

THE BUILDINGS OF MOREFA BORTH

- the Marsh Harbour

Ceredigion



That part of Borth Village on a pebble bank with the sea on one side and the Cors Fochno marsh some reclaimed and the railway on the other. In the distance is the River Dyfi. Photograph Michael Lewis

Photographs and History by BERYL LEWIS

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AMUSEMENTS

Princess Street.

This building stands alongside Chapel Lane and opens directly on to Princess Street - the extension of High Street. The railway station is not far away and across the road is the beach - so it is well placed for holiday visitors. Formerly the Osprey Garage.



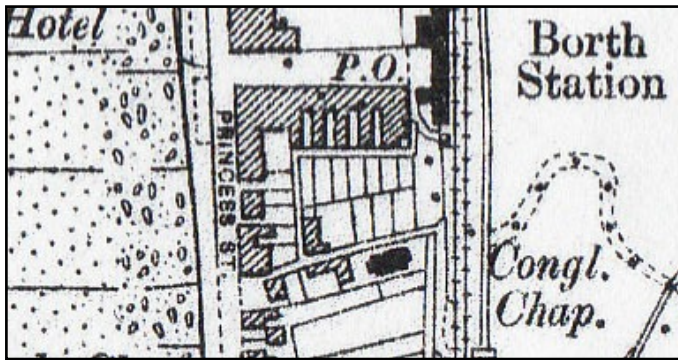
ABOVE The building in 2017 shut up for the winter.

Beneath the rendering is a brick front formerly belonging to the Osprey Garage. The roof is hipped and covered with corrugated sheets. The place is open during the summer and half term holidays - but closed during the winter.

LEFT The rendered side wall which fronts Chapel Lane. The red colour where the plaster has come off suggests this northern wall is brick too.
RIGHT The building in 2009 from the south side.



LEFT This detail from a panorama taken by Howard Lloyd Roberts probably dates from 1926 and there was not yet a building on the site. On the left was Diana now Pebbles, and on the right was Murmur-y-môr and in the middle is Meirion. The row of timbers edging the beach was the sea defence as the concrete wall and promenade was not built until 1956.



This was the site in front of Meirion in 1904 with no building on it (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map, Cardiganshire NW III.10).

The Osprey Garage began with a repair yard and garages behind Meirion when the ground in front of Meirion was owned by a butcher, William H. Ody who had a shop at the far end of

the Railway Terrace from the Railway Inn. After his death in 1927 it was put up for Sale, advertised as a 'Valuable Building Plot commanding an important Site Value, with a frontage of 38 feet to the High Street, and a depth of 47 feet or thereabouts'. (Ceredigion Archive ADX/376/6)

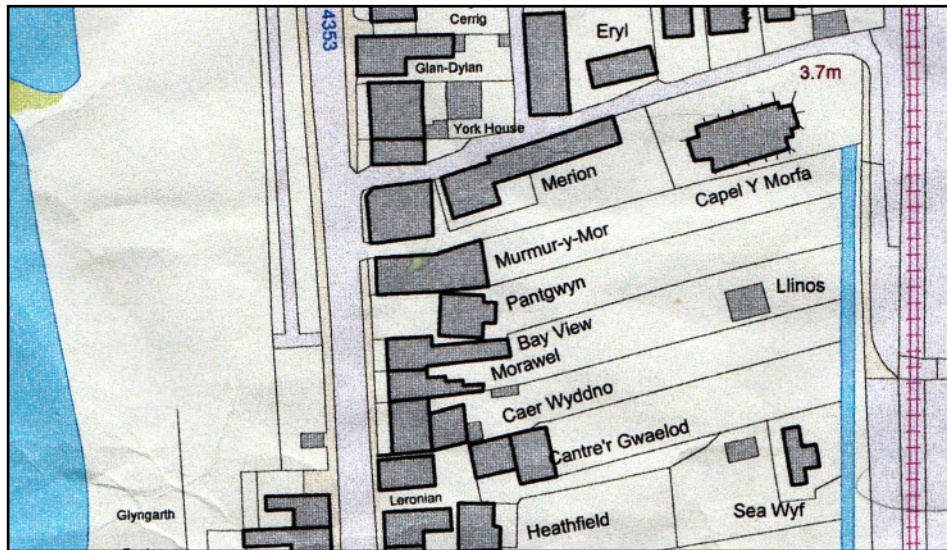


ABOVE The Osprey Garage building when it was damaged by a storm (Aberystwyth Public Library and on-line 'Aftermath of Storm at Borth'). The front of the building was brick, reinforced with buttresses. There was some rendering along the south side, and there was a window in the front opening on to the street. The large entrance doorway was wide open, with storm debris inside and the roof had not been very substantial. This brick front is still there with its buttresses beneath the plaster the window having been blocked up.

C. Jones paid the rates for the Osprey Garage storage and premises in 1957. Possibly he was the father of David Jones of Wennol who sold the site for the 'Amusements'.

In the summer season electricity powers a modern Amusement Arcade and the doors can be wide open giving glimpses of the coloured lights, the movements and noises of the arcade machines.

The building in 1975 filled its ground and unlike Meirion was at right angles to the street.
(Historical Maps on-line)



ABOVE On this detail from a modern Council map the building does not have a name as it is commercial, but its uncomfortable angle with Meirion is easy to see. The rounded northern corner was needed because vehicles turning down the narrow Chapel Lane were in danger of running into it (Detail from the map courtesy of councillor Ray Quant when assisting research for a local event).

In November 2018 the Council Planning Department gave permission to take down the building and replace it with a market hall with eight business units. The building and these plans were then put up for sale at £160,000 (Cambrian News 17 January 2019)

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gan/by Beryl Lewis
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Houses of Borth consists of over 350 histories of individual buildings, lavishly illustrated with photographs, maps and documents. All the files are available from our website: <https://www.archifdy-ceredigion.org.uk/tairborth.php>

We would like to thank Beryl for her kindness in letting us share her work with the widest possible audience.

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