

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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DEUDRAETH

On the beach side at the southern end of the High Street. Formerly its address was Britannia Place. It was not there in 1848, but probably built by 1886, and the house was called Deudraeth in 1901.



The house in 2013.

Deudraeth is a fully two storey terrace house under a gable roof parallel to the street. It is single fronted with its front door on the south side. The front roof has a wide dormer window. The roof overhangs and is supported by dentil brackets. On the north of the roof is a rubble stone chimney with one chimney pot and a chimney on the south end is shared with Highfield. The rendering on the walls is smooth, and the windows are modern. However they have the pattern of old sash windows with 12 panes which suits the style of the house. The front door too is modern and recessed. Two steps lead down to a hard standing pavement adjacent to the street. Low walls enclose this front area, and the walls and the footing of the house is a dark

colour.

LEFT This house is a pair with Highfield next door.



LEFT The roof of the rubble stone Pencarreg (south and across the street) home of Evan Griffiths, a builder until 1907 is similar.



ABOVE There are dentils (brackets) supporting the overhanging roof, which are also found, but in pairs, on rubble stone built Bradford at the north end of the High Street and many of the neighbouring houses.

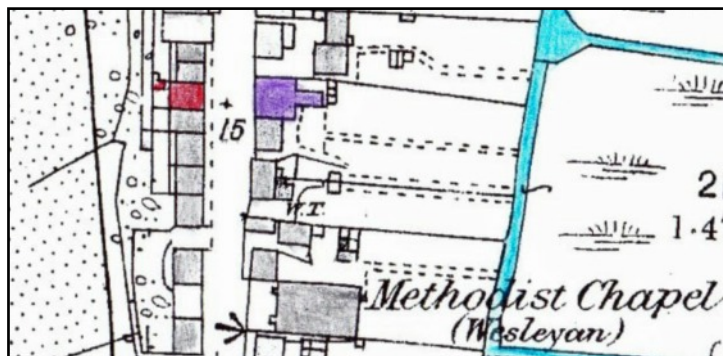


LEFT Deudraeth from the beach in 2015. BELOW LEFT the north face of the extension.

On the rear of the house is a two storey wing on the south side under a gable roof at right angles to the house front. Under the roof is a large area of windows, eight lights of varying sizes fit into the triangle. Below a window and french window lead out on to a railed balcony supported on slender posts. On the side of this is a window on the upper floor.



The ground for this house is the embankment of stones thrown up by the sea, and was still open ground called 'beach' in 1829. The Crown Manor who owned it called it 'waste' because it was no use for farming (Crown Manor Map 1829, National Archive LRRO 1/3060). The road had been there for centuries 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 was a brook - the tailrace from the Glanlerry Corn Mill (Felinwern) plus two small streams - behind the houses and cottages on the other side of the road, now a deep ditch. In 1848 the site of Deudraeth and Highfield was still open ground (Tithe Apportionments Map for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township, on-line at CYNEFIN, NLW).

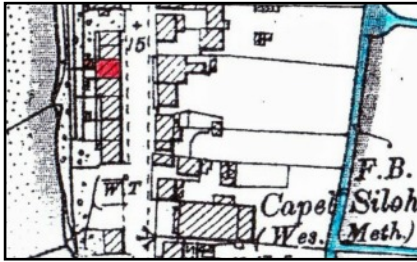


Marked in red is Deudraeth in 1886. Opposite is Britannia House. Marked in blue is the 'brook'. (Ordnance Survey 25 inch Map surveyed in 1886, published in 1888. Cardiganshire III.10.

A map of 1884 shows Highfield and Deudraeth built deeper than the cottages on either side - Deudraeth being bigger than Highfield. In Census's earlier than the 1881 it is not possible to trace the occupants but in 1881 in the house was Mrs Martha Hughes, aged 32, a local woman, born in Borth, and with her was her father, police constable John James, a widower aged 52 and born in Pembroke. The address of the house was Britannia Place. At the 1891 Census Martha was still there with her son Evan Hughes, 9, and Daughter Mary E. Hughes, 5.

They were both born in Borth. Her husband was away from home.

In the 1901 Census the house had its name, Deudraeth which is Welsh for 'two beaches'. Mrs Elizabeth Williams was living there, and her husband too was away from home. He was the master mariner John Williams (1864 -1907 Terry Davies, Borth A Maritime History, page 68) She was born in Minffordd Merionethshire in 1864 or 1866, and she spoke both Welsh and English.



This would be their house in 1904. It had a small building at the back, probably its Ty Bach (outside lavatory), but no big extension on the back then. The double line of fence at the rear was probably a sea defence of brushwood bundles anchored into the stone bank.

In 1910 for a tax planned but not levied, the house was valued at £122 like Highfield next door. There would have been £4.4s to pay, £6 gross. Mrs Williams was a tenant of William Lewis the prosperous draper and ironmonger of London House, Borth. He also owned the Library Room, Number 2 Evelyn Cottages and a cottage in Adelaide Place.

Sometime after 1922 a furnished apartment of three bedrooms and two sitting rooms was advertised in the Illustrated Borth Guide (Aberystwyth Public Library).

In 1925 paying the rates was Isaac Williams and he was the owner. Living there was Jane Williams. In 1934 he was both owner and occupier. By 1938 M. H. K. Pickering was paying the rates, and owned Highfield too. Harry Evans paid the rates in 1949. John (Jac) Evans and his wife Ann, and his older brother Gethin Evans, who had a fishing boat, also lived there. Gethin joined the RAF. Terry Davies has a tale about him (page 137, Borth, A Maritime History). In 1961 Mrs Shirley paid the rates for Deudraeth (Rates information from the Ceredigion Archives)



This view of Borth from an old postcard shows Highfield and Deudraeth, fourth from the left, with rendered fronts, and the side of Highfield looks like rubble stone. The small walls in front were already there. Deudraeth did not have dormer windows in the front roof then. The old cottage that was rebuilt as Colliscot is beside the houses.

(Postcard courtesy of Mrs Pat Havers)



ABOVE Deudraeth was given some very impressive painted decoration in 2018.

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Hoffem ddiolch i Beryl am fod mor garedig â chaniatáu i ni rannu ei gwaith â'r gynulleidfa ehangaf bosibl.

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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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