

# 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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# RUTLAND HOUSE Number 1 Cambrian Terrace

## Morfa Borth - the Marsh Harbour

The house was in the Henllys Township. Built as a boarding house with plenty of rooms. The home of a military gentleman, but also a house with a shop.



This house is part of the terrace built when the railway had arrived in Borth, it opened to passengers in 1863. The Terrace was a private venture by Mr Thomas Savin who with David Davies built the Railway. He wanted to make Borth a good seaside resort to encourage visitors to travel there on their Cambrian Railway trains. A water supply was put in for the Terrace from a reservoir he built, it also supplied the station, the trains and his large Cambrian Hotel. The Cambrian Terrace houses were built about 1865 to 1870. The architect was possibly W. H. Spaul of Oswestry. (Pevsner Architectural



*Rutland House in 2010*

Guides, the Buildings of Wales, Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion, 2006) The houses were originally red brick with yellow sandstone dressings and matched the railway station, as does the side of Rutland House now, in 2014, the wall having been cleaned. This house was much larger than Numbers 2 to 12, and unlike them it is double fronted, and its rear wing is wider than those of its neighbours. It is three storeys, under a gable roof at right angles to the street, and today there are no chimneys. Two roof lights serve rooms under the roof. All the front windows are canted bay windows, the ground floor being the largest, the second and third floor windows are the same size. All the windows have the pattern of sash windows with two lights. There is also a generous light above the front door. Access at the side is a passage between it and the stationmaster's house which can

be seen on the left in the top photograph. Rutland House extends to the back wall of the



*Above was the rear of the house in the 1960s with its original chimney and tiny dormer window. Seen behind a Church Street bungalow.*



property ending with a garage which opens on the east side of the building. Beyond is the small lane that runs behind all the houses in the Terrace.

There is a wide, gabled dormer window and a small roof light for rooms under the roof at the back. There are extensions at the rear in two sections, both two storeys. The one nearest the house has a brick slab chimney with four chimney pots. This would have served the original kitchen and with four flues other rooms as well.

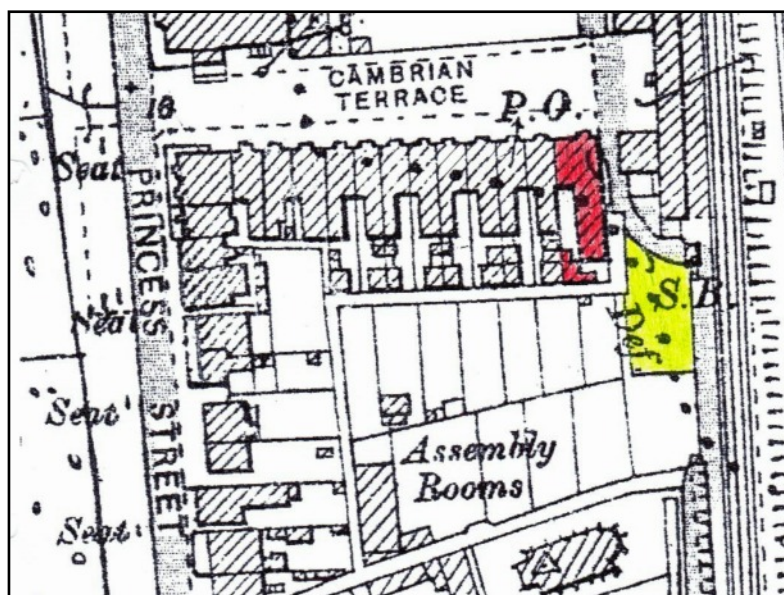


On its east side this extension opens on to the lane with a tall doorway with a large light above the door. The door itself is modern. The southernmost extension is less tall having the same bricks but the sandstone dressings are only round the ground floor windows, not the upper windows. A square bay window at the end of this extension has five tall lights in front, and a lean-to slate roof.

The Terrace houses were all provided with gardens, Rutland House's garden can be seen on the 1905 map on the next page.

Today the house contains more than one home.

*ABOVE A detail where the two extensions join.*



*A detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1905. Rutland House is marked in red, its garden in green. The 'seats' on the seafront were on a promenade area of hard standing, with a strip of grass between them and the road. All inhabitants of the Terrace had a right to use them. (Deeds, Number 8. 1888 Sale)*

There is a description of the ground on which this house

was built in the 'Introduction to the Terrac

In 1871 and 1880, unlike most of the Terrace houses, the Cambrian News did not list any holiday visitors staying in this house, and there was no entry for it in the 1871 Census.

In the 1881 Census there is just one woman listed for the house - she was Catherine E. Jones, unmarried and 47 years old. She had been born in Llancynfelyn - a neighbouring parish. The house was called simply Number 1 the Terrace.

The houses were owned by a company to begin with, a Cambrian Hotel Estate, and let to tenants. In 1888 the Estate was heavily mortgaged, and sold by Auction by the mortgagees. This house was Lot 1 together with its piece of garden ground.

By 1891 this was a gentleman's house. Living there was Lieutenant Colonel Robert Fielder, an Englishman, born in Kirklaugh Derbyshire, and belonging to the Derbyshire Regiment. He was 49. His wife Emily, younger than him, aged only 36, was born in Leeds, Yorkshire. There were two small sons in the house, Robert Humphrey, then aged 6 and Oswald Henry aged 4. There had been a seven year old son who had died in 1890. Robert Humphrey had been born in Yorkshire, so the family may have fairly recently moved to Borth. Also in the house was an unmarried brother, Frank Thurston, aged 42 and also born in Derbyshire. They had a twenty two year old domestic servant, a local girl, Elizabeth Owen.

In 1895 the Colonel was the Honorary Secretary of the Assembly Rooms. (Kelly's Directory of South Wales)

By 1901 there was a new domestic servant, Elizabeth James, aged 16, and local.

A Valuation of 1910 for a tax planned but not levied, Rutland House was valued at £512, and the site at £37 10s. There was £23.16s to pay, £28 gross. It also listed the Colonel with land, a shed and the wooden house called Caban Coed (now gone) the home of the manager of the Osprey Garage once on on the east side of the group of garages by Meirion. In August 1910 the Colonel was out wild fowl shooting with his dog, he had a 'walking permit' to do this. He was alongside the railway line and tried to pick up his dog from on the rails and was killed by an approaching locomotive. (Cambrian News) At the 1911 Census the Fielder family were not at home, but in the house was an English woman from Leeds in Yorkshire, Miriam E. Harrison, with a general servant, Mary Ann Jones, aged 20 and born in Goginan. Miss Harrison is listed as a 'sister' and she had 'private means'. Possibly she was the sister of Mrs Emily Fielder. The house was still called Number 1 the Terrace. In the 1911 Census the house was listed with fourteen main rooms.

After the Fielder's left there was a shop on the ground floor of the house. Evidence from a postcard show 'Robert's Crib'. There was a newspaper billboard outside. 'Crib' was the pen name of Howard Lloyd Roberts of the draper's at Garibaldi later called Robert's Stores'



*A detail from a postcard by courtesy of the Amgueddfa Ceredigion Museum.*

(now the Premier Stores). He was also a journalist, part time teacher and cartoonist and a successful business man. In the 1881 Census his brother William was running a grocery shop at Number Four. In 1924 there was a 'Clearance Sale' at the house on September 5th and 6th. (Cambrian News).

Also that year there were new people at the house, a Mrs James provided refreshments for a Social at Borth's Soar Chapel. Paying the Rates in 1925 for the house and shop were 'James and a sister of James'. They were the owners and occupiers. They paid £25, £27.15s gross, and their shop was called the 'Cambrian Stores', and both the ground floor windows were used by the shop. 'Cambrian' was written above one, 'Stores' above the other. The one perch of land would have been their garden. Once again the house was simply called 'Number 1'.

In 1934 and 1938 paying the Rates were J. M. James and M.E. Jones. A garage had been added, and the Rates had increased to £28 and £37.

With votes for the house and shop in 1945 were Maethson J James, Richard R. James



*This was the James's shop in 1938. Holiday makers arriving on the train would walk past it. Good for business?*

and John Jones. When the garage was added the outbuildings reached the wall at the end of their property. In the Rates for 1949 the owners were J. M. James and J. Jones. J. M. James was the Treasurer of Borth's, Soar Chapel and also a Trustee of the Public Hall and on its Committee (this Hall is now gone).

By the 1950s the place had a telephone, Borth 434, and the shop sold groceries, provisions, frozen food and hardware. (Borth Guide Book, Aberystwyth Public Library, reference section).

Paying the Rates for the Cambrian Stores shop in 1963 was G. Nation, it was valued at £51 with £13.13s.3d to pay. He also paid for a flat at the rear of the Cambrian Stores, valued at £8 with £4.19s 4d to pay. R. And H. Jones had been paying for the garage and premises at the Cambrian Stores, but this had changed to R. E. L. Jones.

Today there is no shop there, but the front of the house is still open to the pavement, and it is called Rutland House. Its garden has become the garden of Platform House.

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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-eredigion.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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