

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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NUMBER 7 CAMBRIAN TERRACE

This was considered a good, comfortable house in 1880 to take a holiday in by the Rev. Edward Thring, the headmaster of Uppingham School, and it was still running as a boarding house at the beginning of the 1900s. Like all the houses in the Terrace it had rights to enjoy a piece or parcel of the foreshore between the High Street and the sea. From an old painting in the Borth Railway Museum this looked like a strip of grass and a gravel 'esplanade' with seats raised up from the beach and supported by a stone wall. The house also had rights to use the small lane behind the the Terrace.



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. Beside the railway Savin built hotels in Aberystwyth and Aberdovey and developed a market garden with houses at Ynyslas. He eventually over-reached himself and became bankrupt by February 1866. There is evidence all the rooms Savin had provided for Borth in his great hotel were not filled when Uppingham School was moved to Borth from 1876 to 1877, and there were also plenty of rooms available for the school to use in the Terrace.

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) A beginning date of 1864 has also been suggested. The houses were originally red brick with cream coloured sandstone details and matched the railway station. A good example is the side of Rutland

House (Number 1) - it having been cleaned. The columns framing and supporting the bay windows are iron, and in the Gothic style. The Terrace houses were freehold and had been owned by the Cambrian Railway Company and rented out. The Cambrian News commented that "even though Borth had grown considerably since the railway was made" "the idea of converting Borth into a large and prosperous watering place has not been



ABOVE The house in 2016. It had a handsome stained glass window in its ground floor front sitting room.

BELOW The rear yard still has its gate in the original wall opening out on to the lane behind the houses.



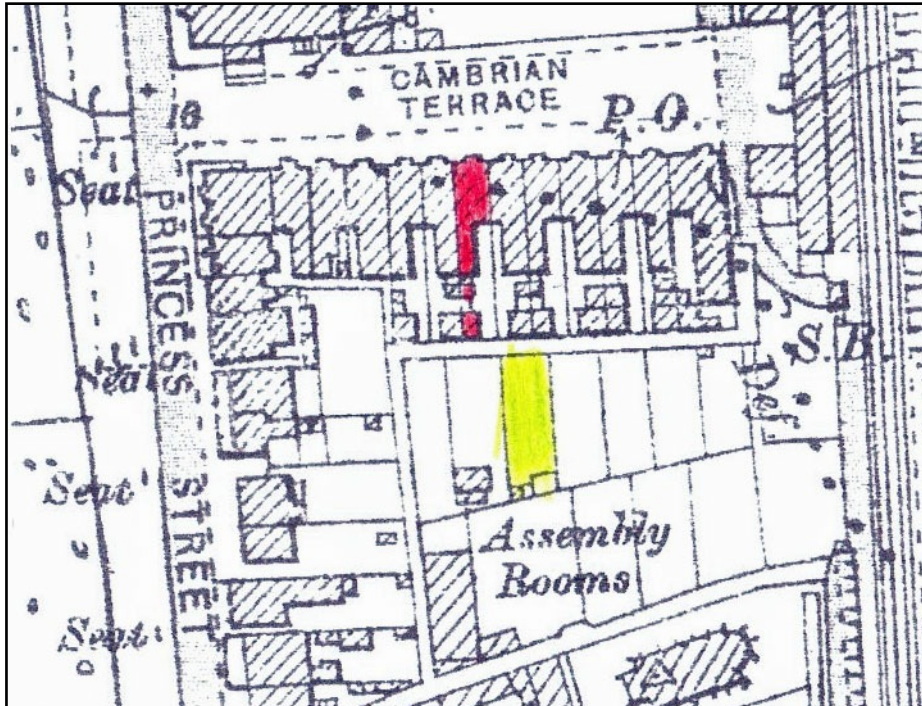
realised.” By 1888 the hotel and Terrace houses were all mortgaged, and the mortgagees put them up for sale on September 20th 1888. They were in separate lots so each house could have a new owner. A coloured Plan in the Borth Railway Museum shows the estate. There was a ‘garden’ for the house behind The Terrace which it still had in 1910.

At the 1871 Census Number 7 was unoccupied. The Terrace was still fairly new, though nine of the houses already had holiday visitors staying.

In 1880 Number 7 took in holiday visitors for 10 weeks during the Summer. Important ones were members of the Thring family from Uppingham, the Rev. E (Edward) Thring and his family who brought two maids with them. Uppingham School had moved to Borth for a year in 1876/7 and the Rev. Edward Thring was the headmaster. Also staying in the house were J. G. Thring and Herbert

Thring. The Rev. Thring and his maids then moved to stay next door in Number 8. Other visitors came from as far away as Somerset, London and Manchester. Mrs Davies was their landlady, and we learn from the 1881 Census she was the wife of a Calvinistic Methodist Minister, Richard Davies aged 58 and born in Llangwryfon, Cardiganshire. Mary was from Borth and aged 54. Also in the house was their 26 year old unmarried daughter Frances.

In 1891 at the Census in the house was The Rev. John Pryderch Poole Hughes, a young man of 26, born in



of 26, born in Aberaeron, a clerk in Holy Orders. Also there was his mother, 58 year old widow Elizabeth Hughes, born in Pontglas, Carmarthenshire, and with her 'own means'. Looking after them were two domestic servants, Mary Evans, single, aged 52 and born in Cilcennin, Cardiganshire, and Jane Lewis, aged 21 and born in the parish.

In green is the garden of Number Seven on the Ordnance Survey 25 inch Map of 1905. It was reasonably close to the back gate of the house. The house is coloured red. It shared the outbuildings in the yard with Number 8, and its chimney with Number 7.

In 1901 at the Census in the house was a retired farmer, James Jones aged

62, born at Clarach. His wife Margaretta was the same age and also born in Clarach (Llangorwen). Also in the house was their son John Lloyd Jones, also a farmer and a bachelor. He and two daughters, both unmarried were born in Henllys, Frances Gertrude aged 28 and Agnes Myfanwy aged 25. They were born in Talybont. Though a Welsh family they all spoke both Welsh and English.

Paying the Rates in 1910 was Mary Margaretta Jones, as the owner and occupier. The house was valued at £486 – more valuable than Numbers 2 to 10. (Ceredigion Archives) At the Census of 1911 Mary Margaretta was by then a widow of 72, and she was keeping a boarding house. Assisting her were her unmarried daughters, Frances Gertrude Jones aged 37, born at Talybont, Myfanwy Gertrude Jones aged 22, born at Lampeter and Agnes Myfanwy Jones born at Talybont. She was also listed as a 'daughter'. The house had ten main rooms. Paying the Rates in 1925 (£19.11s, £23 gross) and still in 1938 (£22, £30 gross) was Agnes Myfanwy Jones who was the owner and occupier, and had been helping run Number 7 as a boarding house in 1910. She was still there with a vote for the house at the General Election of 1945.

In 1949 paying the Rates of £22 was a Roberts. His or her Christian name was not known at the Council Office at that time.

Number 7 Cambrian Terrace Page 4

Sometime after 1922 the 'Illustrated Borth Guide' listed rooms six bedrooms and three sitting rooms in the house for holiday visitors. (Aberystwyth Public Library)

Paying the Rates of £27 in 1963 was Mrs Roberts. (Rates and lists of Electors from the Ceredigion Archives.)

In 1971 some alterations and improvements were approved by the County Council Planning Committee (Minutes, Ceredigion Archive)

(For some comments and details of the original design of the houses in the Terrace, please see the General Introduction)

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

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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.

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