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**Site Name:** CREATIVE MWLDAN; BATH HOUSE FARM OUTBUILDINGS.

**PRN:** 57345

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

**Site Type:** Farm Outbuildings

**N. G. Ref.:** SN 17762 46406

**Period:** Post-Medieval; Modern

**History:**

The origin of the name 'Bath House' is unclear. Claims have been made that there was an ancient Roman Bath House on or near the site, but there is no proper physical or documentary evidence, and the theory seems very unlikely. Alternatively it may well have been named after the City of Bath. Between 1833 and 1861 William Evans lived at Bath House Farm. The farm house and some of the outbuildings are shown on John Wood's 1834 map of Cardigan as being the property of Lewis Evans, a solicitor trading at No. 7 St. Mary Street in the town. Lewis Evans was the town clerk for Cardigan in 1836. On 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1844 at Cardigan's St Mary's Church, Elizabeth Evans, the daughter of labourer William Evans of The Bath House, married Thomas Mathias, a mariner, of St. Mary's Lane a. k. a. Feidrfair. He was the son of farmer Mathias Mathias. The couple came to Bath House Farm to live. Lewis Evans, a solicitor, was still the owner and farmer in 1847, with 12 acres of associated land. The property with various outbuildings, including the long surviving range, is marked on the Tithe Map.

Lewis Evans died on 19<sup>th</sup> September 1860, aged 85 years. His estate passed to his business partner, Thomas Morgan. On 4<sup>th</sup> September 1861 Bath House Farm, together with 'Miss Meads' formed part of a marriage settlement between Thomas Morgan's daughter, Jane Evans Morgan, and Elliot Lloyd Price. On 19<sup>th</sup> February 1866 William Evans of Bath House died aged 85 years. On 10<sup>th</sup> August 1875, after the bursting of the Capel Reservoir, the Mwldan Flood uprooted trees here as it swept through the property. On 28<sup>th</sup> December 1879 owner Thomas Morgan died. The farm later passed to his sole heir and beneficiary, Charles Evan Davis Morgan-Richardson, a solicitor at No. 7 St Mary Street.

From at least 1891 until 1902 Benjamin George lived at the farm. The *Cardigan Guide* of 1899 refers to a Roman Baths having been located here, until a dairy was built on the site c.1860. This seems to be an unlikely interpretation. At some point after 1902 Benjamin George and his family left the property.

At some point between 1903 and 1910 Owen Williams moved to the farm to live. Between 1910 and 1916 Owen Williams farmed and lived here. In May 1915 the

farm was offered for sale, and was then occupied by Stephen Morgan and Owen Williams, with cottages occupied by Thomas Davies, Mr T Horton and Mr G Davies. On 21<sup>st</sup> October 1915 Evelyn Beatrice Morgan-Richardson conveyed Bath House Farm to Stephen Morgan, a butcher, and his family, of No. 21 High Street in the town. In 1918 Bath House Farm was owned jointly by Stephen Morgan, Anne Morgan, Edwin Morgan and Daniel Thomas Morgan of No. 21 High Street. Between 1920 and 1926 Stephen Morgan still farmed here, as well as keeping a butcher's shop on the High Street. In 1930 Joshua Davies may have been the farmer. In August 1947 Bath House Farm was advertised for sale. On 4<sup>th</sup> November 1948 Lloyd's Bank and Josiah Herbert Morgan, conveyed the property to Lt. Col. E. Harewood Williams. In December 1951 and July 1952 the farm was advertised for sale with 57 acres. The sale included:

*“...Extensive range of very substantial Stone Built and Carnarvon Slated Outbuildings...”*

On 26<sup>th</sup> June 1954 the farm was sold with 50 acres and a pair of houses. On 6<sup>th</sup> May 1955 the farm was offered to Cardigan Grammar School by Col. E. Harewood Williams for use as an agricultural college. The offer was declined. On 28<sup>th</sup> October 1958 there was a sale of stock, crops and implements held here.

From the 1960's and until 1989 the farm was leased to John B. Evans. On 1<sup>st</sup> July 1989 John Bowen Evans of Bath House Farm died aged 57 years. He was buried at Ty Rhos Independent Chapel, Rhoshill, Cilgerran. The outbuildings here were made Grade II listed buildings in 1992. In 1994 it was suggested that the outbuildings could be converted into craft workshops. In November 1995 the owner applied for planning permission for change of use for the outbuildings.

In 2001 plans were approved for the listed buildings here to be extended and converted for use as a multi-media Arts Centre in association with the nearby Theatr Mwldan. Work began in August 2002. In early 2003 extensions were added to the outbuildings and by the end of the year, the new multi-media centre had opened. In December 2003 two old cottages which had long been used as outbuildings and which are described below, were demolished. By early 2004 the multi-media centre here was part of the Theatr Mwldan arts complex. The official opening was conducted by the Right Honourable Rhodri Morgan, M. P, the First Minister for Wales, on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2004. It closed in April 2009 with the loss of five jobs. In November 2009 the 'Creative Mwldan' property was advertised to let. The farmhouse was vacated at about that time and was awaiting demolition in April 2010. It was demolished during 2010.

In May 2011 the 'Tivy-Side Advertiser' newspaper moved to an office here from No. 39 St. Mary Street. The newspaper office was located here from 2011 until 2016. The 'Advertiser' office was closed altogether on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2016, ending almost 150 years of production in Cardigan.

### **Description:**

The outbuildings were described by CADW in 1992:

*“...Later C19 farm buildings in rubble stone with slate roofs, L-plan single storey, the principal feature being a steep-roofed cow-house cross-gabled to main range with long hipped roof ventilator, an unusual C19 farm-building type for West Wales. The rear wall of cow-house has windows with brick cambered heads and gable recess, possibly for missing plaque. Gable wall is flush with low ranges each side, that to north, of earlier build, has brick-headed window, door, window then ridge stack and similar window, door, window beyond, the doors blocked. Range to south of cow-house is L-plan, roof hipped at angle, rear wall door and window with cambered brick heads, matching cow-house. South return wall is obscured.*

*In courtyard, from north: low earlier range has two doors to left of stack, then a door, a C20 full-height opening to right and a small gabled outbuilding in angle to cow-house. Cow-house projects into yard with steep gable and ground floor door and window with cambered brick heads. Four-bay roof within, fishbone trusses. To right, L-plan south range has one blocked opening before angle, then window and doors before taller small granary with outside steps to eaves-breaking gabled loft door and ground floor cambered-brick arched cart-entry...”*

#### ADDITIONAL (2000):

The above-mentioned range has, to south wall, a small doorway, possibly former window, towards SE angle, with cambered red brick head partly obscured by later lintel.

INTERIOR – Bolted trusses to roof.

OUTBUILDING TO NORTH WEST – Small rectangular C19 former cottage, single storey and attic, rubble stone with slate gabled roof and stone east end stack, timber eaves board and bargeboards. South wall has door to left, small window to right with slate sill, both beneath timber lintels.

INTERIOR – Ground floor has beamed ceiling and fireplace with hewn timber lintel over. Attic storey has boarded timber internal wall and ceiling. Slightly rough cut truss frames, bolted to joints.

ADDITIONAL (2007) - Since the 1992 description of the main range, the roof and windows have been replaced with sympathetic materials and the interiors wholly altered. Large extensions in timber and Perspex have been erected in the former courtyard and in timber to the eastern end. The other buildings described in 2000 have been completely demolished.

#### Sources:

Ceredigion Archives CDM/SE/6 – 1.

Map of Cardigan, John Wood 1834

St. Mary's Parish Register - Marriages

Tithe Map of St. Mary's Parish 1847

NLW Morgan Richardson MS 2211

Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser 1875; 1879; 1902; 1911; 1914; 15/05/1915; 1916; 1930; 1947; 1951-52; 1955; 1958; 1980; 09/11/1995; 22/11/2000; 05/11/2003;

12/05/2009; 10/05/2011; 03/07/2012; 15/01/2013; 23/12/2014; 03/03/2015;  
10/03/2015

A Guide to Cardigan & District, William Edward Yerward James 1899

Cambrian News 09/09/1910

Sale Particulars – Bath House Farm, J J Morris ca1951

Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest – Cardigan, CADW 1992

Documents Held by Ian McKenna 1999

Carmarthen Journal 22/11/2000

Creative Mwldan – Official Opening invitation 02/04/2004.

Cardigan County Agricultural Show, Islwyn & Betty Griffiths 2004

Lease Particulars – Creative Mwldan, J J Morris, 26/11/2009.

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