

THE BUILDINGS OF MORFA 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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PICTON

North Parade Morfa Borth

At the northern end of the village with the beach across the road. Formerly a boarding house called 'Sunnyside' and then the home of master mariner Captain Lewis Williams. Probably built by 1891 after the Census was taken.



LEFT Picton in 2015.

Picton is a two and a half storey, single fronted terrace house, under a gable roof parallel to the road. A yellow slab brick chimney was shared with Marine Court. The walls of the house are rendered. The house has kept the attractive dormer windows with their finials and the bold string course (line of moulding) which links it to neighbouring houses. It has also kept the decorative front door edged with pilaster strips with inset panels and an entablature over it supported by decorative brackets. Its lower bay window still has the columns drawn in the rendering on the walls between the windows. Low rails enclose a small front garden, partly grass and shrubs and with a path leading to the front door.

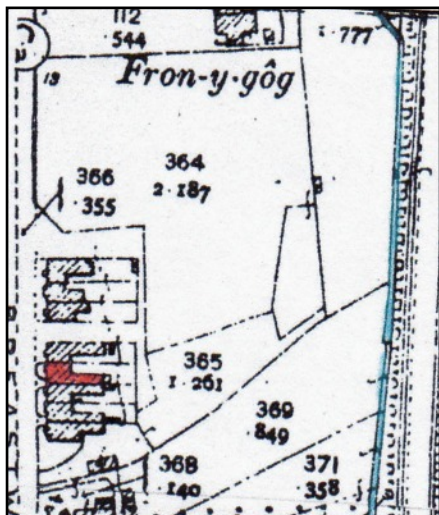


ABOVE Picton from the track or lane behind the terrace.

The rear of the house has a long two storey extension on the north side. This was there on the map of 1905, and its gable end is shared with Bardsey. It has a chimney probably once for a kitchen on the ground floor. It is likely this was part of the original house. The windows of the house and its extension are all modern.

To see the history of the site, and details of the architecture of the terrace please see 'North Parade'.

The house was called, 'Sunnyside' in 1901 at the Census, and in the house was a widow, Ann Jones. She was 61 years old and running a boarding house. She was born locally, and with



her was her 28 year old daughter Mary C. Jones who had not married and was a 'one monthly nurse'. The name 'Sunnyside' might have tempted holiday makers to choose this house to stay in.

LEFT Sunnyside in 1904 is marked in red. It had the long extension at the back then, and also a front garden. The gap in the row would become Ballarah, and Gwynt -y-mor had not yet been built (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map revised in 1904 and published in 1905, Cardiganshire III.10)

In 1910 for a valuation for a tax planned but not levied, the Sunnyside was valued at £650. There would have been £21.5s to pay, £25 gross. This was considered a valuable

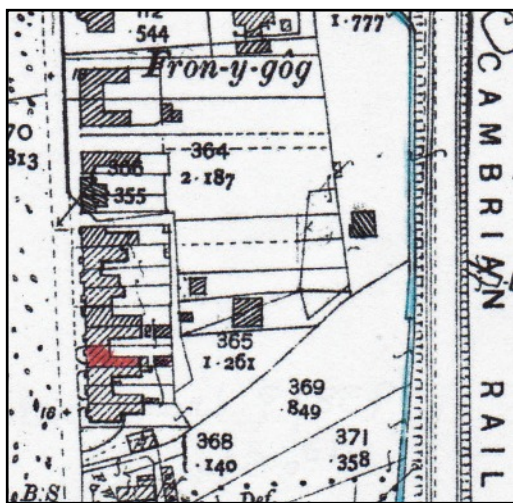
house. The owner and occupier was 'Jones' - the Council did not have any other name.



ABOVE Sunnyside about 1899 and is the second house from the left - and still had the decorated wall on the top of its bay windows. The windows were sash windows and some were open - it must have been summertime. There was a front garden with railings round it as it has now (From a postcard, private collection)

In the 1911 Census the house was listed with nine rooms and was still a boarding house. In the house was a Scot, William Lloyd, born in Aberdeen, but he could speak Welsh. With him was his wife Mary Ann Lloyd aged 53 who was born in Aberystwyth. With them was their daughter Florence who was 14. The couple had had six children one of whom had died, and they had wed in 1884.

The house became 'Picton' when Captain Lewis Williams and his family moved there. He had been living in a house also called Picton - now Arfor, and he brought the name with him.



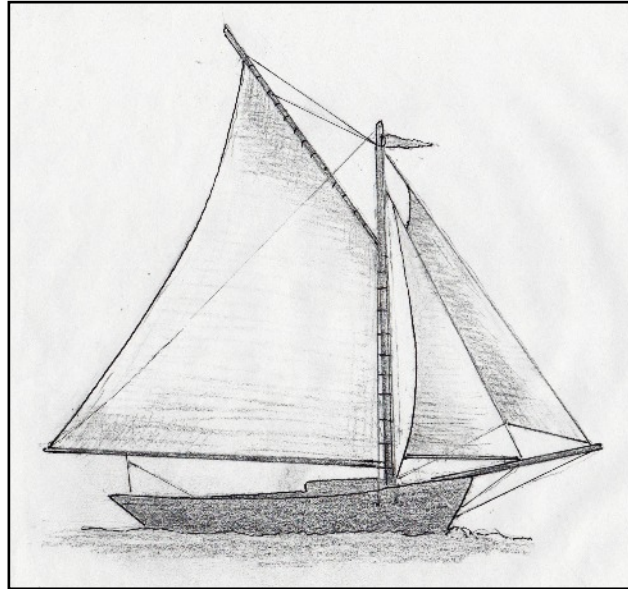
A sloop sailed by John and Richard Jones of Arfor was named 'Picton' (Aberystwyth Register of Vessels, Ceredigion Archives). General Picton was a famous Welsh general, The Captain Williams had moved to the terrace by 1920 when the Cambrian News of April 3rd reported that he had left on Tuesday to join his ship at Middlesborough. At that time the Borth seamen were employed on steam ships which were too big to use local Welsh ports. In April 1924 Mrs Williams did the refreshments for a 'Social' at the Borth's Soar Chapel, and there was a Miss Williams in the house too (Cambrian News, October 1924) Captain Williams paid the rates for the house in 1925 as both the owner and occupier.

ABOVE Captain William's Picton is marked in red. It had gained another building in the yard. This is the 1905 map with new additions added by the Council and dates from after 1935 as Brockhill (top) is drawn in in the front garden of Fron-y-gôg. The terrace was then completed and as it is today (Ceredigion Archives).

With votes for the house in the General Election of 1945 were Captain Lewis Williams, Bessie Lewis Williams, Llewellyn Vernon Lewis Williams the son of the Captain, and Katherine Dootson.

In about 1950 the house had five bedrooms and two sitting rooms to let with 'all mod cons' - apply Mr Williams.

The Captain was still paying the rates in 1963 and Bessie and Llewellyn Williams had votes for the house.



A sloop was a single masted vessel, smaller than a schooner.

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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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