

# 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

*This work is for research and educational purposes only.*

# Y FEDW FACH

Morfa Borth - Borth Marsh

A detached house close to the railway line, just north of Borth Railway Station.



The name of the house in Welsh means the 'Little Birches'. This is a one and a half storey house under a gable roof with no chimneys. The front is south facing. All the walls are rendered. An upper floor under the roof is lit by three half dormer windows along the front and a window in the east gable end. The front has a central picture window. The front door is on the east gable end with a small window beside it. This and the window high up in the gable are of a casement design with small square panes.



The west gable end has no windows and ends at the hard standing yard and road from the station.

There is no enclosed garden area at the front and side of the house.

The rear of the house has a rendered wall, with a door into its garden on the west side. It is modern, and a wooden colour. Beside the door is a modern

*Y Fedw Fach in March 2016.*

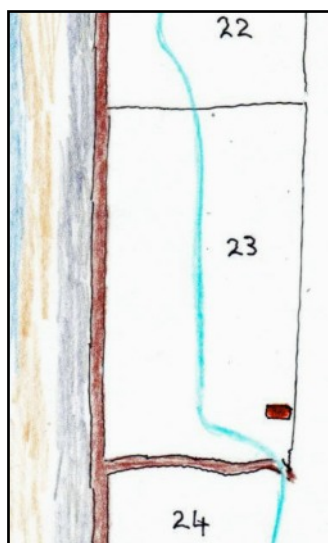
window with one large light and two narrow ones above. The pipework suggests the kitchen is there with a bathroom on the floor above. There are no other windows on the rear. The garden area is grass enclosed by some fencing.



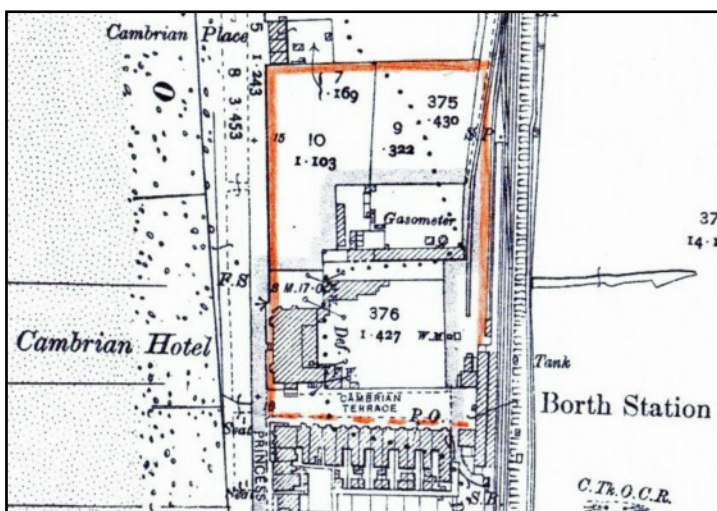
The ground the house is built on was a working area of the station and alongside the railway's former coal siding - the westernmost of two sidings at the time when Borth Station had two railway tracks. There had been provision for loading and unloading coaches, goods and livestock. The

Cambrian Railway Company operated the line until 1923 when it amalgamated with the Great Western Railway. In 1947 it became British Rail. (Gerald Morgan, 'Ceredigion'. P. 280.)

Before the railway came this ground was part of a pasture. It was enclosed in 1809 by a local lawyer called Big John (John Lewis) from the pebble embankment thrown up by the sea, and called 'waste' because it was no use for farming, and from



the marsh ground beside it (also called 'waste') which was reclaimed for pasture with drainage ditches. It was a field of 4 acres, 3 rods and 20 perches, that is almost five acres, and across it ran a brook on the old course of the River Leri. John Lewis had a cottage on it called Terfynau (boundaries) – where the railway station is today. There were no other cottages. On a map of 1829 the ground was Number 23. A rent of £16 had to be paid every year to the Crown manor who owned the ground, but there was an option to buy for twice that, and a note with the map said that John Lewis had bought it at a Manor Court Leet in 1809. 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 old cottages and houses came from the brook and for fuel villagers could dig peat on the far side of the River Leri near Ynys Fergi. However, by the time Y Fedw



Fach was built the homes had piped water and coal came on the train.

John Lewis's land was sold to the developer Thomas Savin who brought the railway and built the Railway Station, the great Cambrian Hotel and Cambrian Terrace. The Hotel had large grounds (nearly two acres) for tennis, croquet, pleasure gardens, a bowling green, and possibly a walled garden. However, the Hotel did not do well, it had a hundred

rooms, but often many were empty. It is likely that by the 1920s and 1930s it needed to raise money by either selling off its roadside land to build bungalows and houses. The owner of the then 'Grand Hotel' in 1930 was a Hotel and Land Development Company Ltd.

In 1947 the hotel became a conference centre for the Urdd Gobaith Cymru, and called Pantyfedwen. The building was demolished in 1978 and early 1979, and the site cleared.

There is no record of Y Fedw Fach under that name in the Rates before 1956 - and it was not on a maps of 1975 and 1984 as a detached building, though its site today is at the end of the old row of hotel outbuildings, which extended nearly to the railway.



*ABOVE The row of outbuildings at the time of the demolition of Pantyfedwen. They were raised up above the reclaimed marshland on the right, and a track in front of the buildings was the roadway to the garages of Pantyfedwen the former stables and carriage house of the hotel. At the far end was a narrow strip of land beside the railway but it is not visible in this photograph (Photograph Aberystwyth Public Library and on-line)*

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.

Beryl Lewis retains the copyright in her work and the histories are made available for private use and research only.



Cyngor Sir  
**CEREDIGION**  
County Council



Archifdy  
Ceredigion  
Archives