

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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CRAIGWEIL

Wernfach - small marsh - Morfa Borth

Craigweil stands on a strip of land between the Lôn-y-môr lane, and the present road to Clarach along the sea-front. New in 1930.



Craigweil in 2016. It is rendered in blue and is in a terrace with its neighbours.

This is a two storey single fronted brick house newly built in 1930 which was designed as seaside accommodation and originally opened on to the beach with views of the sea from both upper and lower front windows. It was however open to damage from seawater and stones from the beach thrown up by westerly gales at spring tides. It flooded regularly. Today the

front looks over the area for parking boats enclosed within the low sea defensive wooden



wall, only its upper floor has an unrestricted view of the beach. Therefore it has a bedroom on its ground floor at the front, and its living room is on the floor above, with a picture window and a fine view of the sea. A metal blind protects it from storm damage. There are a further two bedrooms and a bathroom on the upper floor.

The kitchen is on the ground floor at the back, and as the back of the house is raised up from the lane, a railed balcony and stairs lead down to the lane with storage room underneath the balcony. From the kitchen are views of countryside across the Wernfach and the land beyond to the hills.

The front entrance is via a modern porch inset from the street which leads into a hall with the stairs on the south side of the house, a bedroom opening off it on the other side and the kitchen beyond.

ABOVE The rear of the house from Lôn Glan-y-môr

The ground the house stands on was originally 'waste'. On maps drawn for the Crown Manor in 1829 and 1857 there was nothing on the site – it was still drawn as 'beach'. The only road then was the Lôn Glan-y-môr. On 25 inch Ordnance Survey Maps of 1888 and 1905 it was unenclosed and small beach stones were drawn on it and no buildings.



ABOVE This postcard was sent on the 7th August 1930. Craigweil and its neighbours are on the left. The sender the then owner Mr H. C. Jordan had put a cross above Craigweil he had bought. Mr Jordan and his wife had previously already rented a house in the High Street. (Courtesy of Mrs F. H. B. Renny)

The houses were built with their fronts facing the Clarach Road which had recently been built. The site between the two roads was too narrow to allow more than a tiny strip of access space in front of the houses and no garden at all at the rear. Builders took advantage of the

'sea views' that would endear the houses to buyers, and those wanting second homes. The postcard shows that the houses were intended to have their bricks showing, and also shows the generous size of the upper windows and the lower square bay windows which looked straight out across the beach.



The house fronts were open to the road. The postcard also shows that this was one of a set of three similar houses. The present day photograph of the terrace on the next page shows that the sloping roof of the ground floor bay window of the house next door is still there. Today it is rendered. It also clearly shows the

LEFT This photograph of Mr Jordan's son Alan and his wife Daphne shows the ground floor front window which worked on the sash principle, each section with four lights. (Courtesy of Mrs F.H.B.Renny)



alterations made when the upper windows had the best view of the beach. After the Council had built the boat park and sea defensive wall the water which had flowed from the marsh at the rear down to the beach was obstructed and the house suffered from damp.



ABOVE The view from the Craigweil picture window of its upstairs living room.

Why the house has this name is not known yet, nor what it means - was it Welsh or Scottish? 'Craig' is a rock or crag in Welsh. There is a Craigweil Manor in East Sussex.

Mr Victor F. Jordan who bought the house in 1930 was the manager of a Lloyds Bank in Birmingham. Mrs Amy Jordan paid the Rates for Craigweil in 1938, Mr Victor Jordan in 1948 and still in 1963.

Craigweil may share a chimney with Newlands next door.

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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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