

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

This work is for research and educational purposes only.

BIBURY, Number 2 Cambrian Terrace

Morfa Borth - the Marsh Harbour

Built as a possible boarding house though with only 8 main rooms, less than other houses in the Terrace, but an interesting house because it was chosen by a very important local estate owner to live in, and her brother, one of Borth's Curates, also lived there.



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 especially built for 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 Guides, the Buildings of Wales, Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion, 2006) The houses were originally red brick with yellow sandstone dressings and matched the railway station. A good example is the side of Rutland House (Number 1) now in 2014 - it having been cleaned. The columns framing and supporting the

LEFT and BELOW photographs taken in 2010.

bay windows are iron, and in the Gothic style.

Bibury is three storeys high under a gable roof parallel with the street, and is single fronted with a left hand front door. Slates would originally have been the roofing material for the house. Built of bricks, its walls are now rendered and it shares a slab chimney with six chimney pots with its neighbour, Number Three. In the front roof is a dormer window with two lights, (there were no dormer windows in the front in 1907). At the





This photograph was taken in 2010 to show the Gothic style columns and the carving of the stone dressings round the window.



eaves protruding bricks make a pattern. There are three canted bay windows of six lights, on the ground, first and second floors, the ground floor window being the largest. Each window is in the pattern of the old sash windows having a light above and a light below. The top of the uppermost bay window has a roof in five sections joined by lead flashing. There is one other window on the ground floor. String courses (projecting mouldings) divide the façade and link it with Numbers 3 to 12. The carving of the sandstone dressings on the front of this house, for example round the ground floor window and front door, is especially well preserved. The steps to the front door look old and worn, and it is has a wooden panelled front door with a small rectangular light above with the house name lettered in gold. Today the house has a front garden edged on the station side by a low rendered wall and at the front the entrance is central. There are square, rendered posts on the station corner and beside the front entrance which have a ball on top.

LEFT The back of Bibury in 2014 which is still brick, seen from the entrance to the yard of Number 3. There are two extensions, and the nearest one has a sun room as this faces south. On the right is its original rear wall.

The roof at the back has a single dormer window which may be original. The



rear two storey extensions are under a gable roof at right angles to the main house, and unlike those of Numbers 3 to 12 Bibury does not have to share it. The extensions at the back, like that of Rutland House next door has two heights, it is taller nearest the house which enables it to have a pair of windows at the south end. The next section is lower though still two storey. The yard is very narrow, and at the end a door in the rear wall gives access to the small lane behind the terrace. There is a shuttered window in its rear wall too. Like the other houses, there is a brick outbuilding against this rear wall which is quite spacious and was shared with Rutland House (who rebuilt their side as part of a garage). Bibury also had an adjacent smaller outbuilding - and as it had no basement, it could have stored coal. The history of the ground on which the house was built and details of the architecture of the Terrace will be found in the 'Introduction to Cambrian Terrace'.



FAR LEFT The rear windows of the main house seen in 2009 are particularly interesting. They were sash windows with twelve lights, and this may have been the style of all the Terrace back windows.

LEFT Sometime after 2009 the western upper window has been replaced by a modern one, still with a pattern of a sash window.

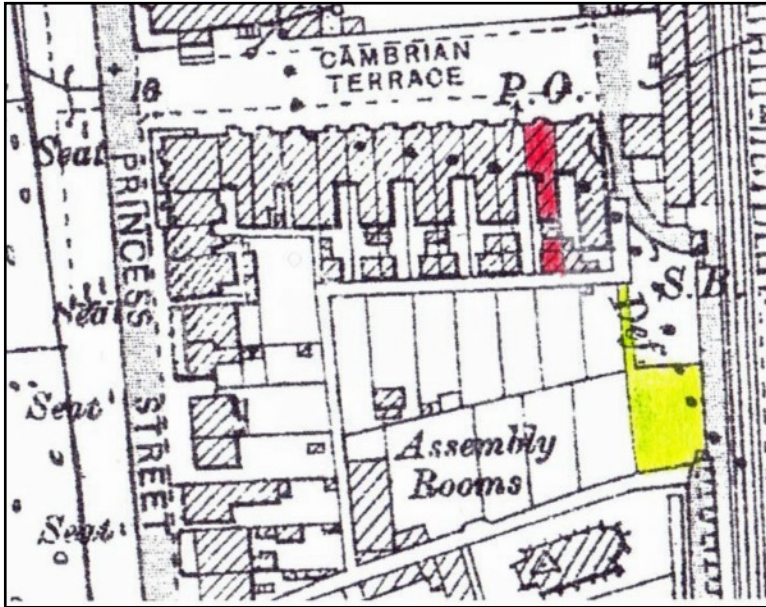
Staying in the house in 1871 for a week were The Reverend H. Powell Evans and his wife from Caerleon Vicarage. (Cambrian News)

In 1881 Borth's curate was living there, the Rev. Evan Felix Lewis, a single man aged 32, born about 1849 in Llanrhystyd and the younger son of the then Vicar. His mother Anna Marie Lewis owned the Glanleri Estate, and his sister Susan E. Lewis not only would inherit the Estate, but used Bibury as her home. (National Library of Wales, Draft Papers SD3/27) Visiting the curate in 1881 at the Census was the Vicar of Llanrhystyd Thomas Evans. There was a general servant in the house, Margaret Evans, aged 21 and born in Llanerchaeron. This seems to have been a private house, there were no holiday visitors listed for it in the Cambrian News in 1880.

The houses were probably owned by the Railway Company to begin with, a 'Cambrian Hotel Estate', and let to tenants, so Borth's Curate would have been renting it. By 1888 the estate was mortgaged and the mortgagees put it up for auction. It was possible for the houses to have individual owners. Bibury and its garden was Lot number 2 - and the Lewis family would have been able to buy it.

In the Census of 1891 no one was at home. The Cambrian News of October 1898 reported that a Miss Lewis was living there. She had helped decorate St Matthew's Church for the Harvest Festival, and on December 2nd she held an 'inviting looking tea' in the Assembly Rooms for members of the church. Miss Susan E. Lewis was an important local landowner owning the Glanleri Estate containing almost all the farms in the Cyfoeth y Brenin township - including Glanleri. In the Census of 1901 there was only a maidservant in the house, Kate Jones, aged 16, but born in Llanrhystyd c.1885, Miss Lewis's home parish. In 1910 for a tax planned but not levied, Miss Lewis both owned and occupied the house. It was valued

at £475 with £19.11s to pay and £23 gross. (Ceredigion Archives T/DV/18) In 1904 Miss Lewis bought a field for £800 to extend the churchyard of the church at Llandre. In 1907 she



LEFT On this detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1905 Bury is marked in red, and its garden in green. (The P. O. Next door was Borth's Post Office)

'kindly granted access for holiday visitors to walk over the cliffs as far as Graig-y-fwlfran'. (1907 Guide Book to Breezy Borth, Aberystwyth Public Library) In the 1911 Census the house was listed with eight main rooms. Miss Lewis was not there, but there was another servant there when the Census

takers called Sarah Shuker, an English speaking woman of 33, born in Churchstoke, Montgomeryshire. Miss Lewis died in 1919 aged 77 and Sarah Shuker continued to live there. She was earning some money by leasing to holiday visitors seven bedrooms and two sitting rooms. (The Illustrated Borth Guide Book, Aberystwyth Library.) In 1925 she paid the Rates of £19.11s and £23, and she was still there in 1949 listed as the owner of the house. Perhaps Miss Lewis had left it to her? In 1934 she provided a 'Favourite Recipe' for Horseradish Sauce, in a booklet printed by the Cambrian News for St Matthew's Church Bazaar. (Ceredigion Archives)

During this time the house was still called Number 2 by the Council.

In the 1950s there was a flat to let in this house, a flat with three bedrooms, and one sitting room. A Mrs Jones was letting it out, and she and her husband Alan Jones, an electrician were living there.

In 1962 Mrs Jones advertised two flats in the house. She still called the house Number 2. The name Bibury seems to be more recent. (Handbook and Guide to Borth, Private Collection.)

In 1963 Alan Jones was still there, paying the Rates, the house was valued at £28 the same as Numbers 3, 5 and 6, and there was £17. 7s. 8d to pay.

Today (2016) the house is divided into three flats.

A house in Church Lane, Bryn Eglwys has been built on Bibury's garden.

Archifdy Ceredigion Archives
yn cyflwyno / presents
Tai'r Borth / Houses of Borth
gan/by Beryl Lewis
[cyf/ref ADX/1629]

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-eredigion.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-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.

Beryl Lewis retains the copyright in her work and the histories are made available for private use and research only.



Cyngor Sir
CEREDIGION
County Council



Archifdy
Ceredigion
Archives