

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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GER-Y-DON

Morfa Borth – the Marsh Harbour.

On the east side of the High Street at the southern end of Morfa Borth, with the beach over the road.



ABOVE The front of the house in 2014.

Ger-y-don is built on a narrow plot, with a drive with access to the rear with room to park a car on the north side of the building. It is a two storey detached house under a roof parallel to the road, the south end hipped, the north end a gable, and of a dark slate colour. There is a slender rendered brick chimney on the south end. The main feature of the front is a two storey wing with a hipped roof with an overhang supported on brackets at the front on the south of the building. The overhang forms the roof of a glazed bay window with doors on to a balcony, giving a view of the sea. Red ridge tiles edge the roofs. The bay continues to the ground with a wider window below the balcony. The front door with a small porch is on the north face lit by transparent roofing. A low rendered wall ending with a post encloses a narrow front garden of hard standing. A similar wall with posts is shared with Swn-y-don next door. There are gates at the entrance to the back garden, and a wall with arches. The name of the house is Welsh and means ‘near the wave’.

The shingle bank thrown up by the sea on which this house was built was considered ‘waste’ by the Crown Manor who owned it, as it was not suitable for farming. There were no buildings on this land until 1925, it was part of a piece of rough ground from Efelwen

to the road to Llandre, and called 'beach' on the old map. Across the road on the strip of grass were three limekilns in 1829, four by 1848. (Maps National Archives LRRO 1/3060, Tithe Apportionment Map for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township 1848 and Cambrian News, 16 November 1883) 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.

On a map of the manor's 'waste' surveyed in 1925 an enclosure had been made much wider than the present ground of Ger-y-don, and there were no buildings on it and it was not marked 'sold'. The plot did not extend eastwards as far as that of Y Graig, and today there is still a fence or division on that old boundary. Y Graig had already been built next door and was the home of Captain John Lloyd. (National Archives LRRO 1/3060) I do not have a date for the building of Gerydon, but paying the rates in 1957 were R. A. and D. E. Herbert. I think these were the daughters of Captain Herbert, Rosa and Doris, who had moved from the large villa also called Gerydon at the end of the North Parade, (see Gwynt-y-mor). Jean Caswell thinks that this smaller and very modern house was bought from a Dr Butterworth, and the ladies used to rent it out in the summer season and move to live somewhere in Glanwern.



The rear of the house from the footpath. It has a glazed verandah roof protecting the back door, and a sun room extension built below it. Windows on the top floor would give a view across Borth's common land to the hills.

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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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