

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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MEDDYGFA

Morfa Borth - Borth Marsh

On the eastern side of the High Street. Opened on Friday 29th September 1995. Built by Dr. Ian Hosker on the site of Borth's National (Church) School building of 1842 demolished in January 1995.



The Meddygfa stands on the east (Cors) side of the shingle embankment that was once considered 'waste' as it was no good for farming. On a map of 1829 (see a detail on the left) drawn for the Crown who owned the manor, there was an encroachment Number 41 on the main road and alongside the 'Road to Brynlllys' almost exactly where the Meddygfa is today. The ground had been enclosed 16 years earlier in 1803 and sold for £6.10s to the vicar, the Rev. L. Evans of Llanfhangel Genau'r Glyn (Borth did not have its own church then). He had a cottage on it in the corner and

alongside the lane to Brynlllys, but not far from the main street. The ground measured two rods and thirty three perches which is nearly three quarters of an acre, and running along the back of the plot was a brook with fresh water needed in the days before a piped water supply. This began as a leat from the River Lerry for a corn mill at Glanlerry, and was joined by small streams from Ty Gwyn (formerly Cwm Cethin) and Brynowen. The main street around Number 41 had the largest cluster of cottages at that time, with five across the road and a row alongside at Glanrhyd. So what was this cottage used for? We do not know at present. The vicar did not live there, he had his vicarage at Llandre and the villagers walked there to be married or have their children christened (Map after National Archives LRRO 1/3060)



The cottage on this site was replaced by Borth's National (Church) School built in 1842. It was licensed to be used for services and was used for these until St Matthew's Church was built for Borth and consecrated in 1876.

ABOVE Number 33 is the school seen in 1848 for the Tithe Apportionments Map for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township. (On-line, see Cynefin, NLW)

LEFT The National School was close to the High Street, and protected by a rubble stone wall with beach stones. (County Council Aberystwyth Library on-line.)



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When the School closed in 1967, its building was used as a Church Hall. (Y Tincer Feb.1995). All that remains today is most of the northern section of its front wall of rounded beach stones – just too tall for mischievous children to climb over. It contains a post box. The remainder of the wall is lower, and altered with new entrances, but this is still built of beach stones. The Meddygfa has room for a car park round it but does not include the rear area of the former school ground which is flat and has grass and weeds. This was still owned by the Church, and is up for sale in 2015/6.

When the Meddygfa, called Borth's Health Centre – 'Canolfan Iechyd y Borth' opened on 29th. September 1995 the building was brand new and there had been some delay in finishing it, but it was all up and running smoothly. People were free to go in, look round and ask questions, and there was a glass of wine for them. They would find there two doctors, Dr Hosker and Dr Fish, a nurse, Mrs Dwynwen Belsay and Mr Paul Jones, the practice manager. They would find, treatment and consulting rooms, an attractive waiting room and a kitchen. The building included the Chemist's shop of Norman and Doreen Thomas who had moved from their old shop in the village selling remedies and soap. (Y Tincer Hydref 1995)



The Meddygfa is a single storey building under a gable roof at right angles to the street with rendered walls with footings of dark coloured bricks. Its roofing is slate colour with red ridge tiles, and there are six roof lights in the front and eight at the back. These are needed to light an upper floor under the roof. There is a long central ground floor corridor



out of which open the consulting rooms, the administrative area, and the waiting room. Stairs lead to an upper floor for the staff.

The plan of the building falls into a main section and a small northern section. The main section at the front has extensions either end under gable roofs at right angles to the street. The southernmost extension contains a chemist's shop, the northernmost the administrative centre of the practice. The front door is accessed through a wide gap in the street wall, and is emphasized by its porch which is a shallow wooden structure, and well-lit with glass panels beside the door at the front and at the sides. This has a gable roof at right angles to the street, filled in at the front with timber. The windows are modern and of one light. On the south side of the front door there are three larger rectangular windows which light the waiting room.

ABOVE The footing of the building is dark bricks.

The remaining windows are smaller and square. This kind of window is used all round the building, and all of the front and back windows reach up to the eaves. On the north side of the front door are two windows, and beyond are two windows in the south face of the north extension which light the administrative centre of the practice. The front wall is solid with a shield with the National School 1842 on it. Its north face wall has a doorway for staff. This



ABOVE The lower northern section of the building whose gable end faces the car park.

has one tall light and one small one below. There is also another window near the junction with the main building. On the south side of the front the chemist's shop has an attractive shape made by extending the roof line of the gable to the wall alongside which is rendered

to match the walls. The shop window has one large rectangular light and the door is mostly glass. Inside is a shop area for customers, a small consulting room and a back room for the staff and medicines.



There is a smaller section of building on the north end, its roof is a little lower. Two front windows reach up to the eaves, and its north

gable end has three windows at ground floor level. The rear of this section has two roof lights and one window.



ABOVE The south face of the building and in the foreground the lane to Brynlllys. There is a ramp to the door so wheelchair users can leave the building that way if necessary, and on the other side two steps. The photograph also shows the concrete walkway and the grass area. The photographs of this building were taken in 2015.

The back of the main building has windows for consulting rooms, with two on the south end and two flanking a door on the north end.

The south gable end of the main building facing the lane to Brynlllys has no windows and one doorway with one tall light and one small below. This helps to light the central corridor and would also be useful as a fire escape. The south end of the smaller section of building has a matching door for the same purpose.

The building has a paved area in the front, a concrete walkway around the south and east and doorways there need two steps to reach them – possibly a precaution against flooding. The walkway is edged by a grass border. Access for cars is from the lane to Brynlllys via a drive wide enough to park cars in, and there is a larger parking area at the north of the building.

In 2016 an area of land on the east of the Meddygfa formerly belonging to the National School has been bought to enlarge the parking area.

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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.

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