

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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NEUADD WEN

North Parade Morfa Borth

At the northern end of the village with the beach over the road. Built between 1891 and 1899. Formerly called 'Sandmarsh'. Probably built by the speculative builder Gregson to let. Elinor Morgan with the help of her family ran a boarding house there.



LEFT Neuadd Wen in 2015

Neuadd Wen is a two and a half storey, single fronted end of terrace house, under a roof parallel with the street. There is a yellow brick slab chimney decorated with red bands on the south end of the roof. There are four chimney pots but room for five. The extension on the rear is two storeys high.



LEFT The house on an old postcard. The barge board of the gable was decorated, and it had a tall finial. The string courses made important lines, and the top of the bay windows had a semi-circular centre. The windows were sash windows, and two on the first floor were open. Blinds protected those rooms from strong sunlight. The extension at the back had a chimney, and beyond was the yellow and red brick chimney of the further extension. (Postcard detail, Amgueddfa Ceredigion Museum)

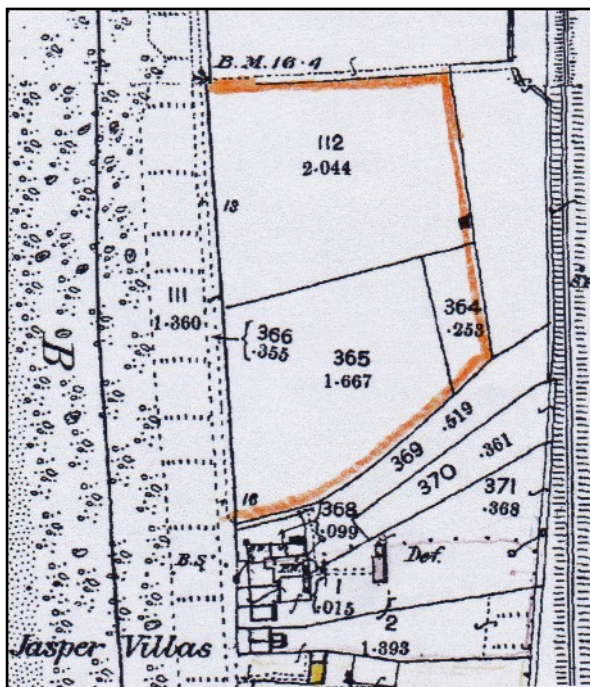


LEFT There is a pattern of bold quoins on the edge of the front wall, and the shape of the string courses is easy to see. This house has no decoration round its windows.



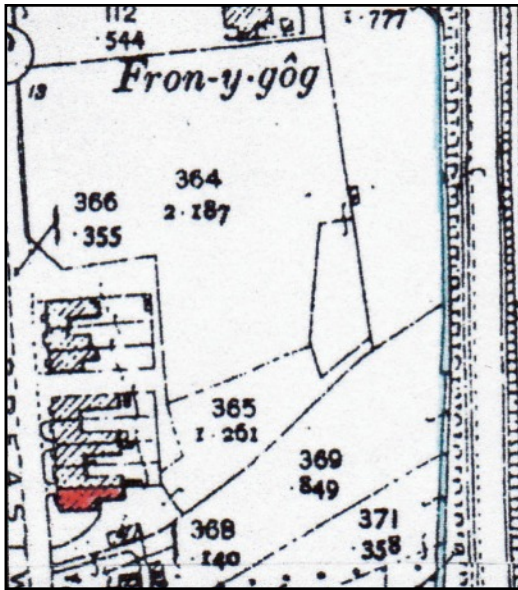
RIGHT The extension on the north side of the garden is only one storey. The rear of this house does not have a lane or track behind it, and the Llecyn-rhos house is beyond, having been built later, after 1888 and by 1904 when it shared the garden of Neuudd Wen. Since then Neuudd Wen has had a garden of its own.

The ground for this house is the pebble embankment thrown up by the sea, and called 'waste' by the Crown Manor who owned it as it was no use for farming. The garden was enclosed and drained from the Cors Fochno bog, and was pasture in 1790 owned by the Gogerddan Estate (Estate Map, T. Lewis, National Library of Wales). In 1848 it was part of an 'allotment' of five acres and 30 perches, and Pryse Pryse of Gogerddan sold some of this to a surgeon John Harden (Deeds to Morlais - private collection).

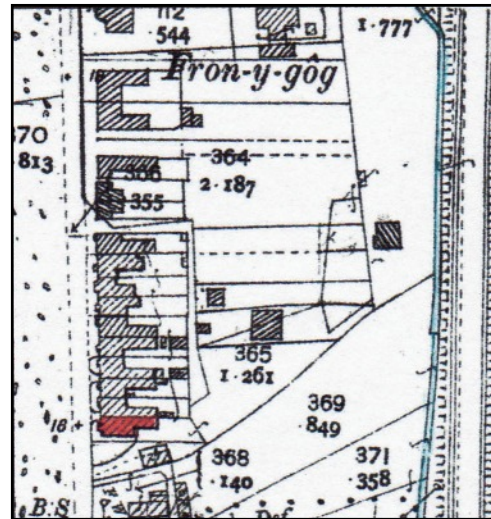


LEFT Marked in red is the 'allotment' in 1886 (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888).

Later some was in the possession of the Roberts family of Garibaldi (now the Premier Family Stores). The terrace was built on the roadside of this land. The road had been there for centuries and was a turnpike road by the 1770s. It led to a ferry at Ynyslas to Aberdovey which was a quick way to North Wales. It is not clear whether there was a piped water supply for the house. A letter to the Cambrian News said in 1896 that the Council had already provided a reservoir (October 16th). Fuel at this date would be coal brought to coal merchants at Borth by train.



LEFT In 1904 'Sandmarsh' was built and is marked in red. It had an extension at the back on the north side of its garden, and the S shape shows an area of field behind it belonged to it. Llecyn-y-rhos shared this ground. Seven other houses in the terrace had also been built. (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map revised in 1904 and published in 1905)



RIGHT The Council drew new buildings on its copy of the 1905 map, and the terrace had been completed, and 'Sandmarsh' had its own back garden but still owned some land behind it.

In 'Sandmarsh' at the 1901 Census was an 84 year old widow, Elizabeth Morgan, born in Llanfihangel, Cardiganshire about 1827. With her were her two daughters, Eleanor, 47 and Elizabeth 41, both born in Llansaintffraed, Brecon. Both were single, and the family spoke both Welsh and English.

In 1910 Eleanor and Elizabeth were still living in the house which for a valuation for a tax planned but not levied was valued at £215, the second most valuable in all the terrace. There would have been £22,10s to pay, £26.10s gross. The house was owned by the executors of Gtegson, originally from Wigan, who was a speculative builder who owned farms and land at Ynyslas and had great plans for the place. A coloured drawing survives but most of it did not get built. (Royal Commission of Historic Monuments Wales). He had also owned Grosvenor next door, and possible built both of them, Sandmarsh had eleven rooms and in 1911 was being run as a boarding house by Elinor Morgan. Also there were Elizabeth Morgan 49 and Magdalen Jones a 70 year old widow also from Brecon, a 31 year old unmarried niece also called Magdalen Jones who was a head teacher working for the County Council, and another niece, Castoria Marie Jones. These two were born in Newtown. In 1916 Mrs Magdalen Jones died, she was the widow of a foreman of the Newtown Saw Mill, Thomas Jones.

In 1918 the two Miss Morgans were still running their boarding house at Sandmarsh (Cambrian News).

In 1925 for the rates, the owner and occupier (who could put tenants in the house) was the Rev. L. E. Jenkins.

In 1934 there was a change of ownership. David Lewis Davies had become the owner and occupier of the house whose name he changed to Neuadd Wen (Whitehall). The name 'Sandmarsh' stayed with the small house in the garden, now Llecyn-y-rhos, and in 1934 the Miss Morgan's paid the rates for that house - £11, £18 gross.

Paying the rates for Neuadd Wen in 1963 was Mrs Davies. With a vote for the house that year was Vram Davidson (Electoral Registers and Rates, Ceredigion Archives)



ABOVE This is our earliest photograph of the Terrace, in 1899 when there were a group of five houses at the far end. The land in front of it and alongside it was fenced in with rails. Across the road were some grass and plants and the beach - very easy for holiday makers staying in the boarding houses to reach - and with good views of the sea from the front windows.

(Postcard private collection).

Today, 2017, Neuadd Wen has a flat.

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Tai'r Borth / Houses of Borth
gan/by Beryl Lewis
[cyf/ref ADX/1629]

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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.

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