

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

This work is for research and educational purposes only.

Y NYTH Morfa Borth

At the southern part of Borth High Street on the beach side. The ground was enclosed in 1827 and a cottage built on it by 1829. Formerly Number 1 Providence Place, then Number 1 School Place. In 1901 called Garibaldi Cottage as it was owned by the prosperous Roberts family of shopkeepers of Garibaldi (now the Premium Stores), one of several properties they leased to tenants, and the tenant ran a grocery shop there. In Welsh the name means 'The Nest'.



The front of Y Nyth in 2009 and below the rear in 2015.

This is a double fronted, semi-detached cottage under a gable roof parallel to the street, and is one and a half storeys high the upper windows reaching the eaves. On the south of the roof is a chimney of dark coloured bricks, twelve courses tall, with two chimney pots. The walls are rendered but on the front wall rubble stone walling can be seen through the rendering which has many rounded stones from the beach. The windows and doors are modern, but the windows, though bigger than old cottage windows, have a squared pattern in apparent leaded strips in the style of one for an old cottages. In 2009 between the upper and lower windows was an inset beam. The front garden is narrow and enclosed

by low rendered walls and these have been built since 1904 when the front opened directly on to the street. Access to the yard at the rear is through a gated passageway on the north side of the cottage.

At the back a tiny extension has been replaced by a sizeable wing with a nearly flat roof. Its beach end has a picture window protected from storms by a blind and there is access to a balcony from which

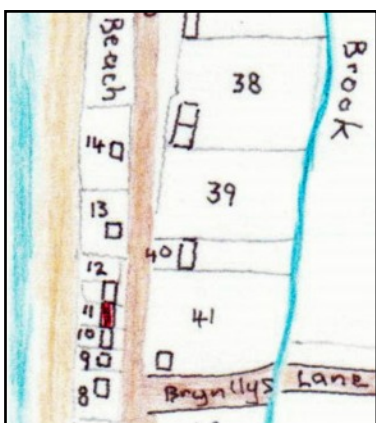
there will be a fine view of the sea. Below the balcony is filled in, again for protection from storms. There is room in the yard for an additional flat roofed unit. The yard ends with the low wall of vertical sleepers, with a boarded gateway for access to the beach.





There are tiny windows at the side of the wing at the back. Next door's extension almost hides the old cottage.

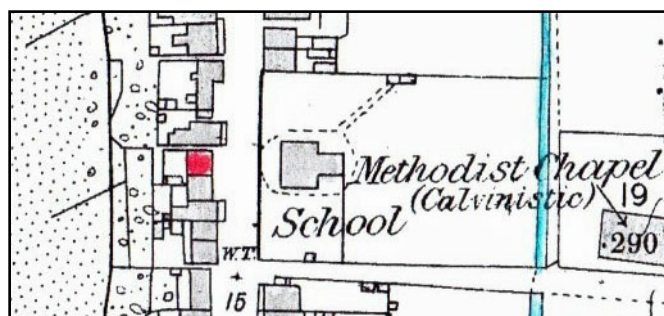
The ground for this house is the stone embankment thrown up by the sea and called 'waste' by the Crown Manor who owned it as it was no use for farming. A plot was enclosed in 1827 and in 1829 Mary Jones had a cottage on it. Her ground measured only 10 perches (a rod, a quarter of an acre was 40 perches). A rent of 16s had to be paid every year, or by paying £4 she could buy the plot (National Archive, map and details, 1829, LRRO 1/3060). The road had been there for centuries and was a turnpike road by the 1770s. It led to a ferry from Ynyslas to Aberdovey, a quick way to North Wales. Fresh water for



the old cottages came from a 'brook' behind the cottages on the other side of the road, and for fuel the villagers could dig peat on the far side of the River Leri just north of Ynys Fergi. Mary Jones was possibly related to Morgan Jones who had the cottage next door, Number 10 (now replaced by the Epworths). He owned shares in ships and was the managing owner arranging the cargoes of a schooner called the 'Mary Jones'. Out of a row of four cottages Y Nyth is the only one that has survived.

A detail copied from the map of 1829. Number 11 is marked in red. It was part of a terrace. Number 41 over the road belonged to the Vicar, and a National School (now replaced by the Meddygfa) was built on it. (Crown Manor Map 1829, National Archives LRRO 1/3060).

In 1881 the Census lists this as Number 1 Providence Place, then four cottages. They were named after a sloop the 'Providence' owned by a member of the Hughes family who owned one of the cottages. (Number 2 became Ardwyn, already a good big house in 1886).

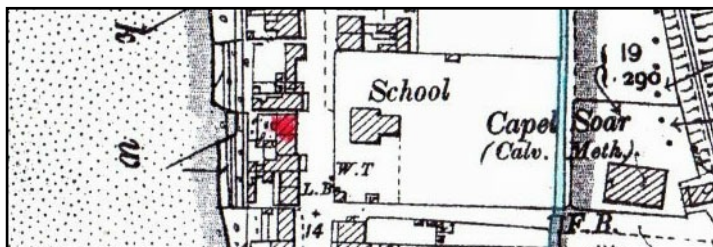


ABOVE RIGHT In 1886 the cottage was joined to the cottage that is now the Epworths. It had a small building in the yard, probably with a Ty Bach (outside lavatory). (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map, surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888. Cardiganshire III.10)

At the 1891 Census the cottage was called Number 1 School Place. In the cottage was a building labourer, David Davies aged 48 and born in Pentrebach, Cardiganshire. His wife Mary aged 35 was born at Ty yn Pwll. This was a Welsh speaking family. With them was Eliza Davies, an unmarried sister in law aged 40 and born in Rhyd Merionydd, a local farm. She was poor and getting 'outdoor relief'.

The cottage was called Garibaldi Cottage by the 1901 Census. In the cottage was a retired master mariner William Hughes, aged 59 and born in Borth. His wife Ann Ellen Hughes was much younger, aged 35, also local, and she was running a grocery shop there. Also in the

cottage was their twelve year old daughter Ada Louise Hughes. They would have been renting the place. Garibaldi was a prosperous draper's shop owned by the Roberts family (now the Premier Stores). They owned various properties around Borth, and they could have afforded to make this cottage into a good quality home. The beam along the front of the cottage could have been left from the cottage when it was a shop.



In 1904 the cottage had a small extension on the back. The row of fences, shared with neighbours would be sea defences, usually rows of stakes driven into the stone bank. Each house or cottage was responsible for their own section. (Detail from the 2 inch map of 1905 revised in 1904, Cardiganshire III.10).

In 1910 for a tax planned but not levied, the cottage was valued at £150. There would have been £4.4s to pay, £5.5s gross. This was by now a very good quality home, small cottages were usually £30 to £50. Mrs Martha Roberts of Garibaldi House owned it, and she had a tenant - Thursfield paying the rates - the Council did not know his full name. (Ceredigion Archives T/DV/18 and a map at the National Library of Wales). The cottage had its name Y Nyth. It would be more attractive to tenants with such a name.

At the 1911 Census there was no one in the cottage to fill in the form so it is not in the list.

Paying the rates in 1925 and 1949 was A. M. Mcgerit (later spelt Macegeoch). He or she was the owner and occupier and the rate had increased from £5.5s to £6 so some improvement had been made. It was valued the same as Ynys View further along the road.

Kenneth J. G. Macegeoch paid the rates in 1963 and had a vote for the cottage and so probably was living there. (Rates and Electoral Rolls, Ceredigion Archives)

Archifdy Ceredigion Archives
yn cyflwyno / presents
Tai'r Borth / Houses of Borth
gan/by Beryl Lewis
[cyf/ref ADX/1629]

Mae **Tai'r Borth** yn cynnwys dros 350 hanes sy'n ymwneud ag adeiladau unigol ac mae'r hanesion wedi'u darlunio â chyfoeth o ffotograffau, mapiau a dogfennau. Mae'r ffeiliau ar gael ar ein gwefan: <https://www.archifdy-eredigion.org.uk/tairborth.php?lang=cy>

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-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.

Beryl Lewis retains the copyright in her work and the histories are made available for private use and research only.



Cyngor Sir
CEREDIGION
County Council



Archifdy
Ceredigion
Archives