

# 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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# GORWEL formerly Everton

Morfa Borth - the Marsh Harbour

Formerly Everton. Probably built by a master mariner, Captain Williams by 1879 replacing an old master mariner's cottage. Home of a Williams and Jenkins family of master mariners.



*LEFT The house in 2017.*

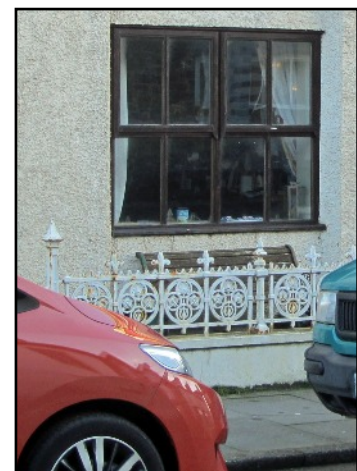
This is a single fronted, two storey house, under a gable roof parallel to the street and with dormer windows for an attic floor. There is a substantial brick chimney. The house almost fills its ground being in a terrace with Glanceri on the south and with a narrow passage between itself and Bryngwyn on the other side. The building is substantial as it stretches backwards for quite a distance. The walls are rendered, and the date of building suggests they are probably rubble stone. The front door is on the north side of the front with framed by the

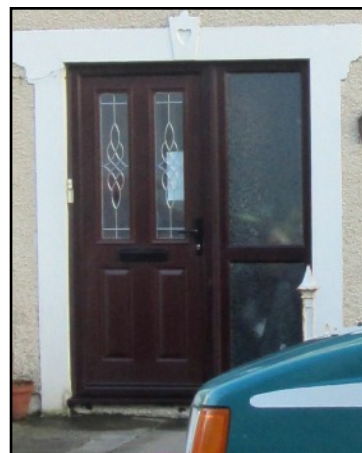


rendering. The large windows are not bow windows. The name of the house is Welsh and means in English 'Horizon'.

*LEFT There are no windows in the north wall.*

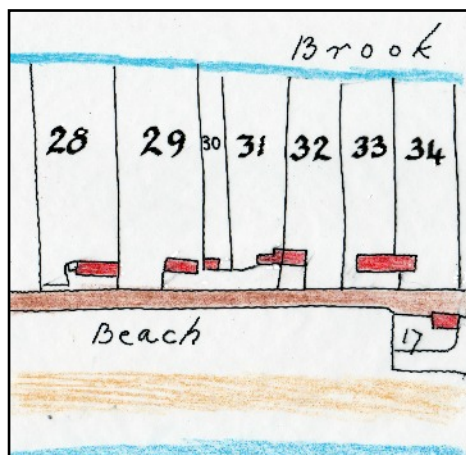
*RIGHT Pretty railings and a low wall enclose the narrow front garden.*





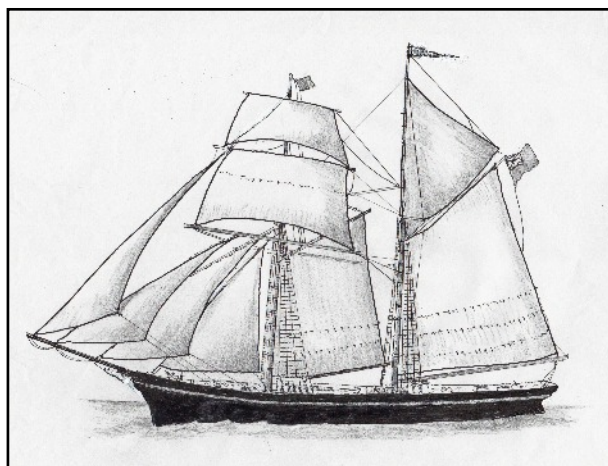
*LEFT There is a two storey wing with a single storey lean-to at the rear. The garden is long and narrow overlooked by Bodfor on the left.*

*ABOVE The front door is modern with stained glass panels, and in the rendering around it is a frame with a keystone.*



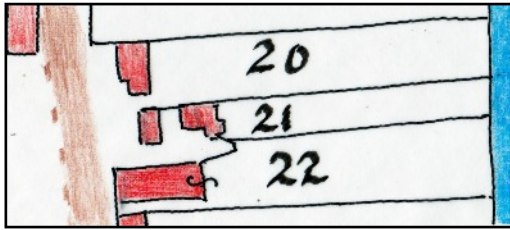
*LEFT In 1829 a small slice of Number 29 was the ground on which Gorwel stands today. There were two cottages in the block and Gorwel is on the site of the southernmost. The ground had been enclosed from the 'waste' pebble embankment in 1824 by master mariner John Simon and he had a generous piece of land with it of 2 rods 16 perches - that is over half an acre. This extended to a 'brook' of fresh water. (Number 30 next door was enclosed at the same time) (After a Map National Archives LRRO 1/3060).*

By 1829 his widow Margaret had bought the ground for £10 from the Crown Manor who owned it. In 1830 their son John Simon was the captain of the Liverpool Trader, a sloop of 25 tons built in 1806. In 1832 he was Captain and owner of all 64 shares in the 27 ton sloop Robust. He also had shares in other ships including the 45 ton schooner 'Adelaide' built in Aberystwyth in 1835 which he owned and commanded in 1855 (ShippingRegister, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion Archives).



*A Schooner*

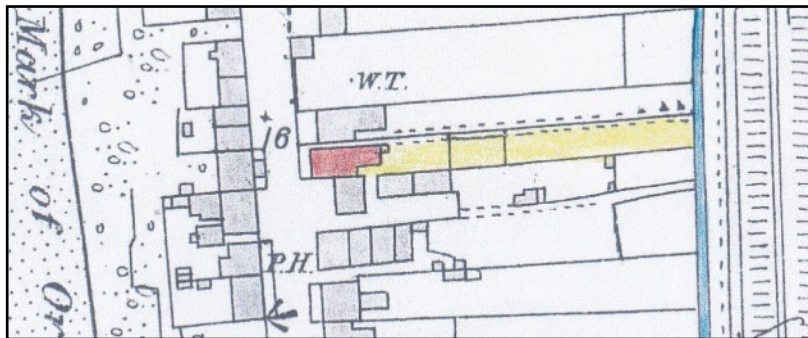
The Simon's sold off these old cottages (Bryngwyn was developed from the northernmost one of them) because they built new homes (an 'Adelaide Terrace') on the beach side of the High Street. However they kept most of the northernmost area of ground on which today is built Clos Bryngwyn.



*LEFT On a map of 1848 the Simon's ground was Number 20 with 'two houses and a garden'. The owner was Mary Davies a relative of the Simon's by marriage (Detail from the Tithe Apportionments Map for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township on-line at CYNEFIN)*

John Ellis who had a great aunt who had lived in Morfa Borth since 1819, writing in 1929 'A History of Borth in the last Fifty Years' - said that William Williams, a mariner had a cottage on the site where Everton was built. (On-line, translated from the Welsh by Terry Davies for his Borth Maritime History web site).

By 1879 the old cottage had gone and the house, Everton now Gorwel was built and there was a Captain Williams there. His son Captain John Henry Williams died aged 38 in 1879 and was buried in the West Indies. He left a widow and five children there. By 1887 Mrs Williams too had died, and the children were adopted by Captain David Hughes at the Friendship Inn (Borth Review National Library of Wales).



*LEFT In 1886 this was the house, marked in red. It had been provided with a narrow strip of garden leading down to a brook of fresh water. This was a substantial building, probably the one we see today (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed*

*in 1886 and published in 1888, Cardiganshire NW III.10)*

In the Census of 1891 in the house was a master mariner Captain William Jones, already middle aged, aged 61 and born about 1830 in Aberystwyth. His wife Mary was 57, a local woman born about 1834. There was a daughter of 22 with no occupation, called Catherine (Kate), and also there was their son-in-law Evan Jenkins aged 31 and a master mariner with his wife Annie born about 1863 in Borth. By the 1901 Census Annie Jenkins, by then a widow, was running a boarding house there. She had a small son Emrys Jenkins, 7 and small daughter Mary Blanche Jenkins aged 4. The house was called 'Everton House' (Census)

In 1900 the Cambrian News reported the death of Mrs Kate Lewis of Everton House. Her husband Captain Lewis of the steamship S.S. Ashlands was sailing out to Buenos Aires. She was the daughter of Captain William Jones, and his parents were Captain and Mrs Lewis of Cambrian Villa. She had been a faithful member of the Libanus Chapel (2nd February 1900).

An Ordnance Survey Map of 1905 revised in 1904 shows no change to the house and garden.

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At a Valuation for a tax planned but not levied in 1910 Annie Jenkins owned the house which was valued at £450 and that was a good house by Borth standards. She would have had £9.7s to pay, £11 gross (Ceredigion Archives T/DV/18 and a Map at the National Library of Wales). In 1911 the house had ten main rooms - not counting any back scullery or bathroom or cellar. Mary Blanche was still at school, and living with the family was William John Jones, Annie's brother, aged 53 and a retired mariner who had been born at Newport (Census).

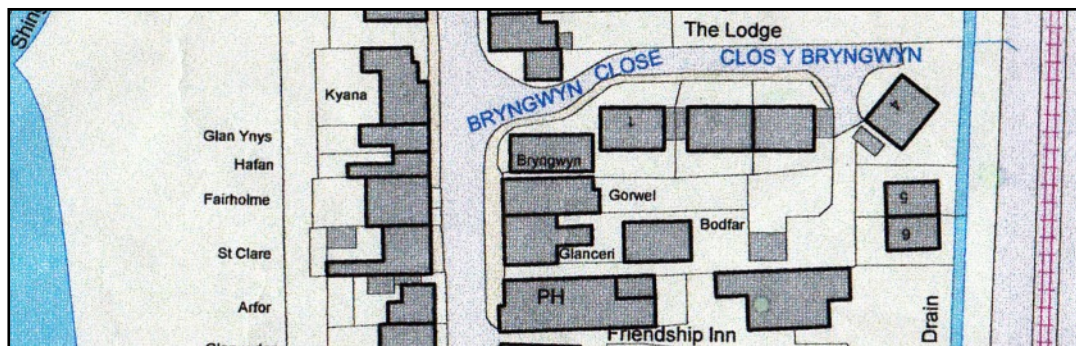
Annie Jenkins was still there in 1925 as the owner paying the Rates. In July 1924 she was helping with a 'Fancy Work' stall at a Women's Institute Sale of Work at the National School (where the Meddygyfa now stands). She was also at a meeting of the Libanus Literary and Debating Society (Cambrian News, July and December 1924) She paid the rates in 1934.

With a vote for the house at the election of 1945 were Henry Meirion Davies and Mary R. Davies. Mr Davies was the owner paying the Rates in 1949. The name of the house was still 'Everton'. Mary B. Davies paid the rates as owner and occupier in 1957.

Albert Davies paid the rates in 1963 and Mary B. Davies had a vote for the house (Electoral Registers and Rates Ceredigion Archives).

By 1975 the rear of the house had been enlarged right across the back. The garden still extended to the ditch (Historical Maps Online).

Today the garden is less long as Bungalow 5 of Clos Bryngwyn has been built alongside the old ditch or drain formerly the 'brook'.



ABOVE A detail from a modern Council Map. Gorwel has a narrow garden and the house fills its plot (Map courtesy of Councillor Ray Quant who provided it for research for a village event)

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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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