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**Site Name: No. 1 CAMBRIAN QUAY; 'CAMBRIAN INN'.**

**PRN:** 57352

**My Site File Ref. No.:** CARD/CAM1

**Site Type:** House; Inn

**N. G. Ref.:** SN 1767 4590

**Period:** Post-Medieval; Modern

**History:**

The present building, which stands on the quay, facing the river, dates from about 1850. It is not marked on the 1847 Tithe Map. On 30<sup>th</sup> March 1851 the following persons probably lived here at the time of the Census: David Thomas, aged 55 years, a culm merchant, born in Eglwysrwrw; Margaret Thomas, aged 53 years, his wife, born in Llanfairnantgwyn; Hannah Thomas, aged 12 years, their daughter, a scholar, born in Llanfairnantgwyn; and Dinah Thomas, aged 10 years, their daughter, a scholar, born in Llanfairnantgwyn. On 7<sup>th</sup> April 1861 the following persons may have been living here at the time of the Census: Margaret Thomas, aged 63 years, a merchant's wife; Hannah Thomas, aged 22 years, her daughter; and Dinah Thomas, aged 20 years, her daughter. All of them had been born in Pembrokeshire.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1871 at the time of the Census the following persons were living here: Margaret Thomas, aged 74 years, a culm merchant, born in Pembrokeshire; Hannah Thomas, aged 31 years, her daughter, born in Pembrokeshire; David Richards, aged 22 years, her grandson, a mariner, born in Mynachlogddu; William James, aged 25 years, her nephew, an ironmonger, born in Mynachlogddu; John O. Griffiths, aged 37 years, her son-in-law, a master mariner, born in Cardigan; Dinah Griffiths, aged 30 years, her daughter, a mariner's wife, born in Pembrokeshire; Margaret Griffiths, aged 6 years, her grand-daughter, born in Cardigan; Catherine Griffiths, aged 4 years, her grand-daughter, born in Cardigan; and David J. Griffiths, aged 1 year, her grandson, born in Cardigan. By April 18<sup>th</sup> 1871 the "*Cambrian Inn*" was trading here – it may have been opened by Margaret Thomas soon after she was widowed. From at least 1871 until 1877 Margaret Thomas traded here as a beer retailer and coal and culm merchant. On March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1877 Mrs. Margaret Thomas, aged 78 years, died at Cambrian House. The property seems to have passed to her daughter, Hannah, who had married a Mr Lewis before 1873, but was widowed before 1881.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1881 at the time of the Census, No. 1 was occupied by: Hannah Lewis, aged 42 years, a widow, trading as a coal merchant, born in Llanfair Nantgwyn; David Lewis, aged 8 years, her son, born in Cardigan; Hannah Francis, aged 16 years, a general servant, born in St Dogmaels; David Jones, aged 21 years, a lodger, a student, born in Cardigan; Ebenezer Lloyd, aged 17 years, a lodger, a

student, born in Llangeler, Carmarthenshire; and Rees Lloyd, aged 18 years, a lodger, a student, born in Gartheli, Cardiganshire. Between 1881 and 1883 Hannah Lewis lived here. After a lengthy period of dormancy, the pub re-opened ca. 1890 with Peter Lewis as the licensee. In September 1891 the license was transferred from Peter Lewis to David Owens.

From 1891 until 1895 David Owens lived here and was the publican. On 5<sup>th</sup> April 1891 at the time of the Census, the following persons were living here: David Owens, aged 67 years, a store keeper by profession, and a widower; William Owens, aged 33 years, his son, a joiner; Thomas Owens, aged 22 years, his son, also a joiner; Sophia Owens, aged 28 years, a dress-maker; and Ellen Owens, aged 10 years, his grand-daughter. All of them were Cardigan born and were bilingual in English and Welsh. On October 4<sup>th</sup> 1892 carpenter William Owens, aged 33 years, of the Cambrian Inn, the son of David Owens, married Maria Elizabeth James, aged 31 years, of No. 44 Pendre, the daughter of mariner John Jones. The wedding took place at St Mary's Church and William Jenkins and Anna Louisa Jones were the witnesses. On August 19<sup>th</sup> 1893 Thomas Owens of the '*Cambrian Inn*' married Anne Davies of Swansea. At some point between 1895 and 1898 Thomas Gibbons, the son-in-law of David Owens, moved here. On June 18<sup>th</sup> 1898 George Gibbons, the son of Mary Hannah and Thomas Gibbons of No. 1, died aged 4 years. Their daughter, Lizzie Ellen Gibbons, also died that year. Both children were buried at Netpool Cemetery. On May 9<sup>th</sup> 1899 a daughter was born to the wife of Thomas Gibbons of the "*Cambrian Inn*".

On 31<sup>st</sup> March 1901 at the time of the Census, the following persons were living at 'No. 1', (but '*Cambrian Inn*' was said to be empty at No. 2): Mary Evans, aged 47 years, a dress-maker; David D. Evans, aged 20 years, her son, a coach-painter; Deborah Evans, aged 18 years, her daughter; and Peggy Bowen, aged 18 years, her niece, a domestic servant. All of them were bilingual in Welsh and English and had been born in Cardigan. John Evans was the tenant from 1905 until 1912. The inn was licensed but dormant on February 10<sup>th</sup> 1905. The license was revoked in March 1905 following the introduction of new licensing laws. Between 1910 and 1912 John Evans lived here. At the time of the Census on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1911 the following persons lived in six rooms here: Mary Evans, aged 58 years, a widow after 32 years of marriage, the mother of 4 children, 3 of whom were still living, born in Cardigan; David Owen Evans, aged 30 years, her son, a carriage painter, born in Cardigan; Violet George Jones, aged 10 years, their visitor, born in Llogyn; John Owen Tudor, aged 22 years, their boarder, an iron fitter, born at St David's; and Thomas Davies, aged 21 years, their boarder, an iron fitter, born in Llandygwydd. All of them were bilingual in Welsh and English.

On April 28<sup>th</sup> 1913 Mary Anne Beamish, the wife of retired coastguard James Beamish of No 1, died aged 52 years. She was buried at Netpool Cemetery. On August 1<sup>st</sup> 1930 James Beamish died aged 67 years. He was buried with his wife at Netpool Cemetery. From 1930 until 1937 Ivor Wheeler and Mrs Iris Wheeler of Cambrian Quay were members of the Capel Mair Welsh Congregational Chapel in the town. On March 8<sup>th</sup> 1936 Brindley Thomas Wheeler, aged 21 years, the son of John Wheeler of Cambrian Quay, married Marion Jones of Cilgerran. Between 1939 and 1955 John "Johnnie" Wheeler (b. 03/02/1887), a store-man at an A A Practice Camp; and Mrs. Letitia Wheeler (b. 11/11/1887), his wife, lived here. In 1947 Mrs Wheeler

and Ivor Wheeler were members of Capel Mair Congregational Chapel. Between 1951 and 1960 Mrs L Wheeler attended Capel Mair. On June 7<sup>th</sup> 1961 John Wheeler of Cambrian Quay died aged 73 years. His widow, Letitia Wheeler, died on December 22<sup>nd</sup> 1965, aged 79 years. They were both buried at Netpool Cemetery. Between April and July 1970 No. 1 was advertised for sale. It was made a Grade 2 listed building in 1992. In March 1998 the house was advertised for sale for £85, 000. In 2002 it was sold. In January 2004 a stretch of the town wall to the rear of the property collapsed. In late 2004 there were proposals to gut the building and make it part of a new hotel. In December 2005 and January 2006 the property was being refurbished.

### **Description:**

The house was described by CADW in 1992:

*Mid C19 house in coursed squared blue lias stone with slate roof and stone end stacks. Two storeys and attic plus basement, 3-window range of 12-pane hornless sashes with cambered stone voussoirs and slate sills. Centre door reached up 6 stone steps, 6-panel door with overlight and similar cambered stone head. Basement window to right and door to left with similar stone heads. One off-centre C20 dormer, flat with 9-pane window.*

*Iron area railings survive to right of steps, dismantled to left but leaning on adjacent wall (1991).*

FURTHER OBSERVATIONS (2007) – Following 2005-06 renovations the roof now has two dormers with slate roofs and 6-pane sashes.

### **Sources:**

Census Returns 1851; 1861; 1871; 1881; 1891; 1901; 1911  
Post Office Directory 1871  
Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser 1871; 1877; 1893; 1898-99; 1905; 1913; 1940; 1946; 1949; 1970; 1998  
Kelly's Directory of South Wales 1875; 1895  
NLW Morgan Richardson MS 2373  
Cardigan Observer 1891  
St. Mary's Parish Register, Cardigan  
List of Voters – Cardigan 25/07/1910  
Register of Electors – Cardigan 1912; 1955; 1998  
War Census, 1938  
Monumental Inscriptions, Netpool Cemetery, Cardigan  
Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest – Cardigan, CADW 1992

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Photograph:

Top-017 (2003)