '*Acorn*' (1825); '*Hannah*' (1825); '*Fame*' (1826); '*Jane*' (1826); and '*Erin*' (1828). John Davies owned shares in the following Cardigan ships: '*Eliza*' (1824); '*Ardent*', 50 tons (1825); '*Jane*', 163 tons (1825-26); '*Thetis*' (1825); '*Margaret*', (1825); '*Art*' (1825); '*Mary & Eliza*' of Newport (1825); '*Olive*', (1825); '*Amity*' (1825); '*Elizabeth & Mary*' of Newport (1825); '*Ann*' (1826); '*Aeron*' (1826); '*Letitia*' (1826); and '*Charlotte*' (1826).

David Davies of Bridge House owned or held shares in the following Cardigan ships: '*Three Sisters*', 33 tons, (1825); '*Hawke*' (1825); '*Margaret*', 128 tons (1825-30), '*Hibernia*', 55 tons (1825-37), '*Mary & Eliza*' of Newport (1825); '*Mary*', 55 tons, (1825-36); '*Gleaner*' (1825); '*Trident*', 44 tons, (1825-36); '*Ecton*' (1825); '*Elizabeth & Mary*' of Newport (1825); '*Tivy*' (1825); '*Ceres*' (1826); '*Aeron*', 49 tons (1826-37) '*Ardent*', 125 tons, (1826-36); '*Rosina*' (1828); '*Erin*', 106 tons, (1828-37); '*Gratitude*', 47 tons, (1828-36); '*True Briton*' (1829); '*Ellen*', 112 tons, (1829-36); '*Francis*', 71 tons (1830-36); '*Maria & Ann*', 64 tons (1830-36); '*David*', 35 tons (1830-37); '*Ocean*', 121 tons (1832-36); '*Anna Letitia*', 106 tons (1833-36); '*Victoria*', 79 tons (1834-37); '*Acorn*', 62 tons (1834-36); '*Mary & Eleanor*', 130 tons (1835); '*Minerva*', 38 tons (1836); '*Eliza*', 97 tons, (1836); '*Thetis*', 60 tons, (1836); '*Lion*', 27 tons (1837); '*Commerce*', 51 tons (1837); '*Magdalen*' 102 tons (1837); and '*Sarah Ann*', 114 tons (1838).

On November 7th 1822 Thomas Davies' younger brother John Davies, a merchant, of Bridge House married Lettice or Letitia, the third daughter of the late Richard Jones of Pantirion, St. Dogmaels. They would later have two sons – Thomas Davies, who became a J. P. for Cardigan, and John Davies, who received an M. A. from Jesus College, Oxford. John and Letitia's daughter, Mary Davies, later married John Bowen of Tredefaid, Llantood. In 1823 Thomas Davies acquired a large proportion of the former St. Dogmaels Abbey estate from the Noyadd Trefawr estate. In 1826 Thomas Davies became the Sheriff of Cardiganshire. On August 27th 1827 merchant John Davies, the son of Thomas Davies, died aged 34 years, leaving a widow and three children. He was buried at St Mary's Church. On October 8th 1829 Ann Davies, a spinster, the daughter of Thomas Davies, died aged 30 years. She was buried at St Mary's Church. By 1830 David Davies of Bridge House traded as a lime-burner, a merchant, a rope-maker and a sail-maker from the nearby quay. Thomas Davies died on February 22nd 1832, aged 74 years, "...after a long and painful illness...", leaving a £36, 000 estate (almost £2.5 million at 2020 prices). He was buried at St Mary's Church.

On January 28th 1833 Mary Davies, the daughter of the late Thomas Davies, died aged 48 years. She was buried at St Mary's Church. In 1833 David Davies had the 106 ton ship '*Anna Letitia*', built in Cardigan and named it after his fiancé. On April 8th 1833 David Davies received a license to marry Anna Laetitia Griffith at Eglwysrwrw. In April 1833 Anne Davies, the widow of Thomas Davies, wrote her

will. In it she referred to her grandchildren – Thomas, John & Elizabeth Davies; her sisters Mary Davies and Jane Williams; her nephew Lewis Davies (who was the son of her late sister Sarah Davies); and her son David Davies. On May 21st 1833 David Davies married Anne Letitia, the eldest surviving daughter of Rev. David Griffith of Berllan, Eglwysrwrw – the Vicar of Nevern. Bridge House is shown on John Wood's 1834 map of Cardigan as the property of David Davies. By March 1834 his wife had lost their first child. In 1835 David Davies became an Alderman of the Borough for three years and continued with his rope-making business. On July 27th 1835 David and Anna Letitia Davies had their new-born son and heir, David Griffith Davies (b. 27/06/1835), christened at St. Mary's Church. On January 12th 1836 Mrs. Anne Davies, the widow of Thomas Davies, was buried at St. Mary's Church, having died aged 78 years on January 7th 1836. In 1837 Thomas Davies, the second son of David Davies, was born, and was christened at St. Mary's Church on July 18th. In 1840 David Davies bought Castle Green (Cardigan Castle) and moved there to live that December.

Bridge House was quickly leased out to tenants. On 6th June 1841 the following persons probably lived here at the time of the Census: Ann Owens, aged 35 years, a grocer; John Owens, aged 6 months, probably her son; and Ann Morgan, aged 15 years, a female servant. If so, they were only short-lived tenants at the property. From at least 1843 until 1845 John Hasselby, formerly of High Street, a maltster by profession, was the tenant. From at least 1847 until 1949 Dr. David Owen was the tenant at Bridge House of David Davies of Castle Green. He died in 1849 and his widow then left. In 1851 the Revd. Evan Thomas, formerly of Bassaleg, took up the lease of the property where he lived until 1853. In 1851 Jemima Thomas, the daughter of Ann Thomas and the Revd. Evan Thomas, was probably born here. The following persons lived here at the time of the Census on 30th March 1851: Evan Thomas, aged 32 years, a Baptist Minister, born at Peterstone; Ann R. Thomas, aged 29 years, his wife, born at Tredegar; Thomas G. Thomas, aged 3 years, their son, born at Tredegar; Mary Ann Thomas, aged 1 year, their daughter, born at Bassalleg; Jemima Thomas, aged 1 month, their daughter, born in Cardigan; Mary Stephen, aged 24 years, a general servant, born in Cardigan; and Margaret Jones, aged 34 years, a general servant, born at Cardigan.

It seems likely that a lease of Bridge House had been granted to Launcelot Lowther in the mid to late 1850's. Launcelot Lowther was the son of Launcelot Lowther (1775-1832) and Susanna nee' Stratton (1791-1881). He had been born in Bradford on Avon in 1824 and had married Elizabeth Mynsull. In 1855 Ellen (or Helen) Lowther, the daughter of Elizabeth and Launcelot Lowther, was born (d. 1944). On March 28th 1857 a son, Launcelot Ethelbert Lowther, was born to Mr. & Mrs. Launcelot and Elizabeth Lowther, possibly of this address. On November 28th 1858 another son, Thomas William Lowther (d. 1943), was born to the same couple, as was their daughter Beatrice Lowther in late 1860 (d. 1927). At the time of the Census on 7th April 1861, Bridge House was the home of the following persons: Launcelot Lowther, aged 37 years, born at Bradford-on-Avon; Elizabeth Lowther, aged 28 years, his wife, born at Llanarthen; Ellen Lowther, aged 5 years, their daughter, born at Cardigan; Launcelot Ethelbert Lowther, aged 4 years, their son, born at Cardigan; Thomas William Lowther, aged 2 years, their son, born at Cardigan; Beatrice Lowther, aged 4 months, their daughter, born at Cardigan; and Ann Davies, aged 18 years, their servant, born at Cardigan. On December 21st 1862 another son

was born to Mr. & Mrs. Launcelot Lowther – named Herbert Reginald Lowther (d. 1936). They may have moved elsewhere in the town by 1865 when Arthur Lowther was born, and later on had further children, namely Charles Leopald, born in 1868 (d. 1943); Francis Llewelyn, born in 1870 (d.1948); Laura Sophia, born in 1873 (d. 1896); and Eleanor J Lowther, born in 1879.

On 2nd April 1871, at the time of the Census, the following persons lived here: Susan Lowther (nee' Stratton), aged 81 years, a widow, the mother of the Launcelot Lowther listed above; Eliza Lowther, aged 52 years, her daughter; Harriet Ellen Lowther (1813-82), aged 50 years, her daughter; Mary Selina Lowther (1823-1910), aged 48 years, her daughter. (All of whom had been born at Bradford-on-Avon); and Hannah Young, aged 19 years, a servant, born at Cardigan. As well as her son, Launcelot Lowther, she had a younger son, named Herbert Lowther, who had been born in 1828. Soon afterwards, the Lowthers vacated the property.

On July 5th 1872 David Griffith Davies and Arabella Ann Davies of Bridge House had their son and heir, David Berrington Griffith Davies, christened at St. Mary's Church. It is likely that they moved here soon after their marriage the previous year. On September 26th 1873 David Griffith Davies and Arabella Ann Davies of Bridge House had their daughter Anna Elizabeth Davies, christened at St. Mary's Church. On March 5th 1874 a sale of household furniture and contents was held here as David Griffith Davies had moved to Castle Green, following the death of his father the previous year. On May 29th 1874 David Griffith Davies of Castle Green advertised Bridge House to let.

It seems that the building had been divided into more than one residence at about this time. Between 1880 and 1884 Mrs. Martha Phillips, the widow of draper Levi Phillips formerly of Manchester House, No. 40 High Street, lived at Bridge House. She may have lived here from as early as 1873. Between 1881 and 1901 Mrs. Elizabeth Williams may also have lived at this address. On 3rd April 1881, at the time of the Census, the following persons were living here: Martha Phillips, aged 70 years, a widow, a retired draper, born in Cardigan; Elizabeth Phillips, aged 30 years, her daughter, born in Cardigan; and Sarah Jones, aged 30 years, a general servant. In a separate unit, No. 3 Bridge Street, lived: Elizabeth Williams, aged 48 years, a widow, born at Llawhaden; Sophia Jane Williams, aged 13 years, her daughter, born in Cardigan; and Thomas Williams, aged 7 years, her son, born in Cardigan. In 1883 Martha Phillips attended Tabernacle Calvinistic Methodist Chapel in the town. In 1884 David Griffith Davies lived at Bridge House.

Between 1891 and 1910 Miss Elizabeth Phillips, a younger daughter of the late Mr. Levi Phillips of High Street, lived here. On 5th April 1891 at the time of the Census the following persons lived here: Elizabeth Phillips, aged 40 years, born in Cardigan; Adelaide Wilson, a visitor, born at Begelly; and Ellen Thomas, aged 28 years, a servant, born in Pembrokeshire. In a separate dwelling lived Elizabeth Williams, aged 58 years, a widow, born at Llawhaden; Sarah J. Williams, aged 23 years, her daughter, born at Cardigan; and Thomas Williams, aged 17 years, her son, born at Cardigan. All of the occupants were bilingual in Welsh and English, save for Adelaide Wilson, who could only speak English. In 1894 Miss Sarah J. Williams lived here. New occupants moved into the property soon afterwards.

From 1895 until 1914 Mrs. Anna Sambrook lived here and kept a Temperance Hotel at the property. From 1895 until 1912 her husband, Timothy Sambrook, a watch-maker, also lived and traded here. On September 27th 1898 Rosina Sambrook, the daughter of Anna and Timothy Sambrook, was born here. On January 1st 1899 Rosina Sambrook was christened at St. Mary's Church. On November 3rd 1899 this was "*Sambrook's Temperance Hotel*". On September 6th 1900 Daisy Sambrook, the daughter of Timothy & Anna Sambrook was born, and was christened at St. Mary's Church on October 21st 1900. At the time of the Census on 31st March 1901 the following persons lived here: 1): Elizabeth Williams, aged 68 years, born at Llawhaden; Thomas L. Williams, aged 27 years, her son, born in Cardigan; 2): Elizabeth Phillips, aged 56 years, born in Cardigan; and Esther John, aged 26 years, a domestic servant, born at Llanfihangel. Both of them were bilingual in Welsh and English. On November 20th 1902 Daisy Sambrook, the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Sambrook of Bridge House, died aged 2 years and 2 months. She was buried at Netpool Cemetery. Thomas L. Williams lived here in 1903. Miss Phillips lived at Bridge House in 1905. In May 1910 Miss Elizabeth Phillips of Bridge House, a daughter of the late Levi Phillips, died aged 59 years. Her obituary in the '*Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser*' on May 20th 1910 read as follows:

"...OBITUARY. MISS PHILLIPS, BRIDGE HOUSE.

It is with great regret we have to announce the death, after a long and painful illness, of Miss Elizabeth Phillips, Bridge House, younger daughter of the late Mr. Levi Phillips, Cardigan, which took place on Sunday morning. The deceased lady, who was 59 years of age, was looked up to and esteemed by a large circle of friends, amongst whom she will be much missed. Miss Phillips was well known and beloved by all classes in the town, her sympathy with distress finding in her at all times a ready response, and it is not too much to say that many will have genuine cause to deplore her demise owing to the many occasions on which they were the recipients of kindness from her hands. It may with truth be said in a few words that "To know her was to love her," and she leaves behind her deeply sorrowing friends who will long remember and mourn her memory..."

At the time of the Census on 2nd April 1911 Hannah Griffiths, aged 57 years, a widow leaving by private means, bilingual in Welsh and English and born in Cardigan, lived at Bridge Cottage. The occupants of the nine rooms in Bridge House itself were: Edward Stanley Jenkins, aged 37 years, a timber merchant's manager, born in Cardigan, bilingual in Welsh and English; Mary Caroline Georgina Jenkins, aged 37 years, his wife for six years, born in Llandysul, bilingual; and Sarah Jane Franklin, aged 21 years, a servant, born in Berkshire, English-speaking. On November 16th 1911 auctioneer David Hughes married Lily Sambrook, the daughter of Timothy Sambrook of Bridge House. On June 27th 1913 Timothy Sambrook of the '*Sambrook Hotel*' died aged 54 years, and left a widow and four children. He was buried at Netpool Cemetery. The business, which had traded for 29 years, continued under the management of Mrs. Anna Sambrook. In October 1914 Thomas Sambrook, a jeweller, the son of jeweller Timothy Sambrook, described as being of Cwmavon Road, Blaenavon, married Miss Rosetta Woolcock of No 1 Priory Terrace, the daughter of commercial traveller Richard William Woolcock. The wedding took place at St Mary's Church and R W Woolcock, Arthur Williams and ??? Thomas were witnesses. In 1914 Mrs. Anna Sambrook ran a temperance hotel and a watch-maker's

shop here. On October 6th 1914 chemist Thomas Richard Humphreys, aged 51 years, a widower from Gamisbore Road, London, the son of sculptor Alfred Humphreys, married the widowed Anna Sambrook, aged 47 years, of Bridge House, the daughter of farmer John Thomas. The wedding took place at St Mary's Church and was witnessed by John Henry Jaames and Eveline L Jones. On November 3rd 1915 Mrs. Anna Humphreys, who was leaving, was scheduled to sell the '*Sambrook Hotel*' by auction.

On April 20th 1916 William Henry Hallam of Wolverhampton, married Nance Pugh Jones of *Sambrook's Hotel*. In March 1917 the hotel was still being referred to as '*Sambrook's*'. By September 1917 there had been a change of name, and the hotel was referred to as '*The Grosvenor*'. In January 1920 Mrs. Hallam ran the hotel, which was called the '*Grosvenor Temperance Hotel*'. Miss Jones lived at the "*Grosvenor*" in 1924. From 1920 until 1943 the temperance hotel was run by Mrs. William Henry Hallam and her husband. In June 1926 William Henry Hallam opened a restaurant at New Manchester House. On December 8th 1929 the roof of the hotel blew off in a storm. On December 13th 1929 the incident was reported in the '*Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser*':

“...*HOTEL ROOF BLOWN OFF AT CARDIGAN.*

The Grosvenor Hotel, Cardigan, suffered extensive damage during the storm which raged on Sunday evening, the roof of the main part of the building being stripped off by what could have been nothing less than a cyclone. Heavy rafters, some eight to ten feet long, and a match-boarded ceiling of a room in the top storey, not to speak of a large quantity of slates, were whisked away by the fury of the wind, most of the debris falling into the narrow street and completely blocking the roadway to all traffic. A part of the timber and slates were carried a distance of fifty yards down the hill, and it was miraculous no-one was injured.

Mr Hallam, proprietor of the hotel, seen by our representative, said that at 6.15 he was about to leave to go to Church, and had opened the front door, when he turned back to put on a heavier overcoat. He had hardly closed the door when there was a terrific crash. From a front window he saw timber and slates strike against the opposite houses, smashing many of the windows, and rebounding against the hotel wall. To make matters worse the electric wires were broken and the building was plunged into darkness. The slates and much of the timber, added Mr Hallam, were twirled in the air by the cyclone

Had Mr. Hallam not turned back he would certainly have been caught under the falling debris. A cyclist, too, had a very narrow escape. He was seen by Mr Hallam riding up the hill immediately before the crash. Fortunately he pedalled up the steep portion of the hill, and had he dismounted he would without doubt have suffered fatal injury

Police-constables Owen Jones and Gwilym Owen were soon on the scene and rendered yeoman service in removing furniture and stores from the top floor and closing part of the aperture. Without their splendid help and that of other friends, the damage would have been much greater.

Heavy rain fell in the early hours of the morning and added to the confusion.

Mr and Mrs Hallam wish to thank all friends who so kindly assisted in removing the furniture etc. to a place of safety, and should like to mention the names of Police-constables Owen Jones and Gwilym Owen, and also Mr Caradoc Evans, superintendent of the Prudential Assurance Co, who worked strenuously for several hours at great risk of their personal safety on Sunday night..."

Between 1930 and 1937 Mrs Hallam was a member of Capel Mair Congregational Chapel on Feidrfair. Between 1933 and 1938 Mr C E Morris occupied the Grosvenor Hotel and attended Mount Zion English Baptist Chapel on Priory Street. On December 26th 1934 William Hallam, the father of William Henry Hallam, died aged 84 years. Between 1935 and 1950 Albert Hallam, the son of Anne and William Hallam, lived here. On December 26th 1935 Morfydd Thomas, aged 24 years, of the Grosvenor Hotel, the daughter of collier Gwilym Thomas, married fruiterer Thomas George Frith Bisgood, aged 24 years, of No. 29 Pendre, the son of motor driver George Yates Bisgood. The wedding took place at St Mary's Church and W Lynn Thomas and Jenny W Jones were the witnesses. On 5th March 1936 Evan Griffith Owen of the Grosvenor Hotel, Cardigan, purchased a grey Morris Coupe car, registration number EJ 4691. On 18th January 1937 William Henry Hallam of the Grosvenor Hotel purchased a black Austin Saloon motor car, registration number EJ 5126.

On April 9th 1937 a reunion of Master Mariners was held here. On April 21st 1937 Albert Hallam, the son of Mr. & Mrs. William Henry Hallam, married Miss Edna Hopkins of Swansea. On September 18th 1937 Morfydd Elmes of the Grosvenor Hotel, the daughter of labourer Richard Elmes, married fruiterer David Roger Davies of No. 19 Eben's Lane, the son of clog-maker Griffith Lloyd Davies. The wedding took place at St Mary's Church and Griffith Thomas Phillips, D M Griffiths and E G Davies were the witnesses. At the outbreak of World War II in 1939 Mr W H Hallam became an A R P Warden. On 30th June 1939 William Henry Hallam of the Grosvenor Hotel purchased a maroon Morris Saloon car, registration number EJ 6306. On 12th August 1939 master mariner Thomas J Evans Llewelyn, aged 44 years, a widower, the son of master mariner David Llewelyn, married Margaret Elizabeth Davies, aged 37 years, of Eryl, St Dogmaels, the daughter of master mariner David Davies. The marriage took place at St Mary's Church, and D Davies and Thomas Morris were the witnesses. In February 1940 Albert Hallam was a sergeant in the army. On 1st June 1940 Gerald Ivor Hitchcox, aged 26 years, a research engineer, the son of retired schoolmaster Ernest Charles Hitchcox, married Alison Wild, aged 29 years, the daughter of textile agent Hugh Sykes Wild, both of Grosvenor Hotel. The marriage took place at St Mary's Church and was witnessed by Leonard Walter Jubb and Margaret Nancy Jubb. On June 8th 1940 Charles Edward Morris of the Grosvenor Hotel died aged 74 years. He was buried at Netpool Cemetery. On August 14th 1943 Mrs. Anne Hallam, the wife of William Henry Hallam, died aged 57 years. She was buried at Netpool Cemetery. On October 18th 1944 William Henry Hallam died aged 69 years. He was buried at Netpool Cemetery. In November 1945 Lieutenant Hubert Maxwell Davies of the Grosvenor Hotel became the Deputy Lieutenant for Cardiganshire. In April 1948 Hubert Maxwell Davies lived here.

On March 2nd 1951 the 13-bedroom “*Grosvenor Hotel*” was sold by auction for £4, 500. Bridge House was made a Grade II listed building in 1961. On March 28th 1975 the ‘*Tivy Restaurant*’ opened here. On September 10th 1976 the ‘*Grosvenor*’ was sold by auction to Glan Davies. In 1992 it was confirmed as a Grade II listed building. On December 17th 1993 the old horse chestnut tree outside fell during a gale. Owner Glan Davies died in 1994. In 1999 planning permission was granted for the demolition of an extension and its replacement by a new extension.

In January 2004 a major refurbishment of the building was commenced by contractor Paul Edwards. New railings were erected around the forecourt and the building was given a new roof covering. The interior was completely gutted in June and nearly all of the original features were removed. The pub re-opened in December 2004. Also in November 2015 a chimney stack at the south east corner was rebuilt. The pub/restaurant continued to trade in 2020. It was closed temporarily in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 virus. It re-opened, in a limited manner, in July 2020 and more fully in 2021.

Description:

In 1992 the building was described by CADW:

“...Later C18 house, now inn, roughcast with slate roof, hipped at south east angle, and brick south end stack. Two and a half storeys, 3-window range with paired bracket eaves and matching central pedimental gable. Gable has tripartite lunette with original small-paned sashes, first floor has 3 12-pane sashes with slate sills, centre sash not aligned with lunette and ground floor has 12-pane sash to left, centre door not aligned with window above and 4-12-4 pane canted bay to right, also not aligned. Six-panel door with lozenge-tracery overlight in painted timber doorcase, panelled piers and head, shelf hood on brackets.

South end wall has bracket eaves, 2-window range, widely spaced, 12-pane sashes above, door and C20 curved bow window below. Attached to west is 3-storey house, roughcast to match with cambered-headed sash windows, 2 9-pane sashes to second floor, 4-12-4 pane bowed oriel to first floor left, 12-pane sash to right; 12-pane sashes to ground floor and centre 6-panel door with overlight, the doorcase stripped away to reveal blue lias surround.

INTERIOR – Ground floor altered...”

FURTHER OBSERVATIONS (2007) – Following 2004 refurbishment, S wall bow window replaced with canted bay having small-paned lights. Blue lias surround to doorcase concealed with render. Interior completely gutted.

Sources:

Cardigan (illus.), J Wood 1812

Leet Court Presentments : Cardigan, Dyfed R. O. 1813

Pembrokeshire Record Office: Port of Cardigan Shipping Registers

The Cambrian 1822

Ledger of David Davies, Bridge House & Castle Green 1830-54

NLW Llwyngwair MS 17009
Draft Will of Thomas Davies, Bridge ca1832
Map of Cardigan, J Wood 1834
Pigot's Directory 1844
St. Mary's Parish Register, Cardigan
Census Returns 1841; 1851; 1861; 1871; 1881; 1891; 1901; 1911
List of the Sheriffs of Cardiganshire, John Roland Phillips 1868
Post Office Directory 1871
Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser February 1874; 1880; 1883; 1894; 1897-1902;
1904-06; 20/05/1910; 1911; 1913-18; 1920-23; 1926-27; 13/12/1929; 1934-38; 1940-
44; 16/11/1945; 1946; 1948; 1950-51; 1972; 1975-76; 1993; 09/11/1995; 15/10/1997;
10/03/1999; 24/11/2004; 24/10/2006; 03/11/2015
Kelly's Directory of South Wales 1875; 1884; 1895; 1914; 1926
Register of Subscribers – Tabernacl C. M. Chapel, Cardigan 1883
List of Voters – Cardigan 25/07/1910
Register of Electors – Cardigan 1912
Postcard – Grosvenor Hotel, New Centurion Publishing c1930
Maritime Heritage, J Geraint Jenkins 1982
Cardigan & the Lower Teifi Valley in Old Photographs, Dyfed Cultural Services 1989
Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest – Cardigan, CADW 1992
Caring For Cardigan 1998
MIs, St Mary's Church, Cardigan
MIs, Netpool Cemetery, Cardigan

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Images:

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