

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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BEACH HOUSE Morfa Borth

On the beach side at the southern part of Borth High Street. Formerly Presbury, Bryn Awel 1910 and Ardwyn Cottage 1901. In 1910 under the ownership of master mariner William Hughes of Ardwyn.



ABOVE Beach House in 2009.

BELOW The back of the house in 2015 from the beach.



small building towards the end of the yard.

Like Ardwyn next door this is a rubble stone house with nicely squared stones, more expensive for the mason. However it is obvious that they do not match the stones of Ardwyn, mostly being smaller. The house is under a gable roof parallel to the street, and is single fronted and one and a half storeys high, the upper window reaching to the eaves. There would be yellow bricks round the door and windows, today these are painted. This style of building was fashionable in the second half of the nineteenth century, but this house was probably built later to match Ardwyn by its master mariner owner, (Captain) William Hughes. The windows are modern, but in the style of the old sash windows. A small sloping panel keeps the rain off the front doorstep. The front is open to the street, but with a narrow flower bed and steps down to the pavement.

The depth of the house is much the same as it was on the map of 1904, but the photograph shows how narrow the house is, so there is a long thin yard. Ardwyn forms the south wall of the yard. On the other side is the yard of Gwynfa. The end wall of the yard is the vertical sleepers that protect from the sea during storms. A lower section allows a gateway down to the beach. Next to the house is an area of decking with a view out across the beach, accessed from a door from a bedroom. The dormer window in the roof gives a good view of the sea. A modern map shows a

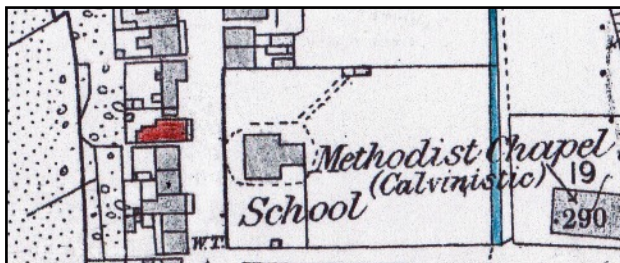
The ground for this house is the stone embankment thrown up by the sea and called 'waste' by the Crown Manor who owned it as it was no use for farming. A plot was enclosed in 1826 and in 1829 Evan Hughes had a cottage on it. His ground measured 24 perches, just over an eighth of an acre. A rent of 16s had to be paid every year, or by paying £4 he could buy the plot (National Archive, map and details, 1829, LRRO 1/3060). Evan Hughes in the 1841 Census was a mariner, born about 1786. He would have been a man of 40 when he enclosed the ground. His wife Margaret was fifteen years older. The road had been there for centuries and was a turnpike road by the 1770s. It led to a ferry from Ynyslas to Aberdovey, a quick way to North Wales. Fresh water for the old cottages came from a 'brook' behind the cottages on the other side of the road, and for fuel the villagers could dig peat on the far side of the River Leri just north of Ynys Fergi.



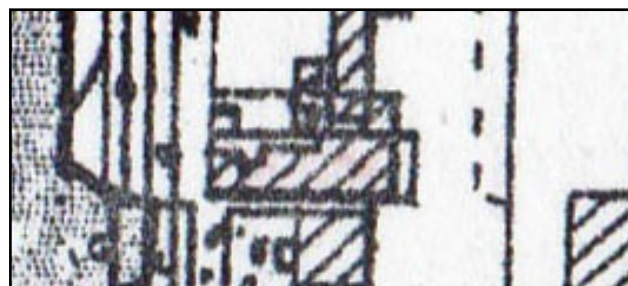
Evan Hughes's plot was number 12 on this detail from the map of 1829. He had some empty ground to the north of the cottage. Now his cottage has gone and his run of street frontage now has Ardwyn, Beach House, Gwynfa and Kidderminster House built on it. There was only room for these to be single fronted, and Beach House is particularly narrow. Number 41 with a cottage across the road belonged to the Vicar and the National School would be built there in 1842. The lane to Brynllys was narrowed later by another

Glanrhyd Cottage added to the row already there on Number 42.

By 1848 another long building was added on to the north of Evan Hughes's cottage.



In 1886 there was a small area beside Ardwyn, with a small building in it, but it was in line with the old cottage to the north. Ardwyn is marked in red. (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886, published in 1888. Cardiganshire III.10)



LEFT In 1904 the surveyor of the map has made it very hard to see exactly what was on the plot, however the house is there, striped over the earlier shapes. It was fenced off from Ardwyn. The four lines of fences were rows of stakes anchored into the stone bank to protect the back from the sea during storms.

(Detail from the 25 inch map revised in 1904, published in 1905. Cardiganshire III.10)

Called Ardwyn Cottage in 1901 it was uninhabited.

In 1910 for a tax planned but not levied the house was called Brynawel, and valued at £89. There would have been £3.4s to pay and £4 gross. (Captain) William Hughes of Ardwyn next door owned the house, and he had a tenant there, C. E. Moore. There was no one there in 1911 to fill in the Census form, so it was not included.

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In 1925 there had been a new owner and occupier, Mary S. M. Filgate. But there was a change, a new owner, Mrs V. J. Hall, and the house's name had been changed to Presbury. In 1934, 1938 and 1949 Dorothy V. Hall paid the rates as owner and occupier. She was still there in 1963 but was not on the electoral register for the house, and so may not have been living there then.



A photograph from a glass plate dated after 1936 shows the house second from the right. Behind the wall across the road was the National School. (Courtesy of Peter Fleming)

We have a modern description of the house. Photographs suggest it has been modernised very well, and good use made of its space despite its narrow plot. Downstairs is a living room with the old fireplace now with a stove, a kitchen and a bathroom. Upstairs it has two bedrooms, one with a window reaching down to the floor, and with a beam above it, and there is a shower room and lavatory.

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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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