

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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CAMBRIAN PLACE

Sea Breaker, Trigfan and Bodlondeb.

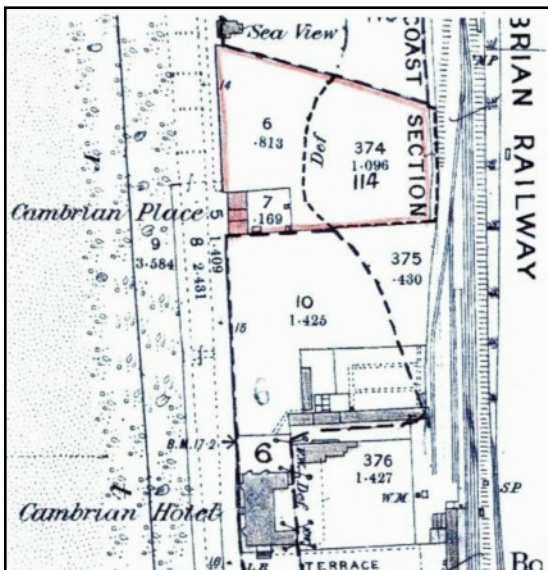


ABOVE Our earliest view of the houses from an old postcard. It looks as though they had rendered walls. Across the road was the beach. (Courtesy of Mr and Mrs David Matthews).



The ground was owned by the Crown manor, and was 'waste' because it was not suitable for farming. In 1829 two acres and fourteen perches between two other enclosed fields was 'unoccupied'. There was an enclosure in the southernmost corner by the road, but there was no cottage there (1826 Map, National Archives, LRRO 1/3060)

LEFT By 1848 a cottage had been built in the enclosure which is marked in red. The dotted line was a township boundary, the dark line was the sea. Across this land ran a stream along the old course of the River Leri before it was moved. Tithe Apportionments Map for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth township.



This was David Jenkins's cottage. He was a farm worker with a wife and two small children, the eldest was four. Around it he had almost an acre of land (3 rods and 30 perches) (Tithe Map and 1841 Census Morfa Borth)

LEFT By 1886 three houses and a garden were on the site of the old cottage. (25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1888 surveyed in 1886, Cardiganshire III.10)

They opened directly on to the road and they shared a garden because they all had the same owner. The great Cambrian Hotel had been built on the land to the south.

Cambrian Place Page 2

The great Cambrian Hotel with its pleasure gardens was built after the railway station opened to passengers in 1863. By 1874 George Lewis of Oswestry the secretary of the Cambrian Railway Company had bought the Cambrian Place houses together with the Cambrian Hotel, the Cambrian Terrace and other land and cottages (Cambrian News 31 July). By 1884 this estate was heavily mortgaged and was put up for sale but did not sell. (Cambrian News 30 May). In a second sale in September 1888 the houses were called 'brick built cottages with gardens' and were Lot 15, and together with two roadside pieces of land suitable for building on and were bought for £560 by Thomas Lewis for the Rev. Evan Jones of the Welsh Church in London (Aberystwyth Observer 22 September). Richard Evan Jones owned them in 1910. (Ceredigion Archives T/DV/18). The old water course had been completely removed when the railway was built, and a water tap on the street near the Cambrian Hotel provided by the Railway Company gave the people in the houses and cottages a supply of pure spring water until the parish provided a water supply by 1883. (Cambrian News 9 November 1883)

Early photographs for postcards show the 'cottages' were two storey, the northern two double fronted, but the southern one single fronted. They opened on to the road and beyond was the beach. There was open ground to the north and to the south were the grounds of the Cambrian Hotel. The chimneys each had two chimney pots, two flues, so two rooms, probably a kitchen/living room and another room were heated. Bricks as a building material were unusual for Borth except for the railway station, Cambrian Hotel and the Terrace. Was there a connection? Were they built for railway employees as well as tenants? There was a plate

layer and his family in Trigfan in 1881 (Census)



It is interesting how extensions with large modern windows to see over the concrete defensive sea wall and other alterations have made these houses very different from their original appearance. They do however still have their chimneys.



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gan/by Beryl Lewis
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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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