

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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CARTREF Morfa Borth

A house on a very narrow site, on the beach side at the southern part of Borth High Street. Home of two retired mariners. Not on the site of an old cottage.



The front and back of Cartref in 2015.

Cartref is a single fronted, narrow house in a terrace. It has two storeys beneath a gable roof parallel to the road. There is a chimney on the southern end of the roof. This is rendered and has two chimney pots. The front of the house has sash windows each with four lights. The ground floor window and the front door are below shallow arches. Two steps down from the front door is a narrow garden area of hard standing enclosed by a low block wall.

At the back on the north side of the yard and rendered dark grey to match the main house is a full two storey wing with a nearly flat roof at right angles to the main roof. Maps show this was built after 1886 but by 1905. Today it extends further into the yard in a single storey extension with a lean to roof on its south face. At the beach end it extends further with a single storey cream rendered extension with a shallow lean-to roof against the tall wall which separates Cartref from



Glasfryn House next door. This extension almost reaches the end of the yard, there is just room for a short clothes line. Across the end of the yard a rubble stone wall is topped by a timber fence. This continues the end wall of Leander. There is an open gateway and a step to access the beach. Unusually there is no balcony to overlook the sea, though the large modern window upstairs at the rear of the main house would

have a fine view over the beach.

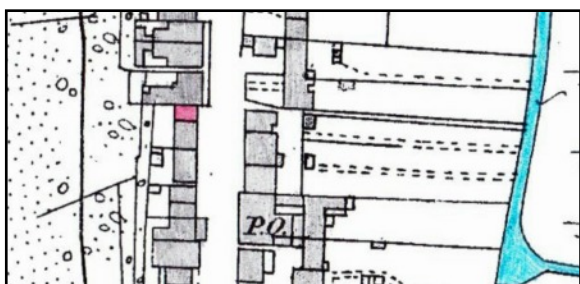


LEFT Cartref in 2009 showing how narrow the building is between Leander on the left and Glasfryn on the right.

The ground for this house, a bank of stones thrown up by the sea, was still open ground in 1829 and called 'waste' by the Crown Manor who owned it as it was no use for farming (National Archive Crown Manor Map LRRO 1/3060). When a villager enclosed this plot to build on he would have either paid a rent for it, or bought it. The road was centuries old and was a turnpike road by the 1770s. It led to a ferry from Ynyslas to Aberdovey and was a quick way to North

Wales. Fresh water for the cottages and houses came from a brook on the other side of the road - the tailrace from the Glanlerry Corn Mill (Felinwern) plus two small streams. For fuel villagers had their own area to dig peat on the other side of the River Leri just north of Ynys Fergi.

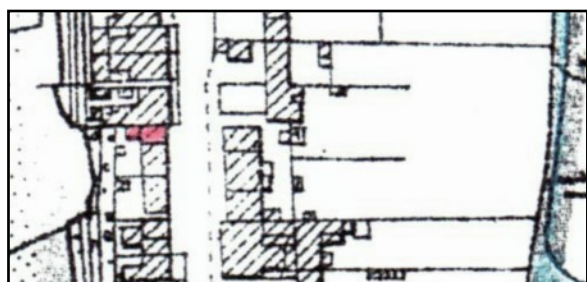
There were no buildings on this site in 1829 or 1848 (Crown Manor Map, National Archive LRRO 1/3060, and Tithe Apportionments Map, Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township, on-line at CYNEFIN National Library of Wales).



This was the house in 1886, marked in red. It is a small narrow building, and it shared a yard with what is now Leander, which indicates the same person owned both. The P.O. over the road was London House, then the post office. (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886, published in 1888. Cardiganshire III.10)

It is not possible to find this house in the early Census's. In the 1881 Census - its address was 'London Place' after London House across the road, but it is not clear who lived there.

In 1891 the house had its name 'Cartref' which is Welsh for 'home', and it was the home of master mariner Captain Hugh Rees. By the 1901 Census Captain Rees was still there, though then retired. He was 75, born in Borth about 1826, and son of a shopkeeper, John Rees and his wife Jane. He was baptised at Llandre. He spoke Welsh and English, his wife Margaret aged 74 spoke only Welsh. He died in 1902. (Cambrian News, February 21st.)



This was Cartref in 1904, home of Elizabeth Rees. An extension had been built on the rear of the house. The small building was probably the Ty Bach (outside lavatory). The house still had a shared yard. It had only two fences at the rear unlike neighbouring houses with at least four. These would be sea defences of wooden stakes or brushwood bundles, at an angle and anchored into the stone bank.

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In 1910 for a tax planned but not levied, the house was valued at £76. There would have been £2.8s to pay, £3 gross. Elizabeth Rees was the owner, but living there was William Jones (Ceredigion Archives, T/DV/18 and map at the National Library of Wales). Mr Jones was an elderly retired mariner, aged 80 and born in Borth about 1831. His wife Margaret was born in Borth about 1841. They had no children. The house had four main rooms, presumably one room downstairs and one bedroom upstairs in the roadside part of the house, and two rooms in the wing close to the house which must have been two storey as it is today (1911 Census).

Paying the rates in 1925 was 'Dougall' - the Council did not know his full name.

Paying the rates in 1934 had been Lydia Ody, but this was altered to G. W. Varney, and he was both owner and occupier. She was still on the list in 1938 however.

Paying the rates in 1949 had been Lewis Smith, but this was altered to R. A. Hill.

Paying the rates in 1963 was Francis Clive Barton, and he had a vote for the house as did Mabel Alexander Barton (Rates and Electoral Register, Ceredigion Archives).



Cartref is on the left side of this old postcard - there were two sash windows upstairs, and the front door did not have an arch over it. On the low wall at the front were railings, with gateposts and a gate. The workmen were digging a trench in the road, and one of them had hung his coat on the railings. Opposite is London House with its shop - which explains why the buildings opposite were called 'London Place'.

Postcard courtesy of Amgueddfa Ceredigion Museum

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-ceredigion.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-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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