

THE BUILDINGS OF MORFA 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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BALLARAH

North Parade, Morfa Borth

At the northern end of the village facing the sea. Run as a boarding house with 14 rooms. Built about 1910 and in the 1911 Census.



Ballarah is a two and a half storey, single fronted terrace house, under a gable roof parallel with the road. The roof has decorative red ridge tiles. It has a slab chimney of yellow bricks decorated with bands of red bricks. The chimney is shared with Hazelmere next door and there is room for six chimney pots, six flues for each house, so plenty of rooms were heated. The dormer windows have shaped barge boards and a finial, and have modern windows, as have the rest of the front. There is a pair of canted bay windows which are decorated with bold string courses (lines of moulding) and with a shaped top which hides the roof of the bays. Between the windows are columns with plain capitals suggested in the rendering. The window above the front door has a



frame in the rendering with a keystone. The door is made important with pilasters with panels each side of it, there is a keystone over the door and brackets support an entablature above. The pane of glass above the door has the house name on it. The front door opens on to hard standing and the street. The base of the walls is black.

RIGHT The shaped top of the bays was probably original, as an old postcard shows that all the terrace houses once had these. Ballarah has the only one that still has it.



LEFT The details on the brackets are attractive, and the same as those on neighbouring houses.

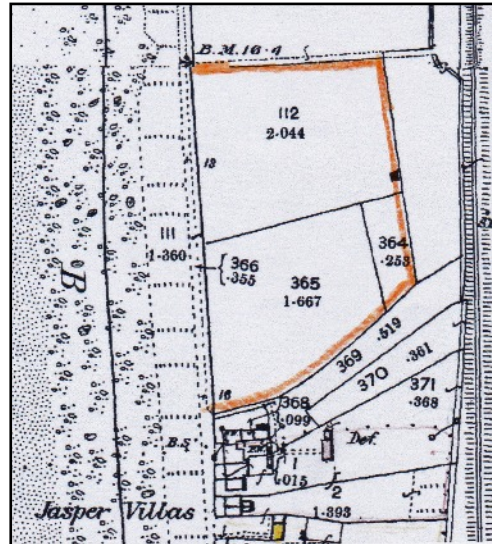
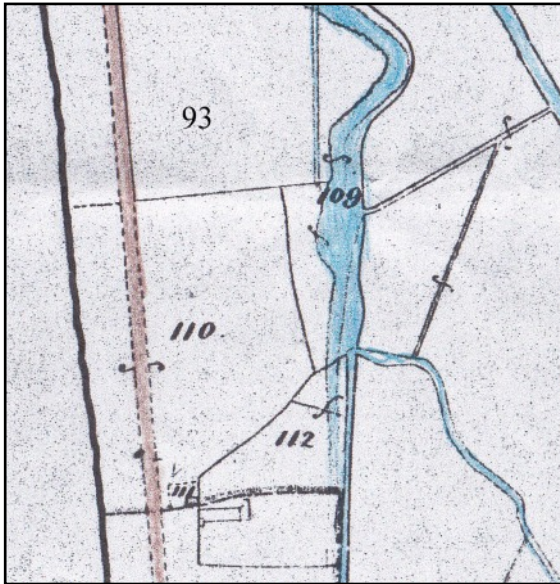
BELOW Ballarah's rear is on the left of this photograph, the walls rendered in a pale grey green. Its upper window has a railed balcony. The two storey extension on the south side has a red brick chimney with one chimney pot probably for a kitchen below. The rows of windows suggest plenty of rooms. At the rear, upstairs is an oriel window which will have a fine view across the railway, and

over reclaimed pasture and the Cors Fochno to the hills. This house has a garage and an area of hard standing at the end of its garden.



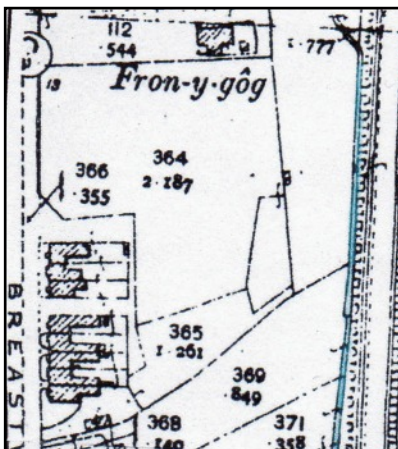
The ground on which Ballarah stands is a stone bank thrown up by the sea and called 'waste' by the

Crown Manor who owned it as it was no use for farming. The road had been there for centuries, it was used in the twelfth century and was a turnpike road by the 1770s. It led to a ferry from Ynyslas to Aberdovey and was a quick way to North Wales.



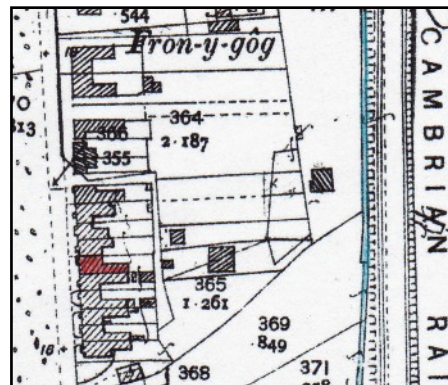
ABOVE LEFT The house stands on a five acre field, number 110 in 1848, and called an 'allotment' after the 'waste' was enclosed. Pryse Pryse of the Gogerddan Estate had it and used it as pasture. (Tithe Apportionments Map, Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Henllys Township, online at CYNEFIN, National Library of Wales). ABOVE RIGHT In 1886 there were no houses in field 110 which is marked in red. (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888. Cardiganshire III.10)

In 1891 Pryse Pryse sold some of Number 110 to Elsie Cecil Wright, the wife of a Birmingham manufacturer of screws and a keen golfer. She had the bungalow Fron-y-gôg built on a strip of it, and had four acres of agricultural land as well. (Deeds to Morlais, private collection).



LEFT By 1904 Montfort, Tremydon and Hazelmere were built, but Ballarah was not there yet. Some other houses in the terrace had also been built. (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map revised in 1904 and published in 1905 Cardiganshire III.10.

By the 1911 Census Ballarah was built.



LEFT Ballarah is marked in red on the same map on which the Council drew in new houses. Morlais is there, and Gwynt-y-môr.

(Ceredigion Archives)

Terry Davies has written that Ballarah and other houses in the north of the village were built by sea captains many of whom worked on steam ships (Borth, A Seaborne Village page 80). Some built homes to retire into, some as assets for rent. In 1910 in a valuation for a tax planned but not levied, the house was not yet in the list. (Ceredigion Archives, T/DV/18 and map at the National Library of Wales). However in the Census of 1911 the house was listed with fourteen rooms and was a lodging house, the keeper was Margaret Anne Davies, aged 44, and born in the parish. Also there was her husband, Edward Evan Davies aged 45, employed as a farm servant. He too was local. Also in the house was their son 21 year old Evan Hugh Davies who was employed as a joiner, their daughter eighteen year old Margaret who was an 'assistant in the house' and their fifteen

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year old daughter Mary Apphia Davies. They were all born in Borth. In 1917 Evan Hugh Davies their son was home from a spell of fighting in France. He was a sapper (Cambrian News, January 12th.) A sapper was a combatant soldier employed in buildings roads, bridges and airstrips, and laying and clearing minefields. In February 1918 Mrs Davies helped organise a tea for members of the St Matthew's Church Sunday School at the National School (Cambrian News, February 15th).

Sometime after 1922 furnished accommodation was offered of eight bedrooms and three sitting rooms (Illustrated Borth Guide, Aberystwyth Public Library).

In 1925 the owner was Robson, and the occupiers were Edward Evan Davies, Margaret Anne Davies and Margaret Williams. They paid the rates in 1934 as owners and occupiers.

Margaret Williams paid the rates in 1938 and was still paying them in 1957. With votes for the house in the General Election of 1945 were Margaret Williams and Margaret P. Williams. Margaret Williams paid the rates in 1963 and with votes for the house that year were Evan H. Williams and Margaret Williams. (Electoral Registers and Rates, Ceredigion Archives).

In 1950, and 1962 Mrs Williams was letting five bedrooms and two sitting rooms and the house had 'all mod; cons' (Guide to Borth Aberystwyth Public Library and some local history notes, private collection).

The house name is found in New South Wales Australia.

Today the house is three flats.



The terrace from an old postcard. The string courses link all the houses together. By that date Gwynt-y-môr was built on the end and Ballarah fitted in between the others. Over the road was some grass and the beach.

Postcard Amgueddfa Ceredigion Museum.

Archifdy Ceredigion Archives

yn cyflwyno / presents

Tai'r Borth / Houses of Borth

gan/by Beryl Lewis

Mae **Tai'r Borth** yn cynnwys dros 350 hanes sy'n ymwneud ag adeiladau unigol ac mae'r hanesion wedi'u darlunio â chyfoeth o ffotograffau, mapiau a dogfennau. Mae'r ffeiliau ar gael ar ein gwefan: <https://www.archifdy-ceredigion.org.uk/tairborth.php?lang=cy>

Hoffem ddiolch i Beryl am fod mor garedig â chaniatáu i ni rannu ei gwaith â'r gynulleidfa ehangaf bosibl.

Ceidw Beryl Lewis yr hawlfraint yn ei gwaith ac mae'r hanesion yn cael eu rhannu at ddibenion preifat ac ymchwil yn unig.

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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