

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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CARRON HOUSE

At the northern end of the village with the beach across the road. On the site of an old cottage garden of a labourer Edward Jones, the ground later owned and developed by Captain David Jones of Maes Arfor (formerly Sea View) and his sons. The house, part of a terrace of three houses was built for the Jones family between 1888 and 1891. They let Carron and there were plenty of rooms so the tenants could use it as a lodging house as did an Ellis family. It was still owned by Edward Jones in 1925.





LEFT Carron House in 2009. The second and top floor windows do not match those of Glanmor on the right. Carron Cottage rendered in blue is behind it. (This had to be a composite photograph).

Carron House is the northernmost of a terrace of three villas, three storeys high and under a gable roof parallel to the road. The front looks out over the road to the beach, and the upper room of the bay windows and rooms above have an excellent view of the sea. Today the concrete sea defensive wall and promenade restricts the view from the ground floor, but it was not there when the villas were built. The walls are rendered and all the windows have modern frames put in about 2015, 2016, but they are in the pattern of the old sash windows. All the fronts of the three villas have a bold curving string course (line of moulding) beneath the upper bay window. The window above the front door has a square frame in the rendering ending with a bold keystone and decorative tapered ends. The window above has a decorative band under the sill. The front is open to the street.



LEFT The front door is under an arch with a keystone, and ends with a bracket each side, its detail now rubbed. A fanlight shaped window above the front door lights the hall. The door is set back making a narrow porch which is some protection from the weather.

RIGHT The bracket on Glendower which was

the same but is not so rubbed. These photographs were taken in 2018.

Though these villas appear the same, the upper windows of Carron House are larger and not in the same position as those of Glanmor the central villa and the ground floor windows are nearer the ground. This house appeared on an old postcard by itself before the other two were built (seen by the present owner of Glanmor). Glanmor has rubble stone walls and it is likely that Carron House does too. Today the house is three flats, with five bedrooms, two reception rooms and three





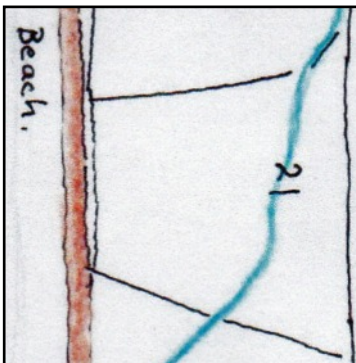
bathrooms. The ground floor flat has a separate kitchen and sitting room and in the flats above there are kitchen/living rooms. In 2015 the house was given new windows.

LEFT On the rear of the house is a substantial wing on the south side with two chimneys.

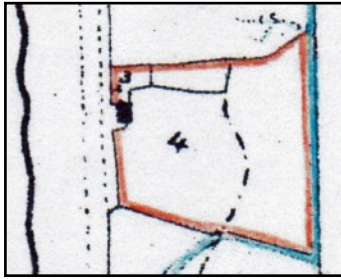


LEFT The strip of land behind Carron House extends to the old ditch and the railway line but is divided into two.

The ground on which Carron House stands was enclosed in 1826 by David Williams from the shingle bank thrown up by the sea and drained bog land and called 'waste' by the Crown Manor who owned it. David Williams had two acres and two rods (two and a half acres) which extended to a brook. It was pasture and he paid £1 12s rent for it, with the option to buy it for £8, and he bought it. The road had been there for centuries and by the 1770s was a turnpike road. It led to a ferry at Ynyslas to Aberdovey which was a quick way to North Wales. The brook was then the old route of the River Leri still with some water in it, and useful for David Williams if he had cows or horses on his land.



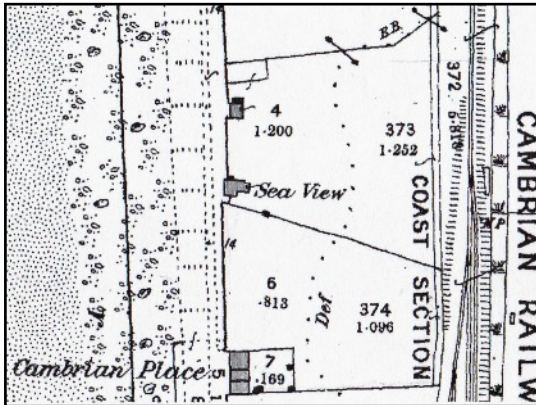
LEFT David William's pasture in 1829, a sketch after a map of that date, it was number 21 with no cottages on it, and it stopped short of the road. (National Archives Map LRRO 1/3060)



LEFT In 1848 there was a cottage on the ground, Number 4, and interestingly there was a brook running along the eastern boundary of the field. This was the tailrace from the corn mill at Glanlerry (now gone) plus a couple of little streams, diverted to run northwards along the back of Morfa Borth for fresh water for the cottagers. The dashed line was the old route of the River Leri which was also the boundary between the townships of Cyfoeth-y-brenin and Henllys. Edward Jones owned the cottage

and he rented the field from David Williams. (A detail derived from a photocopy of the Tithe Apportionments Map for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Henllys Township, on-line at CYNEFIN).

By the 1851 Census, David Williams, by then a retired farmer of 76, was living with Edward Jones in his cottage. Edward Jones himself was a 50 year old labourer, born in Troed-y-rhiw. His wife Margaret aged 48 was local and had been born at a small holding called Ty Simnai (Chimney House, along the road to Llandre). They had a family of daughters; May 18, Jane 13, Anne 11, Eliza 7 and Margaret 5. The eldest was born in Penybont. Fuel for this cottage would have come from a patch dug for peat belonging to the villagers just to the north of Ynys Fergi.

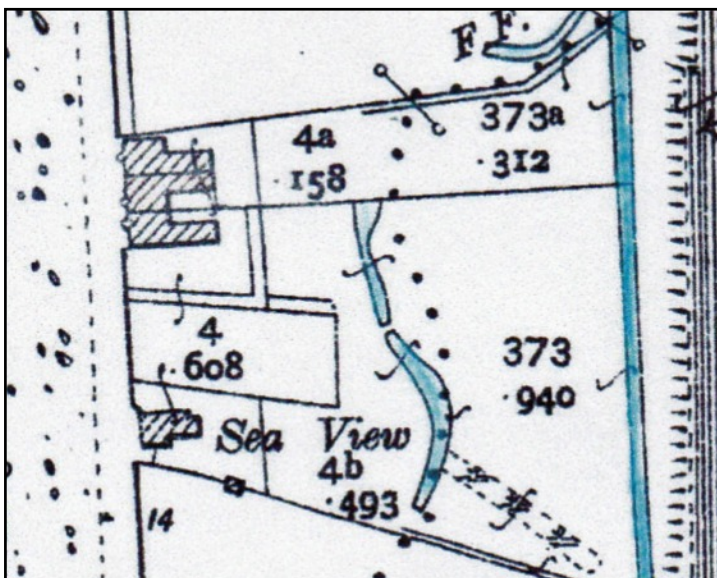


LEFT In 1886 the cottage was still there. David Jones, a master mariner who owned the ground had built himself a house on it, now Maes Arfor but then called Sea View. He had built it by 1871 when his wife Anne and children were there. (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886 but published in 1888. Cardiganshire NW III.10)

At the 1881 Census his wife Anne was in Sea View, with eldest son Edward 12, and sons John 13. Morgan H. Jones 9 and Hugh 6. As the eldest son was called Edward, David Jones was probably

the son of Edward Jones with the old cottage.

By the 1901 Census Carron House had been built on the site of the old cottage's garden but was not occupied.



LEFT In 1904 the old cottage had gone and all the three villas were built. Carron and Glanmor shared a garden - they had the same owner. Behind was a small garden and beyond that a long strip leading down to the brook. The roadside land had been divided up ready for another house and with a track to access the rear of Glendower, and this probably had a gateway into the rear of Glanmor and Carron. (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map revised in 1904 and published in 1905. Cardiganshire NW III.10)



LEFT Carron House had a large brick chimney which we can see in this detail from an old postcard. In the foreground is Maes Arfor (Sea View) then Surrey which had been built in the plot next door we saw on the 1905 map, and beyond is the terrace. The chimneys had five chimney pots (five flues). The chimneys have stripes round them, and locally at this time such chimneys were yellow brick with red stripes. (Postcard private collection - the card had some damage, hence the white mark at the top left.)



LEFT In the background top right is the terrace, with Carron's chimney at the far end and Glanmor and Glendower shared a chimney. They all had prominent wings at the back. We cannot see Carron's except for a chimney which suggests there was a kitchen on the ground floor of its wing. (Detail from a postcard - private collection)

In 1910 at a valuation for a tax planned but not levied, Carron House was valued at £405, and rated at £15. 16s to pay, £18 gross. The owner was Captain Edward Jones of Glanmor next door, a master mariner, and the eldest son of David Jones of Sea View (Maes Arfor). Occupying the house was Mary Ellis. She was the widow of shoemaker John Ellis who had died in 1906. She was born Mary James in Borth and they had six children. At the 1911 Census she was running Carron House as a boarding house. Helping her were her two unmarried daughters, Anne James Ellis and Margaret Ellis. Margaret was to wed the minister the Rev. Christmas Humphreys in 1916. Also in the house were a niece Annie Roberts and Sydney Griffiths aged 3, both born in Macynlleth. Mary Ellis and her family had moved to Carron House from Gloucester House where they were living at the 1901 Census. In 1911 Carron House had eleven main rooms. The income from the rent would have been useful for Captain Edward Jones's family next door in Glanmor. Mary Ellis's three sons were all to become mariners. Rowland Hugh Ellis was away at the 1911 Census. In 1917 the Cambrian News reported that Mr R. Ellis of the steam ship 'Lady Carrington' was torpedoed but survived, and he was leaving to join another ship.

On March 5th 1920 the Cambrian News reported that Mr John Ellis, a son of Mrs Mary Ellis came home from from Australia where he had been for over twelve years. This was John

Hayden Ellis who had wed Annie Jones in Freemantle, and had a son there in 1918, John David (Jack) Ellis. He came back to live in Carron House in 1920 where another son was born, Thomas William Ellis.

In an 'Illustrated Borth Guide' published some time after 1922, five bedrooms and three sitting rooms were advertised to let to holiday makers. (Aberystwyth Public Library).

In October 1924 the Rev. William Christmas Humphreys the minister at the Libanus Chapel and his wife Margaret were living in Carron House.

In 1925 the rates listed Edward Jones as the owner and Mary Ellis as the occupier. She was to die later that year. The Humphreys were still there in 1934 when Mrs Humphreys gave a recipe for a booklet published in aid of St Matthew's Church, Borth. By 1945 the family had moved away to Isgaer, a smaller modern house further south along the street. (Notes on the Ellis family by courtesy of John Ellis).

With votes for Carron House at the General Election of 1945 were Edna Mary Fullwood, Una M. Fullwood and Harriet L. Hillcox. Harriet paid the rates for it in 1949. In that year one of the Miss Fullwoods was on the committee of the Borth British Legion Women (The Borth Review, National Library of Wales). In a Borth Guide Book of 1951 she advertised five bedrooms and two sitting rooms to let (Aberystwyth Public Library). In a Handbook and Guide to Borth of 1968 she offered a bungalow chalet as well.

Harriet Hillcox was still paying the rates for the house in 1963 and Edna Mary Fullwood had a vote for the house (Rates and Electoral Registers, Ceredigion Archives).

CARRON HOUSE COTTAGE



LEFT This is the front which is modern, behind it is a two storey extension on the rear of Carron House.



LEFT The north side of the modern section of the cottage.

BELOW The front door of the cottage is at the side of the modern section. A path leads out to the High Street.



BELOW The two storey wing which is part of the cottage, the modern section with bold pebble dash rendering has been added to it.

Some rear windows of Carron House overlook the garden area of the cottage.



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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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