

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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HEULWEN Cambrian Terrace Number 5.

Morfa Borth - the Marsh Harbour

(This was the first house in Cyfoeth y Brenin township, numbers 1 to 4 being in Henllys).

A house with holiday visitors and tenants, a room there rented by the Midland Bank in 1925. Later two furnished flats and in 2014 a bed and breakfast. Today a modern bed and breakfast.



This house was 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 his house is part of the terrace built when the rails 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. In the 1911 Census Number Five had 9 rooms.

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 cream coloured stone details 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 bay windows are iron, and in the Gothic style. Today there is no chimney shared

ABOVE and BELOW photographs of Heulwen taken in 2016.



with Number 4, but there are two roof lights for rooms under the roof.

This house has one small window at the top on the west side, the remaining windows are in the bay which reaches to the eaves and has a small gable roof. The windows are modern but have two lights in the pattern of the old sash windows. Bold string courses (mouldings which cast a shadow) divide the windows and link all the houses together-



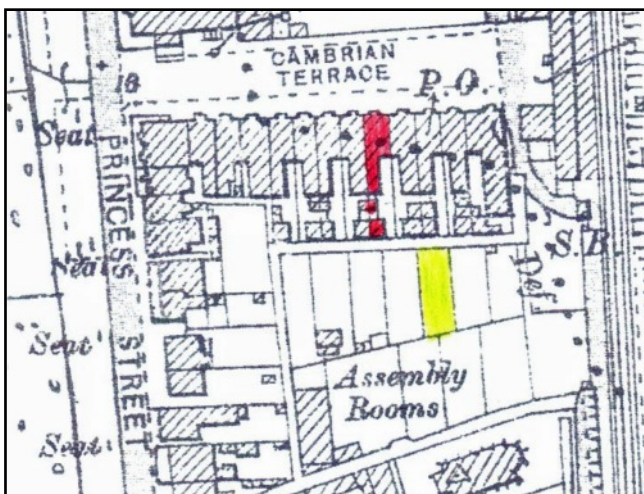
LEFT The ground floor on the east has a second front door, though now disused. This probably dates from the time when the Midland Bank used the building. One door would lead to the Bank, the other was for the family living in the house. The window above the door was a good size to light the hall within. Panelled wooden doors like this one were probably the original kind for the Terrace. The original stone dressings around the door and windows in this house are well preserved.

er. Under the eaves is a pattern made by protruding bricks between mouldings.

In 1871 there are no holiday visitors listed for Number 5.

In the summer of 1880 Mrs Davies was the landlady for holiday visitors listed in the Cambrian News for six weeks. Some came from as far afield as Putney in London and some from Monmouthshire. At the Census of 1881 it was empty. The house began as part of a Cambrian Hotel Estate, and let to tenants. However the estate incurred mortgages and in 1888 the mortgagees sold it at an auction with its garden as Lot Number 5. Thereafter it was possible for individuals to own the house.

At the Census of 1891 and 1901 either the house was unoccupied or the occupiers were



LEFT On this detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1905 the house is marked in red and its garden in green. The 'Seats' beside the beach were on a hard-standing promenade edged on the roadside by a strip of grass. All people living in The Terrace had a right to use them. (Deeds to Number 8)

away.

In 1910 the valuation of the house for a tax planned but not levied was £445, and £25 for the site. There was £19.11s to pay, £23 gross. The owner was

Llewellyn Rees who also owned Number 10 and was the proprietor of a Taliesin Hotel at the sea end of the Terrace. His tenant in Number 5 was Jules Hohenberg. He was the owner and manager of the great Cambrian Hotel across the road. He was from Hungary, born there in 1854, he became a naturalised Englishman and his wife Charlotte was a Yorkshire

woman. They had two sons. He was listed as the 'occupier' of Number 5, a private home for him and his wife, away from the comings and goings at the Hotel.

In 1911 when the Census takers called either the house was unoccupied or the occupiers were away. Like its neighbours the house probably had 9 or 10 rooms - not including its bathroom.

Jane Rees the widow of Llewellyn Rees was the owner in 1925, and there was a tenant, Richard Evan Jones, but he lived next door in Number 6, which he owned. Jane Rees also rented a room to the Midland Bank, one of three banks in Borth then.

Paying the Rates in 1938 was Charles G. Hughes. The house was valued at £22.

In 1949 Mary Hughes paid the Rates. She was on the Committee of Borth's British Legion Women, and on the parish council.

In the 1960s the house was made into two furnished flats, looked after by Mrs H. Jones.

In 1963 W. D. Jones paid the Rates for the house. It was still called Number 5 Cambrian Terrace.

Today there is still a door in the old wall at the end of the property, and the passage there from the house has been planted on both sides. On its garden over the lane behind the Terrace is a large garage.

The name Heulwen is recent and is Welsh meaning 'sunshine'. The house has three guest rooms for visitors.

Details of the history of the ground on which this house was built, and details of the architecture of the Terrace can be found in the 'Terrace Introduction'.

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Tai'r Borth / Houses of Borth
gan/by Beryl Lewis
[cyf/ref ADX/1629]

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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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