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Site Name: **IMPERIAL HOUSE; former TINTERN COTTAGE, No. 2 CHURCH STREET.**

PRN: 57356

Site File Ref. No.: CARD/CSIH

Site Type: House

N. G. Ref.: SN 1799 4602

Period: Post-Medieval; Modern

History:

The house may have been built before 1825 for Patrick Brown, a merchant and banker, and a burgess of Cardigan since April 20th 1812. He came to Cardigan as the manager of the town's branch of 'Wilkins, Wilkins & Jones' Bank'. The architect of the building was probably Daniel Evans, or possibly his father, David Evans. It was originally named 'Tintern Cottage'. From at least 1825 until 1847 Patrick Brown lived here. Patrick Brown owned shares in the following Cardigan ships: "*Commerce*", 59 tons (1825-37); "*Prince Regent*", 69 tons (1825); '*Hope*', 129 tons (1825); '*Lion*', 35 tons (1825-37); '*Wellington*', 65 tons (1825-37); '*Heart of Oak*', 137 tons (1825-45); "*Arden*", 63 tons, (1825-39); '*Neptune*', 49 tons, (1827-36); '*Friends*', 97 tons (1828-36); '*Hope*', 22 tons, (1829-37); '*Hero*', 61 tons (1830-36); "*Emerald*", 49 tons, (1836); "*Mary*", 55 tons, (1836-39); "*Fame*", 78 tons (1836); "*Aran*", 34 tons (1836); "*Shannon*", 99 tons (1836); "*Vulcan*", 85 tons (1836); "*Gleaner*", 84 tons (1836); "*Erin*", 106 tons, (1837); "*Betsey*", 104 tons, (1837-43); "*Expedition*", 37 tons, (1837); "*Confidence*", 106 tons (1837); and "*Harmony*", 70 tons (1838).

On February 6th 1832 Mrs. Patrick Brown died aged 45 years. In 1834 the building was marked on John Wood's map of Cardigan, together with the attached property, as belonging to Patrick Brown. Patrick Brown, the manager of the Cardigan branch of the Brecon Old Bank, joined the Cardigan Borough Council in 1835 and his name appears regularly on the rolls of burgesses between 1836 and 1842. In November 1839 Patrick Brown became the Mayor of Cardigan. At the time of the Census on 6th June 1841 Patrick Brown, aged 55 years, a merchant, lived here with Mary Brown, aged 20 years, probably his daughter; and their servants Elizabeth Davies, aged 45 years, and Anne Jones, aged 25 years. Between 1841 and 1844 Patrick Brown, a merchant, ran his business from Arthur's Quay. Patrick Brown retired from the borough council in November 1846 and had died before September 9th 1847 aged 63 years. On October 8th 1847 the following item appeared in the '*Pembrokeshire Herald*':

“...We regret we have to announce the demise of Mr. Patrick Brown, which event took place on Tuesday last. He had filled the various offices in the corporation with credit and satisfaction. He served the office of mayor of Cardigan in the memorable election of 1841, when the poll-books were missed, and was examined before a committee of the House of Commons, on the subject. In consequence of his death the situations of clerk of the taxes and to the board of guardians will be vacant...”

It seems likely that the property was disposed of soon afterwards. From at least 1853 until 1855 Thomas Davies lived here. On March 7th 1853 a draft marriage settlement of the Parkypratt estate, St. Dogmaels, was drawn up between Thomas Davies of Tintern Cottage and Bridge House, Bridge Street, and Jane Lloyd of Glanafon, Prendergast. In 1853 Thomas Davies owned shares in the 166 ton Cardigan ship ‘*Levern*’. On May 24th 1854 Thomas Lloyd Davies (b. 24/04/1854) was christened at St. Mary’s Church, the son of Thomas Davies and Jane Davies – Thomas Davies was then the Mayor of Cardigan. In 1854 Thomas Davies owned the 24 ton Cardigan ship ‘*Maria*’. On July 3rd 1855 Eliza Jane Davies, the daughter of Thomas and Jane Davies, was christened at St. Mary’s Church, Cardigan. In 1855 Thomas Davies owned shares in the 30 ton Cardigan ship ‘*Anne Mary*’. In the summer of 1856 the Davies family moved to Cardigan High Street. On July 11th 1856 “Tintern Cottage” was advertised to let in the ‘*Welshman*’:

“...TOWN OF CARDIGAN. TO BE LET, AND ENTERED UPON AT MICHAELMAS, OR SOONER IF REQUIRED, TINTERN COTTAGE, CONTAINING Dining Room, Drawing Room, five Bed-Rooms and Dressing Room, Kitchen, Cellars, Water Closet, and other Conveniences, Garden, Stable, and Coach House. It commands a view of the river Tivy. For particulars apply to Mr. RICHARD D. JENKINS, Solicitor, Cardigan. Cardigan, July 9, 1856...”

William Wagner Mitchell (1828-91) and his family then moved from Pendre to this property to live. His wife was Ann nee' Morgan (formerly of Newcastle Emlyn). On February 4th 1864 John Frederick Mitchell of Tintern Cottage, the fourth son of Ann and William Wagner Mitchell, was buried at St. Mary’s Church having died aged 7 months. The family probably moved out not long afterwards.

By 1867 until 1883 William Picton Evans and his family occupied Tintern Cottage. In 1867 William P. Evans joined the Cardigan Company of Rifle Volunteers. On January 5th 1871 Cecil Elizabeth Evans, the daughter of William Picton Evans and his wife Margaretta Elizabeth Evans, was christened at St. Mary’s Church. On 2nd April 1871 at the time of the Census the following persons were living here: William Picton Evans, aged 33 years, a solicitor, born in Haverfordwest; Margaretta Elizabeth Evans, aged 24 years, his wife (nee’ Jenkins, the daughter of Richard David Jenkins of the Priory), born in Cardigan; Cecil Elizabeth Evans, aged 4 months, their daughter, born in Cardigan; Ann Nash, aged 21 years, a servant, born at Llandygwydd; Sarah Webb, aged 29 years, a servant, born in Pembrokeshire; and Eliza Lewis, aged 17 years, a servant, born at Llandygwydd.

On October 31st 1872 Richard William Picton Evans was christened at St. Mary’s Church – the son of William Picton Evans and Margaretta Elizabeth Evans. In 1873 William Picton Evans owned shares in the 56 ton Cardigan ship ‘*Heatherbell*’.

On March 30th 1874 Edith Margaretta Evans, the daughter of William Picton Evans and his wife, Margaretta Elizabeth Evans, was christened at St. Mary's Church. On November 21st 1875 a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. William Picton Evans and was christened Lawrence Picton Evans two days later at St. Mary's Church. William Picton Evans was a solicitor. Another son was born to the same couple here on November 30th 1877. The infant died on February 10th 1878. In May 1878 William Picton Evans, a solicitor, was a shareholder in the 'Cardigan Mercantile Company'. In 1880 William Picton Evans was described as a J. P., solicitor and ship-owner. On 3rd April 1881 at the time of the Census the following persons were living here: William Picton Evans, aged 43 years, a solicitor; Margaretta Elizabeth Evans, aged 34 years, his wife; Cecil Elizabeth Evans, aged 10 years, their daughter; Richard William Picton Evans, aged 8 years, their son; Edith Margaretta Evans, aged 7 years, their daughter; Lawrence Picton Evans, aged 5 years, their son; Maria Evans, aged 41 years, his sister, a visitor; Ellen Stephens, aged 22 years, a schoolteacher; Sarah Webb, aged 41 years, a domestic nurse; Margaret Thomas, aged 30 years, the cook; Ellen Jones, aged 27 years, a housemaid; Elizabeth Lewis, aged 16 years, an under-housemaid; and David James, aged 17 years, the groom. By May 1883 William Picton Evans had moved to No. 2 Belmont, Pendre.

Tintern Cottage was advertised to let on August 31st 1883. From 1884 until 1891 Daniel Davies lived here. On July 13th 1884 a son, Reynold Davies, was born here to Jessie Davies, the wife of Daniel Davies, a merchant. On 5th April 1891 at the time of the Census the following persons were living here: Daniel Davies, aged 36 years, a merchant and commercial traveller; Jessie Davies, aged 35 years, his wife; Nellie Davies, aged 9 years, their daughter; Gladys Davies, aged 8 years, their daughter; Reynold Davies, aged 6 years, their son; Henrietta Lewis, aged 24 years, a servant; and Elizabeth Evans, aged 16 years, a servant. All of them had been born in Cardigan and were bilingual in Welsh and English. On April 22nd 1892 Mrs. Hannah Davies was about to open a Private School for Young Ladies here. On September 17th 1892 William Richard Eveleigh, aged 23 years, a sailor, of Tintern Cottage, the son of the late John Lewis Eveleigh, married Margaret Lewis of the 'Lamb Inn', Finch Square, aged 23 years, the daughter of the late Benjamin Lewis. The wedding took place at St Mary's Church and was witnessed by Thomas Lewis and Margaret Ann Lewis. Between 1893 and 1895 Evan Davies lived here. On December 4th 1893 Lillie Maud Davies, the daughter of Evan Davies of Tintern Cottage, died aged 16 years and was buried at Ferwig Church six days later. On December 30th 1894 Hugh Howell Davies, the son of Evan Davies, died aged 8 years and was buried at Ferwig Church on 2nd January 1895. On January 27th 1895 a son was born here to the wife of rural postman Evan Davies. Tintern Cottage was advertised for sale on August 16th 1895. On September 26th 1898 the following item appeared in the 'Evening Express':

“...DOUBLE ACCIDENT IN CARDIGAN CHURCHYARD.

ONE LAD KILLED AND ANOTHER INJURED.

Alfred Davies, aged ten, Arthur Davies, aged twelve, sons of Mr. William Davies, manager for Mr. T. M. Daniel, of the Tivy Cycle Works, who resides at Tintern Cottage, met with serious accidents in Cardigan Churchyard on Friday morning. They had climbed a tree in search of horse chestnuts, when the branch on which was the younger lad gave way, and he fell on a tombstone. During his descent

he collided with his brother, who also fell to the ground. Alfred sustained a fracture of the skull, and was otherwise so seriously injured that he died early on Saturday morning. Arthur had his arm broken, and received a number of scratches..."

On 31st March 1901 the following persons lived here at the time of the Census: William Davies, aged 41 years, a bicycle-maker; Ann Davies, aged 39 years, his wife; William T Davies, aged 15 years, their son, a bicycle-maker's apprentice; Arthur L Davies, aged 13 years, their son, a milk-carrier; Elizabeth A Davies, aged 12 years, their daughter; Richard M Davies, aged 9 years, their son; Hannah Davies, aged 8 years, their daughter; Rachel Davies, aged 6 years, their daughter; and Alfred B Davies, aged 2 years, their son. William Davies of Tintern Cottage was a member of Cardigan's first Fire Brigade. On June 7th 1902 William Davies of Tintern Cottage died aged 42 years. On March 27th 1903 Tintern Cottage was advertised for sale.

On October 26th 1906 it was suggested that the building could be used as the venue for the Imperial (Conservative) Club. By March 22nd 1907 they had acquired it and suggested that neighbouring Short Row should change its' name to Imperial Terrace! Between 1910 and 1912 Sergeant-Major Robert Fearnley lived here. On 2nd April 1911 the following persons lived in nine rooms here at the time of the Census: Robert Fearnley, aged 44 years, a Sergeant Major and Army Pensioner, club caretaker, born at St Helen's, Lancashire; Lucy Fearnley, aged 40 years, his wife for 19 years, mother of their seven children, six of whom were still living, born at Gibraltar, bilingual in English and Spanish; William John Fearnley, aged 18 years, their son, a printer's apprentice, born at Gibraltar; Lucy Jane Fearnley, aged 14 years, their daughter, born at Durban, India; Frederick Robert Fearnley, aged 12 years, their son, at school, born in Cardigan; Arthur Edward Fearnley, aged 11 years, their son, a scholar, born in Cardigan; Louise May Fearnley, aged 9 years, their daughter, a scholar, born in Cardigan; Margaret Fearnley, aged 8 years, their daughter, a scholar, born at Cardigan; and Arthur Moore, aged 17 years, a boarder, a plasterer's apprentice, born in Llansteffan. All bar the last-named, who was bilingual in Welsh and English, spoke English only.

Sgt Major Robert Fearnley rejoined the army during the 1914-18, during which his second son – Frederick Robert Fearnley – served as a Private in 'B' Company, 1st/5 battalion South Lancashire Regiment (55th West Lancashire Division). Freddie Fearnley was wounded at Givenchy in early April 1918 and had to have his right leg amputated on April 14th. He died on April 29th 1918, aged 19 years. His brother, William, who had been an employee of the '*Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser*' before emigrating to Canada and serving with the Canadian Army in France managed to visit him before he died. Another brother of Freddie was Arthur Edward Fearnley, who served as a gunner aboard H M S *Dublin* at the Battle of Jutland on May 31st 1916, when he was aged just 16 years.

In 1914 Benjamin Evans was the Secretary of the Conservative Club. On May 18th 1915 Alfred B C Davies of Tintern Cottage, the youngest son of William and Anne Davies, died aged 17 years. He was buried at Netpool Cemetery. On March 7th 1918 William John "Willie" Davies, the son of Mr. & Mrs. William and Jane Anne Davies of the Imperial Club, died aged 11 years of injuries sustained when he was knocked down by a bus. He was buried at Netpool Cemetery. Imperial House was advertised for sale on February 21st 1919. On May 26th 1919 the property was

advertised for sale. On 31st May 1919 William John Davies of the Imperial Club purchased a black 2 seater Ford car for trading purposes, registration number EJ 214. on the same day he purchased a 4-seater black Ford motor car for use as a public conveyance, registration number EJ 307. On August 16th 1921 Sarah Ann Ladd, aged 18 years, of No. 2 Church Street, the daughter of the late John Ladd, a tailor, married steel worker William David Morgan, aged 21 years, of Cwmplysgog, Cilgerran, the son of quarry man John George Morgan. The wedding took place at St Mary's Church and David Owen Ladd and Lizzie Mary Morgan were the witnesses. The club was still located here between 1923 and 1929. In October 1926 tenders were being sought for the redecoration of the Imperial Club, where D B James was the secretary. On October 29th 1926 it was announced that the old stables here were to be demolished. In March 1927 the 'Territorials Club' opened here. In February 1929 tenders were sought for replacing the chimney stacks. In March 1929 J J Davies of Craigfryn, Cilgerran, submitted a tender for redecorating the building. The work also included installing a new kitchen range and parlour grate. In the autumn of 1939 Beryl Noott (b. 14/10/1914), a married woman, lived here.

In July 1970 planning permission was being sought for converting the building into flats. In 1982 there were plans to turn the ground floor into a restaurant, though these were withdrawn in January 1983. The building was Grade II 'listed' in 1992. In 1997 planning permission was granted to divide the property into five flats. The alterations, begun in 1998, retained, though enclosed, the staircase, but removed most other internal features.

Description:

The house was described in 1992 by CADW:

"...Earlier C19 villa, now flats, in squared blue lias stone with slate roof and large black brick end wall stacks. Two storey 3-window south elevation to Church Street with large timber bracketed cornice, 3 first floor 12-pane sashes with slightly cambered rendered heads and 3 ground floor arched-headed sashes with radiating glazing bars, the stone frames recessed, with rendered arched heads. Slate sills. Two basement cambered-headed windows with iron grilles. Large C20 dormer. East side wall has slate course across gable, attic window, first floor 12-pane sash and 6-panel door, all in centre, with long pointed arched stair light to right, small paned with intersecting glazing bars. Door has traceried overlight and is set in timber tent porch with altered wooden posts to outer angles.

Rear wall has 3 windows above and below and large 6-panel door with traceried overlight and hood on brackets. Two basement windows.

INTERIOR – Open-well stair with stick balusters at east end, 2 flights and landing..."

ADDITIONAL (2007) – 1998 Renovations removed C20 dormer and staircase was boarded in.

Sources:

Pembrokeshire Record Office: Port of Cardigan Shipping Registers
Cambrian Journal 18/02/1832
Map of Cardigan, J Wood 1834
NLW Minor Deposit 490-9B
Census Returns 1841; 1871; 1881; 1891; 1901; 1911
Pigot's Directory of South Wales 1841; 1844
NLW Eaton Evans & Williams MSs 2947; 5597
The Welshman 1856
Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser 1870; 1872; 1875; 1877-78; 1880; 1883-84; 1892-93; 1895-96; 1902; April 1903; 1906-07; 1918-19; 1923; 1926-27; 1929; 04/08/1950; 1970
Parish Records of St. Mary's, Cardigan
Evening Express, 26/11/1898
List of Voters – Cardigan 25/07/1910
Register of Electors – Cardigan 1912
Kelly's Directory of South Wales & Monmouthshire 1914; 1926
All About Cardigan, Cardigan Chamber of Commerce 1923
Ledger – J J Davies, Craigfryn, Cilgerran
War Census, 1939
The Gateway to Wales, W J Lewis 1990
Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest – Cardigan, CADW 1992
Cardigan Town Cenotaph, David Griffiths, 2013

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