

# 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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# KHAIMS MUSHAYT

Part of St David's Place, later called the Railway Terrace after the Railway Inn (1891), and owned by the mariner David Hughes in 1848 and by his descendants. Used for family and tenants.



*LEFT Khaims Mushayt is the end cottage in a terrace. The photograph was taken in 2006.*

This is the northernmost cottage of a terrace on the Cors side of the High Street south of the Railway Inn, and is one and a half storeys high, and single fronted with rendered walls. The front door is on the south side, with a large lower window of the casement style and a smaller upper window reaching up to the eaves, also of casement style. The chimney on the north side of the roof is yellow brick of nine courses, with a capping and one chimneypot. The gable wall on the north is has no openings. Once this house

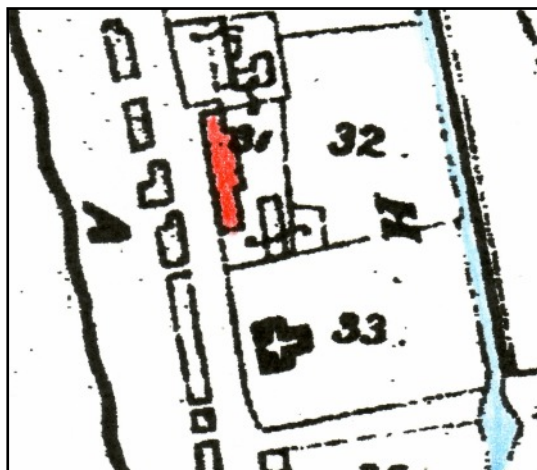


was the same width as Hendre or Roseland, but today it is wider. Its interior wall with Hendre next door is of mud (cob) and possibly has other mud walls. Like the oldest Borth cottages, the terrace was set back a bit from the street. John Ellis, writing a history of Borth in 1930, and whose great aunt was born in Borth in 1809 and lived there all her life must have supplied him with some information. He wrote that the southernmost cottage now Glan Nant was the shop of William Hughes Ody, a butcher, and all the remaining cottages

belonged to mariner David Hughes. This is the same Hughes family who founded and developed the Railway Inn. Maps show that the terrace was once longer, with three more cottages joined to it in 1888 and two in 1905. The Railway Inn demolished some cottages and took over the ground as it grew larger. There were still five left in 1911.

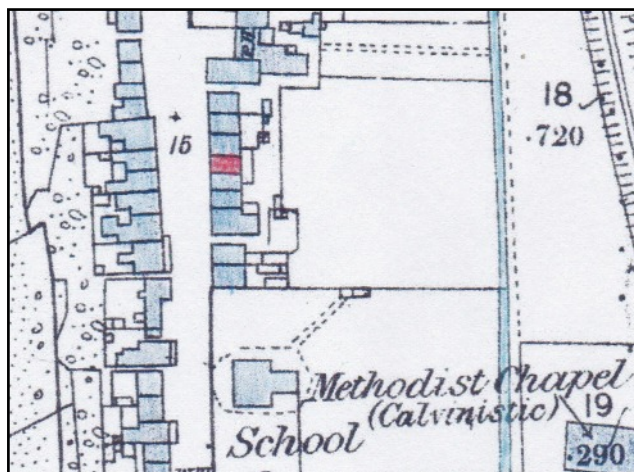
The ground on which it is built was the stone embankment built up by the sea. The road was very old a quick way to North Wales via a ferry across the River Dovey. It was a turnpike road by the 1770s. Owned by the Crown Manor a three quarter acre plot had been enclosed by 1818. The person's name on their map sadly is illegible. There were no cottages on it in 1829 (Detail from a Crown Manor Map of 1829, National Archives LRRO 1/3060)





*LEFT* By 1848 a terrace of cottages were on that site and the owner was David Hughes, a mariner. They had been built after 1832, and stood on half an acre of ground. At the back David Hughes also had nearly three quarters of an acre of 'garden' (2 rods, 38 perches) extending to a brook. (A detail from the Tithe Apportionments Map, Llanfidhangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth township, on-line at CYNEFIN)

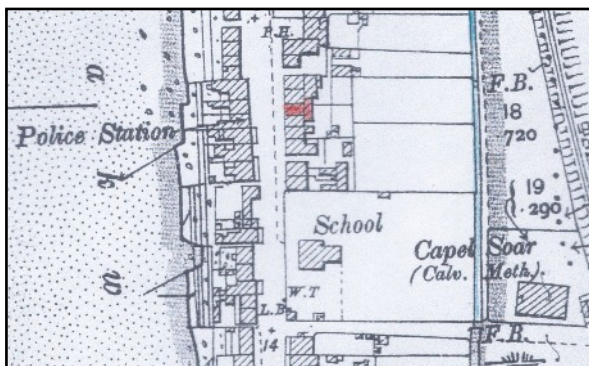
*RIGHT* Marked in red is Khaims in 1886. The cottages all shared a back yard, and all of them opened on to the street as they do today. There was still the large garden area at the back leading down to a 'brook' of fresh water for the families. It came from a leat from the River Leri for a corn mill at Glanlerry added to by streams from Ty Gwyn and Bryn Owen. (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888, Cardiganshire NW III.10)



In the earlier Census it is not possible to be sure of the people living in the cottages which was called St David's Terrace. St David's Diocese owned the site of the School (replaced by the Meddgyfa). By 1901 the two cottages alongside on the north were both uninhabited.

Terry Davies has found out that Captain Hugh Hughes, born in 1827, a commander of a sloop and schooners owned three cottages in the terrace, Hendre was the middle one, and he left them to his three daughters. So one of his daughter's lived in Khaims (Terry Davies, Maritime History p. 34)

In this cottage in 1891 and 1901 at the Census was an elderly widow, Margaret Jones,, a laundress in 1891 working at home (there was plenty of water in the brook up the garden behind the cottage) and in 1905 aged 74 she was working as a charwoman. She was born in Borth and spoke Welsh.



*LEFT* The cottage marked in red in 1904. There was a building behind it too and Captain Hughes's three daughters shared its garden. The tiny building may have been their outside lavatory (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map revised in 1904 and published in 1905, Cardiganshire NW III.10)

In 1910 for a tax planned but not levied, the cottage had no name, and was valued at £51. The owner was Thomas Williams and the occupier was Martha Louisa Booth.

At the Census of 1911 the cottage was called Vaynol and it had four rooms - not including any back scullery. A young bricklayer lived there, William David Jones aged 33, a Borth man and married for just one year to his wife Margaret, born in Llanafan. They both spoke Welsh and English. There would be plenty of work for this man, as Upper Borth on the cliff road area was just beginning to be built, and some of the houses and bungalows were of brick not rubble stone like the old houses. In 1911 there was

still a cottage joined to this cottage on the north side, the home of a retired joiner and shop fitter. William Hughes.

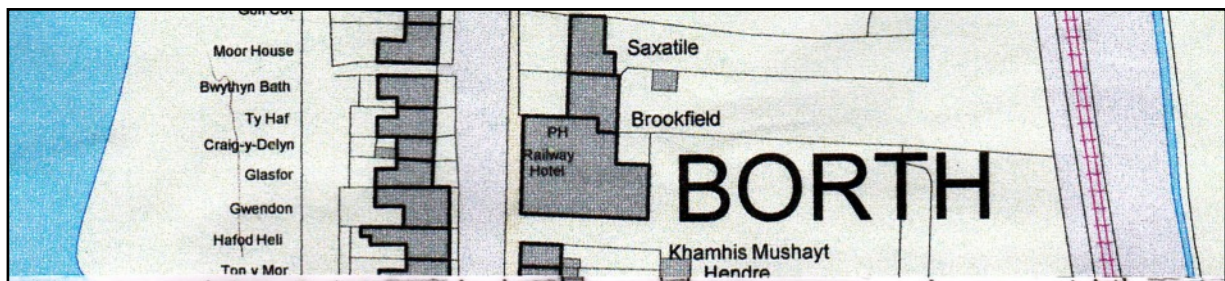
William Jones the bricklayer and his daughter Miss Jones were still there in October 1924, and also in 1925 for the Rates. Still called Vaynol, the house was owned by Thomas Trevor Hughes,

By 1949 the name of the cottage had changed to Morfa, and the owner was J. D. White of the Railway Hotel. It was still valued for Rates the same as Hendre and Roseland. It was still Morfa in 1957. (Rates, Ceredigion Archives).

In 1975 Morfa was the northernmost of the cottages - the Railway Hotel had made a large car park. By then the cottage had its own garden (Historic Maps online).



*LEFT Today there is still grassland at the rear of Khaims. Its garden is mostly hidden but the cottage has a roof light for its upper floor. In the foreground is part of the large Railway Inn Car Park area and one of its buildings.*



*ABOVE This detail from a modern Council Map shows the house with its narrow garden and the large Railway Inn car park (Map courtesy of Councillor Ray Quant who provided it for research for a village event).*

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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-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.

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