

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

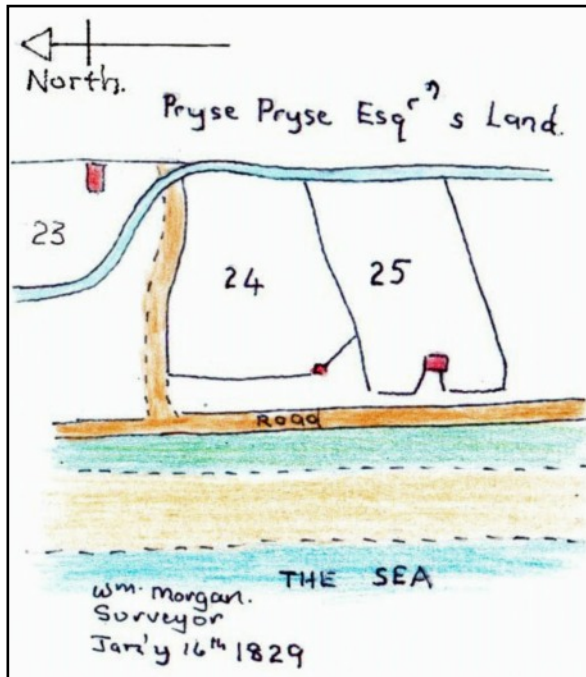
Photographs and History by BERYL LEWIS

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CHAPEL LANE

Morfa Borth - the Marsh Harbour

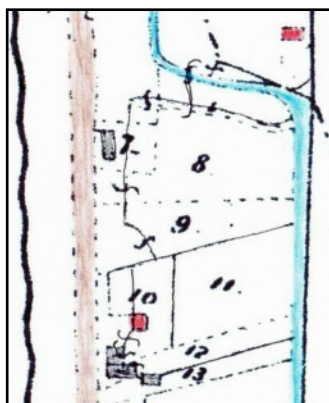
The lane came into being when a railway level crossing was needed to access fields on the other side of the line when the railway arrived in Borth in 1863 and as the Cambrian Terrace was built. The small lane ran along the rear of the gardens belonging to the Terrace. When St Matthew's Church was built on the rocky island this became the villager's route to their



A detail of the enclosures of 1829 copied from the map. (NA LRRO 1.3060)

church, and was then called Church Lane. The Chapel Seion railway level crossing had no barrier or lights. It has closed and the name of the lane has become Chapel Lane.

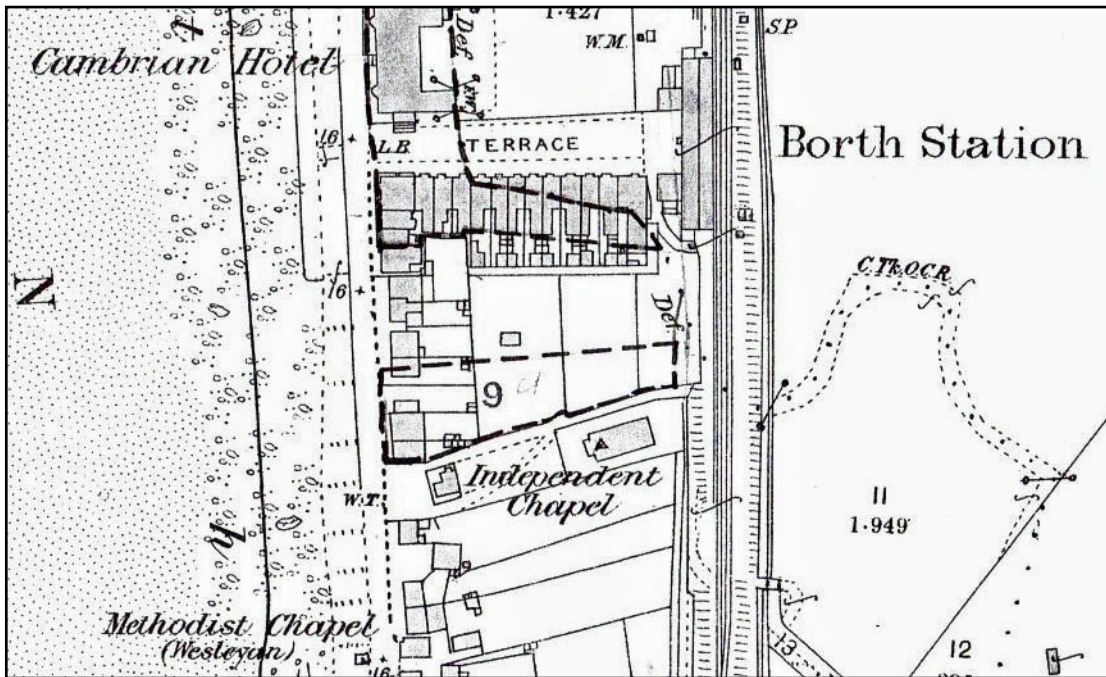
The first use of the land involves different owners on each side of the lane and involves enclosures number 24 and 25 of the 'waste' ground of the Crown Manor. On the north of the Church Lane site, was Number 24, enclosed in 1809 by (illegible) Jones and was 1 acre and 24 perches of land with a (very small) cottage on it. On the south of the Church Lane site was enclosure number 25 of 1 acre 29 perches with a bigger cottage set back from the road, and enclosed in 1823 by David Morgan. It was 'involved in a Conveyance of 8 February 1825'. Villagers enclosing land had to pay rent to the Crown Manor who owned it, but they had the option of buying it, which David Morgan had done. (Crown Manor Map (National Archives LRRO 1/3060). Today the cottage is still on that site and is called Pant Gwyn (set back from the Amusements). At that time there was a lane further north, and the house close to it belonged to John Lewis who will appear again in this story. He was called Big John and was a lawyer with several pieces of ground, including number 23 which had six acres. There was a useful 'brook' for this ground which was the tailrace from the corn mill at Glanlerry plus two small streams.



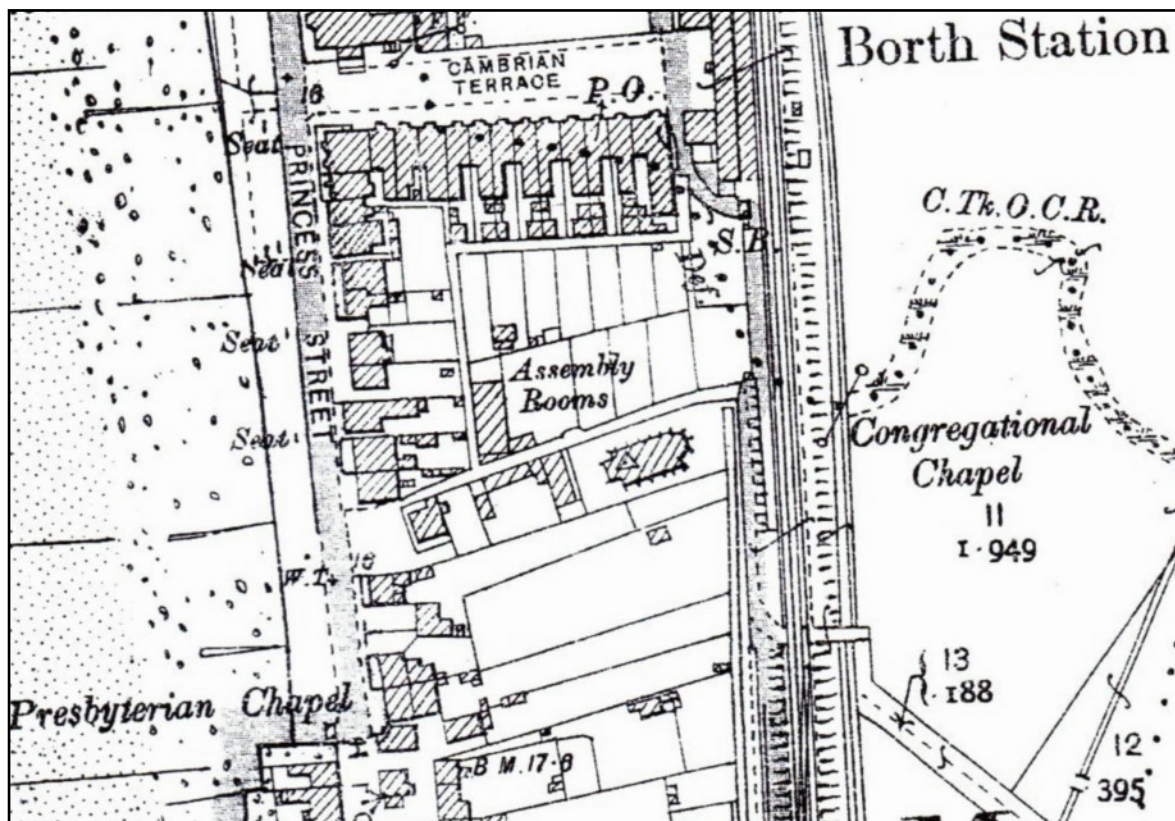
LEFT By 1848 Number 24 had had a strip enclosed out of it which belonged to Big John and he owned the ground all the way to the main road. It was Number 9. The cottage on Number 10 was Margaret Morgan's (now Pant Gwyn) and behind it on Number 11 was a garden. (Tithe Apportionments Map for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township – on-line on the National Library of Wales's 'Cynefin'.)

When the railway came, opening to passengers in 1863 and Cambrian Terrace was built from 1864 onwards considerable changes happened on this ground. Tithe Map Number 9 is marked on it with dashed lines. Big John sold his land to Savin who built the railway, including Tithe Map Number 9 and this ground was used for gardens for some of the Terrace houses, and previously at the roadside the Manor Court had set out four plots to rent or sell and cottages and houses were built on it. Church Lane was in place at the south end of the gardens, gated at the railway end. A path continued along the edge of the railway, past the chapel to the Level Crossing. Pant Gwyn Cottage was still there. Meirion was built on the other side of the lane and in the 1880s the Capel-y-Morfa

was built at the railway end of the lane. These had had been built on a strip taken from the north of the Morgan's ground.



This is a detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888. (Cardiganshire NW III.10)



By the 1905 Map an Assembly Rooms had been built too and across the lane was an Osprey Garage with a wooden house called Caban Coed beside it.

THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS (gone).

After Uppingham School departed at Easter 1876, the large wooden hall they built behind the Cambrian Hotel was taken over to use as Borth's Assembly room. Bathing machines were built there, and concerts held there (Cambrian News 7 June 1878)

However a new Assembly Rooms was to be built. It was not there when the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map was surveyed in 1886. However it was on the 1905 Second Edition. An Assembly Rooms Company had been formed, the land and buildings owned by Lieutenant Colonel Robert Fielder who lived at Rutland House, Number 1 Cambrian Terrace, and he was the Honorary Secretary (Kelly's Directory). The site was adjacent to the Cambrian Terrace gardens of Number 9 at the far end and alongside Number 10's (Map, Sale, 1888, Borth Station Museum). In 1910 for a Valuation for a tax planned but not levied, the building was valued at £45 with £3.4s to pay, £4 gross. An area across the lane belonged with it and had a garage (T/DV/18 Ceredigion Archives). Important Borth events were held at the Assembly Rooms, for example; on 4 October 1894 the Inquest into the death of Mary Davies, on December 2nd 1898 Miss Lewis (the local landowner) gave a 'tea' there for members of St Matthew's Church, and on 20th January 1911 a Concert was held there in aid of street lights for Borth (Cambrian News).

By 1925 paying the rates for the 'Assembly Rooms' was Richard Jones, he was owner and occupier, and the place had become a garage. This was the same rate as for the old building. A 'Memorial Hall' (now gone) had been built for Borth just off the High Street behind Welfare and adjacent to the gardens of Saxatile. The foundation stone was laid in August 1925 and it was provided with a car park which is still there. The old Assembly Rooms became a workshop for the Leri Garage. In 1962 it was owned by A Fielding and Sons and had a telephone 240. It did a breakdown service, and in the 1990s was a Ford Dealership.

It had a time as a Cinema.

The present building built of breeze blocks is mostly in the footprint of the old Assembly Rooms, twenty four yards by eight and a half yards. Today the building is a garage for cars for holiday makers staying at the 'Pebbles' alongside on the west.

Owners of the Cambrian Terrace houses sold off their gardens to enable bungalows to be built both alongside Church Lane and two alongside the track at right angles to the lane which



connects with the passage behind the walled yards of the Terrace houses. These are able to be used by cars.

WENNOL - stands on part of the gardens of Cambrian Terrace Numbers 8 and 9 and was built by 1925 and then owned by Jane Rees of Taliesin (Grand Hotel) 13 Cambrian Terrace and occupied by William Evans.

A passage beside the Garage/former Assembly Rooms connects it to Church Lane. The building is under two sections of gable roof at right angles making an 'L' shape, and the rear section has a chimney. The walls are rendered and the front wall decorated with an inlay of local stones. It has a garage accessed from the passage in the photograph above. There is a local stream called the 'Wennol' which enters the sea near Pen-y-graig Farm.

In 1949 the rates were been paid by Mrs A. S. Jones, altered to D. W. E. Jones. Mrs Jones



was the secretary of the British Legion Women's branch. (Borth Review, National Library of Wales). About 1950 two bedrooms and one sitting room were let to holiday visitors. Miss E. Jones also offered these in 1962. (Guide Books to Borth, Aberystwyth Library) Paying the rates in 1963 was Annie J. Jones and living there was Jessie Janet Jones. (Ceredigion Archives)



*WENNOL 2015
On the left is the passage between the former Cambrian Terrace gardens and the walls at the end of their backyards.*



Also built on the former garden of Number 9 Cambrian Terrace is GWYLAN - which is Welsh for 'gull'. In 1925 the owner was Jane Rees of Taliesin House (Grand Hotel), Number 13 Cambrian Terrace. Her tenant was Henry Woolam.

The bungalow is under a hipped gable roof parallel with the passage to Church Lane. It too has rendered walls but a panel of local stone on the front wall. The gateway in the foreground opens into a drive to its garage. This is on the former garden of Number 8. At the back of these two bungalows is the garden of Number 7 which has not been built on. This bungalow was built on the former land of Number Thirteen Cambrian Terrace, which was the Taliesin House and hotel, (now the 'Grand Hotel') a large building on the corner with the main road and seafront. It had a larger garden than the other houses. Jane Rees or her late husband probably had it built. In 1934 Jane Rees owned it and her tenant had been J. R. Benbow, altered to John Thomas. With a vote for the house in 1945 was Ellen Thomas (Ceredigion Archives) In the 1960s John Thomas who lived there was a painter and decorator by trade. In 1987 Mrs Neil Thomas lived there, but was ill (Y Tincer).



Eryl is under a gable roof at right angles to Church Lane which is in the foreground. The bungalow has a brick chimney with two chimney pots, and an extension on the front. The walls are rendered. It is characterized by the use of local stone, including rounded beach stones in its front walls. The garden is not very long. The garage of Gwylan is behind it and can be seen in the photograph. It was built by 1934 when Gertrude Langford paid the rates. Mr Hollingsworth paid the rates in 1963 (Ceredigion Archives).

With a vote for Eryl in 1945 was Gertrude E. Langford. In 1963 paying the rates was Mr Hollingsworth. (Ceredigion Archives). The ground this was built on was the garden of Taliesin House now the Grand Hotel (Plan, Borth Railway Museum).



CHARENE

The bungalow stands on the former garden of Cambrair Terrace Number 12. It was built after 1963, the date is not known yet.



Chapel Lane Page 7

Charene is a brick built bungalow under a gable roof at right angles to Church Lane. It has a front garden, being set back from the lane. Overchurch next door on the east is at the same distance from the road. It was built after 1963, the date is not known yet.



OVERCHURCH

Though the bricks match, this is a wider and shorter building than Charene next door.

Overchurch was built on the former garden of Cambrian Terrace Number 12. Its back fence is on the old boundary between the gardens. Beside it is a covered area and garage.

PANT TAWEL 2015



Pantawel - valley breeze in Welsh was built on the former garden of Cambrian Terrace Number 10. With a vote for the bungalow in the election of 1945 was Horace Payton Light. Paying the rates in 1963 was Joseph H. Walklate, 'not T. Light' said the rates book. (Ceredigion Archives).



BRYN EGLWYS Church Hill in Welsh.

This was built on the former garden of Bibury, Cambrian Terrace Number 2. This west side of the house is also the boundary with the bungalow next door and would overlook it, so it has no windows.

This one and a half storey house was built after 1963, the date is not known yet. Space under the roof has been used to access good views using dormer windows. More space downstairs has been created by a single storey lean to. The house is close to the railway line, and has a great view across fields, past the church, and over the Cors Fochno to the hills beyond.

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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-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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